Hello, everyone, and welcome to the festive season. It is a time for giving thanks, specifically that we are not Victorian hospital patients. This quarter’s issue features the Evelina Children’s Hospital at Christmas time.

We’re excited to announce that the biennial SSHM conference will be held at the University of Liverpool from 11–13 July 2018, so don’t forget to submit your abstracts before the deadline on 2 February 2018. More information about the conference can be found on page 6. The SSHM will be offering bursaries to assist students and ECRs with the financial costs of attending the conference. More information can be found on the SSHM website.

We are always looking for suggestions of items to include in the Gazette—the more varied the better—so please send along anything you think might be of interest. The Gazette reaches all SSHM members and is a great way to publicise events, websites, exhibitions, seminars, digital projects and news. The next copy deadline will be 15 January for the February issue. In the meantime, there is always Facebook, Twitter and the SSHM website.

Don’t forget that we’ve introduced a ‘lonely hearts’ column for lovelorn projects seeking academic companions. The aim is to promote studentships, postdocs and upcoming projects. 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 February issue.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Gazette!

Anne Hanley, Editor

**MEETING REPORTS**

**15TH ANNUAL JOINT ATLANTIC SEMINAR FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE: TRUTH, POWER, AND OBJECTIVITY**

**Date:** 13–14 October 2017  
**Venue:** Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

This conference, sponsored by the Society for the Social History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and The Institute for the History of Medicine Johns Hopkins University, questioned how historians of medicine establish truths and cast doubt on the veracity of sources. The theme broadly led to consideration of perspective and power, and how claims of objectivity in medical and scientific discourses influence scholarship and the ways it is interpreted.

The conference kicked off with a reception in the impressive West Reading Room of the Welch Library under the gaze of John Singer Sargent’s painting of ‘The Four Doctors’: Welch, Halsted, Osler and Kelly. Mary Fissell (JHU) delivered her keynote Aristotle’s Masterpiece and the Re-making of Kinship, 1820-1860 using marriage manuals as a lens to explore how texts can assume new meanings over time with the development of new epistemic spaces: looking to phrenology, hereditary, and the nature/nurture debate.

The evening concluded with a dynamic Faculty Panel on ‘Truth, Power, and Objectivity’ with Graham Mooney, Gianna Pomata, and Nathaniel Comfort. Comfort’s use of Oral History for his own research led him to discuss the significance of subjectivity in the historical record and how it can lead us to consider the emotional content of history. Historians role as communicators was emphasised by Pomata, articulating the importance of ‘moments of contact’ when ‘listening’ to the sources left behind by the past. Mooney considered the role of anger in his research highlighting that scholarship and activism can go hand in hand, calling for the delegates to recognise their own power and find their own voice. The discussion nicely set up the conference theme for the forthcoming panels.
The next day began with a panel entitled ‘Knowing Across Boundaries’, made up of papers that transcended conventional disciplinary boundaries. Anna Weerasinghe (JHU) explored the mechanism of medical testimony in Portuguese Goa and how historical actors interpreted indigenous healthcare claims versus orthodox testimony; while in the Modern Period, Leah Samples (University of Pennsylvania) presented a paper on the role of institutional aims at the Elwyn Training School, 1940–1969, highlighting how parents and their children resisted classification in the face of objective measurement.

Yoko Tomita (Columbia University) opened panel two on ‘Recovering Lost Voices in the Medical Record’ with a paper on patient voices found in the social services records at the Presbyterian Hospital in New York, noting the ‘silence’ of the patient and the prominence of the social workers voice within these interactions. The use of emotion in scholarship was highlighted by Bridget Keown (Northeastern University) who considered the role of anger in motivating her research to discover the voices of women who had previously been ignored in the historical record. Women in World War One experienced war trauma as a result of air-raids on the Home Front but the stereotype of British stoicism has proved a barrier to research on the subject.

The next panel ‘Power at a Distance’ was kicked off by Hratch Kestenian (CUNY) who explored the medicalization of madness by missionaries in Mount Lebanon, commentating on the intersection between biomedicine and religion; whilst Corbin Stinnett (University of Arkansas) relayed the story of pellagra eradication in Arkansas in the early twentieth century, highlighting the barriers found in rural communities when confronted with a top-down public health campaign. Kirsten Moore-Shelley’s (JHU) comments on the papers bought the connected themes of modernity and medicalisation to the forefront of discussion.

