

***** Video Essay Project *****

“VISIONARY MEDICINE”
The Development and Impact of Medical Imaging Technologies

Overview: “Visionary Medicine” is the title of a work-in-progress video essay that will eventually be edited into an educational documentary film for broadcast through UCTV and archived online at www.medicalhumanities.ucsf.edu in podcast. It is largely student-driven, and is sponsored by the program in Medical Humanities at the University of California, San Francisco, under the direction of Professor Brian Dolan, from the Department of Anthropology, History & Social Medicine, at UCSF, School of Medicine.

Visionary Medicine is planned as a 2-part documentary of ½ hour each (possibly one, one-hour documentary). The purpose of the documentary is to provide information on the development and impact of medical imaging technologies in the 20th-century, with particular reference to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and how it compares to other imaging modalities, such as X-ray and CT. The content of Visionary Medicine includes historical footage of early MRI scans, animation explaining basic principles of the technology, images from contemporary advertisements and the popular press of ‘brain scans’, and interview clips with physicians, technicians, engineers and authors whose expertise and interests are relevant to the story.

Audience: Visionary Medicine has two primary audiences in mind, possibly corresponding to the two parts of this documentary series. First, the narrative and video footage provides information on the historical development of the technology: how it differs from x-ray or CT technology, what unique data it provides about the body’s physiology, and how early technicians and practitioners thought it could be used clinically. This is prepared for the interest of the general public and patients seeking information on medical technology. Second, the documentary examines particular case studies where MRI technology provided unique clinical data, such as for multiple sclerosis diagnosis. It questions the limitations of the technology as considered to be clinically useful in some recent fMRI studies of mental state or behavior. This section is intended to be of interest to medical students, radiology residents, or a public prepared for more technical discussion of risk/benefit studies in current medical research.

Human subjects: If you are asked to participate in the filming of this video essay, where the information may or may not end up being included in the final broadcast, you will be asked to read and consent to interview by signing the “**Interview Permission Form.**”

Production schedule: Image database searching and interview tapings will occur between February 2008 and early 2009. Editing will take place in summer 2009, with final release for broadcast scheduled for autumn 2009. **Contact:** If you have any questions about this project, please contact **Dr. Brian Dolan:**

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