

Sensory Futures and Political, Economic, and Social Production of Sense by Michele Friedner, PhD

Friday, April 12, 2024 | 4:30 PM

Hallock Auditorium, AJ Lewis Center

Reception to follow in the Lewis Center Atrium



Cochlear implants (CIs) are considered the “gold standard” in intervening in deafness, and countries around the world have started providing them to children. **MICHELE FRIEDNER** is a medical anthropologist who researches deaf and disabled peoples’ social, moral, religious, and economic practices. In this talk, she’ll discuss the

sometimes conflicting understandings of what a CI outcome is and the importance of exploring how hearing—and other senses—are politically, economically, and socially produced and maintained over one’s life. A professor and chair of the Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago, Friedner is the author of two books, including *Sensory Futures: Cochlear Implants and Sensory Infrastructures in India* (2022).

ABOUT JACK GLAZIER: Jack taught anthropology at Oberlin from 1971 until his retirement in 2013. His fieldwork included research in East Africa among subsistence farmers, Eastern European immigrants and their descendants in the American Midwest, and African Americans in the upper South. He sees anthropology as a unique discipline, combining the explanatory and generalizing goals of the sciences with the interpretive and historical sensibilities of the humanities. In the classroom and in his books and articles, he sought an understanding of human experience in wide ranging comparative terms while never losing sight of the distinctiveness of that experience in particular times and places. The lectureship bearing Jack’s name recognizes his contributions to an encompassing anthropology and to the liberal education of Oberlin students.