

Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics

Chair of the History of Medicine

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Research Focus

- 200 Years of UK Erlangen, 1815 – 2015
- Galen – Compendium and Catalogue of Galenic Writings
- Receptions of Ancient Psychopathology
- Leprosy and Early Modern Health Policies in Southern German Free Imperial Cities
- Ernst Wilhelm Baader (1892 – 1962), Occupational Medicine and Nazism
- Medical Crime and the Social Practice of Terror – SS-Physicians in Concentration Camps, 1934 – 1945
- NS-“Euthanasia” in Erlangen – “T 4-Aktion” and “B-Kost”
- The German Society for Gynecology under NS
- The Establishment of Medical Applications of X-Ray-Technology: Radiation Poisoning, Radiation Protection, and Radiotherapy in Early 20th Century
- Polish-German Cooperation in the History of Medicine
- History of Hospitals
- Medical History in Objects – Collecting and Displaying Medical Past

Structure of the Institute

The Chair of the History of Medicine and the Professorship for Medical Ethics (see own report) constitute the Institute of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics. It includes the Forum “Medizin und Menschenrechte” (“Forum on Medicine and Human Rights”), founded in 2006, and the Coordinating Office of the Clinical Ethics Committee. Furthermore, the Institute harbors the Erlangen Medical Collection. In total, the staff of the Institute consists of 18 members, 14 are academic personnel including part-time positions.

Research

200 Years of UK Erlangen, 1815 – 2015

Project managers: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven, A. Plöger
Term: 2013 – 2015
Support: UK Erlangen

A historiographical monograph dedicated to the 200 years of its history will be published in autumn 2015 to mark the bicentenary of the UK Erlangen. The book is a chronologic portrayal from its modest beginnings to the modern internationally noted institution, depicting also the UK Erlangen development of branches, important individuals and innovations, and its edificial sprawl. It focuses on the 20th century, including Erlangen medicine during the National Socialism (NS) regime.

Galen – Compendium and Catalogue of Galenic Writings

Project manager: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven
The Greek physician Galenus of Pergamum (129 – approximately 210 AD) figures as the most influential medical author of the Roman imperial period. This research project aims at a comprehensive depiction of Galenism both, in its time of emergence and its impact on medicine in the historical context. Furthermore an annotated catalogue of all remaining Galenic writings is devised (see Meetings).

Receptions of Ancient Psychopathology

Project manager: Dr. N. Metzger
The look back to ancient medicine and its most illustrious protagonists has been seminal to physicians, their learning and identity for centuries. They have drawn onto ancient texts for orientation, legitimation, and distancing, thus using the ancient for their own purposes. Madness is intertwined like no other medical concept with its cultural background, therefore reception of ancient psychopathology is deeply affected by new medical outlooks, epistemological developments, and cultural surroundings and can be used to line out the changing faces of medicine in history.

This project focuses on reception in Byzantine late antiquity, early modern times, and the 19th century. In all three epochs, fundamental social and epistemological changes left their mark on how physicians read their ancient counterparts. Case studies include the medical encyclopedia of Paulos Nikaios (approximately 7th/9th AD), the early modern receptions of ancient illnesses contributed by physicians to the contemporaneous witchcraft debate (lycanthropy, incubus), and trauma concepts in Byzantine late antiquity and 19th century medicine.

Leprosy and Early Modern Health Policies in Southern German Free Imperial Cities

Project managers: PD Dr. F. Dross, Dr. A. Kinzelbach

Extensive research has been done on medieval leprosaria; nevertheless, their contextualization with (municipal) health care especially in the 16th century is still deficient. Therefore, this project aims at shedding light on the very beginnings of health care policies in early modern urban communities.

Ernst Wilhelm Baader (1892 – 1962), Occupational Medicine and Nazism

Project managers: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven, P. Rauh
Term: 2011 – 2013

Support: Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Arbeitsmedizin und Umweltmedizin e.V. (DGAUM)

This project evaluated the contribution of E.W. Baader, one of the dominating figures in the field during the times of Weimar Republic, NS, and early Federal Republic of Germany, in relation to its respective cultural and ideological background. The concluding volume was published in May 2013.

Medical Crime and the Social Practice of Terror – SS-Physicians in Concentration Camps, 1934 – 1945

Project managers: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven, P. Rauh
Support: Johannes und Frieda Marohn-Stiftung, DFG-project 2013 – 2016

This project surveys the biographical development of “Schutzstaffel” (SS)-physicians active in German concentration camps (KZ) between 1934 and 1945, focusing on their group-specific characteristics. Consisting of two parts, the study aims at outlining socialization, mentality, and actions, including their role in KZ on the one hand and their subsequent careers in both German states after 1945 on the other hand. In this second part of the project, this well-defined group is employed to methodically analyze – for the first time – how both German states dealt with these people and their criminal past.

NS-“Euthanasia” in Erlangen – “T 4-Aktion” and “B-Kost”

Project managers: Prof. Dr. K.-H. Leven, Dr. S. Ude-Koeller

Support: Forschungsförderung Medizin at the UK Erlangen (2014), Staedtler-Stiftung
The so-called “T 4-Aktion” (forced euthanasia) and systematic starvation to death were implemented in Erlangen Heil- und Pflegeanstalt dur-

ing the NZ regime. This interdisciplinary project examines these killings of patients from multiple perspectives, both within its clinical context and the town of Erlangen. Until now unstudied source material will provide the basis for reconstructing both, the (criminal) acts of individuals or institutions and the life stories of their victims.

