MCCRACKEN: When you jump into a scholarly text, that conversation's so implicit, and there are so many assumptions that academics makes that have already been accepted and issues that have already been resolved that I think it takes students a while to kind of figure out that it's OK to feel like you don't know what's going on. So I'll often tell them, when I start reading in a new area, I'm just trying to figure out-- what are people talking about? What do they care about?

So for me, that's the biggest thing that can be kind of concerning-- when you're first reading scholarly text is you have to figure out what are people even talking about? And then you have to figure out who were the voices that are most popular? Who are the voices that people turn to when they're trying to resolve this issue?