

# **Demons and Illness Theory and Practice from Antiquity to the Early Modern Period**

**April 22-24, 2013**

**Amory Building, Rennes Drive  
Exeter EX4 4RJ**

Supported by the College of Humanities, the Centre for Medical History, the Centre for Medieval Studies, and the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Exeter. Further support has been given by the Royal Historical Society and the British Society for the History of Science.

## **Conference Programme**

**Monday April 22nd**

**12 noon-1pm**      Registration and Buffet Lunch (Amory 501)

**1pm-1.15pm**      Welcome (Amory 501)

**1.30pm-3pm**      Session 1

**Panel A (Amory 501)  
Demons in early modern witchcraft  
and trials**

Chair: Peter Elmer

Raisa Maria Toivo: Illness, magic and spirits in 17th-century Finland

Pierre Kapitaniak: From the discovery to the trial of witchcraft: Doctor Cotta and Godly John

Bradley J. Mollmann: Healing with demons? Preternatural philosophy and superstitious cures in Spanish inquisitorial courts

**Panel B (Amory 105)  
Mesopotamia**

Chair: Ida Fröhlich

András Bácksay: The natural and supernatural meaning of fever in Mesopotamian medical texts

Irene Sibbing Plantholt: Diseasing demons and healing deities in ancient Mesopotamia

Lorenzo Verderame: Demons at work in ancient Mesopotamia

**3pm-3.30pm**      Tea (Amory 501)

**3.30pm-5pm**          Session 2

**Panel A (Amory 501)**  
**Early modern approaches to demons**

Chair: Jonathan Barry

Agata Gomolka: The beast that cured me: the contexts for scaredemons in the early modern Venetian parish

Lucy Ryder: Pixie led and fairy cursed: folklore and archaeological evidence of demonic illness, prevention, and cures in medieval and post medieval Britain

Harman Bhogal: The post-Reformation challenge to demonic possession

**Panel B (Amory 105)**  
**Ancient near east**

Chair: Marco Moriggi

Gina Konstantopoulos: The dichotomy of benevolent and malevolent demons in Mesopotamia

Rita Lucarelli: Illness as divine punishment: the nature and function of the illness-bringer demons in the ancient Egyptian funerary and magical texts

George Sieg: The Zoroastrian roots of monotheist demonology

**5pm-5.30pm**          Tea (Amory 501)

**5.30pm-6.30pm**      Keynote Lecture (Amory 501) – Chair: Siam Bhayro  
Gideon Bohak: Conceptualising demons in late antique Judaism

**7.30pm**                  Conference dinner (Holland Hall)

## **Tuesday April 23rd**

**9am-10.30am**        Session 3

**Panel A (Amory 501)**  
**Medieval medicine and magic**

Chair: Catherine Rider

Sebastià Giralt: The melancholy of the necromancer in Arnau de Vilanova's 'De reprobacione nigromantice ficcionis'

Lauri Ockenström: Demons, spirits and evil shadows: spiritual aids in treatises of medical magic

Carolina Escobar-Vargas: Demons in herbals? The evidence of the Madrid MS Escorial, h. 1. 15

**Panel B (Amory 105)**  
**Dead Sea Scrolls**

Chair: Siam Bhayro

David Hamidovic: Self-exorcism and magical incantations in the Dead Sea Scrolls

Laura Quick: Lamech's change of mind: early Jewish psychology in the Genesis Apocryphon

Ida Fröhlich: Demons and illness in Second Temple Judaism

**10.30am–11am** Coffee (Amory 501)

**11am–12.30pm** Session 4

**Panel A (Amory 501)**  
**Early Christianity**

Chair: Morwenna Ludlow

Sophie Lunn-Rockliffe: Hyperphagic demoniacs in Paulinus and Palladius

Chiara Crosignani: The influence of demons on the human mind according to Athenagoras and Tatian

Despina Iosif: Snapshots for unreality: Exorcism in early Christian literature

**12.30pm–2pm** Lunch (Amory 501)

**2pm–3.30pm** Session 5

**Panel A (Amory 501)**  
**Late antique and medieval near east**

Chair: Gideon Bohak

Sophie Sawicka Sykes: Demonic 'anti-music' and early monastic spirituality

Alessia Bellusci: *Oneiric* aggressive magic: sleep disorders in late antique and medieval Jewish tradition

James Hooper: The many faces of the Evil One: divergent depictions of eastern demons and the Byzantine devil

**3.30pm** Tea (Amory 501)

**Panel B (Amory 105)**

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**Saints and mental illness**

Chair: Jo Edge

Anne E. Bailey: Demons and madness in twelfth-century England: a hagiographical perspective

Claire Trenery: Demons, saints and the mentally ill in the twelfth-century miracles of Thomas Becket

Sari Katajala-Peltomaa: 'Ipsa fuit facta amens et demoniata': mental illnesses and demonic possession in the late medieval canonisation processes

Opportunity to visit the RAMM.

**6.30pm-8pm**

Public Lecture (Royal Albert Memorial Museum)

Chair: Catherine Rider

Lauren Kassell: 'A new trade of divillitie': dispossession and the history of medicine in early modern England

**Wednesday April 24th**

**9.30am-11am**

Session 6

**Panel A (Amory 501)**

**Saints and demons**

Chair: Peregrine Horden

Charlotte Kingston: The devil, illness and sin: orthodoxy and the adaptability of the hagiographic model in late sixth-century saints' lives

Catherine Rider: Protection against demons in medieval medical texts

Juliana Dresvina: Maidens, demons and infants: reasons for St Margaret of Antioch's patronage of childbirth reconsidered

**Panel B (Amory 105)**

**Islam**

Chair: Gideon Bohak

Asma Khan: Demons and illness: theory and practice in medieval Islam

Liana Saif: Between medicine and magic: spiritual etiology and therapeutics in medieval Islam

Zohar Hadromi-Allouche: Between the milk and the froth: demons, food and health in the Muslim tradition

**11am-11.30am**

Coffee (Amory 501)

**11.30am-12 noon**

Concluding Remarks (Amory 501)  
Peregrine Horden