Gender and Pain in Modern History

24 – 25 March 2017

Birkbeck, University of London
Malet Street Building
Room G16

Co-Organizers: Dr Whitney Wood (w.wood@bbk.ac.uk) and Professor Joanna Bourke (j.bourke@bbk.ac.uk)

Friday, March 24

Registration – Room G15 – 08:30 – 09:00
Introductions and Welcome – Whitney Wood and Joanna Bourke 09:00

Femininity and Pain 09:15-10:45
Jessica Neasbitt – University of California, Santa Cruz – Mutable Pain: Gender and Race in the Development and Practice of U.S. Gynecology
Agnes Arnold-Forster – King’s College London – Gender and the Calculus of Suffering in Nineteenth-Century Cancer Care
Mor Presiado – Bar-Ilan University – ‘The Body as the Site of Pain and Trauma’: Cancer in Women’s Holocaust Art

Break 10:45-11:00

Masculinity and Pain 11:00-12:30
Lyndsay Galpin – Royal Holloway, University of London – ‘Died of a Broken Heart’: Men’s Suicidal Responses to Heart-Break and the Gender of Emotional Pain
Laura Carpenter – Vanderbilt University – If You Prick Us: Male Circumcision, Gender, and Pain
Rebecca Ayako Bennette – Middlebury College – To Endure and Inflict: Pain, Gender, and Conscientious Objection in World War One Germany

LUNCH – 12:30-13:30

Treating Pain 13:30-15:30
Jesper Vaczy Kragh – University of Copenhagen – Morphine Trouble: Pain, Gender, and Addiction, 1860-1955
Lisann Walma – University of Utrecht – Gender in Dutch Early Twentieth Century Constructions of Morphine’s Painkilling Properties
Sarah Patterson – University at Albany, SUNY – Happy Mothers, Healthy Babies: Twilight Sleep and the Experience of Pain in Childbirth

BREAK 15:30-15:45

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 15:45-17:15

CONFERENCE DINNER for PRESENTERS 18:30
Saturday, March 25

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 09:30-11:00
Lisa Smith – University of Essex – Imagining the Hidden: Inexpressible Suffering in the Eighteenth Century

BREAK 11:00-11:15

Childbirth and Pain from the Early Modern to the Present 11:15-12:45
Margaret Wee Siang Ng – College of Wooster – The Usefulness of Pain During Childbirth in Chinese Medical Works in the Middle Period
Julia Martins – Warburg Institute, University of London – ‘How to make women give birth quickly and with little pain’: Recipes to lessen pain during and after Childbirth in Italian Books of Secrets
Paula Michaels – University of Monash – Childbirth Trauma, East and West: Freudianism and Anti-Freudianism in the Mid-Twentieth Century

LUNCH 12:45-14:00

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 14:00-15:30
Wendy Kline – Purdue University – Psychedelic Birth: The Countercultural Politics of Pain

BREAK 15:30-15:45

Twentieth-Century Pain Narratives 15:45-17:15
Hazel Croft – Birkbeck, University of London – Emotional Women and Frail Men: Gendered Diagnostics in the Second World War
Pavel Vasilyev – Van Leer Jerusalem Institute – Red Days on the Calendar: Menstrual Pain and the Soviet Female Experience
Joanna Bourke – Birkbeck, University of London – Bodily Pain and Psychological Trauma: Narrating Sexual Violence in the Twentieth Century

Closing Comments – Whitney Wood and Joanna Bourke – 17:15

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