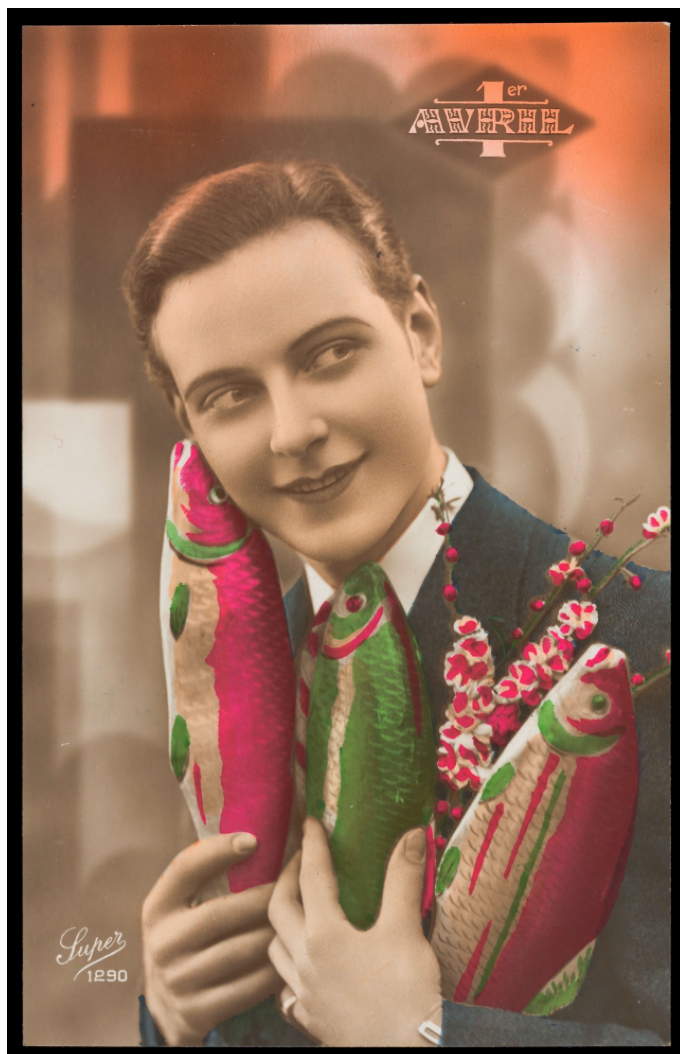


THE GAZETTE

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A man holding three fish and some flowers; the fish representing "poissons d'avril" (April fool's jokes).

Coloured photographic postcard, 1920-29.

Wellcome images: 2047189i

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WELCOME TO THE GAZETTE

Dear readers,

As we all get ready for a new academic year it is time for a new issue of *The Gazette*. Most excitingly in this issue we welcome a new member of the SSHM committee, Felicity Mckee who is joining us from Swansea University. We also have a call for papers, several upcoming events, the announcement of a new health humanities research network, and a report by Olivia Andrew on a fascinating conference.

I hope everyone finds something in the issue to interest them and that everyone has a successful term!

All best wishes and solidarity,
Oisín Wall, Editor

As the new Webmaster, Felicity will be behind the scenes on the SSHM socials and website and looks forward to being tagged or made aware of the many amazing things that members are doing that they would like shared or highlighted on these platforms.



CALL FOR PAPERS

Museums and Beyond: Public Histories of Mental Illness in the 21st Century.

Venue: University of Huddersfield and the Mental Health Museum

Date: Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th April, 2024

Historians of mental illness have long been at the forefront of public engagement activities but, in the past decade, this work has taken on additional significance. With a rising tide of expectations focusing on research engagement and impact, now more than ever, the co-production and co-curation of research and knowledge outcomes occupy an important place in the public history landscape. Often, reflection on this topic focuses on the presentation of the past in museums or other heritage settings. However, as strategic priorities change over time, and as scholarship continues to expand into new geographical, spatial, chronological and methodological areas of analysis, newer opportunities for engagement present themselves and newer challenges have arisen. This two-day event offers an opportunity to share examples of good practice and highlight the innovative contributions that historians, and the humanities more broadly, make to wider society. It is also a chance to critically explore the challenges that arise from working in partnership.

