CONTENTS

Meeting Reports 2
Calls for Papers 7
Upcoming Events 8
Seminars & Lectures 13
SSHM Book Series 15
Wellcome News 15
Centre News 16
Project News 16
Lonely Hearts 17
Nomination Form 19

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WELCOME TO THE GAZETTE

In honour of the wondrously warm, bright weather that has graced us in recent weeks, this quarter’s cover star is a suitably sunny, floral advertisement for Mason’s Extract of Herbs. Dietary supplements such as these were consumed for their medicinal properties. But Mason’s Extract could also be diluted to create a refreshing, non-alcoholic botanical beer (making it particularly popular with the Temperance Movement). So, mix yourself a beverage and read on for all the exciting events that will be taking place over the summer!

SSHM AGM NOTICE

The SSHM is also pleased to announce that it will be holding its AGM during its biennial conference, ‘Conformity, Dialogue and Deviance in Health and Medicine’, which is taking place at the University of Liverpool from 11–13 July. The AGM will be held from 12:00–13:30 on Wednesday 11 July 2018. The venue will be the Josephine Butler Room, Department of Public Health and Policy, Whelan Building, University of Liverpool, Brownlow Hill, Liverpool, L69 3GB.

We shall be discussing the activities we undertook in 2017 and the AGM is the opportunity for SSHM members to provide us with feedback and suggestions.

At the AGM we shall also be voting in new members of the SSHM Executive Committee. Attached at the back of this Gazette is the Nomination Form to join the EC. If you are interested in joining, please fill in the form or get in touch with current EC members to find out more about what we do.

HSTM DATABASE

As part of our larger initiative to assist graduate students, the SSHM aims to publish a list of graduate supervisors and/or history of medicine programs available across the UK. Please download the form from our website (https://sshm.org/links) if you are interested in submitting details about your specialist supervision areas or graduate programmes. The information you submit will be included in a database, which will be made available via the Society’s website and publications.

And don’t forget that the Gazette now includes a ‘lonely hearts’ column for lovelorn projects seeking academic companions. If your department is advertising PhD studentships, if you’re looking for postdocs for your new project or if you’re in search of a funding partner, then we want to hear from you. Please get in touch for the July issue.

Anne Hanley, Editor

MEETING REPORTS

Healthcare before Welfare States: 2nd International Workshop

Healthcare before Welfare States took place at Charles University, Prague, on the 8–9 March 2018. This was the second workshop organized by Professor Barry Doyle under the aegis of his University of Huddersfield-funded collaborative project, European Healthcare before Welfare States. The impetus for the event was the puzzle of Britain’s National Health Service. Why had similar pressures and problems resulted in such different healthcare solutions elsewhere? An earlier event, held at Huddersfield in 2017, approached this question from the point of view of histories of hospital finance in Central and Northwestern Europe. This second gathering aimed at producing a broader understanding of variations in the organization and delivery of healthcare prior to WWII. It achieved this thanks to excellent organization by Barry Doyle, Frank Grombir, Rob Piggott, and Zeenat Khalq at the University of Huddersfield; generous funding from the Economic History Society, Society for the Social History of Medicine, and University of Huddersfield URF; and the support of Professor Petr Svobodny and staff at the Charles University.

This was truly an international workshop. It brought together twenty-six scholars at different stages of their careers from universities in Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Italy, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, Scotland, and the USA. Barry Doyle’s and Rob Piggott’s friendly communications set the tone for the collegiality that characterized the event. The official programme took place in the elegant Karolinum complex of Charles University in Prague’s Staré Město (Old Town). It comprised keynote addresses from Professor George Weisz and Emeritus Professor Michael Worboys, four pairs of concurrent panels, a dinner (offsite), and a roundtable led by Barry Doyle. These formal exchanges were enhanced by informal conversations that began over the hotel breakfast buffet, continued as we dodged trams and traffic on the way to the venue, and became livelier as the evenings drew on.

Four of eight workshop sessions addressed histories of hospitals and systems, including insurance schemes. The remaining sessions dealt with mental health, caring, tuberculosis and housing, and social medicine. I was unfortunate to miss Professor Weisz’s keynote, ‘Making Sense of “Healthcare Before Welfare States”’ on Thursday morning. Other delegates described the lecture as a ‘tour de force’ and a ‘highlight’ of the workshop. Luckily for me, Professor Weisz was kind enough to talk me through his main ideas and share slides over Friday’s tasty lunch. In the best tradition of opening keynotes, his lecture provided intellectual scaffolding on which to lean during the workshop. Professor Weisz used the medical profession, hospitals, and the epidemiological
transition as three focused lenses through which to show convergence and divergence in the trajectories of healthcare in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain, France and the US. In this way, the lecture offered a pluralised, polycentric narrative of global changes in medicine alongside which our own research narratives could be situated.

Although each paper deserves mention, some themes and phenomena were of particular interest to me as an historian of non-western medicine, empire, and bureaucracy. The first session on hospitals broadened our vistas beyond the experience of powerful western countries to think about Eastern Europe and Spain, as well as Germany. What was striking about this collection of papers was the variety of approaches employed to study the same type of institution. While Jerónia Pons-Pons & Margarita Vilar-Rodríguez focused on finance models in the Spanish Empire, Frank Grombir reconstructed the expansion of a hospital network after the fall of the Habsburgs, and Axel Hüneltmann discussed organizational aspects of the German hospital. In subsequent sessions, patterns and influences—both positive and negative—started to emerge. For example, Zoltán Cora underlined the significance of unified Germany as a distinctive model for Hungarian healthcare. In the session on colonial hospitals, we learned from Erin Gallagher-Cohoon about a single Catholic hospital in rural Canada that emulated ‘Anglo’ values, whereas Séan Lucey showed that the Irish Free State strenuously rejected the British poor law system, even as it retained and renamed workhouse stock as hospitals.

I was delighted to chair a session addressing the ‘myths’ and ‘realities’ of healthcare financing. The presenters at this session stood out, not only for the quality of their research, but also for their composure and ability to project during an organ recital. Helene Castenbrandt explained the gradual process by which local sickness funds were transmuted into a national system for Sweden while a bride was being piped up an aisle in the adjacent room; and Roland Bertens described the links between religious confessionalism, healthcare, and the Dutch state to the tune of wedded bliss, as a happy couple processed out of the building. In spite of the background noise, what emerged clearly from this session, particularly in Celidh Auger-Day’s paper, was that mythmaking and histories of healthcare go hand in hand. When we follow financial trails, these histories very quickly dissolve.

These were conversations that could have run and run, until Professor Michael Worboys’ fascinating keynote pulled us up by short by suggesting that we had been looking in entirely the wrong place for the history of healthcare. Leaning on Roy Porter’s 1985 call for a ‘sufferer’s’ history of medicine, Professor Worboys applied the concepts of the ‘pre-patient’ and the ‘symptom iceberg’—the phenomenon whereby most people prevent or manage symptoms at home rather than seeking professional healthcare—to an analysis of survey evidence and advertisements, including narratives from the British Mass Observation Archive. As I said in the Q&A, I think that a history of ‘pre-patients’ poses a significant methodological challenge for global histories of medicine. I do however take seriously many aspects of the argument, in particular the insistence that we not dismiss the perceived efficacy of religious responses to illness.

