A man in pink briefs within a rubber ring bearing the words ‘Safe sex summer love carefully’; an advertising project of the New Zealand AIDS Foundation. Credit: Wellcome Library, London.
The last few months have certainly been busy—we have nine conference reports, reflecting the rich variety of events that have taken place. And the summer is shaping up to be just as scintillating! The SSHM had its biennial conference in Liverpool earlier this month and we are thrilled to report that it was a thundering success. Thanks to the organisers in Liverpool for making it so memorable! During the conference, the SSHM held its AGM, the minutes for which will be published in the November issue. Dr Erica Charters stepped down as Treasurer, while Dr Clare Hickman was elected to the Executive Committee. Welcome to Clare and thank you to Erica for all her hard work!

July also saw the first AIDS Histories and Cultures Festival. Convened by the Raphael Samuel History Centre at Birkbeck and Queen Mary University of London, the Festival ran workshops, film screenings, party nights, music events, talks and performances that explored the histories and cultures of AIDS from the 1980s to the present day. In the spirit of the AIDS Histories and Cultures Festival, this quarter’s cover star comes from a 1990s safe-sex campaign initiated by the New Zealand AIDS Foundation.

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 programmes 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.

Lonely Hearts
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 November issue.

Have a safe-sex summer, everyone. Love carefully.

Anne Hanley, Editor

MEETING REPORTS

Patient Voices: Historical and Ethical Engagement with Patient Experiences of Healthcare, 1850–1948

It has become a commonplace in the Social History of Medicine to begin articles with a reference to Roy Porter’s influential 1985 exhortation to scholars to put the ‘patient voice’ at the centre of a medical history written ‘from below’. Indeed, so well-worn is this trope, that it has now become de rigueur to begin by noting how commonplace the citation has become. And, so, the Asclepian serpent eats its own tail.

Under such circumstances, it might seem difficult to respond in novel and engaging ways to the question of how best to recover, analyse, and curate the health and illness experiences of ordinary people and their interactions with medical professionals. It is not only refreshing, but heartening, then, to be able to report on the vibrant work that was showcased at Patient Voices: Historical and Ethical Engagement with Patient Experiences of Healthcare, 1850–1948.

Held at the University of Oxford and supported by the Society for the Social History of Medicine, Patient Voices brought together academics, archivists, and curators from across Europe to share best practice, highlight new resources, and interrogate established assumptions concerning patient experience in the pre-NHS era. Perhaps the most pressing of these, surfacing in almost every paper given, concerned the validity and utility of the term ‘patient’ itself.

The question was raised by Caroline Nielsen (University of Hertfordshire) at the outset of the conference, through a sustained critical reflection on the ethical, academic, and practical considerations she has faced in creating public engagement resources as part of the ‘Now Walks Like Others?’: Health, Medicine, and Disability in Northampton During the First World War project. Discussing a group of disabled children provided with prostheses and mobility aids through the National Crippled Children’s Fund, Nielsen described her efforts to provide an account of their experience in the pre-NHS era. Perhaps the most pressing of these, surfacing in almost every paper given, concerned the validity and utility of the term ‘patient’ itself.

At Patient Voices, Nielsen brought together academics, archivists, and curators from across Europe to share best practice, highlight new resources, and interrogate established assumptions concerning patient experience in the pre-NHS era. Perhaps the most pressing of these, surfacing in almost every paper given, concerned the validity and utility of the term ‘patient’ itself.
phases and features of illness which occur before, after, and beyond an individual’s time as a patient. Worboys suggested that more thought should be given to the symptom iceberg, which illustrates that, relative to other responses—consulting friends, self-treatment, doing nothing—visiting a GP constitutes only a small proportion of the ways in which individuals respond to the symptoms of illness. Worboys emphasised that, in the historical period under consideration, this need was even more pressing: if only 8% of people in the United Kingdom in 2011 visited a GP as a result of their symptoms, in the context of a universal health care system where consultation and treatment were free at the point of delivery, then how much smaller would that percentage be in periods where such resources were not available? In such a context, social historians of medicine must give greater consideration to the experiences of pre- and non-patients, and to those who sought to self-diagnose, through consultation with friends or medical texts, and self-treat, through patent medicines and other remedies.

The ways in which these remedies were marketed and made available to the British population were discussed in Erin Bramwell’s paper, which explored the layout and presentation of early and mid-twentieth-century chemist shops. Bramwell (University of Lancaster) noted that this period bore witness to an increasing medicalisation and commercialisation of the shop floor, with a greater emphasis laid on projecting an air of cleanliness and abundance. Drawing on data and testimonials from the archives of Mass Observation, Bramwell noted that the appearance of hygiene and sterility became crucial factors in the public’s choice of chemist. This shift was also reflected in the packaging of patent medicines themselves, which emphasised that their contents had never been in contact with human hands, and which deployed cellophane to heighten this anti-septic air.

This ‘object-oriented’ approach was another major focus of the conference. Agnes Arnold-Forster (University of Roehampton) both advocated for and illustrated the benefits of a greater sensitivity to the psychological and affective resonances of the material traces of medical history in her discussion of nineteenth-century palliative cancer treatments. This object-oriented approach will underpin the new Medicine and Health gallery at the Science Museum in London, due to open in 2019. The contents of this new collection, and the logic underpinning its curation, were discussed by Emma Stirling-Middleton, who introduced objects ranging from the quotient to the startling. Most amusing in this regard was a xenopus toad, which, when injected with a woman’s urine, could be used to determine if she was pregnant. Stirling-Middleton emphasised the work undertaken to ensure that each of the featured objects was framed with oral testimony from patients and individuals who had experiences with the object in question.

Intimately bound up with notions of ‘patient voice’ are, of course, questions of agency. Paul Carter, Principal Records Specialist at the National Archives, emphasised this consideration in his keynote address, in which he discussed a number of case studies drawn from the voluminous MH12 Poor Law archives. For Carter, it is not enough to acknowledge the ‘voice’ of those who received health care and welfare through the Poor Law, it is necessary to ascertain whether that voice was heard. In order to illustrate how such an interrogation could be undertaken, he show-cased a number of instances in which paupers had sought to complain about the institutions which housed them and explored the responses they had received. Carter concluded that, in such moments, the poor are not simply speaking to us about their patient experiences—they are shouting. The echoes of these cries were further amplified by Natalie Mullen (University of Lancaster), who highlighted the ways in which the casebooks of nineteenth-century County Asylums could be used to recover evidence of patient agency. Through a combination of spatial analysis, close-reading of photographs, and attention to material culture, Mullen illustrated the ways in which the ‘voices’ of lunatics could be recovered, even in contexts in which no record of their words or thoughts survive.

The ethical stakes of curating, framing, and making such testimony accessible to the public were also much discussed. Jessica Meyer (University of Leeds) and Alexia Moncrieff (University of Leeds) used their experience of creating an online database of the National Archives’ PIN 26 personal pension award records as part of the Men, Women, and Care project to reflect on how best to present highly personal material, often concerning medical conditions and stigmatising social situations (including domestic violence, prostitution, and illegitimacy). They highlighted the glut of digitisation projects which have been undertaken as part of World War I centenary commemorations. While undoubtedly a windfall for social historians, such projects have often been undertaken with limited consideration of the implications of making such material publicly available for the families of the individuals in question. Such issues are particularly pressing in an age when internet access and programmes such as Who Do You Think You Are? have made researching ‘family history’ increasingly popular among the general public. As Paul Carter highlighted in the ensuing Q&A, the emotional and psychological impact of coming upon an unexpected medical, psychiatric, or criminal detail in a family member’s past should not be underestimated. In light of this, Carter reflected, what pastoral responsibilities can or should archivists be expected to take on, and how should they be prepared for them?

