

Notiziario/News

May 26-27, 2016, London, Conference, After the End of Disease

Public and academic discussions on the end of diseases are abundant in the midst of recent epidemic crises. Faltering vaccination rates have seen old diseases, like measles and whooping cough resurface to epidemic proportions in the Global North. Several global epidemic crises, such as the swine flu and ebola, have prompted international organizations, local governments, pharmaceutical companies, research institutions and individuals to respond in manifold ways with the aim of controlling and eventually ending epidemic diseases. Ending diseases for good have been the goal of several eradication campaigns over the 20th century and are the focus of global projects such as the polio eradication initiative, spearheaded by the a public-private partnership including the WHO, the CDC, UNICEF, the Rotary and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In his now classic article ‘What is an epidemic?’, Charles Rosenberg pointed out that epidemics as social phenomena work with a particular dramaturgic form of increasing tension, crisis and eventual closure. Scholarly analysis, historical or contemporary, has tended to follow this narrative, focusing on prevention, outbreaks, epidemic crises, upheaval, and the end of disease. What happens after the end is more often than not left to epilogues, or addressed only in relation to a new, emerging disease on the cusp of crisis. Yet, diseases are often imprinted on the bodies of survivors, societies and cultures. Epidemics may change economic structures, social interaction, shape practices of international intervention and attitudes towards healthcare. In some cases, the proclaimed end of a disease leaves individuals or whole societies and states without resources previously guaranteed by the perceived epidemic threat. In others, the action of looking back after the end creates space for making

moral judgements on individuals, societies, governments and international organizations.

This conference brings together historians of medicine and global public health, anthropologists and sociologists with policy makers to think past the conventional narrative curve of epidemics and disease in general. Proposals that address one or several of the following questions are particularly welcome:

How do states, societies and international organizations prepare for the end of a disease? Do they prepare at all?

What happens to the disease itself after the end?

What are the lasting consequences of epidemic diseases that linger on after the end?

What happens when a disease makes a comeback?

Who and when decides if a disease is over? Where and for whom do diseases end and who is excluded/forgotten?

How does the action of determining the “end” of an epidemic (e.g. ebola, polio, etc.) affect those involved: those who fear, those who prepare, those who cure, those who survive?

What happens if the end of a disease fails to arrive?

Deadline to submit abstracts up to 300 words is December 1, 2015. Please send abstracts and any queries to d.vargha@bbk.ac.uk. Contact details: Dora Vargha, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck College, University of London, <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/reluctantinternationalists>.

8-10 June 2016, San Servolo Island, Venice, Italy, Conference, Dietary Innovation and Disease in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Gluten is seen as such a threat to health by some that foods that have never contained gluten are advertised as being ‘gluten-free’. In a range of popular health books and blogs, gluten-associated with newer, high-yielding varieties of wheat, increased fertiliser and pesti-

de use, as well as modern bread-making processes-has been linked to autism, depression, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, diabetes and some skin diseases. The link between dietary innovation and disease, both perceived and real, is nothing new, of course. From deficiency diseases to food intolerances, the nineteenth and twentieth centuries witnessed numerous innovations in food production, preparation and consumption that impacted on health. What are the economics and politics of dietary change? What are the health risks? This international conference on "Dietary Innovation and Disease" aims to unpack these current concerns by historicising and contextualising the relationship between dietary change and health in the past.

This conference is being organised as part of the research project 'Rough Skin: Maize, Pellagra and Society in Italy, 1750-1930', PI Professor David Gentilcore, and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The organisers are: David Gentilcore (School of History and Centre for Medical Humanities, University of Leicester) and Matthew Smith (Department of History and Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare, University of Strathclyde).

We welcome proposals from researchers from a range of academic disciplines who offer an historical perspective on the topic and invite abstracts for papers including, but not limited to: Possible Topics/themes; changing dietary recommendations/medical understanding and food advice, as well as responses to this advice; discourses of dietary health and social ideals; innovation and health as cultural, economic, political and medical concepts; deficiency diseases such as pellagra, beriberi, goiter; allergies and intolerances; scientific controversies and their economic, political and ethical contexts; transnational comparisons between countries/regions and/or studies of change over time in one country or region; the relationship between innovations in diet/foodways, and nutrition and health Please submit an abstract (300 words) and a short biography by 1 December 2015, to Professor David Gentilcore at dcg2@le.ac.uk.

For more information and the call for papers, please visit the conference website at: <http://dietaryinnovation.com/>, or contact Professor David Gentilcore (dcg2@le.ac.uk).

