THE GAZETTE

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CORRESPONDENCE TO
Dr Laura Kelly
School of Humanities and Social Sciences,
University of Strathclyde, Lord Hope Building,
141 St James Road, Glasgow, G4 0LT, Scotland
L.e.kelly@strath.ac.uk

Advertisement for rat poison Tord-Boyaux (1808)
Courtesy of Wellcome Collection
Wellcome Library no. 577345i
Happy new year to all our members!

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to Anne Hanley who is stepping down as editor of the Gazette. Anne has done a stellar job over the last 3 years and we are all very grateful to her for her hard work. Thank you, Anne!

2020 is an important year for the Society for the Social History of Medicine as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. Our biannual conference will take place at Swansea University from 8-11 July 2020 on the theme of Resilience. We had an excellent response to our CFP and over three days 150 papers spanning the 15th to 21st century will address the connections between resilience and the social history of medicine and look at histories of resilience as a medical, psychiatric and biological concept. Registration information will soon be available so please keep an eye on our website and social media. It’s sure to be a fantastic few days and a great way to celebrate our 50th year.

Our sad (depending on your perspective) cover image this month was inspired by a new Wellcome Trust-funded project ‘The Global War against the Rat: The Epistemic Emergence of Zoonosis’ led by Christos Lynteris at St. Andrews. You can find out more about this new research on page 16 of this issue.

Please feel free to send on any information for inclusion in the April edition of the Gazette to me at L.e.kelly@strath.ac.uk by the end of March. The Gazette reaches all of our members and is a great way to publicise events, projects, publications and anything related to the social history of medicine.

Laura Kelly, Editor

THE SSHM IN 2018

The Annual General Meeting for the Society for the Social History of Medicine was held in Elgar Meeting Room, Edgbaston Park Conference Centre, University of Birmingham, as part of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Conference, ‘Sense and Nonsense’, 29 August 2019, 1.30-2.15pm. We had a strong turnout of 27 people and encourage members to continue to attend our AGMs to give us feedback and to ask questions.

Our Chair, Rosemary Cresswell, welcomed everybody to the AGM and thanked them for giving their time in such a busy conference. The meeting started with a chair’s report that explained the purpose of the AGM and its Trustees’ Report: as a charity SSHM is required to report to the Charity Commission on its operations, representing the discipline not only to members and those in the field, but to the wider public. In the report, Rosemary Cresswell thanked those who had been involved in helping SSHM to respond to Plan S for Open Access: particularly Vanessa Heggie, Rich McKay, Patricia Skinner, Lisa Smith and Dora Vargha for support in delivering a survey and response to the consultation on the potential impact of Plan S, and for joining meetings. We have learnt a great deal about Plan S from discussions with Oxford University Press, the Wellcome Trust and the Royal Historical Society. The Society recognises Plan S as a risk, particularly as it relies on journal royalties for approximately 90% of its income. Rosemary Cresswell, as chair, also thanked those stepping down from the Executive Committee after long periods of service to SSHM: Carsten Timmermann and Catherine Cox.
We then shared, discussed and signed off the trustees’ report of the society’s activities in 2018, with reports on: Membership (Claire Jones); Conferences (Samiksha Sehrawat); Bursaries (Executive Secretary on behalf of Anna Greenwood); Roy Porter Prize 2018 announcement (Chair); Web and Social Media (Victoria Bates); Independent Examiner’s Report (provided by Paul Cowham) and Financial Report (Chair for Anna Greenwood). These reports showed the society to be in good health, in terms of finances, membership and activity (both in terms of conferences and online community building). In particular it was noted that the society gave a record number of student and ECR bursaries in 2018.

It was announced that the Roy Porter Prize for 2018 has been won by Mateusz Zatonski (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) for ‘Lighting up under the "No Smoking" sign: tobacco control regulation in Communist Poland’. Runners-up are: Sara Caputo (Cambridge) for ‘Treating, preventing, feigning, concealing: sickness, agency and the medical culture of the Georgian naval sailor’; Jack Greatrex (Hong Kong University) for ‘The rat, the cow and the cockroach: Hong Kong and the vanishing animals of plague research’; and Brianne Wesolowski (Vanderbilt) for ‘Knowledge in motion: the practices, technologies and mentalities of Joseph H. Pilates’.

EC members then gave further reports on and details of activities from the year, speaking to the pre-circulated reports. The first group of EC members reported on the society’s publications. Dora Vargha spoke on behalf of the Social History of Medicine journal editors, noting that the journal is in good health: in 2018 the number of manuscript submissions increased by 30%. Vanessa Heggie also reported that the number of book reviews was strong, although highlighted problems associated with the increased tendency of publishers not to offer print copies of books for review. Keir Waddington spoke on behalf of the book series editors, noting that the series was healthy in 2018, with around 4-6 books per year and a good pipeline. He encouraged people to consider publishing with the series. Anne Hanley spoke about the SSHM Gazette, which also had strong contributions and circulation throughout the year. The editorial teams for both the journal and the book series will expand in 2019-20.

We then turned to a Policy report, to which the chair spoke briefly, noting that the SSHM Statement of Values was prepared and discussed in 2017/18 and due to be published in the Society’s 50th anniversary year in SHM, issue 33.1. Stephen Mawdsley then thanked officers who have contributed to the Society’s PGR and ECR events during 2018.

