

GARETH MILLWARD

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Appointments held

Feb. 2022 – present	Assistant Professor, SDU Odense Researcher and lecturer in British postwar history and the welfare state, attached to the Danish Institute for Advanced Study and IKS.
May 2021 – Dec. 2021	Research Fellow, University of Birmingham Employed on the Wellcome Collaborative Award Border Crossings with John Mohan, Martin Gorsky, Bernard Harris and Ellen Stewart.
Sept. 2017 – May 2021	Research Fellow, University of Warwick Principal investigator on the Wellcome Medical Humanities fellowship Sick Note Britain (grant number: 208075/Z/17/Z)
Sept. 2014 – Sept. 2017	Research Fellow, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Employed on the Wellcome Investigator Award Placing the Public in Public Health led by Alex Mold (grant number: 100586/Z/12/Z)
April 2012 – June 2012	Postgraduate Research Fellow, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology Secondment to POST to write a policy briefing for parliamentarians about the scientific and historical basis of tests to determine eligibility for disability benefits.

Education

2009-13	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine – PhD Thesis: Invalid Definitions, Invalid Responses: Disability and the Welfare State, 1965-1995 (http://bit.ly/2DJJHCS)
2008-09	University of Warwick – MA Social History of Medicine Dissertation: Malingering in the Welfare State 1948-1973: Defining and identifying absenteeism and fraud in post-war Britain
2004-07	University of Warwick – BA (Hons) History, 1st class

Publications

Books

Sick Note: A History of the British Welfare State. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

(<https://bit.ly/3xvM4Vr>)

With Alex Mold, Peder Clark and Daisy Payling. *Placing the Public in Public Health in Post-war Britain, 1948-2012.* London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019. (<http://bit.ly/2l8jkjX>)

Vaccinating Britain: Mass Vaccination and the Public since the Second World War. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2019. (<http://bit.ly/2B4yxH9>)

Book chapters

“Diphtheria to corona: Vaccinating the welfare state.” In Sarah Crook and Sarah Kenny (eds), *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary History* (London: Routledge, submitted; forthcoming 2025).

“Writing everyday life into law: the ‘household duties test’, disabled women, social security and assumed normality.” In Tracey Loughran, Hannah Froom, Kate Mahoney and Daisy Payling (eds), *“Everyday Health”, Embodiment, and Selfhood since 1950* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, in production; forthcoming 2024).

“Sick notes are a waste of time: Doctors’ labour and medical certification at the birth of the NHS.” In Jennifer Crane and Jane Hand (eds), *Posters, Protests, and Prescriptions: Cultural Histories of the National Health Service in Britain*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2022, pp. 54–75. (<https://bit.ly/39jgHEj>)

“A history with web archives, not a history of web archives: A history of the British measles–mumps–rubella vaccine crisis, 1998–2004.” In Niels Brügger and Ian Milligan (eds), *The SAGE Handbook of Web History*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE, 2018, pp. 464–78. (<http://bit.ly/2P26V9z>)

Journal articles

With Anna-Schneider Kamp, Christine Stabell Benn, Shriram Venkatraman, Maria Sejthen Reiss and Søren Askegaard. “‘It’s not for the children’s sake’: A qualitative inquiry into the barriers and facilitators underlying parents’ decision-making for getting children vaccinated against influenza in Denmark.” *Social Science & Medicine – Qualitative Research in Health* 5 (2024): 100449. doi: 10.1016/j.ssmqr.2024.100449

“‘Its many workers and subscribers feel that their services can still be of benefit’: Hospital Leagues of Friends in the English West Midlands, c. 1948–1998.” *Social History of Medicine* 36, no. 3 (2023): 433–455. doi:10.1093/shm/hkad031.

With Hannah Elizabeth and Alex Mold. “‘Injections-while-you-dance’: Press advertisement and poster promotion of the polio vaccine to British publics, 1956–1962.” *Cultural and Social History* 16, no. 3 (2019): 315–36. doi:10.1080/14780038.2019.1586061.

