

THE GAZETTE

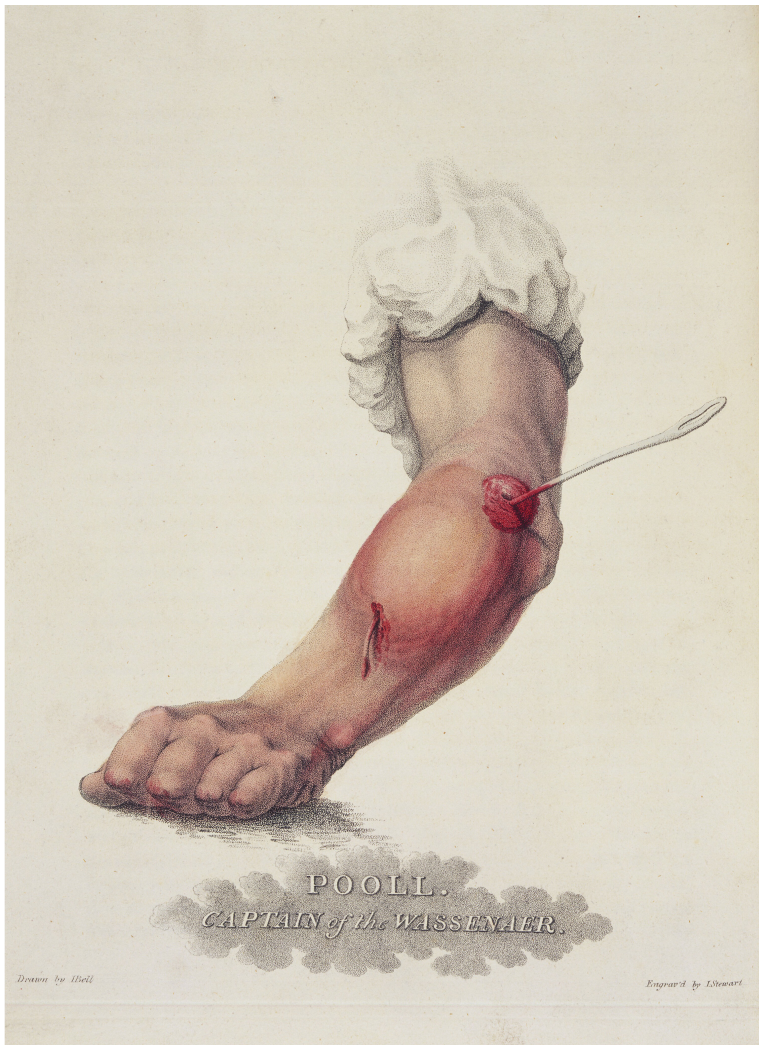
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Image: Forearm wound. Pool. Captain of the Wassenaer. Wellcome Collection. Public Domain Mark.
Source: Wellcome Collection.

WELCOME TO THE GAZETTE

Dear readers,

Welcome the first SSHM Gazette of 2024. We have some exciting CFPs and notices of upcoming events and conferences, as well as reports on an SSHM supported event and a conference attended with SSHM support. We also have details of the SSHM book series and the 35% discount available to members of the society!

The next issue will appear in May. Please send any updates to me at oisinwall@ucc.ie by 4 May. As always, we are happy to receive notices about online events, new resources, and calls for papers related to the history of medicine and medical humanities.

All best wishes,

Oisín Wall, Editor



CALLS FOR PAPERS

Psychiatry, Mental Health and the Arts, Past and Present

Milton Keynes and online

20-21 June 2024, deadline 25 March.

Details here: [https://](https://musichealthandhappiness.wordpress.com/)

[musichealthandhappiness.wordpress.com/](https://musichealthandhappiness.wordpress.com/2024/02/06/pan-conference-call-for-papers-and-sessions/)

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Psychiatry, Mental Health and the Arts Past and Present

20-21 June 2024, Milton Keynes

Conveners: Dr Rosemary Golding, Professor Susan Hogan

The AHRC-funded network 'Psychiatry and the Arts in Nineteenth-Century Britain' aims to draw together scholars working on different aspects of the history of the intersection between the arts and psychiatry, chiefly in the content of nineteenth-century British mental health care. It also seeks to open conversations and identify synergies between scholars of history and practitioners in the creative arts, healthcare and heritage sectors. Details of the network's activities can be found at <https://fass.open.ac.uk/research/projects/PAN> and <https://musichealthandhappiness.wordpress.com/pan-network/>

Our conference will take place at The Open University's Milton Keynes campus and online on 20-21 June 2024. Submissions are welcome from academics, practitioner-researchers, archivists, artists, musicians and other creative practitioners, heritage and medical professionals, patients and service-users. We invite proposals for papers and presentations of 20 minutes, creative sessions, demonstrations, workshops or



