



thinking
through
things

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Thinking Through Things: object encounters in the medical humanities

ECR Training Day, Wednesday 12th February, 11am to 6pm
Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE

<http://nsmh.org.uk/thinking-through-things/>

Participants:

Ben Skinner works as a dancer whilst also undertaking a practice research PhD at the University of Leeds. His research explores touch and the skin's ability to cultivate perception through movement.

Chase Ledin is a Ph.D. candidate in Cultural Theory at the University of Edinburgh. His research explores the cultural representation(s) and epistemologies of "post-AIDS" in contemporary sociology, culture and theory.

Claire Horn is a final year PhD candidate at Birkbeck, School of Law. Her thesis, "Gestation Beyond Mother/Machine: Legal Frameworks for Abortion, Artificial Wombs, and Care" the impact of artificial womb technology on the regulation of abortion in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

Dawn Woolley is a visual artist and research fellow at Leeds Arts University. She completed an MA in Photography (2008) and PhD by project in Fine Art (2017) at the Royal College of Art.

Diana Beljaars is an ESRC-funded postdoctoral research fellow at the Swansea University Geography Department. She develops a compulsive theory that seeks to establish how particular body, object and space configurations incite situated and ongoing wellbeing.

Erin Bramwell was recently awarded a doctorate from Lancaster University for her thesis 'Rethinking British Patent Medicine Culture in the First Half of the Twentieth Century'. Her thesis used a combination of material, visual and spatial methods in order to understand the relationship between patent medicines and everyday life in the early twentieth century. She is particularly interested in the ways in which the visual and material mediated consumers' encounters with these products, which was vital at a time when proprietors had less face-to-face contact with consumers. This has led to her (somewhat obsessive) interest in advertising, photographs, and packaging.

Finola Finn is an Honorary Research Fellow and part-time tutor in History at Durham University. She recently completed a PhD on melancholy and embodiment in nonconformist religious experience in England (1640-1700); is currently co-developing a project on grief in

the early modern period; and is interested in the use of contemporary art to disseminate historical research.

Georgia Haire is a PhD candidate at the University of Kent. Her research uses false teeth to explore oral health in Britain during the mid-twentieth century.

Gillian Shirreffs is in the third year of a Doctor of Fine Arts degree in creative writing at the University of Glasgow in which she is exploring the relationship between object and illness, with specific reference to multiple sclerosis.

Imogen Wiltshire is a Wellcome Trust ISSF Postdoctoral Research Fellow in History of Art at the University of Leicester, where she is currently writing a book on therapeutic art practices and modernism in the first half of the twentieth century, and researching the representation of pain and the exploration of biology and human reproduction in sculpture in post-war Poland.

Jane Hartshorn is a Practice as Research PhD candidate at University of Kent. Her poetic practice explores female embodiment in relation to cultural and social discourses of illness and wellbeing. @jeahartshorn

Jemima Short is based at Newcastle University, where she has recently submitted a PhD on Nursing Nuns in 19th-Century France and is now preparing for her viva.

Katrina Longhurst recently received her PhD from the University of Leeds, where she continues to teach. Based in the School of English, her research explores the literary critical medical humanities, specifically how mental illness is narrated in contemporary life writing and comics. She is also an associate editor for *The Polyphony*.

Kristin Hussey is a curator and historian of medicine. She is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the Medical Museion in Copenhagen, where her project 'Body Time' explores circadian rhythms in their cultural, philosophical and historical contexts.

Lenka Sediva is a Leverhulme Doctoral Scholar in Visual Culture at Durham University. Her project focuses on the material and visual culture of Domestic Medicine, Women and Nationalism in Early Nineteenth-Century Bohemia.

Stephanie Holton is currently a Lecturer in Classics at Newcastle University. Her teaching and research explore the interactions between literature, philosophy, and medicine in the ancient world – particularly in Archaic and Classical Greece.

Sarah Griffin is Assistant Curator at Winchester College, where she works with the Treasury, Winchester's public museum, and the holdings of Fellows' Library. After gaining her DPhil in Art History in 2018, looking at medieval cosmological diagrams, she was a research assistant at the Oxford Internet Institute and co-convener *Krasis*, a set of interdisciplinary undergraduate seminars at the Ashmolean museum which helps graduate students learn how to teach with objects.

Rebecca Whiteley is the Shreeve Fellow in the History of Medicine at the John Rylands Research Institute, University of Manchester. Her research focuses on the intersections between art history, medical history and social history. At present she is working on the material and visual culture of midwifery education in nineteenth-century Manchester, using printed and archival collections at the John Rylands Library.

The *Thinking Through Things* project team:

Fiona Johnstone (Durham Institute for Medical Humanities) is PI and project manager for *Thinking Through Things*. Previous research projects include a PhD and monograph on portraiture during the AIDS crisis, and an exhibition of works from the Adamson Collection (an internationally significant art therapy collection part held by Wellcome). Fiona is currently interested in photography; portraiture; artists' books (especially in relation to stillbirth and/or neonatal death, but also more generally); 'outsider' art collections; and the inter-relationships between art / artists and large interdisciplinary medical humanities projects.

