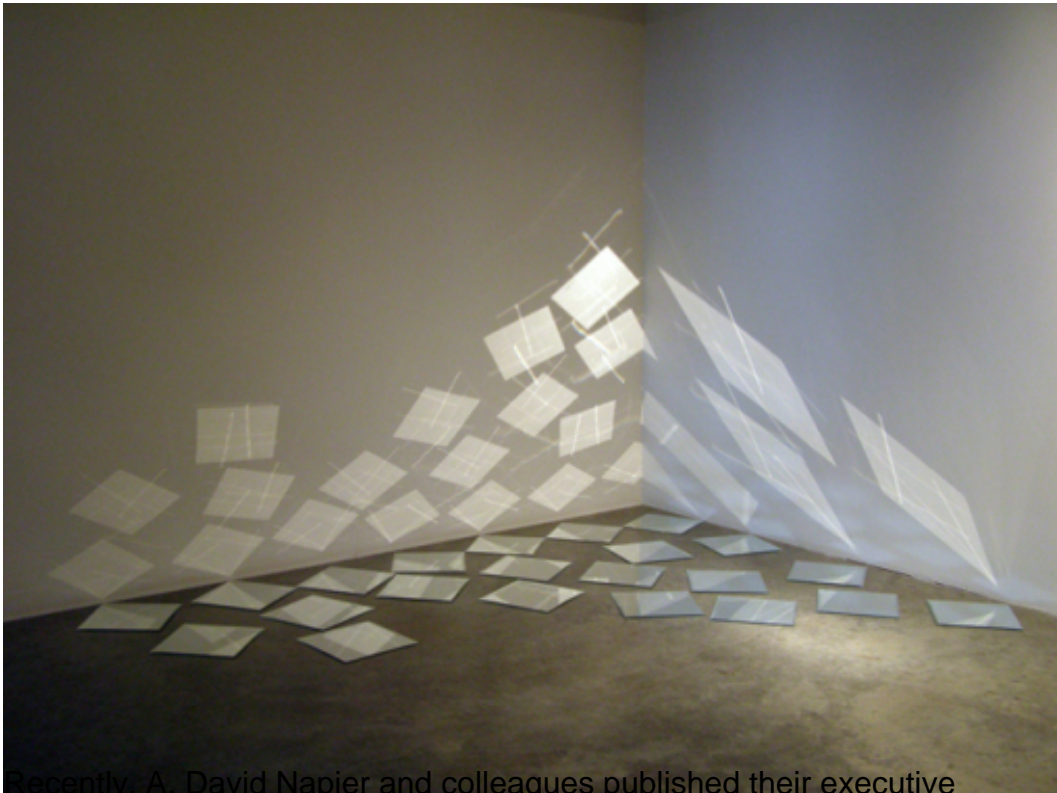


<http://somatosphere.net/2014/11/the-lancet-commission-on-culture-and-health.html>

## The Lancet Commission on Culture and Health

2014-11-12 10:39:21

By Todd Meyers



Recently, A. David Napier and colleagues published their executive summary from [The Lancet Commission on Culture and Health](#) (*The Lancet*, Volume 384, Issue 9954, pp. 1607-1639, 1 November 2014). They write:

“This Commission is the first ever detailed appraisal of the role of culture in health, bringing together voices from different fields, including anthropologists, social scientists, and medics. Experts review health practices as they relate to culture, identify and assess pressing issues, and recommend lines of research that are needed to address pressing issues and emerging needs. The Commission examines three overlapping domains of culture and health: cultural competence, health inequalities, and communities of care. With reference to these domains, the Commission shows how inseparable health is from cultural perceptions of wellbeing.”

In the short time since the release of the report, four related initiatives

have emerged from the publication. The first is an endorsement from the WHO, which the commission intends to take up strategically in January 2015. The second is an initiative to sponsor an NHS event to present and discuss the Commission's 12 key findings and related recommendations. Third is to build a platform for the production of outputs such as white papers on each of their 12 findings. And fourth, to launch the first European Forum on Culture and Health in Ascona, Switzerland at the end of November—there, they will design a European strategy to guarantee sustained attention to the needs identifies in the report.

### **Culture and Health Commission Members:**

A David Napier, Clyde Ancarno, Beverley Butler, Joseph Calabrese, Angel Chater, Helen Chatterjee, François Guesnet, Robert Horne, Stephen Jacyna, Sushrut Jadhav, Alison Macdonald, Ulrike Neuendorf, Aaron Parkhurst, Rodney Reynolds, Graham Scambler, Sonu Shamdasani, Sonia Zafer Smith, Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen, Linda Thomson, Nick Tyler, Anna-Maria Volkmann, Trinley Walker, Jessica Watson, Amanda C de C Williams, Chris Willott, James Wilson, Katherine Woolf

You can download the full report [here](#)

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<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2814%2961603-2/fulltext>) and find an additional article about David Napier and the project [here](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2814%2961937-1/fulltext) (<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2814%2961937-1/fulltext>).

Image credit: Heather Lewis, *Pay-per-view*, 2011 (no coin), (McColl Center for Visual Arts) Mirrors, coin meter, light

### **AMA citation**

Meyers T. The Lancet Commission on Culture and Health. *Somatosphere*. 2014. Available at: <http://somatosphere.net/2014/11/the-lancet-commission-on-culture-and-health.html>. Accessed November 12, 2014.

**APA citation**

Meyers, Todd. (2014). *The Lancet Commission on Culture and Health*. Retrieved November 12, 2014, from Somatosphere Web site: <http://somatosphere.net/2014/11/the-lancet-commission-on-culture-and-health.html>

**Chicago citation**

Meyers, Todd. 2014. *The Lancet Commission on Culture and Health*. Somatosphere. <http://somatosphere.net/2014/11/the-lancet-commission-on-culture-and-health.html> (accessed November 12, 2014).

**Harvard citation**

Meyers, T 2014, *The Lancet Commission on Culture and Health*, Somatosphere. Retrieved November 12, 2014, from <<http://somatosphere.net/2014/11/the-lancet-commission-on-culture-and-health.html>>

**MLA citation**

Meyers, Todd. "The Lancet Commission on Culture and Health." 12 Nov. 2014. Somatosphere. Accessed 12 Nov. 2014.<<http://somatosphere.net/2014/11/the-lancet-commission-on-culture-and-health.html>>