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Society for the Social History of Medicine



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The Gazette

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OFFICIAL NOTICES

Annual General Meeting, 15 September 2007

At the 2006 AGM (held on 15 September 2007) Pamela Dale, Anne Borsay and Jo Melling retired after a long-serving and successful stint on the Executive Committee.

The Society's Chair Flurin Condrau thanked them for their great contribution to the society.

Election of Executive Committee Members

Four EC members retired routinely, having served their three-year term, but expressed a willingness to continue on the committee. Flurin Condrau, Cathy McClive, Carsten Timmerman, and Keir Waddington were duly nominated, seconded and elected unanimously to serve a further three-year term.

Wendy Gagen and Lisa Smith were elected full members of the EC to serve a three-year term, having served previously as co-opted members. Two new members: Catherine Cox and Rachel McAdams were elected as full members of the EC to serve a three-year term.

At the AGM, Gayle Davis took over from Pamela Dale as secretary, and Ornella Moscucci succeeded Jo Melling as series co-editor.

Date of Next AGM

Flurin confirmed that the AGM for 2007 would be held at the SSHM Annual Conference in Glasgow in September 2008.



OFFICIAL NOTICES

Changes to Executive Committee Posts

At our last EC meeting, held 2nd Nov 2007 at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the following switches in EC posts occurred:

- Lisa Smith replaced Gayle Davis as webmaster.
- Rachel McAdams will cooperate with Rosemary Wall on postgraduate matters.
- Cathy McClive volunteered to replace Ornella Moscucci as SSHM rep to the Editorial Board, in addition to her role as gazette editor.
- Catherine Cox will replace Lisa Smith in assisting Cathy with the gazette.

Gayle Davis
University of Edinburgh



CONFERENCE REPORT

Reassessing Disability: New Approaches to Disability History

Peninsula Medical School, Truro, 28-29 June 2007.

This two day conference, organised by Wendy Gagen and the Peninsula Medical School in Truro, heralded the launch the Disability History Group, an international network of disability historians affiliated to the SSHM. The programme consisted of two keynote speeches by Paul Longmore (San Francisco State University) and David Serlin (University of California, San Diego) and four parallel panel sessions.

Proceedings kicked off on the 28th with an introduction from the DHG's executive committee, which included a thought provoking assessment of disability history by Wendy Gagen (Peninsula Medical School) and Julie Anderson (University of Manchester). Wendy and Julie's talk stimulated a lively debate about the nature of the field and its relevance to the lives of disabled people and provided an excellent opening to the conference.

The first of the panel sessions began after a plentiful buffet lunch, which I'm pleased to report, included some delicious Cornish pasties. Session A featured presentations by Anthony Pinching (Peninsula Medical School) on CFS/ME; Richard Sandell (University of

Leicester) on the representation of disability in museums and galleries, and Ana Carden-Coyne (University of Manchester) on visualising injury and disability.

In session B, David Turner (University of Wales, Swansea) took us back to eighteenth century London and used *The Proceedings of the Old Bailey* to tease out the meaning of disability related terminology such as ‘cripple’ and ‘lame’. Peter Wheeler (University of Salford) delivered a paper co-authored with David Kreps (University of Salford) that addressed the issue of e-discrimination in government employment services offered via the internet. Peter made a persuasive case that, despite its inclusive potential, the internet is littered with disabling barriers that severely limit its use to people with impairments. Heather Hollins (University of Leicester) rounded off the session with an examination of the long neglected disability history of the Holocaust and how that history might be reflected in museums.

After a tea break, the programme continued with further parallel sessions. Session C explored some of the difficulties, including the ethical aspects, of accessing health archives and featured contributions by Wendy Gagen and Iain Hutchison (University of Stirling). In Session D, Tom White (University of Manchester) presented his thoughts on the history of albinism. Tom’s paper generated an excellent debate over the use of medical definitions in disability history. This was followed by Jane Buckingham’s (University of Canterbury, NZ) eye-opening paper on leprosy in late colonial and early post colonial India. Jane’s presentation offered a tantalising glimpse of what insights the disability history of non-Western societies has to offer the field more generally.