Now back home, I continue to ponder what lies beneath the iceberg. I have also come away from the workshop with a clearer sense of developments that were unique or atypical to my own sites of study—North Africa under Ottoman and French colonial rule—and those that were transnational or global in scope. Although formal collaboration does not come easily to historians because of the incentive structures built into our profession, the workshop made clear the huge benefits that accrue when specialists of different contexts work closely together. I believe co-authoring holds a lot of potential for the field and hope to attempt this myself, and to continue the conversations begun in Prague.

Hannah-Louise Clark
University of Glasgow

Healthcare before Welfare States: 2nd International Workshop

The two-day international workshop, sponsored by the University of Huddersfield, the Economic History Society, and the Society for the Social History of Medicine, aimed to bring together scholars to discuss the various systems and evolution of healthcare. This led to a great sharing of knowledge and ideas on the different aspects of healthcare being studied globally.

The workshop built upon the initial conference held in Huddersfield in 2017, which focussed on hospital finance. With the enthusiasm for more discussion, the ‘healthcare before welfare states’ second workshop attracted thirty delegates from fourteen countries, with speakers presenting research concerning twelve nations. This is the focus of the Centre for Health Histories, University of Huddersfield funded project, which aims to create an international forum in which researchers can discuss national and transnational themes in healthcare before welfare states.

In the grand, historic buildings of Charles University in central Prague, the conference began with a keynote speech from George Weisz of McGill University. The opening presentation offered an important overview to what we consider to be the period before welfare, and what we consider healthcare to be, which set the precedent of conversation for the subsequent sessions. Crucially, it was reinforced that healthcare emerged internationally at different rates, on different scales, due to different local and national initiatives, which had different implications, thus making each country worthy of study.

The papers were divided into eight panels which were grouped together thematically: mental health, hospitals, systems (two panels), caring, tuberculosis, colonial hospitals,
and social. Each included a good mix of PhDs, ECRs and senior academics, which added to the value of the discussion in the questions session at the end of each panel.

Particularly thought provoking was the first systems session, in which papers of diverse topic, geographical area and period consideration were presented, but that all provided equal value in addressing a particular healthcare initiative before the introduction of the welfare state. Central to the systems incorporated were the diseases/issues driving the responses, whether that be the disabilities of war veterans (Bethany Rowley), or the epidemics of venereal diseases in port towns (Yannis Gontidis).

The second keynote came on day two and was presented by Michael Worboys. He considered the view of the ‘non-patient’, which challenged delegates to look beyond the institutional experience of medicine and illness. The keynote made important links to the present debates on policy regarding GP and A&E services. This provided a platform from which to consider the papers presented throughout the workshop and think about the direction which further research may take.

The conference closed with a round table session in which all the themes presented in the various sessions could be properly brought together and debated. The common thread which ran through all the sessions was finance. The availability of funding for different healthcare initiatives seem to have been the driving factor behind their success or failure. Similar, was the demand and political will for such services. Additionally, what also became apparent was that the institutionalisation of healthcare, and the evolution in medicine, across all disciplines occurred in the first instance in response to poverty. The wealthier classes were predominantly treated in the private sphere, and only as the construction of large initiatives became more widespread, were they encouraged to move into the public sphere to receive treatment.

In light of the topics discussed at the conference, it is clear that ‘healthcare’ is a term that encapsulates a large area of medicine and its responses, and that each of these is worthy of individual study. Similarly, it is clear that initiatives do not necessarily mean those funded by states, charitable and political will for such services. Additionally, what also became apparent was that the institutionalisation of healthcare, and the evolution in medicine, across all disciplines occurred in the first instance in response to poverty. The wealthier classes were predominantly treated in the private sphere, and only as the construction of large initiatives became more widespread, were they encouraged to move into the public sphere to receive treatment.

The purpose of the conference, held at the University of South Wales in 13 and 14 April, was to establish dialogues between colleagues working in different areas of history, including gender, race and disability studies, and to connect historians in university history departments with colleagues working in education policy and the Third Sector. Over the two days some 50 delegates attended. The conference was deliberately intersectional, that is, there were not specific sessions on each area of history, but papers were programmed to establish dialogues with each other. The social history of medicine therefore featured in papers on medieval Welsh law (Sara Elin Roberts, where those with speech impediments were excluded from participating in legal proceedings); to instances of wounding, care and compensation in early modern Britain (Lloyd Bowen, on petitions for support from the wounded of the Civil War and their dependents) and America (Emily Cock, presenting on Thomas Jefferson’s engagement with facial disfigurement as injury and punishment); to broader reflections on how disability history can be presented in an engaging and accessible manner (David Turner, on the Disability and Industrial Society project). Unfortunately, Teresa Hillier’s paper on the Legacy of Longfields project, engaging with parents of children born with cerebral palsy in the 1950s, was withdrawn. We were fortunate, however, to have interactive displays from Cardiff People First, presenting on the histories of Ely Hospital in Cardiff and disability among the black and minority ethnic communities, researched and presented by members with learning disabilities. A major thread running through the conference was that of the issue of terminologies: Norena Shopland’s paper on transgender terminology and the history of people born intersex, and Daryl Leeworthy’s on hidden LGBT histories in the police archives, highlighted how the historical researcher is confronted with older terminologies, such as ‘hermaphrodite’, or oblique references, or no mention at all, necessitating close reading. As an archivist commented to me afterwards, archivists and historians need to work together on making these histories more transparent, through specialist finding guides that are sensitive to the specific historical languages of a particular group or community.

Given that SSHM’s own conference in 2018 is on ‘Conformity, Resistance, Dialogue and Deviance within Health and Medicine’, I hope to bring some of the insights of Diverse History 18 to discussions in Liverpool. A striking comment was that universities are perhaps not sufficiently accessible ‘good neighbours’ to community history groups: social history of medicine, however, is perhaps exceptional in this respect? I’d welcome any comments and/or examples of good practices elsewhere. I am of course very grateful to SSHM for its support of the event.

Cara Dobbing
University of Leicester

Diverse History 18/ Hanes Amrywio 18

Patricia Skinner
Swansea University
The 2018 British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) Postgraduate Conference, took place at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM), University of Manchester, on 4–6 April 2018. Special thanks must go to the organising committee Andrea del Campo Peirano, Rachel Douglas, Kate Hiepko and Nicola Sugden. The conference was generously supported by the British Society for the History of Science (BSHS), the Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM), the North West Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership (AHRC), and the North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership (ESRC).

The conference commenced with a lunch in the beautiful Samuel Alexander building home to the Faculty of Arts, which hosted all eight sessions and seventy-seven delegates. Lunch was followed by a welcome address from Professor Ian Burney director of CHSTM. The BSHS Postgraduate Conference was international and multidisciplinary with the main themes focusing on the history of science, technology and medicine. The panel topics were extremely diverse ranging from ‘Science, Research and Institution’s to the ‘Mind and Brain’ and ‘Old and New idea in the Long Nineteenth Century’. The atmosphere of enthusiasm from delegates and other guests was notable from start of the conference until the last panel.

