

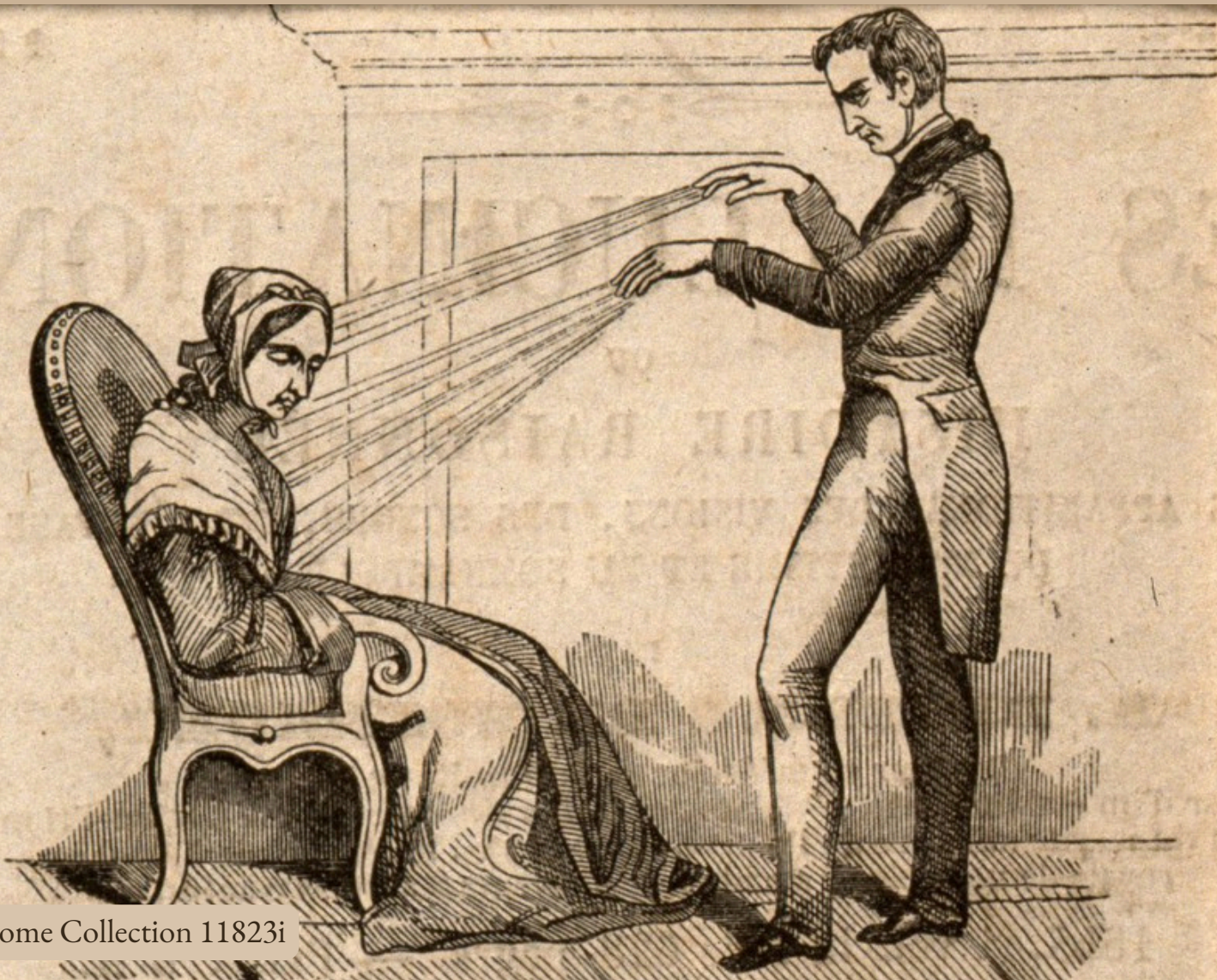
Between Marginal & Mainstream

Negotiating Experimental Practices
and Medical Knowledge

ELBOW Conference

11–13 March 2026

University of Helsinki



Between Marginal & Mainstream

Conference Programme
DAY 1 – Wednesday 11 March 2026

9:30-10:15 **Registration and coffee** / Main building, small hall lobby

10:15-10:30 **Opening words** / Main building, small hall F4050

10:30–12:00 **Keynote 1** / Main building, small hall F4050

Lauren Kassell: *Bedside Medicine in Early Modern England*

12:00–13:30 **Lunch**

13:30–15:00 **Session 1A Religion and folk healing** / Main building, small hall F4050

