

No 47, April 2009

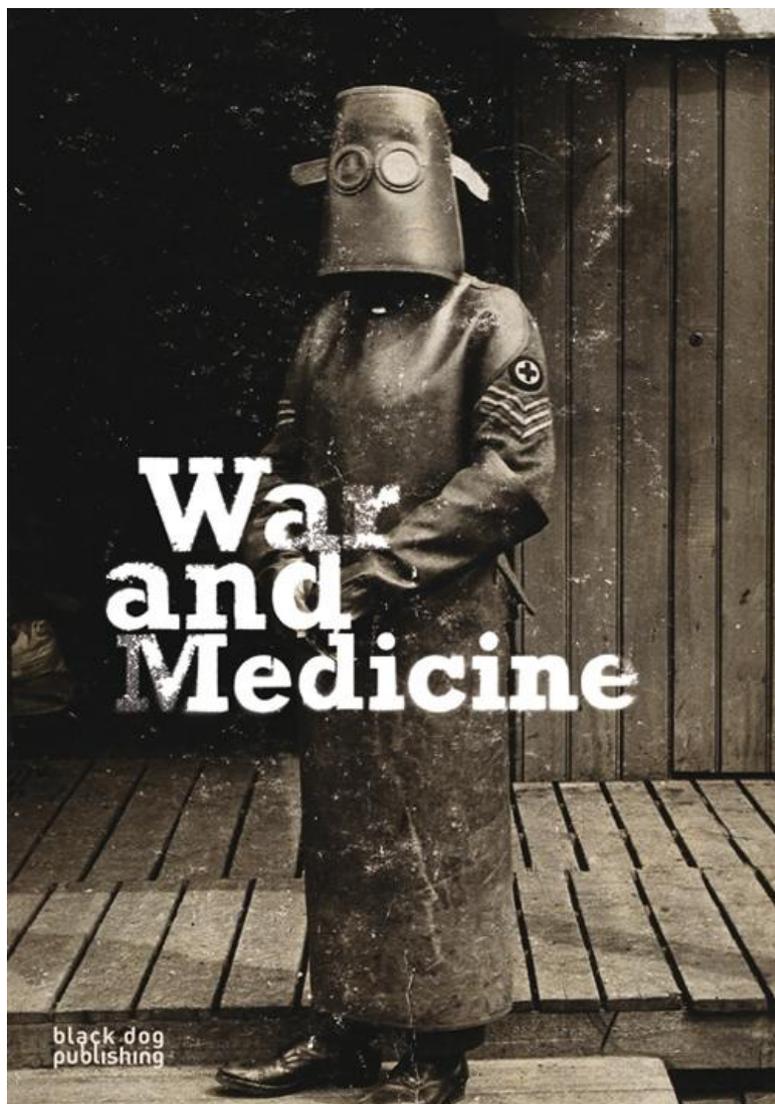
Society for the Social History of Medicine



ISSN 0962-7839

# The Gazette

*Page 6*



## **Contents**

### **Official Notices**

sshm AGM 2008—page2

### **Conference reports**

sshm2008 Glasgow—page2

Crossing Colonial  
Historiographies—page3

### **Conference Announcements**

EAHMH 2009—page4

Phobia—page4

Scottish Psychiatry—page4

'After Freud Left'—page5

### **Announcements**

News from LSHTM—page5

Recent Publications—page6

Nominations for EC—page8

Correspondence should be sent to Dr Cathy McClive, Department of History, Durham University, 43 North Bailey, Durham, DH1 3EX, U.K.

**Email [gazette@sshm.org](mailto:gazette@sshm.org)**  
**Web <http://www.sshm.org>**



## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### **Annual General Meeting 2008 and nominations to the Executive Committee.**

The AGM for 2008 will be held at the EAHMH 2009 conference 3-6 September 2009, Heidelberg, Germany. Exact date, time and location of the AGM will be announced nearer the time.

