

CENTRE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE
SEMINAR SERIES 2011-2012 SPRING TERM

Tuesday, 17 January 2012 (Week 2)
5.00 pm – Ramphal Building Room R.014

Dr Julie Roberts
(Warwick Medical School)

'Bonding through spectatorship: Ultrasound Imaging and Maternal-Fetal Attachment'

This paper explores 'the theory of ultrasound bonding' (Taylor 1998). This is the curious idea that viewing ultrasound imagery somehow accelerates and improves the process of forming a maternal relationship with the developing foetus. In its most recent iteration, the theory of ultrasound bonding posits that 3/4D imagery can have an even greater effect on bonding than 2D, cross-sectional imagery. I will describe the history and politics of these ideas, and illustrate their continued popularity with contemporary examples. I will ask how 'ultrasound bonding' continues to be credible as a popular-scientific construct and what difference 3/4D technology is making.



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