16-18 June 2016, Vancouver, Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/Association Canadienne pour l'Histoire du Nursing (CAHN/ACHN) - Annual Conference June 2016, Brains, Guts and Gumption: Historical Perspectives on Nursing Education, Practice and Entrepreneurship

Exploring connections between health, nursing and leadership, the conference welcomes papers that analyze the various ways in which nurses have negotiated their roles as educators, practitioners or entrepreneurs, testing new paths of work and practice as the context of health care changed and demanded new responses. Questions of education, practice, health policy and power will be examined, looking at critical areas of nursing's past. How did local, regional and global health contexts shape nursing practice and education? How did nurses negotiate new domains of work, authority and knowledge? What tensions arose over claims of knowledge, quality training, skill and professional identity? Abstracts on other topics are also welcome.

6-9 July 2016, UWI St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, Conference, Public Health and Society in Latin America and the Caribbean

The conference will bring together scholars, professionals, and students internationally and from many different areas of nursing and health care. We especially welcome abstracts from students.

This three day conference is designed to explore the complex relationship between public health and Latin American and Caribbean societies from the colonial to the present era. As the third leg of a series of international workshops on the history of public health policies and practice in these regions, it will focus on the engagement of

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medical personnel, policy makers, health agencies and the public in relation to the evolution of public health perspectives, regulations and implementation. It intends, as well, to pursue discourse on the varied consequences of imperialism, racism and classism in public health approaches, and the role of traditional medicine and the treatment of mental disabilities within the Caribbean and Latin America.

Paper proposals may be submitted under the following themes:

Imperialism, Decolonization and the role of public health

International, Regional and Community Organizations and the advancement of public health

Pluralism: The conflict of Indigenous medicine and Biomedicine

Demography, Migration and Disease control

Mental health

Medical personnel and public health engagement

New Technologies and Procedures and their impact on the society

The impact of Ethnicity and 'Class' on public health

Tropical Medicine and its impact on colonial societies, policies and economies

The conference will be hosted by the Department of History, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with the University of York and Casa de Oswaldo Cruz/ Fiocruz, Brazil. It is part of a British Academy-funded collaborative project.

Contributors are requested to submit:

an abstract of no more than 250 words, including the title of the paper

a one page CV including name, department and university affiliation (if appropriate), mailing address, phone number(s) and current email address.

Please submit to Dr. Debbie McCollin at publichealthandsociety2016@gmail.com. The deadline for submission is 1st February 2016.

7-10 July 2016 Canterbury, England, United Kingdom, hosted by the Centre for the History of Medicine, Ethics and Medical Humanities, University of Kent Society for the Social History of Medicine 2016

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/history/events/conferences/sshm2016.html>

The Society for the Social History of Medicine hosts a major, biennial, international, and interdisciplinary conference. In 2016 it will explore the theme of place. The committee conceives 'place' in its broadest sense – from political, spatial, and cultural spaces, to the narrow confines of a patient's hospital bed. The biennial conference is not exclusive in terms of its theme, and reflects the diversity of the discipline of the social history of medicine.

Proposals that consider all topics relevant to the history of medicine broadly conceived are invited, but the 2016 committee encourages proposals for papers, sessions, and round-tables that examine, challenge, and refine the history of medical and health related spaces from the laboratory to open-air therapy; the body and mind in a range of environments, locales including nation, communities and identities, and issues surrounding ethics and state and private provision of places for medicine. We welcome a range of disciplinary approaches and time periods. However, submissions are not restricted to any area of study, and the committee welcomes proposals on a range of subjects relevant to the history of medicine and place, from the history of architecture to imagined spaces. The committee encourages proposals advancing innovative thinking based on new research. Paper submissions should include a 250-word abstract including five key words and a short CV. Panel submissions should include three papers (each with a 250-word abstract including five key words short CV), a chair, and a 100-word panel abstract. Round-table submissions should include the names of four participants (each with a short CV), a chair, a 500-word abstract and five key words. Submissions and queries should be sent to: medicineinitsplace2016@kent.ac.uk

Call closes 1 February 2016

Conference Organizers: Dr Julie Anderson and Professor Ulf Schmidt.

15–16 July 2016, Birkbeck, University of London, Conference, Religion and Medicine

Paper proposals are invited for a conference on ‘Religion and medicine: healing the body and soul from the Middle Ages to the modern day’ that will take place at Birkbeck, University of London, 15–16 July 2016. The conference is convened by Katherine Harvey, John Henderson and Carmen Mangion.

