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| Capture arms 14  **Royal College of Psychiatrists History of Psychiatry Special Interest Group**  ***Scotland and beyond:***  ***New research on the history of psychiatry***  ***in Scotland and internationally***  **Friday 28th September 2018, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow** |

**History of Psychiatry: Scotland** Chair: Jonathan Andrews, Newcastle

Allan Beveridge, Edinburgh: Sir Alexander Morison and 'The Physiognomy of Mental Diseases'

Morag Allan Campbell, St Andrews: ‘Insanity in bar of trial': Puerperal mania and infanticide cases in Fife and North-East Scotland, 1840-1918

Iain Smith, Glasgow: Alcoholic insanity in nineteenth century Glasgow

Hazel Morrison, Glasgow: DK Henderson and psychopathic states

**Lunch and exhibition** of RCPsych Scotland Archives and of the Gartnavel Psychiatric Spaces Project (Ebba Hogstrom, Chris Philo, Iain Smith)

**History of Psychiatry: International** Chair: Christopher Philo, Glasgow

Magne Brekke Rabben, Trondheim, Norway. From saviour to symbol suppression: The story of Reitgjerdet, a high security psychiatric hospital in Norway, 1923 – 1987

Oonagh Walsh, Glasgow Caledonian: Religion and the Irish District Asylums

Jessica Campbell, Edinburgh, 'Our Home From Home': Dingleton Hospital's *Outlook*

Moira Hansen, Glasgow, *‘Melancholy and low spirits are half my disease’: the impact of affective disorder in the life and work of Robert Burns*

**Speaker and chair biographies and abstracts:**

**Chair: Jonathan Andrews** is a reader in the History of Psychiatry in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at Newcastle University. His published monographs include (with Andrew Scull)*Undertaker of the Mind*(2001) and *Customers and Patrons of the Mad Trade*(2003), and (with Roy Porter et al.) *The History of Bethlem* (1997). Alongside numerous articles and edited collections, most recently he has published two special editions of the journal *History of Psychiatry*, entitled *Lunacy's Last Rites: Dying Insane in Britain, c. 1729-1939* (2012) and (with Chris Philo) *History of Asylums, Insanity and Psychiatry in Scotland* (2017), and has produced a further special edition of the journal *Literature and Medicine*(with Clark Lawlor) *‘An Exclusive Privilege…to Complain’: Framing Fashionable Diseases from the Long Eighteenth Century to the Modern Era* (2017). He is currently working on a book on fashionable diseases focused on the sufferers' perspective.

**Allan Beveridge** was formerly a Consultant Psychiatrist at the Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline until his retirement in 2017. He lectures at the Department of Psychiatry of Edinburgh University on the history of psychiatry. He is an assistant editor of the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, where he edits the ‘Psychiatry in Pictures’ series and is one of the Book Review Editors. He is an assistant editor of *History of Psychiatry*. He is also the History and Humanities Editor of the *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh*. He has over 70 publications, including 9 book chapters, on such subjects as the history of psychiatry, ethics, and the relation of the arts to mental illness. He has written about Robert Burns, Robert Fergusson, James Boswell, Samuel Johnson, Dostoyevsky, Kafka, Edvard Munch, Gerard de Nerval, Iain Crichton Smith, Charles Altamont Doyle and Muriel Spark. In 2006 he was awarded a Wellcome clinical leave research grant to study the early writings and private papers of R.D. Laing, which are held at the Special Collections Department of Glasgow University. A book based on this research, *Portrait of the Psychiatrist as a Young Man. The early writings and work of R.D. Laing*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2011.

***Sir Alexander Morison and 'The Physiognomy of Mental Diseases'***and the original art work that formed the basis of the book have not had the scholarly attention they deserve. This is a pity because Morison's work is a rich source which tells us much about the history of psychiatry and the development of portraiture. This paper will give a brief outline of Morison's career and consider in more detail 'The Physiognomy of Mental Diseases'.

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**Morag Allan Campbell** is at the end of the third year of her Ph.D. in Modern History at the University of St Andrews, researching nineteenth century understandings of mental illness associated with childbirth. Her research focuses, in particular, on perceptions of the 'puerperal insanity' diagnosis in Dundee, Fife and Forfarshire between 1820 and 1910. She is the first recipient of the Strathmartine Trust Scottish History Scholarship.

