

## Ecologies of Healing in the Premodern World (600-1350 CE)

*Organised by Petros Bouras-Vallianatos and Zubin Mistry*

*Funded by the Wellcome Trust*

*9-10 September 2022, University of Edinburgh*

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/history-classics-archaeology/news-events/events/conference-ecologies-of-healing-in-premodern-world>

### **Friday 9 September 2022**

**G.16 Seminar Room**, Doorway 4, Old Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QZ

**9:45-10:00:** *Registration*

**10:00-10:10:** *Introduction*, Petros Bouras-Vallianatos and Zubin Mistry

#### **10:10-11:20: Session 1. Success and failure: good medicine**

Chair: *Zubin Mistry* (University of Edinburgh)

‘The Good, the Bad and the Dangerous: piety, practice and the making of a good physician’  
*Ahmed Ragab* (Johns Hopkins University)

‘When medicine doesn’t work: making sense of failure in the early Middle Ages’  
*Richard Sowerby* (University of Edinburgh)

#### **11:30-12:40: Session 2. Technologies of healing: medical theory in religious practice**

Chair: *Iona McCleery* (University of Leeds)

‘Postpartum healing: purification, purity and time in the Western Mediterranean 1100-1350’  
*Naama Cohen-Hanegbi*\*\* (Tel Aviv University)

‘Marian miracles and Salernitan medicines: new healing technologies in Anglo-Norman England’  
*Winston Black* (St. Francis Xavier University)

**12:40-14:00:** *Lunch* (McMillan Room)

#### **14:00-15:10: Session 3. Healing agents: dealing drugs and reaping recipes**

Chair: *Sethina Watson* (University of York)

‘Medicine in the margins: a window onto multidirectional knowledge exchange in the early middle ages’  
*Claire Burrridge* (University of Sheffield)

‘Miraculous healing in disguise: sacred drugs in Byzantine medical works’  
*Petros Bouras-Vallianatos* (University of Edinburgh)

**15:10-16:00: Coffee/Tea** (McMillan Room)

**16:00-17:10: Keynote talk**

Chair: *Ludmilla Jordanova* (Durham University)

‘Whose ecologies of healing? Premodern discourses on disease today’

*Anthony Cerulli* (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

**19:00: Dinner**

**Saturday 10 September 2022**

**G.16 Seminar Room**, Doorway 4, Old Medical School, Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QZ

**10:00-11:10: Session 4. Combatting illness: military histories of medicine**

Chair: *Rebecca Flemming* (University of Exeter)

‘Wounding and healing wounds: military men as a neglected knowledge community of practitioners in 15th century chronicles’

*Iona McCleery* (University of Leeds)

‘The 1259 epidemic in Sichuan: evidence of cross-cultural exchange of medical knowledge and practices in the Mongol Empire’

*Stephen Pow* (Saint Petersburg State University)

**11:20-12:30: Session 5. Healing words: medicine in poetry and pedagogy**

Chair: *Richard Oosterhoff* (University of Edinburgh)

‘“This is Torah, and I must learn” - Talmudic approaches to medicine within their transcultural contexts’

*Lennart Lehmhaus* (University of Tübingen)

‘Wine and healing in medieval Persian poetry: the *Dānishnāma* of Hakīm Meīsārī’

*Manuel Giardino* (University of Warwick)

**12:30-13:30: Lunch** (McMillan Room)

**13:30-14:40: Session 6. Knowledge strategies between canons and clinical experience**

Chair: *Petros Bouras-Vallianatos* (University of Edinburgh)

“‘We Jewish physicians, who are under the yoke of the rulers...’. Medicine among Jews before the Plague.’

*Carmen Caballero-Navas* (University of Granada)

‘Ancient canons vs. contemporary practices – medical practice in China during the twelfth century’

*Asaf Goldschmidt* (Tel Aviv University)

**14:50-16:00: Session 7. Medical institutions and intuitions**

Chair: *Richard Sowerby* (University of Edinburgh)

‘Hospitals and the human state’

*Sethina Watson* (University of York)

‘Breaking habits: rethinking monastic medicine before 1100’

*Zubin Mistry* (University of Edinburgh)

**16:00-16:15: Closing Discussion**

\*\* Paper delivered via Zoom