The organisers invite proposals for 20-minute papers on the public histories of mental illness that include, but are not limited to:

- Innovative engagement with museums and their publics



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Felicity Mckee: Webmaster

Felicity completed their undergraduate degree in Anthropology at Queens University Belfast, and followed this with a Master's in Public Health at the same university. She is currently finishing her PhD in History at Swansea University and focuses on disability within 19th century Britain, with a specific interest in performance, identity and the creation of space. When she isn't completing her PhD, she is part of the research team for Disabled Students UK and publishes research there such as 'Going Back is Not a Choice' which examined the impact of covid on disabled students across the UK. She is currently working on additional research exploring the experiences of postgraduate disabled PhD students in STEM, as well as a national survey of Disabled Students with over 1300 responses so far.

- Impact and engagement during Covid-19
- Self-care and the psychological impacts of partnership working
- Co-produced outputs involving service-user or other community groups
- The place of the historian in policy- and/or place-making
- Decolonising the public histories of mental illness
- The challenges of 'presentism' in partnership working
- Engaging the public using digital resources
- International or transnational engagement and impact
- The role and place of creativity and/or the creative arts in the public histories of mental illness
- The challenges and opportunities of working with under-served groups
- The challenges and opportunities of working with school-age children
- Digital transformation and museum practices

In each case, we see 'the public' as broadly defined and we welcome inter- or cross-disciplinary proposals from a range of international contexts. Joint presentations with community partners and proposals for three-paper panels are also welcome and we hope to offer some small bursaries for postgraduate and early career researchers. Part of the conference will take place at the Mental Health Museum, Wakefield. This will enable delegates to see, first-hand, some of the material culture of psychiatry and to take part in some object-handling exercises and other activities with Museum staff.

Please send a c.300-word abstract and 5 key words, along with a short biography of each author, to the organisers by 7 October 2023. We intend to submit a proposal for an edited collection to Palgrave Macmillan's *Mental Health in Historical Perspective* series as a follow-up to this event and hope delegates will be interested in publishing with us (subject to the usual peer review process).

Organisers: Rob Ellis (University of Huddersfield) r.ellis@hud.ac.uk and Jane Stockdale, (Mental Health Museum) Jane.stockdale@swyt.nhs.uk.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Visual Histories of Humor and Health: A Virtual Symposium

Online: 6 September

Join us for this virtual symposium exploring visual histories of humor and health, organized by Christine Slobogin, Katie Snow, and Laura Cowley in collaboration with Johns Hopkins's Center for Medical Humanities and Social Medicine.

These discussions of medically adjacent art will examine the role that visual humor has had and continues to play in healing and healthcare, as well as in experiences of illness, injury, and death. This event aims to enrich interdisciplinary approaches to the medical humanities, humor studies, and histories of visual culture and art.

This event will feature ten-minute short-form talks exploring vibrant intersections of humor, visual culture, and the health humanities, each followed by ample time for discussion, questions, and feedback involving all attendees. The speakers showcased are contributors to an upcoming edited volume, but the event is open to all, and we encourage people who are not contributors to join us and get involved.

We will schedule regular breaks and aim to accommodate participation across multiple time zones. You are welcome to join late or leave early. Please reach out with any access needs at cslobog1@jh.edu. Due to annual leave replies will come after August 17th 2023. We thank you for your patience and will get back to you before the event.

For more details:

<https://hopkinsmedicalhumanities.org/events/humorandhealth/1693987200/>

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/visual-histories-of-humor-and-health-a-virtual-symposium-tickets-687885773867?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1

Collecting and Reflecting Pharmacy History

Society of Apothecaries

From carboys to COVID vaccination, herbs to herbals, materia medica to medicines, explore the objects and organisations that tell pharmacy histories today. This course will take you behind the scenes of key pharmaceutical collections with curator-led tours, object-based sessions and insightful talks that provide background stories and reflect on the challenges of curating and collecting pharmacy history to present to visitors in the 21st century.