Marie Allitt (University of Leeds/University of Oxford) is a researcher in literary studies and medical humanities, with particular expertise in medical life writing, military-medicine, and medical spaces. Marie is Postdoctoral Research Assistant for NNMHR at the University of Leeds, and Humanities and Healthcare Fellow at the University of Oxford, on the project 'Advancing Medical Professionalism: Integrating Humanities Teaching in the University of Oxford's Medical School'. Marie is currently interested in: medical education; practitioner health; surgery; hospitals and clinical spaces; early 20th century medicine.

Ashleigh Blackwood (University of Northumbria) is a Research Fellow working within historical and literary medical humanities, with expertise in medical print culture, reproductive health and obstetrics, and mental health. Ashleigh has existing and developing working relationships with a range of cultural heritage organisations including the National Trust, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh, Fairfax House Museum, Shandy Hall, and the National Print Museum of Ireland. Ashleigh is currently interested in a variety of medical themes including women in medicine, midwifery, childbirth and gynaecology, medical instrumentation and publishing, as well as the history of objects as causes of illness and a source of emotional and therapeutic support.

Bentley Crudginton (Manchester University) is a creative facilitator and public engagement lead for the Animal Research Nexus (AnimalResearchNexus.org) and Multispecies Medicine (Multispecies.org) projects. Their research focuses around the cultural relations and ethical obligations that society creates by collaborating with non-human life in pursuit of human health and wellbeing. They design collaborative interventions around everyday objects and experiences that make participants complicit in the consequences of their interactions so that they may reimagine their relationship to/with the original material's construction, definition or purpose. Bentley is interested in: the research animal, the human/animal bond, somatic empathy, performing health, queer things, and monstrous things.

Ilaria Grando (University of York) is an art historian, writer, and researcher. Her PhD thesis entitled "Visualizing AIDS: Re-codify the Body to Re-codify Society" looked at representations of the male body made during the 1980s and 1990s AIDS epidemic in North America. Written in a creative first-person narrative, the thesis associated art, philosophy, literature, and medicine in the conviction of a necessary union of academic disciplines. During her PhD, Ilaria received important research funds, including the Terra Foundation for American Art Travel Grant and the Getty Research Institute Library Grant, and the Worldwide Universities Network Research Mobility Program. Ilaria is currently interested in questioning the visual

culture that surrounds health and illness, exploring representations of death in dance performances, and defining a 360-degrees approach to Art.

Katherine Rawling (University of Leeds) is an historian of medicine with expertise in the visual culture of medicine in the modern period with a specific focus on historical enquiry into the role, use and meaning of photography in medicine and wider society. Her research shows the benefits of considering historical photographs beyond their straightforward evidential value to consider their materiality and wider discursive context. Kat is currently interested in: anything from the collection(!) but as always, any photographs, particularly of patients 1839-1950. Seeing original photos and being able to examine them as material objects (so looking at the stamps on the backs, any annotations, mounts, negatives etc) would be great, as well as how they are arranged and displayed (so in albums, scrap books, casebooks and case files and so on).

Olivia Turner (Newcastle University) is an interdisciplinary artist and practice-led PhD researcher. She is Lead for Newcastle University's Arts & Medical Research Cluster. Her research focuses on the intersection of art and medical science using the visceral body as metaphor and medium within creative practice. Her research interests include autoscapy, anatomical votives, visual representations of imagined anatomy, the cadaver, and patient experience in the visual arts.

Jacqueline Waldock (University of Liverpool) researches sonic anthropology, with a focus upon co-production methodologies and place making. Her current work explores the relationship between listening cultures, ageing and wellbeing. Jacqueline's previous work has often focused upon the sensory experience of the archive object and how this can be utilised and understood through different sonic and digital forms. Her current research interests cover ageing, listening cultures and diversity (particularly in mental health support).

From Wellcome Collection:

Elma Brenner, Research Development Specialist

Danny Rees, Library Engagement Officer

Stefania Signorello, Conservator

Alex Milne, Archivist.

Stephanie Cornwell, Archivist.

Guest speaker:

Jen Grove is an Engaged Research Fellow in the Centre for Medical History at the University of Exeter. She is a postdoctoral researcher on the Wellcome-funded project *Rethinking Sexology*, a member of the award-winning sex education project *Sex & History*, and is project manager for an engagement project with young trans and non-binary adults, *Transformations*. Jen delivers and supports activities which engage people outside of the academy with research into the history of gender and sexuality, through museum exhibitions, creative projects, youth workshops and schools outreach. She was an academic collaborator on the Wellcome Collection's *The Institute of Sexology* exhibition.