In the contemporary Western world, religion and medicine are increasingly separated, but through much of history they have been closely interrelated. This relationship has been characterised by some conflict, but also by a great deal of cooperation. Religious perspectives have informed both the understanding of and approaches to health and sickness, whilst religious personnel have frequently been at the forefront of medical provision. Religious organisations were, moreover, often at the heart of the response to medical emergencies, and provided key healing environments, such as hospitals and pilgrimage sites. This conference will explore the relationship between religion and medicine in the historic past, ranging over a long chronological framework and a wide geographical span. The conference’s focus will be primarily historical, and we welcome contributions which take an interdisciplinary approach to this topic.

Four main themes will provide the focus of the conference. The sub-themes are not prescriptive, but are suggested as potential subjects for consideration:

1. Healing the body and healing the soul Medical traditions: the non-natural environment and the ‘passions of the soul’. Religious traditions (for example, the Church Fathers, sermons and devotional literature).

2. The religious and medicine
Medical knowledge and practice of religious personnel,
including secular and regular clergy.
Nurses and nursing.
Medical practitioners, religious authorities and the regula-
tion of medical activity and practice.
3. Religious responses
Religious responses to epidemics, from leprosy to plague
to pox and cholera.
Medical missions in Europe and the wider world.
Religion, humanitarianism and medical care.
4. Healing environments and religion
Religious healing, miracles, pilgrimage.
Institutional medical care (including hospitals, dispensa-
ries and convalescent homes).

Proposals, consisting of a paper abstract (no more than 300 words) and a short biography (no more than 400 words), should be submitted to toreligionandmedicineconference@gmail.com by 30 October 2015. Proposals will be responded to by early December. For more information please visit the website, and follow on Twitter: @RelMedConf2016.

Wednesday 31st August to Friday 2nd September 2016, Cardiff, Cardiff University

Keynotes: Christina Bashford (*Illinois*) & Frank Trentmann (*Birkbeck*)

Neo-Victorian Plenary: Patricia Duncker (*Manchester*)

CONSUMING (THE) VICTORIANS

The Victorian age saw the emergence of ‘modern’ consumer culture: in urban life, commerce, literature, art, science and medicine, entertainment, the leisure and tourist industries. The expansion and prolifera-

tion of new mass markets and inessential goods opened up pleasurable and democratising forms of consumption while also raising anxieties about urban space, the collapse of social and gendered boundaries, the pollution of domestic and public life, the degeneration of the moral and social health of the nation. This conference is concerned with the complexity and diversity of Victorian consumer cultures and also seeks to consider our contemporary consumption of the Victorian/s.

Wednesday 7th September 2016 to 15.30 on Friday 9th September 2016, African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) biennial conference will be held at the University of Cambridge (Robinson College)

From the mid-nineteenth century, a growing number of medical practitioners recorded their clinical experiences, research, and opinions in print. This literature, which includes medical missionary publications, newspaper ‘self help’ columns, and African professional medical journals, forms a key body of sources for scholars of medicine and health—in some cases representing the only surviving type of source material. This panel considers medical publications both for what they can reveal about medical knowledge and practice, and as a genre in itself. Bringing together scholars from different disciplines, it will explore such themes as medical hegemony, the professionalisation of medicine, and the construction of medical and historical knowledge. How have different types of practitioners used print media to further their claims to authority? What role have medical publications played in the transnational circulation of medical knowledge? How revealing are medical publications of the clinical encounter? What role has print media played in ‘educating’ lay audiences? What can medical publications reveal about the divide between oral and written medical traditions? And how are new forms of media shaping Africa’s therapeutic landscape?

10th-11th September 2016, Oxford, St Anne's College, Medicine And Modernity In The Long Nineteenth Century

keynote speakers: Christopher Hamlin and Laura Otis

In our current 'Information Age' we suffer as never before, it is claimed, from the stresses of an overload of information, and the speed of global networks. The Victorians diagnosed similar problems in the nineteenth century. The medic James Crichton Browne spoke in 1860 of the 'velocity of thought and action' now required, and of the stresses imposed on the brain forced to process in a month more information 'than was required of our grandfathers in the course of a lifetime'. Through this two day interdisciplinary conference, hosted by the ERC funded *Diseases of Modern Life* project based at Oxford, we will explore the phenomena of stress and overload, and other disorders associated with the problems of modernity in the long nineteenth century, as expressed in the literature, science, and medicine of the period. We seek to return to the holistic, integrative vision of the Victorians as it was expressed in the science and literature of the period, exploring the connections drawn between physiological, psychological and social health, or disease, and offering new ways of contextualising the problems of modernity facing us in the twenty-first century. We are particularly interested in comparative perspectives on these issues from international viewpoints.

