

Making Microbes Complex: Parasites, Epidemics and the Intellectual Origins of Disease Ecology

Summer Workshop and Conference, 7-9 July 2016

Lecture Room 126, Geography Building, Mile End Road Campus.

The modern scientific notion of emerging infectious diseases rests on the notion that microbial pathogens reside in ecological niches in equilibrium states and that it is the disturbance of these harmonious natural environments that trigger epidemics. But where did this modern, bio-ecological understanding of infectious disease come from, and who were the medical researchers and scientific networks responsible for the integration of these perspectives into medical microbiology and public health?

Building on the work of J. Andrew Mendelsohn, Warwick Anderson and others, this three-day workshop and conference at Queen Mary University London brings together historians of medicine and the allied sciences to explore the neglected contributions of medical researchers who advanced a more dynamic view of health and disease in the early and middle decades of the 20th century. In the process we hope to shed light on the origins of modern ideas of disease ecology and illuminate current scientific debates around antibiotic resistance and the genesis of epidemics such as Ebola and Zika.

Speakers include:

Warwick Anderson, Jon Arrizabalaga,
Christoph Gradmann, David Heymann,
Mark Honigsbaum, Susan D. Jones,

Christos Lynteris, Pierre-Olivier Méthot,
David Morens, Anne-Marie Moulin,
Betty Smocovitis and Michael Y. Kosoy.