***‘Insanity in bar of trial': Puerperal mania and infanticide cases in Fife and North-East Scotland***

By the late nineteenth century, the prisoners detained in the Criminal Lunatic Department at Perth General Prison included a number of women who had ‘destroyed their own children under an attack of puerperal mania’, and who, the resident physician thought, should not be released until they were past childbearing age, in order to avoid any possibility of relapse and repetition of their crime. Jonathan Andrews has suggested, however, that a strict policy of ‘procreative quarantine’ was never enforced at Perth, and while the dangers of further pregnancies were the subject of much discussion, many ‘puerperal maniacs’ were discharged from the prison and returned to their families.  This paper will examine the cases of four women who found themselves detained at His or Her Majesty’s Pleasure in Perth General Prison at the end of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth, looking at the changes in practice in relation to the care and custody they received, in particular, arrangements for their discharge and subsequent supervision, and how these changing practices reflected contemporary understandings of women’s mental health.

**Iain Smith MD MB ChB BSc (Hons) FRCPsych** studied medicine at the University of Glasgow as an undergraduate 1976-1983 achieving a First-Class Honours B.Sc. in Animal Developmental Biology in 1980 and subsequently graduating M.B. Ch.B. in 1983. He entered psychiatry in 1984, passing the MRCPsych examination in 1988. From 1988-1992 he held the post of Lecturer in Psychological Medicine at the University of Glasgow medical school. He has been a Consultant Psychiatrist at Gartnavel Royal Hospital and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, University of Glasgow, since 1992. He specialises in the field of addiction psychiatry and is currently Chair of the Medical Council on Alcohol education committee. He has interests in philosophy, the arts and history in relation to psychiatry and how these three perspectives can be integrated into psychiatric training. He graduated M.D. at University of Glasgow in 2018 on the basis of his thesis exploring the medical response to alcohol problems in Scotland from 1855 to 1925.

***Alcoholic insanity in nineteenth century Glasgow***

In the late nineteenth century, Asylum annual reports from all round Scotland contained tables on what was deemed to be the primary cause of the mental disorder or lunacy. Alcohol was in second or third place in most of these tables when it came to the aetiology of male insanity. Above it was usually ‘hereditary’ predisposition and in some cases the more honest assessment of ‘unknown’.

The attribution of so much insanity to alcohol seems strange from today’s perspective and I will show in this presentation that it was also contentious at the time, using Glasgow as the main example. For example, Dr W.R. Watson at the Hawkhead Asylum argued against the ‘slovenly thinking (that) is to be found in the arguments adduced to prove that alcohol is a potent cause of insanity and racial degeneracy.’ In so doing he was arguing against the majority of his fellow Glasgow alienists of the time. The story of alcoholic insanity, thus, sounds a warning about making assumptions as to the aetiology of mental illness in relation to the personal habits of patients - a finding relevant in our current culture of intoxication.

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**Dr Hazel Morrison** is a graduate of Glasgow University, and most recently a research associate at Durham University. Her work fits within the emerging field of the medical humanities, as her enquiry into histories of psychiatric diagnoses, bodies and disease is matched by an attentiveness to the narratives, affects and emotions through which individuals experience health and illness.

***DK Henderson and psychopathic states***

Based on analysis of a single patient case - diagnosed as morally deficient on her admission to Gartnavel Royal Mental Hospital in 1921 - I argue this patient is one of the most paradigmatic of cases to have steered the formation of psychiatric knowledge during the 20th century. By engaging with published case histories and unpublished case notes and patient correspondence, I argue her case is pivotal in understanding how so-called ‘dynamic' methods of case taking allowed the Scottish psychiatrist, David Kennedy Henderson, to radically revise a contentious diagnostic category, on either side of the Atlantic.

**Ebba** **Högström** is a researcher, educator and architect working in the intersection between geography, planning and architecture. Her research interest concern how built environments and landscapes are spatially and materially configured, used and experienced in relation to intentions and discourses. A special interest is institutional geographies, and (auto)ethnographic approaches for experiencing, analyzing and representing space. She is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Spatial Planning at Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona, Sweden, and an Honorary Research Associate at University of Glasgow. During 2017-18 Ebba was a Marie Curie Research Fellow of the School for Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow, working with the research project **GART-PSYSPAC-Psychiatric spaces in transition: discourse, dwelling, doing together** with Professor Chris Philo and Dr. Iain Smith.

