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The Work of Healing: Towards a Materialist History of Medicine **150.738 Fall 2020**

This research seminar explores how the so-called “material turn” might be fruitful in our field. So far, this analytic has not been used much in the history of medicine; we might think of it as the juncture of material culture, medical technology, and clinical encounter. The focus is on bedside medicine; we look at what a wide range of healers actually did to help sufferers, and use materiality as a means of accessing and understanding that healing encounter. The course’s center of gravity is pre-modern, because that’s where my expertise lies, but we venture well into the 19th century and look at practices as varied as the use of relics; uroscopy; temperature-taking; bloodletting; and anesthesia. We’ll be reading a range of secondary sources and some primary ones as well.

The course is discussion-based; students are expected to come prepared to discuss the readings each week. Readings are available via Welch e-Res and Blackboard. Students will present twice on sources of their choosing from a larger “methodology” bibliography; will write a brief research paper on a topic of their choosing; and design a pedagogical exercise. Assessment is based on all of these aspects of the course, which is pass/fail with a detailed narrative evaluation. Given current circumstances, the course will be taught via Zoom, meeting Wednesdays 2-4 pm. Some days we may run to 4:30.

Learning Objectives:

- Build breadth of knowledge in the history of medicine and in studies of materiality.
- Develop basic research skills in the history of medicine.
- Analyze primary sources and develop arguments utilizing them.
- Develop skills in note-taking and summarizing books and articles.
- Deploy secondary sources to build an historiographic argument.

The health and wellness of students are of utmost importance to us here at Johns Hopkins. If you are struggling with anxiety, stress, depression, or other wellbeing related concerns, please consider contacting the Johns Hopkins Student Assistance Program (JHSAP). If you are concerned about a friend, please encourage that person to seek out counseling. JHSAP can be reached at 443-287-7000 or jhsap.org. Additional resources are available at [https:// www.hopkinsmedicine.org/getting-help](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/getting-help).

If you have a disability or any health issue and may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator for graduate students in the School of Medicine: GradDisabilityOffice@jhmi.edu, 410-614-3385) to discuss your specific needs.

Sept. 2: Introduction

Charles E. Rosenberg, "The Therapeutic Revolution," *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 20(4) (1977): 485-506.

Giorgio Riello, "Things That Shape History: Material Culture and Historical Narratives", in *History and Material Culture, A Student's Guide to Approaching Alternative Sources*, ed. Karen Harvey, (London: Routledge, 2009): 24-46.

- ➔ We'll discuss the various assignments for the course in class.
- ➔ Pedagogy exercise: design a lesson plan for 1 hour class session which brings a materiality perspective to a topic in a larger undergraduate history of medicine course. What readings would you assign? How would you run discussion? Be sure to think about what kind of course (topic, level) this lesson is for, and write learning objectives for the session.
- ➔ Research paper: research and write a brief research paper (25 pp) on a topic of your choosing, incorporating some aspect of materiality. A semester is short; focus on interrogating selected primary sources and building a (limited) argument.

Sept. 9: Bandaging

On the Surgery, (Hippocratic text) trans. Francis Adams, parts 7-13, 18; see <http://classics.mit.edu/Hippocrates/surgery.html>

Jacques Jouanna, *Hippocrates*, trans. M. B. DeBevoise (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999): 91-97.

F. W. Sargent, *On Bandaging, and Other Operations of Minor Surgery*, (Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1848): 70-81. Available on Medical Heritage: <https://archive.org/details/onbandagingother00sarguoft/page/78/mode/2up>

Charles LeClerc, *A Description of Bandages and Dressings, According to the Most Commodious Ways Now Us'd in France. Written in French by M. Le Clerc, Physician in Ordinary to the French King, and Author of the Compleat Surgeon...* (London: printed for R. Bonwicke, W. Freeman, Tim. Goodwin, M. Wotton, J. Walthoe, S. Manship, J. Nicholson, R. Parker, B. Tooke, and R. Smith, 1714): 1-12.

