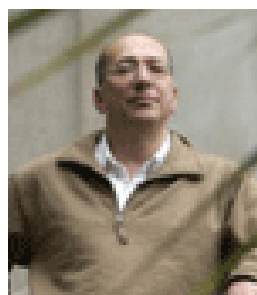




Professor Brian Hurwitz

Expressions, Repressions and Recognitions of Fallibility in Health care



Safety of health care is currently at the nexus of empirical, ethical, legal and policy considerations worldwide. Yet it is only really over the past few decades that the ubiquity of health

care mistakes - their contexts, causes, consequences and costs - has been fully characterised. Until recently, medical error appears to have been viewed by professional and policy discourse as a residual phenomenon, a cause of some very unfortunate events and injuries seemingly on the margins of health care.

Today error is understood to be integral to health service practice and organisation, yet concerns about medical fallibility featured in all sorts of 19th and 20th Century discourse, decades before mistakes and violations became a focus of medical sociological and epidemiological study. How could the medical profession and the health services ignore expressions of concern about mistakes in novels and plays for hundreds of years?

This seminar will examine how medical fallibility came to be recognised and rehabilitated in health care. It will address what accounts for its emergence as a prevalent theme in fiction and drama years before its appearance as an almost omnipresent, ineradicable phenomenon in the pages of modern healthcare policies, management plans, monitoring agencies, codes of ethical practice and medical school curricula.

Brian Hurwitz is D'Oyly Carte Professor of Medicine and the Arts, King's College London. He is a medical practitioner affiliated to the Division of Health and Social Care Research, directs the Centre for the Humanities and Health and is a member of the Steering Advisory Board of the Centre for Life-Writing Research at the College. His research interests encompass clinical medicine and narrative studies in relation to medical practice, ethics, law and the literary interface between medicine and humanities and arts disciplines.

Date: Wednesday 17 November

Time: 5.30pm, followed by drinks at 6.45pm

Place: Room G73, Franklin-Wilkins Building, King's College London, 150 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH

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To secure a place booking is required - please reply to kingspssq@kcl.ac.uk 020 7848 7152

This is the sixteenth seminar of the King's PSSQ forum. For more information about the Centre please go to www.kingspssq.org.uk

King's PSSQ Forum - all welcome