



Centre For History in Public Health

# Newsletter



## Fellowship Awarded: Historical Demography

### African Historical Demography Using Parish Registers

Sarah Walters was awarded a three year Wellcome Trust fellowship. She will be working with Professor Basia Zaba in the Centre for Population studies and attached to the History Centre.

Little is known about the demography of sub-Saharan Africa before the 1960s because of the lack of data. The historical demography of Europe was reconstructed in large part by applying family reconstitution to parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials.

In this study, a similar approach will be used in Africa. Parish registers from Tanzania, Ghana, Mozambique, Uganda and Malawi will be used to create the African Historical Demographic Database (AHDD), a longitudinal database containing the life histories of about 300,000 people over the period 1890-2000.

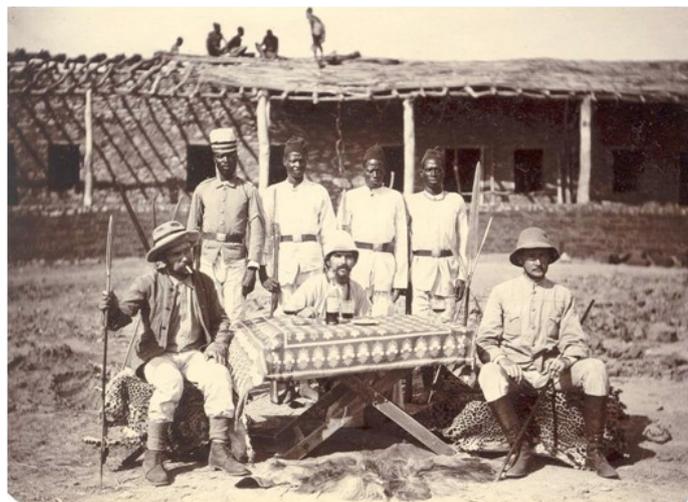
These data will be used together with qualitative archival sources to write a comparative demographic history of these regions. The AHDD will be used to answer questions about the impact of different colonial regimes on African

health and about the relevance of global models of demographic transition theory for Africa. The project builds on an earlier study in Tanzania, where parish registers were used to create the Mwanza Historical Demographic Database.

For more information see: [www.geog.cam.ac.uk/people/walters/phd.pdf](http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/people/walters/phd.pdf)

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The early mission building at Bukumbi, c. 1890 (one of the parishes included in the Mwanza Historical Demographic Database)

Source: White Father's Archives Rome

## Centre News

### Addiction Funding Received

Virginia Berridge, Alex Mold and Martin Gorsky are all involved in a new EU Framework 7 programme of work on addiction.

Virginia is leading a work-package which will look at addiction through the ages. Participants are from Sweden, Poland, Austria, Italy and elsewhere. They will be examining the history of addiction on a country basis.

Research projects within the work-package will examine the changing use of the language of addiction in an international organisation, the International Council for Alcohol and Addictions; and also within the WHO and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

Virginia Berridge

### NHS Reform in Historical Perspective: Featured Publication

Since its election in May 2010 the Coalition government has proposed a wide-ranging set of reforms to the National Health Service.

Despite pre-election promises to refrain from 'disruptive reorganisations' the future of the NHS has rapidly moved centre stage in domestic politics. The policy of rapid fiscal tightening following the financial crisis has meant drastic curbs in expenditure growth after several years of plenty, and the jobs of managerial and support staff are threatened.

Meanwhile, after many years in opposition, the Conservatives have developed an extensive reform programme which they argue will liberate the NHS from excessive central control and produce better, fairer outcomes. In his recent History and Policy paper, published earlier this year to coincide with the first reading of the new NHS legislation, Martin Gorsky examines where these proposals fit in the longer term history of the service. To read 'Coalition policy towards the NHS: past contexts and current trajectories' go to: <http://www.historyandpolicy.org/papers/policy-paper-111.html>

### The stories behind Tavistock Place

In 2010 PHP moved from the Keppel Street site to 15-17 Tavistock Place.

