

**History 457-001**  
Topics in Medical History  
Prof. T. Schlich  
Winter term 2006; Thursdays 02.05-04.55  
3647 Peel Street, room 101

## **The History of Surgery and the Modern Body**

### *Contact Information*

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### *Course Requirements*

All students should have taken History-249 or an equivalent course. Students will be required to write a term paper of 20 pages in length on a topic related to the history of surgery and/or the body broadly conceived. This paper will count for 50 per cent of your final grade. Class participation will count for the other 50 per cent. Participation includes attendance, performance of assigned tasks and contributions to discussions. The readings for this course are available in the form of a course pack that can be purchased at the McGill bookstore.

### *About this Course*

This course is about the rise of modern surgery and how this process was interrelated with a change in the body concepts and images. We will discuss both the history of surgery and the history of the body and then relate them to each other, using particular case examples. At the same time we are going to put both issues into the context of other changes that occurred in emergence of modern societies.

### **11 January: The History of Surgery and the History of the Body**

#### **18 January: The History and Historiography of Surgery**

Thomas Schlich: "The Emergence of Modern Surgery", in *Medicine Transformed. Health, Disease and Society in Europe 1800-1930* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2004), pp. 61-91. Christopher Lawrence: "Democratic, Devine and Heroic: The History and Historiography of Surgery", in *ibid.* (ed), *Medical History and Surgical Practice. Studies in the History of Surgery*, London and New York: Routledge, 1992, pp. 1-47.

#### **25 January: History of the Body**

Barbara Duden: "Medicine and the History of the Body", in: *The Social construction of illness: illness and medical knowledge in past and present*, ed. by J Lachmund and G Stollberg, Stuttgart: Steiner, 1992, pp. 39-51. Shigehisa Kuriyama, "Pulse Diagnosis in the Greek and Chinese Traditions", in *History of Diagnosis*, ed. by Yosio Kawakita (The Ianiguchi Foundation, 1987), pp. 43-67.

### **1 February: Making Sense of Surgery: The Localization of Disease**

Roger French: "The Anatomical Tradition". In: W.F. Bynum and Roy Porter (eds.) *Companion Encyclopaedia of the History of Medicine*, London and New York: Routledge, vol. 1, 1993, pp. 81-102, only pp. 81-84. L.S. Jacyna, "The Localization of Disease", in *Medicine Transformed. Health, Disease and Society in Europe 1800-1930* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2004), pp. 1-30. Owsei Temkin: 'The Role of Surgery in the Rise of Modern Medical Thought' *Bulletin for the History of Medicine* 25 (1951), pp. 248-59. N.D. Jewson: "The Disappearance of the Sick-Man from Medical Cosmology, 1770-1870", *Sociology* 10 (1976), pp. 225-44.

### **8 February: A Network of Control Technologies**

Thomas Schlich, "Surgery, Science and Modernity: Operating Rooms and Laboratories as Spaces of Control" (unpublished manuscript). Sources: Joseph Lister: 'On a New Method of Treating Compound Fracture, Abscess, etc.' *The Lancet* 1867, i, pp. 326-327. Theodor Billroth: *General Surgical Pathology and Therapeutics, in Fifty-One Lectures, A Text-book for Students and Physicians* (English translation of 4<sup>th</sup> German edition) New York: Appleton 1879, pp. 99-107.

### **15 February: The Surgical Body**

Stefan Hirschauer, 'The manufacture of bodies in surgery', *Social Studies of Science*, 21 (1991), pp. 279-319. Web  
<http://www.jstor.org/view/03063127/ap010064/01a00050/0?frame=noframe&userID=84ce6741@mcgill.ca/01cc99332300501b1f2cb&dpi=3&config=jstor>

### **1 March: Seeing is Believing: Surgery and Visualization**

David S. Jones, "Visions of a Cure: Visualization, Clinical Trials, and Controversies in Cardiac Therapeutics, 1968-1998, *Isis* 91 (2000), pp. 504-541. Web  
<http://www.jstor.org/view/00211753/ap010310/01a00030/0?frame=noframe&userID=84ce6741@mcgill.ca/01cc99332300501b1f2cb&dpi=3&config=jstor>

### **8 March: Politics by other Means? Surgery and Society**

Thomas Schlich: Trauma Surgery and Traffic Policy in Germany in the 1930s: A Case Study in the Co-Evolution of Modern Surgery and Society, *Bulletin for the History of Medicine* 79 (2006), pp.73-94. Web  
[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/bulletin\\_of\\_the\\_history\\_of\\_medicine/v080/80.1schlich.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/bulletin_of_the_history_of_medicine/v080/80.1schlich.pdf)  
Thomas Schlich: 'Changing Disease Identities: Cretinism, Politics and Surgery (1844-1892)'. *Medical History* 38 (1994), pp. 421-443. Thomas Schlich: *Die Erfindung der Organtransplantation: Erfolg und Scheitern des chirurgischen Organersatzes (1880-1930)*, Frankfurt on the Main: Campus 1998 (English translation of the conclusion), pp. 339-349. Source: Alexis Carrel: 'Suture of Blood-Vessels and Transplantation. Nobel Lectures'. 330-31. Visual source: Cartoon 'Undreamt of prospects or surgery in the year 2000'. In: *Der oeffentliche Dienst* No. 6, February 9 1968.

### **15 March: Psychosurgery**

Jack D. Pressman: *Last Resort. Psychosurgery and the Limits of Medicine*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1998, pp. 194-235, (and footnotes pp. 493-498). Sources: Walter Freeman/James W. Watts: 'Subcortical Prefrontal Lobotomy in the Treatment of Certain Psychoses', *Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry* 38 (1937), pp. 225-9. Walter Freeman/James W. Watts: *Psychosurgery. Intelligence, Emotion and Social Behavior*

*Following Prefrontal Lobotomy for Mental Disorders*, Springfield, Ill., Baltimore, Md.: Charles C. Thomas, 1942, pp. 216-229, 238-40, 250-264.

**22 March: Cosmetic Surgery and Surgery for Sexual Identity**

Beth Haiken: 'Plastic Surgery and American Beauty at 1921', *Bull. Hist. Med.* 68 (1994), pp. 429-453. Sander L Gilman.: *Making the Body Beautiful. A Cultural History of Aesthetic Surgery*, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press 1999, pp. 3-42 (and footnotes pp. 335-345). Alice Domurat Dreger: *Hermaphrodites and the Medical Invention of Sex*, Cambridge, Mass., London, Engl.: Harvard University Press 1998, pp. 1-14, 167-201 (footnotes: 253-261).

**29 March: The Body and Surgery**

Thomas Schlich: "The technological fix and the modern body: surgery as a paradigmatic case" (unpublished manuscript).