Jagriti: *State, Religion and Health: A case study of Kashmir Medical Mission, 1863-1904*

Ulla Ijäs: *Pastors Wives and Medical Knowledge in the 19th Century Finland*

Eduardo Ángel Cruz: *The Saints' Secret Nurses: Indigenous and Afro-Latin Women Testing Cures in Colonial Miracle Records*

13:30–15:00 **Session 1B Minds, bodies, and nerves** / Main building F3017

Sylvie Kleiman-Lafon: *Irreconcilable Experiences? Conflicting Sources of Medical Knowledge and Practices in Bernard Mandeville's Treatise of Hypochondriack and Hysterick Diseases*

Mona Mannevu: *"Neurasthenia is Not a New Name for Hysteria" – Diagnosis of Neurasthenia in Late Nineteenth-Century Medical Literature*

Katja Palokangas: *Mental Assessments in Homicide Cases in the 19th Century Finland*

15:00-15:30 **Coffee** / Main building, small hall lobby

15:30–17:00 **Session 2A Medical Electricity** / Main building, small hall F4050

Soile Ylivuori: *Experimenting with Eels – Colonial Space and Medical Electricity in the Eighteenth Century*

Saara-Maija Kontturi: *Scientific Optimism, Skepticism, and Developing Methodology in Medical Electricity in Sweden and Finland*

Stefan Schröder: *A Universal Remedy or Bogus? The Coverage of the Contested Science of Medical Electricity in Mid-Eighteenth-Century German Newspapers*

15:30–17:00 **Session 2B Embodied medical knowledge** / Main building F3017

Tilmann Walter: *When Clinical Knowledge Became Mainstream: Therapy in the Letters and Consils of the Imperial Physician Johannes Crato (1519–85)*

Una Faller: *The Green-Sick Body and Her Embodied Knowledge of Green Sickness, or the 'Disease of Virgins'*

Edna Huotari: *The Embodied and Electric patient in Revolutionary France*

17:00–19:00 **Wine Reception** / Main building, small hall lobby

Between Marginal & Mainstream

Conference Programme
DAY 2 – Thursday 12 March 2026
1/2

10:00–10:30 **Coffee** / Main building, small hall lobby

10:30–12:00 **Keynote 2** / Main building, small hall F4050

Markku Hokkanen: *Negotiating Healing Between Marginal and Mainstream: Experimentation and Cross-Cultural Medical Encounters in South-Central Africa, c. 1850s-1900s*

12:00–13:30 **Lunch**

13:30–15:00 **Session 3A ELBOW Talks Hybrid Session** / Main building, small hall F4050

Clare Griffin: *The Science of Unicorns: Early Modern Russia's Only Drug Trial*

Clarice Säävälä: *"He does me real good by his kindness": The Role of Sympathy in Healing the Patient in Nineteenth-Century Britain*

Marek Maj: *Matted Hair as Fetish Object: Bodily Experimentation in the Nineteenth-Century Polish Countryside*

13:30–15:00 **Session 3B Between Folk Healing and Medicine** / Main building F3017

Moshumee Dewoo: *Animist Healing, European Medicine, and the Third Space of Medical Legitimacy in Southern Africa*

Elena Badanai: *From Folklore to Medical Science in Post-Unified Italy*

Annika Raapke: *Bodies on the Rock: Treating Disease in Swedish St. Barthelemy*

13:30–15:00 **Session 3C Surgeons and surgery** / Main building U4072

Anu Lahtinen & Mirkka Lappalainen: *Craftsmen in Medicine: Barber-Surgeons in Early 17th Century Stockholm*

Samu Sarviaho: *Barber-Surgeons in Transition: Medical Practice and Changes in Treatment in 1800s Finland*

Karolina Kouvola: *Healing Testicular Cancer in Nineteenth-Century Finland: The Case of a Parish Clerk*

(The DAY 2 programme continues on the next page.)