Stimulating, lively, and wide-ranging, like any good conference Patient Voices generated at least as many questions as it was able to answer. However, by highlighting the complex and varied chorus of voices which exist to be recovered and brought into conversation, it demonstrated the incredibly valuable work being undertaken by social historians of medicine, both within and beyond the academy.

- Lloyd (Meadbh) Houston
Hertford College and the Faculty of English, Oxford
‘Trust Me’: A Symposium on the Language of Medical Expertise and Imposture in English, 1400-1900

The ‘Trust Me’ one-day symposium, organised by Dr Elma Brenner and Dr Joe Stadolnik, was held on 25 May, jointly at UCL, in the morning, and at the Wellcome Collection in the afternoon. The latter venue had the added value in that attendees were given the opportunity to view some of the archival material pertaining to ‘quacks’ and medical promotional literature. The event attracted around 35 delegates who facilitated engaging discussion with the nine speakers throughout the day. Funding came generously from SSHM, the Wellcome Collection, and the Institute of Advanced Study at UCL.

Although taking a historical approach, the event brought together scholars of several disciplines to examine medical publicity from the late medieval to the late Victorian period. Particular focus was placed on the language used by early ‘quacks’, and later by medical practitioners, competing for business, as expressed in mountebanks’ medicine shows, print medical advertising, bedside manner, and training literature.

The programme was divided up chronologically, beginning with Dr Elma Brenner, who shared her fascinating research of French doctor, Thomas Le Forestier, who travelled extensively in the late medieval period between London and France for professional advancement. Central to this was the promotion of his successes, rather than his failures—which seemed to reappear in several of the other papers. The day ran through the centuries, culminating in Cara Dobbing’s paper on the professional publicity of lunatic asylum superintendents at the end of the Victorian era.

The keynote was delivered by Dr M. A. Katritzky, a Barbara Wilkes Research Fellow in Theatre Studies from the Open University, who centred her discussion on medical harangues in early modern Britain. Through depictions in paintings of early ‘quacks’, Katritzky explored the performances given (medical orations) to analyse the meta-theatrical marketing of medicine. These performances would take place in varied locations, such as festivals and weddings, all with the aim to sell the profession through displays of ‘expertise’.

Of particular interest was the afternoon session on the eighteenth century. This included the research of Professor Alannah Tomkins on the scandal the surrounding one early lunatic asylum doctor, and Dr Jeni Buckley’s examination of maternal imagination. Although varied in topic, the key theme of mistrust was prominent through both papers. Tomkins’ doctor had to relocate to distance himself from the mistrust in order to sustain a living, and Buckley’s doctors, in the case of Mary Toft, who asserted the truth in the claims that she gave birth to 17 rabbits, had to justify their professional position once this proved to be an elaborate hoax.

Despite spanning a vast chronological period, and encompassing various disciplines, some central themes emerged from the symposium. Of course, trust, and mistrust, was a thread which ran through each paper. The desire for personal advancement was noted by all the speakers as the driving force for the actions of the various medical entrepreneurs, as they strove to promote their expertise. A sense of social performance, whether in the early medical harangues, in medical orations, or through medical advertisements, can be gained from examining the publicity utilised throughout the period in different formats. Overwhelmingly, each paper seemed to demonstrate the language utilised to achieve these aims, and the need to appear trustworthy was central to their success.

No plans have been made, thus far, for the publication of the papers presented at this event. However, it is evident that the inter-disciplinary approach has added value to the understanding of this area of the social history of medicine, and it would be greatly received. Going forward, a follow-up event would be welcomed to encompass additional medical professionals, and their desire for advancement throughout history.

- Cara Dobbing, University of Leicester

‘The Gut-Brain Axis’: Cultural and Historical Perspectives

This two-day workshop held at the University of Glasgow, 4–5 May 2018, brought together 35 delegates from Australia, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Norway, the UK, and the USA. Participants represented a wide range of institutions, career levels, and disciplines. The aim of the event was to consider the value of cultural and historical perspectives on the relationship between the gut and the brain. It built on the success of ‘Gut Feeling’, a workshop held in Aberdeen in May 2017, which has led to a volume of essays (Gut Feeling and Digestive Health in Nineteenth-Century Literature, History and Culture, Palgrave, forthcoming). ‘Gut Feeling’ was also followed by a Round Table in Glasgow in November 2017 on ‘Digestive Health: Then and Now’ where we discussed the importance of developing a more ambitious chronological scope for the project. Whilst the volume of essays maintains a tight focus on the nineteenth century as an important moment in the Western understanding and perception of the gastroenterological system, this workshop in May 2018 considered the development of discourses on digestive health after 1900 and in relation to the specific question of the gut-brain axis, which is now drawing increasing attention in the scientific community.

The workshop opened with an excellent and highly inspiring plenary by Professor Elizabeth Williams (Professor Emerita in History, Oklahoma State University) who considered how the gut has been gendered throughout history and in different nations. A thought-provoking response then followed from Professor Fay Bound Alberti (Honorary
The first keynote lecture was given by Dr Steven Kapp (Exeter), with Rhianna White presenting a brief section on methodology. The keynote titled ‘Exploring Diagnosis: Autism and Neurodiversity’ provided an up-to-date, critical account of the identity and diagnostic category of ‘autism’, which helped to situate one of the major themes of the conference. Disability was well discussed: Beckie Rutherford (Warwick) presented on the (lack of) inclusion of ‘disabled women’ in the British Women’s Liberation Movement in the 1980s and the political implications of what was seen as their marginal position. Bozheni Zoritch (Birkbeck) presented a nuanced account of ‘ADHD’ diagnosis, highlighting its empirical life through qualitative research that aimed to situate it within a social and institutional context. Which leads us to psychiatry—the second major theme of the conference. Gordon Bates (Birmingham) presented an exciting paper on a ‘gap’ in the history of psychiatry persuasively arguing that the re-emergence of hypnosis in Britain from 1870s to the 1890s has been neglected, with an emphasis on the history of the hypnotist Charles Lloyd Tuckey. Lauren Chatterton (Concordia, Canada) presented a (re)examination of the notion of ‘cross-dressing’, tracing its problematic and selective theorisation, arguing for a more grounded and empirical description that enmeshes it in terms of both sexuality and gender. Alex Serafinov (Nottingham) presented an interesting and novel paper on the (re)creation of gender through the ‘lobotomy’, where he noted that the surgery was believed, in the United States, to produce docile and complacent women, and in the case of men, to produce confident, sexually virile and productive men.

‘Medicine and literature’ was the third main theme and could be framed by the excellent keynote lecture given by Dr Sarah Bull (Cambridge) titled ‘Book made medicine: Plasticity and the uses of medical print in Victorian Britain’. The keynote examined how ‘medical books’ became ‘medical’ and what separated them from ‘non-medical books’. Of concern was how to reduce the myriad of possible uses of medical books, where, depending on their context could act, as Dr Bull noted, ‘as advertisements, as political statements, as display items, as fodder for masturbation’, such that limiting these possibilities in turn played an important role in medical reform. Perhaps most striking about this talk was its discovery of ‘medical books’—what could be seen today ‘plagiarism’—where authors would remix, reshape or otherwise reuse their own, or others, printed materials in their own work, without attribution. Rhiannon Cogbill (Birmingham) discussed the experience of being ‘healthy’ in the work of Dorothy Richardson’s Pilgrimage, which argued that suggested that existing in oppressive work conditions and in states financial precarity could themselves could be seen to constitute the experience of unhealth.

