Pen and ink drawing of a monstrous-looking influenza virus knocking a man out. Ernest Noble, c. 1918. Credit: Wellcome Collection.
Pretty Ugly
Early Modern Beauty Conference

This two-day conference, organised by Sarah Toulalan (Exeter) and Karen Harvey (Birmingham), took place on 10 and 11 January at the Wellcome Collection in London. Generously funded by the Wellcome Trust, the SSHM, and the University of Birmingham, the conference was prompted by Paul Deslandes (Vermont), to bring together scholars who will be contributing to his forthcoming series of 6 volumes on the cultural history of beauty (Bloomsbury). Two of these volumes, one on the early modern period and one on the enlightenment, will be edited by Toulalan and Harvey respectively. The event brought together participants from a variety of backgrounds, and from no fewer than 4 different continents.

The conference started with a welcome to Wellcome by Angela McShane (Wellcome Collection) and an introduction by the conference organisers. Here they addressed the lack of historical perspective in modern debates about beauty, and the issues around the idea that beauty ideals are a modern phenomenon. This conference aimed to challenge that idea, by showing how standards of beauty have changed over time.

One example of how ideas of beauty have changed over time lies in the early modern tendency to link inner and outer beauty, a theme that was brought up throughout the conference. Erin Griffey (Auckland) discussed how the beautiful and the virtuous were seen as intrinsically linked, and how this affected depiction of elite women in art, whose portraits had to meet certain beauty standards. Lisa Cody (Claremont McKenna) argued that although the saying ‘beauty is only skin deep’ was known in this period, people did not believe it, and continued to attribute physical deformity to poor morality and misbehaviours. A paper by Kim Pratt (OU) contextualised this phenomenon further by linking it to the legacy of ancient stories in which the ugly often denoted evil.

Several papers discussed early modern methods for making the body beautiful. Lisa Smith (Essex) demonstrated the pressures put on mothers to make beautiful babies by living according to strict health regimens, while Katherine Robertson (Stanford) shared a few seventeenth-century everyday recipes for achieving a beautiful complexion, the ingredients for which (vinegar, sulphur, and liquid mercury, to name a few) betray the complexities to researching beautiful bodies in a period where understandings of physiology differed vastly from our own.

Just as early modern medical theory affected standards of beauty, so did power structures. Several papers invited us to think about how beauty standards were decided, and by whom. Both Ian Moutlon (Arizona State) and Kathryn Woods (Warwick) pointed out that it was mostly a masculine debate: depictions in art were mostly decided by men’s ideas of what was inappropriate or beautiful. Jennifer Van Horn’s (Delaware) paper brought the issues...
around race in early modern understandings of beauty to the fore, highlighting artists’ depictions of beautiful black women as tropical products for white men to consume, as well as their ascribing danger to black women’s ability to snare the gaze of the white man. These papers thus highlighted that the meaning ascribed to beauty was thus subject to hierarchies specific to the early modern period.

Beauty ideals differ across space as much as time. Akiko Shimbo (Shibaura institute of Technology) discussed the central role of graceful movements to eighteenth-century Japanese concepts of beauty, while Paola Zamperini (Northwestern) took us through the changing nature of the definition of the word ‘beauty’ and all of its connotations throughout late imperial Chinese literature. These papers allowed for a comparative element to the conference, challenging delegates to broaden their Eurocentric ideas of beauty in the past.

Perhaps the most anticipated panel was that on the portrait of Barbara van Beck, which adorned the conference booklet. The portrait, which depicts a seventeenth-century woman with a genetic condition resulting in excessive hair growth on the face and body, was acquired by Wellcome Collection in 2015, and Angela McShane started the discussion by questioning how Barbara van Beck would have been perceived by her contemporaries. Merry Wiesner-Hanks (Wisconsin-Milwaukee) placed the portrait and its history into further context. Wiesner-Hanks ended by arguing that Barbara van Beck was portrayed as an extraordinary individual rather than as a monstrosity, and indeed anyone who has been able to admire the beautifully made portrait (which is on display in the Wellcome Collection), would surely agree.

The conference concluded with a workshop in the Wellcome Collection, where several prints, drawings and books had been displayed for delegates to examine and contextualise with reference to the papers that had been presented over the course of the conference. Highlights included further portrait prints of Barbara van Beck, a set of early seventeenth-century German engravings depicting grotesque physiognomies, and a series of prints of outrageous hairstyles ca. 1600.

Pretty Ugly was as enjoyable as it was informative, with a friendly atmosphere and a range of papers that all raised as many questions as they answered, providing the groundwork for what promises to be two thought-provoking forthcoming volumes on the cultural history of beauty.

Marsha Wubbels, University of Exeter

Leprosy and the ‘Leper’ Reconsidered

The organizers, Dr Anna Peterson (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies) and Ms. Courtney Krolikoski (McGill University), managed to seamlessly put together a transdisciplinary conference that allowed attendees to tackle some of the issues confronted cross-regionally in the study of leprosy and its sufferers from the Middle Ages to the present day. Support was provided by the Social Studies of Medicine (SSoM), the Global Health Programs, the Department of History and Classical Studies, the Department of Anthropology, the Faculty of Medicine, and the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy (IHSP); all at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. In addition to the Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) and the North American Friends of the Barber’s Company.