Between Marginal & Mainstream

Conference Programme
DAY 2 – Thursday 12 March 2026
2/2

(First part of the DAY 2 programme on the previous page.)

15:00–15:30 **Coffee** / Main building, small hall lobby

15:30–17:00 **Session 4A Medical Epistemes** / Main building, small hall F4050

Mursed Alam: *Marginal Medicalities from South Asia: Colonial Biopolitics, Decolonial Aporia and Indigenous Survival Epistemes*

Claire Crignon: *Observing Folk Practices and Beliefs About Healing and Curing: The Importance of Bacon's Natural Histories in Understanding His Skeptical View of Medical Progress (1605-1638)*

Shawn M. Phillips: *Experimentation, Morality, & Therapeutics: Mercurial Cures and Shifting Applications from Humoral Theory to Germ Theory*

15:30–17:00 **Session 4B Ointments and elixirs** / Main building F3017

Aleksi Moine: *Christ's Blood and Mary's Milk – Religion, Ointments and Bodies in 19th-Century Finno-Karelian Healing Incantations*

Brian Li: *Staving off Hunger for 100 days: A Close Reading of Lapidary Elixirs in the Bencao gangmu*

Tarquin Holmes: *A Disgusting and useless substance? A Brief History of Hyraceum*

18:00 **Conference dinner**

Between Marginal & Mainstream

Conference Programme DAY 3 – Friday 13 March 2026

10:00–10:30 **Coffee** / Main building, small hall lobby

10:30–12:00 **Keynote 3** / Main building, small hall F4050

Paola Bertucci: *The Anatomy of the Living: Occupational Health between Medical Knowledge and Statecraft*

12:00–13:30 **Lunch**

13:30–15:00 **Session 5A Drinking health** / Main building, small hall F4050

Yiyun Huang: *Panacea or pernicious drug: Situating Chinese Tea in Early Modern European Medicine*

Kim Embrey: *From Sacred Leaf to Scientific Specimen*

François Zanetti: *Too Good to Be True – Debates on Evaluation Procedures for Mineral Waters in the 18th c.*

13:30–15:00 **Session 5B Religion and medicine** / Main building, Studium 1 F3020

Dan Blackie: *Medicine, Faith, and Disability in Late Georgian England*

Auli Saarsalmi-Paalasmaa: *The Training of Nurses in Seventh-day Adventists' St. Helena Nursing School*

Riikka Miettinen: *Medical Pluralism and Religious Intersections in Healing Madness in Early Modern Sweden*

15:00–15:30 **Coffee** / Main building, small hall lobby

15:30–17:00 **Session 6A Colonial medicine** / Main building, small hall F4050

Eva Johanna Holmberg: *Distempered with Greevous Sicknesses: Healing and Experimenting with the Badly 'Environed' Body of Thomas West, Lord De La Warr in Virginia, 1610-11*

Delphine Peiretti-Courtis: *A History of Medical Errors : Studies, Experiences, and Care Practices on Black Bodies in the French Colonies of Africa (1780-1910)*

Chechesh Kudachinova: *Creating Colonial Healing and Making Experiential Knowledge in 17th-Century Settler Siberia*

15:30–17:00 **Session 6B Natural healing** / Main building, Studium 1 F3020

Eeva Heinonen: *Unveiling the Materiality of Nature in the Early Modern Medical Discourse*

Suvi Rytty: *Embodied Experience in Natural Healing Narratives in Early Twentieth-Century Finland*

Pieter Dhondt: *Challenging the Orthodoxy of Medical Knowledge by Promoting Homeopathy as an Academic Subject Around 1900*

17:00–18:00 **Closing words** / Main building, small hall F4050