Nominations are invited to the Executive Committee of the Society for the Social History of Medicine, following the 2008 Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee consists of sixteen members, twelve of whom are elected. Four members stand for election each year, serving a three year term of office. The joint editors of the Society's journal, *Social History of Medicine*, the edited series editor, and the monographs editor are exofficio members of the Executive Committee. Candidates must be members of the Society of at least one year's standing. Proposers and seconders must also be members. Members of the Society may nominate themselves or another member. The nomination form (on the back cover of this issue) should be completed, signed by the proposer, the seconder and by the nominee and sent to the secretary



## CONFERENCE REPORT

### **sshm2008 Annual Conference: Health and the Healthy Population**

#### **Glasgow, 3-5 September 2008.**

The SSHM's 2008 conference was held in Glasgow, and organised jointly by the Universities of Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian and Strathclyde. Building upon the success of the last SSHM conference, held in Warwick in June 2006, the Glasgow event attracted approximately 200 delegates from around the world, four keynote speakers, and 50 panels composed of 151 papers. The cultural and geographical diversity of the programme suggested that the history of medicine field is as vibrant as ever.

The keynote speakers at this event were Professor Catherine Kudlick (University of California, Davis), Dr Anthony Woods (Wellcome Trust), Professor Deepak Kumar (University of Delhi), and Professor Anne Crowther (University of Glasgow). Kudlick's provocative paper explored the emergence of the new field of disability history within the context of recent developments in the history of medicine, and asked whether the two groups should be characterised as rival siblings or conjoined twins. For those scholars who might wish to apply for Wellcome funding, Woods presented the Trust's funding strategy for the history of medicine, which complemented the Wellcome Trust funding surgeries that were held throughout the conference. Kumar considered the histories of public health and population in the context of colonial India, and suggested that lessons could be drawn from this interesting and instructive geographical example. Finally, Crowther reflected upon the problems of writing nursing history and of positioning it within the medical history mainstream.

For a conference of this magnitude, the variety of papers offered did not disappoint. While post-1700 papers predominated, a select group of pre-modern papers addressed topics such as health science, theories of health, and the regulation of the medical profession. Modern papers exhibited an impressive geographical coverage, from Austria to Australia, Belgium to Barbados, Czechoslovakia to China, ... and Sweden to South Africa. Topics included discourses of health, health education and the media, medical evangelism, medical science and the body, preventative medicine and environmental health, and responses to epidemics.

The social side of the conference was equally stimulating. The modern facilities and efficient layout of Glasgow Caledonian University's CPD building facilitated interaction between delegates, aided further by the proximity of a much-appreciated popular coffee outlet. The drinks reception on the first evening was held in Glasgow's City Chambers, the headquarters of Glasgow City Council and an extremely impressive example of Victorian civic architecture. Its grand marble staircases, mosaic ceilings and electric chandeliers complimented the wise words of Glasgow's Lord Provost and the SSHM Chair, Flurin Condrau, in their welcoming addresses to the assembled delegates. The

following evening we were treated to a drinks reception in another grand venue, the main gallery of the Hunterian Museum at the University of Glasgow, housed in George Gilbert Scott's university buildings on Gilmorehill. The money to build this, the oldest public museum in Scotland, and the core of its original collections came from the bequest of the Scottish anatomist and scientist William Hunter, making it a perfect choice for our gathering. Delegates were then taken to an adjoining university hall for a convivial conference dinner.

Few history of medicine conferences are conducted on this scale, and while the organisers know why (!), such events provide an unrivalled opportunity for scholars to network and to present their work to the wider field. This conference proved a worthy showcase for the dynamic state of the history of medicine, the thriving membership and activities of the Society for the Social History of Medicine, and the cultural and intellectual diversity that Glasgow has to offer.

Gayle Davis  
University of Edinburgh



## CONFERENCE REPORT

### **Crossing Colonial Historiographies: Histories of Colonial and Indigenous Medicines in Transnational Perspective**

**St. Anne's College, Oxford, September  
2008.**

In September 2008 an innovative conference entitled, 'Crossing Colonial Historiographies: Histories of Colonial and Indigenous Medicines in Transnational Perspective' was held at St. Anne's College, Oxford. Jointly convened by Anne Digby, Waltraud Ernst and Projit Mukherji, members of the Centre for Health Medicine and Society: Past and Present at Oxford Brookes University, the conference call explicitly sought to redress the separate development of historiographic approaches to colonial and indigenous medicine and to provide a forum for conceptual interaction between scholars working

on different regional traditions in different colonial territories.