The SSHM Secretary, Victoria Bates, then chaired nominations for Membership of the EC and Re-Elections:

- New nominations: Cara Dobbing (Leicester, nominated by members Anna Jamieson and Sophie Almond), Laura Kelly (Strathclyde, nominated by Georgia Grainger and Matthew Smith), and Rebecca Wynter (Birmingham, nominated by Vanessa Heggie and Leonard Smith) were all elected to the EC for a 3-year term nem. con.

- Existing EC members for re-election: Rosemary Cresswell (supported by Gayle Davis and Jonathan Reinarz), Anne Hanley (supported by Carsten Timmermann and Amie Bolissian McRae), Stephen Mawdsley (supported by Hillary Burgardt and Geraldine Gnych), Lisa Smith (supported by Gemma Almond and Alex
We finished the meeting with an opportunity for SSHM members to ask questions or give feedback. The Society was thanked for the work they are doing on behalf of the field. The chair also commented that, alongside the Statement of Values for the 50th anniversary in 2020, at the next AGM, attendees would also be invited to discuss revisions of the Constitution.

Our next Annual General Meeting will take place during the SSHM 2020 conference in Swansea. During the AGM, we will be talking about our activities in 2019. The AGM is also the opportunity for SSHM members to provide us with feedback and suggestions. It is scheduled for 10 July 2020, with the exact time and location TBC.

Victoria Bates
SSHM Secretary

MEETING REPORTS

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH BIANNUAL CONFERENCE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, 27-30 AUGUST 2019

The European Association for the History of Medicine and Health’s biennial Conference ‘Sense and Nonsense’ was hosted by the University of Birmingham from 27 to 30 August 2019. The conference was supported by the Stichting Historia Medicinae (Netherlands), Institut für Geschichte der Medizin Robert Bosch Stiftung (Germany), the Society for the Social History of Medicine and the Institute of Applied Health Research at the University of Birmingham.

The conference invited papers in the emerging field of sensory history though the nearly 125 conference participants in various stages of research careers- PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows and senior academics- engaged with key themes at the heart of medical history in the forty-eight parallel panels spread over three days. The keynote addresses exemplified the conference theme more fully. Professor Ludmilla Jordanova explored a range of sensory responses in medical encounters, and did not confine herself to discussing her path breaking work on viewing practices in her inaugural address. Professor Robert Jütte outlined the effects of the two world wars on the senses of both soldiers and the civilians and Professor Tracey Loughran commented on women’s everyday health experiences in post war Britain.

The conference essentially opened with a workshop ‘Objects’ curated by Dr Victoria Bates aimed at reflecting on one’s sensory engagement with hospitals or other health-related environments. A hospital tile from a medieval Portuguese hospital, hand sanitizer, soap and even pinecones, mainly evoking olfactory responses to sanitised environments, were among the several objects on display. This workshop was rounded off by an exhibition cum demonstration of various medical instruments from the Birmingham Medical and Dental Collection, one of the most intriguing objects being a personalized inhaler used by Hiram Maxim (inventor of the Maxim gun). Professor Jonathan Reinarz, the conference organizer as well as outgoing chair of the EAHMH, offered the historian’s perspective as well as insights into how the collection came to be built and housed at Birmingham.
However, the highlight of the evening was the fascinating journey of the EAHMH recounted by Professor Frank Huisman, who took over as president of the EAHMH from Professor Reinarz. Begun as the International Academy of History of Medicine in 1964, the collective was renamed as EAHMH in 1989 though the first conference, we were told, was held only in 1993 in Strasbourg. Professor Huisman shared photographs, images and document extracts from earlier conferences and even played a short clip from a hymn of the early association composed by Franz Schubert in his evocative presentation. This journey back into time continued, even as the participants gravitated towards a drinks reception since memorabilia, photographs and copies of minutes of past meetings were well on display at the event venue. There were socialising opportunities aplenty, in the official conference dinner ‘curry night’, the ‘canal trip’ which has grown to be an EAHMH tradition as well as during the numerous coffee breaks one could take courtesy the presence of many automated coffee machines in addition to the programmed coffee breaks mentioned on the schedule. The conference covered the histories of medicine and health from the early modern through the contemporary period mainly in northern and north-western Europe and some panels emanated from research work underway in large well-funded project teams in the UK (‘Surgery and Emotion’ project to cite just one such example). Emotional labour involved in health activism was well represented in the panel discussing public health campaigns in post war Britain (panel 3a) with Hannah Elizabeth focusing on women’s experience of disclosures whilst George Severs discussed the perspective of charity workers in the HIV/AIDS work.

Women’s experiences resonated in a range of presentations some using more contemporary material like print advertisements of vaginal deodorants and period pain relieving pills (panel 2a) to women’s birthing experiences in early twentieth century Europe (panel 7d) to papers on infant care and mothercraft (panel 3e). I could draw a very productive linkage between Lucie Bastiaens paper (Panel 3e) exemplifying the surveillance of working -class mothers through provision of milk to infants in early twentieth century Netherlands with the work of medical missions in Congo (panel 4b) wherein similar condescending attitudes towards Congolese mothers were exhibited by Belgian missionaries although powdered milk functioned as a supplement in the colony. Maarten Langhendries and Reinout Vander Hulst from KU Leuven offered a much-needed perspective on the practice of western biomedicine in colonial empires, a theme also explored by Arnab Chakraborty in the colonial Indian context (panel 1b).