Paul Longmore’s keynote speech, entitled ‘Sentimentality and the Framing of Disability in American Charity Fundraising: Not the Medical Model, Not the Social Model’, concluded the first day’s speaking programme. In this scintillating lecture, Paul demonstrated how modern day American telethons replicate many of the disability themes found in the sentimental literature of the nineteenth century.

Shortly after Paul’s keynote presentation, participants made the short trip over to Truro’s

Alverton Manor, where we all enjoyed a hearty dinner and each other’s company.

The following day began with more panel sessions. Paul Panek and Melissa Jungers from the Ohio State University at Newark presented their findings on college students’ knowledge of five disabilities in session E alongside Kate Esser’s (University of Plymouth) interesting talk on the history of dyspraxia. Parallel session F featured two papers on blind history by Martin Pallett (Cornwall Blind Association), who spoke about the Cornwall Blind Association, and Julie Anderson, who outlined the examination process for pensions for the blind in Ireland between 1920 and 1948. Julie convincingly argued that the medicalisation of the examination process during that period was part of the Irish state’s effort to reduce the fiscal burden of the pension scheme. Session F ended with Michael Shamash’s (University of Northampton) passionate talk on the representation of small people in the paintings of Diego Velázquez.

After a short break, the final parallel sessions convened. The panel for session G was made up of Angela Turner (University of Strathclyde), myself, and Stephen Hodgkins (University of Northampton). Drawing on her own work on learning disability in Scotland, Angela’s presentation explored the uses of oral history in disability research. I followed on from Angela with my thoughts on the New Disability History before Stephen concluded the session with a discursive history of disability. Adopting a Foucauldian approach, Stephen expertly unpicked the linguistic meaning of disability through the last five centuries by looking at a series of dictionary definitions of the term.

While session G was in progress, session H showcased presentations by Matilda Svensson (Malmö University) on the vocational training of the ‘partially able-bodied’ in 1940s Sweden; Deborah Phillips (Combined Universities of Cornwall) on the status of work in the lives of women with learning difficulties, and Sonali Shah (University of Leeds) and Mark Priestley (University of Leeds) on life history research and the social model of disability.

The conference ended with David Serlin’s eloquent and illuminating keynote lecture, ‘Window-Shopping with Helen Keller: Disability,

History, and the Evidence of Experience'. David imaginatively used a photo of Helen Keller taken in the 1930s to explore, among other things, the difficult issue of experience in disability history.

On behalf of all those present at the conference, I'd like to thank Wendy Gagen and the Peninsula Medical School for putting on such a first-rate and thoroughly enjoyable event. All the presentations I heard were of a high calibre and the discussions following them informative and intelligent. The friendly and supportive atmosphere at the conference was equally satisfying. Judging by the success of its inaugural meeting, the Disability History Group has a very bright future ahead of it. To learn more about the group, or to become a member, visit www.disabilityhistory.co.uk.

Daniel Blackie
University of Helsinki



CONFERENCE REPORT

Varieties of Cultural History: Theory and Practice in the Cultural Histories of Medicine, Science, Literature and the Arts.

King's College, University of Aberdeen, 5-8 July 2007.

All conferences, I suppose, evolve during the course of their organisation, but this one probably evolved more than most. It was initially conceived as a fairly low key and local affair, to mark and celebrate twenty-years of Aberdeen's undergraduate cultural history programme. However, after we were urged to 'think big' by our head of school, we invited some keynote speakers, came up with a broad theme, applied for some external sources of funding, and issued a call for papers. We were amazed with the results: we ended up with a conference involving some 120 participants from a dozen countries, and almost 70 papers.

