MA in Medical History and Humanities

Offered by two leading University of York departments, this exciting new MA explores historical, literary, social, cultural and ethical understandings of health, illness, well-being, biomedical sciences, medicine and nature, as well as the links between history, the humanities and health and development policy. The programme brings together approaches from different disciplines, periods and geographical regions to offer a distinctively international perspective on medical history and humanities.

All students will follow an innovative core programme that explores critical questions about research methodologies and defining medical humanities. You will also study three optional modules chosen from a long list. A wide range of options are offered including themes such as:

- the history and politics of international and global health
- historical and literary approaches to colonial and post-colonial health practices
- histories of medieval and early modern medicine
- historical and anthropological approaches to understanding popular health practices
- the globalisation of sciences and medicines
- religious missions and healthcare
- body politics in contemporary literature

Teaching staff

DR TARA ALBERTS is a lecturer in early modern history. Her research explores on encounters and exchanges between Europe and Asia between c.1500 and c.1700. Her current project focuses on the circulation of medicines and the exchange of ideas about health and healing on the trade routes of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Southeast Asia.

PROFESSOR SANJOY BHATTACHARYA (convener) is Director of the Centre for Global Health Histories, a Professor in the History of Medicine, a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator and Head of the newly formed WHO Collaborating Centre for Global Health Histories. Sanjoy specialises in the medical, environmental, political and social history of nineteenth and twentieth-century South Asia, as well as the history and contemporary workings of international and global health programmes.

DR SABINE CLARKE is a lecturer in modern history. She works on the place of science and technology in the British imperial enterprise between 1914 and 1965 with a particular interest in colonial development. She is currently preparing a monograph on British plans to develop the West Indies entitled New Uses for Sugar: Visions of Industrial Development for the British West Indies. Her next project compares the development, marketing and deployment of DDT and other synthetic insecticides for farming and disease control in Britain and its colonies.

DR MARY FAIRCLough is a lecturer in the Department of English and Related Literature and the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies. She has research interests lie in the intersection between literature, politics and science in the long eighteenth-century. She is currently working on a project on representations of electrical science in the eighteenth century, and the way that electrical metaphors are appropriated in a wide range of literary and political discourse.

You will also be given an opportunity to choose some taught options made available by the University of York's Health Sciences Department. In the summer term, you will work closely with a supervisor to complete a dissertation on a relevant research topic of your choice.

As a student on the MA, you will be based in the Humanities Research Centre at York and engage closely with the many activities of the Centre for Global Health Histories (CGHH), which is also the WHO Collaborating Centre for Global Health Histories. In this way, the MA also provides unique links to national and international health and medical policy, which in select cases lead to internship opportunities with CGHH's international institutional partners.

DR ALICE HALL (convener) is a lecturer in contemporary and global literature in the Department of English and Related Literature. She is also a member of the interdisciplinary Centre for Modern Studies. Alice has research interests in cultural representations of illness and health, disability, memory, and medical humanities.

DR MARK JENNER is reader in the History Department, in the Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies and in the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies. He works on the social and cultural history of early modern England and on the social history of medicine. He has served on the editorial boards of Social History of Medicine and Urban History.

DR KEVIN KILLEEN is a senior lecturer in the Department of English and Related Literature. He is also a member of the Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies at York. Kevin has research interests in early modern science, the seventeenth-century Bible and its political uses, and in early modern poetry. He is the organiser of the Thomas Browne Seminar.

DR CHRIS RENWICK is a lecturer in modern history. He works on the history of the biological and social sciences since the mid-nineteenth century, focusing on how the relationship between the two has shaped the way we think about, study, and govern society. His work on these subjects has received international and interdisciplinary recognition.