Yun Huang discussed the introduction of cocaine in fin de siècle China in the panel 6b ‘Diets and drugs’ which incidentally also had Karel Cerny describe how early
modern Europeans embraced tea, coffee and chocolate (all of which were grown, produced and consumed in the non-European world for centuries before they were integrated into the European diet). Most importantly, this was one of the few papers on the sense of ‘taste’ although the senses of touch, smell and sight and even sound received scholarly attention in various panels. Panels tended to be organised on common themes though there were some panels organised around regional/ geographical boundaries as well, for instance panel 2d focused exclusively on public health and quarantine in ‘pre-modern Italian cities’.

My own Commonwealth-funded research questioning the received histories of the 1960s global smallpox eradication programme presented as part of a panel on health in colonial and post-colonial India (1b) seemed to align in interesting ways with panel 9e ‘Politics of vaccination’ chaired by the EAHMH book prize winner Dora Vargha. This panel discussed the politics of vaccination policies and campaigns in various national contexts. The panel’s declared aims were those of offering a cross- country comparative perspective though the fascinating discussion by María-Isabel Porras, Victoria Caballero and Pedro-Luis Romera from University of Castilla-La Mancha on vaccine production in Spain with the World Health Organization’s technical ‘support’ was a good reminder of the ‘global health’ context in which much of this engagement was actually embedded.

The panel 8a on teaching the history of medicine and health had a good combination of thoughtful reflections as well as invigorating content. Stephen Mawdsley shared his experience and some of the readings he uses whilst teaching the persistence of racial categories across disciplines whilst Alex Bamji focused on her experience of introducing history of medicine modules to her undergraduate cohort. The presentation ‘Teaching with Digital Tools’ by Lisa Smith gave a lot of hope to a digital immigrant like me who is struggling to close the gap with her students. Smith argued that digital assignments could be a means for students of creating a digital portfolio to be shared with a potential employer whilst expanding the potential for cross-classroom learning and interesting grading experience for the course instructor.

The final inspiring keynote by Vanessa Heggie on writing the history of women and gender into biomedicine cautioned against an ‘additive’ history wherein a chapter on women seemed like a good strategy of rounding off the overall historical narrative. Heggie pointed to archival gaps, deliberate erasures and sometimes historians’ presumptions that blinded their comprehension of women’s presence in scientific expeditions in extreme climes and locales. Heggie’s shining a light on women’s presence in what are usually seen as ‘all male fraternal spaces’ could also simultaneously hint at the racial and class-related obscuring that has been underway in most ‘high science’ experimental spaces. The theme of this final keynote assumed an urgent ring after a public calling out of ‘mansplaining’ at the conference. However, this was hearteningly followed by several expressions of
solidarity as well as a polite reminder about conference etiquette from the organising committee.

Regretfully, I could not attend any of the three lunch cum roundtable presentations on archival resources on mental health, ‘madness’ narratives or on public engagement in the history of medicine. Nevertheless, there was so much to learn and there are many fascinating images, ideas and thoughts that created lasting impressions in my mind. I happily nurture this rich cache of memories arising out of participation in my first major history of medicine conference in the UK.

Dr Namrata R. Ganneri
University of York

‘ER INDOORS: DOMESTICITY AND NATURE IN HOME AND GARDEN
WOLFSON RESEARCH EXCHANGE
23 NOVEMBER 2019

This one-day interdisciplinary conference was arranged as a result of the Humanities Research Centre’s Doctoral Fellowship competition, with additional support from the Royal Historical Society, the Society for the Social History of Medicine, Connecting Cultures GRP and Warwick Researcher Development. The conference organiser, Sophie Greenway, is a PhD student in the Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick, researching the thesis ‘Growing Well: Dirt, Health and the Home Gardener in Britain 1930-1970’. The conference grew out of this research and sought to provide a fresh, interdisciplinary perspective on the interaction of humans with the environment by focusing on the relationship between the house and the garden across time and place, on the ways in which family life occurs in the domestic space and how it moves between the indoors and the outdoors. The programme included representatives from a range of career stages, with postgraduates and ECRs most numerous. There were double the number of women than men. During the conference, we discussed the need to diversify this field of study. We collated suggestions of scholars of colour and scholars working on communities of people of colour in the fields of domesticity and environment and will make connections with them in due course. It is, of course, difficult to balance the need to reduce international conference travel with the need to diversify, but we intend to broaden involvement and topics to include communities of people of colour within Britain and Europe at least.

In the first of two keynote addresses, Dr Lisa Taylor of Leeds Beckett University analysed gardens in contemporary lifestyle media, and the ways in which makeover programmes aid ‘deserving’ participants in an era of neoliberalism. In addition, Dr Taylor examined the role of animals in recent gardening programmes, in particular Monty Don’s retriever, Nigel. This very thought-provoking keynote was followed by lively discussion of the horticultural industry, and of gardening as therapy. One speaker in the first panel was unable to attend to join the first panel due to industrial action on the railway. The remaining speakers, Anna Lawrence of the University of Cambridge and Dr Elizabeth Baigent of the University of Oxford gave fascinating papers examining the role of plants, indoors and out, in the neighbourhoods of the Victorian poor. Anna Lawrence’s talk on phytomorphism in the Victorian slum concluded with a call for an expanded biopolitics, to include plant life. Dr Baigent explored Octavia Hill’s very domestic vision of the natural world.
The second panel included an analysis by Dr Teresa Kopecka, Charles University, Prague, of hunger and garden plants in First World War Austria-Hungary, Lauriane Suyin Chalmin-Pui’s new framework, formulated during her PhD at the University of Sheffield, to understand the relationship between Britain in Bloom gardeners and their front gardens, and a joint presentation on the urban horticulture of Bamberg, Germany, by Dr Dan Keech of the University of Gloucestershire and Professor marc Redepenning, of Otto-Friedrich University, Bamberg. The latter explored the relationship between established family-run market gardens, and newer forms of community gardening in the city.

