Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland

Annual Report

2008-2009

www.ucd.ie/history/body.htm
www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/history_medicine/index.htm
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The academic year 2008-2009 was indeed a busy one for the Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland. Funding from the Wellcome Trust Enhancement award, as well as from a number of other sources, has enabled a further increase in the Centre’s activities. Developments this year included engagement in a series of innovative collaborations, the arrival of new staff, a further increase in the number of students and significant international events hosted by the Centre. These activities have facilitated work in our major collaborative research streams; maternal and child health; psychiatry and mental health; public health and disease; archives and library projects; and medical professions and the marketplace.

During the year, the staff at the Centre was delighted at the appointment of Dr Leanne McCormick to a permanent post at the School of English, History and Politics in University of Ulster. Leanne has published extensively on the history of sexuality and of women’s health in Northern Ireland. Her monograph *Regulating Sexuality: Women in Twentieth Century Northern Ireland* was published by Manchester University Press this year. She has been an important contributor to the Centre since its inception and she will continue to play a vital role in its development. In September 2009 the Centre welcomed Dr Ian Miller as Temporary Senior Teaching Fellow in Medical History, based in the School of History and Archives, University College Dublin. Ian has recently completed his PhD at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of Manchester and has published on topics such as anti-vivisectionism, vegetarianism, hunger strikes and the impact of wartime stress upon the body in both civilian and military life during the Second World War. He has also been engaged with various outreach activities stressing the relevance of the history of medicine to the work of medical practitioners. His teaching experience has added greatly to both the MA degree and the various undergraduate modules at UCD. The Centre is currently developing an application for a Wellcome Trust University Award towards a permanent medical history post in UCD. Ian’s appointment has allowed Dr Catherine Cox to take partial research leave to continue her work on the medical marketplace in nineteenth century Ireland.

As part of the original award, Dr Caitriona Foley was appointed as a research assistant with the Centre. Based at UCD with Dr Catherine Cox, she assisted on the development of the successful project grant application ‘Madness, Migration and the Irish in Lancashire, c.1850-1921’ (details below). Harriet Wheelock and John Mullen were appointed in July 2009 to create a complete index of the *Dublin Journal of Medical Science (DJMS)* from its establishment in 1832 to 1950.

**Funded Projects**


The Public Health Trust project was successfully completed. In 2008, the Centre at the University of Ulster had secured funding of £32,000 to complete a history of the last thirty years of public health in Northern Ireland. John Privilege was employed from September 2008-September 2009 on the project and this resulted in the publication of *Four Decades of Public Health. Northern Ireland’s Health Boards, 1973-2009* in September 2009. The project has also led to the creation of a repository of oral history from a variety of health and environmental health professionals.
In September 2009 Dr Catherine Cox, (CHOMI, UCD) and Prof Hilary Marland, University of Warwick, secured funding from the Wellcome Trust for a 3-year collaborative project on the relationship between Irish migrants, ethnicity and mental illness from c.1850 to 1921. The project builds on the Enhancement award and on existing expertise in the history of psychiatry at the Centre intensifying collaboration with national and international partner institutions. Currently, one of the ongoing challenges within history and psychiatry is to explain high rates of psychological disturbance amongst migrants and minority ethnic groups more generally. In the historic and contemporary literature, the relationship between migration and mental illness has been variously linked to exposure to new social demands and cultures, isolation, trauma, discrimination, and deprivation. This project will situate the experiences of Irish pauper asylum patients and those treating them within a broader canvass of efforts to manage perceived and real problems of disease, poverty, and intemperance amongst Irish migrants. The researchers on the project will undertake innovative historical research and, through events and publications, inform and engage with current debates on high levels of mental illness amongst Irish people, and the relationship between mental health problems, ethnicity and migration. The main outputs will comprise a co-authored book, three articles, a workshop, conference and public engagement activities. The total value of the award is £173,150.

