



Programme, Medicine and the Making of Race Conference:
Medicine, Slavery, and Race in the Atlantic World

15th–17th May 2025, King's College London

Day 1: 15th May

11:00-11:15 Arrival & coffee

11:15-11:30 Welcome and introductions

11:30-13:15 **Panel 1. Medicine to treat enslaved bodies**

1. **Iamara da Silva Viana** (State University of Rio de Janeiro)
'Enslaved African Female Bodies and Medical Narratives: Racial Constructions in the Logics of the Atlantic World'
2. **Tânia Salgado Pimenta** (Casa de Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro)
'Healing Practices and Medicine for the Enslaved in Rio de Janeiro during the First Half of the 19th Century'
3. **Kristen Block** (University of Tennessee) 'Material Realities & Care Work in Early Caribbean Leprosy Communities'

13:15-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:15 **Panel 2. Slavery, Medicine, Gender**

1. **Katherine Paugh** (Oxford University)
'Disorders of Bestial Origin: Race and Venereal Disease in the Atlantic World'
2. **Lorena Telles** (University of Pittsburgh)
'Childbirth, Afro-Brazilian Midwifery, and Medicine in the Coffee-Growing Plantations of Southeast Brazil (1830–1880)'
3. **Sasha Turner** (Johns Hopkins University) 'Theorizing Heritability: Midwifery and Racial Reproduction in Barbados'



Day 2: 16th May

09:00-09:15 Coffee

09:15-11:00 Panel 3. Race in 'professional' and institutional medicine

1. **Matthew Daniel Eddy** (Durham University)
'A Moral Philosophy of Public Health: Dr. Jean Baptist Philip's Campaign against Medical Apartheid in Trinidad c. 1824'
2. **Zachary Dörner** (University of Maryland)
'Naval Hospital Nurses as Vectors of Difference in the Later Eighteenth-Century Anglo-Atlantic World'
3. **Simon Buck** (Independent scholar) and **Ian Stewart** (L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)
'Slavery, Race and the Edinburgh Medical School in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries'

11:00-11:15 Coffee

11:15-13:00 Panel 4. Medical knowledge and practices by enslaved people

1. **Tamara Araya Fuentes** (Universidad de Chile, Santiago de Chile)
'Enslaved people and the strategic uses of the body and illness in colonial Santiago de Chile'
2. **Natacha Klein Käfer** and **Hannah Hjorth** (Lund University / University of Copenhagen)
'Caribbean pharmaceutical slavery in the eighteenth and nineteenth century: labour, knowledge, and struggles for freedom'
3. **Mary Hicks** (University of Chicago)
'They Performed it "With Much Dexterity": Women as Healers on the West African Coast During the Era of the Slave Trade'

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Lightning Talks I:

Akosua Paries-Osei (Royal Holloway, University of London): 'Puberty: The Law of Biological Difference: 1660 – 1800'

Zoe Zimmermann (Princeton University): "'Diabolical Charms" or Cures "Truly Stupendous!": Indigenous Authority and Medical Knowledge Exchange in Early New England'



Jason Irving (University of Kent): 'Medical Hierarchy, Materia Medica and Bioprospecting in Early English Jamaica, 1660-1725'

Laura Smith (University of California, Los Angeles): 'The Cotton Root, Enslaved Black Women, and the Criminalization of Abortion'

Xavier Reader (University of Western Australia): 'Sex, soundness, and 'rotten with it': sexually-transmitted diseases and the commodification of enslaved bodies in the antebellum South'

15:30-16:00 Coffee

16:00-17:45 **Panel 5. Making Race: Anatomy**

1. **Maxime Guttin** (European University Institute, Florence)
'The Construction of Race and Mental Illness within Brain Studies in the French and British Empires (1770-1830)'
2. **Paul Wolff Mitchell, Laurens de Rooy, Alana Helberg-Proctor, and Bahar Goodarzi** (University of Amsterdam)
'Racial Pelvimetry and the Complicated Birth of Racial Science, 1770-1830'
3. **Meghan Roberts** (Bowdoin College)
Terror, Anatomy, and Medical Authority in the Eighteenth-Century French Empire

Day 3: 17th May

09:00-09:15 Coffee

09:15-11:30 **Panel 6. Making Race: Natural History**

1. **Claire Weeda** (Leiden University)
'Racecraft in Adaptations of Vegetius's De Re Militari in Late Medieval Europe'
2. **Melissa Reynolds** (Texas Christian University)
'Body, Soul, and Environment: Assessing Difference in Sixteenth-Century English Medicine'
3. **Sarah Maria Schober** (University Zürich)
'Of Sheep and Men, Hair and Wool'



4. **Kevin Siena** (Trent University)

‘Seeds of Disease: Pathology and the Varieties of Man, 1650-1800’

11:30-11:45 Coffee

11:45-13:00 **Lightning Talks II**

Francesca Livesey-Stephens (University of Cambridge): ‘Exploring the Practices and Motivations of Eighteenth-Century British Slave-Ship Surgeons’

Vicki Richardson (Texas A&M University): ‘Constructing Disease: Race, Gender, and Dirt-Eating in Colonial Medicine’

Hannah Hjorth (University of Copenhagen): ‘Bound by slavery, tied by family: Kinship, Intimacy and the constructin of families in 18th century St Thomas’

Letícia Maria da Silva Mattos (Casa de Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro): ‘Black Bodies, White Analyses: Racism in the Obstetric Care of Black Women in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil, 1880s)’

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:45 **Panel 7. Medicine and Race as Colonial Instruments**

1. **Suman Seth** (Cornell University)

‘Mortality and Measurement: Race-Medicine, Statistics, and the Making of Empire’

2. **Sascha Auerbach** (Nottingham)

‘The Origins of Public Health in Caribbean Slavery, 1768-1834’

3. **Theresa Göttl** (Heidelberg University)

‘Inspecting Slavery, Policing Disease: The Loi de Patronage (1840) and the French Caribbean Colonies’

15:45-16:30 Closing Discussion, Drinks & Snacks