

PJMH

This special issue of the *Postgraduate Journal for Medical Humanities* on the theme of 'Illness and Embodiment' features a selection of innovative papers from a new generation of researchers working within the field of the medical humanities. The issue brings together papers on a range of topics related to the broader theme and spans several distinct historical periods, from the medieval to the present day. It also brings together contributions from researchers working in different disciplines using a spectrum of methodologies. Alongside contributions from researchers working in disciplines such as philosophy, English and history, we have included two papers by researchers who are also involved directly in healthcare provision.

Given the ongoing challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, research which attends to the social, cultural, political, and ethical aspects of medicine is now more vital than ever. This edition of the journal therefore consolidates the remarkable efforts of the postgraduate medical humanities community across the United Kingdom, and we are honoured to showcase their research. Additional thanks must be extended to our authors and external reviewers for their patience during this difficult time. We, as the editorial team, hope readers will find the pieces featured in this edition of the journal engaging and valuable.

Ellena Deeley, Elizabeth Gourd, and Aisling Shalvey

Editors of the 2020 issue of the *Postgraduate Journal for Medical Humanities*.

Author Biographies

Anhya Griffiths is a Foundation doctor working in Cornwall. After spending a 6-week rotation in complex contraception and abortion care in her final year of medical school, she has spent taster days in the abortion clinics of the hospital. This has spurred an interest and desire to promote Women's health issues, in particular the provision of abortion care. Her interests include Women's health, health humanities and sexual and reproductive health.

Katharine Cheston is a PhD student based between the Department of English Studies and the Institute for Medical Humanities at the University of Durham. Her research is funded by the Wellcome Trust and focuses on experiences of shame and stigma as expressed in narrative accounts of poorly understood medical conditions.

Kate Taylor is an independent researcher with an interest in the intersection between philosophy (specifically phenomenology and existentialism) and mental illness.

Anna Graham is a PhD student at Queen's University Belfast. Her research investigates the representation of aging women in early modern drama.

Dr Jasmine Virk recently qualified as a junior doctor and is currently training in the South West. She completed her undergraduate medical degree at the University of Birmingham and obtained an intercalated BA in Medical Humanities at the University of Bristol. She is passionate about the intersection of medicine and the arts, and the

multifaceted illness identities that emerge from this interface. She is currently working on the 'Medicine360' project, an online medical humanities resource, in collaboration with other healthcare professionals and colleagues at the University of Bristol.

Emma Salt-Raper began her PhD in Medical Humanities at the University of Leeds in 2019. Her research involves the representations of mental illness and recovery within twenty-first century young adult novels.