



The Shakespeare Hut

August 11th 2016 marked the centenary of the opening of the Shakespeare Hut. The Hut was unique in memorialising an historical figure and in staging scenes, songs and lectures on Shakespeare often performed by leading actors from the West End.



The School hosted a series of events and an exhibition in the Manson foyer at Keppel St to mark the occasion. On the date itself, the Mustard Club re-enacted the opening of the Hut, and a celebration of women performing Shakespeare, with volunteers from the School, from Camden, and professional actors.

Annual Public Health Lecture:

A Short History of NICE

Nicholas Timmins

Comment by Sir Michael Rawlins

Nicholas Timmins and Sir Michael Rawlins, the authors with John Appleby of *A Terrible Beauty: A Short History of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence*, describe its origins and past, and the challenges it currently faces.

Professor Sir Michael Rawlins was chair of NICE from its foundation until 2012. Nicholas Timmins is a Senior Fellow at the King's Fund, and has written extensively on public and private health care, including as Public Policy Editor at the Financial Times.

Thursday 3rd November 2016, at 5.30pm
Venue: John Snow A, Keppel Street Building

To be followed by a reception in the cafe area at Keppel Street.



New Centre members

The team working on Dr Alex Mold's project, '[Placing the public in public health since 1948](#)', expanded over the course of the year as she and Dr Gareth Millward were joined by Dr Daisy Payling and Peder Clark.



Daisy completed her PhD in 2015 at the University of Birmingham on activism and local government in the 1970s and 1980s, and has been working on the project as a research fellow since October 2015. She is focusing on health surveys; on the growth of the survey as a tool to both measure population health and to gather information on public opinion of health challenges and services. She will be looking at the ways in which the public was constituted through surveys and also how the public spoke back to public health.

Peder's doctoral research concerns the development of British coronary heart disease epidemiology from 1948 to 2010, and how it was communicated to, and translated by, the public. It will examine seminal epidemiological research, and explore how messages about diet and exercise were publicly disseminated by figures including Prof John Yudkin and organisations such as the Health Education Authority. Prior to starting his PhD at LSHTM, Peder worked as a public health registrar.



Dr Martin Gorsky has been joined by Drs John Manton and Chris Sirrs, who will be working with him on '[Health Systems in History: ideas, comparisons, policies](#)'. Both are returnees to the LSHTM: John was formerly part of the Anthropologies of African Biosciences Group at the School, and Chris completed his PhD on the history of health and safety regulation in Britain at the Centre in 2015. John will be working in the Philippines and Congo and coordinating research in Nigeria, bringing insights from the historical experience of health systems and systems strengthening in the global South to bear on a global history of ideas, planning and financing in health over the past century. Chris will be addressing the history of the concept of the health system and the debates and ideas it has generated, from issues of national sovereignty in relation to international political organisations, to fiercely defended beliefs about how health care should be financed, distributed, organised and directed.

Finally, Janet Weston joined in March 2016 to work on HIV and AIDS in English and Irish prisons, 1980s-2000. This is part of a larger study, funded by the Wellcome Trust and entitled '[Prisoners, Medical Care, and Entitlement to Health in England and Ireland, 1850-2000](#)', which is based at Warwick University and University College Dublin as well as LSHTM. Coming from Birkbeck, where her PhD examined medical approaches to sexual crime, Janet is investigating whether AIDS and associated sexual health and drug issues became catalysts for a dawning recognition of the rights of prisoner patients and for more health focussed approaches.

You can find out more about all of these projects by following the links above, or by visiting the Centre's website, <http://history.lshtm.ac.uk>.

Successful vivas

We congratulate two Centre members who successfully defended their PhD theses in 2016: Chris Sirrs, our new Research Assistant, whose thesis is entitled 'Health and Safety in the British Regulatory State: The HSC, The HSE and the Management of Occupational Risk, 1961 -2001', and Chris Hallam, whose thesis is 'Script Doctors and Vicious Addicts: Subcultures, Drugs and Regulation under the "British System", c.1917-c.1960'.



