



Centre For History in Public Health

# Newsletter

LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



## New publication: *Drink and the City*



Centre member Jane McGregor is shortly to publish her new book, based on her recently completed LSHTM PhD, supervised by Virginia Berridge. This book uses Nottingham, a city in the East Midlands of England, as a case study to examine changing attitudes and responses to drinking and alcohol problems in the UK from the 1950s to early 2000s. Based on original research drawn from local archives and oral histories, it examines responses to drink and drink problems over time, comparing local developments with those nationally.

In the 1950s pub going and drinking were viewed by city inhabitants as essential activities, just as now. For the majority of people, drinking and occasional drunkenness were accepted and tolerated aspects of everyday life.

However in the 1950s, the idea of the 'alcoholic', a medical as well as moral phenomenon, surfaced in society. The book describes how it became associated locally with poverty, and viewed in the extreme terms as a problem of the vagrant alcoholic. The vagrants' ever-presence in the city, coupled with his unsanitary drinking, gave the place an unwholesome look of poverty.

In the early 2000s Nottingham became a national flash-point over binge drinking at a time when alcohol licensing reform was being debated in Parliament and for the first time, the local definition and national one properly combined. This book thus suggests local definitions are important, and should be taken account of in the process of policy making. The book also offers insights into the changing nature of Britain's drinking culture in recent times.

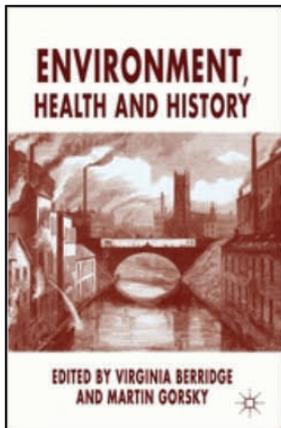
*Martin Gorsky*

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## Centre News

### New Publication: *Environment, Health and History*



The environment is now firmly on the agenda of public health research at LSHTM, with interests ranging from air quality, to the mortality risks of heat and cold, to the impacts of climate change on infectious diseases and agricultural productivity. History also has much to tell us about the relationship between environment and health. This goes above and beyond the familiar story of ‘sewers and drains’ in the Victorian city, important as that is to the development of modern public health. The aim of this new book, edited by Virginia Berridge and Martin Gorsky, is to bring together some leading recent work in this area, and to demonstrate its range and importance. The papers here were originally all delivered at the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health biennial meeting held at LSHTM in September 2007, and include the conference keynote lectures.

The collection is ‘topped and tailed’ with pieces by the School’s previous director, Professor Sir Andy Haines, and by Paul Wilkinson, a leading LSHTM environmental epidemiologist. They bring into view the major issues in the debate about environment and public health in the present day, and establish some context for the historical themes. The book then opens with Harding’s study of plague-era London, when 17<sup>th</sup> century proto-epidemiologists like William Graunt first used ‘bills of mortality’ to speculate about the relations between housing, overcrowding and health. Hamlin’s chapter on nineteenth-century hunger and fever in Ireland reinstates the place of

climate, soil and agriculture in a famine historiography which has long prioritised political economy. Moving from rural to urban environments, Schott details the systematisation of hygiene practices in late-19<sup>th</sup> century German cities. Carter and Adams, by contrast, both examine popular enthusiasms for health-giving properties of nature, the former focusing on the ‘Leagues of Sunlight’ and the latter on last years of the water cure in English spa towns. Moving to the context of tropical medicine, Clarke revisits the high tide of optimism surrounding the mid-century DDT campaign against malaria, also identifying early science (including by LSHTM staff) which began to raise doubt about likely efficacy. Bonah’s work complements this, showing how film representation of eradication campaigns like DDT undergirded hubristic assumptions about the ‘war’ on vector borne diseases.

The final section of the book traces more current concerns. Sellers examines how pressures of globalisation have shifted manufacturing away from high income countries to economies in which health and safety regulation is weaker: his case study is of lead workers in Mexico. Next, Warren turns to the domestic environment, pointing out how the supposed security and comfort of ‘indoors’ creates its own exposures to risk: he highlights both absence of sunlight and psychosocial effects. The final chapters tackle the great global environmental challenges of recent decades and the scientific and social movements which have sought to address them. Rumieli’s subject is physician activism against nuclear war, while Palmlund traces efforts to introduce public health concerns into the debate about climate change.