Questions surrounding methodology emerged frequently particularly focusing on how and where the researcher can find primary sources. Both Jennie Sejr Junghans and Axelle Champion highlighted the challenges faced by researchers trying to find the voice of the patient in accounts of nineteenth and twentieth century psychiatric care and treatment. Junghans’s work has done this through the examination of children’s drawings and Champion through the examination of some patients’ letters, which are rare and difficult to find. Similarly, Kevin Baker in his paper on ‘Who read the Principia? and what the answer tells us about how new mathematical knowledge is made’, highlighted that accessibility of sources can also present a challenge to researchers. A copy of Newton’s Principia that he would like to examine is currently located in Moscow, Russia. Many of the discussions that commenced during the panels continued beyond them into the refreshment breaks. Some of the main discussions during the refreshment breaks centred on how individual’s research findings and implications could be applied to current issues surrounding science and medicine.

Every panel I attended was engaging and interesting, but some discussed below stuck in my mind. I particularly enjoyed Mathis Nolte’s paper on ‘Interrelations in Disability, Age, Gender and Prosthetics: The Introduction of Artificial Legs in Modular Design in the Federal Republic of Germany’. Nolte illustrated the significant change in customer demands from the 1950s to 1970s for prosthetics that were not only functional but also aesthetically pleasing. Another interesting paper titled, ‘Habeus Cerebrum’: Donald Winnicott and the Physical Therapy Controversies in the British Medical Press, 1943-1956’, came from Nicola Sugden. Sudgen’s use of letters of correspondence between contemporary mental health professionals such as psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott and psychiatrist William Sudgen really demonstrated how contentious the issue of treatment of the mentally ill was in the mid-twentieth century. A final paper that I also really enjoyed was, ‘Learning in the Asylum: Clinical Teaching on Insanity in 1840s and 1850s Britain’, by Polina Merkulova. Merkulova presented the challenges to teachings on clinical insanity during the nineteenth century and how these were overcome by one individual in particular, John Conolly. Another fascinating part of her paper focused on how Conolly pioneered the use of non-restraint techniques in the treatment of asylum patients. It struck me that one of the main themes that emerged from these papers was the similar overall aim of treatment and rehabilitation. Namely, to return the individual to working ability and enable them to be economically independent. This was particularly apparent in the case of male patients. These papers raised questions about the role of the State in the treatment and rehabilitation of the physically or mentally disabled individual. A particularly thought-provoking keynote titled, ‘The History of Nature and the Nature of History’ was delivered on the second day of the conference by Professor Pratik Chakrabarti. Professor Chakrabarti prompted the audience to think about how history influences nature and how nature influences history and how we as historians and the wider population interpret these influences.

The conference served a fantastic forum for post-graduate students of all levels and academic professionals to meet, socialise, share ideas, and continue to forge a supportive postgraduate community. The conference provided numerous opportunities to socialise not only within the session times and refreshment breaks but also during the free time. There were excursions to the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester Museum and University of Manchester Heritage Tour as well as a drinks reception at HOME and comedy club night hosted by Bright Club Manchester. On a personal note this was one of the first conferences I have presented at and I cannot think of a more welcoming and engaging environment to have done so. The amount of enthusiasm and positive feedback that delegates were offering to each other was refreshing.

Jasmine Wood
University of Strathclyde
How can historians influence health policy? This question was at the heart of a seminar held at the Academy of Social Sciences, London, on Monday 4 December 2017. Organised by Professor Linda Hantrais, FacSS (Loughborough University/LSE), Professor Virginia Berridge, FacSS (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and Professor Susanne MacGregor (LSHTM/Middlesex University), and sponsored by Taylor & Francis, the seminar formed part of a series on international and multi-disciplinary perspectives on evidence-based policy. Participants were drawn from across the UK and included prominent public health researchers as well as historians.

The first half of the seminar took the form of a series of conversations between historians and public health researchers which teased out major themes in the history of health policy. The first conversation, on the theme of public health, was chaired by Virginia Berridge and brought together the historian Alex Mold (LSHTM) with the Professor of Public Health, and former president of the Faculty of Public Health, Alan Maryon-Davis (School of Population Health Sciences, Kings College London). The conversation broached some significant conceptual issues, such as how public health is defined and demarcated, how it has changed over time, and the evolving relationship between public health, ‘the public’ and policymakers. Ultimately, they saw a positive role for historians in informing public health policy, despite the recent popularity of the idea that academic expertise is no longer important. Crucially, historians should seek to point out not only where policy mistakes have been made in the past, or where things have happened before, but make concrete recommendations that policymakers can follow.

The second conversation, chaired by Professor Sally Sheard (University of Liverpool), brought together the historian Martin Gorsky (LSHTM) with the Professor of European Public Health, Martin McKee (LSHTM) to discuss the subject of health systems. Like public health, the ‘health system’ as an object of study resists simplistic definition and analysis. McKee advanced the World Health Organisation’s official definition, ‘all organizations, people and actions whose primary intent is to promote, restore or maintain health.’ This remains the best accepted definition worldwide, but in practice, ‘health system’ has a variety of meanings. Gorsky explained that the concept of ‘health system’ we are familiar with today first emerged in the 1960s out of health services research, operational research and cybernetics. Its roots, however, extend back to the inter-war period and the work of the League of Nations Health Organisation, which began to collect data on the administration of health services in addition to health outcomes such as mortality. Gorsky and McKee discussed the international comparison and financing of national health systems and cautioned against the uncritical embrace of ideal types, such as British NHS and American health care system. In practice, most health systems are heterogeneous, and researchers should acknowledge the full gamut of financial and organisational arrangements that exist around the world.

The second half of the seminar consisted of a series of roundtable discussions where all participants had a chance to exchange views. Table 1, chaired by MacGregor, reflected on how historians can bring their expertise to bear on contemporary health policy. Despite the problems associated with transferring policy lessons across different historical contexts, the group concluded that the great strength of the historical perspective is that it can remind policymakers that things were not always done the way they are now, and that they have considerable choice over which path to follow. For example, the imposition of austerity measures by the British government since 2010 has had significant consequences for public health, such as reduced life expectancy, yet policymakers could easily have taken a more equitable path, as suggested by measures taken under periods of austerity in the past (for instance, the creation of the NHS in 1948). Table 2, chaired by John Stewart (Glasgow Caledonian University), discussed the subject of health systems and the factors that contribute to their transformation. Discussion centred around questions such as the role of path dependency in explaining the trajectory taken by national health systems, and whether health systems are always reconfigured, never created from scratch. Table 3, chaired by Berridge, focused on the impact of evidence-based policy on the health sciences, for example how the way evidence is generated can influence the jurisdictional claims of particular disciplines. Meanwhile, table 4, chaired by Anne Jamieson (Birkbeck) examined ethics, rights, challenges and risks in health policy, and the significant trade-offs that exist between them.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, participants in the seminar were generally positive about the opportunities historians have to influence health policy. While there are undoubtedly challenges associated with drawing out the historical dimensions of health policy, and applying these lessons in the present, historians can bring a useful perspective, exposing the rationale behind previous policy decisions and the constraints faced by policymakers. Historians can enhance the policymaking process by being party to decisions and explaining the background to current policy debates. To do this, however, new formal mechanisms are needed to bring historians into contact with policymakers, and existing mechanisms, such as History and Policy, need to be exploited to the full.

Christopher Sirrs
Centre for History in Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Resuscitation, Reanimation and the Modern World

**Date:** 5–6 October 2018  
**Venue:** Maison Française d’Oxford, University of Oxford  
**CFP Deadline:** 1 July 2018

Drag the pale victim from the whelming wave,  
And snatch the body from the floating grave;  
Breathe in the lips re-animating fire,  
Till, warm’d to second life, the drown’d respire.

