

Oral Histories of Science, Technology and Medicine

The Annual Conference of the Oral History Society in conjunction with Royal Holloway, University of London and the Oral History of British Science at the British Library, with support from the Wellcome Trust, and in partnership with the Society for the Social History of Medicine and the European Association of the History of Medicine and Health.

Venue: Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, TW20 OEX, UK
Date: Friday 10 to Saturday 11 July 2015



Left to right: OHBS interviewee Ralph Hooper after his flight in the Harrier Jump Jet, c. 1972, © BAE SYSTEMS; Laboratory technician Ruth Reid examines a brain, 1957, © Daily Herald Archive/SSPL; and OHBS interviewee Michael Forrest with handmade laser c.1964, photo from *Lasers Across the Cherry Orchards* by Michael Forrest.

What can oral history and life story methodologies bring to the study of the history of science, technology and medicine? How have historians of science, technology and medicine made use of personal memory and narratives in their research?

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Kate Fisher

Director of the Centre of Medical History at the University of Exeter, and author of the award-winning books *Birth Control, Sex and Marriage in Britain, 1918-1960* and (with Simon Szreter) *Sex Before the Sexual Revolution* (named Guardian Book of the Week in 2011), both based on oral history interviews.

Doug Boyd

Director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Libraries, Vice President of the US Oral History Association and co-editor of *Oral History and Digital Humanities: Voice, Access and Engagement* (Palgrave, 2014).

Ronald E. Doel

Associate Professor at Florida State University, co-editor of *The Historiography of Contemporary Science, Technology, and Medicine: Writing Recent Science* (Routledge, 2006), and Project Leader of 'Colony, Empire, Environment: A Comparative International History of Twentieth Century Arctic Science' – a \$1.3m project within the BOREAS initiative of the European Science Foundation.

This conference will explore the theoretical and practical challenges of using oral history-based techniques in the broad areas of the histories of science, mathematics, engineering, technology and medicine to:

- understand change in medicine and science
- consider the links between organisational history and memory
- juxtapose oral history with other historical sources
- review the cultural interface between history, memory and technology
- uncover personal reflections on technological and medical innovation and change
- examine ways in which memory can be used to interpret and engage with wider public audiences about current scientific issues in, for example, biomedicine, the environment and lifestyle choices

This conference will bring into dialogue oral historians, historians of science, technology and medicine, medical sociologists, technologists, archivists, the scientific humanities, and heritage professionals working in museums, higher education, broadcasting and other media.

There will be themed sessions on:

- Technological change in the workplace
- Mental health and psychiatry
- Methodologies of oral histories in science, technology and medicine
- Space and place
- Patients and practitioners
- Ethics and the ethics committee
- Policy and government
- The gendered body
- Technological change and professional careers
- Creative uses of oral histories of science, technology and medicine

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 10 JULY

09.30 **Registration opens**

10.00-11.00 **Practical workshops (parallel sessions):** Open to delegates and non-delegates

Oral History in Higher Education: Jenny Harding (London Metropolitan University)

Oral History and Archives Clinic: Rob Perks and Mary Stewart (British Library)

Oral History and Cutting-Edge Technology: Doug Boyd (University of Kentucky)

11.00-11.15 **Tea/coffee**

11.15-11.30 Welcome by **Graham Smith**, Royal Holloway, University of London

11.30-12.30 **Opening Plenary**

What's special about oral histories of medicine?

Kate Fisher, Centre of Medical History, University of Exeter

Chair: Richard McKay

12.30-13.45 **Lunch**

13.45-15.15 **Parallel sessions:**

Technological Change and the Workplace

Chair: Tom Lean

'Oh it's good. The only trouble is it puts us out of business': the experience of the introduction of digital cinema projection, Richard Wallace, University of Warwick

The Northern Lighthouse Board oral history project: perspectives on automation, Erin Farley, University of Edinburgh

The impact of technological innovation on workers in the print industry, Claire Days, Eastside Community Heritage

The Mind

Chair: Mary Stewart

Changing treatments and attitudes in the field of mental health, Judith Garfield, Eastside Community Heritage

