Medical Humanities Symposium

FEBRUARY
21 - 22, 2013

Brooke Holmes, Associate Professor, Classics, Princeton University

Gianna Pomata, Professor, History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University

Lynda Payne, Associate Professor of History and Medical Humanities and Bioethics, University of Missouri

Julia Hawkins, Assistant Professor, Classics, Ohio State University

FEB. 21, Thursday, Upham 002

3:30 - 4:45 pm HUMAN REMAINS: MEDICINE AND THE HUMANITIES

Kimberly Hamlin, American Studies and History, “Displaying Her Brain: Helen Gardner and the Early Twentieth-Century Debates about Gender and Science”


5 - 6:30 pm Invited speaker, Brooke Holmes, “Tragedy, Medicine, and the Ethics of Caring for the Body in Ancient Greece”

This paper considers the nexus of blame and illness in ancient medicine and its relevance for current discussions of morality, health, and compassion in the health care debate.

5:30 - 6:30 pm Invited speaker, Brooke Holmes, “The Best Surgeon in England”: Percivall Pott, 1714-88

This paper reconstructs the physical and emotional challenges of running a surgical household, establishing a reputation as a skilled operator on the poor at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital in London, and fashioning oneself as a gentleman-surgeon to the rich.


This paper reconstructs the physical and emotional challenges of running a surgical household, establishing a reputation as a skilled operator on the poor at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital in London, and fashioning oneself as a gentleman-surgeon to the rich.

11:30 - 1pm Lunch break

1 - 2:30 pm BODIES OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

Renee Baernstein, History, “Interpreting the Body in Early Modern Italy: Pregnancy, Abortion, and Adulthood”


Andrew Casper, Art, “The Shroud of Turin”

2:30 - 2:45 pm break

2:45 - 3:45 pm Roundtable discussion with science faculty, humanities faculty, and medical doctors about the role of the humanities in preparing students for the medical profession.

3:45 - 4 pm break

4 - 5:30 pm Invited speaker, Gianna Pomata, “Milk dripping from Venus’s breast: Lactation and Sexuality in the Art and Medicine of the Renaissance”

This paper analyzes the conjunction of the nutritive and the erotic, the maternal and the sexual, in the pictorial and medical traditions of lactation.