

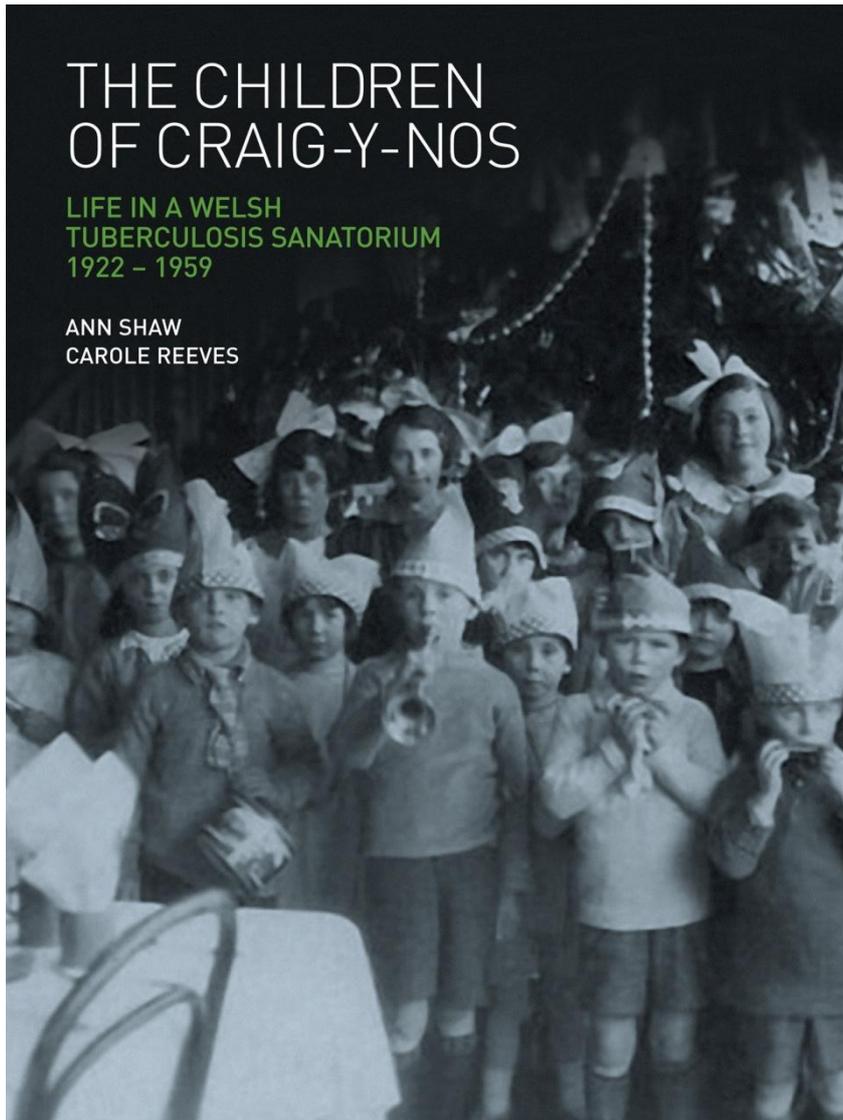
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Society for the Social History of Medicine



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# The Gazette



## THE CHILDREN OF CRAIG-Y-NOS

LIFE IN A WELSH  
TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM  
1922 - 1959

ANN SHAW  
CAROLE REEVES

Front cover of *The Children of Craig-y-nos*

The tall boy blowing his trumpet is Thomas Isaac who lives in Penllergaer. He is 91 and was in Craig-y-nos in the late 1920s when the cover photograph was taken. See final item.

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## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### **SSHMH 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 ex-officio 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 REPORTS

### **Body in History and Histories of the Body: Interdisciplinary Young Researchers' Conference on Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Studies University of Montreal, 6-8 March 2009**

This was the second 'Interdisciplinary Young Researchers' Conference on Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Studies' organised at the University of Montreal. The first, held in March 2007 on the 'Crossing of Knowledge and Interdisciplinary Perspectives', had emphasised the necessity of a truly multi-disciplinary approach to the study of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The second sought to apply this insight, and chose to do so in a comparatively new, fertile field employing innovative approaches and

exploring some of the newest concepts and scholarly interests. The organisers were all postgraduates at the University of Montreal, almost all from the Department of Art History. Its three committee leaders, Mickaël Bouffard, Jean-Alexandre Perras and Érika Wicky, and the five further committee members, are to be commended for organising an event on such a scale. With Professor Georges Vigarello (EHESS, Paris) as honorary president, this conference brought together young researchers from across Western Europe and the Americas, and from a wide range of academic disciplines and interests.

There was also a well-balanced mixture of contributions from both postgraduates and established scholars. Vigarello, the keynote speaker, gave a public lecture on Friday 6 March after the opening address. Discussing 'Faire l'histoire du corps' ('Making body history') he asked whether there *was/is* a single, coherent 'body' to write the history of. The body is always so many things at once. Simultaneously (and interconnectedly) both experience and representation, an individual and a social entity, it is debatable whether these (semi) discrete facets of a body can ever be integrated. This was a highly fitting introduction to a conference deliberately calling for '*histories* of the body', and many of the issues raised were returned to in the final workshop. Numerous questions were then asked from the floor, before we were treated to a performance of 'Music for the Body'. Featuring harpsichord music written especially for (or influenced by) the body, and accompanied by baroque dance and pantomime, this was an enjoyable introduction to the topics of kinesics, dance and theatre that would later be pursued by a number of speakers. It was also a theme that would be returned to on Saturday evening, when Françoise Dartois-Lapeyre, a historian of dance and dancers at the Paris-Sorbonne University, delivered a lecture on 'Le corps du roi dansant' ('The body of the dancing king').

Conference participants came from nine countries, from as far afield as Brazil and Switzerland, and from over thirty universities. Almost two thirds of presenters, however, were from Canada or France, and French seemed to be the dominant language. It is a testimony to the success of the organisers in the pursuit of their multi-disciplinary objectives that delegates came from a whole range of academic areas, ranging from philosophy, architecture and history to literature and languages (both French and English), music, art and art history. The department of Art History at Queen's University (Canada) had an especially strong presence and, indeed, more generally, it was interesting that it was questions concerning 'representations' of the body (in music, dance and literary accounts, but especially in art) that seemed so popular.

The sessions were organised thematically, with each one deliberately interdisciplinary and almost all potentially embracing a very wide range of topics and titles. The sessions on Saturday included 'Educating the Body', 'Marginalized Bodies' and 'Colonization and the Body'. Both sensibilities and the senses also featured, whilst the theme of 'Performing Bodies' proved so popular with speakers that it required a double session. On Sunday the focus changed, to cover 'Pious Bodies and Devotional Practices' and 'Sacred Bodies, Consecrated Bodies', in addition to female physiology and the body 'as a Model of Intelligibility'. Again, it was interesting that in addition to the prominent role that items of art and portraiture played as sources to be analysed in a number of other papers, the body as visually represented also generated its own double session, suggesting that this is another key area in which current research is especially strong.

The organising committee had expressed several objectives that they hoped that the conference would serve. Perhaps foremost, it was to explore not only the history of the body in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but also the writing of this history

and the place of the body in wider scholarship on these periods. Many of the speakers subsequently made room to discuss their own methods and interests, or the wider research projects which their papers formed a part of. Others drew conclusions directly commenting on or pertinent to the existing historiography and its concerns and findings, both in the speakers' own immediate fields and in the history (or histories) of the body more generally. Some sessions generated especially fertile open discussion of such issues. In that on masculine identity and the male body (on Saturday), for example, Mickaël Bouffard raised the contentious question of just what it is about our own generation that has led us to suddenly 'discover' the male body as a topic of study.

