

Fabrizio Bigotti Moonlight Bloodletting. Harnessing the Powers of the Moon in Medieval Medicine

In the Middle Ages the moon was believed to affect a range of earthly phenomena, from tides and weather to bodily fluids and health. Conversant with the doctrine of 'critical days' – i.e. periods influenced by lunar and planetary conjunctions – medieval physicians employed a variety of astrological predictions to optimise medical treatments. Central to their discussion was the idea that bodily fluids, like tidal movements, are influenced by the moon, with specific lunar phases deemed optimal for bloodletting. In this talk, I will analyse a 15th-century manuscript belonging to Viennese Quodlibetal traditions, the *Quaestio utrum flebothomia magis competat in prima quadra lunationis* (MS Melk 958, cc. 447-450). The manuscript examines the ideal timing for bloodletting with regards to lunar positions and seasons, ultimately advocating that spring, because of the air moisture, is the best time to administer it. Yet the power of the moon and the planets on the body provides the author, most likely Bertholdus Deichsler, a 15th-century Master of Arts, with a motivation to further explore the effects of planets on every living being, shedding light on how the cosmos and the environment shaped health and medicine in the pre-modern period.

Anna GILI Theories of Fevers from Alexandria to Baghdad. Al-Majūsī's Kitāb al-Malakī and its Sources

In 977/978, the Zoroastrian physician al-Majūsī completed his massive *Kitāb al-Malakī* ("The Royal Book"). Composed of a theoretical and a practical section, this work presents itself as the first comprehensive and perfectly organised encyclopaedia ever written in the history of medicine. Despite its wide distribution and success in many other Mediterranean languages (Latin, Greek, Hebrew), the text remains unpublished and little research has been done on its sources and on any original contributions by al-Majūsī. The aim of this paper is to provide a careful reading of chapters 2-7 of Book VIII of the theoretical section, concerning the theory of fevers (ephemeral, putrid, ethical). The analysis will be based on a new critical edition of these passages, based on the collation of more than fifteen manuscripts. As the title, "Theories of Fever from Alexandria to Baghdad", suggests, the main focus will be on identifying the sources that al-Majūsī drew on and showing how he was able to reorganise, interweave and, where necessary, supplement them with new information. In particular, the paper will show that al-Majūsī had an extensive knowledge not only of Galen's works translated by Hunayn ibn Ishāq (*De differentiis febrium, De methodo medendi ad Glauconem, De crisibus*), but also of their Alexandrian

summaries, which were transmitted to the Arab world by the same translator. Finally, my paper will move to a more general assessment of the place of the theory of fever within medical knowledge as reorganised by al-Majūsī, addressing epistemological issues such as the ontological status of fevers (are they diseases or symptoms?) and the possibility of correctly diagnosing their presence in the human body.

Dániel Margócsy Matteo di San Giuseppe and the Hortus Malabaricus. The Role of the Discalced Carmelites in South Asian Medicinal Botany

This talk examines the making of Hendrik Rheede tot Drakesteyn's Hortus malabaricus, the foundational work of Dutch colonial botany and the first large-scale atlas of South Asian botany. With its hundreds of entries and lavish, innovative illustrations, the Hortus malabaricus aimed to provide, for the first time, an all-encompassing overview of the plants of the Malabar coast and the regions beyond, as well as the manifold medicinal uses of these plants. I recount the history of producing this encyclopedia, and its peculiar choices in structuring the images and the text, from the perspective of Matthew of Saint Joseph, an Italian discalced carmelite monk who claimed authorship for this work in the 1680s. Ever since the groundbreaking works of botanists and historians, such as K. S. Manilal, Richard Grove, Harold Cook and Kapil Raj, the Hortus malabaricus has been the case study for understanding how scientific and medical knowledges are produced under conditions of coloniality. My talk examines how to reinterpret such colonial encounters if we take seriously the claim that a Catholic monk, and the local Christian communities he interacted with, played a significant role in the making of the Hortus malabaricus. Matthew of Saint Joseph's extensive and little known manuscripts, preserved in Italy and France, offer the opportunity to explore how religion and mysticism may have played an important, unacknowledged, and complex role in negotiating knowledge exchanges in South Asia. Based on these sources, the talk will perform a careful and close analysis of the visual parallels, textual resonances and shared intellectual sources of the Hortus malabaricus and the works of Matthew of St Joseph.