The German Society for Gynecology under NS

Project managers: PD Dr. F. Dross, PD Dr. W. Frobenius, Dr. U. Thoms (since 2014)

Under NS, the German Society for Gynecology acted as an agent between the official NS race and health policies, the involved government authorities and party institutions, and their physician members. The society adapted to the changed powers and policies early on. Their presidents functioned as communicational links between government and their members, not only in implementing policies, but in lobbying gynecological interests. Significant sources are the large society conferences in 1933, 1935, 1937, and 1947, and their two publication organs, the Archiv für Gynäkologie and the Zentralblatt für Gynäkologie.

The Establishment of Medical Applications of X-Ray-Technology: Radiation Poisoning, Radiation Protection, and Radiotherapy in Early 20th Century

Project manager: PD Dr. F. Dross

The curator of the Medical Collection Erlangen was member of the advisory board for the establishment of the Siemens MedMuseum (opened in 2014) at the Siemens Med Archiv (director: D.M. Vittinghoff) and curated the part on radiation protection and radiotherapy.

Polish-German Cooperation in the History of Medicine

Project manager: PD Dr. F. Dross

Since 2005 the project manager has been board member of the German-Polish Association for the History of Medicine. Main activities are biennial joint conferences and the publication of the conference proceedings.

History of Hospitals

Project manager: PD Dr. Fritz Dross

The history of hospitals can be addressed as the history of the distribution of medical care via large institutions. They serve as an essential framework for modern medicine – the endpoint of a long and intricate development since medieval times. In January 2014, the project manager was elected president of the German Society for the History of Hospitals.

Medical History in Objects – Collecting and Displaying Medical Pasts

Project manager: PD Dr. Fritz Dross

Support: Universitätsbund Erlangen-Nürnberg
In 2000, the Medical Collection Erlangen was constituted to preserve instruments and devices no longer needed in clinical practice, medical research, and education. Aim is to make this important source for medical historiography accessible to the public.

Teaching

Medical Terminology (1st term students in Medicine/Dentistry); Querschnittsbereich Q 2 “History, Theory, and Ethics of Medicine” (7th term Medicine) and “History of Science and Ethics” (degree program Molecular Medicine), Querschnittsbereich Q 7 “Medicine and Aging”. Medical Terminology introduces students to the specific technical language employed in anatomy and clinical medicine. At the same time it aims at placing medicine in its social and historical context.

History, Theory, and Ethics of Medicine includes lectures dedicated to the basic principles of the medical humanities while the specific skills are imparted in seminars. Teaching methods include text interpretation, discussion of case histories, role play, multimedia presentations, and excursions. Elective seminars offer further insight into historical and ethical subjects to students with special interest in the medical humanities (elective), such as “Death and Dying in Cultural Perspective” (in collaboration with the Chair of Anatomy I), furthermore “Introduction to methods and objectives of medical historiography”. Seminars on selected topics close to current research interests are offered each term, in certain cases in conjunction with the Master Program “Mittelalter- und Renaissance-Studien” and/or colleagues in the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Theology. The lecture series “Über den Teller- rand” caters current research topics to a wider audience. Invited external medical historians give insight into their work in the monthly “Medizin- historische Vortragsreihe”.

Selected Publications

Metzger N. Battling Demons with Medical Authority. Werewolves, physicians and rationalization. In: History of Psychiatry 24 (2013): 341–355

Rauh P, Leven KH. Ernst Wilhelm Baader (1892-1962) und die Arbeitsmedizin im Nationalsozialismus. (= Medizingeschichte im Kontext, Bd. 18). Frankfurt/M., Berlin, Bern: Peter Lang, 2013

Dross F. Hospital / Krankenhaus. In: Europäische Geschichte Online (EGO), hg. vom Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte (IEG), Mainz 2014-03-20

Metzger N. Railway Spine, Shell Shock and Psychological Trauma. The limits of retrospective diagnosis. In: Trauma and Traumatization in Individual and Collective Dimensions. Insights from Biblical Studies and Beyond, ed. by E.-M. Becker, J. Dochhorn, E. Holt, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2014: 43–61

Prüll L, Rauh P (Hg). Krieg und medikale Kultur. Patientenschicksale und ärztliches Handeln in der Zeit der Weltkriege 1914-1945, Göttingen: Wallstein 2014

Ude-Koeller S. “ein bißchen verkrüppelt, aber doch der Alte geblieben.” Kriegsinvalide im Ersten Weltkrieg. In: Zeitschrift für medizinische Ethik 60 (2014): 259-269

Meetings and International Training Courses

19. – 22. 09.2013: German – Polish bilateral conference, topic: Medicine and Language – the Language of Medicine

3. – 4.10.2013: Training course of the German Professional Society of Medical Historians, topic: Medicine in Antiquity

17. – 19.10.2013: International symposium, topic: Galen of Pergamon. Medicine and Philosophy in Roman Imperial Times, Erlangen

10. – 12.10.2014: 50 Years of the German Society for the History of Hospitals Münster

FAU FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG MEDIZINISCHE FAKULTÄT

Internationales Symposium
Galen aus Pergamon
Medizin und Philosophie in der römischen Kaiserzeit

Erlangen
17.-18. Oktober 2013

Seminarraum U-02 im Hörsaalzentrum,
Ulmerweg 18, 91054 Erlangen

Das Programm zum Herunterladen unter
www.gesch.med.fau.de/veranstaltungen/kalender/tagungen_ahmt/

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