

Medical Humanities is a relatively new and increasingly popular field of knowledge that is yet to be clearly defined. Broadly, it may be conceptualized as a discipline wherein medicine and its specialties intersect, at a given historical time, with the humanities. As such, it is a dynamic area of endeavor where the impact of disease and healing science on culture is assessed and expressed in the arts and in the specific language of the various disciplines concerned with the human experience.

This international conference is planned as the first annual UCLA CMRS-sponsored symposium on this field. It is structured as an introductory event aimed at defining what Medical Humanities represents and how it is addressed within its individual disciplines. Given its introductory nature this conference predominantly addresses the interaction of literature, philosophy, art, art history, ethics and religion with medicine and its specialties from the classical period to the modern day. Particular attention is given to the Medieval, Early Modern, and Enlightenment periods.

Emphasis is on the general rather than the anecdotal. Specific cases are limited to the enhancement or illustration of the arguments presented. Although the conference preferentially attempts to attract academics but topics of interest to the educated general public are also welcome

Advance registration is requested. Please register online at [cmrs.ucla.edu/event/understanding-medical-humanities](http://cmrs.ucla.edu/event/understanding-medical-humanities)  
No fee. Limited seating.

Campus parking information is posted at [main.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/visitors](http://main.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/visitors)

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**UCLA** Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

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# Understanding Medical Humanities

A CMRS Ahmanson Conference



November 2-3, 2018

UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies

# Understanding Medical Humanities

University of California, Los Angeles  
Royce Hall, Room 314

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018

8:30 Coffee, pastries, fruit

9:00 Welcoming Remarks

**Massimo Ciavolella**, PhD (CMRS Director; UCLA)

**Rinaldo Canalis**, MD (Department of Head and Neck Surgery,  
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA)

### SESSION I | MODERATOR: MASSIMO CIAVOLELLA, PHD

9:15 **Donald Beecher**, PhD, FRSC (Department of English Language &  
Literature; Carleton University)

“Pondering the Perimeters: Towards a Definition of Medical  
Humanism”

10:00 Break

10:15 **Francis Wells**, FRCS (Consultant Surgeon, Royal Papworth  
Hospital; Cambridge University)

“The Humanities in Medicine: A Tautology or a Necessity?”

11:00 Break

11:15 **Remo Bodei**, PhD (Department of Italian; UCLA)

“The New World Opened by Madness. Philosophy and Psychiatry”

12:00 Lunch Break

### SESSION II | MODERATOR: RINALDO CANALIS, MD

1:30 **Valeria Finucci**, PhD (Romance Studies; Duke University)

“The Bio-Turn in History Writing: Death, Last Wishes and Lasting  
Wishes”

2:15 Break

2:30 **Roberta Ballestriero**, PhD (Central Saint Martins College of Arts  
and Design; University of the Arts London)

“The Flesh of Wax—the Use of Scientific Collection in Medical  
Humanities”

3:15 Break

3:30 **Francesco M. Galassi**, MD (Archaeology, College of Humanities,  
Arts and Social Sciences, Flinders University), and

**Giovanni Spani**, PhD (Department of Modern Languages &  
Literatures; College of the Holy Cross)

“Palaeopathology of the Renaissance: the Art of Combining  
Sources”

4:15 Break

4:30 **Russell Johnson**, PhD (Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library;  
UCLA)

“Collecting in Support of the Medical Humanities”

5:00 Reception and Exhibit

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2018

8:30 Coffee, pastries, fruit

9:00 Morning Remarks

### SESSION III | MODERATOR: RINALDO CANALIS, MD

9:15 **Stephen Meredith**, MD, PhD (Departments of Pathology,  
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, and Neurology;  
University of Chicago)

“Disease and the Problem of Evil in the Novels of Thomas Mann”

10:00 Break

10:15 **Sowon Park**, DPhil (Department of English and Cognitive Science;  
UCSB)

“Impostures of Personality: Deictic Shifts and the Healing of  
‘Renee’”

11:00 Break

11:15 **Romy Sutherland**, PhD (Department of Comparative Literature;  
UCLA)

“Teaching Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder with Film: The Case of  
Peter Weir’s *Fearless*”

12:00 Lunch Break

1:30 Performance by **Les Enfants Sans Abri** (directed by **Sharon King**,  
PhD; CMRS Associate)

*The Physicians’ Examination*, a Spanish interlude by  
Alonso de Castillo Solórzano (1632)

2:15 Break

### SESSION IV: | MODERATOR: EFRAÍN KRISTAL, PHD

(DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE; UCLA)

2:30 **Roberto Fedi**, PhD (Dipartimento di Scienze Umane e Sociali;  
Università per Stranieri di Perugia)

“The Plague as a Narrative Engine from Boccaccio to Manzoni”

3:15 Break

3:30 **Manuela Gallerani**, PhD (Department of Education Studies, Alma  
Mater Studiorum-University of Bologna)

“Ethical Aspects of the Responsibility in the Caring Relationship”

4:15 Break

4:30 **Béatrice Grandordy**, Docteur en Médecine, Pharmacologie, et  
Sciences Humaines (Hôpital Cochin, Paris)

“Compassionate Care in Victor Hugo and Marcel Proust: The  
Challenges Physicians Face When Giving Bad News”

5:15 Closing Remarks