Dr Leanne McCormick was awarded £4,000 from Wellcome Trust to fund a symposium on Medical Humanities that took place in May 2008 at UU. Dr Catherine Cox with Professor Hilary Marland was awarded a conference grant for their workshop on ‘The Transmission and Communication of Medical Knowledge and Services: The Medical Marketplace in the Modern Period’ to be held in March 2010 in Venice. Andrew Sneddon was awarded three-month seed funding by Wellcome Trust to develop a project on the medical landscape of eighteenth-century Ulster.

Research Resources

Since the Centre’s inception, staff has worked closely with Librarians and Archivists to ensure important collections are preserved and made available to the public. In early 2009 Niamh Brennan (Donegal County Archives Service) with the assistance of Catherine Cox, was the recipient of a grant of £10,000 from the RRHM Wellcome Trust for the purpose of carrying out a conservation survey of the medical and health records held by the Archives. The project aim was to carry out a detailed survey of each record held in all medical and health collections of Donegal County Archives, including the eight Board of Guardians, the Donegal Board of Health and St Conal’s Hospital records. Over a four-week period, a professional paper conservator, Ms Louise Walsworth-Bell assessed the material. Two Microsoft Access Databases were set up, one for flat works on paper and one for bound volumes, with an individual listing for each item surveyed. It was found that the collection overall was in fair physical condition. However, damage has been incurred through handling and due to previous poor storage conditions. Conservation work is required on many of the individual items listed on the databases. While the collections have been listed/catalogued, further work is required to create more detailed descriptive lists.

Evelyn Flanagan, UCD Special Collections and Catherine Cox received funding RRHM Wellcome Trust funding to make the library of the Royal College of Science for Ireland available for research and teaching within UCD and to the general public. In order to achieve this aim, it is first
necessary to assess this collection as a whole so as to ascertain the size and content of the library, its conservation needs and cataloguing requirements. The grant will allow UCD to employ a librarian for 4 months who will ascertain the size and content of the collection, its conservation needs to be completed by a conservator, and cataloguing requirements. It is hoped a Librarian will be appointed in February.

In July 2009 Prof Mary Daly secured funding from Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive at UCD for two library projects. Two research assistants were employed to create a full and complete index to the Dublin Journal of Medical Science (DJMS) from its establishment in 1832 to 1950. DJMS is the longest established medical periodical in Ireland, and is an invaluable source for the history and development of medicine in Ireland. The indices will open up DJMS as a source for medical historians who are developing an analytical and contextual approach to their subject, and will hopefully develop a new interest in the history of Irish medical publications. Amongst its contributors and editors are some of the most famous Irish medical practitioners of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dr Catherine Cox managed the project and Harriet Wheelock and John Mullen worked as research assistants. A similar project, managed by Prof Mary E Daly, is on-going to create indices for Irish Builder and Engineer for the period 1890 to 1914. The journal is a useful source for sanitary history. The IVRLA is funded by the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLI) Phase 3. The Project is based in the UCD James Joyce Library and involves close co-operation with both the library and the participating repositories. The DJMS and Irish Builder and Engineer indices are fully searchable and will be available at www.ucd.ie/ivrla/.

Symposia and Seminars

The third year of the Centre's activities included hosting two large conferences. In April 2009 the Centre hosted the Society for the Social History of Medicine Postgraduate Conference at the Humanities Institute of Ireland, UCD. This large Conference, entitled ‘Medicine and Healthcare: History and Context’, showcased the work of 34 postgraduate students from Universities all over the world over 3 days. The event highlighted how far reaching the field of history of medicine can be, boasting speakers from close to home in Dublin and as far afield as Australia and Israel. A range of disciplines were included and the programme featured papers relating to every continent, and covered a timescale ranging from sixteenth century Ottoman Egypt to the present day. The American artist Monica Church gave a presentation on her representations of 'bird ‘flu'.

The event was generously supported by a Wellcome Trust Conference Award and by the Society for the Social History of Medicine. Thanks to the funding the organisers were able to award twenty student bursaries. A number of interviews and videos with conference speakers/participants were held during the conference. They are now available to listen at www.ucd.ie/historyarchives/body/outreach.htm (Organisers: Dr Catherine Cox and Dr Rosemary Wall SSHM).

