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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.

Positions Held

July 2023-June 2024, Interim Director, Department of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University.
Sept. 2022 - present, Inaugural J. Mario Molina Professor in the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University.
May 2005 - Aug 2022, 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; additional appointments in the History and History of Science Departments.
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 (selected)

Summer 2023-present, PI, Find the Midwife Project.
Fall, 2020, Curator, "Picturing Pandemic Baltimore" photography exhibition,
June-Nov 2020, WHO Western Pacific Region COVID-19 "Futures" think tank.
January 2019, Marie Jahoda Visiting Chair in International Gender Studies, Ruhr Universität, Bochum, Germany.
Jan 2016-present, PI, Reading Early Medicine (REM), digital humanities project (with Elaine Leong, UCL),
Jan. 2006-July 2021, Co-Editor, *Bulletin of the History of 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 (last decade)

"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.

with Jeremy Greene et al, editor, Special Issue on COVID-19, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 94:4 (2020).

with Jeremy Greene, et. al., “Introduction”, Special Issue on COVID-19, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 94:4 (2020): 543-561.

with Guido Alfani, Mary Augusta Brazelton, et. al., “History as a Partner In Public Health: A Report of the Foresight Think Tank on the History of Pandemics”, WHO.

with Suzanne Bell, “A Little Bit Pregnant? Productive Ambiguity and Fertility Research”, *Population and Development Review* vol. 47:2 (June 2021): 1-22.

Sally Pezaro, Karen Maher, and Mary Fissell, “Midwives Need a Useable Past to Shape their Future”, *The Lancet*, vol. 399, issue 10329, p.1046-1047, March 12, 2022, DOI:[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(22\)00231-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(22)00231-8).

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, 2024): 47-80

Forthcoming/In Press:

Long Before Roe: Abortion Histories From Antiquity to Antibiotics, under contract, Basic Books, pub. date April 2025.

Recent Outreach, Podcasts, etc.

- Nov. 2022, “Cesarean Section Surgery in 16th Century England”, That Shakespeare Life, <http://www.cassidycash.com/ep238>
- Feb. 2022, BBC History Extra, “Periods, fertility & childbirth: a pre-modern history”, <https://shows.acast.com/historyextra/episodes/periods-fertility-childbirth-a-pre-modern-history>
- Sept. 2021, “Making Babies in the 17th Century”, *Not Just the Tudors*, podcast, <https://play.acast.com/s/not-just-the-tudors/makingbabiesinthe17thcentury>
- Dec. 2020 BBC History Extra, “The History of Medicine: Everything You Wanted to Know”
<https://www.historyextra.com/period/modern/history-medicine-medical-everthing-you-wanted-know-podcast/>
- Nov. 2020 “*Aristotle’s Masterpiece: Early Modern Sex Ed*”, Historical Perspectives On Contemporary Issues, CHSTM, <https://www.chstm.org/earlymodernsexed>
- “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/>

Grants and Awards

- 1997-8 Fellowship, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, History Department, Princeton University.
- 1997 Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (declined).
- 2000 Fellowship, Folger Institute, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.
- 2001-2002 Grant, National Library of Medicine (NIH 1 G13 LM07054-01).
- 2005 *Vernacular Bodies*, Honorable Mention, Katharine Briggs Folklore Award.
- 2010-2012, Grant, National Library of Medicine (NIH 1G13LM010198-01).
- 2023-24 Discovery Grant, Johns Hopkins University.

University Service (last decade)

- Professionalism Sub-Committee, Curriculum Reform, 2004-6.
- Director, Online Program In the History of Medicine, 2014-2020. Directed creation and implementation of new online program, including accreditation, curriculum development, administration, and pedagogy.
- Member, PhD COVID Relief Fellowship Selection Committee, 2021-3.

Mentoring

Primary advisor, 17 PhD and 10 MA students.