The WHO in Historical & Ideological Perspective: Past, Present, and Future

Centre for History in Public Health Annual Lecture and UK Book Launch

Thursday February 13th 2020, John Snow A, 17.30-19.00

Theodore M. Brown, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Rochester NY, co-author The World Health Organization, A History

This talk distills and extends The World Health Organization, A History (Cambridge University Press, 2019) and offers a perspective on where the WHO is now and may be heading in the contested world of international and global health. Rather than focusing on the WHO’s public health campaigns, health security interventions, or technical achievements, it concentrates on how it has been and continues to be shaped by political context and the interests of major national and economic powers, the conflict between rival medical ideologies, and the pursuit or avoidance of its own principles of global equity and social justice as articulated in its 1948 constitution and the Alma-Ata declaration of 1978.

Q and A led by Professor David Heymann (LSHTM/Chatham House/Executive Director WHO Communicable Diseases Cluster, 1998-2003)

and

Drinks Reception (South Courtyard) from 19.00

+ Cambridge University Press bookstall