

Notiziario/News

9 April - 9 June 2013 - Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick, Irradiating the Sun-Starved: Light Therapies in Britain, c.1900-1940

Curated by: Dr Tania Woloshyn

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/chm/outreach/soaking-uptherays/>

As part of the Wellcome Trust-funded project, *'Soaking Up the Rays: The Reception of Light Therapeutics in Britain, c.1899-1938'*, this exhibition features important light therapy textbooks, advertisements, user manuals, popular articles, ultraviolet (UV) and infrared lamps, and UV-protective goggles. These images, objects and texts were vital to disseminating and defining natural and artificial light therapy. Heliotherapy (natural sun therapy) and phototherapy (artificial light therapy) developed as progressive therapies during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for the treatment of a variety of conditions, especially types of tuberculosis (of the lungs, skin, glands, bones and joints, etc.). Sunlight, whether natural or artificially-produced, could be used locally, that is directly onto wounds or lesions, or generally as a 'bath' for the whole body, and was understood to possess bactericidal and analgesic properties. As such light became a powerful, natural regenerative agent in the treatment of acute and chronic diseases. The exhibition concentrates on the early development of heliotherapy and phototherapy in Britain, highlighting their use in hospitals, sanatoria, and within the home with a fascinating range of material dating to c.1900-1940.

This Exhibition runs in conjunction with the Wellcome Trust-funded *invitee* interdisciplinary workshop, *'Light Technologies: the Materialisation of Light Therapeutics, c.1890 to the Present'*, at the Modern Records Centre on Wednesday 10 April 2013.

10/04/2013 - 9.30am to 5.00pm - Seminar Room, Modern Re-

cords Centre, Warwick, Light Technologies: the Materialisation of Light Therapeutics, c.1890 to the Present

Convened by Dr Tania Woloshyn

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/chm/outreach/soakinguptherays/>

This interdisciplinary workshop brings together scholars in the histories of medicine and visual culture with specialisms in light therapeutics, radiation and radiology, photography, and medical technologies. Drawn by a shared interest in perceptions - both historic and contemporary - of light as curative and transformative, speakers and delegates will meet for a focused session exploring the historic development of heliotherapy (sun therapy), phototherapy (artificial light therapy), and radiotherapy (X-ray therapy). Particular emphasis will be placed on the visual and material cultures that defined and disseminated understandings of these therapies, especially images produced through photography (itself a light technology), as well as the diverse range of lamps, textbooks, pamphlets and advertisements that packaged light as a valuable commodity, for the individual and the nation.

Speakers Include: Roberta Bivins (Warwick), Simon Carter (Open University), Anne Jamieson (Leeds), Melissa Miles (Monash), James Stark (Leeds), Sophia Zweifel (Independent scholar).

18/04/2012 - 20/04/2012 - University of Warwick (UK), Scientiae 2013: Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern World

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/chm/events/conferences_workshops/

This second annual Scientiae conference took place on the 18-20th of April 2013 at Warwick University in the UK, building on the success of the first Scientiae conference in April 2012 (hosted at Simon Fraser University, Vancouver) which brought together over 100 scholars from across the globe to explore the interdisciplinary nature of early modern knowledge.

The premise of this conference has been that the Scientific Revolution can be considered an interdisciplinary process involving Biblical exegesis, art theory, and literary humanism, as well as natural philosophy, alchemy, occult practices, and trade knowledge.

26/04/2013 – 27/04/ 2013 - Brussels, University of Birmingham's Brussels Office and the Free University of Brussels (VUB), Food and Hospitals: an historical perspective. Sponsored by the Society For Social History of Medicine

Food and drink were crucial to hospital and asylum expenditure from medieval to modern times, not unusually comprising one half of medical institutions' annual budgets. Drink and diet naturally varied with country, region and locality. The organizers of this conference are interested in exploring broad geographical perspectives and associated fads, prejudices and phobias. The acquisition, preparation and use of foodstuffs were also managed by diverse groups, sometimes lay or clerical, as well as medical, including doctors, nurses and dieticians. Dietary needs and preferences of patients also varied with age, gender, race and religion, while meals were often augmented or restricted in line with diagnosis and discipline. Views concerning the role of food and drink in recovery also shifted significantly, both in earlier centuries, and more recently with the rise of the nutritional sciences. While contemporary grumblings about hospital food have become the quintessential hospital complaint, it is undeniable that a clean, warm bed, rest and the provision of food and drink, rather than medicines and therapies have always greatly increased hospital patients' chances of recovery. Indeed diet has from the time of Galen been a central part of medical therapy. However, even if central to the day-to-day routine of hospitals, workhouses and asylums, food and drink continue to be overlooked in historical accounts of hospitalisation. This conference aims to foreground the role of food and drink in health care institutions in the past.

