

THE GAZETTE

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WELCOME TO THE GAZETTE

Dear readers,

Welcome to the hundred and first issue of the SSHM *Gazette*. In this issue we are celebrating the success of two exciting projects which received Wellcome-funded SSHM Research Community Network grants. We also have a historian of medicine in the news, upcoming events, and an interesting conference report.

The next issue of the *Gazette* will appear in July 2023. Please send any updates to me at oisinwall@ucc.ie by 14 July. 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

Amsterdam) - 'Twentieth-Century Psy-Disciplines and LGBTQIA+ Communities: Histories and Contexts of 'Conversion Therapies''

Peder Clark (University of Strathclyde) & Jamie Banks (Loughborough University) - 'JOINT: An Early Career Drugs History Research Network. Establishing a drugs history research network for Early Career Researchers in the UK and Ireland'

We'll be advertising the autumn deadline for the second and final round of applications for Wellcome/SSHM networks shortly.

Jamie Banks writes with an update on the network JOINT:

Last year, Peder & I were fortunate enough to receive a networking grant from SSHM. Together, we used the grant to establish JOINT - a community for early career scholars and PhD students working on the history of intoxicants (broadly defined). Whilst Peder and I both valued sense of companionship we felt within the Alcohol and Drugs History Society (incidentally, the conference at which we first met), we nevertheless felt there was need for a community that better catered to the challenges faced by Early Career scholars in the United Kingdom. These included positioning yourself in a job market in which drugs history is still an - albeit growing - niche and providing support for young academics working on this side of the Atlantic. JOINT's core activities primarily consist of a bi-monthly reading group, to discuss recent publications in the field of drugs scholarship (also broadly defined). The network also intends to hold two, one-day workshops in London and Glasgow over the course of the next year (watch this space for dates and times). Lastly, beyond specific activities, JOINT hopes to create a broader sense of community between scholars working on the history of drugs in the UK, creating opportunities for future mentorship and collaboration. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the network, or would like more details, please feel free to contact me or Peder.

WELLCOME FUNDING



Two new Wellcome-funded Society for the Social History of Medicine Research Community Networks begin activities this year, following our first round of funding which attracted a range of excellent applications:

Sarah Marks (Birkbeck, University of London), Kate Davison (University of Edinburgh), Katherine Hubbard (University of Surrey), Mo Moulton (University of Birmingham), Helen Spandler (University of Central Lancashire), & Rebecca Wynter (University of

For contact details see - <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/subjects/politics-international-studies/staff/jamie-banks/>

The organisation of these grants (Wellcome grant no 224337/Z/21/Z) is also facilitated by the University of Strathclyde's Research and Knowledge Exchange Services and we are very grateful for their ongoing administrative support.

We are also very grateful for Wellcome funding for the forthcoming 'Precarity in the Academy: Issues and Solutions for the History of Medicine' event to be held at Wroxton College, Oxfordshire, in June (Wellcome grant no. 224335/Z/21/Z).

CALLS FOR PAPERS

NOVEL THINKING: REPRESENTATIONS OF MIND IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE A ONE DAY HYBRID CONFERENCE

Monday, 26th June 2023

University of Queensland

In his 1907 reading of Wilhelm Jensen's novel *Gradiva*, Sigmund Freud declared creative writers to be 'valuable allies' to the discipline of psychiatry, whose 'knowledge of the mind' was 'far in advance of us everyday people, for they draw upon sources which we have not yet opened up for science'. Freud's insistence that literature discloses and gives artistic expression to the workings of the subconscious emphasised a close alliance between literature and psychoanalysis in their shared interest in the human mind. Given that the fields of literature and psychiatry are both deeply invested in the nature of subjectivity, agency, and mental states, as well as the shaping force of unconscious operations on the construction of identity, it is perhaps not surprising that each provides a different form of evidence of psychological operations.

This one day, hybrid conference at the University of Queensland will interrogate literature's capacities not only to reflect and imaginatively to illustrate states of mind but also anticipate and actively inform our understandings of consciousness. Our central focus will be the question of how to know and represent the inner workings of one's own and others' minds.