Social Psychiatry or Socialist Psychiatry? Uncovering the politics behind American preventive mental health strategy after the Second World War through oral history,

Matthew Smith and Linsey Robb, University of Strathclyde

The psychologists re-create their experience. Practices, appropriations, and psychologization of the Colombian institutions, Hernan Camilo Pulido Martinez, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Methodology

Chair: Jonathan Reinartz

Agency in life stories of science and Christianity, Paul Merchant, National Life Stories, British Library

Nostalgia – a value or threat to organisational histories? CAM (Complementary and Alternative Medicine) in British nursing practice, 1948-2000, Christine Gowing, University of Birmingham

Oral history 2.0: identity, conversations and methodology, Yewande Okuleye, University of Leicester

15.15-15.45 **Tea/coffee**

FRIDAY 10 JULY continued

15.45-17.15 **Parallel sessions:**

Space and Place

Chair: Paul Merchant

Speaking up for Bethlem, Jennifer Walke, Bethlem Museum of the Mind/King's College London

Strengths and limitations of oral histories in a health care setting: a case study of the development of Barwon Health, a regional health service in Australia, Marie Nunan and Ann Ritchie

'Boffins' and bureaucrats: contested environmental knowledge in the Torrey Canyon Disaster, Timothy Cooper and Anna Green, University of Exeter

Methodology

Chair: Shelley Trower

The use of video in oral histories of science, technology and medicine, John Hepp and Mark Stine

Laughing in the dissecting room: oral history, humour and healthcare history, Julian Simpson, University of Manchester

Hands on History, John Ellis and Nick Hall, Royal Holloway, University of London

Patients and Practitioners

Chair: Richard McKay

'Talk to us, not about us': patient empowerment during Australia's HIV/AIDS epidemic, 1982-1996, Cheryl Ware, Macquarie University, Australia

The 'good patient' and the 'cancer survivor': the power of discourse in oral histories of cancer research, Catriona Gilmour Hamilton, Oxford Brookes University

Oral histories of medicine at the service of the museum: public engagement, display and understanding of contemporary healing cultures, Alfons Zarzoso, Museu d'Història de la Medicina de Catalunya

17.30 – 18.30 **Panel Session: Ethics Committees and Oral Histories of Science and Medicine**

Chair: Sally Horrocks

Memories of an ethics committee, Karen Birmingham and Yasmin Iles Caven, University of Bristol

Academic ethics committees and medical oral history projects: a conflict of best practices? Ida Milne, Queen's University, Belfast

18.30 **Tour of Royal Holloway** (tbc)

19.30 **Conference Meal at Royal Holloway Founder's Building**



Charles Swithinbank surveying deformation of the ice shelf at Maudheim, Antarctica, 1950. Courtesy of Charles Swithinbank.

SATURDAY 11 JULY

09.15 **Registration desk opens (coffee available)**

09.30-10.30 **Plenary**

Play, Record, Pause: How technology is changing the practice and purpose of oral history

Doug Boyd, Director, Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries

Chair: Rob Perks

10.45-12.15 **Parallel sessions:**

Policy and Government

Chair: Anne Gulland

Tobacco control and smoking in public places in Scotland, Nick Chalmers, University of Stirling

The life electric: careers in the electricity supply industry from nationalisation to privatisation,
Tom Lean, National Life Stories, British Library

Science and late Portuguese Colonial Imperial: the contribution of oral history,
Cláudia, Castelo, Universidad de Lisboa

Methodology

Chair: Sarah Lowry

The Herriot test: storytelling in veterinary oral histories, Susan Bradley, Newcastle University

Hearing unheard voices: trust and power dynamics when interviewing Kenyan field researchers,
Georgina Montgomery, Michigan State University

The human side of animal genetics: an archivist's perspective on oral history,
Clare Button, Edinburgh University Library Special Collections

ROUND TABLE: Knowing, Doing, Living, Telling: Oral Histories of Scientific Practice as Document, Narrative and Testimony