Finally, the panel that I presented in—public health—focused on race, colonialism, and some revisionist history. I (Elliott Reichardt, Cambridge) examined American colonial public health in Haiti in the early twentieth century, arguing...
that the dismissal of ‘the Haitian’s’ capacity to determine priorities (i.e. their ‘right to be a knowing subject’) also characterised early global health interventions in Haiti. In contrast to the profound power asymmetry between Haiti and the United States, the smallpox eradication programme in China was explored by Lu Chen (York) who highlighted the more fragmented, gradual, and quintessentially local efforts that were undertaken by regional officials relatively independently of a centralised state bureaucracy, and the complexities that arose from attempting to ‘certify’ the eradication of smallpox in China. Yijie Huang (Cambridge) presented an exciting paper, which, drawing upon Chinese sources demonstrated that the commercialisation of water in late-nineteenth-century Beijing resulted in improved water sanitation, and was essentially local and self-regulatory.

Many of the talks presented a more ‘critical’ perspective on their respective areas of study, with discussions of ‘race’, ‘colonialism’, ‘feminism’, and ‘disability’ being raised as particular areas of concern. This could be seen foreground the ongoing relevance of rich, nuanced social histories of medicine. Research presented at the conference may be published in the Postgraduate Journal of Medical Humanities.

- Elliott Michael Reichardt, University of Cambridge

**BSHS postgraduate conference**

On the 4–6 April 2018, the University of Manchester hosted this year’s annual British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) Postgraduate Conference. This conference received funding from the 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). Organised by a team of postgraduate researchers from the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM), it expanded beyond the history of science to explore the histories of medicine and technology. With such a variety of subjects and periods under investigation, the conference attracted nearly eighty delegates from twenty-eight institutions around the world, from the Australian National University to Istanbul University. It featured a total of fifty speakers covering a wide range of topics in both national and international contexts, including technical education in Manchester and scientific communities in the Philippine Commonwealth. This diversity was reflected in the keynote address by University of Manchester Professor Pratik Chakrabarti, who employed historical geography to question historical memory and demonstrate how history ‘became naturalised’ in the nineteenth century as myth and reality merged in understandings of the natural world that became central to our sense of the past.

The history of medicine was strongly represented throughout this conference, with panels like ‘Dis/abling Discourse: Dis/abled bodies’, ‘Mind and Brain’ and ‘Post-Second World War Medicine Put to the Test’. Threaded through both the history of medicine and science presentations were important themes on gender, race and disability. Jasmine Wood and Mathis Nolte provided fascinating insights into twentieth century facial disfigurement and prosthetics respectively and introduced the facet of gender, incorporating narratives around women into contexts that primarily centred on masculinity. Johanna Parker also commented on femininity within a masculine environment when she discussed the challenge of her gender in conducting her own research. Although touching upon gender, Parker’s paper largely focussed upon a racial dynamic as she examined the collecting of Australian Indigenous skulls by Joseph Bernard Davis in the nineteenth century.

Psychiatry also featured heavily in the programme, with two panels dedicated to the history of the field in both national and international contexts. Nicola Sugden examined Donald Winnicott’s views on ‘shock treatment’ and Angela Gui discussed lobotomy and ideology in Sweden, whilst Axelle Champion delved into the ‘lost experience of young people’ in Scottish psychiatry, and Jennie Sejr Junghans reflected upon the development of child psychiatry in Denmark and England. This international focus continued in the panels focusing on drugs, with fascinating papers being given by Russell Moul on medical ethics in relation to the use of truth serum in a British court trial and Kate Hiepko on insulin and other diabetes treatments in the German Democratic Republic.

One unique aspect of the three-day event was a session that deviated from the standard paper format: a brilliant and thought-provoking spoken word performance delivered by Kathryn Ashill on her relationship with animals. Entitled ‘Housemate’, this piece explored interspecies relationships in the home and was an insightful intersection of art and medical humanities. Another valuable panel on the final day was dedicated to public engagement in the history of science, technology and medicine. Here lecturers and early career researchers described public engagement events that they had carried out, such as ‘The Time Travelling Operating Theatre’. The discussion that followed examined the strengths and challenges involved with organising such events and catering to different audiences and was particularly useful for those of us thinking about how to engage the public in our current and future research. At the same time, there was also room down the corridor for games and relaxation for those who wanted to recharge before the final panel session.

Throughout the conference, the standard and variety of papers at the conference was impressive. Along with such a friendly and supportive atmosphere, this facilitated many engaging discussions that made the conference a lively, enjoyable experience.

- Jemma Houghton, University of Manchester
Medieval Bodies Ignored: Politics, Culture & Flesh

From 4–6 May at the University of Leeds a conference on medieval studies and ignored bodies took place: The Medieval Bodies Ignored: Politics, Culture & Flesh. This conference was sponsored by the Medium Ævum, the University of Leeds, the Royal Historical Society and the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

The organizers selected 22 speakers from all around the world and three keynote speakers, one for each day. There were few students that came to listen to the speakers, but the group was not bigger than these mentioned participants. On the second day a roundtable composed by 5 scholars took place to discuss more current subjects in Academia, such as migration, LGBT, gender, financial and funding’s support, students with working class backgrounds, disabilities, academic structures and senses of marginalization. A committee of five researchers organized this conference, aiming to discuss the cultural history of the body during the Middle Ages and modern scholarship.

The speakers had their proposals divided into seven sessions – Young Bodies, Animal Bodies, Romantic Bodies, Queering Lives, Holy Bodies, Dead Bodies and Troubling Bodies. They approached different topics in medieval context, such as medicalized bodies (disabilities, conjoined twins, women and childbirth, sick bodies), dead bodies, non-corporeal bodies, holy bodies, non-human bodies, animal bodies (horses, dogs, eagles), ascetic women bodies, queer bodies, transgender bodies, cross-dressed bodies, marginalized bodies, emancipated bodies, desired body, incorporated revenants ‘bodies’ shape, warrior bodies, Christ’s body, things and bodies (such as stones). They were based on diverse sources such as artistic painting, literature (including medical treaties, chivalry/epic romances, (legal) processes, other legal sources such as laws and courts records, archeological excavations, other manuscripts like bestiaries, as also the physical body as archive.

Those sources and topics were intertwined in interesting interdisciplinary interpretations of the medieval period, including the interlaces among material culture, law, art, history, archeology, medical practices, queer studies, gender studies, transgender studies, memories (social memory of gender), migration, performativity, racism, physical violation, misogyny, among others. This interdisciplinary came up in many moments of the presentation, as soon as we recognize in our own papers nuances that were highlighted by other panels: for example, the animals’ bodies appeared in different contexts that were not there before; and material culture took many shapes: sacral, ignored bodies themselves, animal bodies

Subjects came up mentioning different places, not only Europe, and traditions: France, England, Italy, Portugal and colonial Brazil, Germany, Gant, Bruges, Antwerp, Islamic tradition, Viking history. And they occurred in a large period of time: from the eight to the eighteenth centuries, implying a reflection on the limits of the medieval period—when it begins and ends in different geographical places and how consider its influences.