David Mesquita Uncertain Dynamics. The Diagnosis of Changing Pathologies in Castro's Quae ex quibus (1627)

The Portuguese physician Estêvão Rodrigues de Castro (1559-1638) was a prominent early seventeenth-century figure and distinguished himself by publishing extensively on medicine and natural philosophy. While his *De meteoris microcosmi* (Florence, 1621) sets the framework for his medico-philosophical theories and is perceived as his *magnum opus*, other treatises demonstrate his engagement with emerging medical themes. Notably, in the *Quae ex quibus* (Florence, 1627), Castro explored the themes of disease succession and transformation,

defining and consistently employing terms such as *metaptosis*, *apostasis*, *metastasis* and *epigenesis*. It is, for this reason, one of the earliest works on disease succession, predating similar inquiries, such as Giorgio Baglivi's (1668-1707) *De morborum successionibus* (in *De fibra mortice et morbosa*, Rome 1702) and offers an important account of the dynamics of disease transformation and propagation and their implications for prognostication and treatment. Throughout the seventeenth century, the *Quae ex quibus* was republished in France and Germany and gained the attention of physicians such as Werner Rolfinck (1599-1673) and Anne Charles Lorry (1726-1783), among others, which testify to the relevance of this work. In this light, this paper will examine Castro's account of disease mutation and its relation to his previous writings.

Vivian Nutton Vesalius before Padua. Some Neglected Evidence

The least studied of all Vesalius' works are the two editions of his *Paraphrasis* of the *Liber nonus ad Almansorem*. Biographers have said little about them, the first of which was printed in Louvain probably in early 1537, and have dismissed the second edition, published by Robert Winter in Basle, as a straightforward and almost unchanged reprint. The date of printing is given as March 1537, which has been accepted *faute de mieux*. A re-examination of both printings throws new light on Vesalius' life before coming to Venice, as well as on his relationship with Robert Winter and Johannes Oporinus, the printer of the *Fabrica*.

Luana Salvarani Galenism Reloaded: Paolo Mantegazza on Temperaments, Public Health, and Education

The work of Paolo Mantegazza (1831-1910), an Italian physician, physiologist, anthropologist, and writer, is often remembered for his proto-science-fiction novel Year 3000 and his experimentations on the effect of coca leaves and other psychoactive natural substances from South America. However, his work in the field of health education and general and popular hygiene was very significant. His experimental approach and staunch hostility to superstition made him a leading figure in the positivistic wave that swept urban Italy in the first decades after its unification. His passion for spreading medical knowledge for the well-being, prosperity, and strength of every citizen, including sexual, reproductive and mental health, led him to write a series of books on hygiene and preventive medicine, notably the Elementi di igiene, the controversial *Fisiologia dell'amore* ("Physiology of love") and more specific treatises such as *Igiene del cuore e dei nervi* ("Hygiene of the heart and nerves") and *Quadri della natura umana* ("Tableaux of human nature"). In these books, Mantegazza connects emotions, behavior, and relationships to physiology, underlining the necessity of health education to help individuals manage emotions and improve the life course. This paper aims to assess how his taxonomy of

human types and characters builds on the structure of Galenic temperaments and their regulation based on diet and temperature, and how the holistic approach of Galenic medicine is revived in the positivistic, but not mechanic, idea of the body proposed by Mantegazza.

Marta Wojtkowska-MAKSYMIK

"Prevention is better than cure, but it's better not to cure than do harm..." On duties and the ethos of a 17th-century gynaecologist from Central and Eastern Europe

My presentation concerns the work On illnesses of pregnant women, written in the Polish language by Piotr Ciachowski. The 1624 print is a proof of development of gynaecology in Poland in the early 17th century. It deals with pregnancy and its pathology, caring for the pregnant woman during pregnancy and post-partum. Ciachowski wrote a book similar in its composition to consultationes medicinales, in which he not only describes the physiology of pregnancy and labour or ailments typical for that period, but also formulates principles to be followed by the perfect physician, combining superb education with experience, and observing the primum non nocere principle. An important part of the text is the case of a death of a pregnant woman with a description of a post-mortem C-section and an autopsy.