Apart from sessions which loosely grouped papers offered in response to the call (some with tighter themes and others), several commissioned sessions were included in the programme,

including one on 'The cultural history of senses and feelings' put together by Mark Jenner of the University of York, and one on 'Professional cultures of medicine', consisting of paper by Holger Maehle and his colleagues from Durham. There were five plenary sessions with papers by prominent scholars in the histories of technology, science and literature, material culture, social sciences, and medicine, the latter being Michael Stollberg of the University of Würzburg. Peter Burke gave the keynote address on 'The strengths and weaknesses of cultural history'. For those interested, the full program, including the abstracts and biographical notes on the speakers, is still available at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ch/conference.shtml>

Despite the academic upgrading of the conference, the 'twenty-one years of cultural history' dimension remained. Several attendees and speakers were former students and members of staff, and we collected memorabilia and documents related to the programme for display on the conference website. The conference also included the cutting of a metre-square birthday cake, wine receptions, a raffle to raise money for a new prize/scholarship fund, and a ceilidh. Conference Tee shirts were on sale and can still be had for a special price of £5 from me. Take a look at the website, quite apart from photographs of the plenary speakers and animated discussions during coffee breaks, you will see some entertaining pictures of the social side of the conference.

At the end of the conference we held a meeting to discuss the formation of an International Society for Cultural History. Considerable enthusiasm was expressed for this idea and a committee was set up to further the project. For a payment of £5 it is now possible to become a founding member and a conference is planned for August 2008 in Ghent, where the Society will be formally established. At the time of writing we already have around 90 members. For details of how to join, and the call for papers for the Ghent conference, see <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/isch/>. We frequently hear from colleagues 'we're all cultural historians now', but, nevertheless, there does seem to be a demand for an international organisation specifically covering this field, and many also seem willing to speak at and attend cultural history conferences.

At the Aberdeen conference, a large slice of the menu consisted of history of medicine-related papers. The organisers thank the Society for the Social History of medicine for their support in providing student bursaries, and members for their participation. We hope that historians of medicine will in the future participate regularly in ISCH events, and we hope to see some of you in Ghent next year.

David Smith, Senior Lecturer in the History of
Medicine
University of Aberdeen



CONFERENCE REPORT

Resources in Medical History

University College, Dublin, 21 September 2007.

On 21 September 2007, the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland, School of History and Archives, UCD, held a day-long specialist workshop on 'Resources in Medical History'. The event provided an occasion for academics, librarians, archivists and others to highlight the wealth and diversity of material available to individuals working in the discipline. A key aim of the workshop was to explore issues surrounding accessing and using primary source by medical historians. Gary T. Davis (Data Protection Commission) and Tom Quinlan (National Archives of Ireland) provided an important overview of the responsibilities of institutions and users of archives under current legislation, and alerted the audience to potential changes in legislation. Cecile Chemin (Local Authority Archivist, Ireland), highlighted the richness of local archives for medical historians and emphasised the importance of these collections. There is now a wonderful website, learnaboutarchives.ie, constructed by the Society of Archivists, Ireland and available to researchers.

Mary O'Doherty (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland), Robert Mills (Royal College of Physicians in Ireland) and Prof David Dickson (Trinity College Dublin) alerted the audience to the exciting innovations currently taking place in their respective institutions, while also reminding

the audience of the importance and diversity of their collections. The National Archives of Ireland and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland were well-represented. Brian Donnelly provided an in-depth overview of the extensive collection of hospital archives, some of which were previously in the collection of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, currently held in the National Archives. Aideen Ireland identified some unusual and extremely useful sources among private collections. Catriona Crowe gave a wonderful presentation on the ongoing project to digitalise the 1901 and 1911 census records. Using the 1911 census returns for Dublin city, she provided an insight into how this new resource, which will be available on-line from 20 November 2007, can be exploited by medical historians. David Huddleston explored the diversity of material held in Public Record Office, Northern Ireland. The richness of film as a source for medical historians was underscored by Sunniva O'Flynn (Irish Film Archive). The extensive use of the medium of film by health workers and in the promotion of health campaigns was emphasised by the board range of material exhibited.

The event provided a lively platform for the discussion of some of the ways in which sources can be used by medical historians. Medical history, as a discipline, is increasing in popularity, at both undergraduate and graduate level. This is emphasised by the establishment of an MA in the Social and Cultural History of Medicine now available at the School of History and Archives, UCD. In this changing environment, the workshop once again reminded participants of the importance of these sources, and emphasised the necessity for their preservation. Details are available at the website of the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland (www.ucd.ie/historyarchives/body.htm).

Dr Catherine Cox, UCD Director,
Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland,
School of History and Archives,
University College Dublin.

