The event is free, but space is limited. Please register sending an email to Birgitta von Mallinckrodt bvmallinckrodt@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Conference organized by Sabine Arnaud
Max Planck Research Group
The Construction of Norms in 17th- to 19th-Century Europe and the United States

February 6-7, 2014

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Conference room
Boltzmannstraße 22
14195 Berlin, Germany

Rhetorical Practices In Medical Writings and Medical Imaginings in 17th- to 19th-Century Literature

Conference organized by Sabine Arnaud

This conference investigates the role of writing practices in the enunciation of medical knowledge and the use of medical knowledge and terms outside medical contexts. What is the epistemological role of figures and genres in the denotation and connotation of a medical category? How have cultural imaginings of pathology been constructed and displaced? How have the role of medicine, patients’ expectations, and doctors’ status changed in the process?

Words provide a frame to see the body. They postulate a relationship of obscurity and transparency between the body’s inside and its outside, and, like anatomical illustrations, present a clean and stylized body. Focusing on the writing of bodily disorders and sensibility in seventeenth- to nineteenth-century France, Spain, Scotland, England, and Germany, we will examine some of the strategies and articulations of that process.

Program

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9:30 WELCOME
Chair Sean Dyde
10:00 Cathy McClive
Melle Baudoin’s Letter on the ‘Art of Childbirth’: an Unpublished Midwifery Treatise from 1671
10:45 Lucia Aschauer
The Rhetorics of Pregnancy and Birth. Obstetrical Case Studies in Eighteenth Century France
11:30 Mauricio Menchero
The Circulation and Uses of Knowledge (and Ignorance), through Medical Books in New Spain (18th Century)
12:15 Discussion
12:30 LUNCH
Chair Irmela Krüger-Fürhoff
13:30 Wayne Wild
The Rhetorical Origins of a Modern Medical Ethics in Enlightenment Scotland
14:15 David Shuttleton
‘More Particulars’: Narrative Competence and the Limits of Medical Communication
15:00 BREAK
15:30 Sabine Arnaud
Destinies of a Metaphor: Figuring What Cannot Be Defined in French Modern Medicine (1575-1820)
16:15 Open discussion

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9:30 COFFEE
Chair Debolina Dey
10:00 Anne Vila
Imagining the Cataleptic in French Medicine and Literature, 1730-1840
10:45 Javier Moscoso
Morbid Jealousy: The Medicalization of Passions in the Early 19th Century
11:30 Janet Beizer
The Paper Eaters: Colette, Balzac, Pica, and the Perversion of Reading
12:15 Discussion
12:30 LUNCH
Chair Lara Keuck
13:30 Peter Logan
Dickens and Delusion
14:15 Marie Guthmüller
Dreams as Symptom: Attempts to Integrate Dreams into Psychopathological Diagnoses in the 19th Century
15:00 BREAK
15:30 Open discussion