

CHSTM

Centre for the History of Science,
Technology and Medicine

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Faculty of Life Sciences

NEWSLETTER

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More Dogs

The team of Matthew Cobb, Andrew Gardiner (University of Edinburgh), Ed Ramsden and Michael Worboys have been awarded a Wellcome Trust Programme Grant (£493,500) for work on a project entitled "Pedigree Chums: Science, medicine and the remaking of the dog in the twentieth century". This award follows one last year from the AHRC on pedigree dogs in the nineteenth century.

The research will investigate the place of the dog in modern biological and medical research, and how biological and medical research has changed the modern dog. We will explore why and how changing ideas and practices on breeding, feeding, training and treating altered the physical form, bodily function, behaviour, health and meanings of different types of dog: pet, show, working, laboratory and stray-dangerous.

We will also study how biologists, veterinarians, the pet food industry, breeders, owners, and the public came together also to change the character of companionship and emotional ties between people and dogs.

The dog presents an ideal case for studying the links between changes in science and medicine, and companionship relations. No animal species has been more altered in form by breeding for so many roles.

No species is fed a more industrialized diet, No species has a closer relationship with humans, where training and selection have enabled to dog to work and no species has their health treated in a manner so close to that of humans.



Canine health check, weighing dog
Wellcome Images **A0001237**

New Book on Tissue Culture Inspires Unusual Experiment

Duncan Wilson's new book on the history of tissue culture recently inspired an unusual scientific experiment. The book, titled *Tissue Culture in Science and Society*, details how the laboratory growth of tissue and cells featured prominently in popular sources during the twentieth century, and argues this high profile stemmed from the interplay between scientific and cultural concerns.

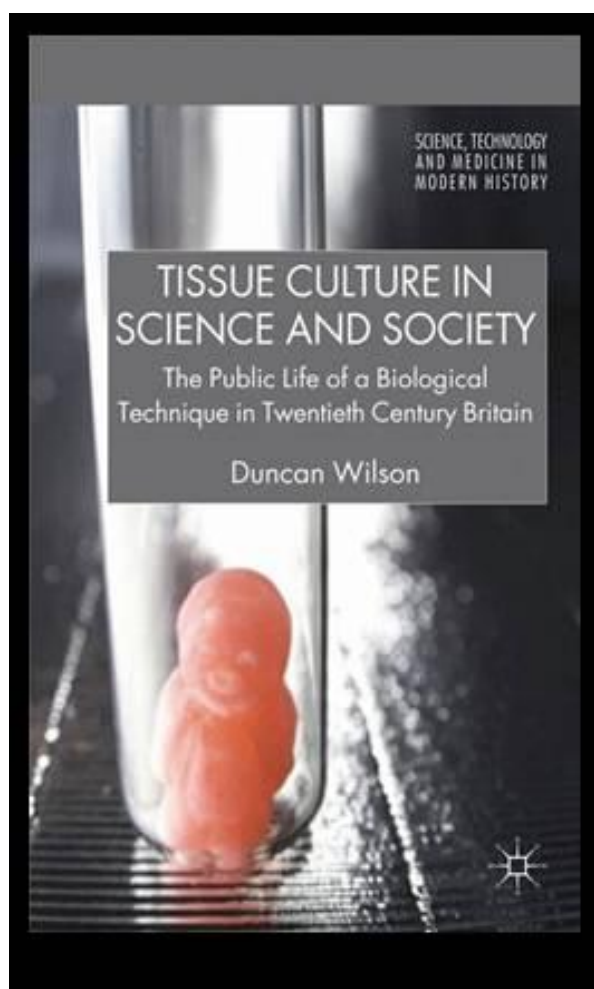
During the 1920s, for instance, scientists promoted tissue culture by engaging with the modernist reappraisal of time and the body. They argued that tissue culture made cells and tissues immortal – allowing them to outlive the human and animal bodies from which they came. In one notable example, the Cambridge scientist Thomas Strangeways claimed to have established a culture of immortal cells from sausage mince in 1926. This experiment, which many believed proved the 'indeterminate character of death', featured prominently in the medical and popular press.



