

Science at the pub: Whose science? Whose history?

HSMT Postgraduate Conference 2026

11 & 12 June

Lecture Theatre, Maison Française d'Oxford

Thursday, 11 June

09:00-09:30 **Registration**

09:30-09:40 **Opening Remarks: Professor Rob Iliffe, Professor of the History of Science**

09:40-10:40 **Panel 1: “The façade” – Race, representation, and the epistemic work of science**

Toussaint J Miller, The evidence of the eye: visual representation and the production of scientific racism

Isobel Oliver, Dr James Hunt and the law of race: reassessing the “Anthropological Controversy” (1863-1870)

Thomas Glasman, Antisemitism, mathematics and a discourse of intuition in German mathematics, 1890-1936

Chair: Kelly Pu

10:40-11:10 **Morning Break**

11:10-12:30 **Panel 2: “Behind the bar” – Surveilling bodies: law, institutions, and care**

Rose Flanigan, Seizure, surveillance, and care in early Americas: domestic medical practice in the case of Patsy Custis

Chloe Kinderman, Encountering the dissecting room: the social dimensions of anatomical education in nineteenth-century Virginia

Murphy King, Surveilling the veil: marital bans, disability, and crippling the archive in 19th-century United States

Gina Maria Heggstad Vie, “Good nursing”: care and treatments by nurses during the Influenza Pandemic 1918

Chair: Asma Shakeel

12:30-13:30 **Lunch**

13:30-14:50 **Panel 3: “The wine cellar” – Seeing the unseen: science, spirits, and circulation**

Luke Wilkes, Newton “for ladies”: female audiences for popular science in the early eighteenth century

Ella Castanier, Queer knowledge in transit: lesbian self insemination & feminist print media as a technology of assisted reproduction

Kelly Pu, Medium or multiple personality? Spiritualism, psychical research, and medical authority in interwar Britain

Mei Ling McDougall, Victorian interactions with medieval madness

Chair: Chloe Kinderman

14:50-15:20 **Afternoon Break**

- 15:20-16:40 **Panel 4: “The pint” – A matter of expertise: material practice and scientific authority**
Matthew Bentley, Safer milk: disease and dairy products in the UK, 1900-1950
Jeremy Gray, Minting and assaying as mathematical practice: the history of the Mint, the material culture of assaying, and the Financial Revolution
Mikayla Apicella, Myths, morals and the Manhattan Project: responsibility, ethical choice and innovation in the Atomic Age
Sam Johnson, Looking back on *Foresight*: Elizabethan naval architecture, organization, and operations viewed through the construction and career of a notable sailing warship
- Chair: Luke Wilkes*
- 16:40-16:50 **Closing Remarks: Dr Alex Aylward, Departmental Lecturer in the History of Science**
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Friday, 12 June

- 09:30-09:40 **Opening Remarks: Professor Erica Charters, Professor of the Global History of Medicine**
- 09:40-11:00 **Panel 5: “The beer garden” – Root causes: medicine, environment, and authority in colonial worlds**
Asma Shakeel, Medicine, the Maharaja, and the missionaries: public health and state formation in Kashmir, 1876-1920
Marielle Masolo, A Nguza on the hill: the making of Simon Kimbangu in the Belgian Congo, 1921-1951
Ruka Hussain, George Catlin’s natural history: environmental knowledge and romantic science in the Atlantic world
Brittany Dick, Kua Tako Te Mānuka (the mānuka has been laid down): challenges to agency and the identity of a tree
- Chair: Ella Castanier*
- 11:00-11:30 **Morning Break**
- 11:30-12:30 **Panel 6: “Pub talk” – Constructed science: expertise, knowledge production, and shaping reality**
Aoife Kearins, “Radiation is an abstract term”: exploring the creation of a language of expertise in 19th-century mathematical physics
Victoria Chung, The reception of Mendeleev’s periodic system and atomism in Oxford chemistry
Marcel Alain Shelton, Time, space, and the construction of scientific genius, 1727-1800
- Chair: Murphy King*
- 12:30-12:40 **Closing Remarks: Dr Sloan Mahone, Associate Professor of the History of Medicine**