A further aim of the organisers had been to create a forum for reflection on the similarities/differences between Anglophone and Francophone historiographies. To facilitate this end the call for papers had been sent out in both French and English, and papers invited in both languages, although it had not been advertised that much of the conference proceedings would be solely in French. Several of the chairs chose to conduct sessions in this language only, and Professor Vigarello's and Françoise Dartois-Lapeyre's lectures and the hour-long summary workshop were likewise all in French. The language barrier meant that the workshop primarily focused on the nature of Francophone work on the history (or histories) of the body, and on methodological difficulties felt to be especially problematic in French-speaking academia. An especially contentious issue seemed to be the question of inter-disciplinarity in the history of the body. Although it was recognised that, in principle, such an approach is now highly important, the practical and professional problems faced by this generation of researchers in an academic world built around disciplinary divisions and identities generated intense discussion. Returning to the theme of the body as represented, the conference closed

with an exhibition on 'The Native American Seen and Perceived by the West', taken from the university's collection of early modern rare books.

As a medical historian it was fascinating and encouraging to discover the sheer variety of work being produced on and around the body in this period, and the alternative, and sometimes mutually constitutive, 'meanings' of the body that the different strands of cultural studies can access. One of the stated objectives in organising this conference had been to facilitate the cross-disciplinary sharing of knowledge, both during the event itself and by constructing a network of young researchers working in this area. Perhaps in providing these social and academic contacts, the 'Body in History and Histories of the Body' conference will encourage the new generation of researchers to challenge the traditional disciplinary boundaries that it questioned. It certainly seems that there will be a demand for further conferences and workshops on this topic, both generally and in specialist thematic areas.

Alison Montgomery,  
Durham University

**Witness Seminar: The Medicalization of Cannabis**  
**Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine @ UCL, London**  
**24 March 2009.**

Throughout its history Cannabis has been a controversial substance, shifting between licit medicine and illicit drug. In the twentieth century it can be seen as undergoing something of a process of 'medicalization' with breakthroughs in the pharmacology of cannabis, development of cannabis-based medicines, MRC funded clinical trials and the establishment of a pharmaceutical company to develop extracts of cannabis. This process has involved a variety of stakeholders including chemists and pharmacologists, clinicians and patients, and industry and government.

The now very well-established Witness Seminars of the History of Twentieth Century Medicine Group at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine@UCL provide a forum in which a group of people, who have been involved in particular events, discoveries or debates, are brought together to discuss their experiences. This Witness Seminar was organised to consider the process of medicalization of cannabis rather than its recreational use. The discussion explored: the trajectory of research; the importance of international regulation; the role of industry: the development of clinical trials; the impact of technological change, and the role of lay knowledge and the patient perspective. It brought together key witnesses including: Professor of Neuroimmunology, David Baker; Dr Vincenzo Di Marzo, of the Endocannabinoid Research Group, Italy; Professor Griffith Edwards, founder of the National Addiction Centre and former member of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs; Professor John Galloway; chemist Dr Edward Gill; Dr Geoffrey Guy, founder of GW Pharmaceuticals; Dr Clare Hodges of the Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics; Dr Anita Holdcroft, Principle Investigator on a clinical trial on post-operative pain; the discoverer of THC, Professor Raphael Mechoulam; Professor Tony Moffat of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society; anaesthetist Dr William Notcutt, Professor of Neuropharmacology Roger Pertwee; Dr Phillip Robson, Medical Director of GW Pharmaceuticals and Dr Ethan Russo. The audience included interested parties and other key witnesses.

The Witness Seminar was divided into four sections. Part one, chaired by Professor Tilli Tansey of WTCHM, started the seminar off by looking at the trajectory of research. A number of pioneers in the field related their experiences and drew attention to key developments. Professor Raphael Mechoulam spoke about his discovery of THC, the active principle of cannabis and later the endogenous cannabinoid, Anandamide. Dr

Edward Gill spoke about this impact of this discovery and his work at Oxford on natural product chemistry. Professor Roger Pertwee commented on his work on the pharmacology of cannabis with Sir William Paton at Oxford, and his research at Aberdeen. Participants reflected on the production of novel compounds by industry, the discovery of the endocannabinoid receptor system and its impact on the cannabis field. Professor Griffith Edwards reminisced on his work with Sir William Paton and his time with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

Part Two chaired by Professor Virginia Berridge from the Centre for History in Public Health, LSHTM, focused on the role of the pharmaceutical industry and regulation. The founder of GW Pharmaceuticals, Dr Geoffrey Guy reviewed his interest in developing a cannabis-based drug and the process of setting up GW Pharmaceuticals, the development of Sativex and attempts to licence cannabis-based drugs. Dr Edward Gill spoke about the Government position on licensing cannabis-based drugs and the desire in the UK to separate medical cannabis from recreational cannabis. The problems of the breadth of cannabis' effects and the limitations of measures such as the Ashworth scale were raised by Dr Phillip Robson.

After tea, discussion turned to the development of clinical trials. Witness statements and discussion were provided amongst others by Professor Anthony Moffat of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society who described the involvement of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the creation of clinical trial protocols; one on MS and another on pain. Dr Anita Holdcroft described her early work on cannabis and pain with one patient and the problems of working on an unlicensed preparation. She went on to reflect on the development and results of a MRC funded trial on post-operative pain, which yielded positive results in a dose-finding study. Dr David Baker spoke on his discovery that cannabinoids

might be useful for MS. Dr William Notcutt commented on his experience with Nabilone and GW Pharmaceuticals' product, Sativex. Dr Geoffrey Guy and Dr Phillip Robson spoke about the GW Pharmaceuticals clinical trials. Participants reflected on the importance of listening to the patient experience, in particular, for directing clinical trials.

The final section of the day developed this patient perspective. Participants reflected on the impact of lay knowledge, patient pressure and patient experiences. Patients involved in clinical trials and patients that had campaigned for access to cannabis and further research related their experiences.

Members of the audience which included additional witnesses to events and interested parties had the opportunity to provide comments and questions enriching the discussion. The session provided useful insights and enlightening personal experiences of the cannabis field, and the process of medicalisation, in the UK and internationally, drawing out the importance of technological change, delivery systems, and the networks between scientists, clinicians, patients, industry and policy makers.

Ms Suzanne Taylor

Centre for History in Public Health, LSHTM.

## **Hospitals and Communities Conference**

### **Residència d'Investigators of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC),**

**Barcelona, 1-4 April 2009**

Sponsored by the CSIC, the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación and the Wellcome Trust, this four-day event, attended by a diverse group of historians, offered attendees 19 presentations organised under three main sub-headings: community and the poor; war and medicine and isolation and disease. The organisers of the event, Jon Arrizabalaga and Teresa Huguet-Termes (CSIC-IMF, Barcelona), were joined by approximately three dozen other scholars

from Europe, North America and the Caribbean.

The conference commenced with a paper by Laurinda Abreu (University of Évora) on the Portuguese Misericordias hospitals in the seventeenth century. Numbering 300, these institutions were controlled by the country's royal confraternities and were crucial to the welfare provisions of early modern Portugal. Equally, they were important tools for the construction of the early modern state. Above all, the paper proffered what would become a central theme of the conference: in most cases, hospitals very clearly represent the communities in which they are based.

Two subsequent papers by Carmen Mangion (University of Manchester) and Jon Arrizabalaga (CSIC-IMF) were the first to introduce delegates to the idea of international communities which have historically supported the work of hospitals, in this case more than 100 Catholic institutions in Victorian England and Wales, as well as the Irache Hospital, one of 30 hospitals established in northern Spain during the Second Carlist War, 1872-1876. The first two papers of the second day, by Carole Rawcliffe (University of East Anglia) and Gerard Marí-Brull (University of Barcelona) further broadened concepts of community by introducing the spiritual communities generated by hospitals. In this case, the subjects were the hospital confraternities of England in the Later Middle Ages and the hospital network of San Jacopo d'Altopascio during the Great Schism (1378-1417) respectively.