Unfortunately, due to problems with the microscope it was impossible to tell whether the 'sausage harvesting experiment' was a success. Nevertheless, it was a good and unusual source of publicity for the book, which proved that tissue culture remains a high profile technique.

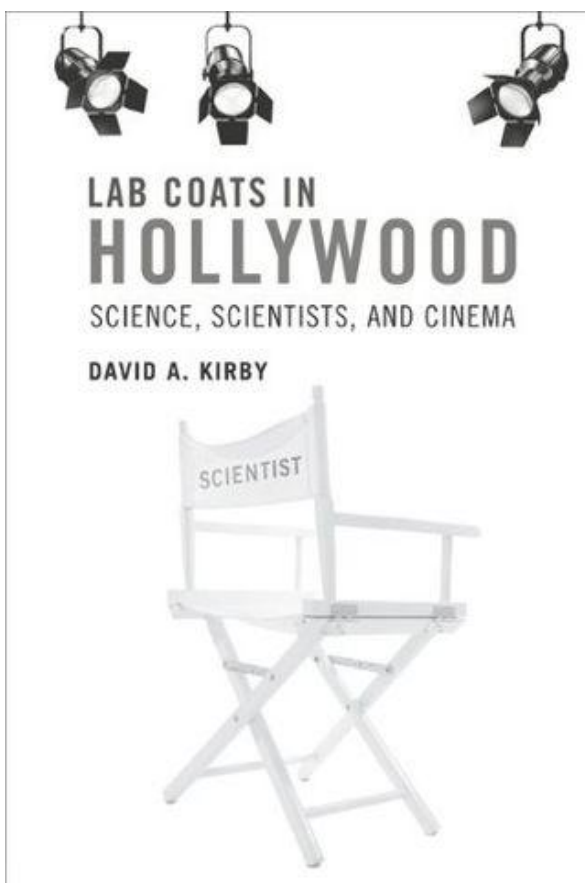
After reading *Tissue Culture in Science and Society*, the performance artist Kira O'Reilly decided to recreate Strangeways's sausage experiment during her residency at the Laboratory Life event, an art-science collaboration held as part of the Brighton Science Festival. With help from a lab assistant, Kira dissected a sausage and incubated the resulting tissue culture in the gallery. Visitors were encouraged to look down a high-powered microscope to see if any cells were dividing or growing.

will be how pedigree dog breeding



Lab Coats in Hollywood

Dr David Kirby's recently released book *Lab Coats in Hollywood: Science, Scientists and Cinema* (MIT Press) explores how films ranging from *A Beautiful Mind* and *Contact* to *Finding Nemo* and *Hulk* have utilized scientists as consultants during production. The book also shows how cinema can influence science as well: depictions of science in popular films can promote research agendas, stimulate technological development, contribute to scientific controversies, and even stir citizens into political action. The book has been well received with numerous reviews in journals, newspapers, magazines, and blogs ranging from *Science* and *Nature* to *Film Comment* and *BBC Focus Magazine*. Dr Kirby has done several book-signing events across the United States including an event at the famous "Book Soup" on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles.



(DRUGS)



EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION

Standard Drugs and Drug Standards

CHSTM is the lead British partner in a Research Networking Programme of the European Science Foundation (Standing Committee for the Humanities) entitled 'DRUGS'. The project aims to analyse processes of standardization in the development, regulation, marketing, and use of modern pharmaceuticals.

This year staff gave papers at two meetings: "Beyond the Magic Bullet: Reframing the History of Antibiotics" 17-19 March 2011, Oslo and 'The view from below: On standards in clinical practice and clinical research', Berlin, 16-17 September 2011. Staff will also attend upcoming meetings on 'Between the medical and the social: Institutions of Chronic Disease and Disability in the Twentieth Century: Paris 8-10 December 2011 and Standards and drug use outside the pharmacy, Lyon, France, 15, 16, 17 December 2011.



Val Harrington, Stephanie Snow and former CHSTM PhD student Ray Macauley at the Berlin meeting.

In March and April this year, Axel Huentelmann (Institut für Geschichte der Medizin, Charité, Berlin) visited the Centre for two months. Axel has just published a book on Paul Ehrlich and worked her on is project on the 'industrialisation of experimental knowledge'.

