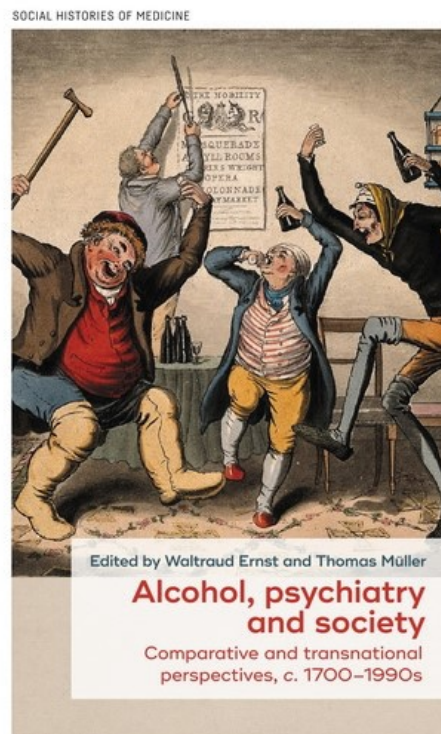


14.12.2023

Publication of the Centre for Psychiatry Suedwuerttemberg wins competition for international OPEN ACCESS grants

OXFORD / WEISSENAU - The book edited by Prof Waltraud Ernst (Oxford, UK) and Prof Thomas Müller, “Alcohol, psychiatry and society. Comparative and transnational perspectives, c. 1700-1990s”, which was published shortly before Christmas 2022 by *Manchester University Press* in England, has now been nominated by an international library and publishing network



The new publication, with a significant editorial contribution from the Research Unit for the History and Ethics of Medicine (Centre for Psychiatry Suedwuerttemberg) at Manchester University Press, was produced following a historical symposium at St Anne's College, Oxford (UK), in June 2017. The volume deals with one of the central debates in the history of alcohol and intoxication: the 'medicalisation' of alcohol consumption from the 19th century onwards. Arguing that the concept of medicalisation needs to be questioned more closely, various contributions on six continents trace the changes in the use of alcohol: from clinical treatments, dietary prescriptions and as an incentive to work, to the emergence of 'alcoholism' as a disease category that apparently or actually requires medical intervention. The authors highlight the complexity of medicalisation in practice: limited financial resources, state control of healthcare, ideological constraints and tensions between legislation and traditional cultural practices. At the same time, they draw attention to the numerous challenges historians face when researching the relationship between medicine and alcohol. Looking beyond Europe and the USA, "*Alcohol, Psychiatry and Society*" offers case studies from Brazil, Chile, Nigeria, Algeria, Fiji, Japan and other countries. At the same time, the book focuses on a number of consistent themes such as definition and diagnosis, the relationship between alcohol and crime, the rhetoric of social/economic degeneration, the impact of colonialism, the role of the family in alcohol treatment, and other topics.

An international network of research institutions, libraries and publishers nominates a selection of newly published books each year and distributes funds as compensation for free access via OPEN ACCESS. “*Alcohol, Psychiatry and Society*” was the only medical history book in *Knowledge Unlatched’s Global Health collection*, beating off stiff clinical competition. Free access to the book can be found here:
<https://openresearchlibrary.org/module/ku-focus-collection-2023-global-health>

The university publisher *Manchester University Press*, founded in 1904, also fits in well with the psychiatric accompanying research, research approaches and motivations of the Centre for Psychiatry Suedwuerttemberg: *Manchester University Press*, together with the publishers of the same name in Oxford and Cambridge, is the leading trio in the British publishing scene in this scientific field. However, unlike other publishers of this calibre, this long-established publisher sees its social science book series as being particularly committed to socially critical research, in a similar way to the daily newspaper “The Guardian” (founded in 1821 as “The Manchester Guardian”), which is also well-known in this country and was not founded in Manchester by chance.

The publisher had now submitted Ernst and Müller’s book to a relevant competition organised by *Knowledge Unlatched*: Information about the funding network *Knowledge Unlatched* can be found here:

<https://knowledgeunlatched.org/2023/02/knowledge-unlatched-shares-results-of-2022-pledging/>

For further information, please contact the Historical Research Department at Centre for Psychiatry Suedwuerttemberg.

Text: Research Department History and Ethics of Medicine of the Centre for Psychiatry Suedwuerttemberg.

Photo: Wellcome Trust Foundation London (commons).