The following session returned delegates to the theme of 'community and the poor'. The first paper, by Teresa Huguet-Termes, reinforced the notion that hospitals can reveal a wealth of information about the communities in which they are situated. In her study of the Holy Cross Hospital in Barcelona, Huguet-Termes also demonstrated the way in which the local community shaped the development of medical care at institutions, often deciding

the extent to which medical people could serve the community. This was followed by a paper by Graham Mooney (Johns Hopkins University), who examined variations in death certification produced by practitioners at hospitals, workhouses or patients' homes in nineteenth-century London. The diagnostic depth of these certificates were presented to emphasise the spatial context of medical knowledge and led some delegates to highlight the division between hospitals and communities, questioning, for example, their ability to reveal accurate information about communities.

After lunch, Debbie Collins (University of the West Indies) presented a paper on the leper island of Chacachacare (1922-1962) in Trinidad. Besides emphasising the isolation of this island community, it also demonstrated the way in which these afflicted individuals created new communities and thereby regained some control over their lives.

Josep Comelles (Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona) returned to the theme of hospitals and the Spanish ruling class in his paper, underlining the way in which institutions reinforced the position of local elites in Barcelona. In the case of the Holy Cross Hospital, the institution was one of the first owners of housing in the city and continues to exert its control over local politics to this day.

The second day concluded with a paper by Raphaël Hyacinthe (Université Paris) on the holy deeds of patients residing in the leprosarium of Saint Lazarus in Jerusalem during the Crusades. As in Rawcliffe's contribution, Hyacinthe emphasised how lepers were integrated into devotional practices and, though located on the margins of society, were central to the hospital community. It was equally clear that welfare went further in Jerusalem, a point emphasised with the institution's move to Acre in 1187, when Christians were denied access to the holy city. This final point left

delegates to consider the role of place and community.

On the following day, the conference resumed with two papers on isolation hospitals. Jane Stevens-Crawshaw (Society for Renaissance Studies, UK) discussed the lazaretti of Venice and emphasised the way in which these institutions were variously described as castles and gardens, the one emphasising isolation from the community, the other stressing the great degree of contact that continued throughout this period. John Henderson (Birkbeck, University of London) subsequently presented on the plague hospitals of Florence. Hospitals were a vital plank in the local health boards' arsenal, but they were equally important to the communities as employers, and were rarely very isolated from the surrounding region and its inhabitants.

This session was followed by two more papers unified by a strong theme, this time 'war and medicine'. The first paper, by Peter Waldron (University of East Anglia), discussed the hospitals set up by the local councils, or *zemstvos*, during the First World War. These institutions allowed municipal councils to expand their powers, so long curtailed by the central government. Like other hospitals during war, these were important institutions, often expanding their functions, often doubling as soup kitchens, given the strong propaganda value of such activities. The second paper, by Àlvar Martínez-Vidal (Autonomous University of Barcelona), discussed the Varsovia Hospital in Toulouse, an institution set up in opposition to the Franco regime and catering to Spanish refugees in the period following the civil war. Given its international mission, the hospital endeavoured to be a model institution, introducing modern equipment, undertaking research and publishing original work in the hospital's own journal. Like most institutions, its mission gradually changed and, since its closure, it exists as a powerful site of memory. The day concluded with a paper by Christian Berco (Bishop's

University, Canada), read in his absence by John Henderson, on Toledo's Hospital de Santiago and the treatment it offered to locals, especially those suffering with venereal disease. Unlike other hospitals in this period, the institution in Toledo treated patients from a variety of social classes, a shift caused by changing community demand following the decline of the regional economy between 1560 and 1800. This was followed by a final paper by Stephen Kenny, who outlined another ephemeral institution, the slave hospitals of the American south. Having located 44 of these small hospitals, Kenny demonstrated the potential of these institutions to shed light on neglected aspects of enslaved communities and the economy of healthcare in plantation communities.

The final day commenced with a session on media and hospitals. It began with a presentation by Christopher Bonfield (University of East Anglia) on the web-based guide to the Great Hospital, Norwich, which is available at [www.thegreathospital.co.uk](http://www.thegreathospital.co.uk). It then continued with an ethnography of a lunatic hospital, *Manicomio de la Santa Creu*, which was based on a film made by Josep M. Comelles in the 1970s and is also available online at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEQ\\_V-gEIT4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEQ_V-gEIT4).

The conference concluded with a final paper by Jonathan Reinartz (University of Birmingham) who attempted to draw together the themes of the papers presented over the preceding three days. The discussion commenced by returning to comments from one of the opening papers which highlighted that hospitals were, in fact, the community. In all of the papers presented during the conference, it was evident that if one is able to navigate the hospital, one should also be able to navigate the society in which this institution is based. However, Reinartz also discussed the limits of what these stories could tell historians, as well as the varying degrees with which hospitals had been embraced by communities, whether local or international. While disease has always had

the potential to destroy entire communities, hospitals have also displayed their potential to generate new communities. They are also rallying points for international communities, allowing unknown institutions to become very significant institutions during, for example, international struggles. They are also focal points for local initiative and are themselves the products of collaborative effort. In no case were these institutions isolated from their communities, almost always subject to much visiting and interaction with local, national and international communities. Together, the papers had presented only a select group of potential communities, but by concentrating on the spatial context of these few hospitals, the presenters had demonstrated the richness of the conference's overriding theme and allowed delegates to at least begin to compare and contrast this diverse group of hospitals and their communities.

Jonathan Reinartz  
Centre for the History of Medicine  
University of Birmingham

### **History of Nursing Workshop 2-3 July 2009 University of Exeter**

This workshop was hosted by the Centre for Medical History and benefited from generous support from the Wellcome Trust. The event was designed to provide opportunities for new researchers to present their own work, share ideas and enjoy major keynote addresses exploring the past, present and future of the history of nursing. After opening remarks from Jo Melling (Director, Centre for Medical History), Mick Carpenter (University of Warwick) re-visited the key texts of the last thirty years. He gave a very interesting, though somewhat controversial, assessment of the state of the discipline and discussed the impact critical nursing histories had had on the contemporary practice as well as history of nursing. This paper was optimistic about the developing historiography dealing with the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but posed questions

about new approaches that might be needed to better capture evolving practice issues. Mick Carpenter concluded by suggesting that practitioner and other historians of nursing needed to reflect carefully on the need for bonding, bridging and linking to take the discipline forward.

Session 1, chaired by Mick Carpenter, dealt with asylum nursing and three excellent papers fed into wide-ranging discussions about various aspects of institutional care. Barbara Douglas (University of Exeter) used her paper 'Discourses of Dispute: Narratives of Asylum Nurses and attendants, 1910-1922' to explore the origins and impact of a famous strike at the Exeter City Asylum. She linked the deteriorating conditions for staff and patients to first rising discontent and, gradually, a move towards wider reforms. In a paper titled 'From attendant to Nurse: Recasting the Role of the Asylum Attendant', Louise Hide (Birkbeck College) used evidence from asylums in the London area to differentiate between the experiences of male and female staff. Her description of efforts to feminise care and the impact this had on male patients and staff provoked considerable discussion. Tom Murray (retired lecturer in mental health nursing), in his paper 'Nursing in the Public Asylums', took a longer view of asylum care and drew attention to the way reforming medical staff consistently looked to the nursing staff to improve the patient experience.

