



AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE



NEW SOUTH WALES INC

Postgraduate forum – current projects in the history of medicine

Presenters: Vivek Neelakantan
Charmaine Robson
Dr John Dewdney
Saturday 11 September 2010
2.00–4.00 pm

Large Conference Room (4.2)
Level 4, Kerry Packer Education Centre
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Johns Hopkins Drive
Camperdown

Vivek Neelakantan, PhD candidate, Unit for the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Sydney.

From 1949–67, newly independent Indonesia embarked upon reconstructing *Manusia Indonesia Yang Baru* ('The New Indonesian') based on the *pembangunan* (developmentalist) ideology which found resonance in all walks of life, including health. In doing so, the World Health Organization's definition of 'health' which emerged in the aftermath of the Second World War underwent modifications in the Indonesian context. By examining Indonesian efforts in preventive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare and resuscitation of *djamu* (Indonesian traditional medicine), this paper sheds light on how post-war social medicine synthesised nationalist and internationalist thinking on health in the 1950s.

Charmaine Robson, PhD candidate, School of History and Philosophy, University of New South Wales.

For both patients and workers at mid-twentieth century Australian leprosaria, lives and wellbeing were continuously at risk due to the unsolved puzzles of the transmission and treatment of Hansen's Disease. Medical science's mantra that contagion only followed prolonged and intimate contact may have convinced workers of the safety of their job but did not prevent at least several from contracting the disease. Similarly, patients had little choice but to accept sometimes unsuitable or experimental drug treatment on the assumption that Western medicine knew best, a situation that in some cases led to severe deterioration of health and, occasionally, death.

Dr John Dewdney, MA candidate, School of History and Philosophy, University of New South Wales.

John is trying to fit into an academically acceptable submission a beguiling story, set in colonial Australia, involving: a trio of ex-convict doctors who pioneered basic medical education; a lady who narrowly escaped transportation to West Africa and a married medical officer; a teenage convict and her highwayman consort; the quarrels and aspirations of medical men in Van Diemen's Land; a serendipitous religious conversion; public parsimony and private benefaction; a walkout of honorary medical staff; a wide-ranging commitment to professional development; and enormous strides in medical science and medical practice.



Image: Couple with seven children in front of their cottage with bark roof, Hill End, 1871–75. From the collections of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales. No known copyright restriction.

Please RSVP to the Secretary, Peter Hobbins, at peter_hobbins@bigpond.com or on 02 9569 5561.