In the last paper of the day in the panel ‘Questioning the Objectivity of Objects’ Deborah Streahle (Yale University) examined the use of lead nipple shields by mothers, considering the role of risk in medical decision-making, and uniquely utilised the audience to read out quotes from historical actors.

The inclusion of pre-prepared critiques by commentators for each panel helped to tie the papers into the main theme of the conference and provided a warm atmosphere for continued discussion for early-career researchers. The day concluded with a closing reception back at the Welch Library with lively conversations continuing into the evening. Congratulations to the organisers on making the conference a great success and successfully facilitating the debate.

- Laura Mainwaring, University of Leicester

**KNOWLEDGE IN CONTEXT**

**Venue:** University of Oxford  
**Date:** 22–23 September 2017

Organised by Floris Verhaart, François Zanetti and Erica Charters, this colloquium was held to mark the retirement of Professor Brockliss and to recognise the contribution made to social and medical history by Laurence Brockliss and Colin Jones through their text The Medical World of Early Modern France, which was published twenty years ago. This publication has been, and continues to be, of great significance to historians of medicine and the social structure of early modern France. Financial and logistical support had been provided by The History Faculty and Centre of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology University of Oxford, Florida State University, The Society for the
Social History of Medicine, Magdalen College Oxford, and Queen’s University Belfast.

The colloquium’s format comprised some sixteen papers presented by academics from the United States, Britain, Europe and Australia, delivered in English or French and arranged in five sessions. Philip Reider was unable to attend from Geneva, but very successfully presented his paper via video link. The papers effectively reflected the breadth which Brockliss and Jones achieved in their ground-breaking text, and spread from the intellectual, to practical aspects of medical history principally in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Attended by some thirty academics, former students and colleagues, this audience gave an intimate atmosphere to the symposium. Each paper was followed by questioning from across the floor; evoking discussions which continued during coffee breaks. (I might add that the catering was excellent).

Sessions were well integrated and provided an interesting spectrum of approaches to the topic of medical history ranging from commercial aspects of the drug trade and its notional control, to the place of science in classical education. The variety of papers achieved the organisers’ objective of ‘demonstrating the range of Brockliss and Jones’s impact in integrating intellectual history with other sub disciplines of history.’ Particularly interesting were papers devoted to books, their readership and the analysis of relative size of medical texts within the libraries of early-modern physicians. The value of detailed examination of personal library records and publishers’ listings is one which warrants further research exploration.


For those unable to attend, it is hoped that at least some of the papers will be published. The two-day event must be counted a success by the organisers and the participants.

- Robert Weston
Honorary Research Fellow
University of Western Australia

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**BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

Between 13 and 16 September 2017 I had the pleasure of attending the British Society for the History of Medicine (BSHM) Congress hosted at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh. This three-day event saw registration of over 160 delegates incorporating a range of undergraduate and postgraduate candidates, academics and archive, museum and medical professionals. A total of 76 oral presentations were listed and divided into 16 themed panels complimented by a further 25 poster presentations and three keynote lectures. A wide selection of papers was proffered for attendance, accounting for all medical history tastes and interests. Additionally, organisers provided a range of extra-curricular activities including a visit to Surgeon’s Hall Museum and medical walking tours of Edinburgh provided by Sheila Devlin-Thorpe. The diversity of the programme and activities presented as part of the conference was a credit to the congress organisers and to those who funded the event including The Wellcome Trust, The Douglas Guthrie Trust, The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh Department of Clinical Surgery and Jon Baines Tours.

Suggested themes for the conference had been put forward during the call for papers and included Scotland’s Contribution and Influence, Women in Medicine, Apothecaries and their Successors and Art and Photography in Medicine. The continuity of these themes throughout the conference was demonstrated in the organisation of the various panels and in the themes for the keynote addresses. Additional, complimentary panels often also incorporated papers from these themes whilst generating new themes themselves, including those on epidemic and infectious diseases. Papers from the General panels also provided new avenues of research, the ‘General Papers I’ brought together a number of forensic medicine papers, exploring the role of medico-legal histories. The combination of biographical works of eminent medical professionals and contextualised, social history papers complimented the themes well and demonstrated the benefit of combining the social history of medicine with what has been described as the histories of ‘Great Doctors’.