This new site has had a varied and eclectic history. The area was once the home of the Woburn or Tavistock Chapel which was later demolished and subsequent roles of the site have included functioning as the headquarters of the Express Dairy Company, a cycling school and the headquarters of the British Transport Police.

A project currently being undertaken by the Centre for History in Public Health is to provide a brief history of the site. Images of the building and the street will be displayed in the Faculty Meeting Room.

Suzanne Taylor



Photograph of Tavistock Place  
Source: Malaria Centre Website  
<http://malaria.lshtm.ac.uk/>

## Conferences

### Health Rights in Global Historical Perspective LSHTM 17th-18th February 2011

This two day conference brought together speakers from a number of different disciplines to discuss the issue of health rights. Sponsored by the Wellcome Trust, the conference aimed to place health rights in a global historical context.

Papers in the seven sessions covered a diversity of places, including Europe, North America, East Asia, Africa and Australasia, but they also considered how health rights operate at a global level through transnational organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO).

A range of different disciplinary approaches were brought to bear on the topic, with historians, sociologists, anthropologists, philosophers and analysts of public policy all contributing to the discussion.

The conference attracted an audience from both inside and outside the School. Alex Mold and David Reubi are now developing a book proposal for an edited collection based on a selection of the papers from the conference.

For more information on the day see <http://history.lshtm.ac.uk/Health%20Rights.htm>

Alex Mold

### Public Health and Voluntary Action LSHTM 20th November 2010

In conjunction with the Centre for History in Public Health, the Voluntary Action History Society organised a day-long workshop for post-graduate students and early-career researchers on the subject of voluntary action and public health.

Speakers were invited to give fifteen minute papers on their work and the methodological and thematic problems which they had encountered, followed by a brief, five-minute question and answer session.

To round off the day, Virginia Berridge and Alex Mold led an hour-long round table discussion on themes and issues surrounding the study of the history of voluntarism.

The day was well-attended, with eight speakers and over twenty participants in the round table discussions.

Papers covered a wide range of themes from the nineteenth-century Contagious Diseases Act in Ireland to twenty-first century studies of local health care provision in England via twentieth-century AIDS prevention in Japan. Not all of the speakers were attached to history departments, which added to the variety.

For more information see <http://history.lshtm.ac.uk/past-events.html>

Gareth Millward

### Anglo-American Conference on Health and History IHR 29 June- 1 July 2011

This major international history conference has health and medicine as its theme this year.

Centre staff are well represented **Alex Mold** will present on *Autonomy and the English patient: patient-consumer groups and patient autonomy during the 1960s and 1970s* at a session entitled 'Bioethics in Britain. 1960s-1990s' along with David Reubi from LSHTM and Duncan Wilson from the University of Manchester.

**Martin Gorsky** will present on *The legacy of the Poor Law: long-stay hospitals and older people in the West of England, 1929-1950* and **Nadja Van Ginneken** will be presenting on *Mental Health Care in India delivered by non-specialists: an historical analysis*.

**Virginia Berridge** is chairing a session on history in the policy environment. This involves historians who have given evidence to the Commons health committee enquiry into alcohol; the committee specialist (also an historian); and a civil servant working on the government's 'Big Society' agenda who started life as an historian. All will be reflecting on what historians need to do to have policy impact.

<http://www.history.ac.uk/aac2011>

## Nutrition and History in the Twentieth Century LSHTM 15th September 2010

This one day conference organised jointly by LSHTM Archives and Centre for History in Public Health brought together past and present LSHTM nutritionists, archivists and historians to discuss the history of nutrition.

Following a welcome and introduction by Professor Virginia Berridge (LSHTM) the day began with a session on nutrition archives. LSHTM Archivist's Victoria Cranna and Emma Golding, outlined the history of nutrition research at LSHTM and the Wellcome funded project to catalogue and preserve the School's Nutrition Collection. Wellcome Trust Archivist, Amanda Engineer, then introduced us to nutrition resources held in the Wellcome Library.