in late 1960s North America, Sophie Greenway (University of Warwick) on the way advertisers used tropes of the gendered division of labour to sell products for home and garden in mid-twentieth century Britain, and Emma Morton, also of the University of Warwick, who examined a range of portrayals of cinematic gardens as spaces of moral judgement. Her analysis included ideas of the ‘natural’ in Orlando, and formality and masculine form in Lady Chatterley. The second keynote address, as the first, questioned the bounds of the conference theme and took our thinking in new directions. Professor Ben Highmore of the University of Sussex showed us how bombsites were used as playgrounds after the Second World War, in a movement to allow children freedom of expression. These children often constructed quasi-domestic spaces as part of their play. Common themes emerged from the discussions: gender, the environment, class and the role of various industries in shaping behaviours. The closing keynote was followed by a wine reception, funded by the SSHM. The process of conference organisation, and the day itself, has created a new network of scholars working on the home and garden, many of whom research issues relating to health. These areas are usually separated in academic work – hopefully we have built a platform for collaboration in the future.

Sophie Greenway
University of Warwick

Woman’s Outlook 20 June 1942, courtesy of Co-operative Press Ltd / www.thenews.coop.

The final panel included Dr Jessica van Horssen of Leeds Beckett University, on the introduction of artificial grass
Twenty one delegates gathered for the Beyond the Medicines/Drug Dichotomy Conference, from 5 to 7 December, 2019. The conference was held in Johannesburg, South Africa and was supported by the Wellcome Trust. It was co-convened by the University of Johannesburg and The Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare (CSHHH), Glasgow, as part of the ‘Changing Minds: Psychoactive Substances in African and Asian History’ project. It was also supported by the Alcohol and Drugs History Society. My attendance was funded by a SSHM conference travel bursary. It was also funded by a travel and accommodation bursary provided by the conference organisers.

The central aim of the conference was to bring together papers which challenged the cultural, historical, and scientific distinctions which had been drawn between ‘medicines’ and ‘drugs’. In particular, the conference provided a forum for delegates to explore the kinds of knowledge which were generated to justify these distinctions. Supplementary to this central theme was also an effort to consider how the histories of particular substances, such as cannabis, morphine, GHB, and synthetic opioids have, at various times, been used to justify or dispute these dichotomies. Finally, the conference also invited papers which explored how chronologies of commodification, regulation, and/or prohibition, of particular substances, have followed similar routes in different geographical and historical contexts.

The first day of the conference (5 December) was provided by the organisers as a chance to settle in and explored Johannesburg. This was unfortunately foiled by continual showers throughout the conference. The next two days (6 and 7 December) proved far less disappointing and consisted of four and three single-session panels respectively. The organisation of the conference into single panels, in a fashion akin to a workshop, was much appreciated and led to a strong sense of community and exchange between delegates. It also solved the often nerve-wracking choice of deciding which panel to go to. As to be expected, these sessions were carefully curated to address related themes and issues across the three papers in each panel. On the first day, these themes included the place of pharmacopolitics in different national contexts, the tensions between consumer agency and subjection, the colonial histories of various substances, and the role of experts and expertise in gatekeeping. The second day then explored themes such as the dichotomies evident in medical practice (my panel), the stigmatisation of particular substances, and the question of whether the global south is experiencing an ‘Opioid Crisis’.

Two papers which particularly resonated with me were Arjun Thomas’s work on cannabis in British Malabar and David Guba Jr.’s paper on Edmond de Courtive’s efforts to ‘naturalise’ hashish in France. Despite being in the first semester of his PhD, Arjun’s paper demonstrated considerable promise and looked towards offering a more regional focus on the history of cannabis in the Indian subcontinent. Likewise, David’s paper, which shared a panel with my own, explored the way in which de Courtive attempted to inculcate hashish into the
French pharmacopeia. David’s paper, which was based upon his forthcoming book, *Taming Cannabis*, really resonated with my own work, on cannabis and the treatment of mania, and led to a very interesting discussion about the similarities/differences in the British and French context in questions.

Due to the conference’s unique location, which is owned by the South Gauteng Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa, the conference proceedings included a tour of the on-site Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa Museum. This tour was led by Ray Pogir, the former president of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa and the museum’s current curator. Ray expertly guided delegates through the museum’s numerous exhibits, which included nineteenth-century pill makers and compounding books, a mid-twentieth-century ample maker, antique talc and leech jars, and an on-site reproduction of a late-nineteenth-century pharmacy shop counter. The tour was also supplemented with an additional talk by a Traditional South African Healer, who guided delegates through some of the museum’s collection of over 700 traditional medicines and herbs.