Of these themes, it was the ‘Women in Medicine’ that seemed especially topical, as was reflected by the two
panels dedicated to it. The sessions demonstrated the cyclical journey of female contributions to medicine, particularly in relation to obstetrics, gynaecology and midwifery. Professor David Watters addressed this journey and the ongoing struggles of equal opportunity in medicine, during his Guthrie Lecture ‘Daring to dream of equal opportunity in medicine’. This topical lecture outlined the trends in female involvement in medicine over the past 400 years and highlighted the need for equal opportunity.

The Collections and Radiology panel was particularly thought provoking from a resources and engagement point of view. This addressed the role that archives and museums play in the preservation of histories and of histories to come. Tayce Phillipson’s (National Museums of Scotland) discussion on challenges of collecting modern medical and biomedical innovations for museum displays demonstrated that museums are not only about the past but about the present and future. Similarly, Michelle Williams’ (University of Edinburgh Department of Radiology) paper on saving and conserving clinical radiographic images that span the history of radiology highlighted opportunities for teaching through historical radiographic images, having identified several of the images as probable early radiological teaching resources. Radiographs are a relatively under-explored resource for medical history and would benefit from further research.

Of significant note was the impromptu, but very worthwhile, discussion that took place instead of the closing keynote address on the final day of the conference. A last minute interdisciplinary panel of historians and medical professionals was put together to encourage discussion surrounding the relationship between ‘doctor historians’ and ‘social-academic historians’ and the further effect this has on the interactions between the Society for the Social History of Medicine SSHM and BSHM. There was mutual appreciation from both sides on the contributions awarded by both academic and doctor historians with a strong inclination towards future collaboration between the two. Great emphasis was placed on the need for contextual information to build a fuller picture of the contribution of medical practitioners or innovations; consideration of social, political and economic factors. Equally, doctor historians provide invaluable insight into disease and medical processes, offering potential theories on the evolution of disease and the medical practices developed to combat them. As an individual exploring the use of medical archival material, casefiles and x-rays, as a tool for diagnosing tuberculosis in palaeopathology and possibly medical teaching, the interaction of doctor and academic historians is essential and collaboration will encourage new topics and themes for future research.

The final discussion, whilst considering the interaction between SSHM and BSHM and between social-academic and doctor historians, has opened the way for further engagement and collaboration. The conference demonstrated, through its selection of papers and speakers, that research into medical history is not only for doctor or academic historians but for a host of other heritage professionals as demonstrated by Tayce Phillipson (National Museums of Scotland), Louise Bell (The National Archives) and Michelle Williams (University of Edinburgh, Department of Radiology). This highlighted the potential value of engaging and collaborating beyond other historians exploring new relationships with archival and museum collections and their institutions.

- Rebecca Cessford
Heritage Consortium University of Hull

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE**

**Date:** 11–13 July 2018  
**Venue:** University of Liverpool  
**Deadline:** 2 February 2018

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

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

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

Possible topics include:
• Health and medicine in colonial, postcolonial and transnational contexts
• The political economy of health and medicine
• Theories and practices of conformity and deviancy in health and medicine
• New ways of framing working within the social history of medicine
• Radical politics and resistance to dominant medical knowledge and practice
• Critical theory and social movements such as feminist, postcolonial, disability and queer theory and activism in relation to health and medicine
• Relations between different cultures of health and medicine
• Inequalities of health and medical care
• Public health

• The environment and health
• Animals, disease and health
• Work and health
• Arts and health
• Popular representations of health and medicine

Individual submissions should include a 250-word abstract, including five key words and a one paragraph CV with contact information. Panel submissions should include three papers (each with a 250-word abstract, including five key words and a short CV), a chair and a 100-word panel abstract. Roundtable submissions should include the names of four participants (each with a short CV), a chair, a 500-word abstract and five key words. We also invite poster presentations, short films and ideas for new sessions. Submissions should be sent to sshm2018@liverpool.ac.uk

**BEING WELL TOGETHER:**
**HUMAN-ANIMAL COLLABORATION, COMPANIONSHIP AND THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**Date:** 19–21 September 2018.
**Venue:** CHSTM, University of Manchester
**Deadline:** Thursday 30 November 2017.

