

THE GAZETTE

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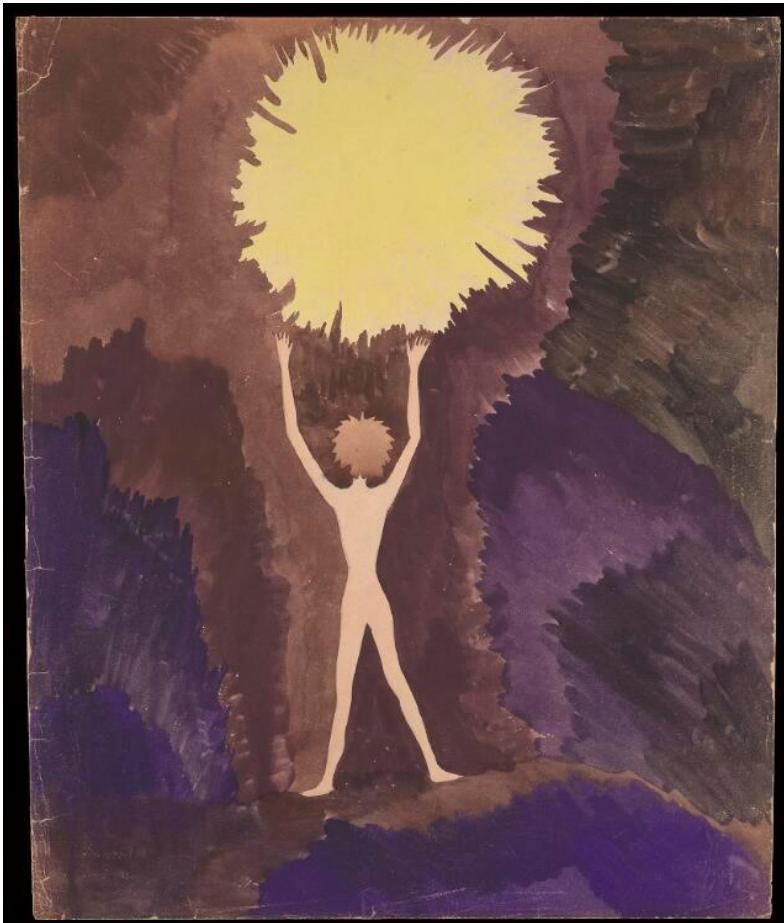


Image: A naked figure seen from behind acclaims the sun. Watercolour by Mary Bishop (1958). Credit: Adamson Collection, Wellcome Reference 2882108i.

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WELCOME TO THE GAZETTE

Dear readers,

It was fantastic to see so many of you in person and online at our SSHM 2022 conference at Swansea – huge thanks to Dr Michael Bresalier and the organising team for a wonderful event. For a great summary of the conference, please see Heather Ellis' report in this issue.

The next issue of the *Gazette* will appear in **November 2022**. This is sadly my last Gazette as editor so please send any updates to the new editor (to be announced on social media) by **21 October**. 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.

Have a wonderful summer!

All best wishes,
Laura Kelly, Editor

SSH M 2024 SAVE THE DATE!

The next SSHM biannual conference will be hosted by the Centre for the Social History of Health and Healthcare at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, on **16-19 July 2024**. We look forward to welcoming you to Glasgow in two years!

SSH M ROY PORTER PRIZE 2021

The Society is delighted to announce that the winner of the 2021 Roy Porter Prize for new and recent ECRs is Martijn van der Meer, a first-year PhD student at Erasmus University and Erasmus Medical Centre,

Rotterdam, in the Netherlands. The title of the winning essay is 'Sown without care: Dutch eugenicists and their call for optimising development conditions, 1919-1939'. Margaret Williams was shortlisted for the essay 'Searching for Care in a Segregated City: Detroit's Black Hospitals and the Integration of American Healthcare, 1945-75'. Margo recently completed her MPhil at the University of Cambridge and is currently an Independent Scholar. Huge congratulations to Martijn and Margo!

SSH M CONFERENCE REPORT

Heather Ellis, a recipient of a SSHM bursary, has provided us with this report on the recent SSHM conference.

From June 29th to July 2nd Swansea University held the biennial conference for the Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM). This conference marked the 50th anniversary of the SSHM. It was organized by Michael Bresalier and his committee at Swansea University and was funded by the Wellcome Trust. Over one hundred speakers gathered in-person and online over the three days of panel presentations. The theme of this conference, 'Resilience,' was discussed in all panel presentations.

Each day consisted of two to three sessions with six concurrent panels. Panels were organized according to broad themes such as: War and Resilience, (Dis)Abilities, Colonial and Global Stories, Premodern Resiliences, Institutions and Individuals, Treatments and their Discontents and Gendering Resilience. There were also panels on archival practice, the National Health Service, and animals. Such a broad range of panels demonstrates the proliferation of the history of medicine despite the research barriers created over the past few years.