RESEARCH UPDATES

The Earth Under Surveillance – TEUS

TEUS is a European Research Council-funded project focussing on the development of the earth sciences during the Cold War period. It has started in October 2009 and will reach completion in 2014. It is now a fast-growing programme of studies uniting researchers from history of science centres in Manchester (the CHSTM), Strasbourg and Barcelona. If you would like to know more about the project and its development, please take a look at its brand new website at the following address: <http://teus.unistra.fr>.

Aside from completing the website, during the last year the TEUS team has been working towards finalizing specific research tasks such as for instance commissioning a special issue discussing the merits of transnational approaches in the history of science. The issue should appear in the British Journal for the History of Science in 2012.

The team has four of its members researching and studying at the CHSTM. Simone Turchetti is the TEUS Principal Investigator and his research spans the history of 20th century geosciences and includes work on uranium prospecting, glaciology, seismology and oceanography. Leucha Veneer is a research associate in the project. She is currently working on the history of oil exploration in Cold War Britain. In February 2011 we have also welcomed at the CHSTM two new PhD students: Roberto Cantoni and Sam Robinson. Roberto's study complements Leucha's work by focussing on oil exploration in France and Italy, while Sam's PhD thesis explores the avenues of military oceanography in Britain and other countries. As you can see we seek to understand national scientific developments in the light of the interaction between different European countries and episodes of international collaboration.

We strive to deliver an analysis of historical developments in the scientific fields that takes into account the geopolitical and diplomatic dimensions.

Our collaborators in other European universities are Néstor Herran, who has recently been employed as lecturer at the Pierre and Marie Curie University of Paris and whose research focuses –amongst other things- on the application of radiological analysis to the monitoring of nuclear programmes. Peder Roberts –our research associate in Strasbourg- is currently working on the history of oceanographic research with an emphasis on the role played by experts in Scandinavian countries.

We have presented our findings and on-going research at several meetings including a “Tripartite” workshop (June 2011) that was attended by teams at the universities of Stockholm (Sweden) and Aarhus (Denmark) working on similar issues. We have also prepared a panel at the 2011 annual meeting of the British Society for the History of Science in Exeter. We are now organizing a major conference: “Cold War/Blue Planet” due to take place in Manchester in June 2012. This should see the participation of leading historians of 20th century geosciences from several countries.

So stay tuned for more! And feel free to ask to one of us for information about the TEUS project!

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the earth under surveillance

A History of Forensic Homicide Investigation in Twentieth-century England”

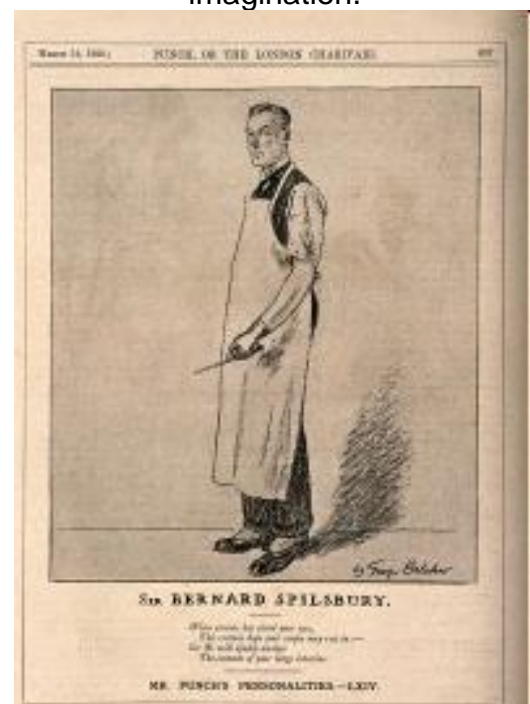
In January 2012, Ian Burney will begin a two year Wellcome Trust funded research project on English homicide investigation between the 1900s-80s. Ian will be looking to trace the evolution and interactions between two regimes of forensics that gained ground during this period. The first regime is a body-centred forensics, associated with the “celebrity” lone pathologist, his scalpel and the mortuary slab, where the skilled observer autopsied a dead body. The second “forensics of things” emerged around the laboratory and its associated technologies of trace analysis (hair, blood, fibres), and was deployed in closed technician-dominated spaces and in the regimentally managed crime scene.