Biennial Conference of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health

Environment, Health and History

Brunei Gallery, London, 12-15 September 2007

The biennial conference of the EAHMH was held in London this year, during Virginia Berridge's presidency of the Association. It was organised by the Centre for History in Public Health.

1. Location and management: Due to the building works underway at the School and in Senate House the conference was held in the purpose-built conference suite at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS. This proved a convenient site with a large lecture theatre for the plenary events, and well-equipped seminar rooms for the sessions. The catering and technical support services offered by SOAS conference office were excellent, and all aspects of the conference ran smoothly.



Welcome reception at Brunei Gallery

2. Academic programme

Aims:

The conference aimed to explore the common ground between historians of medicine and science and environmental historians studying the material, cultural and social relations embedded in place. Papers were sought on a range of topics across all time periods and disciplines with national, cross national and international dimensions. It was hoped through such exchange to discuss and develop ways of approaching the interface between environment and health in ways which are sensitive to the past but also speak to present day concerns

Selection:

170 abstracts were received and reviewed by the Scientific Board of the EAHMH and 118 papers selected. Because of the high number of submissions we added a fifth parallel session to the four initially planned. The planning of the conference sessions was undertaken by Martin Gorsky.

Thematic strands:

The papers were organised into the following thematic strands, which were scheduled to avoid overlap:

mortality and the urban environment (early modern and modern); health/hygiene and the modern city; health services in the rural environment; occupational health; infectious diseases and the control of space (in colonial and European contexts); environmental texts; environmental politics in contemporary history; migrations and health; risk and the urban environment; travel and health; changing conceptions of public health; climate, health and risk in history.

Plenary lectures:

We invited three plenary lecturers:

Professor Chris Hamlin, Notre Dame University, Indiana. 'Environment and Disease in Ireland, 1815-1852'

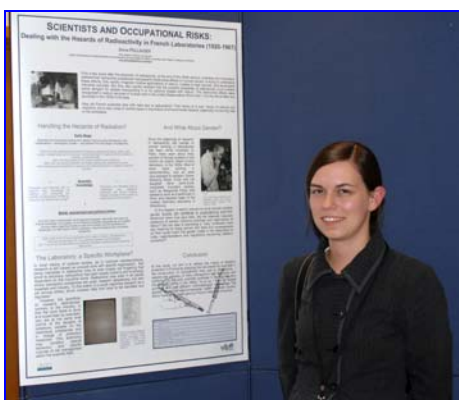
Professor Dieter Schott, Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany. 'The 'Handbuch der Hygiene' - a manual of proto-environmental science in Germany of 1900?'

Professor Chris Sellers, State University of New York at Stony Brook. "Cross-Nationalizing the History of Industrial Hazard"



Chris Hamlin's plenary lecture

Poster session: A poster display ran during the conference, with judging by the Scientific Board. The winner was Anne Fellinger of the University of Geneva, who received a cash prize and remission of conference fees for her poster on risks of radioactivity in French laboratories, 1962-67



Anne Fellinger and winning poster

Feedback suggested that the content satisfied the delegates and that the programming was

coherent and smooth. The Centre organisers were particularly delighted with papers that met our goal of speaking to present day concerns, such as the sessions on environmental politics and climate.

3. Social programme

Evening receptions were held at the Brunei Gallery, at the Wellcome Building (where delegates had a private viewing of the new Exhibition Gallery) and at the School. The LSHTM reception was held in the Atrium and included a talk on the School's history by Dr Ros Stanwell Smith, and the inauguration of several pieces of art sponsored by the Public and Environmental Health Unit, by Unit Head Paul Wilkinson.

The conference social event on the final evening combined a trip on the London Eye with a meal at a restaurant on the South Bank.



LSHTM reception and inauguration of PEHRU artwork

4. Financial issues

Sponsorship was received from the Wellcome Trust, LSHTM and the Society for the Social History of Medicine, for which we are very grateful. We were also able to use some EAHMH bursary money to sponsor the attendance of eight doctoral students.

5. Conclusion

The Scientific Board of the EAHMH were delighted with the successful running of the conference, and the LSHTM organising committee felt that the months of detailed planning had paid off!