Histories of the environment are often considered separately from health, and this book brings together the two arenas. Its contributions discuss the connection between environment and health at different levels, in a range of spheres, times and in various geographical locations. As a whole, the book aims to draw out the implications of the interrelationship between health and environment, ranging from the colonial setting to the home.

*Martin Gorsky*

## Centre News

### Maccabaeian Prize for Centre Member

The Maccabaeian prize is awarded occasionally for dissertations submitted for the Diploma in the History of Medicine of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries. Dr Stanwell-Smith's dissertation was on the history of public toilets in London from 1890 to 1910. There has been little documentation of how and why public toilets were established in this city. The time period for the study was chosen as most likely to contain both the rapid development of public toilets and clues to the reasons for providing these facilities, including why they were not provided in many of the poorer boroughs or for women. The main source was MoH reports, supplemented by sanitary committee minutes and contemporary journal references to the subject. The conclusion was that, while concerns about decency and indecency played a part in the patchy, unplanned provision, the over-riding reasons for slow establishment of public toilets were the lack of any specific legislation and a reluctance

to finance these facilities, associated with the opinion that these should be self-financing or profit making. The study also documented the limited role of the MoH in promoting public toilets, as well as the social problems such as lack of provision of toilets for women in office buildings. There are comparisons with the bathhouse/ wash house movement which need further research.

*Ros Stanwell-Smith*



## Annual Lecture

### Professor Steven King

In November, the Centre welcomed Professor Steven King of the University of Leicester to give the 2011 Annual Lecture. Professor King's paper, entitled 'The NHS as an unsustainable legacy cost? Patient rights and the duties of doctors and the state, 1720s to 2000s', spanned almost 300 years of British history, and delved into the fraught issue of rights in the context of health. He argued that modern popular understandings of rights are deeply embedded, and are based on long-running discourses about the duties of doctors and also the duties of the state. But, Professor King suggested, there were limitations to the rights patients could expect to enjoy in the past, just as there are in the present.

Bringing his analysis up to date with an examination of current popular opinion about the funding of the National Health Service (NHS), Professor King contended that the 300 year mould of patient rights and analogous duties for the state and medical professionals will inevitably be broken, as our health care system comes to look increasingly like a 'legacy cost' in an evolving shift of global economic power. The lecture thus raised important questions at a time of significant change for the NHS, as it faces the challenges of an age of austerity.

*Alex Mold*

## Centre Visitor

Professor Wayne Hall from the University of Queensland, Australia, will be joining us from 5th of March—30th June 2012 and will be sitting in the History Centre main office. Professor Hall has worked in the field of addiction for over 20 years and his research approaches scientific and policy relevant questions through the intersection between human biology and history. Professor Hall will be giving a seminar on the 21st of March 2012.

## News From the Archives

### LSHTM Research Online

In January, the Research Online team, lead by the Library and Archive service, launched LSHTM Research online, now available at: <http://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/>.

LSHTM Research Online is a freely accessible database of the School's research, developed as part of the growing [Open Access](#) movement to facilitate the open exchange of scholarly research. It holds the bibliographic details of research outputs, including articles, books, book chapters, conference proceedings and reports, together with the full text wherever possible. At present there are over 19,000 records with more than 1,800 full text items, all authored by LSHTM researchers.

LSHTM Research Online increases the discoverability of research outputs by directly exposing the data to search engines such as Google Scholar. Lists of material in the database can also be fed to the authors' Group or Centre websites. This means that once material in LSHTM Research Online has been identified and tagged as belonging to the History Group, the list of publications can then be added directly to the Group's website automatically. Additional functionality such as download statistics for individual authors, publications, research groups, departments and so on will be added in the upcoming months.

The LSHTM Research Online team are here to help you with any issues relating to copyright, publisher permissions and open access. In the next few months they will be coming out to each department to further publicise this new resource and answer any questions. If you have any questions or comments in the meantime please let them know on [researchonline@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:researchonline@lshtm.ac.uk).