- ➔ Before class, choose a bandage from the Sargent text, and spend about 20 minutes trying to replicate it on yourself or a roommate, using paper towels, fabric, whatever you have to hand. Be prepared to discuss your experience in class.
- ➔ introduction in class to finding secondary sources.

Sept. 16: Uroscopy

Faith Wallis, "Signs and Senses: Diagnosis and Prognosis in Early Medieval Pulse and Urine Texts." *Social History of Medicine* 13 (2000): 265-78.

Gilles of Corbeil, *On Urines*, excerpt in Faith Wallis, ed., *Medieval Medicine. A Reader*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010): 256-258.

Michael McVaugh, "Bedside Manners in the Middle Ages," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 71, no. 2 (1997): 201-223.

Michael Stolberg, *Uroscopy in Early Modern Europe*, trans. Logan Kennedy and Leonhard Unglaub, (Farnham Surrey, UK: Ashgate, 2015): 71-104.

Sept. 23: Relics

- Rose Marie San Juan, "Corruptible Bodies and Contaminating Technologies: Jesuit Devotional Print and the 1656 Plague in Naples", in C. L. Carlin (ed.), *Imagining Contagion in Early Modern Europe* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005): 107-123.
- Nicole Archambeau, "Miracle Mediators as Healing Practitioners: The Knowledge and Practice of Healing with Relics", *Social History of Medicine*, Volume 31, Issue 2, May (2018): 209–230.
- Katherine M. Tycz, "Material Prayers and Maternity in Early Modern Italy: Signed, Sealed, Delivered", in *Domestic Devotions in Early Modern Italy*, ed., Maya Corry, Marco Faini, and Alessia Meneghin, (Brill: 2019): 244-71.
- Robert Bartlett, *Why Can The Dead Do Such Great Things?: Saints and Worshippers from the Martyrs to the Reformation*, (Princeton, NJ : Princeton University Press, 2013): 349-54
- Don Skemer, *Binding Words: Textual Amulets in the Middle Ages*, (University Park, Pa.: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2006): 235-50.
- "Jean of Tournemire treats breast cancer", *Acta Sanctorum Julii Tomus Primus*, (Paris: Victor Palme, 1867) translated by Faith Wallis in Wallis, ed., *Medieval Medicine. A Reader*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010): 344-348.
- > introduction in class to finding primary sources

Sept. 30: Research Week 1; individual meetings

Oct. 7: Early Modern Surgery

- Sandra Cavallo, *Artisans of the Body in Early Modern Italy: Identities, Families and Masculinities*, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2007): 38-63.
- Olivia Weisser, "Boils, Pushes and Wheals: Reading Bumps on the Body in Early Modern England", *Social History of Medicine* 22 (2009): 321-339.
- Seth Stein LeJacq, "The Bounds of Domestic Healing: Medical Recipes, Storytelling, and Surgery in Early Modern England." *Social History of Medicine* 26, no. 3 (2013): 451-68.
- Alexander Morgan, *Casebook*, selection to be posted to Blackboard. In class we'll do a brief session on transcription using this manuscript primary source; special thanks to Dr. Michael Whitfield for his work on this source.

Oct 14: Pulse & Mo

- Mark S. R. Jenner, "Tasting Lichfield, Touching China: Sir John Floyer's Senses", *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 53, No. 3 (September 2010): 647-670.
- Projit Bihari Mukharji, *Doctoring Traditions: Ayurveda, Small Technologies, and Braided Sciences*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016): 77-115, 305-11.
- Motoichi Terada , "The Montpellier Version of Sphygmology: Classical Chinese Medicine and Vitalism" in *Translation at Work: Chinese Medicine in the First Global Age*, ed. Harold J. Cook, (Leiden ; Boston: Brill Rodopi, 2020): 176-205.
- You may wish to refresh your memories of Shigehisa Kuriyama's work on pulse and mo, which you've read for other courses. Shigehisa Kuriyama, *The Expressiveness of the Body* (New York: Zone Books, 1991), esp. 7-60.
- > You will be presenting your initial research topic in class

Oct 21: Touching

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785–1812* (New York: Knopf, 1990): 162-203.

Mary E. Fissell, "Sarah Stone: Artisan of the Maternal Body", unpublished paper, 2015.