The Centre also hosted a Medical Humanities Symposium in University of Ulster in May 2009. This one-day symposium brought together a number of papers on a range of topics from the cultural representation of disability (Prof Anne Borsay (Swansea)) to bioethics and the global regulation of medical technology (Dr David Hunter (Keele)). The Symposium was facilitated by a generous conference award of £4000 from Wellcome Trust. The Centre also co-organised the 23rd Congress of the British Society for the History of Medicine held in Belfast in September 2009.
Seminar Series

The series is held alternately in UCD and UU with an audience comprising students, colleagues in history and other schools, and members of the medical profession. Presentations were heard from Dr Maura Cronin, Mary Immaculate College Limerick, 'Status, respectability and small places: an oral history of the Limerick Dispensary 1950-70'; Dr Kate Fisher, University of Exeter, 'It was an unspoken thing: Husbands, Wives and the negotiation of birth control use in Britain before the Pill'; Prof Eoin O’Brien, UCD, 'Let wit and humour be thine medicine'; Prof Mary E. Daly, UCD, 'An Irish solution to an Irish problem: The medical profession and Irish family planning services'; Dr Larry Geary University College Cork, 'A Medical History of the Great Famine in Cork'. (Organisers: Dr Catherine Cox and Prof Greta Jones)

Public Outreach

Catherine Cox appeared on BBC’s ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ assisting DJ Chris Moyles investigate his Irish roots. The programme was watched by 4.7m viewers. Susan Kelly assisted the producers, ‘Wall to Wall Media Ltd’ in their historical research. Susan also liaised with BBC producers about polio in Northern Ireland for future programmes. Leanne McCormick advised several Production companies on submissions relating to US troops in Northern Ireland and Magdalene Asylums in Northern Ireland.

Staff has continued to liaise and work closely with medical professionals. Catherine presented a paper to the Irish Society for Nursing and Midwifery History, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in Dublin in May 2009. Anne MacLellan, Susan Kelly and Tom Feeney presented their research at the 23rd Congress of the British Society for the History of Medicine held in Belfast in September 2009. Susan assisted in the organisation of the conference.

Students

Since the Centre was the first of its kind established in Ireland one of our priorities was simply to establish a solid infrastructure and environment for the education and development of medical historians in Ireland. As part of this the MA in the Social and Cultural History of Medicine in Ireland at UCD is crucially important as the primary method of attracting and encouraging talented and suitably qualified postgraduates. The good news is that the number of enrolments has steadily increased year on year.

Masters in Social and Cultural History of Medicine in Ireland Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007/08</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008/09</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>2009/10</td>
<td>6</td>
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Our PhD students are also performing well. Caitriona Foley successfully defended her thesis on the ‘1918 Influenza Epidemic in Ireland’ early in the New Year (2009). She was subsequently appointed as research assistant at the Centre. Clara Cullen completed and defended her PhD thesis on the history of the Museum of Irish Industry. Current PhD students include Fiachra Byrne (Psychiatry and Psychiatric Care in Ireland in 20th Century Ireland) and Anne MacLellan (Dr Dorothy Price and the eradication of TB in Ireland) attached to the Centre in UCD and Elizabeth Lake (The history of medical communication/the book early nineteenth century Ireland) attached to the Centre in UU. Last year’s recipient of the Wellcome Trust Masters Award, Alice Mauger, is now preparing funding applications for her PhD study of the provision of care for the non-pauper insane in Ireland, 1830-1900. Tom Feeney continues to work on his post-doctoral project on the politics of mental health policy in twentieth century Ireland and has presented his research at several conferences.