With Martin Gorsky. “Resource allocation for equity in the National Health Service 1948–89: An advocacy coalition analysis of the ‘RAWP’.” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 43, no. 1 (2018): 69–108. doi:10.1215/03616878-4249814.

“‘A matter of commonsense’: The Coventry poliomyelitis epidemic 1957 and the British public.” *Contemporary British History* 31, no. 3 (2017): 384–406. doi:10.1080/13619462.2016.1247701.

“A disability act? The Vaccine Damage Payments Act 1979 and the British government’s response to the pertussis vaccine scare.” *Social History of Medicine* 30, no. 2 (2017): 429–47. doi:10.1093/shm/hkv140.

“Social security policy and the early disability movement: Expertise, disability and the government, 1965–1977.” *Twentieth Century British History* 26, no. 2 (2015): 274–97. doi:10.1093/tcbh/hwu048.

Reports

“Written evidence from University of Southern Denmark SSP0009.” London: Parliamentary Work and Pensions Select Committee, 2024. (<https://bit.ly/3WURAhg>)

“Vaccine hesitancy and ‘BAME’ populations.” London: History & Policy, 2021. (<https://bit.ly/3cKj6W6>)

“Digital barriers and the accessible web: Disabled people, information and the internet.” London: Institute of Historical Research, 2015. (<http://bit.ly/2A14vCH>)

With Peter Border. "Assessing capacity for work." (PN 413). London: Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, 2012. (<http://bit.ly/2Fm5BPe>)

Select conference and seminar papers

"Rethinking Vaccine Resistance: Antivivisectionist Opposition to the diphtheria vaccine in 1940s Britain." Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference, University of Strathclyde, 2024.

With Martin D. Moore. "A chronic crisis of time: British family doctors, social democratic welfare and NHS general practice, 1948–1966." European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Conference, University of Oslo, 2023.

"We hope to go out on a high note! Hospital Leagues of Friends in the English West Midlands, 1948–94." European Social Science History Conference, University of Gothenburg, 2023.

"We cannot put this off any longer... A history of British social security using web archives." WARCNet Closing Conference, University of Aarhus, 2022.

"Welfare states and contested ideas of expertise." XXIII International Congress of Historical Sciences, Poznań, 2022.

"Welfare abuse or abusive welfare?". Danish Institute for Advanced Study Lecture Series, SDU, 2022. (<https://bit.ly/3Qe92l8>)

"Transnational vaccination histories, 1700–2022." Bridging the Baltic V: Negotiating the common good – medical networks and transfers across the Iron Curtain in the Baltic Sea Area c. 1945-2004, SDU, 2022.

"History of the British welfare state with the World Wide Web". Archive of Tomorrow Workshop, National Library of Scotland, 2022.

"Confidence and hesitancy: The historical construction of a 'problem'". The Coronavirus Years? Historical Perspectives on Covid-19 and its Aftermath, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2021.

"British vaccination since the 1940s: How we became vaccine confident". World Immunization Week Seminar Series, University of Liverpool, 2021.

"Writing everyday life into law: The 'Household Duties Test', disabled women, social security and assumed normality." Gender, Subjectivity, and "Everyday Health" in the Post-1945 World, University of Exeter, 2021.

"Sick Notes Don't Work in Today's Welfare State (A Truth Rediscovered Every 10 Years Or So)." Centre for the History of Medicine Seminar Series, University of Warwick, 2020.

"Doctor-Patient-Boss-State confidentiality: Who needed to know 'what was wrong with you' in the classic welfare state?" North American Conference on British Studies, Vancouver, 2019.

"Web Archives as a Tool: Documentary History and the World Wide Web." From body capital to the Internet: New media, new modes of representation, new uses, University of Strasbourg, 2018.

"'Since the introduction of the Sick Pay Scheme, sick absence has increased': Sick pay, sick leave and sick notes in the nationalised industries, c. 1948-1959." History of Philosophy and Science Seminar Series, University of Cambridge, 2018.