Chair: Elizabeth Haines

The merits of the invisible in oral histories of science, Paul Merchant, National Life Stories, British Library

The potential of reconstruction, re-enactment and object-stimulated oral history for displays in science museums,
Tim Boon, Science Museum, London

Intangible histories: narration and the material substrate of laboratory science at the University of Cambridge,
Lydia Wilson, City University of New York

Speaking for the technical body, Juliette Kristensen, Goldsmiths, University of London/ Royal College of Art

12.15 -13.45 **Lunch**

12.15 -13.15 **Annual General Meeting of the Oral History Society** (all welcome)

13.45 -15.15 **Parallel sessions:**

Gendered Body

Chair: Sally Horrocks

'Something that works more for me rather than something that I have to inflict on myself': narratives of contraceptive use in pre-marital sex, 1960-2000, Hannah Charnock, University of Exeter

'Only three weeks to live': oral history, men's bodies and military health and medicine in the Second World War,
Emma Newlands

Midwife Tatsuyo Amari and the birth control experiment in 1950s Japan, Aya Homei, University of Manchester

SATURDAY 11 JULY continued

Technological Change and Professional Careers

Chair: Craig Fees

The Living Medical History Project, Susan Mullaney, Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland

Celebrating women in biochemistry – an oral history perspective, Benjamin Palmer, The Royal Society

Change and continuity: from the pen to the 3D model, the impact of technology in architectural practice, Niamh Dillon, National Life Stories, British Library

Creative Uses of Oral History

Chair: Dvora Liberman

Ecocide – voices from paradise, Juliet Brown, Juliet Brown Films

Digital storytelling with women who live with HIV: the health and therapeutic benefits of telling one's own story, Bronwen Gray and Alan Young, Unitec/Auckland University of Technology

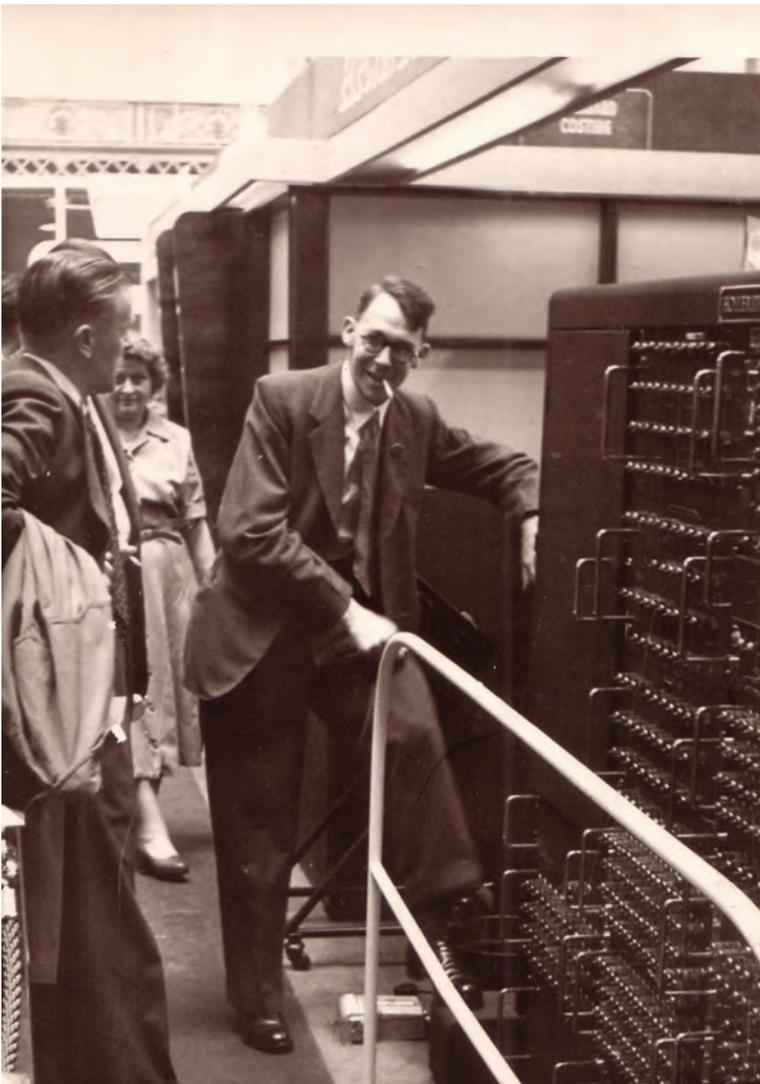
'Can We Afford The Doctor?': re-using and re-interpreting archived memories to engage with wider public audiences, Pam Schweitzer and Maria Everett