The emergence of societies ‘for the recovery of persons apparently drowned’ within Europe — Amsterdam 1767, Paris 1772, London 1774 — institutionalized a shift in the 18th century, whereby different groups in society became involved with a common concern. The act of resuscitation took on social as well as medical significance: medals were awarded to bystanders who leapt into rivers to save hapless swimmers; attendants were stationed at the edge of hazardous boating lakes; and a variety of life-saving tools were touted to a burgeoning consumer society. These endeavours drew upon broader understandings of breath, air, and the functions of bodies, and also held the potential for spiritual transformation by making bodily ‘resurrection’ a real possibility.

Coinciding with the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein (1818), this workshop seeks to explore the social, cultural, political, and medical aspects of reanimation and resuscitation from the early modern period to the present. We will consider how these phenomena have been understood – as miraculous moments, displays of medical prowess, and manifestations of civic responsibility. We will ask if they represent a profound shift regarding ideas about the origin of life as well as its value, connected to the development of a society of risk management. We will also explore how these practices have developed through time in literary, popular, and medical narratives, as new technologies both ‘medicalised’ resuscitation and extended its practice beyond the medical arena. In this way, we hope to gain insight not only into the development and dissemination of medical knowledge but also into broader cultural issues – citizenship, duty, and changing perceptions of what it means to be human.

We ask participants to submit proposals for papers of 20 minutes in length, covering any aspect of reanimation or resuscitation from the early modern period onwards. Possible themes or topics might include:

- How these practices affected contemporary attitudes towards life and death
- Resuscitation/reanimation and the uncanny body
- Resuscitation/reanimation as a spiritual experience
- Literary depictions of resuscitation/reanimation
- Resuscitation technologies, from bellows to electrical stimulation of the heart
- The use of humans and animals in the development of resuscitation techniques
- The role of the bystander and notions of civic responsibility
- First Aid training and the spread of medical knowledge and practices
- Risky locations—from lakes and rivers to the emergency room

Please submit a title, abstract of up to 250 words, and brief biography, to marie-aline.thebaud-sorger@history.ox.ac.uk

Resuscitation, Reanimation, and the Modern World is organised by Dr Marie Thébaud-Sorger (CNRS/Maison Française d’Oxford) and Dr Jennifer Wallis (QMUL). The workshop is free. We are currently seeking funding that we hope will contribute towards travel and accommodation costs for early career researchers and unfunded scholars.

**Valuations of Life: Birth Defects, Prenatal Diagnoses and Disability**

**Date:** 25–26 September 2018.  
**Venue:** Uppsala University, Sweden  
**CFP Deadline:** 1 June 2018

Definitions of what counts as a valuable life implicitly and explicitly saturate both historical and contemporary narratives about birth defects, prenatal diagnoses, and disability. The aim of this workshop is to contribute knowledge of how life has been valued and by what means. We are interested in both historical and contemporary studies.

We are particularly interested in how different technologies, historically and currently, have guided, aided, or informed the valuation process. How, for example, have methods such as amniocentesis, ultrasound, new abortion methods, blood marker tests, but also prosthesis-technologies, bio-engineering methods, and economic calculation models, influenced the valuations? Which value scales, old or new, have collided in the processes, and with which consequences? How has the valuing and evaluation of life and its relation to different technologies been discussed and negotiated by scientists, medical professionals, lobbyists, policy makers, media, economists, pregnant women, individuals, parents, families, interest groups, or political and religious organizations? We welcome proposals for papers or presentations of work-in-progress that analyse these questions from different perspectives. Of special interest may be, for example, studies of:

- Concepts of life value and evaluation in history, law, science and medicine.
- Biopolitics and the making of life value as measurable and objective.
 Technologies that help, change, or in other way affect the definition of value of life, or the evaluation of it.
 Mathematical methods to calculate life value in economic terms, and their implementation.
 Conflicts and negotiations around life value between different actors and/or interest groups, such as the medical professions, patient organizations, religious organizations, private/corporate actors, and nation states or the equivalent.
 Visual cultures of a life worth living.
 Birth defects and the value of life.
 Normalization and medicalisation.

Keynote speaker: Professor Susanne Klausen, Carleton University, Canada. ‘Contesting Eugenic Abortion: The Legacy of the 1960s Thalidomide Tragedy for the Ongoing Struggle for Women’s Reproductive Freedom’

We welcome perspectives from history, anthropology, sociology, gender studies, science and technology studies, and other relevant fields. Abstracts for papers or for work-in-progress presentations, of a maximum of 250 words, should be submitted to helena.franzen@idehist.uu.se. Please provide your full name, institutional affiliation, and contact details. The format of the workshop will not allow for more than c. 15 papers. We will evaluate the abstracts based on the originality of the research and the relevance to the theme of the workshop. Applicants will be notified if their papers have been accepted or not by 17 June 2018. The conference language is English.

Registration, lunches, workshop dinner and accommodation (two nights at the conference hotel) are free of charge for participants presenting papers. It may also be possible to obtain limited economic support for travel expenses. Please indicate in the application if such support is required for attendance and what level of support is needed.

If you would like to attend without a paper, or a presentation, the application deadline is also 1 June 2018. Please email helena.franzen@idehist.uu.se and indicate your reasons for wanting to take part in the workshop. Please note that only attendees who present a paper are eligible for economic support.

The workshop is organized by Maria Björkman, PhD, and Annika Berg, PhD, both working within the research program ‘Medicine at the Borders of Life: Fetal Research and the Emergence of Ethical Controversy’ which is funded by the Swedish Research Council and hosted by the Department of History of Science and Ideas at Uppsala University, Sweden (medicalborders.se).

SSHM Biennial Conference: Conformity, Resistance, Dialogue and Deviance in Health and Medicine

Date: 11–13 July 2018
Venue: University of Liverpool

The theme for the 2018 conference is ‘Conformity, Resistance, Dialogue and Deviance in Health and Medicine’. It reflects local Liverpool health heritage as a site of public health innovation; independent and at times radical approaches to health politics, health inequalities, health determinants, treatment and therapies (including technological innovation, community and collective practices, and the use of arts in health).

We hope that this conference theme will also stimulate participants to think about how medical orthodoxy has been shaped and re-moulded, and how patients and practitioners choose to conform to conventional practices, seek alternatives, resist or compromise. The theme further facilitates a transnational conference strand, examining the construction of, and attitudes towards, Western and other medical traditions and health systems. In light of this theme, the 2018 conference committee encourages papers, sessions, round-tables and other interventions that examine, challenge, and refine histories of conformity, resistance, dialogue and deviance in medicine and health. These might be set in relation to inclusions, exclusions and injustices; insiders, outsiders and mediators; peoples, places and cultures; and diverse and expanding new social histories of health and medicine.