Being Well Together will critically examine the myriad ways humans have formed partnerships with nonhuman species to improve health across time and place. The late twentieth century witnessed the simultaneous rise and diversification of varied entanglements of humans and animals in the pursuit of health and wellbeing. Clinical examples include the use of maggots to treat chronic wounds and the post-surgical use of leeches to aid healing. In wider society, we might consider service animals, such as guide dogs, diabetes alert dogs, and emotional support animals. In the home pets are increasingly recognized to contribute to emotional wellbeing, with companion animals particularly important to those who are otherwise at risk of social isolation. Expanded to include concepts such as the ‘human’ microbiome in the opening decades of the twenty-first century, these entanglements may be recognized as ‘multispecies medicine’. In each case, human health and wellbeing rests on the cultivation of
relationships with other species. Being well is a process of being well together. We invite proposals to explore multispecies communication, collaboration and companionship in contexts of medicine, health and wellbeing. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, the lived experience of health as a product of multispecies relations, the role of affect and emotion in the maintenance of human and nonhuman wellbeing, and the societal politics of ‘being well’ when ‘being well’ is a more than human condition. The lived experience of being well with animals can reshape understandings of health, wellbeing and disability; its study may provide new approaches to productively frame the relationship between the politics of animal and disability advocacy.

Participants will be drawn from a range of disciplines with interests spanning, though not restricted to, medical and environmental humanities. We aim to strike a balance between studies adopting historical perspectives and those which critically examine areas of contemporary practice. In bringing historical accounts into dialogue with present practices, Being Well Together will generate new perspectives on medicine, health and changing relations of human and animal life in society.

Titles and abstracts (400 words maximum) as well as general queries should be addressed to Rob Kirk (robert.g.kirk@manchester.ac.uk) and Neil Pemberton (neil.pemberton@manchester.ac.uk)

Invited participants will provide a draft paper for pre-circulation (6000–8000 words maximum inclusive of references) by 31 July 2018. These ‘work-in-progress’ papers will be the starting point for discussions at the September workshop with a view to producing an edited volume.

Accommodation and travel costs for invited participants will be covered by the organisers.

Being Well Together is the first in a series of activities supported by the Wellcome Trust (UK) Investigator Award, ‘Multispecies Medicine: Biotherapy and the Ecological Vision of Health and Wellbeing’. Based at CHSTM, this collaborative research project examines how, why and to what consequence, human and nonhuman life has become variously entangled within health, wellbeing and society. For more information, see: www.chstm.manchester.ac.uk/newsandevents/confere nces/beingwelltogether

**RELIGION AND THE LIFE CYCLE, 1500–1800**

**Date:** Friday 6 July 2018  
**Venue:** Queen Mary, University of London  
**Deadline:** 26 January 2018

**Keynotes**
- Professor Elaine Hobby (Loughborough): ‘“We have an example in Scripture”: Women, Religion and the Early Modern Life Cycle’
- Dr Adam Sutcliffe (KCL): ‘The Children of Israel and the Passage to Adulthood in Early Modern Europe’

The Queen Mary Centre for Religion and Literature in English (QMCRLE) welcomes proposals for twenty-minute papers on ‘Religion and the Life Cycle, 1500–1800’ for a one-day interdisciplinary conference. We interpret the term ‘Life Cycle’ broadly, to include biological transition points such as birth and death, social transition points such as coming of age ritual, marital and employment status, life-stages such as childhood or adolescence, and indeed the passage of time and the process of aging. This conference seeks to explore institutional religious ceremonies and prescriptions relating to the life cycle, as well as more personal and informal religious beliefs and responses.
Suggested topics for papers include, but are not limited to:
- ‘Rites of passage’ ceremonies such as baptism, circumcision, confirmation
- Spiritual writing / personal writing / prayer which reflects upon Life-Cycle events
- Religious prescriptive literature relating to Life-Cycle events
- Representations of religious Life-Cycle processes within literature, art, or material culture

We welcome papers from all disciplines, and we especially welcome submissions from postgraduate students. Postgraduate bursaries are available. Please send abstracts of up to 300 words and a brief bio to Emily Vine (e.m.vine@qmul.ac.uk).

**UK ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF NURSING ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION**

**Deadline:** Friday 23 March 2018

Open to all UK residents interested in the history of nursing to encourage scholarship in this important area. Submissions of research-based scholarly writing, on any aspect of the history of nurses or nursing, of 2000–3000 words are welcomed. Work should not have been published or submitted elsewhere before entry to the competition. First prize is £100. The essay will also be eligible for publication in the UKAHN Bulletin. Submission details: http://ukahn.org

**HISTORY OF NURSING RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM**

**Date:** 10 July 2018  
**Venue:** University of Chester  
**Deadline:** 23 March 2018

The UKAHN invites papers that cover any aspect of nursing history. The Colloquium has a proud tradition of providing a supportive environment and space for researchers to present work in progress and obtain feedback for further development of their research.