29/05/2013 – 1/06/2013 – House of Science and Letters (Kirkkokatu 6) and Helsinki University Museum (in the picture, Snelmaninkatu 3), Helsinki, the Finnish Medico-Historical Society presents the XXIV Nordic Medical History Congress

Timetable

29/05/2013 - The Meeting for Medical History Museum, Helsinki University Museum, Auditorium. Theme of the meeting: *Cooperation*
12.00-12.20 Words of welcome by Director Sten Björkman, Helsinki University Museum

12.20-13.00 Keynote speaker: Associate Professor Kerstin Hulter Åsberg, Uppsala University: *How can medical history museums benefit from each other?*

13.00-13.15 Curator Henna Sinisalo, Helsinki University Museum: *Cooperation between the Finnish medical history museums*

13.15-14.45 Discussion

14.45-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-16.30 Project planner Susanna Hakkarainen, Helsinki University Museum: *A walking tour of some (previously) medical buildings in the City Center Campus.*

29/05/2013

9.00–15.00 - Workshop, House of Science and Letters, Room 505. Theme of the workshop: *Reburial or curation: human remains and ethics*
Modern scientific methods provide new information on human remains recovered in archaeological excavations. The workshop focuses on three topics: 1) What are the possibilities and challenges that the new methods bring to the study of curated skeletal collections and newly found human remains. 2) The novel ethical issues arising for curation and reburial. 3) Ethical guidelines of human remains from archaeological excavations have not been given in Finland. The workshop will discuss the need of such guidelines in relation to national legislation and international human rights conventions.

30/05/2013

9.00–9.15 Opening of the congress 9.15–10.00 Helsinki University Museum, Keynote lecture, “Protection of privacy in research on archival documents and museum collections” (Director General, Docent Jussi Nuorteva, National Archives of Finland) 10.15–11.00 Helsinki University Museum, Keynote lecture, “*Palaeopathology and medical history: is there divergence or convergence in the use of different sources of data in understanding the health of our ancestors?*” (Professor Charlotte Roberts, University of Durham, UK) 11.00–12.30 Lunch

12.30–14.15 2–6 parallel sessions, House of Science and Letters

14.15–14.45 Coffee break

14.45–16.30 2–6 parallel sessions, House of Science and Letters

16.45–17.45 Meeting of Nordisk Medicinhistorisk Förening, for members of the Nordic Medical History societies, House of Science and Letters

16.30–19.00 Possibility to visit the exhibition on the history of medicine in the Helsinki University Museum

31/05/2013

9.15–10.00 Helsinki University Museum Keynote lecture, ‘*A most raging pestilential fever*’: *cattle plague through the centuries* (Dr Louise Hill Curth, Reader in Medical History, University of Winchester, UK)

10.15–11.00 Helsinki University Museum, Keynote lecture, *Global child health and the issue of anthropometry 1950s – 2006*. (Professor Astri Andresen, University of Bergen, Norway)

11.00–12.30 Lunch

12.30–14.15 2–6 parallel sessions, House of Science and Letters

14.15–14.45 Coffee break

14.45–16.30 2–6 parallel sessions, House of Science and Letters

16.45–17.00 Closing Ceremony of the congress, House of Science and Letters

19.00-22.00 Congress banquet, New Clinic
(<http://www.suomenlhs.fi/banquet.html>)

18/06/2013 – 22/06/2013 – University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, The International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) 18th Annual Meeting

ISHN was founded in Montreal on May 14, 1995. Its mission is to improve communication between individuals and groups interested in the history of neuroscience, promote research in the history of neuroscience and promote education in and stimulate interest for the history of neuroscience.

The full programme outline of this year's meeting will include 3 days of general history of neurology and related fields. As the meeting will be held at the University of Sydney, many activities are planned around the campus, including museum visits, a display of rare medical books, as well as walks around historical precincts. An excursion to the old Quarantine Station on Sydney Harbour is planned for Thursday 21st June 2013 where presentations will focus on the history of infectious diseases of the nervous system. A celebration of Australasian neuroscience is planned for one of the days; this being the 50—year anniversary of the awarding of the Noble Prize to Sir John Eccles for his work on neurotransmission.

26/06/2013 – 27/06/2013 - St Anne's College, Oxford, Historical perspectives on work and occupational therapy - Theory and empowerment-coercion and punishment

This conference aims to provide a platform for exchange to scholars who are working on varied aspects of labour and occupation in relation to the history of health and medicine broadly conceived. The idea is to encourage critical engagement with the various medical, social and political factors implicated in how work and occupational therapy deve-

veloped within specific national and clinical contexts and at different periods. Comparative approaches and contributions focusing on transnational exchanges are particularly welcome, as are those concerned with pre-modern and non-European developments. Rigorously contextualised case studies of specific institutions and approaches are also sought. Address for inquiries: Ms Emma Hallett emma.hallett.10@ucl.ac.uk or Professor Waltraud Ernst wernst@brookes.ac.uk
Conference website: <http://www.history.brookes.ac.uk/conferences/2013/therapy-empowerment/>

22/07/2013 – 28/07/2013 – Manchester, 24th International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine

The International Congress is the largest event in the field, and takes place every four years. Recent meetings have been held in Mexico City (2001), Beijing (2005) and Budapest (2009). In 2013, the Congress will take place in Manchester, the chief city of Northwest England, and the original “shock city” of the Industrial Revolution. Congress facilities will be provided by The University of Manchester, with tours and displays on local scientific, technological and medical heritage co-ordinated by members of the University’s Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