The following session comprised a 'witness panel' where past and present members of LSHTM nutrition staff, including Professor Philip Payne, Professor Ann Ashworth Hill, Professor Joe Millward, Dr Liza Draper and Professor Suzanne Filteau, gathered to discuss nutrition work at the School. This session provided a fascinating account of the School's nutrition work from the 1960s to the present day from those at the centre of the research.

In the afternoon, historians and nutrition researchers presented papers on their research. David Smith (Aberdeen University) opened the session with a paper on the role of epidemiologist and statistician, Major Greenwood, in nutrition. Professor Anne Hardy (LSHTM) then discussed research and investigations into outbreaks of enteric pathogens amongst different populations after the Second World War. An analysis of government nutrition policies in the United Kingdom from the 1970s to 1990s was given by Professor Tim Lang (City University). Dr John Manton (LSHTM) outlined the early stages of his research into the joint MRC and LSHTM led multi-disciplinary survey to improve nutrition, health, economic and agricultural conditions in The Gambia.

The final paper of the day by Professor Sander Gilman (Emory University) provided a fascinating account of the history of famine and obesity in China.

The conference provided a rare opportunity for archivists, historians and nutrition practitioners to gather to discuss past and present nutrition research in an environment where research on nutrition and its history continues today.

Emma Golding



Professor Sander Gilman speaking about obesity in China



Professor Joe Millward speaking during the witness panel session



Dr John Manton looking at the display of archival material from the Nutrition Collection

## Witness Session Available Online

The event included a 'witness' session with past members of the Nutrition Unit including Professor Philip Payne and Dr Liza Draper. The transcript is now available online at the following link:

<http://history.lshtm.ac.uk/Nutrition.htm>

## PhD Research

### **Women, cancer and voluntary action, 1960—present**

PhD Candidate: Angela Grainger

Supervisor: Dr Alex Mold

This project contributes to the post-war history of voluntary organisations in health through investigating the politics of women's action around cancer in Britain, paying special attention to breast and cervical cancer.

Today, breast cancer is one of the most high-profile health causes in the UK, and cancer fundraising an enormously popular focus for women's collective action.

My study looks at how we got to this point through a series of case studies, beginning with the campaigns for the cervical smear test in the 1960s, and situating women's changing engagement with this issue in the context of the health and gender politics of the period.

It builds on a rich and growing historical and sociological literature on cancer, gender and health social movements, particularly from the USA, and develops the argument that gender has been a key factor shaping forms of health activism.

### **Independence and Malaria Research in Kenya, 1977-1985**

PhD Candidate: Lauren Hutchinson

Supervisors: Professor Virginia Berridge and Dr. Noemi Tousignant

Using a malaria research institute set up by British trained East African scientists in the late nineteen seventies, this thesis explores a particular time of malaria research in Kenya: the planning of post-colonial 'national' biomedical research institutes.

Kenya, a former British colony, is presently (and historically) a site where both malaria and biomedical researchers can be found in abundance. In particularly affected areas, inhabitants are said to receive over 100 malaria infected bites from mosquitoes per year.

Through public and private archives and oral histories this work explores the hopes, imagined futures and memories of science at this point of potential change, from the vantage point of scientists based in Kisumu, Kenya's third city, where the institute is based.

### **Script Doctors and Drug Subcultures: The prescribing of drugs to addicts in the classic era of British addiction (1916-1966)**

PhD Candidate: Christopher Hallam

Supervisor: Professor Virginia Berridge

The research traces the development of the heroin-using subculture in London from its tentative beginnings on the Home Front of the First World War to its established form in the 1960s.

The project, primarily a work of medical and cultural history, entails an exploration of the conditions of possibility for this emergence, with legal and medical controls, and new cultural norms promulgated by the popular media, each playing a prominent formative role.

It was against these forces that subcultural networks of drug users coalesced and defined themselves, seizing and redefining the pathologized, subaltern addict identity as the figure of the outsider in a conformist society.