The day concluded with a fascinating paper by Helen Sweet (Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford) titled 'Primary Healthcare – The Mission Nurse's Experience: Nursing and Apartheid in Rural South Africa'. This case study picked up some of the key themes such as gender, race, class, and professionalisation from Mick Carpenter's address and set a framework for discussions on day two. This started with session 2 and a focus on 'different branches of nursing'. Three very unusual papers contributed to some of the liveliest discussions of the whole workshop. Lesley

Wade's (University of Manchester) paper addressed the previously neglected field of Poor Law nursing and considered the work of Charlotte Seymour Yapp, in her own institution and in relation to wider nursing reforms led by the GNC. Pamela Richardson (University of Exeter) turned attention to orthopaedics in a paper titled 'The Girl with Lemonade Knees'. This stressed the vital contribution nurses made to the psychological as well as physical well-being of children receiving long term care before 1948. In a very different paper introducing prosopographical techniques, Sue Hawkins (Kingston University) described how her work, underpinned by a huge database recording details about nurses at St George's Hospital, London, challenges preconceptions about the nurse and nursing in the period 1850-1900.

The third session moved to the recent past and included two very different papers. Val Harrington (University of Manchester) considered the possibilities and limitations of the district general hospital as a site for innovative psychiatric care c1971-1991. This led to discussion about the often misunderstood transition from institutional to community care and the role of nurses within it. Andrea Jones (Swansea University) developed her paper 'Nurse Education in Wales 1983-1996' into a wide-ranging survey of the tension between managerialism and professionalism and the scope for a distinctly Welsh voice in the development of nursing policy and practice.

Anne Borsay (Swansea University) introduced the second keynote speaker who had travelled to the event from the USA. Patricia D'Antonio (University of Pennsylvania) has written extensively on a variety of nursing topics and used her address to concentrate on the importance of developing an understanding of new themes such as identity and place to explore the common, and also widely differing, experiences of nursing and care. In the final session Debbie Palmer (University of Exeter) drew attention to the often neglected problem of nurses' health in a paper titled

'Who Cares for the Carers?'. She contrasted the way nurses infected with tuberculosis were treated at three different hospitals, 1880-1950. Elite nurses were able to access more personal support, but elite institutions tended to operate a policy of exclusion well into the twentieth century. Pamela Dale (University of Exeter) used the snapshot provided by the public health surveys conducted following the 1929 Local Government Act to explore the living and working conditions of various groups of nurses employed by local authorities and identify pressures for change. The workshop concluded with a very effective round table discussion that was chaired by Patricia D'Antonio.

Pamela Dale, University of Exeter

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## WORKSHOP REPORTS

### Fracturing Colonial Medicine

Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare, Glasgow

23-24 April 2009



This two-day event was the second in a series of workshops hosted by the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare, Glasgow as part of its Wellcome Trust Enhancement Award. Organised by Anna Crozier 'Fracturing Colonial Medicine' had two aims: first to explore the diversity within, and between, different colonial groups and secondly, to problematise (though not

necessarily to resolve) the utility of ‘colonial medicine’ as a descriptive label.

The first keynote, David Arnold (University of Warwick), got the event off to a vigorous start with an engaging talk ‘Is There (Still) a Colonial Medicine?’ Professor Arnold considered the ways that ‘fracturing’ colonial medicine might helpfully contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the sub-discipline, but ultimately argued for the indispensability of the notion to guide future research. The subsequent papers then examined various case studies, from diverse examples of Empire: exposing the subtle ways that various agents of colonial medicine embodied different priorities. Teemu Ryymin (University of Bergen), contrasted how church and state both attempted to civilise the indigenous Sámi of Northern Norway in the early twentieth century; Atsuko Naono (University of Warwick) dissected the variable priorities between nongovernmental and governmental organisations interested in public health promotion in Burma; Letizia Gramaglia (University of Warwick) related how one nineteenth-century doctor’s drive and ambition (Robert Grieve) in British Guiana, revolutionised institutional care of the insane far above and beyond British government initiatives in the region. Last in this session was Jorge Varanda Ferreira (Social and Anthropology Research Centre, Lisbon) on the health services of the ‘Diamang’ Diamond Company of Angola. It was intriguing how this commercial company failed to interact with the Portuguese authorities, but preferred to import its medical ideas from other colonial contexts.

The following session examined the fractured nature of colonial knowledge. Ryan Johnson (University of Oxford) argued that the rhetoric of imperial medicine and hygiene in British West Africa implied far more than it delivered. Similarly, Markku Hokkanen (University of Jyväskylä) described the dissimilar ways colonial doctors conceived of, and reacted to, ‘fevers’ in early colonial south-central Africa, showing that there was

no necessary synthesis between those within the same cultural milieu. Finally, the day was rounded off by Liesbeth Hesselink (independent researcher) on the way the colonial government of the Dutch East Indies fought over midwifery provision. This paper revealed the rifts between colonials supporting ‘modern’ maternity care and those who favoured the use of more culturally-relevant traditional midwives.

Day two of the workshop started with a keynote by Frances Gouda (University of Amsterdam). This comprised a scintillating comparative account of government health policies in Dutch colonial Java and the American Philippines. Although geographically close, the visions and methods of the Dutch versus the American colonialists could not have been further apart. Thus, Gouda further underscored the difficulties of conceiving of any single colonial medical programme. The next session included papers from Sandeep Sinha (University of Calcutta), Leonard Smith (University of Birmingham) and Sherry Gad Elrab (University of Exeter), all of whom presented on the difficulties of translating western medicine to colonial contexts. In each case the medicine that evolved was mediated by local circumstances, sometimes with surprising consequences. Rod Edmond (University of Kent) then presented a piece on the complex responses to leprosy in Hawaii to commence a session on leprosy control. By comparing the reactions of Protestant missionary, Charles McEwan Hyde with those of writer and traveller, Robert Louis Stevenson, Edmond argued for the nuanced, and even contradictory, western reactions to leprosy. Furthermore, these reactions were moulded by agenda outside the strictly medical sphere. This theme was further elucidated—in quite a different context—by John Manton (King’s College London) who showed the way that the burgeoning development of international health rhetoric reconfigured the role of missionary medical practice after 1945. This session was rounded off by another

Nigerian-centred presentation, this time by Onaiwu Ogbomo (Western Michigan University) highlighting the way missions capitalised on leprosy as a medical niche to define themselves contra to the colonial state.

The final group of papers considered colonial officialdom, revealing the ‘fractures’ to be found amongst even the most prominent symbols of western medical imperialism. Sabine Clarke (University of Oxford) discussed the foundation of the Colonial Research Service and the role of research as an increasing indicator of status after the 1940s. Her insightful paper usefully highlighted the temporal differences of colonial emphases as well as the geographic and personal ones. Rosemary Wall (King’s College London) then gave a paper on the Colonial Nursing Association, elucidating how recruitment incentives differed significantly from those of colonial doctors. Hines Mabika (University of Basel) followed this by presenting on the very different strategies of two famous medical missionaries (Albert Schweitzer and Georges Liengme), showing the rifts that could exist between different contemporaries. Finally, Noémi Tousignant (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) gave a lively closing paper on the way historical analyses of pharmaceutical circuits in Senegal could be used to expose areas of both cooperation and conflict between various colonial personnel and agencies.

Above all, this workshop revealed that the colonial medical encounter was a different thing in different locations and time periods, enacted differently by different colonising groups, accepted at different levels within colonised societies, and influenced by different local conditions. And yet still, many participants still saw a practical usefulness in the blanket notion of ‘colonial medicine’. This central contradiction was incredibly thought provoking.