Regarding my own research and experience in the conference, it highlighted the importance and influences of medieval studies for my research. Since I am studying primary sources from the beginning of the sixteenth century on, the question that permeated my mind during those days was how I could recognize the traditions that were present in my own documents and the places I am studying. During the conference, I could reflect on the influences of medieval studies in colonial Brazil, the place I am researching. The reinterpretation of the Roman Law through the glosses and commentators (like Acursio and Bartolo), the characteristic of the medieval law, plus the incorporation of the medieval corpus of law such as las Siete Partidas, from king Alfonso X, el sábio, and the Fuero Juzgo, from the visigothic tradition in seventh-century Portugal, to the Ordenações Afonsinas, the most important compilation of laws from fifteenth-century Portugal, made this tradition alive in colonial Brazil. So strong that until 1916, year of the promulgation of the Brazilian first civil code, the Ordenações Filipinas were in force, keeping alive the tradition of their previous ordinances, the Afonsinas. As a legal historian, it is important to remember that medieval culture included legal culture too.

This conference did not only change my overview. It was clear for other scholars that the topics discussed made many researchers think about their own research in a different perspective, especially regarding where the bodies were in our topics. This can influence different perspectives/points of views and references in our studies, which will be present in our future writings.

During the presentations and discussions, always constructive and ‘curious’, a friendly and helpful atmosphere marked the pace of these days, and it was not difficult to share among us all, by its end, that this was one of the most organized, productive and high-quality conference we had been. Even experienced scholars could recognize it. All participants were clearly trying to understand the others’ positions and all the questions, for example, were in the sense of construction and sharing knowledge. Since we were not much more than 30 people, the friendly atmosphere gave us the possibility of listen to all the presentation and to be in close touch with all the participants. My sincere thanks to Sunny Harrison, Rosa Sawyer, Vanessa Wright, Rachael Gillibrand, Lucy Guest!

- Luisa Stella de Oliveira Coutinho Silva, University of Lisbon
Medieval Bodies Ignored: Politics, Culture & Flesh

Scholars from various global academic intuitions gathered at the University of Leeds for an interdisciplinary conference called Medieval Bodies Ignored: Politics, Culture and Flesh. The conference, sponsored by Medium AEvum, the Royal Historical Society, Society for the Social History of Medicine, and the University of Leeds, was organized by Sunny Harrison, Rose Sawyer, Rachael Gillibrand, Vanessa Wright, and Lucy Guest, all postgraduate students at the Institute for Medieval Studies, University of Leeds. The three-day conference featured 24 papers divided into seven sessions, plus keynote addresses by Carole Rawcliff (University of East Anglia) and Kristina Richardson (Queens College, CUNY Graduate Centre), and a closing response by Katherine Lewis (University of East Anglia) as well as a roundtable of five young scholars addressing ignored bodies in modern academia. The conference—which aimed to examine medieval bodies (human and animal) in light of their social, religious, and geographic contexts—united diverse fields of interest around several themes that emerged over the weekend, brilliantly summarized by Katherine Lewis; these included construction and modification; processes and performativity; the body as object and signifier; and the body as site of experience. The event brought together scholars from across institutions, disciplines, and stages of their careers, with individuals from backgrounds in literature, history, art history, archaeology, and medicine speaking to topics as diverse as the treatment of horses, lives of the saints, and the afterlife of corpses. Periods of study ranged from the early Anglo-Saxon era through the 1600s, with geographical and cultural considerations including Viking warriors, French and English saints, Islamic noblemen, and Colonial Brazilian women.

The conference was conducted in the historic Parkinson Building of the University of Leeds, dividing presentations between the stately Nathan Bodington Council Chamber and a more modern, technologically friendly space across the hall. Event organizers seamlessly coordinated A/V equipment, flustered presenters, and a steady stream of catering to assure that event participants could be sure their presentations would run smoothly and that there would always be coffee or tea (and several delightful, vegan-friendly snacks) close at hand. The air of the event was collegial and friendly, encouraging conversation across disciplines and levels of expertise. Tenured faculty approached students to express their interest in projects, while postdocs shared tips and techniques for current PhD students. These conversations smoothly transitioned to a delicious and affordable prix-fixe Saturday-night dinner at a local Indian restaurant, where participants were able to share stories about academic life, and where discussions about the English versus American university system and the academic work/life balance dovetailed with conversations raised at the earlier roundtable discussion.

Organizers kept the conference particularly modern and relevant in its feel by ‘live-tweeting’ participants’ papers on Twitter under the event’s handle and hashtag #bodiesignored so that those unable to attend could follow presentations and discussions in real time. Further contributing to the multimedia atmosphere of the event were Jonah Coman’s ‘pocket miscellanies’, which he distributed to participants to share with students and peers, and which featured themed medieval depictions of traditionally marginalized subjects such as race, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The conference ended with talk of continuing the presence of the event’s webpage, so participants could continue to network and discuss overlapping topics of interest long after the weekend was over. Perhaps a future ‘Bodies Ignored’ will soon be in the works.

For myself, I could not have asked for a better environment in which to deliver my first paper. Presenting a small selection from my MA thesis research on plague anxiety in fourteenth-century literary texts, I was met with a curious, engaged audience, as well as presentations from my own panel and the preceding one which complimented my own, raising additional questions about medieval literary conventions surrounding bodies of the dead and dying. Senior scholars were kind enough to recommend additional sources and approaches I could use to expand my project going forward. I also found several unexpected and previously unknown sources and topics I’m keen to explore in my future research.

I am grateful to the Society for the Social History of Medicine for their generous bursary that made this trip possible. The experience for a young scholar to present her work and gain valuable connections and insight is invaluable and has already opened up avenues previously unknown to me, now ready to be explored.

-Mary M. Alcaro, Rutgers University

From Trauma to Protection: The twentieth century as the children’s century

This conference, organised by Camille Mahé and myself, was part-funded by the SSHM. It aimed to bring together historians of childhood, war and medicine to explore how children navigated traumatic experiences and how their engagement with these was understood at the contemporary moment. Consequently, although not every panel adopted an explicitly medical humanities approach, it helped to influence discussions and fruitful exchanges between specialists in different areas.

The first half of the conference dealt with the theme of war. The proceedings were begun by a panel on children and genocide, which was funded by the French Fondation pour la
 Mémoire de la Shoah. Antoine Burgard (Manchester) explored some of the problems of defining childhood, as adolescents took advantage of medical ambiguities over their life-stage to develop strategies to ‘pass’ as children in order to obtain refugee status. Zoé Grumberg (Sciences Po, Paris) analysed memory and experience through her research into a Jewish-communist initiative to care for Jewish children orphaned by the Holocaust and resistance operations in France, while Juliette Bour (Sciences Po, Paris) offered more modern concerns with a paper on rape during the Rwandan genocide. Laura Hobson Faure (Sorbonne-Nouvelle), acting as discussant and chair, brought the common threads together and offered a few provocative and stimulating ideas which were subsequently taken up in discussion; not least, whether in situations of genocide and war childhood’s traditional roles become inverted, as evidenced by Juliette’s and Antoine’s work.

The keynote lecture, by Manon Pignot (Picardie-Jules Verne), continued on these themes. A scholar of children in conflict, she gave a retrospective of her earlier project on French children’s experiences of the First World War before moving onto her current research. This examines under-age recruits (‘juvenile soldiers’ as she termed them) during the latter conflict, noting how contemporary language around ‘child soldiers’ in developing countries erases the presence of such phenomena in comparatively recent European history.

The second panel examined experiences of war and developed the memory theme. Both Emily Gallagher (Australian National University/Ca’ Foscari) and Vicky Kaisidou (Birmingham) explored children’s experiences of events: the former play in Australia during the First World War, the latter more recent cultural representations of Greece’s ‘childtown’ evacuation programme during the country’s civil war. Meanwhile, co-organiser Camille Mahé analysed how French schoolchildren discussed the effects of the Second World War in surviving school-writing, adopting a sensory and emotional, and Chelsea Sambells (Glasgow) queried the fluid boundaries of the ‘humanitarian’ by exploring a short-lived effort by the Nazi occupying forces to render the Belgian population amenable through evacuation initiatives for children.

