

doctoral study OR a professional career, your intended dissertation topic, your preparation for the course and previous experience (maximum 500 words):

Although my undergraduate studies were wide-ranging, one theme emerged and stood out for me: mutability in belief. This was promoted by an early introduction to Historiography (one of my main reasons for choosing Warwick for my BA) in my first year and developed in my second year through Colin Jones' course on the face and body. In my third year, I chose very deliberately to continue to pursue this strand, not only in my choice of advanced option, Madness and Society, but also in the topic of my Special Subject long essay, *The Influence of African Religious Practice on African-American Christianity in the Nineteenth-Century South Carolina and Georgia*. As a first-year undergraduate, realising that historical knowledge stands on shifting ground was exhilarating. The excitement grew when my first foray into medical history in my second year, as mentioned above, introduced me to the idea that medical and scientific knowledge could also be considered as unstable and could be traced in a similar way.

Writing on hysteria for a non-assessed essay early in my third year, I spent many useful and enjoyable days in my vacation in the Wellcome Collection. My interest in late nineteenth-century medicine was piqued. I returned to this topic, and to the Wellcome, for my long essay in my Madness and Society option, to research and write on the mutually reinforcing relationship between the disorder of neurasthenia and social class. I relished the tension between *psyche* and *soma*, so well illustrated by neurasthenia, and would like to continue this exploration in my post-graduate studies.

AHRC Taught Masters
Successful.