

CENTRE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE SEMINAR SERIES 2010-2011 SPRING TERM

Tuesday, 11 January (Week 1)
5.00 pm – Ramphal Building Room R.014

Matthew Neufeld
(University of Warwick)

'The Framework of Casualty Care during the Anglo- Dutch Wars'



Offered jointly with the C18 and Early Modern Seminar Series

Historians of naval medicine have claimed that professionally-run medical institutions represented the superior option for the welfare of sick and hurt sailors during the Anglo-Dutch Wars. This judgement is grounded on the fact that naval hospitals were constructed eventually in the 1750s, and because the hospitalization of sick and hurt mariners conforms better to a Weberian model of state and military modernization. My paper argues that the measures for casualty care erected during the Dutch wars adhered to an early-modern model of state formation. Care in the community at the command of the king's Commissions for sick and hurt is an apt descriptor of casualty care as it emerged during and endured after the Anglo-Dutch wars. The framework of care extended the scope and social depth of politically-involved people. It failed because the carers were consistently underfunded, not because it was inherently unworkable or insufficiently bureaucratic and centralized.



Centre for the
History of Medicine