But the biennial conference is not exclusive in terms of its theme and reflects the diversity of the discipline of the social history of medicine. Proposals that consider all topics relevant to histories of health and medicine broadly conceived are invited. Nor are submissions restricted to any area of study: we welcome a range of disciplinary approaches, time periods and geographical contexts. Submissions from scholars across the range of career stages are most welcome, and especially from postgraduate and early career researchers. Topics include:

- Health and medicine in colonial, postcolonial and transnational contexts
- The political economy of health and medicine
- Theories and practices of conformity and deviancy in health and medicine
- New ways of framing working within the social history of medicine
- Radical politics and resistance to dominant medical knowledge and practice

Venue: University of Liverpool

Date: 11–13 July 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

SSHM Biennial Conference: Conformity, Resistance, Dialogue and Deviance in Health and Medicine

Date: 11–13 July 2018
Venue: University of Liverpool

The theme for the 2018 conference is ‘Conformity, Resistance, Dialogue and Deviance in Health and Medicine’. It reflects local Liverpool health heritage as a site of public health innovation; independent and at times radical approaches to health politics, health inequalities, health determinants, treatment and therapies (including technological innovation, community and collective practices, and the use of arts in health).

We hope that this conference theme will also stimulate participants to think about how medical orthodoxy has been shaped and re-moulded, and how patients and practitioners choose to conform to conventional practices, seek alternatives, resist or compromise. The theme further facilitates a transnational conference strand, examining the construction of, and attitudes towards, Western and other medical traditions and health systems. In light of this theme, the 2018 conference committee encourages papers, sessions, round-tables and other interventions that examine, challenge, and refine histories of conformity, resistance, dialogue and deviance in medicine and health. These might be set in relation to inclusions, exclusions and injustices; insiders, outsiders and mediators; peoples, places and cultures; and diverse and expanding new social histories of health and medicine.

But the biennial conference is not exclusive in terms of its theme and reflects the diversity of the discipline of the social history of medicine. Proposals that consider all topics relevant to histories of health and medicine broadly conceived are invited. Nor are submissions restricted to any area of study: we welcome a range of disciplinary approaches, time periods and geographical contexts. Submissions from scholars across the range of career stages are most welcome, and especially from postgraduate and early career researchers. Topics include:

- Health and medicine in colonial, postcolonial and transnational contexts
- The political economy of health and medicine
- Theories and practices of conformity and deviancy in health and medicine
- New ways of framing working within the social history of medicine
- Radical politics and resistance to dominant medical knowledge and practice

Venue: University of Liverpool

Date: 11–13 July 2018
• Critical theory and social movements such as feminist, postcolonial, disability and queer theory and activism in relation to health and medicine
• Relations between different cultures of health and medicine
• Inequalities of health and medical care
• Public health
• The environment and health
• Animals, disease and health
• Work and health
• Arts and health
• Popular representations of health and medicine

Registration is now open. The programme is now available on the conference website: www.liverpool.ac.uk/history/events/sshm

Women in Science

Date: March–December 2018
Venue: Basement Gallery, Museum of the History of Science, University of Oxford

100 years ago, the first group of women won the right to vote in the UK. In this centenary year, there is widespread recognition of the political role women have played in society. But what about the vital contributions women have made to science over the centuries? This display celebrates eight women, from the 1700s to the present day, who have contributed to our knowledge of the universe. From a Nobel Prize winner to “The Queen of Nineteenth Century Science”, each woman is linked to either the University of Oxford or our collections.

Operating with Feeling: A Workshop on Surgery and Emotion

Date: 1 June 2018
Venue: Royal College of Surgeons

The Surgery & Emotion project is collaborating with the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS) to hold a one-day workshop. The event will bring together surgeons, historians, policymakers and others to discuss the emotional experiences of surgery, past and present. The workshop is free to attend (but requires a refundable deposit of £20). Full programme and sign up available at www.rcseng.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/calendar/operating-with-feelings.

Surgery & Emotion is a four-year project funded by a Wellcome Trust Investigator Award and based at the University of Roehampton. To learn more about the project click here: www.surgeryandemotion.com. If you have any questions about the event, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with the Surgery & Emotion project via: surgeryandemotion@roehampton.ac.uk. If you have any queries about the registration process, please contact: rcsevents@rcseng.ac.uk

A Civilising Moment?
Reflecting on 150 Years Since the Abolition of Public Execution

Date: 6 June 2018
Venue: Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle

On the 29 May 1868, the Capital Punishment Amendment Act received Royal Assent, bringing an end to centuries of execution in public. Of the Act itself, V.A.C. Gatrell posited that, ‘we cannot deny that 1868 was a civilising moment in British History’. He went on to state that ‘none of this, however, means that 1868 marks a humane moment in British history’. Indeed, execution continued unabated for another century and restricted from view to all but a few select representatives of authority. 150 years on from the Act’s introduction, this one-day conference will reflect on this landmark legislation’s origins, intentions, reception and reality.

The organisers are keen to encourage interdisciplinary insights as well as welcoming scholars from any stage in their career and are interested in attracting a wide range of papers.
both prior to and in the aftermath of the Act itself. Subjects for papers may include, but are by no means limited to:

- The legislative build up to the 1868 Act
- The effect of the 1868 Act and its aftermath
- The broader changing nature of punishment
- Media representations of executions
- Individual cases and crimes
- The role of the execution crowd
- The wider impact and awareness of public executions
- Capital Punishment in the arts - including visual, design, performance, media, music and literary genres.
- The science of punishment
- Global perspectives on capital punishment.

Working Together: Partnerships, Co-creation, Co-curation

Date: 13–15 June 2018
Venue: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

UNIVERSEM is concerned with academic heritage in its broadest sense, including university collections, museums, archives, libraries, botanical gardens, astronomical observatories, and university buildings of historical, artistic and scientific significance.

In 2018 the XIX UNIVERSEM NETWORK MEETING will be held at The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, Scotland. The main theme will be Working Together: Partnerships, Co-creation, Co-curation. We invite you to actively participate in the upcoming event.

Mind Reading: The Role of Narrative in Mental Health

Date: 18–19 June 2018
Venue: University of Birmingham

Do clinicians and patients speak the same language? How might we bridge the evident gaps in communication? How can we use narrative to foster clinical relationships? Or to care for the carers?

This two-day programme of talks and workshops is a collaboration between the University of Birmingham, UCD Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Diseases of Modern Life and Constructing Scientific Communities Projects at St Anne’s College, Oxford. Together we seek to explore productive interactions between narrative and mental health both historically and in the present day. Bringing together psychologists, psychiatrists, GPs, service users, and historians of literature and medicine, we will investigate the patient experience through the prism of literature and personal narrative to inform patient-centred care and practice and focus on ways in which literature might be beneficial in cases of burnout and sympathy fatigue. A draft programme and link to our online registration site is available here: https://literatureandmentalhealth.wordpress.com/2018-conference

If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch with Dr Melissa Dickson at m.dickson@bham.ac.uk

Sex, Death, Disease and Conflict: The State and Morality, 1864–1964

Date: 28 June 2018
Venue: Newcastle University

The Contagious Diseases Acts of the 1860s were a turning point in nineteenth-century state sanctions regarding morality. From this decade, public debates about the boundaries of morality in the United Kingdom, and the role of state intervention, underwent profound changes through the later nineteenth century, and the nation’s involvement in conflicts of the twentieth century. This PGR/ECR symposium considers the boundaries of morality—in relation to sex, death, disease and conflict—and the role of state sanction or intervention from the Contagious Diseases Acts of the 1860s through to the abolition of capital punishment in the 1960s.

This one-day interdisciplinary symposium invites papers that interrogate boundaries of moral values in themes and contexts of sex, death, disease, and conflict; the fluidity of moral boundaries in different contexts and spaces, including physical and textual; and evolving gendered definitions of moral boundaries. These subjects include considerations of social and cultural constructions of morality, portrayals of moral boundaries in fiction and other media, and legislative developments in moral attitudes. We welcome papers from those working in the fields of Literature, History, Politics, Law, Film, Media, Geography, Sociology, and Gender Studies.