The conference was composed of two keynote speakers, nineteen papers divided into seven panels, and a poster session. The first keynote speaker, Dr Luke Demaitre (University of Virginia), presented “O Brother Where Art Thou? Looking for the Real “Pauper Lazarus” spoke about the ways in which leprosy sufferers have been labeled based on their social and economic status and politely suggested the need to search for the individual within the available documentation. On Saturday, Professor Susan L. Burns (University of Chicago), tackled the isolation of victims of leprosy in premodern Japan by analysing the “Kitayama Hall of Eighteen Rooms”.

Academics from Canada, England, France, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the United States shared research conducted in the disciplines of history, photography, literature, and film. These nineteen presentations ranged from macro to micro perspectives with some concentrating on large regions, for example Asia, to phenomena in countries like France, Korea, and Japan; as well as case studies from specific cities and/or leprosaria such as Frankfurt, Härar (Ethiopia), Isla de Cabras (Puerto Rico), Milan (Italy), Molokai (Hawai‘i), Montpellier (France), Provene (France), and Sheldake Island (New Brunswick). [More information can be accessed at https://leprosyandtheleper.wordpress.com]

The poster session contained works from six colleagues from Brazil, Canada, Denmark, England and Portugal that delved into paleopathology, psychiatry and religion. These were presented on the second day and the last day to provide additional time, followed by questions and more detailed interactions.

The conference closed on Saturday in the best possible way, with a roundtable discussion and closing remarks session that permitted to bring forward the difficulties encountered by most of us when carrying out research that focuses on the disease, the person and/or places. The
exchange of ideas, critiques and proposals discussed a wide array of topics such as: the kinds of language that should be employed when referring to people afflicted with Hansen’s Disease; how to study the ‘individual’ by differentiating them from the images projected by public policy, institutions and social constructs; and perceptions of places and spaces of containment and/or isolation. A poignant part of the discussion revolved around the stigma of the word ‘leper’ and the suspicions surrounding a person who was considered to be diseased. Interventions called for a more humane approach to telling the stories of the people who had the disease and bring them forward in our studies stories. Postcolonial interpretations and lines of research were also called for, this is closely related to understanding leprosariums and hospitals as heritage places that need to be approached from an emic perspective.

A novel proposition was the use of social media not only promote the conference, but also to reach a wider public. Both speakers and presenters were asked in advance to review a social media policy and express the type of information that could be shared. A Twitter handle (@leprosyandleper) permitted participants to comment on the papers presented and provided the attendees with material to discuss later. This was done throughout the coffee and tea breaks, lunches and conference dinner held at the Faculty Club of McGill University. The overall feeling of most of participants is that the conference opened the door to future collaborations beyond our areas of study and granted us the possibility to explore issues that can improve our understanding of the past and present. In the meantime, most of us are strengthening these new friendships, and looking forward to the next conference, which will hopefully take place in 2021. On a final note, an edited volume is currently in the works and promises to be a great addition to the study of leprosy and the people who faced the disease.

Paola Schiappacasse
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

An interdisciplinary conference welcoming abstracts covering all historic and contemporary aspects of childbearing and child rearing. Topics are expected to include, but not be limited to, the following subject areas:

- **History**: investigations into witchcraft; bastardy; contraception; the framing of childbirth in the hospital and the home; free-birthing; parenthood; the changing role of doctors, midwives and carers; the history of birth in local, national and international contexts
- **Medicine**: insights into birth trends, the rise of obstetrics, fertility, infertility, assisted fertility, miscarriage, abnormalities, still-birth
- **Art History**: the varied depiction of childbirth, parenting and reproduction across the ages
- **Literature and Anthropology**: literary representations of midwives, births, babies, mothers and fathers in different socio-cultural spheres, as well as within different historical periods
- **Linguistics and Discourse Analysis**: analysis of texts and discourses surrounding childbirth, maternity and midwifery
- **Social Policy**: analysis of maternity services and policy and its impact on women’s choice; the changing role of the midwife and obstetricians; suggestions for new ways forward; issues surrounding criminality and punishment as they relate to childbirth and maternity care
- **Sociology and Feminist Studies**: social constructs of motherhood across the ages; attitudes to unlawful pregnancy, parenthood and surrogacy; debates surrounding single and same-sex parenthood; the exploration of BME and mixed-race birth and parenting experiences
- **Midwifery**: the role and reputation of midwives across the ages, and in different cultural spheres; analysis of regulation and professionalization; solutions to infant mortality, ideas of acceptable risk; fluctuating concepts of ‘normal’ birth; the importance of choice

### CALL FOR PAPERS

**Born Yesterday: Cross-Disciplinary Investigations into Birth, Midwifery and Childhood**

**Date**: 5–6 September 2019  
**Venue**: The University of Nottingham  
**Deadline**: 28 February 2019

The Forum for the History of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences and Cambridge University Press invite submissions for our inaugural Graduate Student Essay Award. The award will be given for the best original, unpublished essay in the history of health, medicine and the life sciences submitted to the competition as judged by the FHHMLS’s assessment panel. This award advances the FHHMLS's...
mission of encouraging scholarship that addresses conversations occurring across and between the histories of science, medicine, and technology broadly conceived. The author of the winning essay will receive 5 books of their choosing from the current book list of the Cambridge University Press.