Please submit abstracts of approximately 250 words. Details regarding submission, arrangements and costs will appear in due course on the UKAHN website: http://ukahn.org

**CULTURAL HISTORIES OF AIR AND ILLNESS CONFERENCE**

**Date:** 8–9 June 2018  
**Venue:** University of Warwick  
**Deadline:** 15 January 2018.

Keynote Speakers:
- Jennifer Tucker (Wesleyan University)  
- Richard Hamblyn (Birkbeck, University of London)

Air has always had an influence on the health of individuals, societies, cities, and nations. From Hippocrates’s belief that air affected the human body to Victorian medical theories on tropical climates and bad air as the source of disease, air was understood to have a direct effect on health and to be a cause of illness. With the advent of modern medicine, the role of air’s impact on human health has shifted, but remains present. For instance, current concerns about air pollution and respiratory disease, as well as the role climate change is playing on the health of ecosystems and nations, demonstrate the continued significance of air’s relationship to health.

The Cultural Histories of Air and Illness Conference will span disciplines and periods to explore broadly the link between human health and the air. How have we thought about, studied, and depicted the connections between air and illness? In what ways have we represented air as a source or carrier of visible and invisible dangers? How have humans constructed their relationship with the environment and what role has the environment played in the history of human health? How has air pollution and climate change impacted health across a globalized world?

Topics might include, but are not limited to:
- Medical theories about air and the body across history  
- Representations of the relationship between air and health in literature, art, visual culture, film, theatre, and the media
• Cultural constructions of healthy and unhealthy environments
• Air as a vector of disease
• Medical topography, meteorology, and climatology
• Air pollution and industrialization
• Urban planning, gardens, and green lungs
• Radiation and the threat of the invisible
• Climate change and global health

The conference welcomes proposals of 250 words for twenty-minute papers suitable for an interdisciplinary audience. Please use the email address of the conference organizer, Dr Amanda Sciampacone, for all correspondence and proposals.

a.sciampacone@warwick.ac.uk

For further information, please visit the conference website at:
https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/arthistory/research/conferences/air/

This conference is supported by the Leverhulme Trust and the University of Warwick’s Humanities Research Centre.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ERC BODYPOLITICS & WELLCOME
COLLECTION INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
BROADCASTING HEALTH AND
DISEASE, BODIES, MARKETS AND
TELEVISION, 1950S–1980S

Date: 19–21 February 2018
Venue: Wellcome Trust, London

Throughout the age of television, health- and body-related subjects have been presented and diffused into the public sphere via a multitude of forms, ranging from short films in health education programmes to school television, from professional training to TV ads, from documentary and reality TV shows to TV news, but also as complementary VHS and similar video formats circulating in private and public spheres. From live transmission of daunting surgical operations or accounts of medication scandals in the 1950s and 1960s to participatory aerobic workouts or militant AIDS documentaries, bodies and health on television and more genuinely the interrelationship of the history of health and bodies and the history of the various TV formats has not been extensively researched. Our assumption is that such audio-visuals are not conceived merely as a mirror or expression of what is observed, but that visuals should be regarded as a distinct, interactive performative power of mass media societies.

The three-day conference aims to investigate how television programmes in their multiplicity approached issues like medical progress and its limits, healthy behaviour or new forms of exercise by adapting them to TV formats and programming. A telling example of this is the US born aerobics movement as it was brought to TV in Europe, in shows such as Gym Tonic (from 1982) in France, Enorm in Form (from 1983) in Germany or the Green Goddess on BBC Breakfast Time (from 1983) in Great Britain. Contemporary, similar and yet differing in national broadcast contexts, the conference seeks to analyse how television and its evolving formats expressed and staged bodies, health and in the above example fitness from local, regional, national and international perspectives. How spectators were invited not only to be TV consuming audiences, but how shows and TV set-ups integrated and sometimes pretended to transform the viewer into a participant of the show. TV programmes spread the conviction that subjects had the ability to shape their own body.

Further, we take into account the long-term evolution of televisual editorialisation and staging, notably as it focused on the intimate and adapted to consumer/market logic. We ask what effects these had on the preventive information and the messages related to current health and medical techniques that were diffused.