Anna Crozier  
University of Strathclyde

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

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

Generously funded by the Society for the Social History of Medicine together with the Wellcome Trust, this two day event brought together scholars from multiple nations and academic disciplines to address a topic the historical breadth and interdisciplinary agency of which was clearly demonstrated by the spectrum of papers on offer. The conference’s emphasis throughout was upon the ability of phobia to not only respond to disciplinary dialogue, but also to necessitate it. In particular, the conference exhibited the benefits of combining scientific approaches to the medical and psychological components of chronic fear with a historicising investigation into the way in which phobia might shape and be shaped by particular socio-cultural environments.

Both avenues were present in Laura Otis’s opening plenary on the presentation of fear within nineteenth century literature. Building on her interdisciplinary background, Otis introduced neurological approaches whose new perspectives might be picked up by literary analysis. Her use of these to explore readers’ empathy with a fictional character’s fear lead to the reintroduction of cultural approaches to this question and the recognition that the insights of cognitive science were limited in adjusting to or accounting for the cultural environment. This plenary initiated and anticipated a dialogue between objective understandings of the neurological underpinnings of fear and consciousness of the subjective factors influencing its production and reception that reappeared within numerous papers and discussions.

These were exemplified at the end of the conference’s first day as a panel of psychologists and medical specialists

questioned the excessive pathologisation of anxiety by stressing the need to reintroduce an awareness of the socio-cultural environment into its analysis and treatment. The workshop chronicled the ascendancy of pathological approaches in medical discourse and posited the functionality of anxiety as an adaptive and potentially environmentally determined trait before closing with an argument for its social utility and the contemporary importance of anxiety's underestimated role as a function of awareness.

This focus on the environmental determination of fear and its current tangibility was echoed on the second day as Andrew Thacker's plenary explored the phenomenology of fear as articulated within and in response to the developing environments of modernity and its urban infrastructure. In this way, Thacker pursued the now established concern with fear's cultural conditionality, whilst particularly addressing its historical identity as an inhabitant and agent within very specific environments and the ways in which these and their occupants might exhibit and respond to it.

The remaining conference papers were varied in historical focus and disciplinary perspective, but their concerns and discussions nevertheless maintained a dialogue with the ideas mobilised within the plenary and special presentations. This was frequently apparent when speakers used the subjects of their own presentations to comment upon or reappraise the list of exemplary literary terrors offered in Otis's opening talk; thereby providing further examples of the subjective dimension to fearful experiences that she identified. Meanwhile, Thacker's plenary on spatial phobia and modernity was interestingly juxtaposed with a panel exploring the dialogic function of medical and imaginative discourses in articulating and responding to fears of claustrophobic anxieties and experiences in the nineteenth century.

Summarising the range of papers on offer would be impractical, but several shared

concerns were apparent. The significance of animals and related medical fears was a clearly topical theme shared by papers on hydrophobic encounters and the relationships between meat products and national boundaries. Meanwhile, in light of the conference theme and the host university's research focus in this area, the gothic was an appropriately recurrent concern in various papers where its own diffuse genericity and cultural pervasiveness mirrored the interdisciplinary scope of phobic discourse. The role of a gothic imagination in articulating and being articulated by medical approaches was addressed in papers on diverse themes: psychological conceptions of gendered propensities to fear; challenges to medical authority posed by the paradoxical implications of live burial in the Victorian period; and even the potentially unsettling implications of epistemological and diagnostic fixity itself. The issues concerned with addiction were also the subject of a paper and manifested in other discussions, articulating psychological questions and providing a further forum for exploring medical responses tasked with the identification and control of phobic content.

Through these and other themes the conference rendered visible phobia's historical conditionality and agency. Meanwhile, the scope and variety of its manifestations identified this topic as an opportune and productive bridge between disciplinary specialisms whose investigation of the phenomenology of chronic fear was most effective in generating cross-disciplinary dialogues such as those the conference initiated and explored.

Mark Bennett,  
Cardiff University

### **Recipe Collections in and Beyond the Archive: A one-day workshop. Wellcome Library, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.**

In recent years, growing historical interest has centred upon domestic medical remedy

collections and their value across a wide historical spectrum. In late June 2009, and to coincide with the Wellcome Library's digitisation of its collection of these sources, a one-day workshop for historians and archivists, 'Recipe Collections in and beyond the archive' was held at the Wellcome building in Euston Road, and organised by Dr Elaine Leong (University of Warwick), Dr Sara Pennell (Roehampton University) and the Wellcome Library. The aims of the workshop were to both discuss the impact of these sources and to encourage collaboration in exploring new directions in their study.

After introductory comments by Helen Wakeley and Ross McFarlane, archivists in the Wellcome Library, the first session of the day commenced with Dr Elaine Leong's paper, *As Simple as 1-2-3: Constructing Manuscript Recipe Collections in Early Modern England*. Dr Leong explored the processes involved in constructing an early modern remedy collection, from the original motivations or imperatives, to the assemblage and collection of data and the ways in which sources morphed and grew over time as successive owners added to, and augmented them. Dr Leong also gave a fascinating insight into the ways in which symbols and marginalia can be used to assess contemporary judgements of the value of medical remedies, and also shed light on the thorny issue of usage.

After a short break, the second paper of the day, entitled *Medicinal Receipts in the Archives: Who Wants to Know?* was presented by Dr Anne Stobart, medical herbalist and Director of Programmes, Complementary Health, Middlesex University. Taking as its theme the broad appeal of remedy collections to a range of researchers, this paper explored questions of terminology and classification of early modern remedies, as well as the various kinds of researchers who study the sources. Dr Stobart also suggested the establishment of a network of herbalist researchers, and called for a greater engagement with unexplored themes such as the actual efficacy of early

modern remedies. The third paper in the morning session, *Culinary Contexts: food, diet and practice in manuscript receipt collections*, given by Dr Sara Pennell, switched focus to the culinary usage of recipe collections and, in particular, their usage in mapping the 'foodways' of the early modern period. Utilising a range of examples from contemporary sources, the innovative and 'cutting edge' nature of recipe collections was highlighted, such as the ways in which recipe collections can track new innovations in either ingredients or food technology. Dr Pennell's paper reminds us of the close relationship between food and medicine and the strong degree of crossover manifest in domestic collections.

After a hearty lunch, the second session of the day commenced with a fascinating exploration of French remedy collections, *The Problems of Pierre Paris' Stone: Reading French Remedy Collections Comparatively*, by Dr Lisa Smith, assistant professor of History at Saskatchewan University. Dr Smith's paper identified the alternative methods and motivations of French remedy book compilers of the early modern period noting, for example, the greater reliance upon establishing the efficacy and sources of remedies in French collections. Given the weight of work on British sources, this paper provided a thought-provoking alternative and raised many interested questions from the floor. The final paper of the day, *Cucumbers, callosities and earwax online: digitising the Wellcome Library recipe books* took the form of an insight into the, often detailed and sometimes fraught, processes involved in digitising an entire corpus of source material. Christy Henshaw, Digitisation Project Manager at the Wellcome Library, first identified some of the issues involved in planning and data selection as well as the technology involved in photographing the collection. This was followed by Wellcome Library Senior Archivist Dr Christopher Hilton's detailed and witty discussion of the problems and pitfalls of cataloguing and indexing, as well as a useful practical demonstration of the new

online search facilities available to researchers.

The final part of the day was taken up by a round-table session, led by Helen Wakeley and Ross McFarlane, which underlined the value of the workshop by providing a lively forum for discussion between archivists and historians. Amongst the topics raised were questions of classification of remedy collections, the need for greater access and engagement with a popular audience, and the possible establishment of an online central database of known source references to augment and accompany the Wellcome digitised collection. The possibility of producing publications aimed at both popular and academic audiences was explored, and several areas were identified in which participants could make personal contributions through their institutions or research, ahead of a second planned workshop to be held in Warwick University in September to address further issues of identification and cataloguing of remedy collections. The workshop was adjudged to be a great success by audience and participants and, it is hoped, will result in greater collaboration between researchers, and a new impetus towards promoting the value of these often neglected sources.