With Hannah Elizabeth. "'Injections while you dance': Persuasive press and poster promotion of the polio vaccine to British publics, 1956-62." Life Cycles Seminar Series, Institute of Historical Research, 2018.

“Sick Note Britain: Regulating sickness at the birth of the postwar welfare state”. Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference, University of Liverpool, 2018.

“Is it fair that the public should bear the burden of the negligence of parents? The duties of parents with regard to diphtheria immunisation before the NHS.” European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Conference, University of Bucharest, 2017.

“Leo [Blair] has complicated a very sensitive dilemma’: Trust in expertise and government in the pertussis and MMR vaccine crises.” Modern British Studies Conference, University of Birmingham, 2017.

“Stories from the past: How the MMR and pertussis crises were used by British Public health.” Congrès de la Société française d’histoire des sciences et des techniques, University of Strasbourg, 2017.

“She might want to be a nurse or an air hostess’: Communicating with the public about smallpox vaccination in post-war Britain.” Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference, University of Kent, 2016.

“Payments’ not ‘compensation’: The collective and individual costs of the British pertussis vaccine scare, c. 1974-1980.” European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Conference, University of Cologne, 2015.

“Naïve researchers do bad history – Lessons from failure with the UK web archive.” Web Archives as Scholarly Sources: Issues, Practices and Perspectives, University of Aarhus, 2015.

“Not the Official Survey’ – disability organisations’ attempts to inform policy makers, 1965-2013.” Social Science History Association Annual Conference, University of Chicago, 2013.

Teaching experience

Qualifications

UK HEA Associate Fellow (since 26 July 2017)

Enrolled on SDU’s Lecturer Training Programme, Summer 2022 intake. Expected completion Autumn 2024.

Supervision experience

Supervised masters’ and BA theses at SDU in history and Negot (international masters) programmes, in Danish and English. Supervised BA students’ dissertations at the University of Warwick in the History Department. Also supervised a student at the Warwick Medical School conducting an original research project in the history of tuberculosis treatment. This included marking other students’ social science projects. Member of a sociology PhD student’s advisory committee at LSHTM and have conducted MPhil/PhD upgrades at LSHTM and Warwick.

University of Southern Denmark

Sundhed, sex og samfund i Danmark og i Verden, ca. 1850–2024 [*Health, sex and society in Denmark and the World, c. 1850–2024*]

Module co-organizer. Co-designed and co-taught a masters level course in Danish and English on major debates around healthcare and reproduction in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Provided sessions on global public health, vaccination, disability politics and HIV/AIDS.

Queen Elizabeth II’s Britain (H200008112/H070099102/H180127112, 2023)

Module organizer. Designed and taught a social and cultural history of Britain, 1952–2022. The course was offered as 5, 10 and 15 ECTS options to English and History undergraduates at SDU. Covered a range of core themes that spanned the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, including Brexit, migration and sexuality.

Sundhedshistorie [History of health] (H190063101/H190064101, 2022)

Co-designed and co-taught a masters level course in Danish and English on major debates in the history of healthcare, offered as a 10 ECTS and 20 ECTS module. Provided sessions on the politics of public health, debates around vaccination, and global public health.

Core Concepts and Research Practices in the Human Sciences (H080005101, 2022–23)

Organised and ran a three-hour session for the English Studies programme on the concept of “the deserving poor” in British history and its changing relationship to British culture and society.

The Danish Welfare Society in an International Perspective (2022–24)

Since 2023, led this course offered to Negot (international masters) students about the history and political theories behind welfare states in Western Europe, using Denmark as the prime example. Second examiner of oral examinations, 2022.

University of Warwick**Cultural History of the NHS (HI34D – 2018-19)**

With Jennifer Crane and Jane Hand, co-convened, wrote and taught a third-year undergraduate special subject (22 weeks) on the cultural history of the NHS. Included long-essay and dissertation marking; dissertation supervision; exam writing and marking.