In the conference’s plenary session, which was led by Professor Jim Mills, it was aptly noted that the papers had illustrated that the dichotomy between medicines and drugs was, itself, sustained by a number of related dichotomies. In particular, Jim suggested that this central dichotomy was also sustained by the tensions between pleasure and pain, poisons and medicines, capitalism and regulation, and between consumers and producers. These, he hoped, would continue to be explored in subsequent works. Both Professor Mills and Professor Waetjen, the co-convenors, have stated that they do not intend lead the organisation of a publication directly stemming from the conference. However, they have strongly encouraged the participants to organise the production of an edited collection or journal special issue. So watch this space. They also encouraged participants to submit applications to the ‘New History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals’ symposium. This symposium is organising a ground-breaking special issue across the *Pharmacy in History*, *The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs*, and the *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* journals.

In sum, this proved to be a fascinating conference, in a suitably apt location, and I can only hope that I see many, if not all, of the delegates again soon.

Jamie Banks
University of Leicester

Drugs and the Mind by Bill McConkey
Courtesy of Wellcome Collection
The Gender and Medieval Studies Conference was held at the Taliesin Centre at Swansea University on 6-8 January 2020, organised by Dr Laura Kalas Williams and Professor Liz MacAvoy. This peripatetic annual interdisciplinary conference has been running since 1987 and this year the topic was ‘Gender, Science and the ‘Natural’ World’. The CfP aim was ‘to interrogate gendered configurations of the ‘natural’ world in the medieval imaginary and the influence of scientific and medical ideas upon understandings of the universe.’ Laura began the conference with resonant links of medieval ideas of nature, medicine, and apocalypse to Donna Haraway’s ecocritical philosophy and climate emergency.

In seven sessions, including three plenaries (as well as a postgraduate workshop with a poster competition jointly won by Rachael Lee and Nicole Custer), twenty-two papers were delivered in person and one recording by Jonah Coman was also broadcast (on trans readings of gender and nudity in medieval art). The report shall discuss the papers via five overlapping themes that emerged from the conference: medicine, monsters, the natural world, religion, and social history, always with a focus on gender. The Postgraduate Workshop began the conference and was run by Dr Elma Brenner who is the medieval and early modern medicine subject specialist at the Wellcome Library. Her workshop centred upon researching medieval health using the resources of the renowned Wellcome Collection.

Medical topics covered at the conference included medieval women who practised cupping (and bloodletting and lancing), investigated by Jennifer Borland. Discussions included whether such women medical practitioners might have assisted at childbirths too, as part of a family medical or surgical practice. Pregnancy and postpartum healthcare were the basis of Roisin Donohue’s paper on the use of precious stones in childbirth rituals, such as ‘eagle stones’ (hollow geodes), diamonds, coral, and drinking ground rock crystal in honey to aid lactation. Hillary Burghardt spoke on women as patients, specifically female epileptics who are less visible in the records and whose seizures were often wrongly diagnosed or left untreated in the belief that puberty or pregnancy would cure them; gender bias that results in misdiagnoses has not yet disappeared, making this a timely and resonant paper. Elma Brunner examined not only medieval water-based medical recipes, such as steeping, but also powerful alcohol-based cures such as *aqua ardens*. Her paper was enhanced by Professor Naoë Kukita Yoshikawa’s plenary which gave close readings of Mechtild and St Catherine of Siena, for whom sweet water and its natural and spiritual benefits inspired such beautiful and influential writings.

Another intertwined theme that emerged from conference papers on monsters, hybrids and the supernatural was wandering wombs, believed to be a medical condition from classical times until the early modern (also called ‘greensickness’). At the conference wandering wombs included the Marian symbolism of the oyster from me, the crystal ‘unnatural womb’ of the Virgin Mary discussed by Lucy Allen, and werewolves in late medieval romances considered as wandering wombs by Vicki Blud. Amy Morgan took to the woods to merge werewolf and space in her paper on lycanthropic
forests while an eco-feminism was reflected in Teresa Pilgrim’s work on Grendel’s monstrous mother in Beowulf; her boggy lair contrasted to the rich lands of the Kentish royal women saints. Tim Wingard explored natural and unnatural monsters in the works of Nicole Oresme, including deformed stillborn children and Agnes Bowker’s demon cat-baby for good measure. The natural world that was less scary than the monstrous forest or the swamp also featured at the conference – such as in the auto-ethnography of Rachel Moss which focused on male - indeed brotherly - solidarity in orchard spaces – away from prying eyes and ears of the home but still within the demense lands – and the garden space used to more comic effect by Chaucer in The Merchant’s Tale where Maria Zygogianni found healing (as well as cuckolding). Ruth Worgan read the medieval romance, Sir Orfeo, via Irigaray’s feminine jouissance, exploring the sexuate difference of Orfeo’s wife, Herodis, stolen by the Fairy King from her garden. Daisy Black’s paper also took up the idea of tamed nature in the farmland depicted in a medieval play (Mactacio Abel) about Cain and Abel, where she also explored farming puns, arses and, much more seriously, biblical fratricide and medieval antisemitism.