Martin Gorsky and Virginia Berridge
London School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine
Keppel Street
London WC1E 7HT

**SSHIM CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT
& CALL FOR PAPERS**

**sshm 2008: Glasgow Annual
Conference of the Society for the
Social History of Medicine**

**History and the Healthy
Population: Society, Government,
Health and Medicine.**

Glasgow, 3-5 September 2008

The Society for the Social History of Medicine 2008 Annual Conference will be jointly organised by the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare Glasgow, a research collaboration between Glasgow Caledonian University and the University of Strathclyde and the Centre for the History of Medicine at the University of Glasgow.

The conference will embrace all historical perspectives on the broad issue of how health has been defined and by whom. It will also consider the reasons that the various agencies involved in healthcare, including patients and communities, have adopted their approaches and strategies. The event is framed by reference to the generation of historians influenced by the idea that issues of health and healthcare are entangled in the projects of government, and seeks to engage with and critique 'governmentality' as a tool of analysis in the history of medicine.

The conference encourages papers from all periods and places in seeking a wide-ranging and inclusive set of discussions.

Deadline for abstracts: 31 March 2008

To submit a title and abstract of no more than 300 words please contact Lydia Marshall

lmmarshall@arts.gla.ac.uk

**SSHIM RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN THE
SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

**Prof: The Life of Sheila Sherlock,
'The Liver Queen'**

Om P Sharma MD FRCP

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This biography is compact enough for the busy reader, lucid enough for the student and authoritative enough for the scholar.

For more information and to order a copy, please call 020 7935 1174 ext 358 or visit <http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/pubs/brochure.aspx?e=224>

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**SSHM RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN THE
SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

**Artisans of the Body in Early
Modern Italy**

Identities, Families and Masculinities

Sandra Cavallo

Gender in History Series

Manchester University Press

Pub date: November 2007

320 pages

17 b/w illus.

Size 5 1/2 x 8 1/2

\$84.95 - £60 Hardcover (0-7190-7662-5)

Description:

This groundbreaking study explores the role of those involved in various aspects of the care, comfort, and appearance of the body in 17th and early 18th century Italy. It brings to light the strong cultural affinities and social ties between barber, surgeons, and the apparently distant trades of jeweler, tailor, wigmaker, and upholsterer. Drawing on contemporary understandings of the body, the author shows that shared concerns about health and wellbeing permeated the professional cultures of these medical and non-medical occupations. At the same time, the detailed analysis of the life-course, career patterns, and family experience of "artisans of the body" offers unprecedented

insight into the world of the urban middling sorts.

Author Bio

Sandra Cavallo is Reader in Early Modern History at Royal Holloway, University of London.

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Ch.5. Social Networks: Siblings, In--laws, and Neighbors
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Manchester University Press is offering a 30% discount until the end of January on this title for SSHM members. To order a copy please contact the orders department quoting the reference number D089.

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The Impact of Hospitals

300-2000

Henderson, John / Horden,
Peregrine / Pastore, Alessandro
(eds)

Oxford, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main,
New York, Wien, 2007. 426 pp., 27 ill.

ISBN 978-3-03911-001-8 pb.

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48.- / US-\$ 95.95

* includes VAT – only valid for Germany/ ** includes
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This is the first wide-ranging collection of articles on the history of hospitals in the Mediterranean, northern Europe, and the Americas for over seventeen years. It brings together fully revised and expanded versions of papers from the first two conferences (1999 University of East Anglia, Norwich; 2001 Verona University) sponsored by the International Network for the History of Hospitals. The collection shows the vigour and variety of the latest scholarly research on these complex institutions. The sixteen contributions present a nuanced approach to the impact of hospitals on society over a very long time period and an exceptional geographical range.

