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Society for the Social History of Medicine

# The Gazette



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**Web** <http://www.sshm.org>

## SSH OFFICIAL NOTICE

### Election to the Executive Committee

Nominations are invited to fill the four vacancies on the Executive Committee of the Society for the Social History of Medicine, which will arise following the 2004 Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee consists of sixteen members, twelve of whom are elected. Four members stand for election each year, serving a three year term of office. The joint editors of the Society's journal, *Social History of Medicine*, the edited series editor, and the monographs editor are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

The members of the committee who are retiring in 2004 are Flurin Condrau, Pamela Dale, Cathy McClive and Carsten Timmermann. All four are eligible for re-election. In addition, there is currently one vacancy on the committee, for which we are inviting nominations.

Candidates must be members of the Society of at least one year's standing. Proposers and seconds must also be members.

Members of the Society may nominate themselves or another member. The nomination form (on the back cover of this issue) should be completed, signed by the proposer, the seconder and by the nominee.

The completed form should be returned to the Society's acting Secretary:

Dr Pamela Dale,  
Centre for Medical History  
Room 329, Amory Building  
University of Exeter  
Exeter EX4 4RJ  
United Kingdom  
Tel. +44 (0)1392 263289  
Email: Pamela.L.Dale@exeter.ac.uk.

The closing date for nominations is **31 January 2005**.

The results of the election will be announced at the 2004 Annual General

Meeting of the Society, to be held in London on **Friday, 18 February 2005, 5pm**, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT.

Stuart Anderson  
SSHM Chairman

## SSH CONFERENCE REPORT

### Mediating Biomedicine: Engaging, Resisting, Negotiating

**Manchester, September 10-11, 2004**

'Mediating Biomedicine: Engaging, Resisting, Negotiating' was a small but international workshop hosted by the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of Manchester. With only thirty-four participants, it was easy for everyone to discuss their work with others working in a similar field. A wide selection of subjects were covered, with the title 'Mediating' used to encompass the media, from film to magazines, publicity of medical events, state education in the form of posters and films, patients' involvement in their health-care, and how patients are educated about treatment. The subject area of the communication of medicine led to a variety of methods being used to deliver papers to the audience, using the sources which were the topics of the talks. These included films, and slides, of which Bert Hansen (Baruch College) used 160 in his fascinating discussion of how *Life* magazine educated the public on health and medical advances.

Many of the talks were very entertaining, especially those using props and films. Emm Barnes (University of Manchester) discussed the communication of methods of treatment for cancer to children, where children's books turn medical devices and therapeutics into characters such as 'Mr. Wiggly' the catheter line, and 'Captain Chemo'. Tim

Boon's (Science Museum, London) talk on personal and health education narratives in the first half of the twentieth century was a very amusing look at how methods of transmission of tuberculosis were explained to the public, especially through film. I am sure the film of Betty and Joan's plight to discover whether they had contracted tuberculosis, and how this may have occurred, will never be forgotten by the participants of the workshop. David Cantor (U.S. National Library of Medicine) also examined films, this time those educating twentieth century Americans about cancer. He showed how the style of education changed with the money and technology available. What was especially entertaining though was the film, *Man Alive* (1952), which used the analogy of car trouble to show how stomach problems need to be investigated by a reputable doctor.



Ayesha Nathoo (University of Cambridge) proved herself a born story-teller with her discussion on NHS relations with the press in the late 1960s regarding the first British heart transplants. The tale of how doctors were supposedly surprised by the media attention they received was moving. I found myself torn between the idea that the surgeons were taken advantage of by the press, and the idea that they may have sought the limelight. The ethical questions raised by the media were also interesting – how was death to be defined if a donor's heart was still beating when it was removed? Nathoo showed how negative media attention could

shape medical events, with donors drying up and thus halting heart transplants in Britain until the late 1970s, and also affecting the more successful kidney transplants.