Religion was a common theme in several papers. Rich understandings of the numinous developed from Jennifer N. Brown’s investigation of Julian of Norwich’s and Richard Rolle’s sensory devotional poetics of the ineffable. Heresy was discussed by Elizabeth MacDonald in conversation with Laura Williams on Margery Kempe and in Kathryn Loveridge’s close reading of Inquisition accounts of Auda Fabri’s disbelief in the divinity of Christ. Medieval advice or conduct books, chronicles, and spiritual texts were linked to or contained information on healthy practice too, often expressing lay piety, social conservatism and, it should be added, a good dose of misogyny. Professor Linda Mitchell demonstrated in forensic detail the medieval (mostly monastic) chroniclers’ desire to wipe elite women from history, a trope that sadly remains alive and kicking in some modern historiography. Theresa Tyers linked an English collection of pastoral care texts (Paris, BnF, fr. 400, s. xiv) to a female patron or reader in the aftermath of the Black Death. Themes of gender, science, and nature all came together in Elizabeth Kinne’s reading of The Good Wife’s Guide (Le Ménagier de Paris, 1393) as a Foucauldian example of Christian confession as misogyny (part of her research on programming women from medieval conduct books to modern sexbots), where deliberately starving one’s sparrowhawk was a figure for disciplining a young wife.

In conclusion, the GMS 2020 Conference was an inspired and successful interdisciplinary event that brought science, medicine and arts together within the wonderful medieval cosmos. Many thanks to the organisers, Laura and Liz, and their team and sponsors (including SSMH) at Swansea University. GMS 2021 on Gender and Mobility will be held at University of Surrey in early January.

Diane Heath
Canterbury Christ Church University
APOTHECARIES’ MEDICAL HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY FACULTY CELEBRATES DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

The Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries celebrates its 60th anniversary this year with a packed programme of events, open to all.

To mark its Diamond Anniversary, the Faculty is organising celebratory events including: a one day symposium exploring the history of medical botany; a visit to Chelsea Physic Garden; an International Women’s Day event; a dinner for the launch of These Are the Hands, which is an NHS poetry anthology; and a 60th anniversary formal dinner.

A Diamond Patrons’ scheme has also been launched to establish a fund that will enable the Faculty to pilot new and innovative events in the future.

The Faculty, based in the 17th century guildhall of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries in Blackfriars, London, offers events, workshops and courses for anyone with an interest in the history of medicine. Its Apothecaries’ Lecturers and outreach visits encourage medical students to engage actively with their professional history, and it works in partnership with a wide range of related organisations.

The 2019-20 Faculty programme includes 8 Eponymous Lectures, this is open to anyone for free, two Diploma courses, short courses and events. Full details of the lecture programme are available here: https://www.apothecaries.org/faculty-events/ and courses here: https://www.apothecaries.org/courses/

For further information, please contact:
Maria Ferran, Faculty Manager
Email: facultyhp@apothecaries.org
Telephone: 020 7236 1189

THE BOTANICAL HISTORY OF THE GIN & TONIC: TALK AND TASTING
13 FEBRUARY 2020, 6PM
LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON

Kim Walker and Mark Nesbitt explore the history of tonic water, the unjustly overshadowed partner in the famous gin and tonic. The cocktail is thought of as a quintessentially English drink, yet its origins lie in the cinchona trees of eastern slopes of the Andes and the malarial landscapes of Asia. In this richly illustrated talk, Kim and Mark cut through centuries of legends to reveal a history of botany, medicine, empire and drinking to discover how one of the few treatments for malaria came together with alcohol and soda to create the perfect gin and tonic.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS IN CARTESIAN MEDICINE (WORKSHOP)
DOMUS COMELIANA, PISA, ITALY
15-16 MAY 2020

As uniquely shaped by Descartes, medicine assumed a new role in the development of early modern natural philosophy. That one-fifth of Descartes’ entire output is dedicated to medicine should be regarded as a testimony to the constant attention he devoted to this subject, which kept him busy throughout his life in a series of anatomical observations and vivisections, visits to anatomical theatres, as well as protracted discussions with contemporary physicians. It is significant, in this regard, that Descartes’ *Discours de la Méthode* (1637) originally attracted a great deal of attention from learned physicians in the Netherlands and Belgium, such as Henricus Regius (1598–1679) in Utrecht and Vopiscus Fortunatus Plempius (1601–71) in Leuven. Not only is medicine one of the fruits of the tree of philosophy, but it may be used to illuminate Descartes’ methodology, physics, metaphysics (i.e., the mind-body dualism), moral philosophy and theory of emotions.

Notably, the conference will explore four main areas:

- **Textual**: devoted to the analysis of Descartes’ 1) sources of medical knowledge, including their intellectual and social setting, and 2) published and manuscripts medical texts, also edited by Cartesian proponents, with an emphasis on the medical texts produced by Cartesian scholars and critics;

- **Philosophical**: focused on Descartes’ approach to medical knowledge, especially the ways it befits, contrasts or develops the main strands of his natural philosophy (i.e., blood circulation, psychology, neurophysiology and embryology), other possible topics in this section include the role of medical experimentation and quantification in the seventeenth-century;

- **Exegetical**: highlighting the early reception of Descartes’ medical theories, with their success, obscurities and failures (e.g., the explanation of nutrition), the exchanges and collaborations with his contemporaries and proponents, and the paths Cartesian scholars travelled to fill the lacunae in Descartes’ medical knowledge;

- **Legacy**: exploring the later reactions of, and opposition to Descartes’ medicine in early modern Europe, and especially in Italy, France and Germany, where Cartesian medicine was subject of academic discussions and polemics.