We welcome submission of unpublished manuscripts in English on any aspect of the history of health, medicine and life sciences written by students registered part-time or full-time in a graduate degree or completing their degree in 2019. Submissions should bridge the histories of science, medicine and/or technology. Submissions should be no more than 10,000 words in length (inclusive of footnotes and all references). Entries should be accompanied by a one-page cover letter detailing how the research fosters new conversations between the histories of medicine, science and/or technology.

Entries should be sent to fhhmls.hss@gmail.com. Please submit cover letters and essays as two separate files. The essay file should only include the title, with all author information removed. The winning submission will be announced at the 2019 HSS meeting in Utrecht. Authors do not need to be members of HSS at the time of submission. We are grateful to Cambridge University Press for their generous sponsorship of this prize.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**EAHMH Conference: Sense and Nonsense S3N$e & nõnβ★Nzø**

Date: 27–30 August 2019  
Venue: University of Birmingham, UK

This biennial conference of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health marks the 30th anniversary of the Association since its founding conference in Strasbourg in 1989. The title of the conference has been chosen to recognise key themes at the heart of medical history debates and discussions and will take place in the heart of England, at the University of Birmingham.

Confirmed keynote speakers include Professor Ludmilla Jordanova (University of Durham), Professor Robert Jütte (University of Stuttgart) and Dr Vanessa Heggie (University of Birmingham). Expert sessions on public engagement and social media, among others, will also be run by Dr Vanessa Heggie and Alice Roberts, television presenter and Professor of Science Engagement (University of Birmingham) specifically for early career scholars on the first day of the conference.

In the most literal of senses, the Scientific Board welcomes abstracts that will explore the history of sense perception, singularly or collectively and within medicine and health globally over the broadest of chronologies. Centring on touch, taste, smell, sight, sound or the heightened, honed, dulling, disability or loss of senses, or touching on their employment through food, pain, analgesia, polluted streets or pestiferous zones—and the emotional responses elicited—this conference encourages engagement with the emerging field of sensory history and its potential to revisit many familiar topics in fresh ways and provoke new insights. The centrality of the senses to medicine and health cuts across time periods and is apparent throughout the ancient and modern worlds, although the reliability of the senses have not always been accepted without question. At times, for example, ‘seeing is not believing’ through fakery or faith, hallucinations or delusions. And while not all periods have valued sight, neither has every practitioner cared or dared to touch their patients—all senses, like touch, having equally been gendered, if not varied with class, age and race or shaped by medical condition, comfort or neurodiversity.

While the five senses may have been recognised and embraced during the Enlightenment as the route to all knowledge, it was during this ‘age of reason’ that the so-called Western World and its colonies witnessed the rise of the asylum. Care became central for those who appeared to lose their senses or who were thought only capable of nonsense, in part because they were widely recognised as having human sensibilities and sensations and not those of animals. The senses and the action of the surroundings on them became instrumental in decisions about design and treatment and people considered to be mentally ill or incapacitated became part of a growing body of patients who were isolated from communities. Periodically, due to war, migration and urbanisation, the senses have been overwhelmed by encounters with unfamiliar or rapidly-changing worlds in which amplified sights, smells, noises
and even vibrations were held potentially to precipitate episodes of mental ill-health.

Both the history of the senses and of mental health and illness have been involved in paradigm shifts in the discipline of history and this forms another strand to our theme ‘Sense and Nonsense’. Often new paradigms, both in historical fields and medicine, provoke aggressive responses and opposition, especially from those with the greatest investment in orthodox practices. Equally, in crowded medical marketplaces, alternative healers were very quickly identified by their rivals as ‘quacks’ and, just as the hierarchy of the senses was periodically challenged, so too were hierarchies of healers. Contested knowledge has led some figures to exaggerate claims and bred scepticism among experts and various publics, no more so than in our own destabilised ‘post-truth’ world of trickery and ‘alternative facts’. While this has bred much confusion historically, it has also led a return to rationality, objectivity and common sense. As often, it has encouraged trust in the illusory, the paranormal or the sixth sense. Ultimately, ‘Sense and Nonsense’ have always played a part in the way people and populations have tried to make sense of health and illness. Paper topics are likely to include:

- Epistemologies of the senses through time
- Animal, human, inter-species and trans-human senses
- Reading non-verbal signals and uncovering the rationale behind premodern medicines
- Extra/sensory perception and its metaphors across cultures and clinics
- Visual cultures and those of taste, sound, scent and touch
- Looking/seeing, listening/hearing, touching, smelling and tasting in medical education, examination and diagnosis
- Energy, chakras, meditation, mindfulness and the senses and their management
- Pain, torture, itching, scratching, numbing and sedating as experience, crime, punishment or therapy
- Hyper-sensitivity, diversity, ability or disability through the senses, including burns, light sensitivity, synaesthesia, acute hearing or sight loss
- Insensibility, drugs and psychoactive substances
- Enabling technologies and technologies of touch, tactile imagery and haptic healing
- Material culture and experiences of space through the senses, health, illness or as patients
- Feeling and feelings
- Mental capacity, signs of reason, neurological signs and auras
- Fever, chills, hallucination, delusion and trauma
- Nonsense, speaking in tongues, gibberish and jargon
- Paradigm shifts in medicine and medical history

- Ethics, experimentation and the return to common sense
- Experiments, therapies or designs using the senses or sensory deprivation
- Making sense of medicine and translating ideas into practice
- Geographies of the senses; virtual worlds and technology

**The 1918 Influenza Pandemic: Historical and Biomedical Reflections**

*Date: 7–8 February 2019
Venue: Ypres, Belgium*

At the centenary commemoration of the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic, many questions with regard to the origin, the development and the impact of this worldwide phenomenon remain largely uncharted.