The second part of the conference, going from the first to the second day, dealt with peace-time interventions into children’s welfare and the narratives around them. Jonathan Taylor (Oxford) examined the role of the popular press in promoting narratives around child welfare, while Jonathan Reinarz (Birmingham) and Shane Ewen (Leeds) offered some of the fruits of their collaborative project into burns and burn prevention campaigns. A common thread of these papers was the extent to which media publicity—and especially the use of photographs—was both empowering and objectifying. Hannah Kershaw (LSHTM) made a valuable contribution to this ambivalence with a paper on building narratives for HIV-positive families, which decoupled the disease from sexuality and also sought to present its medical treatment and testing as a less frightening experience for the child. These themes were continued in another panel on institutional dealings which offered a broad chronological perspective. Beginning with Annie Skinner (Oxford Brookes) on children writing to the Waifs and Strays Society at the end of the nineteenth century, Michael Lambert’s (Liverpool) subsequent paper on constructions of the ‘problem family’ in mid-century Britain stressed both the evolution but also the commonalities as social work became institutional as a state-led, professionalised effort. Faith Gordon (Westminster) added an interdisciplinary note from a criminologist’s perspective, bringing the issues up to the present through an analysis of media and visual representations of young people’s ‘rioting’ (and the political response to it) in contemporary Northern Ireland.

A panel on voice and agency and their retrieval in sources by and about children helped to consolidate the discussion of these themes throughout the conference. Eve Colpus (Southampton) presented some of her work on the charity Child Line, addressing the impact of the telephone as a technology for transmitting speech and children’s use and navigation of it, while Lydia Hadj-Ahmed (Rouen) presented some preliminary methodological considerations of her PhD on children’s experiences of the Algerian War of Independence: a colonial war in which racial, religious and national identities were brought to the fore in children’s dealings with schools.

The final panel on historical child abuse, by a group of legal scholars, offered a fresh and mutually-enriching perspective for attendees. Kim Stevenson (Plymouth) began by exploring the longue durée history of child abuse legislation and the legal consensus around children’s abilities to testify in court. Kate Gleeson (Macquarie) presented her work on the influence of psychological ideas of trauma on public inquiries into notions of child sexual and institutional abuse in Australian children’s homes and its ‘stolen generations’. While Sinéad Ring (Kent) turned the focus to Ireland’s Ryan Report and the on-going fall-out over revelations of abuse in religious homes and the so-called Magdalene laundries.

We therefore hope that the conference succeeded in bringing together diverse strands and disciplinary approaches; as well as clusters of methodological approaches and source-bases—from cultural and memory-based analyses (and how these track shifting national and community fortunes), to visual and material sources (which navigate between representations of agency and hegemony), and archival records. We hope that the discussions enriched the perspectives of the participants and would like to thank the SSHM for its financial assistance.

- Andrew Burchell, University of Warwick
Camille Mahé, University of Warwick and Sciences Po, Paris
‘Shadows and Ashes’: Association for Medical Humanities Conference 2018

For the first time in its history, the Association for Medical Humanities held its annual conference outside of Britain. Hosted by the Medical University of Sofia, Bulgaria on 27–29 June and surrounded by staff and patients, this choice of venue served to highlight the importance of its thematic inspiration—Horace’s line ‘Pulvis et Umbra Sumus’. Congratulations are in order for the organising committee, and particular credit is due to Vassilka Nikolova as convenor.

The conference brought together colleagues from across Europe and beyond, with some sixty separate papers across three days. A majority of the delegates came from a background in the medical sciences, though they were joined by a considerable number from the arts and humanities, providing an excellent opportunity for interdisciplinary dialogue. With many delegates also practicing clinicians, it was refreshing to hear a number of papers that engaged critically with contemporary approaches towards care, discussed shortcomings, and identified possible avenues for improvement. An excellent film by Brighton and Sussex Medical School’s Juliette Mead established this theme early on the first day of the conference, utilising Franz Kafka’s Metamorphosis and Jean Dominique Bauby’s The Diving Bell and the Butterfly to engage with the central question: ‘what makes a life worth living, and what devastation makes it reasonable to let that life end?’, while challenging the audience to consider the role of healthcare professionals in this. Later papers expanded on this, with AMH president Joe O’Dwyer reflecting on the need to move away from deontological prescriptivism in medical ethics and consider the value of more flexible consequentialist and Aristotelian approaches, using some of his own experiences as an anaesthetist to illustrate this. Southend University Hospital’s Stephanie Matthews brought some welcome grounding to this often rather abstract discussion by addressing her experience with ‘Enhanced Observations’—in which patients considered dangerous to themselves or others are essentially ‘shadowed’ at all times, often leading to feelings of claustrophobia and anxiety in already vulnerable individuals. While O’Dwyer’s contention that ‘paternalism…[is now] dead and buried’ may be somewhat premature, it was certainly encouraging to hear such lively and self-reflective debate.

Coming from a more humanities-oriented direction, the University of Bucharest’s Diana-Andreea Nováceau gave a fascinating paper on American photographer Mark Morrisroe’s use of his own x-ray images to produce intimate self-portraits as he lived with chronic pain and disability before finally succumbing to complications of AIDS at the age of only thirty. In doing so, Nováceau argues, Morrisroe ‘figuratively emerges from the shadows, challenging perceptions of patient life, disability, and stigma.’ Through art, he subverted Foucault’s ‘medical gaze’, repurposing the very tools of the clinic to boldly assert a complex personhood that had survived—and even grown—in spite of his less than desirable circumstances.

While much attention was given to the intersections of medicine with art and literature, there were surprisingly few delegates from historical disciplines. Nevertheless, in addition to my own paper on the influence of social media on Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus management, conference convenor Vassilka Nikolova addressed end of life rites in classical antiquity, arguing that, for the ancient Greeks, death was not a source of fear but the final—and perhaps the most important—purpose of life itself. Similarly, Vanessa Miceli and Alexander Hristov, both of Sofia’s Medical University, delivered fascinating papers on traditional Sicilian folk medicine and the influences of historical dietetic religious practices on modern life respectively.

The conference’s social programme was also well received. Delegates found much to enjoy in a very comprehensive tour of Sofia’s historical locations, though perhaps preferred the subsequent visit to the imposing, Socialist-era National Historical Museum—if only on account of the unseasonably rainy weather! This culminated with a visit to the Rila Monastery, a UNESCO-designated world heritage site 73 miles south of Sofia. These excursions, along with the conference dinners, provided an excellent opportunity for delegates to socialise in a less formal environment and to discuss issues raised during the day’s sessions (along with plenty that went well beyond the scope of the meeting!).

The conference also raised many practical, and perhaps political, questions surrounding the broader context of academia—particularly as the UK approaches its divorce with the European Union. The choice of an Eastern European location was an interesting one that nonetheless exposed some cultural blind spots on the part of a primarily British and Irish body of delegates as they interacted with colleagues from Bulgaria, Romania, and elsewhere. Far from being cause for embarrassment, this should be celebrated as evidence of the necessity of holding such meetings outside of the familiar surroundings of Western Europe. Encouraging such cultural connections and cross-pollination is important in ways that go beyond the strictly academic, and certainly some of the most valuable conversations I enjoyed during my time in Sofia were those late night (and perhaps occasionally early morning!) discussions about politics, culture, and society with Eastern European colleagues whose differing experience and opinions inspired genuine reflection.