Ian hopes will analyze the shifting landscape of 20th-century forensic homicide investigation by following the historical interplay between these two dominant investigative paradigms at three principal sites: the crime scene, the laboratory and the courtroom. His working hypothesis is that, over the course of the century, the latter model of trace-oriented and team-driven investigation made significant inroads into the authoritative status of the pathologist, but that this did not amount to a straightforward take-over. Instead, medically-based forensic pathology could draw on considerable resources to challenge, integrate and accommodate methodological and organizational innovations associated with physics- and chemistry-based forensic science, both conceptually and practically.

Ian sees this work as introducing some much needed history into contemporary understandings of modern forensic investigation. A lot has been written in recent years on forensic practice. For those interested in HSTM, the most interesting analyses have come from

sociologists of scientific knowledge and critical legal theorists who have sought to contextualize what many regard as the “new paradigm” of DNA-driven forensic investigation. Forensics in a self-consciously modern cast has also captured the public imagination, showcased on highly-rated television shows such as CSI and Waking the Dead and in best-selling crime novels.

This interest in the undeniably spectacular advances in recent forensic techniques, however, has led many to construct a rigid, a-historical vision, one that contrasts a cutting-edge, institutionally validated genomic investigative vista with earlier practices that are now marginalized as “untested assumptions and semi-informed guesswork”. This dismissal of pre-DNA forensics assumes rather than demonstrates historical discontinuity, and this is possible only because we know so little about what happened before. Ian’s project, then, seeks to develop a critical understanding of past forensic practices, one that is not bound by – and might even place into historically-informed analytical perspective – the imperializing allure of our own contemporary forensic imagination.



2011 BSHS Postgraduate Conference



This year, responsibility for the annual BSHS Postgraduate Conference was thrust upon CHSTM, after another institution dropped out at the last minute. Six PhD students organised the event: Jenny Goodare, Jakob Whitfield, Alex Hall, Ellen van Reuler, Nick Duvall and Imogen Clarke. Organised by and for PhD students, the postgrad conference takes place every January, and is a fairly informal (and cheap) affair, providing a particularly good environment for students to give their first ever conference paper, in front of a less intimidating audience than you might find elsewhere.



We made sure to allocate lots of time for networking and social activities, allowing delegates to make useful academic connections. On the first night, James Sumner gave a very entertaining talk on the history of beer and brewing at the Bowling Green, and on the second we held a conference dinner across the road at Christie's Bistro (it was delicious). Amidst the academic papers, we also had special sessions, on careers, outreach and resources. Our very own Emily Hankin spoke about outreach opportunities and grants available from the BSHS Outreach and Education Committee; Sophie Payne-Gifford (Natural Environment Research Council) delivered a talk on how Research Councils use timelines (a possible non-academic job for historians); and Felicity Henderson (Royal

Society) opened up a discussion on archival resources.

The main bulk of the conference, however, consisted of papers by early researchers in the history of science, technology or medicine. There was huge diversity, with time periods spanning from antiquity to the present day, and topics covering mental health, poetry, warfare, epistemology, botany and pregnancy (to name but a small selection). Overall, the three days ran mostly smoothly, with financial help from the BSHS and Royal Historical Society (unfortunately, we had to decline a generous Wellcome Trust grant because their response came too late for us). Afterwards, we received some very nice feedback from a handful of delegates (and no bad feedback), so overall a success.

The next BSHS postgraduate conference will take place at the University of Warwick, 4th to 6th January 2012.

Visitors

In 2011-12, Cynthia Kraus (University of Lausanne) will be working here on three topics: 1. The sciences of the sexed/gender/sexualized brain, with special interest for the organizational theory (neuroendocrinology) and neurogenetics, also in relation to the clinical management of and definitions of transsexuality and intersexuality; 2. The many various social uses of neuro/biological claims, i.e. relationships between laboratory research, clinical practices, activist intersex and trans' movements, etc. 3. Medical fieldwork (I do participant observation, and sometimes observational participation) in the context of pediatric surgery missions ("medical cooperation") in two West African countries.