Workshop: London Health Histories

Centre member Dr Jane Seymour organised a one day workshop on London Health Histories, sponsored by the Wellcome Library and hosted by the Wellcome Trust. Bringing together academics, librarians and archivists from across the UK, this event considered the health of London over time and also examined how digital developments are providing fresh opportunities for research.

Welcomed by the Centre's Dr Martin Gorsky, panellists considered the Wellcome Library's new resource, London's Pulse, and its implications for digital scholarship; examined London's health in the interwar period, its unique institutions and contribution to health governance, and the implications of health for civic culture.

News: Reframing Addictions

The ALICE RAP A-Debate in Barcelona in February 2016 represented the culmination of the five-year [Addiction and Lifestyles in Contemporary Europe – Reframing Addictions Project](#) (ALICE RAP). The ALICE RAP project brought together around 200 scientists from more than 25 countries and 29 different disciplines. It aimed to strengthen scientific evidence to inform public and political dialogue, and to stimulate a broad and productive debate on current and alternative approaches to addictions.

The event, which was also accessible online, aimed to present and discuss key research findings coming out of the ALICE RAP project, their policy implications and the science with the greatest potential to contribute to smart and evidence-based global drugs policy.

A key message of the debate surrounded an effort to reframe addiction, to move away from this concept and towards one of 'heavy use over time'. Peter Anderson, one of the leaders of the ALICE RAP project, argued that the signs and symptoms that have been attributed to addiction or dependence are actually as a result of heavy drinking or drug use. He suggested that the terms 'dependence' or 'addiction' were thus redundant, and should be replaced with 'heavy use over time.'

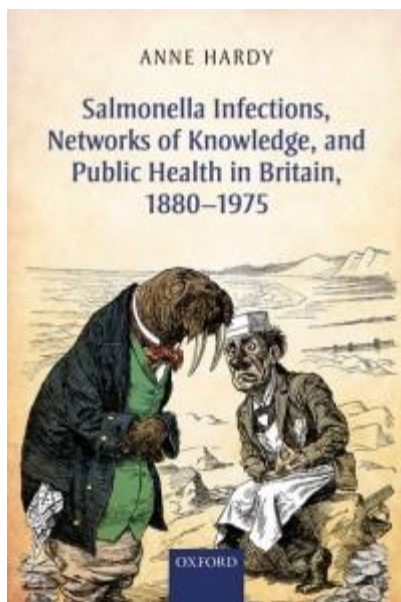
Other sessions in the debate presented different perspectives on alcohol and drug use. Virginia Berridge chaired the session on the 'chameleon concept' of addiction. This session presented findings from Area 1 of ALICE RAP, which had been tasked with examining the public discourse and the social images of drugs and their consumers, as well as the role of different actors and networks, and how these have changed over time. The Centre's Alex Mold presented a summary of the 'Addiction through the ages' work package, looking at change over time and place in the concept of addiction from the 1860s to the 1980s.

An interesting discussion took place about the contribution of history and the critical social sciences to perspectives on addiction and drug and alcohol policy. From a historical point of view, there have been many attempts to re-frame drugs and addiction over time. It will be fascinating to track the fate of 'heavy use over time' over time.



Photo: The CaxiaForum where the debate took place. A former textile factory, now a gallery.





Pickstone Prize for the Centre's Professor Anne Hardy

Professor Anne Hardy was awarded the Pickstone Prize by the British Society for the History of Science in May 2016, for her book [Salmonella Infections, Networks of Knowledge, and Public Health in Britain, 1880-1975](#) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015). *Salmonella Infections* uncovers the discovery of food poisoning as a public health problem, and of *Salmonella* as its cause.