15.15-15.30 **Tea/coffee**

15.30-16.30 **Plenary discussion**

Science Stories Ronald E. Doel, Florida State University, in discussion with Graham Smith, Royal Holloway, University of London

16.30 **Conference ends**



Above: Birmingham Grid Control Centre, including interviewees Frank Ledger and Lord Francis Tombs. Courtesy of Frank Ledger.

Left: Ray Bird with the HEC1 prototype computer at the Business Efficiency Exhibition, Olympia, London, 1951. Courtesy of Ray Bird.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference will take place in the Moore Building, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham Hill, Egham TW20 0EX. See: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/aboutus/locationmap/home.aspx>

A campus map (see below) is available from: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/alumni/documents/pdf/campusmap.pdf>

Directions to the venue:

By Rail

There are four trains an hour from London Waterloo to Egham (40 minutes), Reading to Egham (40 minutes) and Woking to Egham (35 minutes: change at Weybridge).

The College is about a mile from the station, which takes about 20 minutes to walk. The easiest route to follow is to:

Turn right out of the station along Station Road and walk about 100 yards to the junction and traffic lights.

Turn left at the junction and follow the road around to the large roundabout with a petrol station on the left. Walk up Egham Hill (A30) and follow the footpath. The main College entrance is on the left immediately after the second footbridge.

By Car

We are within a few minutes of the M25, M3 and M4. The College is on the A30, 19 miles from central London and about a mile south-west of the town of Egham. It is two miles from Junction 13 of the M25 (London Orbital).

Directions from the M25 : After leaving the M25, follow the A30 west (signposted Bagshot and Camberley); this is the Egham bypass. At the end of the Egham bypass, continue on the A30 up Egham Hill (a petrol station is on your left). The

main College entrance is on the left immediately after the second footbridge.

Directions from the west: Leave the M3 at junction 3, at the roundabout take the 1st exit onto the A322. Proceed under the road bridge and turn left, then merge onto the A30. At the roundabout, take the second exit onto the A30. Continue on the A30, through Sunningdale towards Staines-upon-Thames. The main College entrance is on the right immediately before the footbridge.

Parking

Please note that car parking on campus is limited to permit holders. Please include your car registration below if you require a parking place.