There is no attendance fee, and lunch will be provided. The event is particularly aimed at postgraduate and early career researchers.

Oral Health Inequalities, Oral Hygiene Cultures: Past, Present and Future

Date: 28–29 June 2018
Venue: Centre for the History of Medicine, Medical Humanities and Medical Ethics, University of Kent

Poor oral health remains a challenge for health improvement in Britain, particularly in areas with high social and economic deprivation. The Adult Dental Health Survey and the Child Dental Health Survey (2016) outline that while a third (33.4%) of 5-year olds in North West England suffer from tooth decay, only a fifth (20.1%) do in the South East. The dominant
preventive approach in dentistry, focusing on behaviour change, has failed to reduce these inequalities. This failure may partly result from an incomplete understanding of how these behaviours and inequalities developed historically.

Bringing together historians, sociologists, dental health professionals, policy makers and other interested parties, this workshop aims to find ways forward to improve community dental health. In generating cross-disciplinary dialogue, the workshop aims to enhance our understanding of the long-term difficulties in preventing and enhancing poor oral health across different social groups, but also as a way to enrich the medical humanities. The questions we seek to investigate include, but are not limited to:

- How has oral health practices and hygiene behaviours varied according to age, class, gender and region and across different time periods? How have these been represented in the media, in popular literature and by government?
- What curative and preventive practices and state initiatives have been introduced with the aim of improving oral health and to what success?
- What practices and initiatives might be developed to improve oral health and oral hygiene cultures in the future? Can we learn from past practices and initiatives? If so, how?
- How might the dental sciences, public health and the arts and humanities better work together to address oral health inequalities?

There are a few remaining places for attendees. If you are interested in attending this workshop, please contact Dr Claire L. Jones, Lecturer in the History of Medicine, University of Kent: c.l.jones-26@kent.ac.uk

The Paranoid Style Revisited: Postwar American Cultural Politics and The Argosy Magazine

Date: 28–29 June 2018
Venue: John Rylands Library, Manchester

Half a century ago Richard Hofstadter published his influential essay ‘The Paranoid Style in American Politics,’ in which he identified ‘heated exaggeration, suspiciousness and conspiratorial fantasy’ as a recurrent feature of the nation’s political life. Hofstadter’s thesis has in subsequent decades been at the centre of a rich and interdisciplinary scholarly discourse that has been attentive to the cultural politics of the Cold War period as read especially through the lens of gender, but also those of science and technology, mass media, and corporate capitalism, amongst others.

In our current political moment Hofstadter’s call for critical reflection on the genesis, mechanisms and consequences of the paranoid style beckons with renewed urgency. The aim of this conference is to generate such reflection by engaging with and showcasing a rare research resource recently acquired by the University of Manchester’s John Rylands Library: The Argosy Magazine. Founded in the 1880s as a youth magazine in the 1880s and switching to an adult fiction formula at the turn of the century, The Argosy was relaunched in 1946 as ‘The Complete Man’s Magazine.’

Forged from an eclectic mix of rugged frontier individuality and outdoor virility, anxiety about the supposedly emasculating threats of suburban domesticity and white-collar managerialism, a desperation to fulfil the norms of consumerist well-being projected by corporate advertising, and a paranoia about lurking external and internal threats to American liberties, The Argosy serves as a largely untapped archive for probing the volatile mood of postwar cultural politics that prompted Hofstadter’s essay. This conference aims to both raise awareness of this collection for individual researchers and to foster cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional networks to re-examine the varied cultural landscape of American ‘paranoid style.’

Registration is now open: http://events.manchester.ac.uk/event/event:mhe-jf0xxuay-psvfmd

History of Nursing Research Colloquium

Date: 10 July 2018
Venue: University of Chester

The Association’s annual Research Colloquium will be held on 10th July 2018 at the University of Chester. Papers covering a variety of topics will be presented. The cost for the colloquium will be £30 to include lunch and refreshments (unwaged £15). Full details can be seen at www.ukahn.org

Reproductive and Sexual Health Activism, c.1960–Present

Date: 17–18 July 2018
Venue: University of Strathclyde and Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare, Glasgow

Over the last decades, there has been significant scholarly research into the history of reproductive and sexual health activism globally. Scholars have explored the impact of activist and grassroots groups in contexts where governments have failed to address reproductive and sexual health. In particular, the field has developed considerably in the US, where a number of important studies have emerged to examine diverse issues including feminist health, AIDS, LGBT, abortion and black health activism, and the importance of gender, race and class when considering these histories. In the European
context, there has been important research into related issues, such as infertility and assisted reproduction, but new resources, including recently catalogued archives as well as digitisation and oral history projects have not been fully exploited. While there have been valuable histories of feminist activism outside the US, these have not emphasised reproductive health. Histories of reproduction, meanwhile, have tended to neglect activism.

This workshop will bring together historical research on reproductive and sexual health activism in any geographical context (c.1960-present). In particular, workshop participants will discuss methodologies for approaching the history of reproductive and health activism and consider how historical scholarship might be meaningfully utilised as a form of activism. The workshop aims to address the following key questions:

- What have been the stories of individuals involved in reproductive and sexual health activism?
- How has reproductive and sexual health activism been influenced by questions of gender, race and class?
- What are the best ways to uncover the history of reproductive health activism?
- How can histories of activism reshape big stories in social and cultural history?
- Can academic scholarship function as activism?
- What do historians have to offer present-day activists and policy-makers?
- How can a global perspective enrich local histories of activism and vice versa?

The workshop is funded by the Wellcome Trust.

Comparative Histories of AIDS in Europe

**Date:** 19 July 2018  
**Venue:** Birkbeck, University of London

Recently, research on HIV and AIDS in historical perspective has intensified, with new projects looking at the UK, Sweden, Ireland, Switzerland, Spain, and more. This exciting work is not only painting a large and vibrant picture of the histories of AIDS and HIV, incorporating groups and experiences previously underdocumented, but it is also beginning to signal the vital importance of local and national contexts. Responses to, and experiences of AIDS and HIV were modulated by features that varied from place to place, within and between countries, and reflected the importance of the social, cultural, and political settings in which AIDS and HIV emerged.

This one-day symposium seeks to draw together these existing research projects, to encourage comparative perspectives and to consider resonances and dissonances between them. It will provide an opportunity for scholars at all career stages to discuss their work and to identify key avenues for further research. We anticipate that the symposium will lead to an edited collection, and significant future research collaborations.

We encourage a focus on comparative histories or national specificities, particularly those which capture previously unexamined experiences of those affected by HIV. Themes include AIDS and HIV in relation to young people, women, and families, immigration, sex workers, and national politics, and the position of transnational networks and North American influences within Europe. These are suggestions only: we look forward to seeing what further themes may emerge. We will aim to include papers focusing on a variety of different European settings.

The symposium will be held towards the end of a month-long public Festival of AIDS Cultures and Histories taking place in London and Amsterdam. The symposium will follow a workshop format, with pre-circulated papers.