Philippa Mole and Andrew Gray

### Follow Us

The Archives Service is now on Twitter. We will be using Twitter to post information about archive services, events and collections. Twitter also offers us another way to keep in touch with what is going on across archive, information management and higher education sectors. Follow us on Twitter [@LSHTMarchives](#).



## Workshops

### Volunteers, the Voluntary Sector and Voluntarism in Britain and Africa: Perspectives from History and Anthropology

Volunteering, the voluntary sector and the volunteer proved to be a fruitful topic for the exchange of ideas between historians in the Centre and anthropologists in the Anthropology and History of African Biosciences Group. A joint conference held at the School in October brought historical and anthropological perspectives to bear on the terminological, theoretical and practical tangle that surrounds voluntarism in Britain and Africa.

The day began with two papers that explored the changing context for voluntary action in Britain around health over the last 200 years. Martin Gorsky examined the development of voluntary health care provision from the nineteenth century up until the establishment of the welfare state. He also discussed some of the reasons why it was that voluntary organisations were prominent health care providers in this period, and why they were later replaced by the state. Picking up where Martin left off, Alex Mold presented an overview of voluntary action around health from the 1960s to the 2010s. Drawing on the example of organisations dealing with the problems associated with illegal drug use, she suggested that voluntary action did not disappear with the coming of the welfare state, and it continues to play an important part in the health field today.

One of the roles performed by voluntary organisations concerns the making of health policy. In his paper, Gareth Milward examined the impact voluntary organisations had on the formation of policy surrounding disability. He suggested that new political ideas about the meaning of disability put forward by voluntary groups helped shape changes to social security and legal protection for the disabled. Sue Taylor's paper also explored the impact of voluntary organisations, but this time on the development of medical science and treatment, rather than on policy per se. Sue considered the impact of lay knowledge and user activism on the medicalization of cannabis as a treat-

ment for Multiple Sclerosis. She suggested that the impetus to study cannabis as a medicine came from voluntary groups who encouraged the expansion of scientific research in this area.

A rather different role for research, and for volunteers, was explored in the second half of the day, as the geographical focus shifted from the UK to Africa. Ann Kelly teased out the multiple meanings of volunteering in her paper on a community-based programme for larval control of malaria vector mosquitoes in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. She suggested that volunteering to participate in the programme involved both self-governance and the provision of free labour. Brigitte Bruun also explored the complexity of the meaning of the volunteer in her paper on volunteers in medical research projects in Zambia. In this setting, 'volunteers' often perform roles other than that of the altruistic research participant: they may act more like employees, or clients in relation to a patron.

Tracey Chantler highlighted another role for volunteers in her paper on village reporters' experiences in western Kenya. She noted that volunteer village reporters often act as intermediaries between the community and health researchers. But, as Hannah Brown pointed out in her paper on gender and governance in Kenya's Community Strategy for Health, there have been attempts to professionalise the role of intermediaries (such as the Community Health Worker) who were previously volunteers.

The day concluded with comments from Peter Redfield, (Duke University); Virginia Berridge (Centre for History in Public Health) and Wenzel Geissler (Anthropologies of African Bioscience Group). The volunteer, the voluntary sector and voluntarism are clearly useful concepts to work with and to work on for both anthropologists and historians. The one-day workshop highlighted many areas where the two groups, and the two disciplines, can talk to one another.

*Alex Mold*

## Workshops

### Not Just for the Record: Enlivening Archives

11<sup>th</sup> November 2011

This one day workshop aimed to bring together post-graduate students, archivists and historians (and those from other disciplines) into dialogue and question the nature of archives. The overall topics of discussion were the contents of archives, the use of objects as sources and the future of archives in the current economic climate.

Attendance on the day was high and we were pleased to be joined by people from a range of institutions and backgrounds: archivists, historians of medicine, historians of art and sociologists to name a few. This proved a valuable activity and a lot of thought-provoking discussion went on during the day, thanks to some high-quality papers on a range of methodological and historiographical issues.