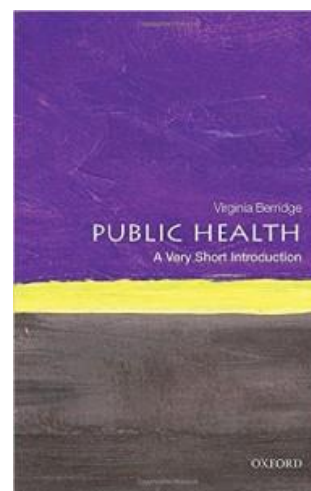
Based on a case-study of Britain's experience, Professor Hardy's book illuminates the immense international challenge of food-borne diseases that affect all human societies. The judging panel commented on the 'surprising breadth of new contexts, new science and new health issues' it contained, including 'why duck eggs fell in popularity, why chickens became the centre of British eating mid-century, and why changing farm contexts have multiplied the threats of food poisoning in numerous ways'.

New books from the Centre

Public Health: A Very Short Introduction

July 2016 saw the publication of Centre Director Professor Virginia Berridge's Very Short Introduction to Public Health. The *Very Short Introductions* series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area, in pocket-size form.

Public Health: A Very Short Introduction discusses the history of public health and the role it plays in our lives. Covering areas such as drains and sanitation, campaigns against smoking and excess sugar, and modern vaccination programmes, it analyses the global concerns of contemporary public health.



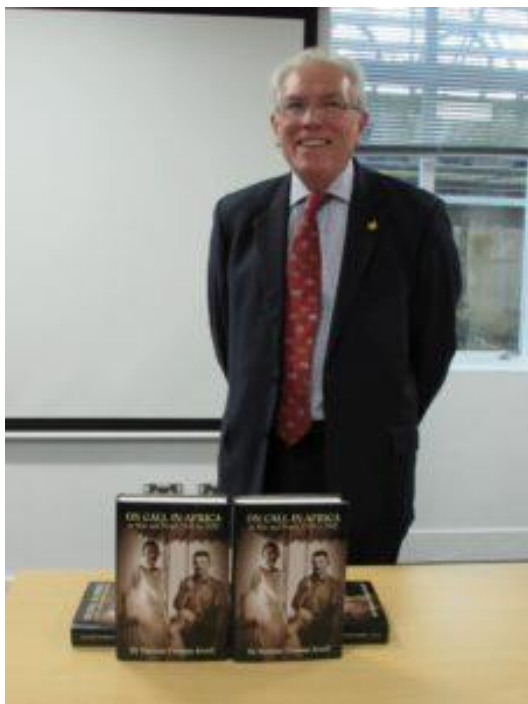
Making the Patient Consumer: Patient Organisations and Health Consumerism in Britain



Dr Alex Mold's latest book, published in November 2015 by Manchester University Press, is the first empirical, historical account of a fundamental shift in modern British health policy and practice. *Making the Patient Consumer* explores how, since the 1960s, British patients were made into consumers. Patient autonomy, representation, complaints, rights, information, voice and choice were all central to the making of the patient-consumer. These concepts were used initially by patient organisations to construct the figure of the patient-consumer, but by the 1990s the government had taken over as the main actor shaping ideas about patient consumerism.

Symposium: Vaccination Programmes and the Public – Past and Present

In November 2015, the Vaccine Centre and Centre for History in Public Health hosted a joint symposium on how the public have figured in British vaccination programmes. Presentations included a discussion of the current British vaccine programme with Joanne Yarwood of Public Health England, reflections on the April 2013 implementation of health systems reforms from Tracey Chantler (LSHTM), and a look at the public reaction to the introduction of polio vaccine in the 1950s from the Centre's Gareth Millward.



On Call in Africa

Earlier this year, the Centre welcomed Dr Tony Jewell to [present at the Centre's seminar series](#). Given his past as Chief Medical Officer for Wales, one might have expected a public health talk. Instead, he came to talk about his grandfather's work in early twentieth-century East Africa. The source of this presentation came from his grandfather's memoirs, recently collated and edited in the volume [On Call in Africa – In War and Peace](#) (ISBN 978-0-9931382-0-1).

