

Daniel J. Wilson, PhD

Dr. Daniel J. Wilson, PhD is Professor Emeritus of History at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA. He had polio in 1955 and began developing symptoms of Post-Polio Syndrome in 1987. He is the author of several books on the history of Polio including: "Living with Polio: The Epidemic and Its Survivors" (2005) and "Polio: Biography of a Disease" (2009).

He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Post-Polio Health International.

Dr. Wilson's Collection of Articles, Personal Stories and Video Library are here:

[Daniel J. Wilson, PhD: Putting the Pieces of Polio History Together](#)

Education:

- B.A., The University of Wisconsin - Whitewater (1972)
- M.A., The Johns Hopkins University (1974)
- Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University (1976)

Teaching Fields:

- American Social, Cultural and Intellectual, 19th and 20th Centuries, History of Disease, Medicine, and Public Health
- My graduate training was in the cultural and intellectual history of the United States. Since coming to Muhlenberg in 1978, I taught a wide variety of topics under that general heading. I taught numerous advanced courses including Nineteenth Century America, the Civil War and Reconstruction, Women's History, African-American History, Environmental History and the History of Medicine and Public Health. The topics of my Introductions to History included coming of age in America, the city in American culture, and epidemics in American history.
- Since the early 1990s I focused my scholarly work on the history of the polio epidemics in the United States. My studies of polio have emphasized the experiences of the individuals who had the disease during the many epidemics prior to the development of the Salk polio vaccine in 1955. To date I have published three books and several articles on the subject.
- I am also particularly interested in the subject of masculinity and disability and have been active in disability studies.

Courses Taught:

- Nineteenth Century America
- American Cultural & Intellectual History: Nineteenth Century
- American Cultural & Intellectual History Since 1900
- Disease & Medicine in American History
- History of Public Health in America
- Gendering in American History

Selected Grants and Awards:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality / National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship. 2002-2003
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on Disability Studies, San Francisco State University, Summer 2000
- Beeke-Levy Research Fellowship, The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, 1993
- National Endowment for the Humanities Travel to Collections Grant, 1992
- American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 1981-82
- Class of 1932 Research Professor, Muhlenberg College, 1986-87, 2008-2009

<https://www.muhlenberg.edu/academics/history/facultystaff/danielwilson/>