Proposals are invited in any of the above-mentioned areas from scholars working on any aspect of early modern medicine, philosophy, science and technology, widely construed. Applicants should send a 300-words abstract with a short bibliography, along with a one-page CV, affiliation, and contact information to: info@csmbr.fondazionecomel.org specifying the object VivaMente 2020.

Application Deadline: 31 March 2020

Invited speakers:

- Annie BITBOL-HESPÉRIÈS (Paris)
- Maria CONFORTI (Rome)
- Gideon MANNING (Los Angeles)
- Franco Aurelio MESCHINI (Lecce)
- Andrea STRAZZONI (Erfurt)
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF BIBLICAL STUDIES (EABS) ANNUAL MEETING

PANEL THEME: MEDICINE IN BIBLE AND TALMUD

3-6 AUGUST, 2020

WUPPERTAL UNIVERSITY, GERMANY

Wellness and a healthy lifestyle have become major topics in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, mostly in the Western globalized world. However, works about regimen – proper nutrition, care of the body and physical exercise - formed a distinct genre in the corpus of Greek medical writings from as early as the fifth century BCE that have spread thereafter throughout the Mediterranean and the Middle East affecting various cultures’ approaches on those issues.

Our panel will examine how pertaining concepts or practices of health regimen were appropriated, transformed or rejected in ancient to early medieval Jewish and related traditions (e.g. Egyptian, Babylonian-Persian, Greek, Syriac, and Coptic Christian, Muslim, Manichean, Mandeans). Given the close connection to everyday routines, we can assume the familiarity of ancient Jews and their contemporaries with relevant (transmitted) knowledge and practices.

Topics may include nutrition, exercises, care of the body, such as toilet habits, bathing, massages etc., and purging practices, such as sweating or the use of emetics or bloodletting. Contributions may explore the relationship between religious laws (e.g. dietary laws/ kashrut, Halakhic rules, monastic rules), certain rituals or practices (e.g. prayer, meals, offerings) and concepts of health regimen. Alternatively, the papers may focus on narrative and other (visual, embodied, performative) forms of representation of pertaining ideas or the symbolic impact of certain foodstuff or specific places (springs, rivers, gardens etc.) to health and healing. The discussion can also discuss how a healthy way of life might have been of importance for a specific group (priests, rabbis, scribes, monks etc.) and how this regimen interfered with or complemented a life of learning and religious duties. Ideally, papers should focus on one or two traditions or one regional context with its cultural specifics, while paying attention to and highlighting processes of transmission and other comparative aspects.

The “Medicine in Bible and Talmud” invites paper proposals from scholars of diverse disciplinary backgrounds from different institutions and at different stages of their respective career. We would be particularly interested in co-sponsoring a session with the new group on “Food Symbolism”.

Alongside the thematic focus in 2020 on diet and regimen or related bodily and medical practices we invite also contributions that fall into the general scope of our group as outlined on our website (see below).

Please submit your proposal before 20 February 2020 via the electronic application system:
https://www.eabs.net/EABS/Research-Units/Research_Units/Research_Units_2020/Medicine_in_Bible_and_Talmud.aspx

Please, send it also to the chairs of this research unit:
Markham J. Geller (University College London)
m.geller@ucl.ac.uk
Lennart Lehmhaus (Freie Universität Berlin)
lennart.lehmhaus@fu-berlin.de
THE GLOBAL WAR AGAINST THE RAT AND THE EPISTEMIC EMERGENCE OF ZOONOSIS

Focused on the historical examination of the global campaigns against rats between 1898 and 1948 and the ways in which these contributed to the emergence of scientific concepts about animal-to-human infection (zoonosis), The Global War Against the Rat and the Epistemic Emergence of Zoonosis project will hold its official public launch event at the Annual Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK & Commonwealth (ASA2020) in St Andrews in August 2020. The project is funded by the Wellcome Trust with an Investigator Award (Department of Social Anthropology, The University of St Andrews; PI: Christos Lynteris) and will run from October 2019 to September 2024. For updates on this event please visit the project’s website https://wwrat.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk or contact Christos Lynteris: cl12@st-andrews.ac.uk.

Christos Lynteris
University of St Andrews

WELLCOME NEWS

WELLCOME TRUST REPORT: WHAT RESEARCHERS THINK ABOUT THE CULTURE THEY WORK IN

The research sector is widely seen as producing great work, but there are concerns about the culture that has developed to support this. Are policies, incentives and assessment processes, leadership approaches or other factors undermining research? To investigate researchers’ experiences of research culture and their visions for the future, Wellcome commissioned specialist market research agency Shift Learning to undertake a study. This began with a literature review, followed by 94 qualitative interviews, four workshops and a quantitative online survey of over 4,000 researchers. The aim was to generate a rigorous foundation of data from which to better understand the current culture and target interventions at problems. The picture is not uniform, but there are many common themes. Researchers are passionate about their work and proud to be part of the research community – they see it as a vocation, not just a job. Culture varies a great deal from place to place, and different individuals have very different experiences, with underrepresented groups experiencing the most challenges. Researchers say that their working culture is best when it is collaborative, inclusive, supportive and creative, when researchers are given time to focus on their research priorities, when leadership is transparent and open, and when individuals have a sense of safety and security. But too often research culture is not at its best. While most researchers feel that their sector is producing high-quality outputs, they also report deep concerns about how sustainable the culture is in the long term. They say that conditions are being worsened by a complex network of incentives from government, funders and institutions that seem to focus on quantity of outputs, and narrow concepts of ‘impact’, rather than on real quality. The upshot is that they feel intense pressure to publish, with too little value placed on how results are achieved and the human costs. They accept competition as a necessary part of working in research, but think that it is often becoming aggressive and harmful. They also have widespread concerns about job security – especially in academia.
While many researchers enjoy and feel equipped to manage their teams, those being managed are often missing out on the critical aspects of good management such as feedback. And worse, many have experienced exploitation, discrimination, harassment and bullying.