Dr Norman Jewell trained at Trinity College Dublin before joining the Colonial Medical Service and being stationed to the Seychelles. During the Great War he practiced with the 3rd East African Field Ambulance Unity in East Africa. It is on this subject that Tony focused his presentation, but there was plenty of biographical material on his later return to Dublin, escape from Bloody Sunday, and subsequent books on tropical diseases. You can listen to the talk (and others in the Centre's seminar series) [on our website](#).

History Centre Retreat

Members of the History Centre, together with guests from across the School, and visitors from UK centres for the history of medicine and from the Wellcome Trust, came together on 20th May 2016 for a day long retreat at wallacespace in Covent Garden. We discussed our projects and the cross cutting themes emerging from these, in the light of the broader strategic direction of the Centre, as a uniquely situated group of historians in a public health research setting.

Centre website

The revamped Centre website now offers a rich and regularly updated overview of events, news, discussion points and activities of the Centre's members. It follows a similar design to other School Centres, highlighting current research, possibilities for study, details of our policy engagement work, publications, and media appearances, upcoming seminars and other events, and a news feed and blog. [Click here to visit the site](#), and do sign up to receive our news straight to your inbox.



Upcoming Events

Seminars

The theme for the autumn term is 'Behaviours'. All seminars are 12.45-2.00pm, in LG8 Keppel St.

19 October: From patients to consumers: a history of pregnancy testing in Britain
Jesse Olszynko-Gryn (University of Cambridge)

2 November: A Genealogy of Prohibition: Life and Politics of Drugs in Modern Iran (1909-2015)
Maziyar Ghiabi (St Antony's College, Oxford University)

16 November: Pathologising pubic hair: the practice of pre-delivery shaving and hygienic hair modifying behaviours in twentieth and twenty-first century Britain
Laura Cofield (University of Sussex)

30 November: Sexual health and sexually transmitted infections among men who had sex with men before HIV
Richard McKay (University of Cambridge)

7 December: 'You must relax': Developing health expertise in postwar Britain
Ayesha Nathoo (University of Exeter)

Spring Term will introduce papers on Global Health. Full details will be available on the Centre website.

Walks

Our popular Public Health Walks, led by London Blue Badge Guide and Honorary Senior Lecturer Ros Stanwell-Smith, are free but must be booked in advance with Ingrid James on 020 7927 2434 or ingrid.james@lshtm.ac.uk.

12 October, 5.15pm, starting at LSHTM Keppel St.
Round the Block: the history of the LSHTM 'block' and its surrounding streets and squares.

23 November, 12.45-2.15pm, starting at LSHTM Keppel St.
The Fearsome Cholera of 1854: Immerse yourself in the neighbourhoods most affected by this unknown infection, and discover how the pioneering physician Dr John Snow solved the outbreak.

- This walk is part of the Being Human festival, and must be booked via this [EventBrite link](#)

7 December, 5.15pm, starting at LSHTM Keppel St.
Square Histories: discover the stories of Bloomsbury residents who shaped public health history.

For events, bookings and further details, contact Ingrid James by email or telephone (see below for contact details).

ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Centre for History in Public Health was established in 2003, having originally developed from the AIDS Social History Programme in the late 1980s. Its location within a multi-disciplinary public health institution is unique, and keeps it firmly in the forefront of historical research into public health, and health services.

The CHiPH mission is to promote and undertake high quality research in order to contribute to the development of the historical discipline and to historical understanding in the field of public health policy.

Centre for History in Public Health
Faculty of Public Health & Policy
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
15 -17 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9SH
<http://history.lshtm.ac.uk>
Tel: 020 7927 2434
Email: Ingrid.james@lshtm.ac.uk
Twitter: @LSHTMHistory