Fabio Zampieri Ongaro's Studies on Morgagni: an Outline of his Fundamental Contributions

The work of Giovanni Battista Morgagni represents a pivotal moment in the history of medicine, marking a significant epistemological rupture. Morgagni's contributions fundamentally transformed the concept of disease, diagnosis methods, prognosis, and the core of both clinical and surgical therapy, earning him recognition as the father of the anatomicalclinical approach. This approach heralded the decline of humoral medicine that had dominated since the times of Hippocrates and Galen. Despite Morgagni's crucial role in medical history, relatively few monographs have been dedicated to him, with many existing works lacking methodological rigor and originality. In this context, Prof. Ongaro's research stands out for its meticulous examination of Morgagni's early years in Bologna and Forlì, his unpublished manuscripts, and his library. Ongaro's work, grounded in rigorous archival research, significantly advances our understanding of Morgagni's legacy and his enduring contributions to medicine.

Fabiola Zurlini Giuseppe Ongaro, Mario Santoro, and the Studio Firmano:

Notes on Twentieth-century Medical Historiography

Giuseppe Ongaro was among the first scholars to participate in the

Biennial Conferences on Medical History, formally known as "Tornate," organized in Fermo by Mario Santoro, the founder, in 1955, of the Studio Firmano for the History of Medicine and Science. Ongaro frequently spoke at these conferences between 1967 and 1971, the golden age of the Studio Firmano, which attracted the most prominent Italian and European medical historians of the twentieth century. Ongaro's contributions, published in the conference proceedings, primarily focused on Paduan medical history. However, his scientific contributions to the activities of Studio Firmano must be understood within the broader context of the relationships between Mario Santoro and the University of Padua, beginning with his long-standing collaboration and friendship with the medical historian Loris Premuda. The Studio Firmano houses Loris Premuda's personal library within its bibliographic collections, representing a unique legacy of twentieth-century medical history.

Speakers' Biographical Outlines

Claudio Azzarito (Rapporteur - Comèl Grant) is an incoming PhD student in Renaissance Studies at the University of Warwick. He graduated cum laude in Philosophical Sciences at the University of Milan (MA, 2022) with a thesis in History of Medieval Philosophy, in which he explored the interplay of medical art and philosophy in some aspects of the thought of Jewish philosopher and physician Moses Maimonides. His PhD project will focus on the writings on diagnosis produced within the context of the Medical School of Padua (1500 – 1600 ca.), to show the methodological and philosophical innovations that shaped this medical procedure during the sixteenth century.

Fabrizio Bigotti is a historian of science, medicine, and technology in the pre-modern period. He is currently Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, as well as Senior Reserarch Fellow at the Institut für Geschichte der Medizin, University of Würzburg. He is the Founding Director of the *Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance* (CSMBR) in Pisa and co-editor of the *Palgrave Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Medicine* (PSMEMM) and *Sudhoffs Archiv*, the oldest running journal in the history of medicine and science in the world. His work focuses predominantly on medieval and early modern conceptual history, visualisation of the body, practices of quantification and precision instrument making as well as anatomical dissection and Latin palaeography.

Anna Gili is a PhD student at the University of Padua. She holds an MA in Classical Philology and Ancient History from the University of Padua, where she graduated cum laude in 2021. Her PhD thesis, titled "An Insight into the History of Leprosy in the Middle Ages: *Practica Pantegni*, Book IV and Related Texts," examines medieval medical texts. She collaborates on the projects "The Arabic Legal Documents from Toledo" and "C.A.L.M.A." at the Società Internazionale per lo Studio del Medioevo Latino and has attended numerous workshops and summer schools across Europe, enhancing her expertise in archival studies, paleography, and digital humanities.

Dániel Margócsy is Professor of History of Science, Medicine, and Technology at the University of Cambridge and Ordinary Fellow at the *Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance* (CSMBR) Pisa. His work focuses on the social and cultural history of early modern science, medicine, and technology. He has held prestigious fellowships, including at the British Academy/Leverhulme, the New York Public Library, and the Max Planck Institute.