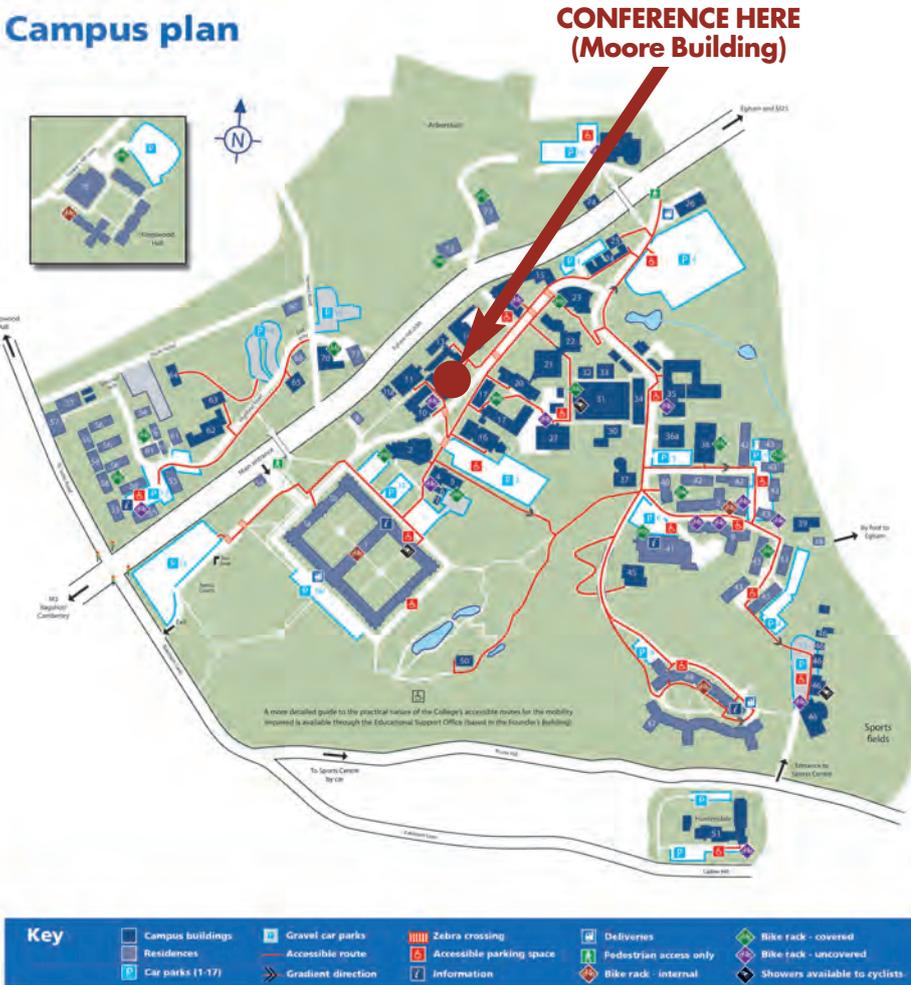
Accommodation

Accommodation is available on campus and can be booked online from 1st May 2015 at: www.cmsonline.rhul.ac.uk/Shortbreakslive/BnB/Step1.aspx. Please leave the Campus location and Room type fields set to 'Any' to generate the best availability and enter the promotional code OHS2015. The promotional code applies to 9th and 10th July only. Bookings prior to, or after these dates may need to be made separately. Accommodation is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Accommodation is provided in premium en suite, double rooms for single occupancy. The rooms are grouped in flats of 8 where networking can continue in the shared kitchen/diners. Breakfast is served in the Hub, a short walk from the halls of residence.

The Conference takes place in the Moore Building, home to Royal Holloway School of Management. This is a short walk through the woodland path from the Hub dining hall and campus accommodation. The Moore Building is close to the historic Founder's Building. The Friday evening meal will be in the Senior Common Room in Founder's.

Campus plan



Academic departments and centres

Archive and Bedford Centre	1	Founder's Building
Biological Sciences	31, 34	Bourne & Wolfson Laboratories
Classics	1	Founder's Building (west ground floor)
Computer Science	17	McCrea Building
Criminology & Sociology	16	Arts Building
Drama & Theatre	74	Katharine Worth Building, Caryl Churchill Theatre
Earth Sciences	25, 14	Harold Holt Theatre, Boilerhouse Complex
Economics	20	Horton Building (upper floor)
English	15	International Building
European Studies	1	Founder's Building (west first floor)
Geography	35, 36, 36a	Queen's Building & Annexe
Hellenic Institute	15	International Building
History	17	McCrea Building
Information Security Group	17	McCrea Building
Management	12, 13, 1	Moore Building (2), Annexe & Founder's Building (east first floor)
Mathematics	17	McCrea Building
Media Arts	11	Williams Building (2) & Arts Building (ground floor)
Modern Languages	15	International Building
French	15	International Building
German	15	International Building
Hispanic Studies	15	International Building
Italian	15	International Building
Music	62, 65	Wetton's Terrace (2), Woodlands (2)
Philosophy	1	Founder's Building
Physics	21, 22	Tolansky & Wilson Laboratories
Politics & International Relations	1	Founder's Building (west first floor)
Psychology	34, 30	Wolfson Laboratory, Bourne Annexe
Royal Holloway International	15	International Building
Social Work	16	Arts Building