Over three days a group of roughly 30 participants met to discuss intersections and commonalities across an impressive spread of disciplinary orientations, disease specialisations and country contexts. Most of the 24 papers were pre-circulated and speakers were asked to confine their presentations to 20 minutes, thereby maximising the time available for questions and discussion. Sessions were intentionally grouped not by geographical area, medical tradition, historical period or colonial regime but by broad thematic congruities. Thus the first day saw papers broadly attending to transformations in medical substances in relation to geography, climate and colonial health systems across Asia (China, India) and Africa (Guinea, South Africa). Day Two saw a focus on medical pluralism and the modernization of indigenous medicine, public health and medical markets from the Yucatan to Goa, the Dutch East Indies and Central Africa. Day Three considered transplanted medical forms, knowledges and regimes, from Russian medical policy in Kazakhstan and Chinese medical practitioners in east Africa, to the transplantation of biomedical categories into local characterisations of epidemic disease in east India and the institution of the leprosarium within modern Portugal.

This imaginative approach to scheduling proved remarkably effective in breaking down the usual tendency of area and historical specialists to engage in detailed debate over contested specifics of place or time respectively, thereby closing down comparative analysis. Instead, numerous points of intersection and commonality emerged through juxtaposition that allowed participants to engage fruitfully across disciplinary boundaries, historical periods and geographical regions. Of particular note was the mutual illumination provided through the combination of ethnographic and historical readings of particular colonial and post-colonial settings. Emergent themes included the interplay between colonial and biomedical influences and the professionalization of indigenous practitioners; the transnational circulation and transformation of medical substances across medical traditions; and the need to attend methodologically to the elicitation of lay and subaltern perspectives and local socio-political formations in reading the

specific local trajectories of colonial health systems and policies. A particularly laudable feature of the conference was the clear eagerness amongst participants - drawn from at least a dozen countries - to engage with colleagues across different historiographic and scholarly traditions; and this in turn undoubtedly contributed to an unusually congenial and productive atmosphere.

Dr Helen Lambert  
Department of Social Medicine,  
University of Bristol  
h.lambert@bristol.ac.uk

---

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **EAHMH bi-annual conference 2009: Global Developments and Local Specificities in the History of Medicine and Health**

**Heidelberg, Germany, 3-6 September  
2009**

The call for papers has now closed and details regarding the programme, keynote speakers and registration will be available shortly on the sshm website. For more information please contact the organisers:

Marie Nelson and Volker Roelcke

[Marie.c.nelson@liu.se](mailto:Marie.c.nelson@liu.se)

[Volker.roelcke@histor.med.uni-giessen.de](mailto:Volker.roelcke@histor.med.uni-giessen.de)

---

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Phobia: Constructing the Phenomenology of Chronic Fear, 1789 to the Present.**

**The Atrium Campus, Cardiff University, 8-  
9 May 2009.**

An international conference hosted by the Glamorgan Research Centre for Literature, Arts and Science.

Keynote Speakers: Laura Otis (Emory University) and Andrew Thacker (De Montfort University)

The history of phobias as disease entities is intimately connected to the phenomenology of modernity. Whereas the emergence of spatial phobias such as agoraphobia (Carl Otto Westphal, 1871) and claustrophobia (Benjamin Ball, 1879) coincided with growing urbanisation and the development of the modern metropolis, Sigmund Freud's modern subject theory situated phobia at the heart of his psychoanalytical practice ('Little Hans', *Totem and Taboo*, *Inhibitions, Symptoms and Anxiety*). The fin de siècle was rife with cultural and social fears about the present and the future, and the twentieth century—with its two global conflicts, its natural disasters and the threat of terrorism—has ushered in a period of postmodern panic. Fear and anxiety are omnipresent in the modern age. But when, how and why does fear become chronic, morbid or abnormal? And in what ways has fear been conceptualised by medical practitioners, cultural theorists and artists?

This interdisciplinary conference looks at the different ways in which writers, artists, historians, art historians, cultural and human geographers, scientists and medical practitioners have constructed, represented and theorised phobia and chronic fear.

For further information please contact:  
Dr Vike Martina Plock and Dr Martin Willis at  
[rclas@glam.ac.uk](mailto:rclas@glam.ac.uk)

---

## FORUM ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **History of Scottish Psychiatry**

**Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh,  
10 October 2009.**

The Wellcome Trust Regional Forum for the History of Medicine in Scotland will be held in the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 9 Queen Street, on 10 October 2009 on the theme of 'History of Scottish Psychiatry'.

The event is being held to mark the bicentenary of the founding of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Speakers will include Andrew Scull, Rab Houston,

Mike Barfoot, Jonathan Andrews, Allan Beveridge, Gayle Davis and Hilary Marland.