Other Activities

Catherine Cox has been appointed to the Advisory Boards for the UCD Special Collections Library and the UCD Centre for Nursing and Midwifery History. She continues to act on the advisory board of the ESRC funded project ‘Welfare Regimes under the Irish Poor Law, 1850-1921’, Oxford Brookes University and of the Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick. She is also a member of the executive committee of the Society for the Social History of Medicine. Greta Jones was appointed to the Trustees of the Worth Library Dublin and also the committee of RCPI. Susan Kelly acted as Joint Senior Co-ordinator for Student Selected Component Queen’s University Belfast. This job involved co-ordinating lecturers for the third year medical students undertaking the History of Medicine Student Selected Component at Queens University Belfast.

Publications


Cox, Catherine, ‘The Medical Marketplace and Medical Tradition in Nineteenth-century Ireland’, Ronnie Moore and Stuart McClean (eds), The Stethoscope, the Root, the Wand and the Crystal Folk Healing and Health Care Practices In The British Isles (Oxford: Berghahn Press, in press, 2010), chapter 3.


Catherine Cox, Managing Insanity in Nineteenth Century Ireland (Manchester: Manchester University Press, forthcoming).

Catherine Cox and Maria Luddy (eds), Cultures of Care in Irish Medical History, 1750-1950 (London: Palgrave McMillan, forthcoming 2010).

Daly, Mary E., “‘The Primary and Natural Educator’?: The Role of Parents in the Education of Their Children in Independent Ireland’, Éire/Ireland 44: 1&2 (2009), 194-217.


Jones, Greta, McKenna, James and Manzoor, Farhat, “Candles in the Dark”, *Medical Ethical Issues in Northern Ireland During the Troubles* (The Nuffield Trust, 2009).

Jones, Greta, “‘Strike out boldly for the prizes that are available to you’ Medical Emigration from Ireland 1860-1908’, *Medical History* 54:1 (2010), 55-74.


McCormick, Leanne, ‘These Lepers should be deported’: the treatment and prevention of VD in Northern Ireland in the Inter-War period’ in Catherine Cox and Maria Luddy (eds), *Cultures of Care in Irish Medical History* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, forthcoming 2010).

Kelly, Susan K., ‘Education of Tubercular Children in Northern Ireland, 1921 to 1955’, Social History of Medicine (accepted)


Sneddon, Andrew. ‘Institutional medicine and state intervention in 18th-century Ireland’ in James Kelly and Fiona Clark (eds.) Ireland and Medicine in the 18th Century (Ashgate Press, forthcoming).

**Papers Presented at Conferences and Workshops**

Byrnie, Fiachra:

Cox, Catherine:
The 1911 Census and Teaching Irish Medical History’ at Irish-Canadian Studies Conference, Ottawa, November 2008.

‘Accessing Healthcare: the Medical Dispensary Service in Late Nineteenth Century Ireland’ at Irish Society for Nursing and Midwifery History, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, May 2009


Daly, Mary E:
‘An Irish solution to an Irish problem’. The medical profession and Irish family planning services’ at CHOMI Seminar Series, UCD, February 2009.

Feeney, Tom:
'Dr Conn Ward and the Development of Mental Health Services in Independent Ireland’ at 23rd Congress of the British Society for the History of Medicine, Belfast, September 2009.

Jones, Greta:
This was followed by an article in the Irish Mail on Sunday.


Keynote Speech ‘Darwin’s Irish Doctors’ at the Annual Gary Love Lecture to the Ulster Medical Society and the Ulster Society for the History of Medicine, Belfast City Hospital March 2009.

Kelly, Susan:

‘And so to Bed …., Memories of Immobilisation from Past Patients with Bone and Joint Tuberculosis’, at 23rd Congress of the BSHM, Belfast, September, 2009.

MacLellan, Anne:

‘The Ring Disaster’ at SSSHM Postgraduate Conference, UCD, April 2009.


‘Beyond the crozier: the Irish National Anti-Tuberculosis League reconsidered’ at 23rd Congress of the BSHM, Belfast, September 2009.

McCormick, Leanne:


Miller, Ian:


‘Perspectives on the Past: History and Classics Conference,’ at University of Manchester, March 2009.

