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## **MARY E. FISSELL**

### **Education**

PhD History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, May 1988.  
MA History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, May 1984.  
BA History, University of Pennsylvania, May 1981.

### **Research Interests**

Early-modern science and medicine; the patient's perspective in the history of medicine; gender, sexuality, and the history of the body; popular culture; books and reading in early modern England and the Atlantic world.

### **Teaching Positions Held**

May 2005 - present, Professor, Department of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University.  
Nov. 1994 - May 2005, Associate Professor, Department of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Johns Hopkins University.  
Jan. 1992-Oct. 1994, Assistant Professor, Department of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Johns Hopkins University.  
July 1988-Dec. 1991, Lecturer and Research Associate, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Manchester.

### **Additional Professional Roles**

June 2020, WHO Pacific Region Covid think tank  
Jan 2016-present, Project Organizer, Reading Early English Medicine (REEM), digital humanities project (with Elaine Leong, MPIWG Berlin).  
January 2019, Marie Jahoda Visiting Chair in International Gender Studies, Ruhr Universität, Bochum, Germany.  
Jan 2014-July 2020, Director, Online Program in the History of Medicine  
July-Dec. 2013, Acting Director, Department of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University.  
Jan-July 2013, Visiting Fellow, History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge

University.

Jan 2012-present, Life Member, Clare Hall, Cambridge University.

Jan-July 2011, Visiting Fellow, Clare Hall, Cambridge University.

Jan-July 2011, Co-Curator, *Books & Babies*, exhibit, Cambridge University Library, Cambridge, England. <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions/Babies/index.html>; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14110843>.

Sept 2006-April 2007, Director, Folger Seminar, "Vernacular Health and Healing", Folger Shakespeare Institute, Washington, DC.

Jan. 2006-present, Co-Editor, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*.

1996-99, Section Editor, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, "Women and Medicine".

## Publications

### Books

*Patients, Power and the Poor in Eighteenth-Century Bristol*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Manchester Women's History Group (six member group including Mary Fissell), *Resources for Women's History in Greater Manchester*, Manchester: National Labour History Museum, 1993.

*Vernacular Bodies: The Politics of Reproduction in Early Modern England*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. [<http://www.oup.co.uk/isbn/0-19-926988-2>].  
Paperback edition, Fall, 2006. See Forum on *Vernacular Bodies*, *Journal of Women's History*, 22 (3), 2010: 185-213.

### Articles

"The Sick and Drooping Poor' in Eighteenth Century Bristol", *Social History of Medicine*. 1989; 2(1): 35-58.

"The Disappearance of the Patient's Narrative", in Andrew Wear and Roger French, eds., *Medicine in an Age of Reform*, London: Routledge, 1991: 92-109.

"Charity Universal: The Founding of the Bristol Infirmary", in Lee Davison, et al., eds., *Stilling the Grumbling Hive: Debates on Social and Economic Problems in England 1698-1740*, Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1992: 121-144.

"Readers, Texts and Contexts: Vernacular Medical Works in Early Modern England." in Roy Porter, ed., *The Popularization of Medicine 1650-1850*, London: Routledge, 1992: 72-96.

- "Health in the City: Putting Together the Pieces." *Urban History*. 1992; 19 (3): 251-56.
- "Innocent and Honourable Bribes: Medical Manners in Eighteenth-Century England." in Robert Baker, Dorothy Porter and Roy Porter, eds., *The Codification of Morality: Historical and Philosophical Studies of the Formalization of Western Medical Morality in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries*, Dordrecht: Kluwer Press, 1993: 19-45.
- "Eighteenth-century Medical History." *Eighteenth Century Life*. 1995; 19(2): 98-102.
- "Gender and Generation: Representing Reproduction in Early Modern England", *Gender and History*, 7 (1995): 433-456. Reprinted in *The Sexualities in History Reader*, ed. Kim Phillips and Barry Reay, London: Routledge, 2001.
- "Constructing Vermin in Seventeenth-Century England", *History Workshop Journal*, no. 47 (1999): 1-29. Reprinted in *Identity and Alterity*, ed. William Chester Jordan and Angela Creager, Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 2002.
- and Kathleen Coyne Kelley, "Virtuous Bodies: Constructing a History of the Hymen", in *Attending to Early Modern Women*, ed Jane Donawerth and Adele Seef, College Park: University of Maryland Press, (2000): 96-98.
- "Hairy Women and Naked Truths: Gender and the Politics of Knowledge in *Aristotle's Masterpiece*," *William and Mary Quarterly* 60 (2003): 43-74.
- "Making a Masterpiece: The *Aristotle* Texts in Vernacular Medical Culture." in Charles E. Rosenberg, ed., *Right Living: An Anglo-American Tradition of Self-Help Medicine*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, (2003): 59-87.
- and Roger Cooter, "Exploring Natural Knowledge: Science and the Popular in the Eighteenth Century", *Cambridge History of Science*, vol. 4, *Science in the Eighteenth Century*, ed. Roy Porter, Cambridge University Press, (2003): 145-179.
- "Making Meaning from the Margins: The New Cultural History of Medicine." John Warner and Frank Huisman, eds., *Medical History: The Stories and their Meanings*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, (2004): 364-89.
- "The Politics of Reproduction in the English Reformation." *Representations* 87 (Summer 2004): 43-81.
- "The Marketplace of Print" in Mark Jenner and Pat Wallis, eds. *Medicine and the Market in England and Its Colonies*, London: Palgrave, (2007): 108-132.
- "Introduction: Women, Health, and Healing in Early Modern Europe", *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 82 (Spring 2008): 1-17.