Facilities and services

Bedford Library	27
Boilerhouse	14
Botanic Supply Unit	70
Café Jules	15
Careers Service	20
Chapel	1b
College Administration	1, 51
Computer Centre	10
Crosslands	1
Crosslands Bungalow	1
incorporating College Bookshop	4
Electron Microscopy Unit	37
Enterprise Centre, Orchard Building	24
Estates Workshop	26
Founder's Library	1
Garden Lodge, music practice	8
Health Centre	1
Huntersdale	51
Jane Holloway Lecture Hall	50
Laundry, Muslim Prayer Room	5
Library Depository	39
Nursery	64
Main Lecture Theatre	1
Medicine & Stumble Inn	45
Munro Fox Lecture Theatre	32
Munro Fox Lab & Seminar Room	33
Santander Bank	7
Picture Gallery	1a
Sports Centre & Fields	46
Student Administration Centre	4
Students' Union	23
The Hub/magazine	41
The Store on Campus	6
Wetton's Annexe	63
Windsor Building	2
Woodlands Cottage, music practice	66

Residences

Beeches	72
Butler Hall	3
Chestnuts	73
Depository Lodge	38
Founder's Building	1
Gate Lodge	54
Gowar Hall incl. Sang Il Lee Hall	48
Harvest Road No 1	67
The Hub	41
Highfield Close	57
Highfield Cottage	60
Highfield Court	55
Kingswood Hall	75
Penrose Court (Flats)	61
Penrose Court (Houses)	56
Reception & Hub	41
Reid Hall	42
Runnymede Halls 1 & 2	43
Take Hall	9
Wedderburn Hall	47
Williams Annexe	11a
Williamson Hall	40
Woodlands	65

(2) Non-accessible Buildings

BURSARIES

Thanks to the support of the Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) we are pleased to be able to offer three bursaries for the conference. Each bursary covers the cost of the conference fee, the conference dinner and overnight accommodation on campus. Priority will be given to post-graduate students and early-career researchers, and those presenting papers. To be considered for a bursary please email Belinda Waterman belinda@essex.ac.uk with an outline of your case for support by **5 June 2015**.

CONFERENCE PARTNERS



The Department of History at Royal Holloway, University of London, is one of the largest and most dynamic history departments in the country. As well as a wide range of research, including in the history of medicine, the department has specialised in public history. Oral history is taught at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, with a new course being offered next year to finalists in the oral history of the National Health Service. As well as a taught postgraduate course in oral history, there are a number of PhD students utilising oral history in their research. The department is currently playing a key part in the College's Magna Carta anniversary activities (the Great Charter was sealed at nearby Runnymede).

Royal Holloway was founded by the medical entrepreneur Thomas Holloway and opened in 1886. Initially a women's college, former students include the suffragette Emily Davidson and the folklorist Jacqueline Simpson. In 1985 Royal Holloway merged with Bedford College, the first institution of its type for women in Britain. Today Royal Holloway is a constituent part of the University of London.

There will be an opportunity for delegates to take a short guided tour of the campus.

wellcome trust

The Wellcome Trust: We would like to thank the Wellcome Trust for their generosity in supporting the conference. To find out about the Trust see www.wellcome.ac.uk/index.htm



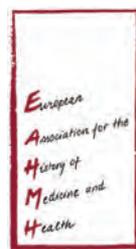
The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) has pioneered inter-disciplinary approaches to the history of health, welfare, medical science and practice. The SSHM publishes the journal *Social History of Medicine* (Oxford University Press), and *The Gazette*, an accompanying newsletter reporting on conferences and other relevant news. Though primarily based in the United Kingdom, the Society has always had a thriving international membership, and Social History of Medicine has continued to expand its international coverage, reflecting the growing number of subscribers who are outside the UK. See the website at <https://sshmedicine.wordpress.com/>.

Student and early-career SSHM travel bursaries are available to conference attendees who are SSHM members. Applications need to be sent directly to SSHM, see details here: <https://sshmedicine.wordpress.com/bursaries/>.