Topics might include but are not limited to:

- Realist, Gothic, Fantastic, Sci-Fi or Visionary explorations of individual psychology
- Representations of states of consciousness including dreams, visions, hallucinations, and nightmares
- Subjectivities in modes of narrative discourse
- Constructions of individual or collective identities in narrative
- Representations of animal or non-human minds and identities
- Explorations of altered or distorted mental states
- Representations of mental illness

Proposals from researchers across a range of disciplines and stages of career are welcome. Speakers and participants are welcome to join in person or via zoom. Please send proposals of no more than 300 words accompanied by a short bio to Dr Melissa Dickson at melissa.dickson@uq.edu.au by Monday, 15th May 2023.

THE DEAD BODY IN IRELAND: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

21- 22 September, 2023

Trinity College Dublin and Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin Cemeteries Trust

In September 1823 the burial of Arthur D'Arcy, a well-known Dublin citizen, was disturbed by a complaint. When mourners and members of the Catholic clergy gathered in St Kevin's Churchyard in Dublin city to recite the *De Profundis* over his coffin, the sexton of

the Anglican parish, William Bruce Dunn interrupted. He asserted that prayers at the graveside for Catholics in a Church of Ireland churchyard violated the law. The incident came to public attention, another example of religious tension in nineteenth-century Ireland.

The burial of Catholics in Church of Ireland graveyards was required by law since 1697, but the issue of prayers, rites and rituals, created tension at a local and national level. As part of government attempts to address the conditions of Catholics and dissenters, the Easement of Burial Act was passed in 1824, and the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 ensured that Catholics could purchase their own ground for interment. From the 1850s onwards the state became more directly involved in the management of cemeteries through the passage of the Burial Boards Act (1856). This role was further cemented following the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland (1869) and the introduction of the Public Health Act (1878).

In recent years historic treatment of the dead has come to public notice following the confirmation that almost 800 children were buried in septic tanks on the grounds of a Mother and Baby Home in Galway. Discussion around the repatriation of human remains from Irish museums and universities has also hit the headlines. On the anniversary of the 1823 controversy the School of Histories and Humanities at Trinity College Dublin and Dublin Cemeteries Trust (created by O'Connell in the 1820s) are delighted to invite scholars to the university and the cemetery to discuss the significance of the dead body in Irish culture and history and consider the 'work' that the dead have done and continue to do in Irish society. (Thomas Laqueur, *The work of the dead*, 2015)

We welcome scholars from all disciplines and all career stages to begin a discussion on histories of burial in Ireland since the early modern period. Dr Clodagh Tait (Mary Immaculate College, UL) will be one of two keynote speakers over the two days.

- Normative / deviant burial
- Archaeology and the remains of the dead
- Commemoration / grave markers
- Cemeteries and cillíní
- Institutional burial
- The science of burial
- Medical history
- Rituals of mourning
- Religion and faith
- The treatment of the dead
- Exhumation
- Display of the dead
- Repatriation of human remains

Queries and submissions to Dr Georgina Laragy, School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin laragy@tcd.ie . Please send a 250 word abstract of your paper, along with a short bio by 20 June 2023 if you wish to present your research. Details about attending will be released once the schedule is finalised.

Deadline: 20 June 2023



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Dublin
Cemeteries
Trust Est. 1828

SSH M SYMPOSIUM

PSYCHIATRY AND THE ARTS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY BRITAIN

Symposium 1: Practices

9 June 2023, 9:30-4

The Crichton, Bankend Road, Dumfries

Conveners: Dr Rosemary Golding, Professor Susan Hogan

You are warmly invited to attend the first symposium of the AHRC-funded Network on Psychiatry and the Arts in Nineteenth-Century Britain, to be held on Friday 9 June at The Crichton, Dumfries. The Network 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.

In this first symposium we will examine practices concerning the arts, creativity, psychiatry and mental health in nineteenth-century Britain. We plan to livestream part of the event.

Lunch will be provided for all participants.

This event is free, but please confirm your attendance and any dietary requirements by email to PAN@open.ac.uk by 15 May.

<https://fass.open.ac.uk/research/projects/PAN>



SSH M IN THE NEWS

Prof Virginia Berridge, the social historian of medicine, has been appointed Deputy Chair of the London Drugs Commission (<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/mopac-governance-and-decision-making/london-drugs-commission>). The Commission was established in 2022 by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Kahn, to look into the effectiveness of the UK's drug laws, particularly in relation to cannabis. It is highly unusual and exciting to have a social historian in such a role.

SSH M CONFERENCE REPORT

Widening perspectives on the history of children's care. Report on the Compassion and Care conference in Manchester, March 2023.