24/07/2013 – 26/07/2013 – University of Münster, Germany, Crimes of Passion: Representing Sexual Pathology in the Early 20th Century

The discourse on sexual pathology claimed a central position in modern European culture almost as quickly as it began to establish itself as a scientific discipline. The bonds between science and culture seem all the more visible when it comes to the science of sexual deviance, as many sexual scientists were quick to point out in their works. Without empirical or statistical material at hand, the scientists turned to

other sources of knowledge in order to legitimize and systematize sexual pathology. Their earliest case studies came from literature. Indeed, certain authors found themselves under examination, as sexual themes in their books were treated as evidence of pathological fantasies. These literary perversions became the basis for sexual pathologists' scientific interpretations and psychological analyses. As part of the formation and development of the discipline, the connection between sex and crime also played a central role in the scandals, injustices, and power struggles associated with sexual pathology in the early 20th century.

The popular reception of works by Richard Krafft-Ebing, Magnus Hirschfeld, or Erich Wulffen, in addition to their contested scientific reception, attest to a wide interest in social deviation with sexual deviants being just one particularly scandalous branch of alterity.

Indeed, deviation is the Other to that which is socially accepted, legitimate, and institutionalized. Social deviance by definition breaks course from what is construed as "normal." The deviant breaks with the social order and, depending on the particular historical and political configuration, might be dealt with as a criminal. The debate surrounding Paragraph 175 of the German penal code that made sexual relations between people of the same sex illegal highlights the virulent history of how sexual deviance and crime were yoked together. Paragraph 175—enacted in the 19th century, but which was not completely repealed until 1994—brought certain sexual relations with their own specific social and cultural sanctions into the juridical realm of penal codes and state regulation. A significant part of this new institutionalization of sexual deviance (both academically and in terms of the law) involved thematizing gender roles, especially questions of "the female." The pathologization of femininity was famously and scandalously presented by Otto Weininger in his *Geschlecht und Charakter*, a work that marks another controversial episode in the history of sexual pathology and modernism. The conference *Crimes of Passion* focuses on the triad of sexuality, criminology and literature during the early decades of the 20th century.

4/09/2013 – 5/09/2013 - Bern, Switzerland, Medical expertise in the 20th and 21st century

Annual conference of the Swiss Society for the History of Medicine and Sciences.

Currently we experience a crisis of expertise. It is true, experts are called for in all areas of life and on all levels of knowledge, their judgements and advice fill our talk shows, newspapers and bookshelves. But they do not provide the clarity, unambiguity and safety we long for. The statements of the acknowledged or self-proclaimed experts are too contradictory, our own standards of expertise too blurred, our desire for a democratization of expertise too strong. Does this diagnosis hold true for medicine, too? And if so, how did this happen? Some attention has been paid to the “birth” of the medical expert in the 18th century, the establishment of his professional status in the 19th century as well as to the sociology and epistemology of today’s medical expertise, but the change of the medical expert system in the 20th century has rarely been addressed.

The conference is linked to the Workshop for young scholars “Expertise in Medicine and Natural Sciences” (see www.sggmn.ch/forum-e.html).

Keynote speakers: Thomas Broman, Wisconsin

Organization: Hubert Steinke, Institute for the History of Medicine, University of Bern

Conference languages are English, German, and French.

4/09/2013 – 7/09/2013 – Lisbon, Portugal, EAHHM (European Association for the History of Medicine and Health) Biennial conference on Risk and Disaster in Medicine and Health, co-organised by the Universities of Evora and the Faculty of Medicine

Risks and disasters have always been central issues in health and medicine. They illuminate the interfaces between science, medicine,

environment, economy, society, culture and politics. Responses to preventive measures have often reflected tensions between the perceived wider social and economic benefits of interventions and the short-term costs imposed on individuals, specific social groups or society at large. One issue raised by such tensions has been whether individual freedom is deemed less important than the health of the community. Threats of epidemics have provoked local, national and international agencies to adopt drastic measures, consciously balancing the risk of disease against the economic risks posed by the disruption of trade or the implementation of expensive sanitary or environmental-protection measures whose cost effectiveness was difficult to foresee. The strategies developed to cope with risk and disaster form the core of public health and medical philosophy, ranging from quarantines and vaccinations to screening programs and high-tech medical monitoring. Yet there are distinct national and chronological differences in definitions, perceptions and representation of risks and dangers. They also vary according to the decision makers and broader publics: governments, medical professionals and other agencies, and different social classes, ethnic and gender groups. The debate will focus on all aspects of risk and disaster in the history of health and medicine, including its changing definition and the movement towards its quantification, covering epidemics, infectious and chronic disease, injuries and mental health, national and chronological differences and shifts in the definitions, perceptions and representation of risks and dangers, considered globally and according to race and ethnicity, gender, class, and professional status. The articulation between personal risk, diagnosis and prognosis throughout history and health risks affecting communities of all sizes is a key issue. The Lisbon Conference will have special sessions on the 'History of Medicine on Display', covering museology and the history of medicine and health as well as other practices of displaying the history of medicine to the public. For more information go to <http://www.eahmh.net/>