Sneddon, Andrew:
‘The State and Provincial Health Care: The County Infirmary System in Eighteenth- Century Ulster’, Institute of Irish Studies, Seminar Series, Queens University Belfast December 2008
Centre Website Traffic

The amount of traffic to the Centre website also reflects the growing visibility of Centre activities as, for example, there were 735 visits to the Centre website in the period September-December 2009 and encouragingly there was a wide international distribution to these visits. (Source Google Analytic).

![Centre Website Traffic Since September 2009](image1)

Website Traffic by Country of Origin

![Website Traffic by Country of Origin](image2)

735 visits came from 29 countries/territories
Full List of CHOMI Events 2008/2009

Seminar Series

Thursday 25 September 2008 - UCD
'Status, respectability and small places: an oral history of the Limerick Dispensary 1950-70'.
Dr Maura Cronin, (Mary Immaculate College Limerick)

Thursday 16 October – UU (Belfast Campus)
"It was an unspoken thing’: Husbands, Wives and the negotiation of birth control use in Britain before the Pill’. Dr Kate Fisher (University of Exeter)

Thursday 20 November - UCD
'Let wit and humour be thine medicine'
Prof Eoin O’Brien, Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research, (UCD)

Thursday 19 February 2009 - UCD
"An Irish solution to an Irish problem’. The medical profession and Irish family planning services’.
Prof Mary E. Daly, Principal, College of Arts and Celtic Studies (UCD).

Thursday 12 March 2009 - UU (Belfast Campus)
'A Medical History of the Great Famine in Cork’. Dr Larry Geary (UCC).
Workshops/Symposia

Medical Humanities Symposium
University of Ulster, Coleraine
28 May 2009

Speakers:

Professor Martyn Evans, (University of Durham)
'The Establishment of a Centre for Medical Humanities'

Professor Andrew Smith, (University of Glamorgan)
"Do you share my madness?" Doctors and doctoring in the nineteenth century Gothic'

Professor Anne Borsay, (University of Swansea)
'Cultural Representations of Disability: The Example of History'

Dr David Hunter, (University of Keele)
'Bioethics and The challenge of "sperm ships": the need for the global regulation of medical technology'

Professor John McLachlan, (University of Durham) and Professor Karen Fleming (University of Ulster)
"Flex + Ply": Material Metaphors for Knowledge and Understanding of Anatomy'

Society for the Social History of Medicine Postgraduate Conference
Medicine and Healthcare: History and Context
Humanities Institute of Ireland University College Dublin
16 - 18 April 2009

Panel 1: The Body Chair: Stephen Soanes (University of Warwick)

Isabel Fletcher (University of Edinburgh)
"The ultimate triumph of obesity? Scientific consensus, common sense and the ‘obesity epidemic’.

Louise Strobeck (Lund University)
'Projections of medicine, health and care onto prehistory'.

Ian Miller (University of Manchester)
'The national stomach: abdominal illness in Britain c.1800-1950'.

Steve Ridge (University College, London)
'States of health: reconsidering the relationship between medicine and politics in late-seventeenth and early-eighteenth century England'.

Panel 2: Professionalisation Chair: Anne MacLellan (UCD)

Philomena Gorey (UCD)
'Midwives for the poor: the development of dispensary midwifery services in Ireland 1835 - 1890'.

Laura Kelly (NUi, Galway)
"Fascinating scalpel-wielders and fair dissectors": Lady medicals at Irish universities, 1872-1922'.

Helena Silva (Ecole des Hautes en Sciences Sociales)
'Male nursing in Portugal from 1940 to 1970: discrimination?'.

Sherry Sayed Gad Elrab (University of Exeter)
'The regulation of medical practice in Ottoman Egypt: The role of medical guilds 1517 - 1789'.

11
Keynote Speaker: Chair: Gayle Davis (University of Edinburgh).

Abigail Woods (Imperial College, London) ‘History and policy: A personal perspective’.