History of Black and Minority Ethnic Nurses

Following the publication of their book, *Against the Odds: Black and Minority Ethnic Clinicians and Manchester, 1948 to 2009* (Carnegie Press) in 2010, Drs Emma Jones and Stephanie Snow are continuing to develop their research into the experiences of black and minority ethnic (BME) clinicians in Britain. In March, they published a *History and Policy* paper Contemporary British History. It aims to connect historians, policy makers and the media and publishes papers and opinion pieces offering a historical perspective on current policy issues. With Coalition Government plans to restrict immigration to the UK through capping non-EU immigrants and to introduce more stringent controls for highly skilled migrants, Jones and Snow argue that such proposals cut across a long history of recruitment of overseas health workers. Their paper can be found here:

<http://www.historyandpolicy.org/papers/policy-paper-118.html>. Another peer-

reviewed article, exploring the work-life experiences of BME nurses in Britain will examine the importance of immigration to the running of the National Health Service, and how history can help policy makers realize the significance of the health service's continuous dependence on overseas health workers and the need therefore to improve equity and opportunity for such health workers. *History and Policy* is a collaborative website organised between the History Faculty of the University of Cambridge, the Centre for History in Public Health (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and the Centre for feature in a new *Handbook on the Global History of Nursing* edited by P. D'Antonio, J. Fairman and J. Whelan, to be published by Routledge in 2012. Drawing on oral histories, the article works towards writing BME nurses into the wider history of the profession. Their work also features on the website of *The Migrant Health Workers in the NHS network* recently set up by researchers at the University of Manchester, London Metropolitan University and the Open University



British Science Festival

Several CHSTM staff were involved in History of Science Section events at the British Science Festival in September, held this year in Bradford. In a session on local histories, our new research associate (and proud Bradfordian) Annie Jamieson contributed a paper on the city's role in technologies of "new photography" – cinematography and X-rays – in the years around 1900. Leucha Veneer, whose PhD was in the history of geology, offered a discussion of late Victorian glacialists, standing in for the indisposed (but indispensable) Jack Morrell. Finally, James Sumner brought his time-travelling winebox to the New Beehive Inn for another presentation of "Drinking Up Time", a light-headed stagger through the science of alcohol since the seventeenth century, conducted through a unique combination of painstaking documentary evidence, arrant falsehood and shouting.

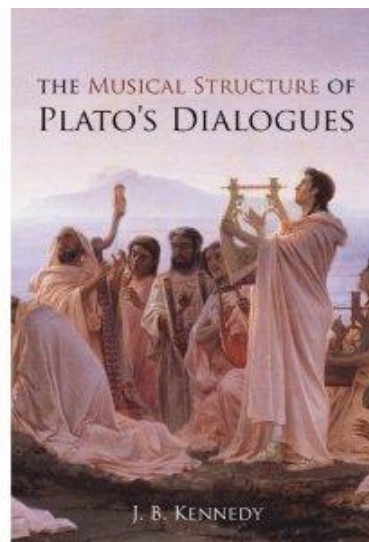
Litmus

August saw the publication of *Litmus: short stories from modern science*, a new collection from independent publisher Comma Press. The collaboration paired established short-fiction authors with expert advisors from the University and elsewhere, to create stories which aim to illuminate scientific change. James Sumner of CHSTM acted as a historical advisor, working with local author Zoe Lambert on a story about Lise Meitner and the discovery of atomic fission. The story is followed by a short piece from James, discussing the nature of scientific discovery in reality and in legend.



More Plato

Jay Kennedy's work on Plato continues to attract scholarly and popular interest. His book *The Musical Structure of Plato's Dialogues* was published in August by Acumen Publishing.



This book develops many new ideas and many new kinds of evidence for hidden musical symbols in Plato. It shows that interpretations of Plato's writings on love (the *Symposium*) and religion (the *Euthyphro*) will have to change in surprising ways.



