

Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare

Seminar Series

Previous Seminars

5 December 2023

[Dr Andrew Seaton \(University College London\)](#)

Andrew Seaton will reflect on writing the history of the National Health Service (NHS) by drawing on his new book, *Our NHS: A History of Britain's Best-Loved Institution* (Yale University Press). Andrew will discuss the principal arguments of his book and their contributions to the fields of medical history, British history, and political history, as well as his methodological choices and approach to writing. In doing so, he hopes to stimulate a wider discussion about how scholars might write future histories of the service and other comparable medical and welfare institutions.

7 November 2023

[Dr Grace Redhead \(Exeter\)](#) and [Dr Rebecca Lynch \(Exeter\)](#)

Grace will be discussing the origins of the 'postcode lottery' of inequalities in healthcare

The 'postcode lottery' has become a dominant political framing for place-based health inequalities in Britain, used by patient groups, politicians and in media coverage of regional health and healthcare inequalities. Using newspapers, parliamentary material and health policy, this paper explores the history of the 'postcode lottery' as a term of patient protest and political art, and asks what values and ideas about the NHS, the role of the state, and the position of the patient, have been embedded within it. The first part of this paper examines its origins in the 1989-91 introduction of the 'internal market', the 1994 reintroduction of the National Lottery, and in the context of widespread anxieties about the uneven distribution of state services and private wealth in Britain. It explores its changing uses through the era of New Labour and the introduction of the Conservative austerity programme, and its use as a 'weapon' in the 'armoury' of third sector health organisations. It concludes that the 'postcode lottery' has gained such political currency because it enables the decontextualization of places from their long social and economic histories. This paper then turns to an examination of the long histories of regional health inequality in Britain obscured by the notion of the 'postcode lottery', and how epidemiologists and policymakers have grappled with the problem of resource allocation. Finally, this paper argues that the emergence and use of the 'postcode lottery' reflects and reinforces the entanglement of the NHS with the logic of marketisation and appeals to discourses of fairness which ignore questions of structural inequality.

10 October 2023

Dr Hannah Elizabeth (LSHTM)

Joint seminar with Women's History Scotland

'Everyone expected me to get an abortion': Managing HIV-affected pregnancy in Edinburgh in the late 20th Century

Abstract: This paper tracks how the advice to terminate pregnancies became integral to the medical and social management of HIV among women in the UK and how this shaped experiences of HIV-affected pregnancy. Specifically, it traces how the advice that 'at risk' and HIV positive women should avoid pregnancy, and should terminate pregnancies, evolved in Edinburgh in the last decades of the twentieth century. It asks how this advice shaped the experiences of pregnant people affected by HIV, and then finally traces how the advice to terminate pregnancies ebbed away. In doing so, the chapter explores how healthcare practitioners and the women under their care viewed HIV-affected pregnancy, and the possibilities of HIV-affected motherhood and the families it conjured, excavating the myriad tensions which shaped the decision to terminate or continue a pregnancy affected by HIV.

Hannah Elizabeth is a cultural historian of health, sexuality, emotions and childhood in Britain. They are currently working on a Wellcome funded project investigating how HIV-affected people built and maintained families in Edinburgh, influencing national and international policy and practice through daily acts of love, care, and activism. Their most recent publication from the project is a chapter titled: 'Recovering Mothers' Experiences of HIV/AIDS Health Activism in Edinburgh, 1983-2000'. Beyond histories of HIV they have published widely on the history of British public health education, activism, teenage sexual health and sexuality, most recently with an article on queer women's health activism in Birmingham with 'The Wild Women of the West (Midlands)'.

23 March 2023

The First Resort and The Naked Room: How to be Sane in an Insane World

Prof Matt Smith (Strathclyde) and Willa Schneberg

7 February 2023

Time, Loss, and Grief: Pieces from a History of the UK University's Present

Prof Felicity Callard (University of Glasgow)

24 January 2023

New and forthcoming books from History at Strathclyde: roundtable discussion

Dr Catriona Ellis, Dr Matt Eisler, Dr Laura Kelly, Dr Fearghus Roulston and Prof Matt Smith in conversation with Prof Jim Mills about their new books

29 November 2022

Youth, gender and teenage sexual counselling in Britain post-1945 (exact title tbc)

Caroline Rusterholz (Cambridge)

8 November 2022

“One Roof Style Medical Care”: The Development of Health Centres in New Zealand in the 1970s and 1980s

Hayley Brown (LSHTM)

11 October 2022

Book launch: The Edinburgh Companion to the Politics of American Health

Sophie Jones (Strathclyde) and Martin Halliwell (Leicester)

4 October 2022

Fortitude and Nationality in Crimean War Surgery

This paper examines the substantial debate on surgery, emotions and ideas of race and nationality in the Crimean War. It will argue that the war was a significant moment in the development not only of well-known Humanitarian impulses towards the “common soldier” but also of an often explicitly racialised cult of pain and endurance in the face of the surgeon’s knife. In particular it will consider the debates on survival rates among the "races" represented in the war - British, French, Russian and Turkish.