Alun Withey  
Swansea University

**The transmission of health practices  
(1500 to 2000)  
Workshop with Prof. Dr Robert Jütte and  
Prof. Dr Martin Dinges  
Institute for the History of Medicine of  
the Robert Bosch Foundation  
Stuttgart, June 25-27 2009**

The biennial Open Anglo-Dutch-German Workshop', a cooperation between the Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine @UCL, the Centre of the History of Medicine (Warwick University) and the

University Medical Centre (Utrecht) took place at the Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Foundation this year. Its theme was the transmission of medical knowledge and health practices from early modern times to the present.

Angela Davis (Coventry) opened the workshop with a lecture on the situation of women experiencing maternity in Great Britain after 1945. She presented how women acquired knowledge of pregnancy, childbirth and infant care.

Willemijn Ruberg (Utrecht) explored the question of who, in early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Holland, had the expertise to determine whether a woman had been raped and how this might affect her health. She argued that it was mostly the mothers who became aware of changes in their daughters' bodies and who noticed the first signs of venereal disease.

Susanne Hoffmann (Stuttgart) based her contribution on the observation that, around 1900, traditional dental care was replaced by the new preventive dental hygiene. The speaker investigated how the new approach was implemented within the population. Among the lower classes and in rural areas the transformation lasted until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Eberhard Wolff (Zürich/Stuttgart) examined the transmission of medical knowledge, using the example of naturopathy. Based on the patient records of a follower of the so-called 'Ordnungstherapie' that was conceived by the Swiss physician Max Bircher-Benner. Wolff showed how knowledge and practices were promulgated.

Gemma Blok (Amsterdam) spoke about the treatment of addiction. She introduced two Dutch organisations that had different objectives. The International Order of the Good Templars – in many ways a forerunner of the Alcoholics Anonymous – was founded in America in 1851 and soon became popular in Europe. The 'Medical Service for Hard Drug Users' applied different strategies. The

institution was founded in 1976 when Holland was in the grip of a 'heroin epidemic'. Its aim was to reduce drug consumption rather than achieve total abstinence as the Good Templars did.

Stephen Snelders and Frans J. Meijman (Amsterdam) addressed the transmission of medical knowledge among lay persons in Holland between 1900 and 2000. They showed that they were not passive recipients of medical knowledge, but decided for themselves whether to accept or reject medical concepts. Many of them empowered themselves according to Snelders and Meijman.

In order to show how, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, medical knowledge was spread by the media and health concepts were constructed, Sünje Prühlen (Hamburg) used the example of the physician Bartholomaeus Metlinger who had published his book 'Regiment of young children' in Augsburg in 1493. The volume is considered to be the first German language work on paediatrics and taught parents how to care for their infants and young children.

The topic of Carmen M. Mangion (Manchester) was the acquisition of knowledge by the Catholic women religious orders in 19<sup>th</sup> century Britain. Only few of the nursing sisters had received formal medical training as the church law of the time did not allow it. As a consequence the nursing sisters founded informal, local and international, 'knowledge networks'. Most important was the pastoral care that they carried out independently of the physician.

Karin Nolte (Würzburg) presented the parish work of the deaconesses. Rooted as he was in traditional Protestantism the German pastor Theodor Fliedner (1800-1864) who opened the first deaconesses' hospital near Düsseldorf, saw a connection between sickness, poverty and faithlessness. He tried to find access to the souls of the poor by caring for the sick. The letters that the deaconesses wrote to Fliedner and his wife give insight into the deaconesses' everyday life among the poor.

Andreas Weigl (Wien) described the rise and 'fall' of female health care workers in Austria

in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Because of the high mortality rate of infants the government had made special health care workers available. It was their expressed aim to improve the health situation of children and adolescents. As part of their tasks they had to educate the mothers and teach them to fulfil their tasks and duties.

Using the example of the Dutch tuberculosis movement, Alice Juch (Velp) demonstrated how difficult it was to bring medical knowledge and the corresponding preventive measures to the lower social classes. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a 'tuberculosis movement' was active in the Netherlands that specialised on the treatment of poor tuberculosis patients. The movement was not very successful. Although Robert Koch had discovered the tubercle bacillus in 1882, only a few physicians accepted that his discovery was really what caused this disease. Up to the 1930s, a number of physicians still thought that tuberculosis was a hereditary disease.

John Stewart (Glasgow) introduced 'British Child Guidance' where professional and lay knowledge came together. This organisation was a medical-psychiatric initiative that had been established after World War I first in the United States and then also in Great Britain and Europe. The basic premise of this organisation was that each child, no matter how normal he or she might appear on the outside, experienced maladjustment at one stage or another in his or her life. If the problem was not recognized it could lead to further problems in later life. The fact that the young patients would encounter representatives of three professional groups, psychiatrists, psychologists and (psychiatric) social workers, turned out to be problematic.

Karen Buckle (London) reported on how opticians in Britain in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century conveyed knowledge and information on eye sight to their clients. She explored the means that opticians had at their disposal for diagnosing deteriorated vision as well as the controversial optical theories. Buckle interpreted the development against the background of the scientific revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Vanessa Heggie (Cambridge) showed that specialist medical knowledge remained a taboo despite its promotion by the media. Using the example of British sport she explained that the British public tended to not take advantage of professional medical advice. Still today the general impression is that sportspeople managed without medical help. Myths about sports have played an important part in the construction of the British national identity.

Andreas Golob (Graz) dealt with the media of health education in the later enlightenment era. From the repertoire he drew on, Johann Jacob Gabriel, a Catholic priest and catechist, stood out with his Socratic stories, a very early example of a collection entirely devoted to health issues. Contextualisation was achieved mostly through the description of pastoral tasks within the health care system during the Habsburg monarchy around 1800. The final presentation was by Harry Oosterhuis (Maastricht) who described the change in attitude towards homosexuality that occurred in the Catholic communities in Holland in the 1950s and 60s. He showed how the discourse among the medical profession influenced the views of the Catholic clergy. A dialogue conducted among priests, physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists and Catholic homosexuals led to the social and psychological re-evaluation of homosexuality which had so far been regarded as sinful and pathological.

Dr. phil. Bettina Blessing  
Institut für Geschichte der Medizin der Robert  
Bosch Stiftung

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## **CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**British Society for the History of Medicine  
23rd BSHM Belfast Congress, 2-5 September  
to Stranmillis University College, Queen's  
University Belfast**

There will be two sessions on Irish Medical History (Thursday & Saturday mornings), one on Pharmacy, Medical Education and Medical Biography (Thursday afternoon), with a Free-

standing Papers session on Friday morning, plus activities. Full details at:

<http://www.bshm.org.uk/congress.htm> See also:

<http://www.bshm.org.uk/index.html>

**Byzantine Medical Manuals in Context  
Royal Holloway Department of History**

**University of London & the Wellcome Trust,  
Gower Street, London**

**19 September 2009**

Please contact: [p.horden@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:p.horden@rhul.ac.uk) or [barbara.zipser@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:barbara.zipser@rhul.ac.uk) if you would like to attend. Invited speakers include: Dionysios Stathakopoulos (KCL), Brigitte Mondrain (Sorbonne), David Bennett (formerly NHS and RHUL), Klaus Dietrich Fischer (Mainz), Peter Pormann (Warwick), Agamemnon Tselikas (MIET Athens) and Florian Markowetz (Cambridge). There will also be a viewing at the Wellcome Library: Greek, Latin and Arabic manuscripts (Nikolai Serikoff). For the full programme, please see <http://personal.rhul.ac.uk/urra/350/conference2.pdf>.

