

Episode: *Author Interview: “Psychogeography as Embodied Connection to Place”*

Guest: Zoe Rose Kriegler-Wenk, MFA

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript: Cheryl Green

[Access the podcast.](#)

[bright theme music]

[00:00:03] TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the Author Interview series from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I'm your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides an alternative way to access the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Zoe Kriegler-Wenk, a writer, editor, and an interdisciplinary theatre-maker who's also the editorial assistant for the *AMA Journal of Ethics*. She's here to discuss her article, coauthored with Dr John Green, “*Psychogeography as Embodied Connection to Place*,” in the June 2025 issue of the Journal, [Embodiment in Art Practice](#). Zoe, thank you so much for being back.

ZOE KREIGLER-WENK: Thank you for having me. [music fades]

[00:00:44] HOFF: So, what is the main ethics point that you and Dr Green are making in this article?

KREIGLER-WENK: So, for context, in 1957, a group called the Situationists, led by Guy Debord, coined the term “psychogeography” to refer to a process of collecting information about our physical and emotional relationship to our urban environments via a process of *dérive*, or drifting: basically walking without a specific destination through the city. And the ethical takeaway of the article lies in our understanding of the root of psychogeography as an attempt to heal the city by empowering communal agency, based on the understanding that residents are more likely to advocate for positive change in their cities if they're emotionally and physically connected to those places. So, because of this, we come to the conclusion that embodied engagement with the city has the potential for meaningful applications to urban design and public health. And we argue for the value of on-the-ground embodied research for crafting holistic approaches to community wellbeing.

[00:01:49] HOFF: And so, what should health professions students and trainees be taking from this?

KREIGLER-WENK: The main takeaway for health professions students is that the connection between the body and the urban environment is extremely nuanced. So not only do medicine and architecture share parallel historical trajectories, but our physical environments have very direct impacts on our embodied experiences, both emotional and physical. So it's important not to discount this when considering the factors affecting a patient's health. And then hopefully, this also leads health professions students to

value qualitative embodied data because this can be used to advocate for public health or urban planning initiatives.

[00:02:35] HOFF: And finally, if you could add a point to your article that you didn't have the time or space to fully explore, what would that be?

KREIGLER-WENK: One aspect of our physical and emotional relationship to our urban environments that we did not have the chance to address is acknowledging that not all people have the luxury of residing in an area that is safe or accessible to traverse on foot. Additionally, it's often safer for certain bodies, i.e. White, large, cis males, to move freely through an urban environment without fear of their safety. [theme music returns] So this should be considered when encouraging certain methods of embodied data collection and should be prioritized within discussions of urban planning and public health.

[00:03:20] HOFF: Zoe, thank you so much for being back on the podcast and for your dual contributions to this month's issue of the Journal.

KREIGLER-WENK: Thank you so much for having me back.

HOFF: To read the full article, as well as the rest of this month's issue for free, visit our site, journalofethics.org. We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.