The Medical Humanities is an emerging field of enquiry in which humanities and social sciences perspectives are brought to bear upon an exploration of the human side of medicine. These perspectives have a key role to play in analysing our expectations of medicine, and the relationship between medicine and our broader ideas of health, well-being and flourishing.

The work of the Centre for Medical Humanities is for the next five years devoted to a research programme exploring this relationship, with the generous support of a Wellcome Trust Medical Humanities Strategic Award. In doing so, the Centre will promote the engagement of humanities scholars with the accomplishments and challenges of bio-medical advances. The research programme has four key themes of enquiry which, together, are planned to advance our understanding of medicine’s role in sustainable conceptions of flourishing.

The Centre’s programme of work is based around a core team of four Durham academics, Professor Martyn Evans and Professor Jane Macnaughton Co-Directors, and Professor Corinne Saunders and Dr. Sarah Atkinson, Associate Directors, who are responsible for the research programme, together with Dr Michael Mack, Reader in Medical Humanities and two further full-time academic appointments that we will make in October 2009. Meanwhile Mike White (Research and Development Fellow in Arts in Health) and Mary Robson (Associate Artist) are leading a programme of research activities investigating the health impacts of arts interventions at both individual and community level. The Centre’s Administrator, Polly Multon, coordinates and manages the Centre’s practical operation.
CMH PEOPLE:

Michaelmas Term Fellow

We are delighted to welcome Dr David Conradson as our fellow for Michaelmas Term. David is a human geographer from the University of Southampton with research interests in well-being. He is spending three months with us in Durham before taking up a new position at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ.

New Appointment

We look forward to welcoming Dr Michael Mack as Reader in Medical Humanities. Michael will join us from the University of Nottingham where he is currently lecturer in the Study of Religion.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

CMH currently has two PhD studentships available. One for a social scientist who is interested in arts in health research and another in philosophy of music. Contact Polly Multon for details.

The Centre for Medical Humanities

Seminars Michaelmas Term 2009

Dr. Matthew Ratcliffe
Reader/Director of Research, Department of Philosophy, Durham University
‘Touch and the Sense of Reality’
Wednesday 28th October 2009, St. Chad’s College, 5pm

Dr. Michael Mack
Lecturer, Department of Theology, Nottingham University
‘Hannah Arendt’s Philosophy of Diversity: Thinking and understanding and Eichmann in Jerusalem’
Wednesday 18th November 2009, St. Chad’s College, 5pm

Dr. David Conradson
Visiting Fellow, Centre for Medical Humanities, Durham University
“Discourses and conceptions of well-being: a comparison of disciplinary perspectives”
Wednesday 2nd December 2009, St. Chad’s College, 5pm

Professor Zhang Daqing
Director, Center for History of Medicine, Peking University, will be visiting the Centre this term and will be speaking on the tradition and development of Medical Humanities in China, further details to follow.

All Welcome to join us for a glass of wine and further conversation following the seminars.

CMH ON THE MOVE...

Observatory House

In January 2010 CMH will move into our new home in Observatory House. We are delighted with this new location and it will allow us to welcome Affiliates, Fellows, colleagues and visitors in a space that will promote the kind of research conversations that we want to develop as part of our interdisciplinary approach. A new coffee machine will be a priority!

Research theme for 2009-10:

Investigating the divergence between scientific and experiential views of human nature, health, wellbeing and flourishing.