GET INVOLVED

Would you like to get more involved with the SSHM? We have a number of ongoing sub-committees at the moment, including ones on EDI, the Social History of Medicine, social media, and more. Just send us an email that outlines your interests and career stage. (If we don't have a sub-committee that fits your interests yet, we can contact you when we do!) It is a good way to meet other members, to contribute to the wider SSHM community, and to learn more about the wider research landscape. Please contact the EC Chair, Lisa Smith (lisa.smith@essex.ac.uk), if you're interested in participating.

performances of 20-45 minutes, or round tables/panels of 1-2 hours. If you would like to propose a contribution in a different format, please get in touch. We particularly welcome presentations on the following:

- the relationship between psychiatry and the arts in nineteenth century Britain, with particular regard to its historical, social and cultural contexts
- reflections and interpretations of the history of psychiatry and the arts in modern contexts, whether from a heritage, creative or medical perspective
- the uses and benefits of creative, archival and heritage engagement for mental health service users
- explorations of, or reflections on, the professional practice and/or lived experience of arts and mental health

Abstracts or proposals of up to 200 words should be emailed to PAN@open.ac.uk by 25 March.

Critical Reproduction Studies

Birkbeck University of London

Conference date: 5-6 July 2024 (Friday 5 online, Saturday 6 in-person)

This conference proposes Critical Reproduction Studies as a potentially productive and exciting new interdisciplinary field of study that places engagement with critical theory and collaboration at its centre.

Recently we have been discussing how our research fits within the Critical Medical Humanities (CMH) – an interdisciplinary field of research which embraces entanglement, rather than servility or antagonism, between humanities and biomedical cultures (Viney, Callard & Woods 2015). We know from our network activities that there is a thriving interdisciplinary community of repro-researchers. And yet, in our experience attending CMH conferences, reproductive topics often represent a very small portion of the conversation. In November 2023, we discussed Critical Menstruation Studies, a dedicated space for examining the cultural, psychological, political and social aspects of menstruation. This led us to ask: Is it time for Critical Reproduction Studies?

Given the ongoing crises in reproductive health around the world, including underfunding of reproductive-related medical and scholarly research, we feel the time is right to bring together academics working across all aspects of the field.

Broadly Conceived is an interdisciplinary network dedicated to the study of reproduction. Thanks to the support of the CHASE DTP, we will be holding our second annual conference for postgraduates (including PhD candidates and master's students) and early career researchers. This 2-day conference is dedicated to the theme of "Critical Reproduction Studies" and aims to bring together researchers working in various disciplines for critical, dynamic, but also urgent conversations around topics of reproduction.

Call for Papers, Psychiatry, Mental Health and the Arts, Past and Present, Milton Keynes and online, 20-21 June 2024, deadline 25 March. Details here: <https://musicealthandhappiness.wordpress.com/2024/02/06/pan-conference-call-for-papers-and-sessions/>



Psychiatry and the Arts in Nineteenth-Century Britain Symposium 3

Online

21 March

Free to attend, programme and booking available here: <https://musicealthandhappiness.wordpress.com/2024/02/01/pan-symposium-3-programme/>

Rethinking Injuries

Hybrid Conference

Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America

<https://hopkinsmedicalhumanities.org/rethinkinginjuriesconf/>

On behalf of the Injury Studies Research Network, we are excited to present an initial program for the “Rethinking Injuries: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Harm, Safety, and Society” conference to be held in a hybrid format at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (Baltimore, MD) and via Zoom from March 7 to March 9. The event will bring together researchers, medical professionals, policymakers, and artists to chart how individuals and communities live with and make meaning out of injuries. You may register for the event using the form below, and please feel free to reach out to the Organizing Committee at rethinkinginjuries@gmail.com if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Changing Identities in Healthcare

King’s College London, Guys Campus

9 March

The first event of its kind, this conference brings together the student medical humanities societies of King's College London, Imperial College London and the University of Cambridge for one interdisciplinary day of fascinating lectures, workshops and networking. We will be hosting speakers and artists who are experts in their fields - ranging from medical history, to literature and narrative, to medical education (and beyond...!) We will also be hosting a lightning round of student presentations at the end of the day, so if you've done anything you think we'd like to hear about (a project, art, writing, etc.) do sign up to present it. All are welcome - students and non-students, medics and non-medics alike.

The conference will be free to attend. A limited number of travel and/or accommodation bursaries will be available for those without access to institutional support. Please state your request in your email.

Writing sexual violence in the age of #MeToo

November, 2023

The History Department at Lancaster University was delighted to host two events with the award-winning novelist Winnie M. Li in November 2023 as part of the United Nations’ 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The events, kindly supported by the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the Iredell Trust and Lancaster University’s Health Hub, placed historians in dialogue with students and practitioners in creative writing to discuss the challenges and opportunities provided by fiction for combatting the issue of sexual violence in the modern world.