NATIONAL Life stories

Since 2009 the **British Library/National Life Stories'** *An Oral History of British Science* initiative has gathered over 120 recordings, both audio and video, with those people in Britain who have spent their lives in science and technology. An interactive web resource www.bl.uk/voices-of-science tells the stories of some of the most remarkable scientific and engineering discoveries of the past century. Scientists talk candidly about their motivations, frustrations and triumphs, as well as their colleagues, families and childhoods. They reflect on how new instruments and techniques have changed the way they work and how fluctuations in government policy and media interest have reshaped how they spend their time.

The NLS *Oral History of British Science* team has recently completed a project in partnership with the Royal Society Diversity Programme – 'Inspiring Scientists: Diversity in British Science' – which recorded the life stories of British scientists of minority ethnic heritage; and is a partner in a Templeton Religion Trust-funded international interdisciplinary project entitled 'Science and Religion: Exploring the Spectrum', led by Fern Elsdon-Baker at Newman University Birmingham and Bernard Lightman at York University Toronto. This will gather thirty interviews over the next two years with scientists, writers, journalists, film-makers, philosophers and others involved in public debates over relations between religion and science, especially evolutionary science. www.bl.uk/nls



The European Association for the History of Medicine and Health (EAHMH)

aims to foster research and the international exchange of views on all issues

concerning health and medicine in Europe and their connections with the extra-European world. Membership is open to scholars from a range of academic disciplines and countries. EAHMH holds an international conference on the history of medicine and health which is held every two years in a different European city. See the website at www.eahmh.net or <http://tinyurl.com/eahmh>



The Oral History Society is a registered charity which publishes a twice-yearly journal, *Oral History*; organises conferences and workshops; operates a comprehensive regional advice and information network for members using oral history in schools, further education, libraries, museums and communities including reminiscence work with older people; offers a range of training courses and maintains a comprehensive website. Individual membership costs £30 per year and benefits include reduced rates for conferences, the illustrated journal, access to specialists and regional networkers, advice and regular mailings of activities of interest to members. For further details contact Rob Perks, British Library Oral History Section, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB; tel 020 7412 7405; www.ohs.org.uk

BOOKING FORM

I would like to register for the **Oral Histories of Science, Technology and Medicine** conference and have ticked the appropriate boxes below and provided the necessary payment (one copy of the form per person)

Name:

Organisation (if any):

Address:

..... Postcode:

Email: Tel:

Please tell the conference administrator if you have any special access, mobility or dietary requirements or if you require any further information: Belinda Waterman, belinda@essex.ac.uk, tel +44 (0)1206 872313

Conference Fee: Your conference fee covers all conference sessions, lunch, tea and coffee on both days.

Please tick if you want a vegetarian lunch

<input type="checkbox"/> Conference Fee £.....
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership Fee £.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner £.....
TOTAL PAYMENT £.....

£150.00 standard fee

£110.00 fee for Oral History Society members. Joining now entitles you to the reduced conference rate and saves you up to £30, in which case please include the appropriate additional payment (see subscription rates below*)

£65.00 concessionary fee for full time students/ unwaged/ pensioners (please provide evidence)

Conference Dinner *Pre-booking essential*

£30.00 for hot fork buffet on Friday evening (not included in the conference fee). Price includes wine, coffee and water.

I enclose payment of £..... Cheques made payable to the Oral History Society, **OR**

Charge the above total payment to my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Name as it appears on the card.....

Card No:..... Expiry date:..... Signature:.....

Address at which card is registered if different from above:.....

If you wish to park a vehicle on the campus Royal Holloway, please include your registration number here:

Please return this form by Friday 19 June 2015 to the conference administrator:

Belinda Waterman, Oral History Annual Conference, Department of History, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ. Please retain a copy of this form. The final programme will be available on the conference website at the end of July: www.ohs.org.uk

***Subscription Rates** Individuals: United Kingdom £30.00, International £45.00;
Institutions/Groups: United Kingdom £50.00, International £65.00.
All subscriptions to run yearly from 1st January.