- Where did this virus come from?
- To what degree and how were its genesis and its rapid transcontinental spread caused and/or facilitated by the war circumstances?
- Which genetic features of the virus explain its unusually high pathogenicity?
- How did medical and political authorities react?
- Why were some age groups spared by this dreadful virus?
- Is it possible to fathom the impact of the pandemic both on the everyday life of citizens and on general developments in science, culture and politics?
- How far can a historical approach contribute to the understanding of current-day pandemics, and vice versa?

In order to tackle these questions, an international and interdisciplinary conference will be held in Ypres (Belgium) on 7–8 February 2019. The Scientific Committee warmly invites you to submit abstracts of original research papers related to biomedical and historical aspects of the 1918 influenza pandemic, which you would like to be considered for presentation at the conference.

Speakers include:

- Peter Piot, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK
- Samuel Cohn, University of Glasgow, UK
- Leo van Bergen, Medical historian, NL
- Howard Phillips, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, ZA
- John Mathew, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pashan Pune, Maharashtra, IN
- Scott E. Hensley, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, US
- Jeffrey Reznick, National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health, US
- Heidi Larson, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- John Oxford, Queen Mary College, London, UK
- Debby van Riel, Erasmus MC, NL
- Anne Rasmussen, University of Strasbourg, FR
- Laura Spinney, Writer & science journalist, FR/CH
- Medical models and anatomy
- Death and dying
- Medical portraiture
- Representations of disability, disease and healing
- Photography and ethnography or anthropology
- Contemporary or historical medical imaging
- The role of imagery in diagnosis

Thinking with Mysticism
A day symposium

Date: Friday 31 May 2019
Keynote: Dr Sarah Apetrei (Keble College, Oxford)

This day-symposium will explore how the mystical, the prophetic, enthusiastic or the apophatic were deployed, to political, scientific or artistic purposes. It will look at what thinkers did with mysticism (broadly defined), the strategies of thought or the practices they developed, and the ways in which they then used these strategies to animate, to energise, to trouble their world.

We seek papers that engage with how mysticism mattered beyond the self, and the religiosity of the individual - in politics, in community, in relation to medicine or science, the natural world, and the scholarly world. We encourage papers from a wide temporal as well as religious spread.

Our keynote speaker, Dr Sarah Apetrei, is the author of Women, Feminism and Religion in Early Enlightenment England (Cambridge, 2010) and co-editor of An Introduction to Jacob Boehme: Four Centuries of Thought and Reception (Routledge, 2014). Also speaking is Dr Shazia Jagot, on medieval Sufi mysticism and science.

Representing the Medical Body

Date: 28 March 2019
Venue: Science Museum, London

A one-day workshop at the Science Museum, London, organised by Katy Barrett (Curator of Art Collections) and Sarah Wade (Research Manager)

In 2019, a series of five landmark new medicine galleries will open at the Science Museum in London. A series of contemporary art commissions form a significant part of this project along with images of the human body throughout the history of art. This provides an ideal opportunity to reflect on the unique ways in which the body has been represented in relation to health and medicine through the history of art and visual culture.

This one-day interdisciplinary workshop will bring together artists, scientists and historians of art, science and medicine to explore artistic responses to medicine and representations of the medical body throughout history. Papers are invited from a range of critical frameworks including, feminist, queer, postcolonialist, posthuman and gender studies. Contributions can take a variety of forms including papers, artist’s talks, films and performances. The day will end with a response from Professor Ludmilla Jordanova, Department of History, Durham University.

Topics might include:

- Medical models and anatomy
- Death and dying
- Medical portraiture
- Representations of disability, disease and healing
- Photography and ethnography or anthropology
- Contemporary or historical medical imaging
- The role of imagery in diagnosis

Histories of the Red Cross Movement since 1919

Date: 13–14 June 2019
Venue: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 17 Chemin des Crêts, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland

The years following the end of the Great War witnessed one of the great historical conjunctures in the history of the Red Cross movement: a moment at which the Red Cross’ institutional and normative structures, its technical capacities and ambitions were transformed in ways that would profoundly affect its activities and outlook over the next hundred years. This two-day conference brings together historians and practitioners working on the Red
Cross Movement to debate the legacy, events, and ideas flowing from 1919 and to engage with contemporary issues and concerns of the broader Red Cross Movement.

We are very grateful for support from the Society for the Social History of Medicine, and from our other funders, including the Australian Research Council, University of Geneva, and Flinders University. Registration details and the conference website will be launched soon. For news, please follow us on twitter @RedXHistory2019

The conference will be addressed by two leading scholars of humanitarianism:
- Andrew Thompson, Director of the Centre for Global & Imperial History (University of Exeter), Chief Executive of the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council.
- Eleanor Davey, Senior Lecturer in History of Humanitarianism at the University of Manchester’s Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute.