For more information contact:  
Lydia Marshall  
Administrator  
Centre for the History of Medicine  
University of Glasgow  
[l.marshall@arts.gla.ac.uk](mailto:l.marshall@arts.gla.ac.uk)

Or contact the outside coordinator:  
John Burnham  
Ohio State University  
[burnham.2@osu.edu](mailto:burnham.2@osu.edu)

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **News from the History Centre at LSHTM**

---

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **"AFTER FREUD LEFT": Centennial Reflections on His 1909 Visit to the United States.**

**New York Academy of Medicine, 3-4 October 2009.**

Leading scholars in the history of psychoanalysis and American intellectual history will reflect on what happened to Sigmund Freud's ideas in the United States in the century after he left New York following his only visit to the New World, a visit that became an iconic event in American history.

The eight main speakers will be:

Ernst Falzeder, Universität Innsbruck and Philemon Foundation Elizabeth Lunbeck, Vanderbilt University George Makari, Weill Medical College of Cornell University Louis Menand, Harvard University Dorothy Ross, Johns Hopkins University Sonu Shamdasani, Wellcome History of Medicine Unit, University College, London Richard Skues, London Metropolitan University Hale Usak, Universität Innsbruck

Invited commentators include:

Jean-Christophe Agnew, Yale University  
James Anderson, Northwestern University  
Raymond Fancher, York University  
James Gilbert, University of Maryland

The symposium will last all day Saturday, and Sunday until noon, and will be free and open to the public. More details, including instructions for registration and for reserving a luncheon on Saturday, will be available in the coming months at [www.nyam.org](http://www.nyam.org), and then click on events, then conferences.

2008 was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS and the History Centre marked this in several ways. Earlier in the year Virginia Berridge gave a Gresham public lecture on the origins of the NHS, introduced by Frank Cox. We decided not to focus on the early years for our main events. Instead we took another NHS anniversary- the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1983 Griffiths report on NHS management, and considered the impact of the report and its long term effects.

In November, we held a witness seminar and a conference on this subject, both organized by Martin Gorsky. The witness seminar brought together civil servants, politicians and the last surviving member of the committee, Sir Michael Bett. He was joined by Lord (Norman) Fowler, past Minister of Health, former Department of Health Permanent Secretary Sir Graham Hart, ex RCN General Secretary Christine Hancock and others. They discussed the reasons for the appointment of the committee, the way in which it conducted its enquiry and produced its report, the impact on NHS administrators of the introduction of general management, and the long term significance of the enquiry.

This seminar was followed the next day by a conference on NHS management and its recent history. Speakers such as Martin Gorsky and Tony Cutler looked at the pre history of NHS management. More recent history was covered by Stephanie Snow looking at management in Manchester and Steve Harrison, looking at the history of performance indicators. This conference was followed in the evening by the Centre's annual lecture, given by Professor Rudolf Klein. Klein's topic was 'The Bevan Morrison debate: the shape of things to come in the NHS?' Klein's theme was the long standing tension in the NHS between localism and central direction,

implicit from the earliest days of the service in the struggle between the politicians Bevan and Morrison on whether to have local government control of the service. The papers from this conference and the text of the witness seminar will be published and will help feed in a necessary historical understanding to the current policy debates.

The NHS anniversary was also marked by publication of a special issue of the journal *Social History of Medicine*, edited by Centre honorary fellow Ornella Moscucci, and containing a major overview of the history of the service by Martin Gorsky. Kelly Loughlin and Virginia Berridge also had a piece in this issue on the fate of health education records.

### History walks

The popular history walks led by Ros Stanwell Smith, have continued. The walk with a Christmas theme was on Dickens and public health which took us round the back streets of Bloomsbury and culminated with a visit to the Dickens Museum in Doughty Street. Despite taking place on one of the coldest evenings of the year, Ros' talk kept us enthralled and Dickens House was decorated in suitably festive style. Further walks have been held this term and Ros' walk on Snow and sanitation culminating in a visit to the John Snow pub is always a favourite.

### Website

The Centre has launched its new website. Designed by former staff member Dan Forys, it gives easier access to details of our activities and also to the website of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health, whose secretary, Alex Mold, is a staff member of the Centre. Access our website on [www.lshtm.ac.uk/history](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/history).