Angela Cassidy (University of Manchester) discussed socio-biology and the 'sexual politics of evolution'. She showed how the press used evolutionary psychology in presenting Bill Clinton as the 'silverback Alpha-male of the tribe' and in the examination of male behaviour during the fuel crisis in Britain in 2000. Amongst other ideas, she also showed how the press redefined expertise through evolutionary psychology, with models, mothers and grandmothers, and homosexuals being used as so-called 'experts', for example mothers in the MMR debate in the press.

In her 'policy piece', Nancy Tomes (Stony Brook University) examined the rise of consumer culture in modern American medicine. This paper was perhaps the reverse of others presented in this conference, in showing the bottom to top influence of the patient on the medical profession, with malpractice suits and protests against involuntary confinement beginning in the nineteenth century. However, Tomes also showed that the patient cannot have full control, examining the role of advertising, and that doctors still decide drugs and practices with the patient not being allowed to prescribe drugs for himself. Robert Bud also looked at patient-doctor relationships in his talk on trust in the last third of the twentieth century. The success of antibiotics was contrasted with the problems in the early 1960s of MRSA and the side-effects of Thalidomide, which damaged the standing of the doctor.

Although for only one talk, it was interesting to hear about interactions between the state, farmers and the public concerning different methods of control in veterinary medicine. Abigail Woods (University of Manchester) discussed the debates on different methods of combating foot and mouth disease during an epidemic in Britain in 1951-52. The government stuck with its policy of slaughter in contrast to

other countries' use of vaccination, which many members of the public and the farming community preferred.

Virginia Berridge (LSTHM) combined her origins as a historian of the media with her current interests in health in her paper, 'Smoking and the new health education in Britain from the 1950s to the 1970s'. She examined the role of the government as an advertiser including its employment of the Saatchi and Saatchi agency in its anti-smoking campaigns. Roger Cooter (Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, UCL) and Claudia Stein (University of Warwick) presented a joint paper which also looked at advertising. In this case public health posters and also health exhibitions were investigated, especially in Germany, and particularly in Munich, Germany's 'poster city'. Especially interesting was public opposition to some public health posters, for example a picture of a topless lady advertising Lysoform, and images of bacteria inside the body. The combination of media and communication with biomedicine was successful in these papers, and indeed, was achieved by all of the speakers at the workshop. The presentations highlighted that this is a very wide field, with lots more work to be done, especially as some of the talks, such as those by Barnes and Cassidy, reported on developments in biomedicine during the last few years. The only way in which the conference was lacking was that, although Britain, the US, and in one case Germany, were represented by the speakers and the countries discussed in the papers, it was not more international.

I would like to thank on behalf of all of the participants, CHSTM for arranging such a stimulating event, Christie's Bistro for our delicious conference dinner, and especially Dr. Elizabeth Toon (University of Manchester) for her friendliness and organisational skills.

Rosemary Wall  
Imperial College, London

## SSHIV CONFERENCE REPORT

### Postgraduate Workshop

#### Exeter, July 2004

A successful postgraduate workshop was recently held at the University of Exeter. Organised by students in the Centre for Medical History, and kindly sponsored by the Wellcome Trust and the Society for the Social History of Medicine, the workshop was specifically aimed at postgraduate students in the early stages of study, providing an opportunity to present papers and ideas in a safe and encouraging environment.

Running over two days in July 2004, the aim was to explore aspects of health in relation to women, children and the family. The programme was centred on three themes – 'Mind and Body', 'Women, Health and the Home' and 'Health and the Environment'.

A range of papers were presented spanning a wide historical period, from cosmetic toxicity in the Aegean Bronze Age to female sexual dysfunction in the late twentieth century. Other topics covered included Quaker medicine, infanticide, dreams, self-harm, prostitution, 'housewife neuroses' and maladjusted children. A Scottish perspective was provided with discussion on medical care provision for the poor in late nineteenth-century Edinburgh, whilst eighteenth-century obstetrics in the Austrian Low Countries gave a European view. An insight into naval matters was also introduced with papers on the work of naval surgeons and port sanitary authorities.

The workshop was enthusiastically received and enjoyed by all those who participated, and the Centre hopes to run similar events in the near future.