The day was organised into four sessions before a round table discussion. In the first session, focusing on the contents of archives, Georgina Brewis (Institute of Education) and Anjelica Finnegan (Southampton) spoke about their experiences of working on voluntary archives at LSE. Emma Golding (LSHTM) gave an introduction to the tropical medicine and public health collections at LSHTM. In the second session, on the stories in archives, Paul Sherreard, Community Interpretation Officer at the London Metropolitan Archives spoke about creative ways of engaging the public in archival material, while Sarah Chaney (UCL) a research student who also works in an archive discussed how individual stories in the archives had influenced her studies of nineteenth century asylum psychiatry.

Moving on to objects as archives, Dr. Peter Morris, Principle Curator and Head of Research at the Science Museum discussed how objects can be used in creative ways by historians of science. Following on from this, PhD student Jennifer Grove (University of Exeter) who is also working on an exhibition of Sir Henry Wellcome's collection of erotic and sexually-related artefacts, spoke about the use of objects to inform her research on collectors of classical material culture relating to sex in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the final session

before the round table, Gareth Millward (LSHTM) and Ross Macfarlane (Wellcome Library) considered methodological questions about the uses of archives.

The round table which followed the papers was similarly enlightening. From it, three main themes emerged: the role of filters, photography and ethics in the archive. These themes span theoretical, methodological and practical issues which have arisen from the experiences of students, archivists and more experienced researchers when using archives. These themes tend to raise more questions than offering answers; however we thought that these lead to interesting avenues for further research and attention. For more information on the day visit <http://www.pgfhom.org/blog/not-just-for-the-record> To continue this discussion please email [enlivening@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:enlivening@lshtm.ac.uk)

The workshop was generally considered to be a success, and genuine dialogue between historians, archivists and other archive users proved valuable and should be encouraged. The day was generously supported by the Wellcome Trust.

*Gareth Millward, Lauren Hutchinson and Jennifer Walke*

### Film Series

The Centre will shortly be reviving its popular lunch time series of public health films. As in earlier years we aim to include dramas, documentaries and public health education films. Previous films have included *The Narcotic Farm*, selected clips from *The Joy of Sex Education* and *Spanish Flu: The Forgotten Fallen*.

Please check the website for further details and upcoming films.

<http://history.lshtm.ac.uk/Film%20Series.htm>

## Forthcoming Events

Spring Term

The Centre for History in Public Health  
presents



**Janet Greenlees**

(Glasgow Caledonian University)

*'The peculiar and complex female problem': The Church of Scotland  
and women's healthcare, 1900-1948*

**Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 12.45 pm – 2.00 pm**

**Venue: LG 8, Keppel Street Building**

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**Penny Tinkler**

(University of Manchester)

*(Title TBC. Subject: Women, smoking and visual culture)*

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 12.45 pm – 2.00 pm**

**Venue: LG 8, Keppel Street Building**

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ALL ARE WELCOME

**Funded by the Wellcome Trust**

Organiser: Martin Gorsky. To be put on the mailing list contact [Ingrid.james@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:Ingrid.james@lshtm.ac.uk)

**PUBLIC HEALTH HISTORY WALK**

**'SQUARES AND PAIRS'**

Bloomsbury is famous for its pioneers – but what about their partners and friends? Explore the locations and stories of those who shaped public health history and their sometimes long suffering companions on this walk through the great architecture and squares of the area.

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 12.45 pm – 2.00 pm**

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Both walks will be led by **Dr Ros Stanwell-Smith**, a Public Health Consultant who is also a Blue Badge Guide

**Meet in the reception hall at LSHTM**

Each Walk is free. Numbers are limited (20 places). If you would like to participate, please book with Ingrid James: Tel: 020 7927 - 2434 or email [ingrid.james@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:ingrid.james@lshtm.ac.uk)

**All Walks are Funded by the Wellcome Trust**

## Schedule of Events

### March 2012

| Mon | Tue | Wed        | Thu        | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|-----|-----|------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |            | 1          | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6   | 7 Seminar  | 8          | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13  | 14 Walk    | 15 Seminar | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | 20  | 21 Seminar | 22         | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28         | 29         | 30  | 31  |     |

## About Us

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*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 :**

*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.*

**The Director of ChiPH is Professor [Virginia Berridge](#).**

### We're on the web

[http://  
history.lshtm.ac.uk/](http://history.lshtm.ac.uk/)

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