Though their numbers were small, these groups would have considerable cultural impact as channels through which bohemian attitudes and values were transmitted to the wider culture.

## Teaching Updates

### PhDs Awarded: Congratulations Suzanne Taylor and Jane McGregor

Two PhD students had their vivas successfully during the autumn term.

Suzanne Taylor had been a staff PhD working on a Wellcome funded project and other work. Her PhD is on the (re) medicalisation of cannabis since the 1960s.

Jane McGregor was awarded a Wellcome Trust PhD studentship as part of the Centre's previous enhancement award. Her PhD is on the relationship between local and national policy making using Nottingham as a case study.

### Distance Learning Development

Work on the development of a history and health Distance Learning module took an important step forward as the final manuscript of the textbook was handed over Open University Press in April.

The book, entitled *Public Health in History*, is edited by Virginia Berridge, Martin Gorsky and Alex Mold, and contains contributions from several members of the Centre. A wide range of topics are covered in the book, from nineteenth century public health, to the development of tropical medicine and the emergence of health services, as well as important case-studies such as the changing response to malaria, sexually transmitted diseases and psychoactive substances.

*Public Health in History* will be out in September 2011, with students able to take the Distance Learning module from January 2012.

### Wellcome Funded Masters Student

Oliver Cummings was the successful applicant for the Wellcome funded scholarship in History of Medicine. For his summer project, supervised by Sandy Caincross and Virginia Berridge. Oliver will write about sanitation in the UK.

In 2007 readers of the British Medical Journal voted sanitation the 'greatest medical advance since 1840'; more important than antibiotics and vaccines. In current advocacy for sanitation as a global health priority much has been made of the coincident timing between the peak of investments in sanitation in the UK and the onset of the rapid decline in infant and child mortality between 1900 and 1921.

Historians have highlighted the need for higher resolution local studies to understand the relative contribution of specific interventions – such as sanitation – to larger epidemiological trends (Szreter, 1989). This project aims to investigate the association between improved sanitation and reductions in infant mortality in certain UK towns over a period including 1900-1921.

The generalisability of these findings will be discussed in relation to current public health challenges in low income settings where many live without access to even the most basic sanitation.

### On Site Learning

17 MSc Students are enrolled on the History and Health module, running from April to May each year. This course provides an introductory survey of the history of public health and health services in the UK, and internationally.

Alongside lectures and seminars, the students have visited the Archives of LSHTM and the Dirt exhibition at the Wellcome Trust. The book of this exhibition, published with Oxford University Press has a contribution from the Centre honorary fellow Ginnie Smith, whose work, published as *Clean* (Oxford University Press 2007) fed into the topic of the exhibition.

[www.wellcomecollection.org/dirt](http://www.wellcomecollection.org/dirt)

## News From the Archives

### Photo Competition

In January, we announced the winner of our 2010 Alumni Photo Library Competition as 'Patiently waiting' by Dan Wiklund MD, DTM&H. Dan took the photograph while on a medical mission in Africa.

We were impressed by the high standard of photos entered into the competition and would like to thank all those who participated. Competition entries are available to view on our image database PhotoLibrary at <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/archives/photolibrary>



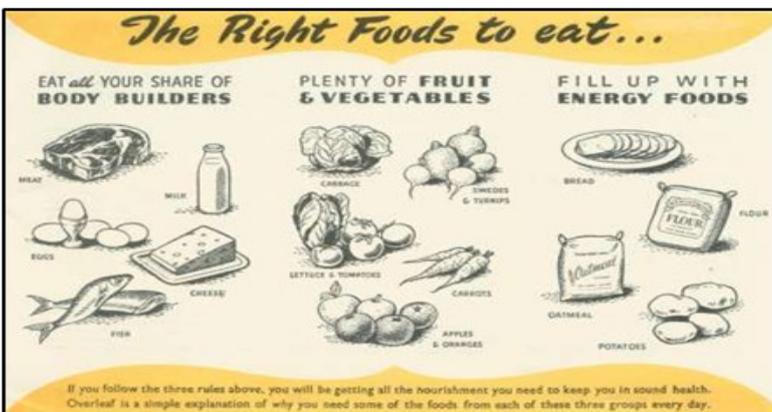
Patiently waiting by Dan Wiklund

### Nutrition Collection

The Archives Service is pleased to announce the completion of our two year Wellcome Trust funded project to catalogue and preserve the papers of the School's Nutrition Collection.