### Alcohol seminars

Last term our seminar theme was 'sex' and this term it is 'alcohol'. Among our speakers is this year's Heath Clark lecturer, Stephen Kunitz, speaking on 'Alcohol use among American Indians'.

### Public health posters conference.

We organized a workshop in February on public health posters and health education media strategies to mark our involvement with Polish colleagues in a project which is looking at the

recent history of the public health poster in that country. Colleagues from Manchester and Brighton with allied interests joined an audience of students, art historians and social historians.

### Witness seminar

We are working with the Wellcome Centre's twentieth century history team to organize a witness seminar on the medicalisation of cannabis which will take place in the spring. Suzanne Taylor in the Centre is completing a PhD on this subject. Among the participants will be Dr Ralph Mechoulam from Israel, who first identified THC, the active principle of the drug.

On the drugs theme, Alex Mold's book, *Heroin*, on the history of treatment in England, is garnering positive reviews.

### M.Sc and PhD studentships.

The Centre is currently advertising an M.Sc and a PhD studentship, deadline in May to start in 2009-10. Details are available on the School website.

Virginia Berridge  
History Centre  
LSHTM



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### *War and Medicine*

#### The Wellcome Trust

**Contributors: Mark Harrison;  
Joanna Burke; Wolfgang U  
Eckart; David Cotterrell; Klaus  
Vogel; and Melissa Larner.**

November 2008

Paperback

256 pages

170 b/w and colour illustrations

24.5 x 17 cm

ISBN: 978 1 906155 52 0

UK £19.95

A vividly illustrated text, *War and Medicine* examines the often paradoxical relationship between warfare and medical science. Exploring how medical advancement correlates with the

progressive sophistication of military weaponry, the book provides a unique and comprehensive study of this dense and fascinating field.

*War and Medicine* adopts an extraordinary range of perspectives and explores a diverse range of themes, including: masculinity and men's bodies in conflict; how war hinders medical progress; Post Traumatic Stress Disorder; and the use of non-western medicine. From the diary extracts of a Vietnamese doctor during the war, to testimonies from nurses, soldiers, trauma victims, and one child's experience of being injured and treated through the Blitz, first-hand accounts complement a collection of essays from historians and experts in the field. Drawing on art, poetry, photography and film to cover the continuing debate on the moral and ethical issues of war and medical aid, *War and Medicine* is an aesthetically unparalleled report on both past and current conflicts.

*War and Medicine* also contemplates the impact of war on the 'home front' and on frontline

medicine, considering the long-term implications on society and the importance of rehabilitation. Not only presenting a British perspective, the book seeks to address the theme of medical and military advancement from all sides to create an encompassing and eye-opening report, and shows how mankind continues to function in the face of destruction.

Published to coincide with a groundbreaking exhibition at Wellcome Collection in London and the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum, in Dresden, *War and Medicine* is a poignant, extensively illustrated collection of works and writings, and a must for anyone interested in historical conflict and medical progression.

Blackdog Publishing is offering sshm members a 40% discount on the purchase price of *War and Medicine* until April 30 2009. To benefit from this discount please contact Jessica Atkins with 'SSHM offer' in the subject line.

[jess@blackdogonline.com](mailto:jess@blackdogonline.com)

---

## **Out-of print books on**

**medicine, biosciences and their social context**

***We issue regular catalogues, as well as occasional lists on specific topics.***

***Just send your contact details and tell us whether you would prefer to receive***

***hard copy or email versions.***

**We are also interested in buying second-hand books**

BERNARD DIXON and KATH ADAMS

130 Cornwall Rd, Ruislip Manor,  
Middlesex, HA4 6AW

01895 632390  
[kathadams@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:kathadams@blueyonder.co.uk)



**SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE  
ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2009  
NOMINATION FORM**

Name of Candidate.....

Proposed by.....  
(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)

Seconded by.....  
(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)

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

**Disclaimer**

Any views expressed in this Gazette are those of the Editors or the named contributor; they are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee or general membership. While every care is taken to provide accurate and helpful information in the Gazette, the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the Chair of its Executive Committee and the Editor of the Gazette accept no responsibility for omissions or errors or their subsequent effects. Readers are encouraged to check all essential information appropriate to specific circumstances.

**The Society for the Social History of Medicine is a charitable body registered in the U.K. with the registration number 27841**

**Please visit the SSHM Website at <http://www.sshim.org>**