As the AMH retreats to Plymouth for its 2019 conference, it is worth reflecting on the value—and the necessity—of maintaining these connections with the mainland, and in particular with the peripheral Eastern states that are often marginalised even within Europe.

- Stuart Bradwel, University of Strathclyde
Health and Healing in Legend and Tradition

Date: 1–2 September 2018
Venue: The Spa, Scarborough

If you are interested in shrew ashes, zanies, plague pits, smallpox goddesses or illness as metaphor, this is for you. There will be speakers on the legends of plague and blood-letting, holy midwives and the King’s Evil, passing-through rituals and short-sightedness in ballads, with the medical lore of saints, ghosts and witches. The conference fee is £50 (day rate £30). For more details, see http://folklore-society.com/events

European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences

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

The 19th European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences biennial Congress will be held in September. The general subject of the congress is ‘Beyond the Museum Walls: Medical Collections and Medical Museums in the Twenty-First Century’. Registration is open and places are limited. More information on the congress at: https://eamhms2018barcelona.wordpress.com

Resuscitation, Reanimation and the Modern World

Date: 5–6 October 2018
Venue: Maison Française d’Oxford

The emergence of societies ‘for the recovery of persons apparently drowned’ within Europe—Amsterdam 1767, Paris 1772, London 1774—institutionalized a shift in the eighteenth 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 anticipate that papers will cover a diverse range of topics regarding reanimation and resuscitation from the early modern period onwards.

- 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

Dr. Howard's method of treating the apparently drowned. Demonstration of the method of resuscitation used by Dr Howard of New York.
Credit: Wellcome Images

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.
‘The Disease of Caring’: Medical Professionals and Activism from the Nineteenth Century to the Present

**Date:** Friday 26 October 2018  
**Venue:** School of Arts, Birkbeck, University of London  
**Keynote speaker:** Dr Anne Hanley (Birkbeck)

In Darkest London (1891), Margaret Harkness’s popular novel about activism to alleviate poverty conditions in late-nineteenth-century London, a doctor practising in a slum neighbourhood speaks of the ‘disease of caring’ that prompts him to give medical care to people in need of much wider social change. Harkness herself had trained as a nurse and pharmacist and her medical knowledge continued to inform her activist work throughout her working life. Both her own career and the fictional doctor in her novel reflect how, as medical care became increasingly professionalised over the course of the nineteenth century, discourses of medicine, social influence, and activism also grew interlinked. From the radical revisions of care provision developed by nurses such as Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale during and after the Crimean War, to the widening of access to safe and effective birth control by activists from Annie Besant to Marie Stopes, to the founding of the NHS, to protests of junior doctors in the present day, the giving of medical care has often been a radical act, and givers of medical care have often allied themselves with a wide range of activist causes. This one-day symposium will aim to create a dialogue between examples and intentions of medical activists historically and in the present day.

Papers will address a verity of topics, including the following:

- Equality of care and access to care
- Conditions for medical work and care-giving, from field hospitals in the Crimean War to present-day hospital crises
- Personal recognition within the medical profession, from women’s right to practise to demonstrations and strikes of junior doctors
- Public health, from sanitation projects in the nineteenth century to obesity in the present day
- Medical care as activism, from slum doctors in the nineteenth century to Médecins sans frontières
- The activism of medical professionals in non-medical fields
- Patient choice and engagement

For more information, please visit thediseaseofcaring.wordpress.com or follow us on Twitter @diseaseofcaring.

Drugs in the Medieval World

**Date:** 7–8 December 2018  
**Venue:** King’s College London

From the mid-eleventh century onwards, the Mediterranean world was a hotbed of transcultural interactions to an even greater degree than had been the case in the past. The field of pharmacology is particularly significant in this historical context in both social and cultural terms, because it involved practical matters, such as the administration of drugs, thus impacting on the everyday life of a large number of people of all social classes. Yet we lack comparative studies in this field or studies on the interrelationship between the different Mediterranean traditions, including the Byzantine, Islamic and Latin Western traditions, as well as on the role of minority ethno-religious groups, such as the Jews in the process of knowledge exchange. This conference seeks to promote discussion and research on the evidence for interaction between different cultures and regions in the medieval Mediterranean in an attempt to create a much more detailed and critical narrative. In doing so, it also aims to foster dialogue between scholars and disciplines by focusing, inter alia, on the following topics:

- transfer of pharmacological knowledge
- drug experimentation and drug therapy
- drugs as commodities
- drugs outside medicine
- discovering new material in medieval pharmacology

Sponsored by the Wellcome Trust, in the framework of the research project ‘Experiment and Exchange: Byzantine Pharmacology between East and West (1150–1450)’. For more information, please contact drugs.medieval.world.2018@hotmail.com

Travel and the Hospital: From Pilgrimage to Medical Tourism

**Date:** 24–26 April 2019  
**Venue:** University of Barcelona, Spain

Medical tourism is an increasingly popular feature of health care today. Yet it is not always recognised that, throughout their history, hospitals have attracted patients from afar seeking cures, both spiritual and physical, not available at home. While much work has previously focused on the institution as a fixed place, often closely associated with a specific locality, the hospital’s role as a focus for a wider network of health needs and health consumers has been largely overlooked. This neglected topic will be the focus of our twelfth conference.

From its inception the hospital provided care and cure for pilgrims, either en route to, or on their arrival at, shrines, as
well as for patients from beyond the urban centre, some from local areas and others travelling great distances to access treatment. These institutions were also distinguished by their architectural and artistic heritage, being decorated with paintings and sculptures, some of which still survive today and depict pilgrims, the poor and the sick. Although many buildings have disappeared or been transformed over time, others remain that reflect their original size and beauty and are important destinations for tourism.

Over the centuries major man-made crises such as war have prompted the introduction of many forms of mobile hospital. Among them were the first ambulances, the medical units that travelled with troops on campaign, and the sophisticated network of treatment stations developed by the combatants of the First World War, including hospital trains with more patients than a London teaching institution. Hospitals have also featured at the heart of migration stories—with staff moving around empires and across borders to acquire medical training and to assist a growing body of patients, whose access to hospital medicine has been limited by poverty, race, lack of citizenship, or the unavailability of specialist services locally. In many parts of the world, and especially in areas with limited healthcare infrastructure or widely dispersed population, hospitals came to the patients, with a variety of mobile institutions being developed to serve the sick in Africa, Russia, Central Europe and across Asia. These many activities reflect the variety of topics that can be included in our theme of Travel and the Hospital.

We seek abstracts of 300 words in English (or Spanish or Catalan with an English translation) pertinent to the conference theme. Papers on any historical period, region or country might focus on, but are not restricted to:

- Pilgrimage and the hospital
- Migration and hospitals—patients and staff
- Perceptions of diverse staff and patient populations.
- Sites for medical testing (remedies or techniques which are imported)
- Global connections, including missionary and transnational organisations
- War and campaign medicine
- Itinerant healing and healers in rural areas
- Mobile hospitals
- Centres of excellence, learning and medical education
- Hospitals as historic monuments; their importance to cities both today and in the past

The conference languages will be English, Catalan and Spanish. We hope to be able to offer some bursaries for doctoral and early career researchers. The conference organisers are Antoni Conejo (Barcelona), John Henderson (Birkbeck, London) and Barry Doyle (Huddersfield)

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**EAHMH Conference**

**Sense and Nonsense**

**S3N$e & n□nβ★Nzें**

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

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.