Sarah Hayes  
Centre for Medical History  
University of Exeter



## **CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT & PROGRAMME**

### **Sex Education of the Young in the Twentieth Century: A Cultural History**

**Collingwood College, University of  
Durham, April 16-17, 2005**

Supported by the Wolfson Research Institute (University of Durham), the School of History and Classics (University of Edinburgh), and the Society for Social History of Medicine.

This international conference will bring together researchers from a range of fields such as the history of medicine, the history of education, and the history of sexuality as well as from sociology and law, to discuss the cultural history of sex education within a comparative perspective.

Sex education will be treated in the broadest sense to incorporate all aspects of the formal and informal transmission of sexual knowledge and awareness to children and adolescents. It will, therefore, not only address officially-sanctioned and regulated sex education delivered within the school system, but also sex education obtained within the private sphere of the family, and from peer groups and the media (including youth magazines, films, and TV). More specifically, the conference will approach the history of sex education from three different directions, namely the social politics of sex education, the content of sex education, and how sex education was experienced by the young.

#### **Keynote Paper**

- Lesley Hall (Wellcome Library, London): In Ignorance and in Knowledge: Thinking About the History of Sex Education

#### **Session One: Social Politics of Sex Education I**

- Lena Lennerhed (Södertörn University College, Sweden): Taking the Middle Way: Sex Education in Swedish Schools

- Mark Fenemore (University of Liverpool, UK): From Accidental and Unplanned to Centrally and Overly Determined: Sex Education and the German Democratic Republic

- Frances Bernstein (Drew University, USA): Conserving Soviet Power: Sexual Enlightenment Tackles the Sins of Youth

#### **Session Two: Social Politics of Sex Education II**

- Roger Davidson (University of Edinburgh, UK): Purity and Pedagogy: The Alliance of Honour-Scottish Council and Scottish Sex Education, 1946-1967
- Ann Blair (University of Leeds, UK) and Daniel Monk (Birkbeck College London, UK): Sex Education and the Law in England and Wales: Complicating the Political
- Josie McLellan (University of Bristol, UK): Sex and the Censors: Publishing Popular Sex Education in East Germany

#### **Session Three: Sex Education and the Churches**

- Britta McEwen (Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, USA): 'Education to Purity': Catholic Responses to Children's Sexual Education in Republican Austria
- Bruno Wanrooij (Georgetown University in Florence, Syracuse University Florence, Italy): Sex Education in Italy, 1945-1980

#### **Session Four: Sex Education and the Sexuality of the Young**

- Hera Cook (University of Sydney, Australia): English Sexual Culture and the Denial of Child Sexuality
- Susan Freeman (Minnesota State University, Mankato, USA): What Do Young People Think? Student-Centred Sex Education in the Mid-Twentieth Century U.S.

#### **Session Five: Sex Education and the Making of the Body**

- Julian Carter (New York University, USA): Making Whiteness Normal: Racial Ideals

- and Indirect Expression in American Sex Education in the 1920s and 1930s
- Lutz Sauerteig (University of Durham, UK): Pregnancy and Birth in Sex Education Literature, 1950s-1970s

### Session Six: Sex Education and Film

- Barbara Crowther (University of Wolverhampton, UK): The Partial Picture: Framing the Discourse of Sex in Early 20th Century Public Service Health Films
- Uta Schwarz (Cologne, Germany): Sex Education in the Cinema: The Film 'Helga' as a Media Event in West Germany and France (1967/68)

For the full programme and registration details, please visit our website at:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/chmd/events/sexeducation.htm>

Deadline for registration is 13 December 2004. Student Members of the Society of the Social History of Medicine can apply to the Treasurer of the Society for a bursary.

Dr Lutz Sauerteig  
 Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease  
 University of Durham  
 Professor Roger Davidson  
 School of History and Classics  
 University of Edinburgh

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### SSHIV CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT & CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference on the History of Suicide

**McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, May 11-13, 2006**

The History of Health and Medicine Unit at McMaster University is delighted to announce an international conference on the history of suicide to be held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada on May 11-13, 2006.