The conference seeks entries and analyses that contribute to better understanding the role that TV, as a modern visual mass media, has played in what may be cast as the transition from a national bio-political public health paradigm at the beginning of the twentieth century to societal forms of the late twentieth century when better and healthier lives were increasingly shaped by market forces.
The conference aims to bring together scholars from different fields (such as, but not limited to, history, history of science, history of medicine, communication, media and film studies, television studies) working on the history of television in Great Britain, France and Germany (West and East) (the focus of the ERC BodyCapital project), but also other European countries, North and South America, Russia, Asia or other countries and areas.

We are interested in the history of health on television, which cannot be written without consideration of the history of television itself. We are looking for papers that trace and analyse television content, as well as its production and broadcasting, such as:

- the television content, notably related to one (or more) fields of main health interests in the twentieth century;
- the production of health-related themes and images on television;
- the formats themselves: medical series, lifestyle shows, talk shows, news reports, news shows, documentaries, telethons – those specifically focused on health-related issues and those with health-related episodes;
- the authors and actors pushing health and medical issues on television;
- the networks and their operation, i.e. genres, audiences targeted, scheduling, etc.;
- the multiplication of television networks, i.e. the shift from public to private;
- television as a communication tool, i.e., public service announcements, advertising (or how productions play on the communication-entertainment hybrid);
- the public and audiences of these different formats and their reactions.

It is organized by the ERC funded research group BodyCapital and hosted by Wellcome Collection. The healthy self as body capital: individuals, market-based societies and body politics in visual twentieth century Europe (BodyCapital) project is directed by Christian Bonah at the Université de Strasbourg in collaboration with Anja Laukötter at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin. The project is funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Advanced Grant agreement No 694817).

The scientific committee comprises

- Christian Bonah (Université de Strasbourg)
- Anja Laukötter (Max-Planck-Institute for Human Development, Berlin)
- Tricia Close-Koenig (Université de Strasbourg)
- Angela Saward (Wellcome Collection, London)
- Tim Boon (Science Museum, London)
- Virginia Berridge (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)
- Alex Mold (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

CARE AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Date: 9–11 April 2018
Venue: University of Leeds

The end of the First World War saw the demobilisation and return to civilian life of millions of service personnel around the world. Governments, charities, families and individuals attempted to support, rehabilitate and reintegrate those who had served through financial provision, medical treatment and social care. In the final year of the centenary commemorations, this conference looks beyond the war to the lifelong impact of war service.

Drawing of ‘An Anzac Convalescent’ Credit: The RAMC Muniment Collection in the care of the Wellcome Library, London: L0046112

This conference examines that provision of care to veterans of the First World War and their families. It asks how, where and when care, in its various forms, was provided to and withheld from veterans around the world. It seeks to understand the motivations of those
individuals and groups who provided care and to analyse the development of formal and informal networks of care.

We are pleased to announce that Professor Michael Roper (University of Essex) and Dr Fiona Reid (University of South Wales) will be keynote speakers. The conference will include discussion of care for veterans of any nation after the First World War, including comparative, transnational and entangled histories. Subjects for papers and panels include:

- Systems of soldier preference (in employment, soldier settlement schemes etc.)
- Disability pensions and financial provisions
- The development and work of veterans’ organisations and charities
- Competition and cooperation between care providers
- Caring for the carers
- Family reintegration and care within the home
- Effects of insufficient care
- Care for POWs, families of veterans and the bereaved
- Rehabilitation of disabled veterans
- Institutional and in-patient care
- Ongoing treatment of disease and physical and psychological wounds
- Care as a disciplinary tool
- Gender in the giving and receiving of care
- The accessibility of care: issues of race, class, gender, empire and distance
- Commemoration as an act of care
- Representations of care and carers in literature and the arts

The conference will include a mentoring scheme within the programme. General enquiries can be sent to CareConference@leeds.ac.uk

SUICIDE, SOCIETY AND CRISIS

**Date:** 18–19 May 2018  
**Venue:** University of Sheffield

The CFP will be circulated in the new year

On 18–19 May 2018, a two-day symposium titled 'Suicide, Society and Crisis' will be held at the University of Sheffield to investigate the links between suicide and political and social crisis, at macro and micro levels.

For over 150 years, instances and rates of suicide have been a symbolic resource for making statements about society. Do suicide rates increase in times of socio-political crisis, and, if so, why? How do psychiatrists, pathologists, jurists, coroners, politicians, and public understand suicide epidemics as symptomatic of instability? The symposium emerges from of Dr Julie Gottlieb's (Department of History, University of Sheffield) Wellcome Trust Seed-funded project of the same name. It aims to bring together those working in the medical humanities, history, sociology and in the cross-disciplinary field of suicidology, as well as clinicians to reflect on the correlations between national and personal crisis.