James Kennaway (University of Groningen)

28 March 2022

Mental Health Foundation, Reclaiming Our Heritage Online Event

Introducing a collection of stories about the arts and mental health landscape in Scotland, between the 1950s to early 2000s.

15 March 2022

The making of a transnational community of practice: Transnational connections of AIDS activists in West Germany, the UK and Greece

Nikolaos Papadogiannis, St Andrews/CSHHH

1 February 2022

The “Love Thugs”: Ecstasy, homosociability and the decline of hooliganism in 1990s Britain

Peder Clark, CSHHH

23 November 2021

‘When Africa was a Laboratory for German Scientists’

Dr Edna Bonhomme (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)

26 October 2021

‘Decolonising madness?’ (full title tbc)

Dr Ana Antic (University of Copenhagen)

12 October 2021

'Rhetoric punishment, madness, healing: the uses of self-injury in early modern England'
Dr Alanna Skuse (University of Reading)

28 September 2021

'It all began with my snoring man: Pharmaceutical and Alcohol Abuse of Women and its Treatment in Socialist East Germany'
Dr Markus Wahl (The Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Stiftung (IGM), Stuttgart)

16 March 2021

African American Mental Health and Social Policy in 20th Century Urban America
Prof Martin Summers, Boston College

2 March 2021

In the archive of the Peckham Experiment
Dr Giulia Smith, University of Oxford

16 February 2021

Working alternatives towards a history of anti-psychiatry 'from below'
Dr Steffan Balyney's abstract
Download Steffan Blayney's abstract

26 January 2021

Marijuana Boom in Colombia, a Book Talk
Dr Lina Britto, Northwestern University

1 December 2020

The history of trauma and refugee mental health in the Global Health
Yolana Pringle (University of Roehampton) and Baher Ibrahim (University of Glasgow)

17 November 2020

"I am English": Loneliness and Melancholia in Elizabeth Taylor's Novels
Akshi Singh, Queen Mary University of London

28 October 2020

School of Humanities Seminar Series

'Smallpox Eradication 40 years On: An Alternative Commemoration'

Professor Sanjoy Bhattachayra

Leading member of the UK's history of medicine community who has published widely on infectious diseases, international health organisations and medicine in modern empires.

Download Sanjoy's [Slides](#)

27 October 2020**MHCUK Roundtable Discussion**

A roundtable discussion introducing the work of this year's Medical Humanities China-UK (MHCUK) Fellows, Dr Wankun Li, Dr Louise Creechan and Dr Fabiola Creed, welcoming them to the CSHHH.

18 February 2020

Rubber Gloves and Liquid Gold: Drugs and the Regulation of Queer Spaces in the 1980s

Dr Ben Mechen, Lecturer in Twentieth Century British History, King's College London

Download Ben's [Abstract](#)

14 January 2020

The making of an alternative international health: North Korea and the socialist world

Dr Dora Vargha, University of Exeter

Download Dora's [Abstract](#)

10 December 2019

"You go to Hong Kong for me": The colonial city in British imaginations

Dr Chi Chi Huang, University of Strathclyde

18 October 2019

"How medicine got modern with media technology: Towards a media history of 20th-century medicine"

Michael Sappol, PhD, History of Science & Ideas, Uppsala University, Sweden

17 October 2019

Medical Movies 1918-1965

Michael Sappol, PhD, History of Science & Ideas, Uppsala University, Sweden

24 September 2019

'Legato con amore in un volume: 18th and 19th century Italian manuscripts in the Wellcome Collection'

Prof Phil Cooke, University of Strathclyde

26 March 2019

Mass Immunization in Chinese and Global Health

Mary Augusta Brazelton, University of Cambridge

19 March 2019

"Clubbable": The Shaping of Britain's Medical Elite

Sally Sheard, University of Liverpool

19 February 2019

Caress and the making of the Guide Dog Partnership in 1930s America

Neil Pemberton, University of Manchester

6 December 2018

Crossroads of American Sovereignty

Mary X Mitchell, Purdue University

12 March 2019

3 December 2018

The Abortion Act (1967): a Biography

Gayle Davis, University of Edinburgh

25 September 2018

"Relaxed Mother - Relaxed Child": Responsible women and contagious tension in the twentieth century

Ayesha Nathoo, University of Exeter

26 April 2018

Drug Addiction in Post-war Finland: Some Preliminary Remarks

Anu Salmela, University of Turku

Download the [Abstract](#)

7 March 2018

'The Growth and Development of the "Therapeutic Orphan" in American Pediatric Drug Policy and Clinical Practice, 1933-1979'

Cynthia Connolly, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

Download the [Abstract](#)

7 February 2018

"Don't Do Brain Surgery with a Pickaxe": Psychosurgery and Shock Therapy as Political Metaphor in Post-WWII American Fiction

Joanna Wilson, University of Edinburgh

Download the [Abstract](#)

24 January 2018

Ronald Sandison, LSD and the 'Beyond Within' Powick Hospital

Mark Gallagher, University of Glasgow

Download the [Abstract](#)
