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MARY E. FISSELL

Education

PhD History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, May 1988.
MA History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, May 1984.
BA History, University of Pennsylvania, May 1981.

Research Interests

Early-modern medicine; the patient's perspective in the history of medicine; gender, sexuality, and the history of the body; popular culture; books and reading in early modern England and the Atlantic world.

Teaching Positions Held

Jan. 1992-present, Assistant, Associate, and full Professor, Department of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Johns Hopkins University.
July 1988-Dec. 1991, Lecturer and Research Associate, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Manchester.

Additional Professional Roles

July-Dec 2013, Acting Director, Department of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University.
Jan-July 2013, Jan-July 2011, Visiting Fellow, History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University.
Jan 2011-present, Visiting Fellow and then Life Member, Clare Hall, Cambridge University.
Jan-July 2011, Co-Curator, *Books & Babies*, exhibit, Cambridge University Library, Cambridge, England. <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/exhibitions/Babies/index.html>;
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-14110843>.
Sept 2006- April 2007, Director, Folger Seminar, "Vernacular Health and Healing". Folger Shakespeare Institute, Washington, DC.
Jan. 2006 - present, Co-Editor, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*.

1996-99, Section Editor, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, "Women and Medicine".

Publications

Books

Patients, Power and the Poor in Eighteenth-Century Bristol, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Manchester Women's History Group (six member group including Mary Fissell), *Resources for Women's History in Greater Manchester*, Manchester: National Labour History Museum, 1993.

Vernacular Bodies: The Politics of Reproduction in Early Modern England, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. [<http://www.oup.co.uk/isbn/0-19-926988-2>].
Paperback edition, Fall, 2006. See Forum on *Vernacular Bodies*, *Journal of Women's History*, 22 (3), 2010: 185-213.

Articles (last 5 years)

"Introduction: Women, Health, and Healing in Early Modern Europe", *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 82 (Spring 2008): 1-17.

"The Doctor-Patient Relationship", Robert Baker and Lawrence McCullough, eds., *The Cambridge History of Medical Ethics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (2009): 501-17.

"Healing Spaces", in Laura Lunger Knoppers, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Early Modern Women's Writing*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

"Going Vernacular", *Journal of Women's History*, 22 (3), (2010): 209-213.

"Popular Medical Books", Joad Raymond, ed. *Oxford History of Popular Print Culture, vol 1: Beginnings to 1660*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011): 418-431.

"A Book of Receipts of All Sorts: Elizabeth Strachey, 1693-1730s", in Michael Sappol, ed, *Hidden Treasure*, (New York: Blast Books, 2012): 204-5.

"Women and Medicine." in *Oxford Bibliographies in Renaissance and Reformation*, Ed. Margaret King. New York: Oxford University Press, in press 2013.

Grants and Awards

1992-93 Course development grant, Hughes Foundation.
1997-8 Fellowship, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, History Department, Princeton University.
1997 Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (declined).
2000 Fellowship, Folger Institute, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.
2001-2002 Grant, National Library of Medicine (NIH 1 G13 LM07054-01).
2005 *Vernacular Bodies*, Honorable Mention, Katharine Briggs Folklore Award.
2010-2012, Grant, National Library of Medicine (NIH 1G13LM010198-01).

Biosketch

Mary E. Fissell is Professor in the Department of the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, with appointments in the History of Science and the History Departments. She received her BA and her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, where she wrote her dissertation in the History and Sociology Department under the direction of Charles Rosenberg.

Her scholarly work focuses on how ordinary people in early modern England understood health, healing, and the natural world. Her first book examined how health care for the poor functioned in an 18th century British city, arguing that Bristol's working people shaped an urban health-care system through the choices they made -- limited those those choices may have been. More recently, she has focused on how ordinary people understood their bodies, particularly reproduction, by looking at cheap print. *Vernacular Bodies* (Oxford, 2004) explored how everyday ideas about making babies mediated large scale social changes, because talking about the reproductive female body was also a way to talk about gender relations and thus all relations of power. Her current work continues to examine vernacular knowledge -- ideas about the natural world that ordinary people used, made, shaped, and practiced. She connects the histories of gender, the body, and sexuality with those of popular culture and cheap print in the Atlantic world in a project focusing on an extraordinary popular medical book called *Aristotle's Masterpiece*. First published in 1684, it was still for sale in sleazy London sex shops in the 1920s, having retained its currency for over 2 centuries.

Prof. Fissell teach a range of courses, including undergraduate and graduate surveys in the history of medicine, the history of science, technology, and medicine Methods seminar, and a graduate research seminar on popular knowledge. She co-edits the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*.