A three-day course over six venues, book one, two or all three days. Limited availability!

Book your place here:

<https://catalogue.apothecaries.org/catalog?pagename=Faculty-HP-Courses>



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Pelvic Health and Public Health in Twentieth Century Canada (PH | PH) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Vancouver Island University

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral research fellow to join the Pelvic Health and Public Health in Twentieth Century Canada (PH | PH) project, directed by Dr. Whitney Wood, Canada Research Chair in the Historical Dimensions of Women's Health at Vancouver Island University. The tenure of the fellowship is three years, with the successful candidate initially appointed for one year and the fellowship renewable for an additional two years.

Informal inquiries can also be directed via email to whitney.wood@viu.ca. Review of applications will commence September 15, 2023.



CONFERENCE REPORT

'Articulation/ Experience/ Embodiment' Medical Humanities Research Network Launch Conference, June 2023

Olivia Andrew

Doctoral Researcher

University of Kent, Canterbury

June 20 2023 saw scholars from across the medical humanities come together for the launch of the 'Articulation/ Experience/ Embodiment' research network. Scholars from the University of Essex, University of Kent, University of East Anglia, Exeter University, and the University of Waikato amongst



A NEW NETWORK!

A new Public Health Humanities network has been set up to advocate for the importance of humanities research within public/population health; to overcome barriers that prevent its inclusion; and to facilitate connections amongst and between humanities researchers and the wider public health community. Historians with an interest in working with public/population health research and practice are very welcome to join: you can find more information on our website at <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres-projects-groups/public-health-humanities>, including a link to sign up to the mailing list.

others, joined together at the University of Essex for a one-day conference funded by the Eastern Arc Consortium and organised by the network's steering group, Stella Bolaki (University of Kent), Harriet Cooper (UEA), Francesca Govia (University of Essex), Jane Hartshorn (University of Kent), Tracey Loughran (University of Essex), and Janet Mathieson (University of Essex). With a focus on how our bodies speak in a variety of ways, the conference sought to examine how articulation, experience, and embodiment interlink to help us understand our experiences of the world and our interactions with others.

The conference comprised of numerous papers, creative activities, networking opportunities, and spaces to discuss the future of the network – a perfect schedule for the intimate group in attendance. It was evident throughout that a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive community of researchers had formed, aligning with the network's aims to use examinations to facilitate spaces and techniques for empathy, healing, and change within the medical humanities.

The day began with a welcome by Tracey Loughran who introduced the conference, network, and steering group members. It was evident from the start that this was to be a relaxed and welcoming conference where we could learn from each other free from many of the usual pressures of academic conferences.

The first panel started the conference brilliantly. Focusing on articulation, panellists highlighted the experiences of different groups along with the difficulties and stigmas faced. Harry Caton (University of Exeter) in his paper, "In Silence Speaking" – Deaf Poetry and the Politics of Silence in Fin-de-Siecle Britain' explored the ways in which deafness was considered and treated as inferior under the influence of social Darwinism and population fears. Using Deaf Poetry extracts from deaf newspapers as case studies, Harry demonstrated how deaf people rejected oralist practises and ideas of inferiority, staking a claim to their own articulation as an early

form of activism, creating a community and circumventing the need for oral speech.

Roanna Mitchell (University of Kent) followed this with the paper "Inappropriate Anger" and Embodied Practices of Believing' discussing the role of the body in performance, activism, and movement within her research focused on people with a Borderline Personality Disorder diagnosis. Revealing the incorrect assumptions made about people with a BPD diagnosis, Roanna demonstrated the importance being believed had for trauma treatment, outlining her use of creative practice to make space to discuss experiences. Detailing the use of improvisation and phrases such as 'yes, and', rather than 'but', Roanna revealed the importance of language in creating spaces for dialogue and discussion.

Both papers emphasised the ways in which language is integral to experience, revealing the ways in which our understandings can shift when we take time to explore our use of language in more depth and are open to listening.

