

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

Tuesday, 16 November (Week 7)  
5.00 pm – Ramphal Building Room R.014

**Tim Lockley**  
**(University of Warwick)**

*'Savannah's Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1854'*



This paper examines factors affecting mortality from yellow fever in Savannah in 1854 when 650 people died of the disease. Yellow fever was often described by contemporaries as the 'stranger's disease' since it took a particularly heavy toll on Irish and other European immigrants as well as on those from northern states. Yet a detailed study of the mortality records from Savannah's 1854 epidemic forces this conclusion to be refined to some degree. While the foreign born were indeed far more likely to die than native born Savannahians, it is clear that age, gender and, above all, class were key additional determinants of mortality from yellow fever.



Centre for the  
**History of Medicine**

Centre for the History of Medicine  
The University of Warwick  
Coventry CV4 7AL United Kingdom  
Tel: 024 76 572601  
Fax: 024 76 523437  
Email: [t.horton@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:t.horton@warwick.ac.uk)