During the conference, we will test psychological, psychiatric, sociological and historical theories about how internalisation of dramatic socio-political change affects incidents, methods and attitudes towards suicide. Potential participants are encouraged to get in touch with Julie (julie.gottlieb@sheffield.ac.uk) or Stephanie (smwright1@sheffield.ac.uk) if they would like to find out more.

THE SCIENCE MUSEUM AUTUMN RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

**Venue:** Dana Research Centre and Library, 165 Queen’s Gate, London SW7 5HD

These seminars are open to students, museum professionals and academics with an interest in research relating to material culture and museums. Feel free to bring a packed lunch to eat during the seminar. The series finishes on 12 December with an evening talk from 17:00–18:00, followed by a drinks reception. All other seminars run between 13:00 and 14:00.
We look forward to seeing you!

Convenors: Bergit Arends and Oliver Carpenter

• 12 December: Dr Amanda Rees and Dr Sam Robinson, ‘Creating Citizen History of Science: technology, counterfactuals, and choose your own adventure!’ (University of York).

For more information please contact Oliver Carpenter, or see http://sciencemuseum.org.uk/about-us/collections-and-research

CHRISTMAS QUACKS: THE MAKING OF BBC 2’S ‘QUACKS’

Date: 15 December, 18:00
Venue: Royal College of Physicians

Meet the team behind the BBC’s ‘Quacks’. Over mince pies and mulled wine, discover how they brought the gruesome realities of Dickensian medicine to life.

The series follows a physician, a surgeon, a dentist and an ‘alienist’ as they navigate a time of incredible change in medicine. From dead moles to modesty dolls, ether and mesmerism, Quacks is a hilarious romp through nineteenth-century London’s medical world. Created and written by James Woods (also writer and creator of Rev), produced by Imogen Cooper (maker of Horrible Histories) and with historical consultation by Richard Barnett (author of The Sick Rose and many more).

Come face to face with the show’s creators, ask the panel your questions about turning history into television, and hear how the Royal College of Physicians’ own archives and remarkable collections inspired the programme.

Tickets £8 (plus Eventbrite booking fee), including mulled wine and mince pies. Spaces for this event are limited, to secure you’re place book now.

PROJECT NEWS

HEALTHSCAPING URBAN EUROPE: BIO-POWER, SPACE AND SOCIETY, 1200-1500

In November 2017, the ERC-funded ‘Healthscaping Urban Europe: Bio-Power, Space and Society’ was launched at the University of Amsterdam. The project aims to document and analyse population-level preventative health practices between 1200–1500 in two of Europe’s most urbanized regions, Italy and the Low Countries. It explores the discursive and practical interactions between people’s perceptions of cities in regard to health hazards and the implementations of preventative initiatives and policies, and the impacts of these interactions on the built environments. In doing so, the project aims to shift a key paradigm in the history of public health by challenging a perceived pre/modern dichotomy that preconditions the promotion of health at the population level with the existence of centralized governments, democratic values and advanced medicine.

The project consists of four subprojects: two historical- anthropological studies under the title of Healthscaping Medieval Cities: Theory, Policy and Practice, a cultural-medical project under the title of Prophylactic Healthcare and The Public, and a civic archaeology project under the title of Townscape and Healthscape: Unfolding Cartographies of the Sanitary City. Altogether during the coming five years, in addition to numerous publications, the research team plans to organise various academic events in close collaboration with scholars and organisations active in different fields and disciplines.
that the project covers to share its findings with the broader academic community.
Website:
https://premodernhealthscaping.hcommons.org
Twitter:
https://twitter.com/prosanitate

SSHM BOOK SERIES

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Below are two of the next books in the series.

At the core of *Sickness, Medical Welfare and the English Poor* are three central contentions: That medical welfare became the totemic function of the Old Poor Law in its last few decades; that the poor themselves were able to negotiate this medical welfare rather than simply being subject to it; and that being doctored and institutionalised became part of the norm for the sick poor by the 1820s, in a way that had not been the case in the 1750s. Exploring the lives and medical experiences of the poor largely in their own words, *Sickness, Medical welfare and the English poor* offers a comprehensive reinterpretation of the so-called crisis of the Old Poor Law from the later eighteenth century. The sick poor became an insistent presence in the lives of officials and parishes and the (largely positive) way that communities responded to their dire needs must cause us to rethink the role and character of the poor law.