We particularly welcome proposals for panels touching on these and other topics, including, but not limited to:

- 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

Individual submissions will be received until 30 January 2019 and should comprise a 250-word abstract, including five key words, and a one-page CV with contact information. Panel submissions should ideally include three papers (each with
250-word abstract, keywords and short CV), a chair and an initial introductory 100-word justification. If you wish to organise a roundtable, please include the names of participants and short 500-word abstract. We also invite poster presentations and ideas for novel sessions. As this is an anniversary year, the organisers will also be collecting and displaying images and items commemorating the work and activities of the EAHMH since the Association’s founding. Please contact us about anything you are happy to share. All submissions should be sent to: EAHMH2019@bham.ac.uk

Handling the Body, Taking Control: Technologies of the Gendered Body

Date: 23–25 May 2019
Venue: Institut Menorquí d’Estudis, Balearic Islands, Spain
Deadline: 30 October 2018

The aim of the 10th European Spring School is to encompass a diversity of themes around the axis of the historical construction of the gendered body as a locus of both empowerment and disempowerment and the place of the natural philosophical and biomedical disciplines in shaping the political and subjective dimensions of human experience. The School is particularly concerned with exploring how diverse intellectual and social movements have struggled to gain authority and cultural hegemony over women’s bodies by way of defining sexual difference and the gendered body.

As in previous sessions, this ESS is structured in four keynote lectures and a research workshop. The keynote lectures will be delivered by four outstanding scholars covering areas such as sexual practices, the language of physiology, visual representations and feminist definitions of health expertise. The ESS is envisaged as a space for junior scholars to discuss their current work-in-progress with colleagues in a creative and supportive environment. The workshop will be organized in three thematic paper sessions and one poster session. All contributions—in both paper and poster format—will be commented by participants, lecturers and organizers of the School.

‘Handling the Body’ is open to PGRs, ECRs, professionals and activists concerned about past and present approaches to the gendered body and the analysis of the epistemological frameworks that feminism has developed to analyse them. Topics will include:

- Abortion and contraceptive cultures
- Expert knowledge and experiences of pregnancy and birth
- Feminist activism and body technologies
- Feminist epistemologies of the body
- Gendered biopolitics
- Illness, sickness, disease
- Medical constructions of sexual difference
- Pathologisation of the female body
- Sexual education and women’s health knowledge

- Sexual violence, perceptions of harassment and rape
- Sexualities, female sexuality and asexuality
- Visual and textual discourses of the gendered body
- Female desire and medical knowledge of female sexuality
- Representations of the female body

Please send proposals of 300 words to 10thEES@gmail.com
A limited number of grants will be available for graduate students and early career researchers.

Museum of the History of Science
University of Oxford

WOMEN in SCIENCE

Basement Display
A small display of rarely seen archive material highlights the work of four women. Anna Atkins was one of the first people to illustrate a book with photography in 1843, and Sarah Angelina Acland was a pioneer of colour photography in the
early 1900s. Ada Lovelace has been described as the world’s first computer programmer, and Elizabeth Hippisley was a chemist and geologist in the late 1700s.

**Talks, Trails and Archive Material**

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? During 2018 we are celebrating a number of women connected with the University and the Museum’s collections.

**Family Trail**

A trail across the collections of Oxford University’s Gardens, Libraries and Museums celebrating some of the women who are represented within our collections and buildings including artists, scientists and curators. Follow our Women and Science trail to discover more links to the collections and find out about Caroline Herschel, an astronomer, and Ada Lovelace, a forerunner of computer coding. Suitable for ages 7+.

**Making Micrographia**

Thursday 30–Friday 31 August, 14:00–16:00

Use microscopes and lenses to observe tiny things, and use your drawings to make magnificent monoprints inspired by illustrations from Robert Hooke’s famous book Micrographia published in 1665. Drop-in, ages 7+.

**Cabinet of Curiosities**

Saturday 22 September, 14:00–16:00


**Women in Science Tour**

Wednesday 26 September, 12:30–13:00

Join us for a staff-led tour and find out how women have been involved in science for hundreds of years as astronomers, mathematicians, instrument makers, and merchants.

**Ada Lovelace: The Making of a Computer Scientist**

Thursday 27 September, 18:00

Ada, Countess of Lovelace, is sometimes called the world’s first computer programmer and has become an icon for women in technology. Professor Ursula Martin (University of Oxford) will discuss how a young woman in the 1800s acquired the knowledge and expertise to become a pioneer of computer science. For the Women in Science programme of events.

**WELLCOMENEWS**

**Teeth**

17 May 2018–16 September 2018

Admission is free

Wellcome Collection’s new exhibition is the first to trace the evolution of our relationship with our teeth, the dental profession and the pursuit of a pain-free mouth. Teeth examines the tensions surrounding tooth care, whether for health, comfort or confidence, and the origins of dentistry. The exhibition features over 150 objects, including paintings and caricatures, ancient protective amulets, toothpaste advertisements and a range of chairs, drills and training tools. As the only visible part of the human skeleton, teeth are intrinsically linked to identity, both individual and cultural, and say a lot about who we are. The exhibition explores the lengths some people will go to for a perfect smile, and how teeth provide vital forensic clues in the aftermath of warfare or natural catastrophe.

**Art for Health’s Sake: Cataloguing the Arts for Health Archive Collections**

From the 1970s, a group of creatives came together to try and get more art into British hospitals. They were tired of drab and run-down hospital spaces, with dingy lighting and winding bleak corridors. By improving the design, layout and ambience of hospitals, and injecting some colour into tired hospital buildings, they hoped to enhance the patient experience.

Led by the charismatic Peter Senior, Arts for Health was set up in 1988 to champion the role of arts in healthcare. It grew out of Hospital Arts Manchester (1973), and in response to the findings of The Committee of Inquiry into the Arts and Disabled People. The Committee was the first comprehensive review in the UK evaluating facilities available for disabled people to participate in the arts. The report (1985) also recommended that health authorities should designate a coordinator of arts programmes and that any new hospital should include artworks and facilities for arts activities.

The use of colour, light and space in design was a core interest to Arts for Health, working with local authorities in the design and redevelopment of new and existing hospitals. Through photographs, correspondence with artists, design drawings, and publications, the archive documents Arts for Health’s involvement in the planning and development of new hospitals, like the flagship Chelsea and Westminster NHS Hospital (b.1993). This new building was designed to provide a light and open environment, with a large atrium canopy at the centre of the hospital, and wards surrounding several large atrium spaces, with artworks featuring heavily throughout. On the Isle of Wight, another organisation called Healing Arts, with close connections to Arts for Health, was working on an ambitious project to build a new low-energy hospital (St Mary’s Hospital, Newport) with arts embedded in the design and running of the hospital. This process is documented in the Healing Arts, Isle of Wight archive.

As well as environmental design, Arts for Health and related organisations worked with patients to introduce
participatory arts programmes, ranging from poetry and movement, to visual arts and drama. The aim was to completely transform the experience of visiting or being in a hospital. The idea of arts on prescription, or using art as a medium of expression, social interaction and creativity, was central to the work of these groups. Examples of these programmes are documented in photographs and papers in the archives, including reminiscence projects in retirement homes, art classes with individuals suffering from mental health problems, and participatory music sessions with stroke survivors.