Themes and Methods in Medical History (HI907 – 2018-21)

Wrote and led a two-hour session on global public health for the MA core module in the Social History of Medicine, focusing on Live Aid and the malaria and smallpox eradications programmes.

Mind Body and Society (HI176 – 2018-21)

Wrote a one-hour seminar and wrote and presented a one-hour lecture on smallpox immunisation, highlighting key historiographical and ethical tensions in the history of public health.

Matters of Life and Death (HI991 – 2018-21)

Led a two-hour seminar discussing my book *Vaccinating Britain* and its position within the wider historiography of public health, the British welfare state and contemporary history.

LSHTM**Principles of Social Research (1104 – 2014-17)**

For three years led seminar classes in a core module consisting of ninety-minute seminars for students on the MA in Public Health (10 weeks). Included marking exam papers and formative assessment essays.

History and Health (1401 – 2010, 2015-17)

Led seminar classes on: the history of health insurance in America, Germany and Britain; and anti-vaccinationism in America and Britain. Presented a lecture on health insurance and wrote and presented a lecture on the history of smallpox immunisation from antiquity to the 1970s.

History and Health (PHM215 – 2010-17)

Acting Deputy Module Organiser, 2016-17. Distance learning module. Facilitated discussion using Blackboard. Gave a lecture on this same platform on the history of smallpox immunisation. Encouraged and managed further discussion with registered students using online forum tools in Moodle. Included exam and summative course work question writing and marking.

Grants

October 2022: Danish Institute for Advanced Study Pilot Project Grant (DKK 87,600 [c. €11,700])

Funding body: Danish Institute for Advanced Study

Co-investigator with Anna Schnieder-Kamp, Christine Stabell Benn, Søren Askergaard and Shriram Venkatraman. Small grant for “Pilot study on barriers and facilitators of influenza vaccination for children (2-6 years) in Denmark”. This interdisciplinary project interviews parents to understand their choices around influenza vaccine, especially in light of the corona pandemic.

September 2017-March 2021: Wellcome Medical Humanities Fellowship – ‘Sick Note Britain: The Public and Medical Certification since the Second World War’ (£185,098)

Funding body: Wellcome Trust (grant number: 208075/Z/17/Z)

Funding for a three-year research fellowship on the history of sickness certification in Britain since 1945, extended for six months due to the pandemic. The project focuses on how the sick note was used to excuse absence from work, both as a bureaucratic technology in its own right and how it was represented in wider British society.

September 2014-March 2015: Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities bursary (£2,000)

Funding body: Institute of Historical Research

A £2,000 bursary to undertake a short historical research project using the British Library's *Shine* interface for searching the Internet Archive. £1,000 was awarded immediately, and £1,000 on the completion of a report on my research findings and experiences of using the interface. I attended regular workshops with the British Library and Institute of Historical Research to update them on my findings and to liaise on how to improve the Library's search tools for historians.

April 2013: Wellcome Trust Medical Humanities Small Grant (£4,667)

Funding body: Wellcome Trust (grant number: 101587/Z/13/Z)

With Betsy Lewis-Holmes and Thomasin Summerford, we secured a grant to run the “Third Annual Medical Humanities Postgraduate Workshop - A Picture of Health”. This was a two-day conference for postgraduates from across the medical humanities to share their research and explore the methodological differences and similarities between different disciplines. Hosted at the Royal College of Art, 4-5 April 2013.

April-June 2012: Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

Funding body: Wellcome Trust (grant number: 098296/Z/12/Z)

The Wellcome Trust extended my PhD stipend for three months to work at POST. My role I worked with the Office to produce a briefing for parliamentarians and their staff on changes being made to the assessment criteria for out-of-work disability benefits (see publications).

September 2009-December 2012: Wellcome Trust-funded PhD studentship

Funding body: Wellcome Trust (administered by London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

Centre for History in Public Health at LSHTM, PhD studentship from their block allocation in 2009. Extended by three months in spring 2012 for the fellowship at POST.