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*Mediterranean Quarantines* investigates how quarantine, the centuries-old practice of collective defence against epidemics, experienced significant
transformations from the eighteenth century in the Mediterranean Sea, its original birthplace. The new epidemics of cholera and the development of bacteriology and hygiene, European colonial expansion, the intensification of commercial interchanges, the technological revolution in maritime and land transportation and the modernisation policies in Islamic countries were among the main factors behind such transformations. The book focuses on case studies on the European and Islamic shores of the Mediterranean showing the multidimensional nature of quarantine, the intimate links that sanitary administrations and institutions had with the territorial organisation of states, international trade, the construction of national, colonial, religious and professional identities of political regimes.

**WELLCOME NEWS**

There are some fantastic exhibitions at Wellcome this winter. Admission is free, so check them out if you’re in London.

**CAN GRAPHIC DESIGN SAVE YOUR LIFE?**
7 September 2017 – 14 January 2018

Comprising over 200 objects including hard-hitting posters, illuminated pharmacy signs and digital teaching aids, ‘Can Graphic Design Save Your Life?’ considers the role of graphic design in constructing and communicating healthcare messages around the world, and shows how graphic design has been used to persuade, to inform and to empower.

This exhibition highlights the widespread and often subliminal nature of graphic design in shaping our environment, our health and our sense of self. Drawn from public and private collections around the world, it will feature work from influential figures in graphic design from the 20th century, as well as from studios and individual designers working today.

‘Can Graphic Design Save Your Life?’ is curated by graphic designer Lucienne Roberts and design educator Rebecca Wright, founders of publishing house GraphicDesign&, with Shamita Sharmacharja at Wellcome.

![Image](https://example.com/can-graphic-design-save-your-life)


**AYURVEDIC MAN: ENCOUNTERS WITH INDIAN MEDICINE**
16 November 2017 – 8 April 2018

Shedding light on Wellcome’s historical collections that relate to Ayurveda and Indian medicine and tracing how health narratives have been shaped by multiple cultural encounters. This exhibition takes its title and inspiration from the ‘Ayurvedic Man’—an eighteenth-century Nepali painting depicting the organs and vessels of the male body according to classical Ayurveda. Showcasing an exquisite range of material, including Sanskrit, Persian and Tibetan manuscripts, vibrant gouache paintings, erotic manuals and animal-shaped surgical tools from our collections, the exhibition includes a new commission by artist Ranjit Kandalgaonkar reimagining the Bombay plague epidemic of 1896 and a new film by Nilanjan Bhattacharya centred around two contemporary medicinal practitioners from India.
Ayurveda has been associated for thousands of years with a range of medical practices rooted in South Asia. Widely practised today in India and beyond, it has been transformed during exchanges with biomedicine and the global market of wellness. As Ayurveda evolves and objects are dispersed across museums, several questions remain: Who owns medical heritage? And what is the contemporary relevance of collections built from colonial encounters?

Ranjit Kandalgaonkar’s commission follows from his residency at Gasworks, London, which was supported by the Charles Wallace India Trust and Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation.

BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The Department of History, Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck is pleased to invite applications for up to ten fully-funded PhD studentships, commencing in October 2018.

The department has a long and distinguished record as a leading centre of research and teaching. With a vibrant community of more than 40 academic staff, it offers a superb range of doctoral supervision from premodern times to the present. The department is ranked first for teaching quality and student satisfaction among London universities (NSS 2017), and sixth nationally for teaching quality. Our unique location in the heart of London’s academic quarter provides our research students with unrivalled access to world-class museums, libraries, archives, and research institutes.

Birkbeck currently invites applications for the following PhD studentships:

- ESRC studentships in ‘Archaeology and Heritage Studies’ and ‘Economic and Social History’. Closing date: 11 December 2017.
- HCA studentships for any suitable topic in History, Classics, or Archaeology. Closing date: 31 January 2018.
- Wellcome Trust studentships on the history of sexual violence (any period from the 1750s to the present). Closing date: 31 January 2018.
- Bonnart Trust studentship for projects about ‘Diversity and Belonging’ and ‘Minorities and Social Justice’. Closing date: 1 February 2018.
- SSHP studentships for any suitable topic in History, Classics, or Archaeology. Closing date: 10 March 2018.

Full details on these studentships and the application process are available at http://www.bbk.ac.uk/history/prospective-students/phd-mphil/research-funding.
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