Organisers: Professor Matt Cook (Birkbeck), Dr Hannah J Elizabeth and Dr Janet Weston (both London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine)  
Contact: HistoriesOfAids@gmail.com
Beyond the Museum Walls: Medical Collections and Medical Museums in the Twenty-First Century

Date: 19–22 September 2018  
Venue: Barcelona, Spain

Registration opens soon for the nineteenth European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences. Please do not delay as places are limited. Consult the congress website for further information about the programme, how to register and staying in Barcelona: https://eamhms2018barcelona.wordpress.com

Second SFHSH Meeting: History of Human and Social Sciences

Date: 26–28 September 2018  
Venue: Paris, France

The French Society for the History of Human Sciences (SFHSH) launches the second SFHSH Meeting. Founded in 1986, the SFHSH has organized several research meetings in history and epistemology of human and social sciences and has published many collective books on the subject. In 2015, the Society decided to organize general meetings, opened to all researchers in the field, on a regular basis. The first edition took place in November 2015, in Paris, and gathered approximately 50 participants. Numerous research, often isolated, focus on the history of human and social sciences. In France, a learned society (Société Française pour l'Histoire des Sciences de l'Homme, SFHSH) and a journal (Revue d'histoire des sciences humaines) have been created in order to structure this research field. Their common objective was to give a real intellectual significance to the field and to open new directions in research, often at the crossroads between several disciplines within contemporary social sciences. The second SFHSH meeting aims at enhancing the visibility of research in the field and at fostering discussions and new collaborations between young and more senior researchers, who often work in different institutions, within different academic domains. During the discussions, new objects and new issues are likely to emerge, and former ones will undoubtedly be questioned through new approaches.

- Enquiry and field-work.
- Uses and applications. “Science for action”.
- Actors.
- Boundary issues: art, literature, natural science, etc.
- Practice, methods, material culture.
- Historicity, sources, historiography.
- Institutions.
- Circulation, reception, appropriation

Museum of the History of Science
University of Oxford: Special Events and Evening Talks

The World’s Earliest History of Medicine

Date: 24 May  
Time: 18:00  
Venue: Museum of the History of Science, University of Oxford

In the mid-thirteenth-century Ibn Abi Usaybi’ah, a practising physician in Syria, produced the earliest comprehensive history of medicine from any land. His work covers 1700 years and incorporates records of over 442 physicians, all interlaced with amusing poetry and anecdotes about their lives. Professor Emilie Savage-Smith (University of Oxford) will talk about the major project she is leading to edit and translate the entire treatise and make it available to everyone. Please book your free ticket through the Museum’s Eventbrite page at www.bit.ly/mhs-events.

Art, Illusions and the Visual Brain

Date: 5 June  
Time: 18:00  
Venue: Museum of the History of Science, University of Oxford

Professor Christopher Kennard (Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences) has spent a lifetime studying the visual system. In this talk he reveals how easily it can play tricks with our mind. Due to popular demand this is a repeat of Professor Kennard’s talk in March. Tickets will be on sale from Tuesday 1 May. Please book your free ticket through the Museum’s Eventbrite page at www.bit.ly/mhs-events.

Scenes from a Projected World

Date: 12 June  
Time: 18:00  
Venue: Museum of the History of Science, University of Oxford

Drawing on stories of science and exploration this multimedia performance combines Dr Emily Hayes’ (Oxford Brookes University) research into the history of the Royal Geographical Society with the spoken word, projected and animated images, and musical accompaniment to explore the magic lantern’s role in the creation of environmental knowledge. With the Royal Geographical Society and Constructing Scientific Communities. Tickets will be on sale from Tuesday 1 May. Please book your free ticket through the Museum’s Eventbrite page at www.bit.ly/mhs-events.
Extinction is a timely and controversial topic now, as it has been for centuries. That is not, of course, to say that the focus of contention has remained constant. At first the main question, couched at least as much in theological as in scientific terms (that is, in terms resonant with later debates about evolution), was whether it could happen. Localized anthropogenic extinctions, most famously that of the dodo, were noticed by European travellers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (the intentional extermination of undesirable animals like wolves at home did not figure in such debates). The dwindling and disappearance of more populous and widespread species, including the passenger pigeon, the quagga, and (nearly) the American bison, in the nineteenth century sparked a different kind of concern among the overlapping communities of hunters, naturalists, and conservationists, which helped to inspire the earliest national parks and wildlife reserves.

From the 1860s sympathy emerged as a key term in naturalistic dispute about mechanisms of evolution and the relation of human to animal life. This paper argues that we need to look closely at these debates in order to have a fuller account of the role sympathy played in the ethical and artistic changes of the ‘end’ of Victorianism. Sympathy’s part in its own vanishing conditions during the final three decades of the nineteenth century has not yet been fully explained. As literary historians invariably turn to George Eliot to help grasp the scope and power of secular modern sympathy, I go to her final novel, Daniel Deronda, to find insight about its waning. While sympathy is explicitly referenced on more occasions in Daniel Deronda than in any other of Eliot’s fictions, many readers have noted profound changes that propel the narrative simultaneously beyond both sympathy and realism. Might sympathy, paradoxically, be a key to grasping why Eliot’s last novel is full of terror and dread, magic and divination, Gothicism and melodrama? I conclude by briefly suggesting that sympathy in the final decades of the nineteenth century is part of the same nexus of concepts that produce a new term, empathy, seen by some in the twenty-first century to have largely replaced sympathy in referencing affective and ethical capacity.

Although France’s role in the development of chocolate from an Early Modern luxury to a popular product has been noted, nowhere has the French engagement with chocolate as medicine been examined in any depth. Moreover, the numerous literary engagements with this product in nineteenth-century novels remain unexplored. Taking up the call issued by the Chocolate History Project (UC Davis) for more research on chocolate in literature and in cookbooks, this paper will examine references to chocolate in scientific and medical texts from the period but also in gastronomic texts and novels to see to what extent principles regarding chocolate reached beyond the medical field, and also to reveal the rich and complex relations between chocolate and language.

British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Date: Monday 21 May
Time: 17:30
Venue: Maplethorpe Lecture Theatre, UCL
UNESCO Memory of the World Register. The Schools’ Manuscript Collection is one body of information stored within this archive that contains over 700,000 pages of regional Irish traditional and folkloric knowledge, collected by school children in the 1930s. Our research at the School of Pharmacy at TCD has involved analysing ethnomedicinal information documented in this collection, offering a unique insight into the medicinal beliefs and practices of the people at that time. In addition, we have contacted some of the original participants to the scheme and documented their oral recollections and have linked them back to their specific schools’ contributions in the archives. This has provided a context and a novel perspective on the collection itself, and the traditional knowledge housed therein.

Fiona Shannon is a PhD candidate in Trinity College Dublin, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. She earned an MA Degree in Pharmacognosy from University College London. During this degree, she completed a dissertation based on traditional medicinal knowledge documented in the Schools’ Manuscript Collection under the supervision of Professor Michael Heinrich, UCL School of Pharmacy, London. Subsequently, Fiona was awarded a PhD fellowship from the Royal College of Physicians and the Apothecaries’ Hall of Ireland to continue this research on the Schools’ Manuscript Collection. Concurrently, she was awarded a (1252) Studentship from Trinity College Dublin, where Professors’ Helen Sheridan and Astrid Sasse are supervising her. In November 2017, Fiona published her first paper in the Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine, titled ‘Are identities oral?’

Somewhere in Between
8 March 2018–27 August 2018
Admission is free

“This immersive show is one to get lost in” – Londonist

Art, science and somewhere in between.