Winnie M. Li's work has received widespread critical acclaim. Her first novel *Dark Chapter* won The Guardian’s Not The Booker Prize, was nominated for an Edgar Award, and translated into ten languages. Winnie’s second novel *Complicit* has been dubbed a #MeToo thriller and a complex literary achievement that sheds an important light on Hollywood’s darkest secrets. Since it came out last year, *Complicit* has been selected as a New York Times’ Editors’ Choice, shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature’s Encore Award, and listed among the Best Novels of 2022 by *Grazia*, *Glamour*, and *The Irish Times*.

While in Lancaster, Winnie took part in a sold-out public ‘In Conversation’ event where she discussed her writing with Lancaster academics Dr Stephanie Wright (Department of History) and Dr Zoe Lambert (English Literature and Creative Writing). Winnie’s first novel *Dark Chapter* was a fictional retelling of her own rape in 2008 from the perspectives of both the victim and perpetrator, and so part of the discussion focused on the creative and emotional challenges of entering into the character of her assailant. Through the research and creative writing process, Winnie was able to present a three-dimensional rendering of her perpetrator, which acknowledged the personal and structural factors that lay at the root of her own violent experience.



Winnie has continued to explore themes of sexual violence and harassment in her latest novel, *Complicit*, which draws from her earlier career in the film industry. During the 'In Conversation' event, Winnie reflected upon her decision to focus on 'complicity' and 'bystanders' in her second novel, as well as the challenges of her position as a public rape victim in the post-#MeToo era. The ensuing Q&A, during which time Winnie answered questions from the floor, demonstrated the clear demand in Lancaster to create spaces for discussing issues of gender equality and gender-based violence. Feedback from attendees welcomed the supportive space created by Winnie and the organisers, and expressed the desire for more events in this vein in future.

The following day Winnie joined Lancaster historians Dr Stephanie Wright and Dr Alexander Wragge-Morley for a creative writing workshop at Lancaster's Gregson Community Centre, open to the public as well as Lancaster staff and students. The workshop placed *Dark Chapter* in dialogue with historical cases of sexual violence, notably court records from Francoist Spain (1936-75) and extracts from Samuel Richardson's *Clarissa* (1748). Through these sources, attendees explored the rape myths that have existed at different historical moments, as well as the ways in which sexual violence has intersected with issues such as disability and class.

Participants in the workshop were invited to reflect on the different languages of sexual violence present in sources from different periods, and to develop fictional renderings of the characters they had encountered. Feedback from attendees indicated that the use of historical sources helped them to reflect on issues of genre and perspective, and again there was appetite for further sessions that explored the potential of historical fiction for exploring societal challenges such as sexual violence.

We are grateful to the Society for the Social History of Medicine for its generous support of these events, which we hope to have kickstarted annual

collaborations between historians and creative writers in Lancaster.

There Will be Blood: The Medieval Blood Conference King's College, Cambridge.

13th – 14th October 2023.

The purpose of the conference was to investigate the role of blood during the Medieval period in its different symbolic meanings and within several fields: literal, religious and art historical. The conference consisted of two-days of presentations, divided into six sessions, along with an exciting workshop on Medieval manuscripts. The event was organised by Ben Hatchett, Fiona L Knight and Patrick Cowley, all of whom sent us detailed information about the event beforehand, along with maps, and assisted us with any personal needs throughout the conference. The conference was held in the historical setting of King's college, in the fascinating Bede's room adorned with beautiful oil paintings and an ancient fireplace with a view on a lovely internal garden. The conference was well attended, and it included both scholars from various fields within the Medieval Studies and a public of people and students interested in the topic. Majority of the speakers had a background in Medieval Christian studies, of which I, being a scholar in pre-Christian studies have not much experience but which nonetheless fascinates me.

The conference opened with the first keynote speaker, Professor Heather Webb (University of Cambridge), who presented on the visibilities and temporalities of blood in Italy between 1200-1400. Her presentation focused on the different concepts and understandings of blood and other "bodily liquids" in Medieval literature, with a major focus on Dante Alighieri's writings. Her paper well introduced the following first theme of the conference, on "Wounds and Woundedness", which touched topics such as blood, pain and wounds depicted in Middle English Judas Ballads and in Middle English romances in relation to other literary motifs.

The second session focused on “Divine blood”, with a major focus firstly on saint’s and martyrs’ blood and its connections with miracles and ‘divine and inexplicable’ events – such as in the case of San Gennaro’s liquefying blood – and secondly on ecstatic visions about Christ’s bloody wounds inflicted to him during the crucifixion – such as in the case of Catherine of Siena and her personal and intimate scripts where she describes Christ’s blood as ‘latte della divina dolcezza’, the holy bodily liquid through which a man can get to know God’s pure and divine love.