A theme across all panels was the resilience of patients in the face of medical or state structures. Multiple panels demonstrated the agency patients used to influence their treatments or the perspectives that medical actors had on specific diseases or illnesses. Furthermore, panelists discussed how gender and race impacted the ability of these actors to effectively display resilience. Several panels focused on the use of alternative tools in medical spaces, whether they were therapeutic communities, climate or vocational work and demonstrated how these tools created patient resiliency.

While the panels across the conference were excellent, the highlight of the conference were the three plenary sessions. Each day either opened or closed with a plenary session. On the first day, Laura Kelly described the resilience of Irish women in the 1970s and 1980s when contraception was banned in Ireland. Her talk, titled “Resilience and resistance: an oral history of women’s reproductive health and rights in Ireland, c. 1960-1980” highlighted the importance of oral history when conducting women’s health history. Kelly’s plenary was not only timely for the conference, but for the current reproductive rights crisis in the United States. Her work demonstrated the measures that women underwent to control their family size and resist the teachings of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Kelly highlighted how young women created organisations like the Contraception Action Programme to distribute condoms freely to Irish women. Sanjoy Bhattacharya’s plenary on Friday night, “When Resilience Harms: Notions of White Supremacy in Global Health and its Histories,” highlighted the importance of interrogating the actors in global health histories and using intersectional approaches when studying smallpox eradication. Finally, Michael Stolberg’s plenary on

Saturday, “Resilience and Control: coping with chronic illness in the 16th and 17th Centuries” focused on fascinating case study of a man who documented his symptoms from morning until night. The use of a journal gave this individual a sense of control over his sick body and demonstrated the relationship between agency and resiliency.

The COVID roundtable, “Pathways out of Pandemics,” discussed the transition of Covid-19 from an epidemic to an endemic disease. Several speakers touched on the issue of evidence when considering the endemicity of an epidemic disease. Erica Charters discussed how different disciplines use different forms of evidence to determine when epidemics ‘end.’ Panelists also remarked on the mass collection of data by archives and historians during the past two years and the challenges of making sense of this information.

The hybrid of the nature of the conference was expertly run by the student volunteers. This made sure that every panel ran on time and that any technical issues were handled by an expert. More discussion on how to engage historians online and in-person during conferences is needed. However, I hope that hybrid conferences continue to run so that individuals can continue to participate in a format that suits their needs.

Heather Ellis

Western University

LEARNING TO CUT, BANDAGE AND CURE: HISTORIES OF SURGICAL TRAINING, SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

FRIDAY 23 AND SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2022

Venue: Salle Dussane, École Normale Supérieure
45, rue d'Ulm, Paris 5^e

This conference aims to open conversations about the changing landscape of surgical culture across Europe c. 1500-1700. The papers will situate the rich and complex knowledge practices of surgeons of all stripes within multiple circuits of transmission. We will analyse printed and manuscript books as texts and material objects to tackle the appropriation of knowledge by different audiences, both within the trade and beyond it. Examining images, instruments, and other learning aids, we will chart their role in the transfer of know-how and skills, extending our understanding of surgical training and education. Taken collectively, the papers will offer new perspectives on the process of learning by doing and doing to learn.

We are grateful for the support from the Society for the Social History of Medicine, and from our other funders including the Institut d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaine Paris and University College London with the support of Translitterae PSL, ED540 Lettres, Arts et Sciences ENS, and Wellcome Trust (grant #209835/Z/17/Z).

For more information including the conference programme, please visit the conference website: <https://ihmc.ens.fr/learning-to-cut-bandage-and-cure.html?lang=fr>.

If you have any questions about the event or would like to register, please contact Maria Pia Donato at mpiadonato@gmail.com or Elaine Leong at e.leong@ucl.ac.uk.



Interior with a surgeon and his apprentice attending to a patient, oil painting by Jan Josef Horemans, 1722.

Credit : Wellcome Collection

SSHM CALLS FOR PAPERS

THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES, 1919-1991 IFRC, GENEVA, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 15-16 JUNE 2023

Since 2019, members of the Australian Research Council's Discovery Project "Resilient Humanitarianism" have been working on aspects of the history of the League of Red Cross Societies. This has been a collaboration of interdisciplinary academics from Australia, Britain and France. As a finale to the project,

we seek scholars of the Red Cross Movement and Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies to contribute to a 2-day symposium to share their current research on the League of Red Cross Societies, discuss and analyse the history and impact of this important international organisation that has been under-historicised to date. From its beginnings in the immediate aftermath of the First World War, through to 1991 when it became the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent (IFRC), we have sought to understand how the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS), the world's largest volunteer network, survived the turbulent interwar period and Second World War, and expanded through the decolonisation and globalisation era of the Cold War. Examining the history of this transnational humanitarianism organisation offers new insights into how organisations respond to various geo-political, cultural, and social shifts over time and place.

