

Forensic Cultures in Interdisciplinary Perspective

11 – 12 June 2010

University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

Conference Aims

This international conference examines in analytical and historical perspective the remarkable prominence of forensic science and medicine in contemporary culture. It brings together leading scholars from history, sociology and socio-legal studies, media and cultural studies, and practitioners working within the diverse locations of forensic culture – from crime scenes and bio-medical laboratories to television studios. Topics for discussion include the politics and practice of DNA evidence, the use of "cold case review" in re-evaluating celebrated murder trials from the past, the historical invention of "crime scene investigation", the work of forensic identification at mass grave sites, and media forensics – including a dinner event featuring the creator of *Waking the Dead*.

Forensic Cultures is sponsored by the University of Manchester's Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine and by the Wellcome Trust. For further information and registration details, please visit our website: <http://www.chstm.manchester.ac.uk/forensics>

Conference Schedule

Day 1: Registration and Tea/Coffee (9.45 -10.30)

Introductory Remarks (10.30 – 11.00)

Session I: Broad Themes (11.00 - 12.45): Chair: John Pickstone

Chris Hamlin, History, University of Notre Dame

- "Forensic Cultures in Historical Perspective"

Michael Lynch, Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University

- "Forensic Cultures in Sociological Perspective"

Paul Roberts, School of Law, University of Nottingham

- "Negotiating Forensics: Between Law, Science, and Criminal Justice"

Lunch (1.00 - 2.00)

Session II: Historical Case Studies (2.00 - 3.45): Chair: Katherine Watson

Ian Burney/Neil Pemberton, CHSTM, University of Manchester

- "Traces and Places: The Making of the Modern Crime Scene"

Alison Adam, English, Sociology, Politics and Contemporary History, University of Salford

- "Alfred Lucas and the Development of Forensic Chemistry"

Alison Winter, History, University of Chicago

- "Forensic hypnosis and the adjudication of memory"

Refreshments (3.45 - 4.15)

Session III: Analyzing Practices (4.15 - 6.00): Chair: TBA

Simon Cole, Department of Criminology, Law and Society, UC Irvine

- “Forensic Reality?: *CSI*, Media, and Technoscience”

Gary Edmond, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies of Law, University of New South Wales

- “Suspect science and unreliable law: The legal topography of "facial mapping" evidence”

Barbara Prainsack, Centre for Biomedicine and Society, King's College, London,

- “Views from the inside: Self-stigmatisation and biopolitical discourse in Austrian prisons. A case study on forensic DNA technologies”

Dinner and Event: Screening Forensics (7.00 – 10.30)

Barbara Machin, Creator, *Waking the Dead*

Day 2: Tea/Coffee (9.30 - 10.00)

Session I: Practitioner Perspectives (10.00 - 11.45): Chair: Bertrand Taithe

David Foran, Forensic Science Program, Michigan State University

- “Did Crippen do it? Reflections on Retrospective Forensics”

William Haglund, International Forensic Programme, Physicians for Human Rights

- “The Ethics and Politics of Mass Grave Forensic Archaeology”

Caroline Wilkinson, Media Arts and Imaging, University of Dundee

- "Facial Identification of the Dead: The ethical issues associated with the facial depiction of unknown human remains"

Lunch (12.00 - 1.00)

Session II: Forensic Publics (1.00 – 2.45): Chair: TBA

Deborah Jermyn, Film Studies, Roehampton University

- “Labs and Slabs: *Prime Suspect*, TV crime drama and the quest for forensic realism”

David Kirby, CHSTM, University of Manchester

- “Forensic Fictions: The Production of Forensic Science in Television Dramas”

Mike Sappol, National Library of Medicine, NIH

- “(in)Visible Proofs; or, The case of the hidden politics of forensic exhibitionism”

Closing Remarks (2.45 – 3.15)