Workshop with Liz Shaw and Nils Fietje (Wellcome Trust).
‘Tips on writing a funding application’

Friday 17th

Panel 3: Technology Chair: Liz Lake (University of Ulster)

Francois Zanetti (Paris X Nanterre)
‘Medical electricity at the French Société royale de Médecine 1776-1792’.
Lena Exarchou (University of Athens)
‘Quantificational technology in hospital-based medicine: Reorganizing medical practices’.
Daniel Becker (Durham University)
‘On the art of diagnosing and the science of being ill: the framing of myxoeedema as a disease by William Miller Ord (1836-1902)’.
Aine Larkin (Trinity College, Dublin)
‘Suspect surfaces and hidden depths: The radiographic image in Proust’s À la recherche du temps perdu’.

Panel 4: Politics Chair: Dee Hoole (University of Aberdeen)

Mat Savelli (University of Oxford)
‘Politics and psychiatry in communist Yugoslavia’.
Dora Vargha (Rutgers University)
‘Governing polio: The politics of a child disease in communist Hungary’.
Ida Milne (Trinity College, Dublin)
‘Disease as a political tool: Spanish influenza and the Irish independence movement, 1918-1919’.
Jonathan Lewy (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)
‘The drinking disease in German politics’.

Drop-in session with Wellcome Trust (Liz Shaw and Nils Fietje)

Tony Woods ‘Wellcome Trust Funding’ (Wellcome Trust)

Panel 5: Patient and Public Experience Chair: Emma Reilly (Strathclyde)

Clare Griffin (University College, London)
‘Uncooperative witnesses: ‘Patient’s view’ history in early modern England and Russia’.
Fiachra Byrne (University College Dublin)
‘Being mad in Ireland’.
Jamie Stark (University of Leeds)
‘“Death in the woolpack”: _e construction of woolsorters’ disease in Bradford’.
Carla Hermges (Durham University)
‘Caesarean section and bonding. Does the mode of delivery matter?’

Monica Church, ‘Fly away little bird: An artist’s view of H5N1’.
Saturday 18 April

Panel 6: Childhood Chair: Ivan Wells (CHSTM)

Ashley Mathisen (University of Oxford)
‘Experimentation and innovation: children, medical institutions and the consolidation of medical knowledge in eighteenth-century London’.
 Matthew Smith (University of Exeter)
‘From Fidgety Phil to Bart Simpson or not? The uses and abuses of the history of hyperactivity’.
 Robyne Burrows (Murdoch University)
‘The relationship between the development of notions of childhood and ADHD’.
 Dee Hoole (University of Aberdeen)
‘Children in the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum c.1901: Stanley Hall - “A receptacle for unimprovable idiots”’?

Panel 7: Infectious Disease and Public Health Chair: Ian Miller (University of Manchester)

Hannah Waterson (University of Manchester)
‘HIV/AIDS in Japan – A social history’.
 Anne MacLellan (University College Dublin)
‘The Ring disaster’.
 Rich McKay (University of Oxford)
‘Villain or vilified? Medical and lay responses to the ‘Patient Zero’ myth in the North American AIDS epidemic’.
 Victoria Brown (Durham University)
“‘Slaughter of the innocents: Towns and cities that Out-Herod Herod”, Middlesbrough’s infant mortality rate 1910-1919’.

Panel 8: Religion Chair: Leanne Dunlop (Strathclyde)

Elizabeth Hunter (University of Oxford)
“‘A Medicine proper and peculiar’: Religious melancholy and the paradox of despair in early modern English spiritual physic’.
 Dale Montgomery (Queen’s University, Belfast)
‘Duine le Dia: Catholic management of the Youghal Auxiliary Asylum 1900-1913’.
 Sarah Marks (University College, London)
‘Quaker practice as psychiatric therapy: Moral treatment at the ‘York Retreat in the 18th and 19th century’.

Panel 9: Colonial Chair: Fiachra Byrne (UCD)

Madeline Fowler (University of Oxford)
‘Communication, contact and calamity: Cholera epidemics in nineteenth-century Canada and Britain’.
 Chris Gill (University of Strathclyde)
‘The effects of governmental policy on the limits and scope of civil veterinary research in British India, 1876-1947’.
 Steven Serels (McGill University)