His first book, *Commercial Visions* (2014), explores the impact of global trade on 17th and 18th-century cultural production. His latest work, *The Fabrica of Andreas Vesalius* (2018), won the Neu-Whitrow Prize for its study of the reception history of a major anatomical atlas. Margócsy's current research investigates the interplay between colonialism, science, and technology, with a forthcoming book on the Dutch East India Company. He leads the *Digitising Philippine Flora* project and the Colonial Natures Research Framework at Cambridge University, and his interests include the reception of Machiavelli during WWII and the role of scale in historical writings.

David Miguel Soares Mesquita is PhD student in Classical Studies at the University of Lisbon, supported by an FCT Fellowship (2023-2027). His Ph.D. thesis is titled "Estêvão Rodrigues de Castro as a 'Liber scriptor neque ex Galeni servis' in the controversies of his time", and his research focuses on the history of ideas and philosophy, history of science and medicine, and the circulation of knowledge between the 16th and 18th centuries. He is an editor for *eClassica V Journal* and a reviewer for Euphrosyne. He has taught Portuguese and Latin at various institutions. along with translating scholarly works, organising conferences, and publishingbook reviews.

Vivian Nutton is an Emeritus Professor at the Centre for the History of Medicine, University College London (UCL), and current President of the Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance (CSMBR). Nutton acquired a BA in Classics at Cambridge in 1965 and subsequently taught there as a Fellow of Selwyn College (1967–77). He received his PhD in 1970. Since 1977 he has worked at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine as a Lecturer, and since 1993 as Professor. He is a member of several international learned societies and a Fellow of the British Academy. Since 2015 he has worked at I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University (1st MSMU). His main field of research is the Greek physician Galen. Beyond that, his work comprises the whole of the ancient history of medicine and its reception history, in particular during the Renaissance and in the Muslim world.

Luana Salvarani is Full Professor of History of Education at the University of Parma. Her research focuses on the history of education in the 16th and 17th centuries, including the early Reformation's educational history and Jesuit education, as well as 19th-century American educational narratives. She is an Ordinary Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance (CSMBR), where she serves as delegate of the University of Parma. She has published widely on medicine and education and member of the board of prestigious journals such as International Journal of the Classical Tradition (Springer), History of Education (Taylor & Francis), Global Intellectual History (Taylor & Francis), Renaissance Quarterly (Cambridge University Press).

Marta Wojtkowska-Maksymik is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Polish Studies, University of Warsaw. Her research focuses on Renaissance literature, early modern translations, and the role of women in 16th-century Poland. She has authored books on the debate about human perfection in Renaissance texts and edited volumes on Polish presence in Padua. She has held fellowships at the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Vatican Library and she serves on the editorial boards of *Prace Filologiczne*. *Literaturoznawstwo* and *Renaissance and Reformation* in Poland and is an expert for the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange.

Fabio Zampieri is Associate Professor of History of Medicine at the Department of Cardiac, Thoracic, Vascular Sciences and Public Health of the University of Padua. Before starting his carrier at Padua University, he was researcher at Geneva Institute of History of Medicine, Switzerland, and at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, University College of London, UK. He still maintains international collaborations, being member of history of medicine societies, as well as being involved in research projects, congresses, and publications. His principal fields of research are on the history of Padua medical school, the contributions of evolutionary biology in medical sciences, the history of pathology, and the history of cardiology. He is the authors of 6 books and of about 300 papers as articles in international peer review journals, book chapters, contributions in conference proceedings.

Fabiola Zurlini is Vice-Director and Director in Chief of the Studio Firmano for the History of Medicine and Science (Fermo), as well as Honorary Research Fellow at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine of the University College of London. She collaborates with C.E.S.C.O – University of Macerata. Her research interests and publications include the early modern history of medical libraries and medical bibliography, medical education and the medical profession, with a special focus on medicine at the Roman court of Queen Christina of Sweden. She is currently working on a series of publications dedicated to the physicians Queen Christina's Court in Rome.

