

**wellcome
collection**

Decolonising Health



Symposium
programme

Saturday 24 March 2018
12.00–17.00

Thank you for joining this day of conversations about decolonising health in society, science and museums.

As explored in our *Ayurvedic Man* exhibition, Indian encounters with Western medicine during colonial rule were full of tensions between different types of medical knowledge and systems, between modernity and tradition, and between empire and colony.

But what is the relationship between colonialism, medicine and health today? How does colonialism play a role in what is seen as healthy in our society? How do the colonial origins of science persist in medical teaching, research and global health? What does it mean to decolonise a museum's medical collections and practices?

Discussions will take place in the Henry Wellcome Auditorium and refreshments will be served in the Williams Lounge, both on level –1.

Our exhibition *Ayurvedic Man: Encounters with Indian medicine* is open between 10.00 and 18.00 on level 1.

With thanks to **Himarni Moonasinghe**, who organised the 'Can Science be Decolonised?' conference with KCL IntFemSoc and Women in STEM.

Symposium schedule

Saturday 24 March, 12.00–17.00

12.00 Welcome and discussion

13.15 Lunch and tours

14.15 Discussion

15.15 Coffee break and tour

15.45 Discussion

17.00 Drinks reception and tour

18.00 Wellcome Collection closes

Medicine Man tours

Throughout the day there will be tours of our *Medicine Man* gallery led by **S I Martin**.

S I Martin works with museums, archives and the education sector to bring diverse histories to wider audiences. He is a visiting lecturer in English at New York University London, and has published five books of historical fiction and non-fiction for adult and teenage readers. Nearly 20 years ago he founded the 500 Years of Black London walks in response to the low profile given to the Black historical presence on the capital's streets.

Tours will take place during the refreshment breaks. Places are very limited, so to have a chance of reserving one, ask a member of staff as soon as you arrive to sign you up.

Facilitator

Sidin Vadukut is an editor, columnist and foreign correspondent with *Mint*, a business newspaper in India. He is the author of several books, most recently *Bombay Fever*, a novel that tells the story of an outbreak of a mysterious, drug-resistant bacterium in a Mumbai in the near future. He is currently pursuing a PhD in early Islamic economics and coinage at Birkbeck, University of London.

Speakers

David Arnold is professor emeritus at the University of Warwick's Department of History and was previously professor of South Asian history at SOAS in London. He has also held appointments and visiting professorships in Dar es Salaam, Adelaide, Chicago and Zurich. He has written extensively on science, technology, medicine and environment, particularly in relation to colonial India. He is the author of *Colonizing the Body: State medicine and epidemic disease in nineteenth-century India*.

Subhadra Das is a historian, history of science communicator, comedian, writer and museum curator at UCL Culture, where she works with the Pathology and Science Collections. She regularly talks to diverse audiences in classes, seminars, lectures, public talks and stand-up comedy about all aspects of her work, from collections management to working with human remains. Her main area of research is the history of science and medicine in the 19th and 20th centuries, specifically the history of scientific racism. She uses museum objects to tell decolonial stories in engaging and enlightening ways.

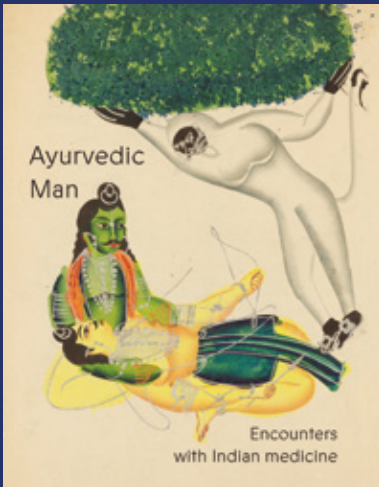
Stephanie Davis is a scholar-activist, a queer Black troublemaker, and a lecturer in psychology at the University of East London. She is interested in the intersections of race, gender and sexuality; critical community psychology; critical pedagogies; and decolonising academia and dis-ease. She has worked in a community development and activist capacity on issues of sexual health with young people and Black Asian Minority Ethnic communities, police harassment, gender and sexual diversity. In 2013, she co-founded Rainbow Noir, a social support and organising space for queer and trans people of colour.

Elsie Gayle is the founder of Midwifery Conversations, a holistic NGO dedicated to sustainable and culturally safe maternity services. She is a registered nurse and midwife in independent practice who has worked with diverse communities in the Caribbean, Africa and the UK. She has an honorary fellowship at the University of Wolverhampton, in recognition of her contribution to and passion for midwifery, the BME community and women's rights, particularly in the areas of childbirth and mental health services.

Sumaya Kassim is a writer and researcher. She is a co-curator of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery's exhibition on Birmingham and Empire, *The Past Is Now*. Her article chronicling the curation process, 'The museum will not be decolonised', appeared in *Media Diversified*. She is a contributor to the forthcoming essay collection *Cut From the Same Cloth*, and is currently working on various projects which explore her interests in decoloniality, memory, secularism, and the politics of emotion.

Image credits – Top: Demi Nandhra. Bottom: Aaron Dezonie



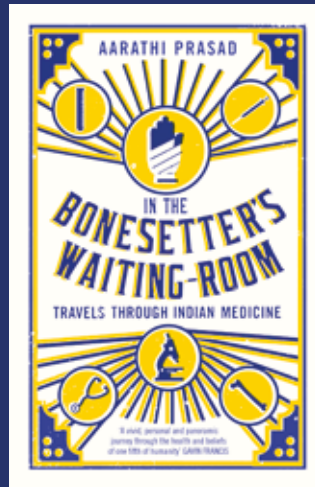


Ayurvedic Man: Encounters with Indian medicine

RRP £14.99

An exquisite treasury of illustrations and objects tracing cross-cultural encounters with Ayurveda and Indian medicine.

Drawn from Wellcome's historical collections, the book *Ayurvedic Man* presents an illustrated history of some of the earliest medical systems and healing practices in the world.



In the Bonesetter's Waiting-Room: Travels through Indian medicine

RRP £8.99

In the Bonesetter's Waiting-Room tells the story of the Indian people, in sickness and in health, and provides a unique perspective on the most diverse and fascinating country in the world.

Published in paperback to coincide with *Ayurvedic Man*, a Wellcome Collection exhibition.

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