

Linda Barnes

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"The medical profession can no longer afford to ignore disparate healing systems. Doctors must understand how religious worldviews play a part in patient and family understandings of illness and healing. Religious and cultural differences should not be seen as an obstacle to providing biomedical care. We want to train medical students, residents, and other physicians to think of themselves not only as clinicians, but also as cross-cultural learners—as clinical

Areas of expertise

- Intersections of culture, religious pluralism, and spirituality
- Religious and cultural understandings of illness and healing practices
- Chinese healing practices in the West

Topics in the News

- Complementary and alternative medicine
- Faith and healing
- Holistic approaches to patient care

anthropologists."

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Biography

Dr. Linda Barnes, a medical anthropologist, is creating a new vision of healthcare that draws on insights from physicians, religion scholars, anthropologists, sociologists, students, and community intellectuals and practitioners. Her work explores how America's new religious diversity and cultural traditions are transforming our understanding of medicines and healing. Her work challenges the medical community to shape a positive response to their patients' multiple approaches to healing.

Resources by this expert

- *Religion and Healing In America* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming)
- *Needles, Herbs, Gods, and Ghosts: China, Healing and the West to 1848* (Harvard University Press, forthcoming-Spring 2005)
- *Teaching Religion and Healing* (Oxford University Press, under contract, forthcoming – 2005)
- *Variations on a Teaching/Learning Workshop: Pedagogy and Faculty Development in Religious Studies* (Scholars Press, 1999)

Recent Interviews & Articles

- *Boston Globe*, November 5, 2006, by Kathleen Burge, [They come--sick, weary, or desperate--seeking his touch](#) 
- Today Show, February 24, 2006 "[Alternative Medicine & Cures](#)" (video clip)
- *The New York Times*, February 3, 2006 " [When Trust in Doctors Erodes, Other Treatments Fill the Void](#)" 
- *Boston Globe*, November 14, 2005 "[Ancient herbal medicine boosts influenza arsenal](#)" 
- *Boston Globe*, April 27, 2004 "[Doctors Explore Traditional Medicine to Better Care for Immigrant Patients](#)" 
- *Boston University Bridge*, February 27, 2004 "Doctors without bias; MED program trains culturally competent physicians"
- National Public Radio's *Living on Earth*, January 23, 2004 "The Ritual uses of Mercury"

Organizational links for this expert

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