**The Royal Edinburgh Hospital and the  
History of Scottish Psychiatry  
The Fifteenth Wellcome Trust Regional  
Forum for the History of Medicine in  
Scotland**

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

The Fifteenth Wellcome Trust Regional Forum is serving to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Speakers are:

Andrew Scull (California), Rab Houston (St. Andrews), Allan Beveridge (Queen Margaret Hospital), Hilary Marland (Durham), Gayle Davis (Edinburgh), Jonathan Andrews (Newcastle), and Mike Barfoot (Edinburgh).

For a registration form, please contact Lydia Marshall ([l.marshall@arts.gla.ac.uk](mailto:l.marshall@arts.gla.ac.uk)). The fee

is £35 and includes all refreshments. Closing date for registration is 30 September 2009.

**Sex, Ethics and Psychology: The Networks and Cultural Context of Albert Moll (1862-1939)**

**Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, Durham University, Wolfson Research Institute, 5-6 November 2009**

The conference will examine the work of Albert Moll in the context of late Imperial and Weimar Germany medicine, culture and society and also looking at the international impact of his work. For more information, please see the conference website: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/chmd/news/mollconference/>

**The Epidemic in Modern History  
University College Cork, Ireland,  
6-7 November 2009.**

This conference seeks specifically to initiate a dialogue between scholars in the Humanities and in Medicine, in order to offer an interdisciplinary investigation of the impact of epidemic disease in the modern world. Themes will include continuities and discontinuities in the historic control of epidemic disease; the role of the State in disease control; philanthropy in the delivery of health care; public responses to disease outbreak; the role of folk medicine in combating disease; the experience of epidemic disease in institutional and domestic environments; resignation and resistance during epidemic outbreaks; war and epidemics

The keynote speakers will be Prof. Hugh Pennington (University of Aberdeen) and Prof. Ivan Perry (University College Cork).

The organisers still welcome proposals, and suggestions for panels, on additional themes. Please also note that selected proceedings from this conference will be published. Thanks to the generous support of the Wellcome Trust, the organisers can offer a limited number of conference fee

waivers, and support towards conference travel and accommodation costs, to registered postgraduate students. Please contact Oonagh Walsh with proposals/suggestions/for further details.

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 **WORKSHOP & SYMPOSIUM  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**John Innes Centre in Norwich, UK**

**History of Genetics Day, 9th September  
2009**

This will be the opening event of the John Innes Centenary Symposium - Genetics 100 Years On, which runs from 9th to the 11th September 2009. This will commemorate the 100 year history of genetics at John Innes and the legacy of founder William Bateson. An international line-up of science historians will cover topics including the background behind the founding of the John Innes Horticultural Institution in 1909, the role of women in the John Innes workforce in the early years, Bateson's contributions to evolutionary theory, and the history of genetics from the inter-war years to the atomic age. They will be joined by scientists Mike Gale and Keith Chater, and science philosopher Sabina Leonelli, who between them will look at history in the making – the modern sciences of crop genetics, bacterial genetics and /Arabidopsis/ research. This event will be accompanied by a major historical exhibition drawing on the John Innes Foundation Historical Collections. The programme and registration details can be

found at:  
<http://www.jic.ac.uk/centenary/events/historyofgenetics/programme.htm>.

**DARWIN, MEDICINE & THE  
HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM  
18 - 19 September 2009  
University of Exeter**

Sponsored by: The Wellcome Trust in collaboration with: Centre for Medical History (University of Exeter), Centre for Victorian Studies (University of Exeter), EGenIS (University of Exeter), Exeter Interdisciplinary Institute (University of Exeter). Speakers include: David Amigoni (Keele University), Marc Bekoff (University of Colorado, Boulder), John Dupré (University of Exeter), Dorothy Porter (University of California, San Francisco), Harriet Ritvo (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

This international symposium brings together Darwin scholars across disciplines to present fresh research and to debate the historical and contemporary significance of Darwin in medicine and the humanities.

- Darwin and inheritance
- Phenotypic and genetic variation
- Medicine and emotions
- Sympathy and empathy
- The emotions and moral behaviour of animals
- Natural and sexual selection in literature
- Darwinian psychology and epidemiology
- The reception and appropriation of Darwin in China
- Biosemiotics
- Predictive, personalised medicine
- Human geneticists
- Postgenomic Darwinism
- Darwin today

Four **Wellcome Trust Bursaries** of £200 each are offered to PhD researchers towards costs to attend the symposium. Applicants working in relevant areas within any

disciplines should send a description of their current research project, and its relevance to the concerns of the Symposium, to Dr Angelique Richardson, [a.richardson@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:a.richardson@exeter.ac.uk), by 31 July 2009. Applications should be no more than 300 words. The bursaries will be awarded by the Selection Committee (Dr Carolyn Burdett, Professor James Moore, Professor Dorothy Porter, Dr Angelique Richardson, Dr Staffan Müller-Wille). See also: <http://centres.exeter.ac.uk/medhist/conferences/darwin/index.shtml>

**Radiation Sickness and the Politics of Nuclear Energy Workshop: Cold-War Science, Technology and Medicine in Japan, USA and Britain  
14-15 August 2009, Needham Research Institute, Cambridge**

The programme will include:

Keith Baverstock on UK Historical Perspectives on Radiation Induced Disease, Sue Rabbit Roff on de-constructing the Historiography of Denial of Government Liability for Health Effects of Participation in UK Atomic and Nuclear Weapons Tests, Emm Barnes on Fears in Peacetime - American and British Responses to Japanese Studies on Children Exposed to Radiation, 1948-1969, Jeff Hughes on Medicalising Nuclear War: The National Health Service and the Bomb 1948-1960, Jacob Darwin Hamblin on Critical Pathways not Taken: Divergent Meanings of Radioactive Contamination in the Nuclear Era, and Gerald Kutcher, Radiation Sickness in Cold War Cancer Therapy and Military Medicine.

Attendance is free, but please contact Sue Bennett (Tel:+44-(0)1223-311-545, E-mail: [admin@nri.org.uk](mailto:admin@nri.org.uk)) or Aya Homei (Tel: +44-(0)1223-311-545, ext. 237, E-mail: [ah567@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ah567@cam.ac.uk)) in advance if you wish to attend.

**Centre for Cultural History at the University of Aberdeen**  
**'Self, Society and History': A Cultural History Workshop**  
**18-19 June 2010**

The Centre for Cultural History at the University of Aberdeen will hold a conference on questions of human subjectivity, social identity and power from the eighteenth century to the present. Themes will include both historical and theoretical approaches to subjectivity, social identity and power. These approaches will range among the historical, sociological, or anthropological application of social psychology, post-structuralism, symbolic interactionism, Foucauldian analysis, psychoanalysis, neuroscience, postmodernism, articulation theory, and studies of individual memory and the collective historical consciousness.

Please direct all enquiries to Dr Gregory Smithers at: [g.smithers@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:g.smithers@abdn.ac.uk). See also; <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ch/>

 **CONFERENCES: CALLS FOR PAPERS**

**Biological invasions and transformations**

**European Association for Environmental History, ESEH, African Studies Centre, St Antony's College, Oxford**  
**15 September, 2009**

This conference seeks to bring historical perspectives to bear on the contentious subject of biological invasions. This is particularly helpful in assessing assumptions about what is an 'indigenous' and what is an 'alien' plant, animal or microbe. These kinds of distinctions themselves have histories, and where acted upon may reveal sharp differences in how different social groups value and use natural resources. A broad range of approaches and perspectives are solicited, for example encompassing invasions by people of other lands as a response to environmental conditions, or localised internal intrusions for changing resource

use, with resultant transformation of the landscape. Submissions, queries or requests to attend to:

[simon.pooley@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:simon.pooley@sant.ox.ac.uk)

**The Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS) (with University of Louisville School of Medicine and the Innominate Society.**

**Twelfth annual meeting, Louisville, KY, 5-6 March 2010.**

SAHMS welcomes papers on the history of medicine and science, broadly construed to encompass historical, literary, anthropological, philosophical and sociological approaches to health care and science including race, disabilities and gender studies. Participants may propose individual papers or panels of several papers on a particular theme. The deadline is 30 September 2009. To see the full Call for Abstracts and more details on the conference, please see the SAHMS website: <http://www.SAHMS.net>.