Organising committee:
Rosemary Cresswell (Hull), James Crossland (LJMU), Irene Herrmann (Geneva), Branden Little (Weber), Grant Mitchell (IFCRCS), Melanie Oppenheimer (Flinders), Davide Rodogno (Graduate Institute, Geneva), Neville Wylie (Stirling)

Untold and Inexpressible: Gaps and Ambiguities in the Medicine as an Epistemological Challenge

Date: 15–16 June 2019
Venue: Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz

Medical treatments aim to improve the patient’s health. From the patient’s perspective, the elimination of the suffering and the restitution of “normal” life is a crucial part of the process. Patients express this in communication with the practitioner by describing symptoms on one side and impairments affecting their lives on the other. Much of this can hardly be described in words, especially embodied experiences which do not correlate with medical findings and thus are often not deemed relevant. In this regard, the patient faces the rigid and rational diagnostic categories of the practitioner that sometimes do not at all coincide with the patient’s own categories. However, how the gap between the concepts used by the practitioner and the patient could be bridged does rarely come up for discussion.

Not surprisingly, this problem is also highly relevant in the study of historical sources, textual or illustrative. Sources also communicate with us even when we use them only as research objects. They were not however transmitted for this end, and certainly one cannot pose them clarifying questions. One way to reveal the underlying concepts is by means of wide contextualization. Nowadays, a number of linguistic theories focus on the inexpressible; among them are the conceptual metaphor theory, the prototype theory, and translation theories. The untold remains however a gap.

These gaps appear to have been used in the history of medicine as projection areas. The still common attempts at retrospective diagnoses provide a good example of an overly reductionist view of ambiguous and sometime even opaque medical phenomena. Historians assume that the categories and concepts coincide with the modern ones and try to fill the gaps with narratives. This is not a novel phenomenon but rather a fundamental historico-epistemological problem of the history of science.

Our conference aims to explore these phenomena from a methodological perspective. We ask modern doctors how they bridge the communicative gap between their categories and those of the patients. We ask the historical disciplines how they deal with what is left untold or is inexpressible from the perspective of the sources. We are pleased to receive proposals of papers from historiographers of science studying old textbooks on medicine history and exploring the narratives used to fill the gaps in the primary sources.

We expect proposals of papers on the main theme, limited to 20 minutes, as well as panels with a series of papers, lasting 90 minutes. Beside the specified theme, it is also possible to include other papers (limited to 20 minutes) from the domain of the pre-modern medicine. You will find further information on our homepage: https://ancient-medicine.uni-mainz.de
The Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare, University of Strathclyde

The Wellcome Trust has awarded the CSHHH £923,235 for ‘Building Shared Futures: Co-developing Medical Humanities in China and the UK (MHCUK)’ (PI Jim Mills, CI Laura Kelly). The CSHHH Glasgow is the lead institution with partners at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS), Fudan University, Shanghai University and Manchester University. The objective of the project is to fund six Masters students from the Chinese institutions to study here on the MSc in Health History each year between 2019 and 2022, and to support three post-doctoral Fellows per annum to work at the universities in Shanghai for the same period. It is the first time that the Wellcome Trust has supported such an international consortium.

Post-accident life: compensation, prosthetics and more

The Portsmouth ‘Railway Work, Life & Death’ project has released a new dataset, detailing what happened to British railway workers after they were injured at work between 1913–23. And there’s more to come — including the opportunity for everyone to get involved!

The data released covers applications to the Great Eastern Railway Benevolent Fund, detailing what injured workers needed to adjust to post-accident life: artificial eyes, teeth, and limbs, trusses, doctor’s bills and more all feature. We can see patented medical technologies and their costs, as they were applied in practice. This complements the initial data release of nearly 4000 British and Irish railway worker accident cases, 1911–15.

Importantly for the project ethos — being volunteer-driven, attempting co-production and to involve people as widely as possible — we’re taking part in the ‘Transcription Tuesday’ initiative, run by Who Do You Think You Are? Magazine. On 5 February we’re asking people to help us transcribe the contents of a trade union volume detailing accidents to members 1901–05, again including details of compensation payments amongst other things — more from our website but do consider joining in!

The project is a collaborative venture between the University of Portsmouth, the National Railway Museum (NRM) and the Modern Records Centre at the University of Warwick (MRC), and working with The National Archives (TNA). Volunteers at the NRM, MRC and TNA are now working on records covering the 1870s to the 1930s, detailing accidents and their aftermath. The records were produced by the state, railway companies and trades unions, giving different perspectives on occupational accidents and disability — including sometimes the same individuals appearing across multiple sources. Over the next few years we’re expecting to bring in around 70,000 more cases into the database — and all will be freely available from our website:

www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk

Casebooks Project: Final Release
Simon Forman’s and Richard Napier’s Casebooks

https://casebooks.lib.cam.ac.uk

The work of the Casebooks Project is complete. All 80,000 cases recorded by Simon Forman, Richard Napier, and their associates between 1596 and 1634, with some stray cases either side, can now be browsed and searched. Our new website has an improved interface and additional pages about the astrologers, their patients, their practices, the project, and how to use these records. The main casebooks website contains the digital edition and critical introduction, but one website was not enough. Our dataset is on GitHub:


Digital facsimiles of all sixty-six volumes are accessible through Cambridge Digital Library:

https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/casebooks/1.