Jay introduces his work in a short interview which is available on YouTube at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6lvjwZA_NA

The best place to follow developments, on what is a fast moving story, is at Jay's Blog

<http://jaybeekennedy.wordpress.com/>

PhD Successes

Paul Marshall successfully defended his dissertation in June. "Inventing television: transnational networks of co-operation and rivalry, 1870-1936" focuses on the period before television became a mass consumer phenomenon. Despite the familiar invention stories of popular literature, the process was a complex one: Paul examines the involvement of the cinema industry, the possibility of alternatives to the familiar ("wireless-with-pictures") model, and the interactions between developers in Britain, the United States, Germany, and the furthest corners of the Soviet Union.



Paul wrote most of his PhD on a part-time basis while working as an engineer on high-performance visual display equipment. His plans for the immediate future, however, focus on his role as one of the directors of Golden Age Television Recreations, a firm supplying vintage cameras and broadcast equipment as period props for TV and film productions.



In July, Alice Nicholls successfully defend her dissertation, "Life in the Balance: Critical Illness and British Intensive Care, 1948-1986".



Alice's dissertation is the first in-depth study of the history of intensive care in Britain and makes significant contributions to the histories of high-tech medicine, specialist nursing care and specialisation in recent medicine. An innovative feature worth mentioning: formerly a curator at the Science Museum, Alice introduces each chapter with a brief, illustrated history of an object that exemplifies some of the issues discussed in the chapter.



internal examiner Carsten Timmermann; Alice; supervisor Michael Worboys; external examiner Virginia Berridge.

Medical education and the Manchester Medical School

In March, Professor John Pickstone and Dr. James Hopkins embarked on a two-year study of medical education in contemporary Britain. The project uses the Manchester School of Medicine as its case study from circa the end of the World War Two and the beginning of the National Health Service in 1948, to 2004, when the new University of Manchester was created.



The Medical School in Coupland Street

So far, nineteen interviews have been conducted. These have featured former Medical School Deans, academic and teaching hospital staff and administrators. All have given invaluable insights into teaching and the curriculum, academic research and development of the Medical School. Many interviewees have also been kind enough to contribute their personal papers and photographs to the project. We have also been able to contact and interview former students with assistance from the Manchester Medical Society, the University Alumni Association and friends of CHSTM. A number of interviews have been arranged for the coming months, but the team are very keen to hear from any former students or staff who may be able to contribute.

The University's archives and the Medical School's museum have been crucial

sources of information. During the course of the research, items not currently under archival care have been identified in the Stopford building and we're pleased to report that these have been transferred for safekeeping to the Medical Museum. It has been decided to trial a new methodology for collating and analysing the archives and oral history interviews. QDA Miner, a qualitative data analysis software, has been purchased for the project which can be used to 'tag' research according to any range of values. Whilst requiring an investment of time, it is hoped that this programme will assist in the writing up of the project by providing quick and easy access to information by theme, period or individual and be able to identify links between topics.

If you or someone you know might be able to contribute to the project, please contact James Hopkins (james.hopkins@manchester.ac.uk)

Mental Health Group

CHSTM's mental health group is now into its fourth year. It grew out of an interdisciplinary workshop on post-war developments in mental health which we held in February 2007. The combination of academics and practitioners proved particularly productive and many of us were keen to develop this into something more permanent.



Over the years, the membership list has expanded although meetings vary in size, depending on the topic, from a handful of 'core' members to a roomful. The aim is to create an informal and supportive environment in which people with an interest in mental health can share their ideas and experiences. Its interdisciplinary nature is a key feature – we now have a mixture of academics, mental health practitioners, students and service users which results in some particularly wide-ranging and stimulating discussions.

Although the focus is on history, we also include some contemporary topics – for example, we have had sessions on the 2007 Mental Health Act, mental distress within the narratives of women asylum seekers, current users' experiences of self harm services and a philosophical critique of the recovery model. Historical subjects have ranged from female madness in the early 18th century, presented by two English Literature PhD students, to a comparison of national cultures of psychiatry in 20th century Europe; and from the eugenics legacy in psychiatry and psychology to the history of the Chinese mental health services in Manchester. A particularly thought-provoking session was led by members of the Survivors History movement, who challenged us to think about how service users view and write about their own history, and the often problematic relationship between academic and survivor historians. Mental illness and art/creativity has been the focus of a number of sessions, the most memorable being a preliminary reading of extracts from the play *Telling Lives*, performed by a community theatre group, the Cul de Sac Company and written by Eric Northey, one of our members. It grew out of research Eric did in the Prestwich Hospital archive at Greater Manchester County Records Office and went on to be performed this summer at Buxton Festival and the 24/7 Festival here in Manchester, to extremely good reviews. Look out for

further performances as it's definitely well worth seeing.