**Chair: Chris Philo,** Professor of Geography at the University of Glasgow, since 1995.  He has, however, been researching and writing about the history (and the historical geography) of psychiatry for much longer, since his undergraduate dissertation back in 1983.  He published a substantial book in 2004 on the 'geographical history' of asylums and other spaces reserved for those designated as 'mad' in England and Wales from the Medieval Period to the 1860s.  Based on substantial archival inquiry, this work has also paved the way for him to complete various other studies of 'mad spaces' (of many different persuasions, real and imagined, past and present), including in Scotland, and he is the co-editor (with Jonathan Andrews) of the 2016 theme issue of History of Psychiatry on the history of insanity, asylums and psychiatry in Scotland.  His current project is with Ebba Högström and Iain Smith, based on in-depth oral histories of 'psychiatric spaces in transition' on the Gartnavel Royal Hospital campus in Glasgow's greater West End.

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**Magne Brekke Rabben** is a PhD candidate at the Department of Historical Studies at Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway. He is a part of a joint research project on Norwegian forensic psychiatry in the 20th century which has participants from both the university and St. Olavs Hospital in Trondheim. His PhD project is on the history of coercion and means of control in Norwegian high security psychiatry. His previous research has been on different themes within the history of science and technology. Latest publication (2017) is a monograph on the history of bicycling in Norway.

***From saviour to symbol suppression: The story of Reitgjerdet, a high security psychiatric hospital in Norway, 1923 – 1987***

In 1978 a doctor doing alternative civilian service at Reitgjerdet psychiatric hospital in Trondheim, Norway helped a patient escape. His goal was to put public attention on what he meant were inhumane conditions and treatment practices at the hospital. He succeeded. Over the next years Reitgjerdet was the subject of an extremely critical media coverage and public debate which ended in its closure in 1987. In Norwegian public debate today, the name Reitgjerdet still has a gloomy ring to it, and very often it is used as symbol of the oppressing psychiatric institution and of all the wrongdoings of psychiatry in the past.

This stands in contrasts to how Reitgjerdet, when it opened in 1923, was viewed as a much-desired expansion of the country's psychiatric institutional sector. Reitgjerdet was a national high security psychiatric institution for criminal, dangerous especially difficult male patients. Until 1923, Norway's only forensic psychiatric institution had been the Criminal Asylum (also in Trondheim) with only 35 beds, which did not cover the nation's need. Reitgjerdet's role was to provide care for criminal psychiatric patients, but also to be an institution where regular asylums could send their most dangerous or difficult patients.

This role gave Reitgjerdet some special challenges connected to the control of its patient population. These where not only practical challenges, they were also ethical challenges. In this paper I outline the history of Reitgjerdet psychiatric hospital in Norway from its long-awaited opening to its long-awaited closure. I will put a special focus on practices of control, the use of coercive measures and how these practices related to the profession's and the greater society's understanding of what constituted humane treatment at the time. To what extent did Reitgjerdet deserve its bad reputation?

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**Oonagh Walsh** was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and Nottingham University. She is a native of Co. Galway. She was Senior Lecturer in History at Aberdeen University (1995-2008) and a Senior Research Fellow in Medical History in the School of History, University College Cork from 2008-2013. She is currently Professor of Gender Studies at Glasgow Caledonian University.  
Principal research interests are Irish medical history (especially the history of psychiatry), and gender history. Recent work includes studies of Intellectually Disabled patients and their treatment in the Irish District Asylums, and the practice of symphysiotomy in twentieth century Ireland. She has published on a range of areas in modern Irish history, including Protestant women's social, political and cultural experiences, the development of the asylum system in the west of Ireland and 20th century obstetrics. Her publications on Irish psychiatric history include the book: ***Insanity, Power and Politics in Nineteenth-Century Ireland: The Connaught District Lunatic Asylum***. Manchester University Press (2015)

***Religion and the Irish District Asylums***

This paper addresses the role of religion in the nineteenth century Irish District Asylum system. Although the right to religious observation in the asylum was not a guaranteed right, the majority of the patient population in this period were Roman Catholic, and most were devout. This ensured that religion lay at the heart of the patient experience, as an incorporated element within diagnoses – large numbers were categorised as suffering from ‘Religious Excitement’ – and as a potential therapy. Successive Catholic priests appointed to the institutions argued that religion played an important role in restoring individuals to sanity, and acted to calm distressed patients. In the tense atmosphere of the late century they also feared that predominantly Protestant Boards of Governors were deliberately preventing Catholic religious practice in the asylums, leading to an atmosphere of suspicion and anxiety that did little to support patient recovery. The paper also examines the problems posed by patients suffering from severe illness, hallucinations, and delusions: could these individuals receive the sacraments, if they were not capable of examining their consciences, or acknowledging the impact of their actions? The position of Protestant patients, and the impact that social isolation may have had upon their mental health is also examined, as is the role of religious belief in the prevention of suicide.