To showcase the contents of full cases — the scope of the project did not extend to transcribing the judgments — we have prepared five hundred fully-transcribed cases and a selective index of interesting things from across the corpus:

https://casebooks.wordpress.com. For daily cases drawn from these collections, follow us on twitter @hpscasebooks. For news about Astrologaster, the
A computer game inspired by Forman’s casebooks (drawing on our historical expertise but made by game developers) follow @doctorforman. The Casebooks Project is an immensely skilled and dedicated team of scholars: Michael Hawkins (Technical Director), Robert Ralley (Senior Editor), John Young (Senior Editor), Joanne Edge (Assistant Editor), Janet Yvonne Martin-Portugues (Assistant Editor), and Natalie Kouki (Research Fellow). They have made the project what it is and I offer them my wholehearted thanks.

For a history of the project, and a long list of acknowledgements that begins with staff at the Wellcome Trust, our generous funders, and the Bodleian Library, which owns the manuscripts, see: https://casebooks.lib.cam.ac.uk/about-us/casebooks-project.

SEMINARS & LECTURES

UCL STS Departmental Seminars

All seminars are in UCL Malet Place Engineering Building Room 1.2, unless otherwise stated.

Tea from 4pm, talk from 4.30pm.

6 February 2019
Wendy Parker (Durham University), ‘Attributing climate change: Risk, Storylines and Beyond’

18 February 2019
(Sir David Davies Lecture Theatre, Roberts building G08)
Audra J. Wolfe, ‘Science, Freedom, and the Cold War: A Political History of Apolitical Science’

20 February 2019
Josie Gill (Bristol), “Handle with Care”: Literature, Archaeology, Slavery

6 March 2019
Elaine Leong (UCL History/Max Planck Institute for the History of Science), 'Learning medicine by the book in early modern England'

13 March 2019
Angela Saini, ‘Bias and uncertainty: Why science isn’t always about the facts’
(Talk and Q&A with the author of the STS OneBook, Inferior)

20 March 2019
Rob Iliffe (Oxford), ‘Creativity and the Invention of the Scientific Genius, 1740–1860’

Pears Institute Lunchtime Seminars

February 2019

Time: 13:00–14:00
Venue: Birkbeck, University of London
Dreyfus Room, 26 Russell Square

Tuesday 12 February 2019
Ben Gidley (Birkbeck, University of London), ‘Modernity and Jewish Experience: On Zygmunt Bauman’s Sociology of the Jewish Question’
The Jewish experience and the ‘Jewish question’ have been central to Western modernity and thus to social science’s accounts of modern social life. This paper discusses one of the most profound sociologists of modernity, the late Zygmunt Bauman, for whom the Jewish question played a key but not always explicit role. It draws out Bauman’s contribution to understanding these questions, but also some of his work’s limitations. Drawing on fragmentary suggestions in some of Bauman’s late 1980s articles and on a richer account of the cultural stuff of Jewish life, the paper points to the importance of what I am tentatively calling ‘ghetto radicalism’ in illuminating the Jewish question and Western modernity.

Tuesday 26 February 2019
Yulia Egorova (Durham University), ‘Un/settled Relations? India, Minorities and the Tropes of Jewish-Muslim Difference’
In this seminar Yulia Egorova will talk about her recent monograph Jews and Muslims in South Asia: Reflections on Difference, Religion and Race, which puts the growing literature on Jewish-Muslim relations in dialogue with academic interventions interrogating anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and their overlapping histories. Focusing both on the diverse encounters between South Asian Jews and Muslims and on the conceptual links between notions of Jewishness and meanings assigned to being Muslim on the subcontinent, Egorova argues that popular narratives about perceived Jewish-Muslim antagonism (or similarity) are often a product of the same discourses that have historically constructed Jews and Muslims as the other, and that in contemporary India, South Asian Jewish experiences have been turned into a rhetorical tool to negate evidence of discrimination directed against minorities.
CHSTM Seminar Series
January–May 2019

CHSTM seminars will be held on Tuesdays at 4pm in 2.57 Simon Building, with tea and biscuits from 3.30 pm. All are welcome! If you have any questions please direct them to the organisers:
Dmitriy Myelnikov (dmitriy.myelnikov@manchester.ac.uk)
Pratik Chakrabarti (pratik.chakrabarti@manchester.ac.uk).