“The Doctor-Patient Relationship”, Robert Baker and Lawrence McCullough, eds., *The Cambridge History of Medical Ethics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (2009): 501-17.

“Healing Spaces”, in Laura Lunger Knoppers, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Women’s Writing*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

“Going Vernacular”, *Journal of Women’s History*, 22 (3), (2010): 209-213.

“Popular Medical Books”, Joad Raymond, ed. *Oxford History of Popular Print Culture, vol 1: Beginnings to 1660*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011): 418-431. Volume is winner of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference (SCSC) Bainton Literature Prize.

"A Book of Receipts of All Sorts: Elizabeth Strachey, 1693-1730s", in Michael Sappol, ed, *Hidden Treasure*, (New York: Blast Books, 2012): 204-5.

“Women and Medicine.” in *Oxford Bibliographies in Renaissance and Reformation*, Ed. Margaret King. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

“Material Texts and Medical Libraries in the Digital Age”, *RBM a Journal of Rare Books Manuscripts and Cultural Heritage*, (2014): 135-145.

“Remaking the Maternal Body in England, 1680–1730”, *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, Vol. 26, No. 1, January 2017, 114-139.

“Man-Midwifery Revisited”, in *Reproduction: Antiquity to the Present Day*, ed. Nick Hopwood, Rebecca Flemming, Lauren Kassell, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018): 319-332.

“Aristotle’s Masterpiece”, in *Reproduction: Antiquity to the Present Day*, ed. Nick Hopwood, Rebecca Flemming, Lauren Kassell, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018): 672.

Forthcoming:

with Elizabeth Atkins, “Marking Maternity: Integrating Historical and Archaeological Evidence for Reproduction in the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries”, in *The Material Body: Embodiment, History and Archaeology in England, 1700-1880*, ed. Elizabeth Atkins and Karen Harvey, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, under contract)

Non-Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Women and Water". *Women's Health in Primary Care*. 1998; 1(1): 110.

"Domestic Consumption". *Women's Health in Primary Care*. 1998; 1(2): 198.

"The Birth of Gossip". *Women's Health in Primary Care*. 1998; 1(3): 298.

[and subsequent monthly columns to March 2001]

"When the Birds and the Bees Were Not Enough: Aristotle's Masterpiece", *Public Domain Review*, August 20, 2015, <http://publicdomainreview.org/2015/08/19/when-the-birds-and-the-bees-were-not-enough-aristotles-masterpiece/>

"Pandemics Come and Go. The Way People Respond to Them Barely Changes." *Washington Post*, May 7, 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/05/07/coronavirus-bubonic-plague-london/>

Podcast: "Aristotle's Masterpiece: Early Modern Sex Ed", Historical Perspectives On Contemporary Issues, CHSTM, <https://www.chstm.org/earlymodernsexed>

## Reviews

Book reviews in *Isis*, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, *Social History of Medicine*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Medical History*, *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, *Journal of British Studies*, etc., etc.

## **Invited Presentations (last 5 years)**

Feb. 2015, "The Lobster and the Mother-in-Law: Making Knowledge in 17th-Century London", School of Medicine, Yale University.

March 2015, "Making Knowledge with Her Hands: An Eighteenth Century Midwife" Women's History Month Lecture, APL, Johns Hopkins University,.

April 2015, "A Look at America's First Sex Manual", George Dock Lecture, Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, CA. Podcast: [https://](https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/look-at-americas-first-sex/id990061130?mt=10)

[itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/look-at-americas-first-sex/id990061130?mt=10](https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/look-at-americas-first-sex/id990061130?mt=10)  
November 2015, "Making Babies: A Look at an Early Sex Manual," Brownell Lecture, Center for the History of the Book, University of Iowa.

Dec. 2015, "Sarah Stone: Hands that Knew", at "Bodies That Work: Three Perspectives on the History of Maternity", The Johns Hopkins University

May 2017, "Signs and Senses", Embodied Senses Conference, Folger Institute, Washington DC

Oct. 2017, "Aristotle's Masterpiece and the Re-Making of Kinship, 1820-1860", keynote speaker, JASMED conference, The Johns Hopkins University.

April 2018, (joint keynote address with Karin Wulf, Director, Omohundro Institute of

Early American History and Culture), "Rethinking Narratives of Family and Kinship in the British Atlantic", MACBS, U MD College Park.

April 2018, "Becoming Obscene", SUNY Buffalo, Buffalo New York.

Nov. 2018, "Under the Bed and in the Factory Canteen: 20th-century Readers of *Aristotle's Masterpiece*" The History of the Medical Book (conference organized by Fissell), Huntington Library, San Marino, CA.

Jan. 2019, "The Extraordinary Affair at Walworth: An Abortionist in Early 19th Century London", Inaugural Marie Jahoda Lecture, Ruhr Universität, Bochum, Germany.

Jan. 2019, "Aristotle's Masterpiece – The Young Folks Bible: Sexual Knowledge and Courtship, 1680-1800", University of Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany.

Jan. 2019, "Reading Sex: The History of a Popular Medical Manual, 1684-1930" Institute for Ethics, History and Theory of Medicine, LMU, Munich, Germany.

### **Recent Outreach**

Dec. 2016, Interviewed on NPR program, "The Seahorse in Your Brain: Where Body Parts Got Their Names."

March 2017, Interviewed on Undark podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/undark-magazine/ep12-wear-and-tear#t=0:00>.

BBC History Extra "Everything You Wanted To Know about the History of Medicine", in production.