Artists Martina Amati, Daria Martin, Maria McKinney and John Walter each collaborated with scientists to explore ideas that are vital to human life – ideas about our food sources, our senses, our sexual health and the limitations of our bodies. Experience these four immersive installations, exhibited together for the first time, which reveal the hidden connections and systems that lie between and beneath us.

Teeth
17 May 2018–16 September 2018
Admission is free

A woman reaches down into a man’s throat to pull out another tooth. Lithograph by H. Daumier (1839). Credit: Wellcome Collection.
All human life is reflected in a toothy grin. Our upcoming exhibition will trace the evolution of our relationship with our teeth and with the profession that has shaped the way we live with – or without – them. Following modern history’s tireless pursuit of the pain-free mouth and the perfect smile, this is the first exhibition to look at how dentistry evolved from fairground entertainment to highly skilled profession, with many associated educational campaigns and spin-off industries. Including beautifully illustrated treatises dating back to the early 18th century, ‘Teeth’ will draw on the wealth of images, objects and artworks held in the collections assembled by Henry Wellcome, supplemented by loans from key collections in Northern Europe. It will explore oral hygiene and dentistry as markers of medical progress, and vividly illustrate the enduring connections between ‘good’ teeth, beauty, vanity, wealth and success.

The Centre for Global Health Histories, Department of History, University of York

The Centre for Global Health Histories has undertaken a project to re-house the WHO Global Health Histories seminar recordings archive. As a result, many past events are now available on YouTube for this first time, making them easier to search and access. This includes the 2009 series on neglected tropical diseases and, to mark the 40th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration, a dedicated playlist of seminars exploring the history of universal health coverage. For more information please see www.youtube.com/CGHHYork. For future events in the WHO Global Health Histories series, please see www.york.ac.uk/history/global-health-histories/events

Mind-Boggling Medical History

I would like to let you know about a new teaching and public engagement resource called Mind-Boggling Medical History, designed for secondary school students, University nursing and medical students and museum visitors. The game has been created by the University of Oxford and Royal College of Nursing and is funded by the AHRC.

Mind-Boggling Medical History is an educational game which is designed to challenge preconceptions about history and show how ideas in medicine change for a variety of reasons. From floating kidneys and wandering wombs to transplanted heads and dogs who detect diseases, the game challenges players to look at a series of statements and decide which are from current medical practice, which are based on historical ideas or practices no longer used, and which we have ... well ... just made up! Players can choose from a number of rounds related to different medical themes, including ‘sex and reproduction’, ‘animals’, ‘mind’ and ‘treatment’.

The online version of Mind-Boggling Medical History is available at https://mbmh.web.ox.ac.uk/home. Through the website you can also download a PDF version of the card game and additional teaching resources designed for GCSE History and BSc Nursing students. We also have a limited number of copies available of the printed pack of 50 cards and answer booklet, ideal for playing in classrooms and lecture theatres! If you would like to be sent out a copy, please email us at mbmh@ell.ox.ac.uk.

Sally Frampton
University of Oxford

Unlocking the Asylum: Cataloguing the Records of the North Wales Hospital

Thanks to funding from Wellcome, work is now underway at Denbighshire Archives to catalogue the records of the North Wales Hospital, the main institution in North Wales to care for the mentally ill.

The institution opened in October 1848 and served the whole of North Wales and the borders. A century later, its patients numbered in excess of 1,500. The collection is varied, as well as highlighting the importance of the hospital to the economic and social life of the local area, the voluminous archives reflect developments in medical and therapeutic treatments from the late 19th century to the end of twentieth century.

The hospital finally closed its doors in 1995. The resulting archive is unique in its completeness and includes management records such as minutes and annual reports, building records including some relating to the initial founding of the hospital, financial records including accounts, patient records including admission, discharge, and case books, staff records including wage books, and other material including photographs and newspaper cuttings.

As a result of our Unlocking the Asylum project we are pleased to announce the launch of a temporary catalogue for the first part of the collection. This temporary catalogue replaces the former paper list. The catalogue, which includes over 500 items, features improved item descriptions, and a new structure which will make it easier for users to find records relevant to their research.

Work is now continuing to catalogue the remainder of the collection, the final version of the catalogue which will include the later accessions of records will be available by the end of the project in 2019. The project also includes the indexing and
repackaging of some 23,000 patient files relating to those admitted into the hospital after the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948, this task began in November 2017 and is expected to run until the end of the project.

The temporary catalogue is now available online via the Denbighshire Archives website:
http://archives.denbighshire.gov.uk/collections/getrecord/GB209_HD-1
We will continue to post regular updates of the progress of the project and details of events on our blog:
https://denbighshirearchives.wordpress.com

Project Archivist: Lindsey Sutton
Lindsey.Sutton@denbighshire.gov.uk

MA in History of Medicine: Minds, Bodies and Cultures
Birkbeck, University of London

Course Director: Dr Anne Hanley
Duration: One year full-time or two years part-time

The Department of History, Classics and Archaeology is delighted to announce the relaunch of its MA in History of Medicine. With its new focus on three key factors—minds, bodies and cultures—that define our experiences of health, illness and wellbeing, the MA programme will give students the opportunity to explore how the formidable forces of medicine have fundamentally shaped who we are.

Healthcare provisions in the UK are undergoing major shifts. By exploring how medicine and caregiving has operated in the past, our students will become better equipped to participate in current debates about the future of the NHS.

Students will develop a thorough understanding of the historical, social and scientific foundations of modern medical ideas and institutions. Moreover, they will be immersed in the experiences of ‘ordinary’ people—the extraordinary lenses through which we explore our past.

Our primary focus is on providing a rich and varied experience of history at postgraduate level. The programme offers a framework within which you can develop your research techniques and prepare for doctoral, professional or other research. If you would like informally to discuss an application or have any questions about the MA, please contact the course director, Dr Anne Hanley:
a.hanley@bbk.ac.uk

Applications are open.

To apply for the programme, please visit
www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2018/postgraduate/programmes/TMAHMMBC_C
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www.sshm.org
@SSHMedicine
groups/societyforthesocialhistoryofmedicine

PAST ISSUES OF THE GAZETTE ARE ONLINE: sshm.org/content/gazette
ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SSHM
The Society for the Social History of Medicine
Charity Registration Number 278414

Elections to the Executive Committee of the SSHM are held at the Annual General Meeting which, in 2018, will take place on Wednesday 11 July, during the Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference, ‘Conformity, Dialogue and Deviance in Health and Medicine’, at the University of Liverpool. Any queries should be directed to the SSHM Secretary, Dr Rosemary Wall, r.wall@hull.ac.uk

Nomination forms must be received by Dr Wall by Monday 2 July. An editable version of the form is available at https://sshm.org/portfolio/the-society/

The 2-page forms can be signed and then scanned and emailed to r.wall@hull.ac.uk with hard copies in the post to Dr Rosemary Wall, School of Histories, Languages and Cultures, Larkin Building, University of Hull, Cottingham Road, HULL, HU6 7RX, United Kingdom.

CANDIDATE DETAILS

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Proposed by:
(Signature and print name)

(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)

Seconded by:
(Signature and print name)

(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)
I accept nomination for election to the Executive Committee

Candidate’s signature and date:

Please explain below why you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for the Social History of Medicine. The form must remain as two pages. Please use Calibri font size 11.