29 January
Gordon Barrett (University of Oxford)
Chinese International Science and the Cultural Cold War

12 February
Cinzia Greco (CHSTM)
The Nebulous Chronicity of Metastatic Breast Cancer

19 February
Audra Wolfe (Independent Scholar)
Science, Freedom, and the Cold War: A Political History of Apolitical Science

26 February
Carsten Timmermann (CHSTM)
How the Pharmaceutical Industry Learned to Love Cancer. A Case Study

12 March
Brian Balmer (UCL)
Understanding Biological Weapons Disarmament: The Historical Context of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention

26 March
John Tresch (The Warburg Institute)
Barnum, Bache, and Poe: Forging Science in a Media Revolution, 1830–48

7 May
Rohan Deb Roy (University of Reading)
The White Ant’s Burden: Insects, Empire and Entomopolitics in South Asia

21 May
Rebecca Wright (Northumbria University)

Vaccinating Britain
Mass vaccination and the public since the Second World War

Gareth Millward

Vaccinating Britain is available as an open access ebook under a CC-BY-NC-ND licence. Vaccinating Britain shows how the British public has played a central role in the
development of vaccination policy since the Second World War. It explores the relationship between the public and public health through five key vaccines - diphtheria, smallpox, poliomyelitis, whooping cough and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR). It reveals that while the British public has embraced vaccination as a safe, effective and cost-efficient form of preventative medicine, demand for vaccination and trust in the authorities that provide it has ebbed and flowed according to historical circumstances. It is the first book to offer a long-term perspective on vaccination across different vaccine types. This history provides context for students and researchers interested in present-day controversies surrounding public health immunisation programmes. Historians of the post-war British welfare state will find valuable insight into changing public attitudes towards institutions of government and vice versa.

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Managing Diabetes, Managing Medicine is available as an open access ebook under a CC-BY-NC-ND licence. Through its study of diabetes care in twentieth-century Britain, Managing diabetes, managing medicine offers the first historical monograph to explore how the decision-making and labour of medical professionals became subject to bureaucratic regulation and managerial oversight. Where much existing literature has cast health care management as either a political imposition or an assertion of medical control, this work positions managerial medicine as a co-constructed venture. Although driven by different motives, doctors, nurses, professional bodies, government agencies and international organisations were all integral to the creation of managerial systems, working within a context of considerable professional, political, technological, economic and cultural change.

**EXHIBITIONS**

**Wunderblock**

Wunderblock is an exhibition of new work by artist Emma Smith, drawing on original historical research into the post-war fascination with the infant mind. This research, undertaken by the Hidden Persuaders Project at Birkbeck, University of London, examines ‘brainwashing’ during the Cold War. Smith’s exhibition particularly focuses on this history in relation to the child.

In the wake of World War II there was considerable anxiety about how children’s minds could be shaped or influenced to support fascism, communism or liberal democracy. A generation of children had also directly experienced the devastation of war, separation from their families, or life in institutions. Child psychoanalysis and psychiatry gained a prominent role and it was a time of great innovation and debate. However, observing and interpreting the developing mind, nurturing infant mental health, and supporting good parenting, also became powerful political issues. These were inextricably linked to the interests of the state, and aspirations for generating democratic citizens.

The mother’s close relationship with her newborn became a central preoccupation. The war years and the Nursery School Movement had helped enable women of all classes to work. Post-war research and debate offered conflicting messages, and put women under pressure to return to the home. Arguably, political interest in children’s care inside and outside the home was concerned as much with regulating populations, as with supporting the child and recognising their rights.

Smith’s exhibition turns some of this complex history of debate about nature and nurture, and about benign and malign influences over the child, on its head. Smith asks ‘What is the agency of the child?’, ‘What is innate to the infant and in what ways are they an ‘expert’?’; and, crucially: ‘To what extent does the baby or child influence
their environment, and shape the adult’s world?’. Inspired by the rich material surrounding infant observation in psychoanalysis by practitioners such as Melanie Klein, Anna Freud, Margaret Lowenfeld and Donald Winnicott, as well as the emergence of child-centred pedagogy and the anti-psychiatry movement, Wunderblock considers how we might engage with this history and meet the child from their own perspective.

Wunderblock will unfold across the Freud Museum through a number of interventions: using sound, interactive installation, and the Museum’s own collection, responding to the significance of this unique domestic setting. The title Wunderblock is taken from the title of Freud’s essay ‘The Magic Writing Pad’, where it refers to the layers of the self that are constantly re-written but may re-emerge from beneath the surface. In the exhibition, these layers are peeled back to reveal the child as a complex person rather than merely a malleable future citizen, a sponge for the influence of others. Smith is engaging with children, parents, teenagers, and professionals in the fields of child mental health, childcare and education during the development of Wunderblock and the accompanying public events programme. Wunderblock recognises the historical significance of the Hidden Persuaders’ research and firmly relates this back to contemporary narratives. These include the growing current concerns surrounding the mental health of children and young people, and their rights and agency. Wunderblock aims to provoke debate and reflection on contemporary attitudes to the shaping of the infant mind, and encourage audiences to question and consider their own beliefs in relation to the current status of children in our society.

Wunderblock is curated by Rachel Fleming-Mulford, and is commissioned by Birkbeck, University of London for the Hidden Persuaders Project, funded by the Wellcome Trust Public Engagement Fund.

Royal College of Nursing Library and Heritage Centre
18 October 2018–15 March 2019

Women have long been viewed as at the mercy of their biology. In the ancient medical world it was believed that a ‘wandering womb’ could cause suffocation and death. Menstruation and childbearing were thought to make women weaker and less rational than men. Rising above these challenges, 100 years ago, women secured the right to vote in the UK. At the same time, nursing was formalised as a largely female profession.

Since then, nurses have taken a leading role in challenging generalisations about women’s health. However, myths and misconceptions remain widespread, while medical and social changes have altered our biology as well as attitudes. Women are starting periods earlier and living longer beyond the menopause. This exhibition addresses what has been seen as ‘normal’ for women, past and present, and why women’s health has long been considered ‘dirty’ nursing.