**Jessica Campbell** is an ESRC funded PhD student within the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. Her current research focuses on the relationship between madness, creativity and experience with a primary emphasis on the patient’s view. Her recently completed MScR thesis entitled ‘The Boundaries of Madness’ explores the notion of space and identity through an examination of the patient-produced writings of nineteenth and twentieth-century Scottish asylum magazines. Her doctoral project ‘From Moral Treatment to Mad Culture’ seeks to extend upon the interconnected themes of creativity and patient expression through a historical enquiry into the nature of alternative psychiatric therapies in Britain since 1840.

***'Our Home From Home': Dingleton Hospital's Outlook***

In the thirty-three years since Roy Porter’s seminal article ‘The Patients’ View’, the history of medicine has witnessed a paradigmatic shift toward placing the experiences of patients at the centre of scholarly discourse. The history of psychiatry in particular has been at the forefront of this endeavour. Providing rich territory for interdisciplinary research, scholars from a wide range of disciplines have paid increased attention to the ways in which patients themselves made sense of their illness and treatment by drawing upon new sources and approaches with which to evaluate them. Yet, despite the increased scholarly attention paid to alternative sources as part of a wider attempt to reconstruct a patient-oriented history ‘from below’, one significant phenomenon has received surprisingly limited consideration: the asylum magazine. Addressing this historiographical gap, this paper examines the dynamics of Dingleton Hospital’s twentieth-century therapeutic community through the lens of its in-house magazine *Outlook*. Focusing on the theme of boundaries, it seeks to draw attention to the ways in which notions of self and other were replicated in the hospital’s social and spatial structures and explores the following key questions: Were the boundaries of identity and space truly tested at Dingleton? Did the pioneering and liberal rhetoric of Dingleton’s advocates match the expressions of lived experience within the therapeutic community? Or was it merely another form of control, ‘a simple reconfiguration of power relationships without any in depth change’? By addressing these questions, the paper ultimately assesses the extent of change in a period heralded as a turning point in the history of psychiatry: the demise of the asylum. In doing so, it seeks to demonstrate that just as the image of the Victorian asylum as an isolated entity surrounded by impenetrable walls is questionable, so too is the conception of the therapeutic community as a model *without* boundaries, for in the twentieth century, we see that ‘once again the boundaries between the asylum and community are vague and uncertain’.

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**Moira Hansen**is in the final year of her Lord Kelvin Adam Smith-funded PhD at the University of Glasgow, where she is co-supervised by specialists in Scottish Literature and Psychiatry. Her doctoral research has allowed her to satisfy a long-held desire to combine her dual backgrounds in life sciences and literary studies. Having presented papers nationally and internationally on her research, she is delighted to have her first article published this year, in the Journal of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

***‘Melancholy and low spirits are half my disease’: the impact of affective disorder in the life and work of Robert Burns***

Robert Burns (1759-1796) is best known as Scotland's national poet, author and collector of more than 600 poems and songs. We also know of more than 700 letters he wrote in his lifetime, addressed to more than 200 different correspondents. In a small but significant number of these letters, Burns refers to his struggles with melancholia, variously describing it as 'blue devilism', 'diseased spirits’ and an 'incurable taint'. In the years following his death, this was attributed by various biographers as the symptom of his excessive use of alcohol or his temperament as a poetic genius. More recently, it was suggested it may represent an affective disorder such as recurrent depression or bipolar disorder.

This paper will present an overview of an ongoing research project which has been exploring the nature of this melancholia through the lenses of modern diagnostic criteria and 18th century attitudes to mental health, hypothesizing that Burns was affected by what would now be recognised as Type II bipolar disorder. It will discuss the impact of his disordered mood on some aspects of his life, as well as initial findings relating to the influence it may have had on his creative output.