Jenni Räikkönen

Doctoral Researcher

Tampere University, Finland

How are compassion and care of children felt, practiced, imagined, and materialised throughout

different times and locations? The conference *Compassion and Care. Emotions and Experience in the Care of Children through History* offered much food for thought to think about these various dimensions of care. The two-day conference was held at the John Rylands Library and Research Institute in Manchester on 23–24 March and funded by several institutions (University of Manchester, Leverhulme Trust, Society for the Social History of Medicine, Society for the Study of Labour History, Royal Historical Society, Social History Society, and Economic History Society). The focus of the conference was on past experiences of care, but it brought together an interdisciplinary group of historians, social workers, social scientists, archivists, and activists. Most papers discussed care in the UK, but there were also glimpses from other geographical contexts, such as Australia, Nigeria, and India. I had the pleasure of presenting a paper with Tanja Vahtikari (Tampere University) about our research on the Finnish baby box as an object of institutional and mundane familial care of the welfare society.

The venue at the neo-Gothic John Rylands Library was stunning, yet, because of the limited space it offered, the event was kept small with around 40 participants on site. This was in no way a loss: the organizers had put plenty of effort into selecting the speakers, and the atmosphere was intimate and committed the whole two days. Online attendance was also possible. The conference theme was clearly close to heart for the organisers Kate Gibson (University of Manchester) and Claudia Soares (Newcastle University), who have both in their work concentrated on the histories of children's residential and kinship care.

The conference aimed to shed light on the multiplicity of care relationships and experiences, both from the perspective of carers and care recipients in the past and present. The papers successfully pointed out various aspects of care, both as tending to a child's physical needs and as an emotional affection and attachment, mostly in institutional settings, but also with family and kin. Various presenters importantly noted that the history of residential care is inseparable from histories of trauma, stigma, racial and ableist prejudice, and abuse. Yet, care also involves emotions such as love, affection, joy, and religious and professional vocation. As discussed in the papers, various positive and negative emotions can sometimes be simultaneously present in care experiences, relationships, and memories.

The first conference day began with a dive into record-keeping practices and the power of the archives. All speakers in the first panel stressed how emotionally and personally meaningful it is for the care experienced people (anyone currently in care or from a looked-after background) to be able to find information about their history. Victoria Hoyle (University of York) insisted that historians should think of the commitment for children's care extending to our own research practices: being mindful of the bureaucratic structures that shape the records and of the danger of reproducing problematic features of social care. Other panels continued discussion about care research ethics and overall, highlighted the importance of looking for different ways to uncover the histories of the care experienced, still too often silent in research and – in studies concerning more recent times – left out of the research focused on them.

The day ended with a vibrant roundtable discussion that brought together experts from

social and historical research and care experienced advocacy group Who Cares? Scotland. Emily Baugham (University of Sheffield), Saul Becker (Manchester Metropolitan University), Kate Brooks (Bath Spa University), and Melissa Craib (Who Cares? Scotland) captivated the attention of the participants even after the four dense panels and beautifully built on the discussions of the day. Becker's notion of the importance of viewing children as caregivers rather than only care receivers was a thought-provoking addition to the conversation.

The second-day panels expanded perspectives on care both thematically and methodologically. I was struck by the vigour of the speakers in the first panel about colonisation and race. The papers insisted on asking who has the power to provide and define care and decide who is worthy of care. They also again brought forth the difficulty of reading children's stories and experiences of care from limited archival sources. Kira Smith (York University, Canada) introduced us to her inquiry on blended writing - mixing fiction with more traditional academic writing - to help ignite the researcher's imagination and cultivate historical empathy. In the second panel on maternity and emotions, Olivia Formby (University of Cambridge) presented her study on medical literature of breastfeeding in early modern England, discussing

care as a bodily and sensory practice and looking for ways to uncover infants' emotions. Overall, the panels of the second day broadened discussions on the materialities of care and sensory and spatial aspects of care. Our paper about our ongoing project on the history of the baby box in Finland spurred discussion about objects of care, imbued with memory and feelings.

The Compassion and Care conference offered an inclusive and thought-provoking venue to bring forth the importance of a multidimensional understanding of the history of care. As highlighted in the conversations, further understanding of care histories have the potential to help envision ethical and inclusive caring practices in the present. 30 April 2023 marks the third international "Care Experienced History Month", which allows anyone to find events and continue engaging with histories of care.

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