Our autumn programme is about to start and includes sessions on aversion therapy for gay men in the '50s and '60s, the origins of Whittingham Mental Hospital (near Preston), and constructing the subjectivity of a service user researcher. They are held once a month on Thursdays at 4.30 pm and everyone is most welcome. For further details check the website:

<http://www.chstm.manchester.ac.uk/news/andevents/seminars/mentalhealthforum/>

Scientific Governance conference, University of Kent, 12-13 September 2011

Several staff and students from CHSTM, including Jeff Hughes, Leucha Veneer and Jakob Whitfield, presented at the recent advanced research workshop on Scientific Governance in Britain, 1914-1979, hosted by Don Leggett and Charlotte Sleigh at the University of Kent. The conference was tightly focused, with fifteen speakers and at least as many more delegates who did not give papers, which made for close and interesting discussion, both in the panel sessions and in the concluding roundtable, and paid attention to themes such as 'national interests' and 'science at war'. A film screening of *The Man in the White Suit*, which was attended by about forty members of the public as well as the conference delegates, threw further light on the themes of the conference. The conference dinner was excellent, and made the event a convivial occasion too. An edited collection and possibly a follow-up conference is currently being planned.

Recent publications

Books

David Kirby, *Labcoats in Hollywood: Science, Scientists and Cinema*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011.

Duncan Wilson, *Tissue Culture in Science and Society: The Public Life of a Biological Technique in Twentieth Century Britain* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

Journal Articles and Chapters

Carsten Timmermann, 'Appropriating Risk Factors: The Reception of an American Approach to Chronic Disease in the two German States, c. 1950–1990. *Social History of Medicine*, 24(1)

Carsten Timmermann, 'Chronic illness and disease history', in Mark Jackson, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Medicine*, (OUP, 2011).

David Kirby, 'Talk, text, rhyme or sign', *People and Science*, March 2011, 8-9.

Duncan Wilson, 'Creating the "ethics industry": Mary Warnock, in vitro fertilization and the history of bioethics in Britain', *BioSocieties*, 2011, 6 (2) 121-141.

Duncan Wilson, 'Who Guards the Guardians? Ian Kennedy, Bioethics and the 'Ideology of Accountability' in British Medicine,' *Social History of Medicine*, 2011, 24:

Duncan Wilson, 'Research on human tissues', *Biological Sciences Review*, 23 (3), 2011,

Ian Burney and Neil Pemberton, 'Bruised Witness: Bernard Spilsbury and the performance of early twentieth-century English forensic pathology', *Medical History*, 2011, 85: 41-60.

Ian Burney and Neil Pemberton, 'The rise and fall of celebrity pathology', *British Medical Journal*, 2010, 341: 1319-21.

John V. Pickstone and Michael Worboys, 'Focus: Between and Beyond "Histories of Science" and "Histories of Medicine: Introduction"', *Isis*, 2011, 98, 97-101.

John V. Pickstone, 'Sketching Together the Modern Histories of Science, Technology, and Medicine', *Isis* 2011: 98, 123-133.

Michael Worboys, 'Practice and the Science of Medicine in the Nineteenth Century', *Isis* 2011: 98, 109-115.

Rob Kirk and Michael Worboys, 'Medicine and species: one medicine, one history', in Mark Jackson, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Medicine*, (OUP, 2011)

Stephanie Snow and Emma Jones, 'Immigration and the National Health Service: putting history to the forefront', *History & Policy Website*
<http://www.historyandpolicy.org/papers/policy-paper-118.html> accessed 9 May 2011

Stephanie Snow, *Management practice in primary care organisations: the roles and behaviours of middle managers and GPs*, HMSO 2011 (with Kath Checkland, Imelda McDermott, Stephen Harrison and Anna Coleman)

For more information about the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine and its Postgraduate and Undergraduate.

<http://www.chstm.manchester.ac.uk/>