Catalogued collections include:

- Arts for Health archive: the main organisational archive of Arts for Health; (ART/AFH).
- Healing Arts, Isle of Wight archive: Papers of Healing Arts, Isle of Wight from its establishment in 1984 up to 2012; (ART/IOW).
- Mike White archive: Papers relating to Mike White’s work for Arts for Health while at Gateshead Council and Durham University; (ART/MIW)
- Langley Brown archive: Papers relating to Langley Brown’s work for Manchester Hospital Arts (now Lime), and for Start (Sheltered Training in the Arts); (ART/LAB).
- Stockport Arts and Health archive: Papers of Stockport Arts and Health, 1990-2008; (ART/SAH).
- Graham Cooper archive: Cooper’s working notes and research folders for projects on effects of hospital architecture on patient wellbeing and care; (ART/COO).

In addition, some publications have been added to the Library’s holdings, and can be searched for in the Library catalogue by searching ‘Donor: Arts for Health’.

- Elena Carter, Archivist

**Lonely Hearts**

History of Medicine: Minds, Bodies and Cultures

*Programme Director:* Dr Anne Hanley  
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The MA in History of Medicine runs for one year full-time or two years part-time, during which students complete two core courses and three subject-specific option modules, which aim to establish pathways for progression to doctoral research. The option modules represent Birkbeck’s diverse research expertise.

We explore health and illness from antiquity to the present day, equipping students with the conceptual knowledge and analytical skills to draw meaningful comparisons across many centuries and great cultural and geographical divides. Our MA provides students with a rich and varied experience of studying history at a postgraduate level, allowing them to satisfy and expand their passion for the history of medicine and health.

![Human microbial ecosystem representation, hand and machine embroidery on fabric. Credit: Rebecca D Harris](image)

On completing the MA, students will have mastered the major themes in the history of medicine; compared different approaches to health and healthcare, and reflected critically upon how these have changed across time; developed their analytical skills; and understood how present-day health practices and policies are shaped by the past.

Students are introduced to a range of visual and textual sources. They are able to experiment with a diverse range of qualitative and quantitative methods in preparation for their dissertation research, honing their ability to evaluate the significance and utility of large archival collections and bodies of historical scholarship. In so doing, they learn to devise creative, manageable research questions, organise projects independently and craft arguments that are coherent, well-supported and persuasive. Applications are open. To apply for the programme, please visit:
Postgraduate Certificate in Practical Science Communication

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Science and its related disciplines have a wide-ranging and profound impact upon individuals, businesses, communities and the natural world. Communicating science is now recognised as an important skill for many professionals working in scientific research and in technical industries. The importance of effective and relevant science communication has been formally endorsed by the UK House of Commons Science and Technology Committee in its recent Science Communication and Engagement’ report. The scientific community has asserted its responsibility to communicate about research and development in an ethical, effective and engaging manner within the wider community.

This new Postgraduate Certificate has been designed by an experienced multi-disciplinary team at the University of Cambridge. It meets the needs of scientists who wish to communicate effectively with the wider public, and with other organisations within their community, such as funding bodies and policy committees.

Effective science communicators seek engaging, high quality and accessible methods for sparking interest, maximising impact, and reaching as wide an audience as possible. They will draw on theories of communication and engagement, use innovative practical approaches, understand the needs of their audience, and be aware of the broader ethical and societal implications of the science. High quality training in science communication will provide these skills and expertise and fits with the underlying principles of the Concordat for Engaging the Public with Research.

Who is the course designed for?
It is designed to support and develop the skills of scientists and other technical professionals who wish to communicate effectively with the wider public, as well as with other organisations within their community such as funders, learned societies, investors and businesses.

Aims of the programme
- To provide students with theoretical, academic and practical tools to support the knowledge and understanding they will need to become an effective and engaging communicator. The programme will help students to enhance the ethical and critical awareness they will need to identify the importance, relevance, and risks of science communication from a professional perspective.
- To enable students to make value-based judgements combining discipline-specific factors, academic theory, and practical considerations, to ensure they are well equipped to develop and deliver science communication that is culturally sensitive and appropriate to particular audiences
- To develop individual science communicators’ ability to reflect critically on their own and others’ work, in the context of not only audience needs but also those of hosts, funders and local policy.

Teaching and learning
The course is delivered using a variety of learning styles, combining interactive face-to-face learning with online delivery. Seminars, practical demonstrations, workshops, problem-based learning and small group working will be delivered and facilitated by experts in the field of science-related communication and engagement. Learning on this programme is highly experiential, recognising both the practical nature and application of science communication, and that students learn from both what is taught and how it is being taught.

More information can be found here: www.ice.cam.ac.uk/course/postgraduate-certificate-practical-science-communication
MA in History of Science, Technology and Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Programme Director: Dr Adrian Wilson
Email: A.F.Wilson@leeds.ac.uk

This programme is still accepting applications for full-time and part-time study to start in September 2018.

You’ll explore the themes, concepts and debates in the study of the history of science through core modules. These will also allow you to develop your historical research skills, using our excellent library resources to work with primary and secondary sources. But you’ll also choose from a range of optional modules that allow you to specialise in topics areas that suit your interests, from birth, death and illness in the Middle Ages to modern science communication.

Guided by leading researchers and supported by our Centre for History and Philosophy of Science, you’ll learn in a stimulating environment with access to a wide range of activities. You could even gain research experience by getting involved in the development of our Museum of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

We have world-class research resources to support your studies. The Brotherton Library houses extensive manuscript, archive and printed material in Special Collections, including Newton’s Principia, a first edition of his Opticks and thousands of books and journals on topics from the sixteenth century onwards on topics such as astronomy, botany, medicine, physiology, chemistry, inventions and alchemy. You’ll also have access to the collections of artefacts across campus that we have brought together through the Museum of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

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The Centre also hosts a number of research seminars given by visiting speakers, staff members and doctoral students and which all postgraduate students are encouraged to attend. There are also regular reading groups on a wide range of topics and the seminar series of other centres within the School are also available.

MA in Curating Science

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

You and your contacts might be interested in the launch of a new MA in Curating Science at the University of Leeds. We are now pleased to accept applications for entry in autumn 2018 for this exciting interdisciplinary programme, hosted by the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies and developed in collaboration with the School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science. The programme sits at the intersection of histories, philosophies and social studies of science, science communication and museum studies, with a focus on contemporary practices of science curation in its multiple forms, and a grounding in the history of science, technology and medicine. For full details please see: https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/i402/curating-science-

Constantinus Africanus Blog

In December 2017, a new history of medicine blog was launched: Constantinus Africanus. Edited by Monica H. Green and Brian Long, it is dedicated to the works and historical milieu of Constantine the African, an eleventh-century immigrant from North Africa who arrived in southern Italy sometime around 1076 and spent the rest of his life translating Arabic medicine into Latin. This was the first full-scale transference of any aspect of Arabic science to Christian Europe. Most of Constantine’s output has never been edited, but because of new digitization projects undertaken by libraries in Europe and elsewhere, it is now possible to begin to reconstruct the medieval Mediterranean milieu that gave rise to this extraordinary moment of cultural transference. As the creator of the Articella teaching collection and the first major importer of anatomical learning, Constantine may have contributed more than any other single individual to defining the course of European medicine.

MEDMED-L listserv

The MEDMED-L listserv was founded in 2008 to facilitate communication among scholars working on all aspects of pre-modern health, medicine, and disease. Now encompassing close to 800 scholars and a range of scholarly disciplines, MEDMED-L is the main venue for communication of conference announcements, publication opportunities, jobs, and research queries relating to pre-1700 medicine. It has been a pioneer in embracing the medical history of work coming from the paleosciences. MEDMED-L remains a private list and registrants are asked to send an introductory message upon joining to inform fellow list members of their interests. The registration process can be initiated via: https://lists.asu.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=MEDMED-L.
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