



Faecal-oral diseases and ‘Sanitary Revolutions’ – the long view

Cambridge June 15th – 16th 2026

Draft programme

Cambridge West Hub, East 2 (first floor)

Monday June 15th

(Room open from 09:00: refreshments available from canteen or café on the ground floor all day)

09:00 – 09:30 - Registration

09:30 – 10:50 - Faecal-oral diseases in Europe and the Mediterranean basin

Piers Mitchell (Archaeology, Cambridge) *Archaeological Evidence for Changes in Gastrointestinal Parasites and Diarrhoeal Illness from Prehistory to the Early Modern Period.*

Romola Davenport (Geography, Cambridge) *title tbc*

10:50 – 11:20 - Coffee

11:20 – 12:40 - Change and evolution

Charlotte Houldcroft (Genetics, Cambridge) *title tbc*

Daniel Gallardo-Albarrán (Economic and Environmental History, Wageningen) *Cholera contagion: The role of climate and mobility in European pandemics*

12:40 – 13:40 – Lunch

13:40 – 15:00 - Intimate contexts

Sara de Wit (History, Leiden) *title tbc*

Eric Schneider (Economic History, LSE) *Thinking about health behaviours and the health transition*

15:00 – 15:50 – Keynote

Oliver Cumming (Environmental Health Group, LSHTM) *title tbc*

15:50 – 16:20 – Tea

16:20 – 18:30 – Sanitary Revolutions I & Flash Talks

Dariya Ordanovich (CSIC, Madrid) *Water, sanitation and mortality in Madrid, late nineteenth to early twentieth century: Urban infrastructure and public health.*



Monday June 15th (cont.)

Viswanathan Venkataraman (History, KCL) *Sanitary reform and the colonial world: Austere sewerage modernisation in colonial Madras City*

Flash talks - Speakers tbc

18:30 – 19:30 – Drinks reception, West Hub

20:00 – Conference dinner (by invitation)

Tuesday June 16th

09:00 – 11:00 – *Sanitary Revolutions II*

Catherine Lynda Evina Ela (École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique, Rennes) *Reducing water-, sanitation- and hygiene-related diseases in Cameroon: An analysis of government strategies*
 Toke Aidt (Economics, Cambridge) *Public and private water provision and health outcomes in industrializing Britain*

Chris Day (History, Nottingham Trent) *'The Law of the Board of Health': the centrality of administrative and rhetorical systems to public health's rise in England and Wales, 1848-1876*

Chris Dibben (Geosciences, Edinburgh) *Clean water and mortality in 19th-century Scotland: A natural experiment in Glasgow using the Loch Katrine water works*

11:00 – 11:30 - Coffee

11:30 – 13:00 – *Intimate contexts II*

Chuangwei Zheng (Medical History, Tokyo) *Personal hygiene in daily life: Dysentery, family, community, and nation in modern Japan (1890-1945)*

Louis Henderson (Economic History, LSE) *Infant feeding practices and the mortality transition: Evidence from early C20th London*

Jane Humphries (Economic History, LSE) *title tbc*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 – *Flash talks*

This workshop is part of the ESRC-funded project 'Water, Sanitation and Health in the First Industrial Society: Britain 1780 – 1930' [website] and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the British Society for Population Studies, the Great Leap project and COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). We thank the funders for their support.