Session three consisted of the topic “Consuming Blood”, where the focus was shifted to the North, particularly to Medieval Icelandic and Swedish literature. In this session, the topics ranged from blood consuming and shapeshifting in pre-Christian Scandinavia to blood ritual protagonists such as “blót-Sveinn” (lit. “sacrificial Sveinn” and later referred as “blood-Sveinn”). Discussions and questions were asked regarding cultural memory of blood consumption in other old Icelandic and Swedish literature. Between session three and four the second keynote speaker, Dr John Munns, elaborated on the blood and passion of Thomas Becket and its impact of blood representations in English Medieval art. Dr Munns compared and the artistic depiction of blood in illustrations of Thomas Becket’s and Jesus’s death. The first conference’s day ended with a reception within King’s College, where people networked, followed by a dinner at Millworks restaurant.

The second day began with the third keynote speaker Dr Elma Brenner, who presented on the topic of blood and gender regarding women’s bodies, and women’s care in Medieval European medicine. The fourth session was named “Othering Blood”, where topics expanded on bloodletting practices and blood sucking serpents. The first presentation was without a visual Power Point, which personally made it hard to follow, especially given that such topics and sources were unfamiliar to me. The rest of the session consisted of papers about anti-Semitism and racism

from several perspectives and in different literary traditions.

Session five was “Bonds of Blood”, in which both myths and facts were discussed about blending blood to create new kinship. My paper dealt with the ritual creation of “pseudo-brotherhood” found in different Icelandic sagas and folk beliefs where blood is mixed, while the following paper focused on marriage and consequent procreation by blood and bodily liquids mixing within the Christian context. After this session, we went to Cambridge University Library, for a workshop about medical Medieval European manuscripts related to blood and bloodletting, which was both fascinating and memorable. After observing these fascinating manuscripts, we headed back to Bede’s room for the final session, on “Bleeding Bodies”, where images and concept of bodies and wounds seen in Jewish and Indian cultures were discussed, which again dealt with fascinating material I was not familiar with, as I wished to understand the cultural context better. After this, the organisers made their closing remarks and thanked the speakers and listeners who came to listen.

As a scholar from a different background, I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to learn new perspectives on studies related to blood in various Medieval fields. I want to express my gratitude to the organisers for their well-organised conference and to the speakers for their fascinating presentations.

Kári Pálsson – Independent Scholar.

SSH M BOOK SERIES

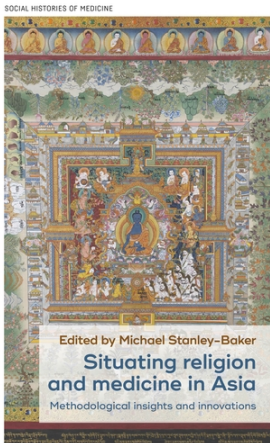
SSH M members are entitled to 35% off any Social Histories of Medicine series title from Manchester University Press by using code SSHM35 at checkout.

Situating religion and medicine in Asia

Edited by Michael Stanley-Baker

<https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526160010/situating-religion-and-medicine-in-asia>

This volume presents studies of the mobilisation of practices for health and spiritual well-being in various regions and times across Asia. The chapters use a common structure to situate these practices within their regions and times, demonstrating how they circulated across religious, medical and scientific domains.



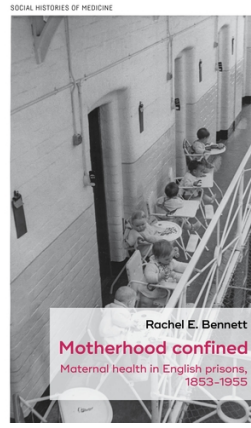
Motherhood confined: Maternal health in English prisons, 1853-1955

by Rachel E. Bennett

Pub: Jan 2024

<https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526166791/motherhood-confined>

The book is the first extensive historical examination of motherhood in English prisons. It addresses the challenges mothers and babies have historically posed to prison systems not designed with their containment and the management of their health in mind.



Doing psychiatry in postwar Europe: Practices, routines and experiences

Editor: Gundula Gahlen, Volker Hess, Marianna Scarfone and Henriette Voelker

Pub: Feb 2024

<https://manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/9781526173461/doing-psychiatry-in-postwar-europe>

Looking closely at practices that contributed to reshape the psychiatric field in the second half of the twentieth century, *Doing psychiatry* offers new insights into a mental health assistance in transformation after World War II. Through richly documented case studies across Europe, this book sheds light on marginal experiences and everyday practices, as well as the new fields of expertise that psychiatry appropriated.



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