Executive summary These cultural problems have consequences. Concerns about these fall into three categories: the impact on researchers, the impact on research and the impact on society. For researchers, poor research culture is leading to stress, anxiety, mental health problems, strain on personal relationships, and a sense of isolation and loneliness at work. For research, the perceived impacts include a loss of quality, with corners being cut and outputs becoming increasingly superficial, problems with reproducibility, and the cherry-picking of results and data massaging. For society, the dangers are seen as loss of talent from the sector and a reduction of real innovation and impact resulting from a narrow set of priorities, as well as a loss of trust from the public. Researchers are keen to support improvements, and they have many suggestions, including:

- changes to funding structures and criteria to improve incentives
- better support for early-career researchers
- training to strengthen managing and mentoring
- identifying and deterring bad behaviour
- procedures to help researchers raise concerns safely
- policies to share and promote good practice.

The findings in this report provide clear evidence that there are widespread problems in research culture. Those who fund, publish, evaluate or conduct research can now use this evidence as a starting-point to implement solutions in their own communities and working groups. Achieving a successful research culture will require collective responsibility and change at all levels. Participants said that research culture is best when it is creative, supportive and collaborative – and in making cultural change, these three qualities will be key as well.

The full report may be viewed at this address: https://wellcome.ac.uk/sites/default/files/what-researchers-think-about-the-culture-they-work-in.pdf

PLAY WELL EXHIBITION
WELLCOME COLLECTION
UNTIL 8 MARCH 2020

Why do we play? How important is it for all of us, young or old? What does it mean to play well? We invite you to consider the impact of play in our lives. ‘Play Well’ explores how play transforms both childhood and society. Using displays of historic toys and games, artworks and design, this exhibition investigates how play develops social bonds, emotional resilience and physical wellbeing. The exhibition includes: images of children at play in the street, in playgrounds and beyond; makeshift and commercially produced toys; digital games and a larp (live-action role play) space by artist Adam James.

The exhibition is open to people of all ages, but there are limited opportunities for interaction and handling objects.
Social Histories of Medicine is concerned with all aspects of health, illness and medicine, from prehistory to the present, in every part of the world. The series covers the circumstances that promote health or illness, the ways in which people experience and explain such conditions, and what, practically, they do about them. Practitioners of all approaches to health and healing come within its scope, as do their ideas, beliefs, and practices, and the social, economic and cultural contexts in which they operate. Methodologically, the series welcomes relevant studies in social, economic, cultural, and intellectual history, as well as approaches derived from other disciplines in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities. The series is a collaboration between Manchester University Press and the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

Monographs: Professor Keir Waddington
Email: waddingtonk@cardiff.ac.uk
Edited Volumes: Dr David Cantor
Email: cantord@mail.nih.gov

You can find out about the series, about submitting proposals, or to purchase books at www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/series/social-histories-of-medicine

Below are a few examples of recent books in the series.


**JULIAN SIMPSON**

Migrant architects of the NHS draws on forty-five oral history interviews and extensive archival research to offer a radical reappraisal of how the National Health Service was made. It tells the story of migrant South Asian doctors who became general practitioners in the NHS. Imperial legacies, professional discrimination and an exodus of UK-trained doctors combined to direct these doctors towards work as GPs in some of the most deprived parts of the UK. In some areas, they made up over half of the general practitioner workforce. The NHS was structurally dependent on them and they shaped British society and medicine through their agency.

Aimed at students and academics with interests in the history of immigration, immigration studies, the history of medicine, South Asian studies and oral history. It will also be of interest to anyone who wants to know more about how Empire and migration have contributed to making Britain what it is today.
Balancing the Self: Medicine, Politics and the Regulation of Health in the Twentieth Century

Eds. Mark Jackson and Martin D. Moore

Balancing the Self explores the diverse ways in which balanced and unbalanced selfhoods have been subject to construction, intervention and challenge across the long twentieth century. Chapters on diabetes, 'sensible drinking', obesity control, dietetic regulation, fatigue, heart disease, physical and emotional extremes, Parkinson's disease and other conditions understood in terms of disordered balance analyse the ways in which the mechanisms and meanings of balance have been framed historically. Together, contributions examine the positive narratives that have been attached to the ideals and practices of 'self-help', and the extent to which rhetorics of empowerment and responsibility have been used for a variety of purposes, from disciplining bodies to cutting social security provision.
Disclaimer: Any views expressed in this Gazette are those of the Editors or the named contributor; they are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee or general membership. While every care is taken to provide accurate and helpful information in the Gazette, the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the Chair of its Executive Committee and the Editor of the Gazette accept no responsibility for omissions or errors or their subsequent effects. Readers are encouraged to check all essential information appropriate to specific circumstances.

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