October 2008-September 2009: Wellcome Trust-funded MA studentship

Funding body: Wellcome Trust (administered by University of Warwick)

University of Warwick studentship from their block allocation in 2008 for the MA in the Social History of Medicine.

Professional engagement

European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Scientific Board

Member 2023–present

Member of the scientific board, co-editor of the Association's newsletter and jury member for the Association's book prize.

Wellcome Trust Early Career Fellowship Interview Committee Member 2023–present

Member of the interview committee which recommends which project to fund from the Early Career Fellowship programmes in humanities and social sciences (grants of typically c. £250,000–600,000 for those up to three years from their PhD).

Public Health Humanities Network – Co-founder and member 2022–present

Initiated from seed funding from Janet Weston's Wellcome Trust University Award *Ethics and British public health law, 1920–2020*. With colleagues across UK and Europe, co-founded a professional network of scholars engaged in humanities research and teaching on public health topics.

Archive of Tomorrow Project, National Library of Scotland – Advisory Committee

Member 2022–2023

Provided expertise as a historian who uses web archives to a NLS project generating a curated collection of websites that provided health information during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020–22.

Public and policy engagement

UK Parliament Work and Pensions Select Committee Evidence *January 2024*

Presented written evidence to the Select Committee inquiry into Statutory Sick Pay, and was later invited to give oral evidence at Parliament.

History and Vaccination Policy, Department of Health and Social Care *29 September 2022*

Gave a one hour paper and Q&A session about the recent history of vaccination policy and the role of the various health ministries.

Remembering the 1970 Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, LSE *26 November 2020*

Gave a short summary of the historical impact of the act and then answered questions as part of a panel open to the public.

Rotary International & One Last Push, Coventry Transport Museum *11 September 2017*

Provided research and engaged with the media to promote a campaign to eliminate poliomyelitis. This event used the 1957 Coventry polio epidemic to draw parallels with polio eradication and to make the case for a sustained effort in the worldwide immunisation campaign.

Science Museum Late *26 July 2017*

Presented my research on disability in a 30-minute presentation at the Science Museum entitled "War and the Disability Rights Movement".

Vaccination Exhibition, LSHTM *June–September 2015*

I organised an exhibition at LSHTM to make use of the School's archival collections on the history of vaccination. Also incorporated the present-day work of epidemiologists and social scientists working at the institution, as well as material from the British Library's collection on imperial India.

Media engagement

Modern History Review

Article published about smallpox vaccination for a popular magazine aimed at A-level students (16–18 year-olds) and their teachers in the English and Welsh education system.

Thinking Allowed

Recorded interview for BBC Radio 4 show about my book, *Sick Note*. Broadcast 25 October 2022.

Times Radio

Interviewed live on 7 August 2021 about the concept of vaccine hesitancy and its history.

We Didn't Start the Fire

Interviewed for a Crowd Podcast production about the lyric “vaccine” from the eponymous song, why this would have been significant to Americans of Billy Joel’s generation, and placed vaccination developments in the context of world twentieth-century history. Episode released 28 June 2021.

LSHTM Viral

Interviewed for a podcast about the history of vaccines and its relation to modern-day vaccine research by LSHTM’s series on public and global health. Released 9 March 2021.

Global News Radio 640 Toronto

Interviewed by Greg Brady on the morning show of 8 February 2021 to discuss: why the UK’s COVID-19 vaccine programme was progressing faster than the US and Canadian ones; and the history of British public health responses.

Fortune

Interviewed by Jeremy Khan for *Fortune* magazine about the historical parallels between the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and poliomyelitis vaccination in 1950s’ Britain and USA. Published on 17 January 2021. (<http://bit.ly/3bZIFFd>)

BBC Radio Scotland

Interviewed live by John Beattie on *Divetime*, 3 December 2020, to discuss the history of vaccination and the challenges of mass vaccinating adults.