The collection is a unique and varied resource consisting of over 4000 items relating to scientific investigations in the field of nutrition created and collected by LSHTM staff between the 1920s and 1990s.

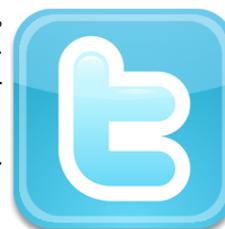
Records include reports, diaries, notebooks, research data, photographs, correspondence and nutrition educational and promotional materials. The collection can be searched on our online catalogue at: <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/library/archives>



Ministry of Food Leaflet  
Courtesy of LSHTM Archives and Library Services

### 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.



## Forthcoming Events

### Film Series

The Centre runs a series of lunch time public health films. These have included 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. The following two films will be shown during this term:

26th May – Shame in the Time of Cholera

7th June – Roads to Africa

Please check the website for further details and upcoming films.

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

### Mosquito Day

The 20<sup>th</sup> August is Mosquito Day, marking the date in 1897 when Sir Ronald Ross made the discovery of malaria cells in the stomach of a mosquito, establishing the link between the two and identifying mosquitoes as the vectors of a disease that was previously thought to emanate from contaminated air (“Mal Aria”).

The LSHTM Malaria Centre will host a 1930s style tea dance and party on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> August in the School’s Library.

In the run up to this, the School’s extended community

of staff and students, past and present, are asked to donate objects, images and text to adorn a giant mosquito net that will form the entrance to the Library on the day. The personal stories behind these contributions will serve to illustrate the wide variety and diversity of individuals that make up the Malaria Centre within the school and in the wider world of malaria intervention and elimination.

For more information, contact Dalia Iskander [malaria@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:malaria@lshtm.ac.uk) or Rebecca Tremain [becca.tremain@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:becca.tremain@lshtm.ac.uk) or see the malaria centre website <http://malaria.lshtm.ac.uk>



'Photograph of Mosquito Day at the Ross Institute, 20 August 1931. A tea party was held to celebrate the 34th anniversary of the day on which Sir Ronald Ross discovered the mosquito transmission of malaria.' Photo courtesy of LSHTM Library and Archives Service

### History Walks

Dr Ros Stanwell Smith, a Public Health Consultant and Blue Badge Guide offers free walks funded by the Wellcome Trust. The next walk **Squares and Pairs Two** which links the Royal Wedding, Bloomsbury and Public Health, is on

Wednesday 1st of June 5pm-6.30pm. 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)



Image from the walk: Round the block again 2008

## Centre Visitors

The Centre was pleased to welcome two overseas visitors during the spring term. Professor **Linda Bryder** was based with us during a visit from the department of history at Auckland. She spoke in our health rights conference.

Professor **Nancy Tomes** from CUNY at Stonybrook also visited at the same time. She gave a history seminar on health consumerism and also spoke at the health rights conference.

In the summer term Professor **Rima Apple** will be visiting. Rima is well known for history of mothers and infant feeding; and for her work on vitamins *Vitamina*.

The Centre also welcomes intern Charles Jacobs who is here to gain work experience amongst the historians and archivists. Charles has an undergraduate degree in History from Canterbury Christ Church University, and a Masters in Modern History from Kings College London.

### Schedule of Events

- 26th May—Film Screening
- 1st June - History Walk
- 7th June—Film Screening

### Schedule of Events

- 29th June—1st July Anglo-American Health and History Conference
- 19th August - Mosquito Day

## 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/>