Living with Buildings
4 October 2018 – 3 March 2019

We’re surrounded by buildings all the time, but how do they affect our physical and mental health? Explore the role colour can play in making us feel better, see a pioneering mobile clinic designed to provide adaptable healthcare in emergency situations and examine the history and continuing reality of how we design for health. Featuring works by Andreas Gursky, Rachel Whiteread and Martha Rosler, as well as buildings designed by Goldfinger, Lubetkin and Aalto, this exhibition examines some of the ways in which architects, planners and designers influence our health, self-esteem and ideas about society. Consider the urgent connections between our homes and our health and look anew at the future of our built environment in this major exhibition.
Global Clinic
4 October 2018–22 April 2019

Walk inside an innovative mobile clinic and follow its development from the early prototypes to the first complete version. Doctors working in remote locations often deliver emergency services from temporary structures—these need to be flexible yet robust, easy to transport and build, and able to adapt to different climates. Independent humanitarian charity Doctors of the World were frustrated with the available options, usually tents or shipping containers. They worked with architects Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, and engineers Buro Happold and Chapman BDSP to produce the Global Clinic, designed to provide effective, adaptable healthcare in emergency situations and remote locations. When the Living with Buildings exhibition closes, Doctors of the World will deploy the clinic in a location where their care is needed.

Lonely Hearts

MA in Medical Humanities Bodies, Cultures and Ideas

Course Directors:
Dr Peter Fifield, Dr Anne Hanley and Dr Emily Senior

Duration:
One year full-time or two years part-time

Applications are open. To apply, please visit: www.bbk.ac.uk/study/2019/postgraduate/programmes/TMAMHBCI_C

Scientific and technological advances are constantly pushing the bounds of medical possibility. But what role is played by the humanities? How is the practice of medicine represented in art, literature, film and other media, and how do those representations, in turn, determine how we understand and experience our own bodies and the realities of sickness and health?
Birkbeck’s interdisciplinary MA Medical Humanities explores human health through the lenses of culture and history, covering topics including infectious disease, diet and exercise, mental health and wellbeing, and disability.

The course draws together students and staff working across different disciplines, different historical periods and different geographical regions, to offer an interdisciplinary approach to the fascinating, complex relationship between medicine and the humanities. The interdisciplinary option modules are taught collectively by staff from across English, law, modern languages, philosophy, history, psychosocial studies, gender and sexuality, film and media studies and the history of art.

You will consider the development of clinical practices and institutions, the formation of medical expertise and authority, and the role of medical ethics and law. You will also learn about the history of the medical humanities as an academic field and the debates that have shaped its identity and role. The course is aimed at arts, humanities and social science graduates, and you will develop your analytical, research and writing skills.

The programme has been awarded a number of fully funded MA studentships by the Wellcome Trust as part of its commitment to building an influential and diverse population of future researchers in the medical humanities.

CHSTM, University of Manchester
Wellcome Trust Master’s Studentships in History of Medicine/Medical Humanities

Deadline: 31 March 2019

The University of Manchester’s Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM) has been awarded a number of fully funded Master’s studentships by the Wellcome Trust as part of its commitment to building an influential and diverse population of future researchers in the medical humanities and social sciences.

CHSTM invites applicants for Wellcome studentships for the 2019/20 academic year, covering full fees at the UK/EU rate plus living allowance for study on our taught Master’s programme in History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

Applicants must be strongly committed to building a research career relevant to the themes covered by the Wellcome Trust’s Humanities and Social Sciences schemes. You will have a clear proposal for a Master’s-level research project which will serve as preparation for doctoral study.

14
Applicants who wish to specialize within a specific medical humanities discipline, such as historians who seek to build a career in the history of medicine, are encouraged to propose discipline specific research proposals. Applicants must be committed to pursuing research which examines health and/or medicine from a historically informed humanities perspective. Synergies with current areas of research activity within CHSTM are desirable. Applications should be sent to Dr Rob Kirk (robert.g.kirk@manchester.ac.uk):

- a brief CV, with details of undergraduate degree held or being undertaken
- details of the research proposed (maximum of two pages), including (a) an outline of your proposed Master’s-level research project and (b) a short indication of your anticipated doctoral research area
- a letter of support from a current academic sponsor
- The successful applicant will be chosen by a committee of research-active University of Manchester staff who work across medical history and humanities.

Further information about CHSTM’s taught MA programme is available at: www.chstm.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters

The Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare

Deadline: 31 March

The Wellcome Trust has awarded CSHHH £77,673 for a MA in Humanities and Social Science, titled 'Health Histories Futures: The MSc in Health History programme at the CSHHH Glasgow' (PI Jim Mills). The objective of the scheme was to identify the UK’s leading providers of teaching and training in the Medical Humanities in order to invest resources to enable them to attract and develop the students with the greatest potential to succeed in the field. The Centre is the only one in Scotland to receive such an award which will run for three years. The advertisement for the studentships can be viewed below; if you know of any undergraduate students interested in pursuing the MSc Health History programme, please make them aware of this advertisement.

www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/schoolofhumanities/history /centreforthesocialhistoryofhealthhealthcare/ourteaching training
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