BBC Radio Berkshire

Interviewed live by Phil Kennedy on the afternoon show of 2 December 2020 to discuss the history of vaccination in the wake of the UK government’s COVID-19 vaccine announcement.

BBC Radio 4, PM

Live interview on Radio 4’s afternoon new programme *PM* on 4 May 2019 about the news that the health secretary had announced that he had not ruled out making vaccination compulsory; and on 2 December 2020 about the announcement of the Pfizer/Biontech COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Answered questions on air to put compulsory vaccination in Britain into historical context.

Weekendavisen

Interviewed by Gunver Lystbæk for an article about MMR vaccination and the impact of the Andrew Wakefield controversy on European and North American vaccination rates. Published as ‘Myten om myten’ (‘The myth of the myth’) on 22 March 2019. (<http://bit.ly/2uVAwd1>)

BBC Four, People’s History of the NHS

Provided historical advice on disability issues in a documentary series marking the NHS’s 70th anniversary alongside the *Cultural History of the NHS* project at the University of Warwick. Broadcast July 2018.

BBC Radio 4, Making History

Interviewed for a feature on the 1957 Coventry poliomyelitis epidemic. Broadcast 30 January 2018.

BBC Coventry and Warwickshire, The Breakfast Show with Trish Adudu

Interviewed live in the studio, 11 September 2017, to promote Rotary International and One Last Push event at Coventry Transport Museum on the 1957 poliomyelitis epidemic in the city.

Washington Post

Wrote an article on the difficulty of using web archives called 'I tried to use the Internet to do historical research. It was nearly impossible.' Published 17 February 2015. (<https://wapo.st/2B5bGex>)

New Yorker

Interviewed by Jill Laporte on a piece about web archives. Published as 'The Cobweb. Can the Internet be archived?' on 26 January 2015. (<http://bit.ly/2RZ5Ktt>)

Workshop and Conference organising

What Makes a Family?

16-17 May 2024, SDU

Co-organised with Cecilie Bjerre a two-day workshop on how "the family" is defined in welfare state policy and practice in Britain and the Nordics.

The Family, Medical Science, And the Political History of Health

7 September 2022, SDU

Organised an afternoon workshop of papers about medical science and definitions of the family. Presented alongside Roberta Bivins and Cecilie Bjerre, with Klaus Petersen chairing.

Seminar convenor

2015-16 at LSHTM; 2018-2019, co-convenor at Warwick

At LSHTM I convened the Centre for History in Public Health lunchtime seminar series, inviting internal and external speakers to give 45-minute papers. I am also a co-convenor of the Centre for the History of Medicine's evening seminar series following a similar format.

Vaccination Past and Present symposiums

17 June and 11 November 2015, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Two-hour symposiums which brought together historians, social scientists and public health practitioners to present papers and discuss common themes in their work on vaccination. Organised with Tracey Chantler and Pauline Paterson at the Vaccine Centre, LSHTM. Designed to launch the exhibition on vaccination history I organised at LSHTM and maintain discussion.

A Picture of Health: The Third Annual Medical Humanities Postgraduate Workshop

4-5 April 2013, Royal College of Art

Two-day conference held at the Royal College of Art which brought together post-graduate students from across the medical humanities to share research and explore methodological approaches in different disciplines. Funded by a Wellcome Trust Grant secured by the organisers. Organised with Thomasin Summerford and Betsy Lewis-Holmes, Royal College of Art.

Not Just for the Record: Enlivening Archives

11 November 2011, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

A one-day workshop for historians, archivists and social scientists who use archives to discuss the practical and methodological issues of finding, preserving and using archival material in researching health policy. Organised with Lauren Hutchinson and Jennifer Walke, LSHTM.

Public Health and Voluntary Action

20 November 2010, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

One-day workshop as part of the Voluntary Action History Society's early career research workshop series, supported by funding from the Economic History Society secured by the VAHS's early career group. Organised with Lynsey Cullen, Oxford Brookes.