After a short break there was a 'craftivism workshop'. This was the first of such a workshop I had attended during a conference, and whilst many people were sceptical at first, it was thoroughly enjoyed. Presented with crafting materials, we were tasked with creating what we thought the 'Articulation/Experience/Embodiment' network should look like. Working within three groups, we set to work discussing and creating our ideas. Each group produced well thought out, creative pieces to explain their thoughts, ranging from zines, to glittery mind-maps and posters with eye-catching details. However, points that came up repeatedly were the need for a supportive community, critical friends, and collaboration. The incorporation of a collaborative creative activity was a welcome break, and usefully demonstrated how knowledge can be created through a variety of means.

The second panel of the day continued explorations of articulation, focusing upon representations within literature and visual culture.

Christopher Bundock (University of Essex) in his paper, entitled 'Dysphoria, Horror, Nymphomania: The Prehistory of Hysteria in 18th Century Medicine and Romantic Literature' demonstrated how we can see nymphomania's usage historically through the ways it was discussed within literature, linking to Roanna's paper on the importance of being believed. Utilising M. D. T. De Bienville's medical literature, *Nymphomania, or a Dissertation Concerning the Furor Uterinus*, and Joanna Baillie's romantic literature, *A Series of Plays on the Passions in which it is attempted to Delineate the Stronger Passions of the Mind*, as case studies, Christopher revealed how each literature had distinct aims and reveal the tensions surrounding emotion and embodied consciousness.

Maebh Long (University of Waikato) in her paper 'Embodied Immunity in Advertising Copy: Finding Relation in Articulations of Isolation', similarly focused upon representation and articulation within advertisements for 'cure all's'. Leading us through numerous advertisements found within her research, Maebh demonstrated how these utilised language of modern science to reinforce ideas of protection and immunity, allowing self-diagnosis, agency, and control amongst their audiences. Maebh revealed how immunity was cast as future proof and a prize for buying the right product, highlighting the use of language to sell an idea, a way of life, and a product.

Before the conference's keynote, we came together once more to reflect on the day, with an emphasis on what we as members wished to see the network do next. Community, mutual guidance, advice, and support were again highlighted as important.

The conference ended with a bang; a participatory keynote lecture and performance by Amanda Couch (University for the Creative Arts) entitled, 'Repairing the Rupture: A Collaborative Performance Paper with Elder'. Starting with a short paper on the enclosure of the commons and its effect on our bodies, ancient knowledge, and knowing,

Amanda discussed medicine's shift from cunning wise women to the realm of men. Amanda emphasised how through food foraging we can rebuild lost connections, recover the knowledge of our ancestors, and protect our environment and food security.

Following this paper, we engaged in an activity to mimic the movement of elder trees designed to help us take a moment to consider our environment we so often overlook. We were then presented with some elderflower cordial that Amanda had kindly prepared. Amanda first discussed the use of elder throughout history, guiding us through the experience, contemplating the severing of the common world throughout. Being used as a repellent against witches (whilst later being shrouded in fear towards them), as well as a fly repellent, and for its antibacterial properties, elder has had many uses historically. However, it was made clear that we have lost our ancient connections to this plant.

We attempted to recover these lost connections through the elderflower cordial. We were first encouraged to smell the cordial, taking time to consider the different scents and the images and memories evoked by the smell. Next we tasted the cordial whilst remembering elder's uses to attempt to reclaim our lost knowledge and connections to the plant.

The participatory lecture was an enjoyable experience and a unique way to unearth the history of a plant and lost knowledge. The vibrant question and answer session at the end, coupled with many attendees pouring a second glass of cordial, demonstrated the impact Amanda's keynote had on us. I for one will certainly view the world, especially elder, differently after Amanda's performance.

Overall this was an insightful, enjoyable, and engaging conference and a great way to launch 'Articulation/ Experience/ Embodiment'; a medical humanities research network that clearly has its members at heart. For a network founded to examine

the relationship between experience and representation, health and illness knowledge, and create space for empathy, healing, and change, the papers, discussions, and collaborations evoked throughout this day made clear we are in good hands.

I would like to thank the organisers, speakers, and fellow attendees for creating a welcoming, supportive, and engaging day, where we can begin to tackle critical questions within the medical humanities. I look forward to further events and discussions that come from this conference and network.

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