For this symposium, we seek contributions from scholars working on major platforms of the League of Red Cross Societies such as health and public health policy, disaster management, aid and relief, the Junior Red Cross, and the development of national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and League infrastructure, and international collaborations with other international bodies such as WHO and the United Nations. We are particularly interested in hearing from those working on the post-World War II period and the emergence of new national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies following national independence and how those new national Societies interacted with the League in Geneva.

Questions to consider include, but are not limited to:

-How did the LRCS develop as an institution of its own? How did it navigate the period 1920-45? What programs did it support?

- How did the LRCS interact with newly established national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies of recently independent countries in the Middle-East, Africa and Asia?
- What programs did the LRCS establish in the post-WWII period, and were they successful on the ground? (eg public health, disaster relief, first aid, etc.)
- How did the LRCS navigate the Cold War and its relations with Soviet republics and their allies?
- What roles have gender, volunteering, and climate change played? How can we explain the League's institutional resilience in the twentieth century?

We will be joined by Emeritus Professor David P. Forsythe (University of Nebraska-Lincoln). A welcome reception will be held on the evening of Wednesday 14 June at the IFRC.

Please send a 300-word abstract and a 100-word biography to resilienthumsymposium2023@gmail.com by 9 September 2022. Contact melanie oppenheimer@anu.edu.au for more information.



THE ANAESTHESIA HERITAGE CENTRE

The Anaesthesia Heritage Centre tells the remarkable story of anaesthesia, from its first public demonstration in 1846 to the founding of anaesthesia as we know it today. Formed in 1953 from the private collection of A. Charles King's historic anaesthetic apparatus, the heritage team now care for over 13,000 items across the museum, library and archive collections. It is accessible to all, and is free to visit. Opening hours are 10:00am-16:00pm Monday-Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

The centre's vision is, 'To link the past with the present, and keep alive the history of the specialty through education and information and preserving our heritage'. To achieve this, the heritage team actively engages audiences throughout the year with a programme of group visits, talks, late events and family activities. They are always looking to engage new audiences and increase outreach opportunities.

Click [here](#) for more info:
anaesthetists.org/Home/Heritage-centre

SSH M BOOK SERIES

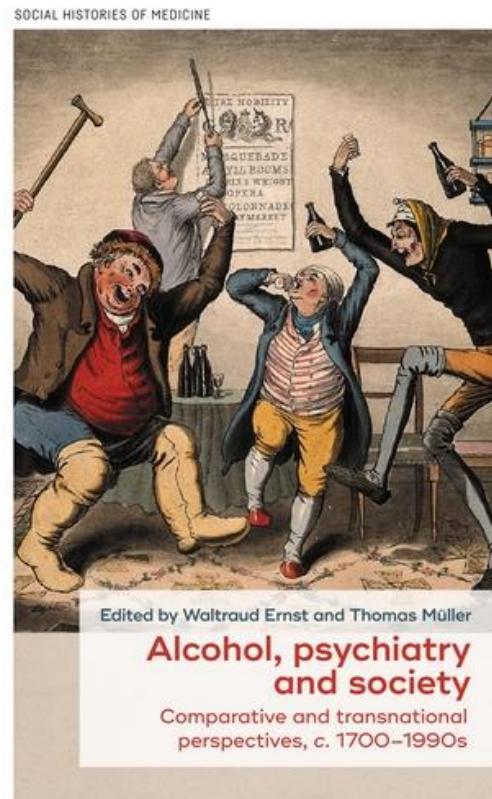
Social Histories of Medicine is concerned with all aspects of health, illness and medicine, from prehistory to the present, in every part of the world. The series covers the circumstances that promote health or illness, the ways in which people experience and explain such conditions, and what, practically, they do about them. Practitioners of all approaches to health and healing come within its scope, as do their ideas, beliefs, and practices, and the social, economic and cultural contexts in which they operate. Methodologically, the series welcomes relevant studies in social, economic, cultural, and intellectual history, as well as approaches derived from other disciplines in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities. The series is a collaboration between Manchester University Press and the Society for the Social History of Medicine.

You can find out about the series, about submitting proposals, or to purchase books [here](#).

Below are details of the next forthcoming books in the series.

WALTRAUD ERNST AND THOMAS MULLER (EDS.), *ALCOHOL, PSYCHIATRY AND SOCIETY: COMPARATIVE AND TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES, C.1700-1900S.* (OCTOBER 2022)

The medicalisation of alcohol use has become a prominent discourse that guides policy makers and impacts public perceptions of alcohol and drinking. This book maps the historical and cultural dimensions of the phenomenon. Emphasising medical attitudes and theories regarding alcohol and the changing perception of alcohol consumption in psychiatry and mental health, it explores the shift from the use of alcohol in clinical treatment and as part of dietary regimens to the emergence of alcoholism as a disease category that requires medical intervention and is considered a threat to public health.



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