Proposals are welcome in English or French on any aspect of the history of suicide. The conference organisers

encourage postgraduate students and new researchers to submit proposals, and every effort will be made to offset the travel and accommodation costs of all speakers.

Deadline for submissions is 1 February, 2005. Applicants will be notified by 1 May, 2005.

Please send abstracts of not more than 300 words and a brief *curriculum vitae* to:

Dr David Wright  
 Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine  
 McMaster University  
 Health Sciences Centre, Room 3N10  
 1200 Main Street West  
 Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3Z5, CANADA  
 Tel: (905) 525-9140x22752  
 Fax (416) 522-9509  
 Email: dwright@mcmaster.ca

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### SSHIV CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Comparison, Transfer and Histoire Croisée in the History of Psychiatry

**University of Southampton  
 September 4-6, 2005**

#### Potential participants

- Binneveld, Hans, From Shell Shock to Combat Stress: A Comparative History of Military Psychiatry
- Broberg, Gunnar and Nils Roll-Hansen, Eugenics and the Welfare State: Sterilization Policy in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland
- Coleborne, Catherine, Psychiatry in Australia and New Zealand
- Vijselar, Joost, Psychiatry in the Former European Colonies
- Diefenbacher, Albert, Lunatic Asylum in German Colonies
- Dodillet, Susanne, Das 'schwedisches Modell' in Schweden und Deutschland
- Ernst, Waltraud, 'The colonial condition': psychiatry in British India and New Zealand
- Faulstich, Heinz, Psychiatric Patients Dying of Famine 1914-1949: A diachronic

comparison of the German Kaiserreich and the Third Reich / Post-war years

- Hanrath, Sabine, Zwischen 'Euthanasie' und Psychiatriereform: Anstaltspsychiatrie in Westfalen und Brandenburg: Ein deutsch-deutscher Vergleich (1945-1964).
- Hofer, Hans-Georg, Österreichische und Deutsche Psychiatrie 1880-1920
- Kumar, Deepak, Colonial Medicine in British India and the Dutch East Indies
- Lengwiler, Martin, Geschichte der Militärpsychiatrie in Deutschland und der Schweiz 1870-1914
- Majerus, Benoit, A History of the Mental Handicap. France, Germany, Belgium in Comparative Perspective
- Mueller, Thomas, Vergleich und Transferanalyse in der Medizingeschichte?
- Sauerteig, Lutz, Königsweg: Der Vergleich als historische Methode, or: Comparative history of sex education in England and Germany (1880s to 1970s)
- Schmiedebach, Heinz-Peter, Social psychiatry in the GDR and FRG in comparative perspective
- Shepherd, Ben, A War of Nerves: Soldiers and psychiatrists in the twentieth century
- De Vito, Christian Giuseppe, Psychiatry in Italy and North Africa
- Topp, Leslie, Psychiatric Asylums in the Habsburgian Empire
- Weindling, Paul, International Eugenics

For more information, please contact

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## ROY PORTER STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION

The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSH) still invites submissions to its 2004 **Roy Porter Student Essay Competition**. The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2004. Rules and Entry Form are available on the SSH website, [www.sshm.org](http://www.sshm.org), and they were also published in the previous issue of the *Gazette* (which can also be downloaded from our website). For more information, please email:

[competition@sshm.org](mailto:competition@sshm.org)



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's 2004 Annual Graduate Meeting will be held on Friday, February 18, 2005, 5pm, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT. Please see page 2 regarding elections to and nominations for the Executive Committee. You can find the nomination form on the back of this issue of the *Gazette*.

### 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.



## **SOCIETY FOR THE SOCIAL HISTORY OF MEDICINE**

### **ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2004**

#### **NOMINATION FORM**

**Name of candidate:** .....

**Proposed by:**.....  
(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)

**Seconded by:**.....  
(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)

I accept nomination for election to the Executive Committee:

.....  
(Member of the Society for the Social History of Medicine)

**Please visit the Sshm Website at <http://www.sshm.org>**