Katherine Paugh, *Politics of Reproduction: Race, Medicine, and Fertility in the Age of Abolition*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017): 122-53.

William Giffard, *Cases in Midwifry. Written by the late Mr. William Giffard, Surgeon and Man-Midwife...* (London: printed for B. Motte, T. Wotton, and L. Gilliver, in Fleet-Street; and J. Nourse, without Temple-Bar, 1734): 40-42.

Sarah Stone, *A Complete Practice of Midwifery. Consisting of Upwards Forty Cases or Observations in that Valuable Art...*, (London: printed for T. Cooper, at the Globe in Pater-Noster Row, M.DCC.XXXVII): 65-73.

—> You will be presenting one primary source for your research paper in class

Oct 28: Research Week 2; individual meetings

Nov. 4: Inoculation

Sarah. S. Gronim, "Imagining Inoculation: Smallpox, the Body, and Social Relations of Healing in the 18th century", *Bull. History of Medicine*, lxxx (2006): 247-68.

Helen Esfandiary, "We Could Not Answer to Ourselves Not Doing It': Maternal Obligations and Knowledge of Smallpox Inoculation in Eighteenth-Century Elite Society", *Historical Research*, 92 (2019): 754-70.

Maisie May, "Inoculating the Urban Poor in the Late Eighteenth Century", *British Journal for the History of Science* 30 (1997): 291-305.

Margot Minardi, "The Boston Inoculation Controversy of 1721-1722: An Incident in the History of Race," *William & Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 61 Issue 1, (2004): 47-76.

Sarah Schuetze, "Carrying Home the Enemy: Smallpox and Revolution in American Love and Letters, 1775–76," *Early American Literature*, Vol. 53 Issue 1, (2018):99-125.

—> You will be presenting one secondary source for your research paper in class.
What kind of intervention do you want to make in relation to this source?

Nov. 11: Bloodletting

Pierre Charles Alexandre Louis, *Research on the Effectiveness of Bloodletting in Some Inflammatory Diseases* trans. C. G. Putnam. (Boston: Hilliard, Gray & Company, 1828); see 1986 reprint: 1-10.

Lanfranc of Milan, *Great Surgery*, excerpt in Faith Wallis, ed., *Medieval Medicine. A Reader*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010): 281-86.

Eli Anders, "'A Plea for the Lancet': Bloodletting, Therapeutic Epistemology, and Professional Identity in Late Nineteenth-Century American Medicine," *Social History of Medicine* 29, no. 4 (2016): 781–801.

Shigehisa Kuriyama. "Interpreting the History of Bloodletting," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Fields* (1995), 50(1): 11-46.

John Harley Warner, "The Arbitration of Change" in *The Therapeutic Perspective: Medical Practice, Knowledge, and Identity in America, 1820-1885*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, (1987): 207-34.

Nov 18: Anesthesia

Mary Poovey, "'Scenes of an Indelicate Character': The Medical 'Treatment' of Victorian Women," *Representations* 14 (1986): 137-168.

Alison Winter, *Mesmerized: Powers of Mind in Victorian Britain* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, (1998), Chapter 7: 161-186.

Fanny Burney, *Journals and Letters*, ed. Joyce Hemlow et al, Oxford: Clarendon, 1975 (orig. document 1811), vol. VI: 598-615.

Martin S. Pernick, *A Calculus of Suffering: Pain, Professionalism, and Anesthesia in Nineteenth-Century America*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1985): 171-88.

—> Be ready to present your pedagogy exercise in class. Prepare a 1-2 page summary to submit to me that specifies topic; type/level of course; readings; lesson plan; and learning objectives.

Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2: Measuring at the Bedside

Lundy Braun, "Spirometry, Measurement, and Race in the Nineteenth Century," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 60 (2005): 135-169.

Margarete Sandelowski, *Devices & Desires: Gender, Technology, and American Nursing*, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000): 62-78.

Joel D. Howell, *Technology in the Hospital: Transforming Patient Care in the Early Twentieth Century*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995): 69-102.

—> Be ready to present an update on your research paper in class.