15th-16th September 2016, Huddersfield UK, Centre for Health Histories, University of Huddersfield, Voices of Madness, Voices of Mental Ill-Health

In the thirty years since Roy Porter called on historians to lower their gaze so that they might better understand patient-doctor roles in the past, historians have sought to place the voices of previously, silent, marginalised and disenfranchised individuals at the heart of their analyses. Contemporaneously, the development of service user

groups and patient consultations have become an important feature of the debates and planning related to current approaches to prevention, care and treatment. The aim of this conference is to further explore and reveal how the voices of those living with and treating mental illness have been recorded and expressed. We hope to consider recent developments in these areas with a view to facilitating an interdisciplinary discourse around historical perspectives of mental health and illness.

For more information contact Dr Rob Ellis (r.ellis@hud.ac.uk), Dr Sarah Kendal (s.kendal@hud.ac.uk) or Dr Steven Taylor (s.taylor@hud.ac.uk).

16th-18th February 2017, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, International conference and Call for Papers: The Anatomy of the Image: Perspectives on the (Bio)Medical Body in Science, Literature, Culture and Politics

Organizers: Associate Professor A. Fliethmann, Associate Professor R. Kokanovic, Dr. C. Weller

Andreas Vesalius, the eminent anatomist of the Renaissance period, whose works *On the Fabric of the Human Body* (1543) are often regarded as the beginnings of medicine as a modern science, was quite aware of the impact the printing press and the image had for a new and seemingly rigorous methodological understanding of the (bio)medical body. He was anxious that the “detailed diagrams of the parts (and God grant that the printers will not ruin them!)” were given the proper and meticulous attention as “illustrations greatly assist the understanding, for they place more clearly before the eyes what the text, no matter how explicitly, describes” (Vesalius). Present day medical visualization techniques too are often still perceived as able to reveal a truth that texts will not capture with the same degree of precision. In particular neuroimaging seems to have cautiously inherited this perception: “Neuroimaging has transposed

psychological phenomena into visual categories and thus changed their epistemic and cultural status. How profound and sustained these changes will be is not yet clear, [...]” (M. Hagner).

Neither the anatomists of the Renaissance nor today’s neuroscientists have completely ignored the epistemic role that different ‘technological’ depictions of the body play in defining the ‘truth’ about the (bio)medical body however, they have not given questions of media theoretical implications the appropriate epistemological attention, even though changing views about the (bio)medical body are indebted as much to technology as to methodology and history.

Our knowledge is continuously constructed where image, text, and numbers meet or miss each other. What could possibly be known without a medium, be it language, signs, images or numbers? These are serious questions addressing the role that any materiality of communication plays in relation to the communicated content. And that is true for research in cultural studies as much as it is for the sciences.

In particular the perspectives, depictions and imaginings of the (bio) medical body in history and across disciplines now seem to promise an open field of intellectual investigations in this respect that warrants dialogue. The conference therefore seeks to address the relationship between inner imagination, the (bio)medical body and the external image: From the Renaissance paradigm of anatomy, to Foucault’s “birth of the clinic” and the institutionalised construction of a “medical gaze”; from the 19th century interest in public displays of the (bio)medical body to photography and its “visual” archives of madness; from film, literature and psychoanalysis to psychiatric art collections’; from body dysmorphia as identity disorder to digitalised bodies in mass media.

The conference wishes to create a broader context for analysing cultural, literary, scientific and political constructions of the (bio)medical body, and therefore seeks to generate interest in the topic from a wide range of disciplines from anthropology, history, media theory,

literature, art history, film, political studies, social sciences, criminology, law and medicine.

We would like to invite papers to the following panels but will also accept topics of interest not captured by the panels listed:

1. Imagination and Medicine
2. Medical Imaging, Images of the Body
3. (Bio)medical Body in Film, Literature and Theatre
4. The Politics of the (Bio)medical Body
5. (Bio)medical Body in Art History
6. (Bio)medical Body and the Law
7. Media Theory, the Body of Imagination & the Image of the Body
8. Psychiatric Images / Outsider Art

Individual proposals should consist of an abstract (approx. 200-300 words) for a paper of 20 minutes duration. Please include a brief biographical statement (no more than 100 words) with your abstract.

Please submit proposals no later than Friday, 1 July 2016 to:

<https://artsonline.wufoo.eu/forms/anatomy-of-the-image/>

Please note: It is expected that selected papers will be submitted for publication.