Contents: John Henderson/Peregrine Horden/Alessandro Pastore: Introduction. The World of the Hospital: Comparisons and Continuities – Peregrine Horden: Alms and the Man: Hospital Founders in Byzantium – Kevin C. Robbins: Patrimony, Trust, and Trusteeship: The Practice and Control of Burgundian Philanthropy at Beaune's Hôtel-Dieu, c. 1630 – Matthew Thomas Sneider: The Treasury of the Poor: Hospital Finance in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century Bologna – Marina Garbellotti: Assets of the Poor, Assets of the City: The Management of Hospital Resources in Verona between the Sixteenth and Eighteenth Centuries – Andrea Tanner: Too Many Mothers? Female Roles in a Metropolitan Victorian Children's Hospital – Carole Rawcliffe: 'A Word from Our Sponsor': Advertising the Patron in the Medieval Hospital – Christine Stevenson: Prints 'proper to shew to Gentlemen':

Representing the British Hospital, c. 1700-50 – Annmarie Adams: 'That was Then, This is Now': Hospital Architecture in the Age(s) of Revolution, 1970-2001 – Max Satchell: Towards a Landscape History of the Rural Hospital in England, 1100-1300 – Sergio Onger: The Formation of the Hospital Network in the Brescian Region between the Eighteenth and Twentieth Centuries – Steve Cherry: 'Keeping your hand in' and Holding On: General Practitioners and Rural Hospitals in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century East Anglia – Louise Gray: Hospitals and the Lives of the Chronically Sick: Coping with Illness in the Narratives of the Rural Poor in Early Modern Germany – Eric Gruber von Arni: 'Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis': The Experience of Sick and Wounded Soldiers during the English Civil Wars and Interregnum, 1642-60 – Flurin Condrau: The Institutional Career of Tuberculosis: Social Policy, Medical Institutions and Patients before World War II – Alysa Levene: Saving the Innocents: Nursing Foundlings in Florence and London in the Eighteenth Century – Diego Ramiro Fariñas: Mortality in Hospitals and Mortality in the City in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Spain: The Effect on the Measurement of Urban Mortality Rates of the Mortality of Outsiders in Urban Health Institutions.

The Editors: John Henderson is Professor of Renaissance History at Birkbeck University of London. His major publications include: *Piety and Charity in Late Medieval Florence* (1994, 1997), *The Great Pox: The French Disease in Renaissance Europe* (with Jon Arrizabalaga and Roger French) (1997), and *The Renaissance Hospital: Healing the Body and Healing the Soul* (2006).

Peregrine Horden is Professor of Medieval History at Royal Holloway University of London. He is co-author, with Nicholas Purcell, of *The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History* (2000), of which a sequel, *Liquid Continents*, is in preparation, and author of two forthcoming volumes: *The Earliest Hospitals*, and *Hospitals and Healing from Antiquity to the Later Middle Ages*. He edited *Music as Medicine: The History of Music Therapy since Antiquity* (2000).

Alessandro Pastore is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Verona. Among his recent books are: *Il medico in tribunale. La perizia medica nella procedura penale d'antico regime, secoli XVI-XVIII* (1998), *Alpinismo e storia d'Italia*.

Dall'Unità alla Resistenza (2003), and *Le regole dei corpi. Medicina e disciplina nell'Italia moderna* (2006).



ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

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The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSH M) invites submissions to its 2007 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition. This prize will be awarded to the best original, unpublished essay in the social history of medicine submitted to the competition as judged by the SSH M's assessment panel. It is named in honour of the late Professor Roy Porter, a great teacher and a generous scholar.

The competition is open to undergraduate and post-graduate students in full or part-time education. The winner will be awarded £500.00, and his or her entry may also be published in the journal, *Social History of Medicine*.

Deadline: 1 February 2008

Further details and entry forms can be downloaded from the SSH M's website <http://www.ssh m.org/prize/prize.html>

Alternatively, please contact:

Lutz Sauerteig,
SSH M Membership Secretary,
Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease,
Durham University,
Queen's Campus,
Wolfson Research Institute,
University Boulevard, Stockton-on-Tees TS17
6BH,
United Kingdom

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Please visit the SSH M Website at <http://www.ssh m.org>



SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE

2007 ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY PRIZE MEMORIAL COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM

I have read the rules for the SSHM's 2007 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Memorial Competition. I agree to abide by these rules.

I declare that I am eligible to enter this competition according to the terms of rule 2 (please see website for further details)

Signature:

Full Name:.....

Date:.....

Address:.....

.....

:.....

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Email :.....