**Women's and Gender Studies Program at Virginia Tech.**

**Gender, Bodies and Technology, Roanoke, Virginia 22-24 April 2010**

The conference will explore the role of technologies in constructing, reinforcing and destabilizing gendered bodies. Scholars in all disciplines are invited to submit proposals for presentations, including performance art and new media as well as traditional text-based formats. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: new media and feminist aesthetics; gendered in/security and technologies of surveillance; technologies of development and eco-feminism; and the gendered production, design and deployment of technologies.

The proposal deadline is 15 September 2009. For further information and the Call for Papers please see the conference website or contact Sharon Elber, GBT Conference Co-Planner (Virginia Tech): selber@vt.edu.

**American Association for the History of Medicine AAHM Annual Meeting Rochester, Minnesota, 29 April - 2 May 2010.**

The AAHM invites submissions in any area of medical history for its 83rd annual meeting, to be held in Rochester, Minnesota, April 29 through May 2, 2010. Abstracts must be received by 15 September 2010. The AAHM uses an online abstract submissions system which can be accessed along with detailed information on submission at the main website: <http://histmed.org>. E-mail or faxed proposals cannot be accepted. Please address specific questions to the Program Committee Chair, Keith Wailoo: kwailoo@rci.rutgers.edu, Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers University, 30 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901, (732) 932-841.

**Knowledge, Ethics and Representations of Medicine and Health: Historical Perspectives Durham and Newcastle 8-11 July 2010**

The Society for the Social History of Medicine invites submissions for its 2010 Conference 'Knowledge, Ethics and Representations of Medicine and Health: Historical Perspectives', to be held at Durham and Newcastle (UK), 8-11 July 2010, organised by the Northern Centre for the History of Medicine (NCHM).

Deadline for proposals: 1 November 2009

The organisers welcome proposals for 20-minute papers under the theme 'Knowledge,

Ethics and Representations of Medicine and Health: Historical Perspectives'. We particularly encourage papers addressing questions such as:

- What processes have generated knowledge about the body, illness and health that has become authoritative in different societies?
- How have claims of medical expertise been justified vis à vis claims from other domains of social and cultural authority such as religion and law?
- What did it mean for medical practitioners in different cultural and social contexts to claim to be ethical as well as knowledgeable?
- How did they present themselves to the public?
- What kind of material, visual and textual representations of body, mind, health and disease have gained 'defining power' exerting influence on medical practice and research until today?

Submissions covering all periods (from Antiquity to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) and all regions of the world are welcome. In addition to individual papers, we seek proposals for panel sessions (with 3 papers), as well as suggestions for suitable chairpersons.

Abstracts of up to 250 words should include the title of the paper, information concerning the research question examined, the sources used and preliminary results. Please also include on the abstract your contact details (name, affiliation, e-mail-address). All papers are to represent original work not already published. Please send your proposal by 1 November 2009 to the NCHM (Email: [conference@nchm.ac.uk](mailto:conference@nchm.ac.uk)). Decisions on papers will be made by January 2010.

Key-note speakers will include: Professor Heinrich von Staden (Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, USA), Dr Tim Boon (Science Museum, London, UK), and

Professor Martha Few (University of Arizona, USA)

Organising Committee: Philip van der Eijk (Newcastle University), Holger Maehle (Durham University), Cathy McClive (Durham University), Diana Paton (Newcastle University), Thomas Rütten (Newcastle University), and Lutz Sauerteig (Durham University)

For more information on the SSHM please see [www.sshm.org](http://www.sshm.org). For more information on the NCHM, a collaboration of historians of medicine from Durham and Newcastle universities, please see [www.nchm.ac.uk](http://www.nchm.ac.uk).

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## NEW BOOK OF INTEREST

- And this issue's 'cover stars'

### **The Children of Craig-y-nos: Life in a Welsh Tuberculosis Sanatorium, 1922-1959** (London, WTCHM@UCL, 2009).

The publication of this book by The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, University College London, is the culmination of a two-year public engagement project developed by outreach historian, Carole Reeves. Craig-y-nos Castle, on the edge of the Brecon Beacons in South Wales, was the home of the world famous opera singer, Adelina Patti. After her death in 1919, it became a tuberculosis sanatorium, mainly for children and young adults. The 'Children of Craig-y-nos' project was begun in 2006 by artist and writer, Ann Shaw, who had spent four years there from the age of nine to thirteen. The launch of her blog ([www.craig-y-nos.blogspot.com](http://www.craig-y-nos.blogspot.com)) to collect the memories of ex-patients and staff was so successful that within a year over a hundred stories and 1200 photographs, mostly taken by the children themselves, had been contributed. There followed three photographic exhibitions, radio programmes, a reunion at Craig-y-nos Castle, and a Lottery grant to produce the book. But despite a romantic location, this is

not a fairy tale. TB in the industrial areas of south Wales at this time, claimed the lives of twelve young men and seventeen young women a year in every community of 6000 people. Hundreds more, like the children of Craig-y-nos, were deprived by chronic ill health of education, work and family life. Craig-y-nos was called a hospital but it had all the hallmarks of a prison for sick children. Even at a distance of fifty or sixty years, some people broke down when reliving deeply buried memories. Others were unable to talk at all but communicated entirely through email. A few remember physical and sexual abuse by staff. Stomach wash-outs terrified toddlers. Use of restraint by tying children to cot and bed railings was justified by over-stretched staff but criticized by hospital inspectors. Even keeping five-year-olds in high-sided cots could be interpreted as a form of imprisonment. The physical isolation of Craig-y-nos was another. Only one young woman admits to successful escape although several teenagers and children made abortive bids for freedom.

The book, which is also available as a free download from the Centre's website ([http://www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/downloads/the\\_children\\_of\\_craig\\_y\\_nos.pdf](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/histmed/downloads/the_children_of_craig_y_nos.pdf)) is, as far as we know, the first ever collective account by patients and staff of life inside a tuberculosis sanatorium and is therefore an historical project of some significance. Although this is an historical study, TB is not a disease of history. The World Health Organization in 1993 declared TB a public health emergency. An estimated 8.8 million people were diagnosed with TB in 2005 and 1.6 million died of it. But however difficult it becomes to control tuberculosis both locally and globally, one thing is certain. Those infected will never again be isolated from the rest of society because history has shown that policing infectious diseases is neither workable nor humane.

Carole Reeves  
Outreach Historian  
Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of  
Medicine @UCL

**Madness and Modernity: the book**  
Edited by Gemma Blackshaw and Leslie Topp,  
with contributions by Nicola Imrie, Luke  
Heighton, Sabine Wieber and Geoffrey C  
Howes, the 'Madness and Modernity' book  
coincides with the exhibition which has just  
ended at the Wellcome Trust.

With more than 100 images, this  
groundbreaking book includes a number of  
short chapters that focus on specific works of  
particular significance. Taken in parts or as a  
whole, 'Madness and Modernity' is essential  
reading for anyone wanting to understand a  
fascinating facet of European modernism and  
society.

Published by Lund Humphries, the book is  
priced £35.

To request a review copy, please contact  
Nathalie Frankson

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