

Norma Meras Swenson, M.P.H.

Norma Meras Swenson is a founding member of [Our Bodies Ourselves](#) (OBOS), also known as The Boston Women's Health Book Collective, Inc. She has worked with colleagues throughout the United States and globally to help define and create the field known as Women and Health. She is the co-author and/or co-editor of most editions of "[Our Bodies, Ourselves](#)" and was a contributing author to the popular guide "[Ourselves Growing Older](#)," produced in collaboration with OBOS.

A senior OBOS staff member and the organization's first Director of International Programs until 1998, Norma also served for several years as OBOS president. She is an internationally recognized leader and expert in reproductive and sexual health and rights, and in maternal and child health. An early leader in the maternity care reform movement, Norma is a past president of both the [International Childbirth Education Association](#) and the [Boston Association for Childbirth Education](#).

A graduate of [Tufts University](#), Norma earned her MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health, studied medical sociology at [Tufts](#), and later at [Brandeis University](#). She taught *Women, Health and Development* from a global perspective at the [Harvard School of Public Health](#), the first and longest-running Women and Health course at Harvard University. She also co-taught an interdisciplinary course, [Gender, Health, and Marginalization](#), at [MIT's Graduate Consortium of Women's Studies](#).

Presently Norma gives guest lectures, works with students on independent study projects and continues consulting with non-profits, community groups and university programs in the US and abroad. At Our Bodies, Ourselves, she is supporting the ongoing coordination of Translations and Adaptations of *Our Bodies, Ourselves* books into languages other than English, currently the 3-volume Portuguese Brazilian edition in progress: *Nossos Corpos por Nós Mesmas*, launched in 2021 by the [Coletivo Feminista Sexualidade e Saúde](#) in São Paulo.

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Working Travel: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Czech Republic, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Thailand, and Uganda, as well as Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Western Europe: [Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, & Switzerland].

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