

# The Language of Illness and Pain

## Identity, Communication and the Clinical Encounter

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2011, Birkbeck College



What is the language of illness and pain? From the metaphor of patient depictions and descriptions in art, music and literature, to the scientific terminology of biomedicine, the language employed between doctor and patient is constantly changing to reflect the subjectivity and objectivity of illness.

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to break down the artificial boundaries between the arts and biomedical science to identify mutually beneficial fields of enquiry. It represents the collaboration between Medical Humanities at Birkbeck College, University of London, and the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Medical Deanery.

We invite proposals for 20-minute papers from academics and practitioners in the fields of the humanities and medicine, which explore any aspect of communication, language, narrative, and representation in relation to illness and pain.

The deadline for abstracts (300 words max) is **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February**. For further information, contact Dr. Debbie Harrison ([d.harrison@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:d.harrison@bbk.ac.uk)) and Dr. Jo Winning ([j.winning@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:j.winning@bbk.ac.uk)). We would be delighted to discuss your ideas informally in advance. For more details about the conference and suggested topics, visit [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/eh/research/research\\_conferences/language\\_illness\\_pain](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/eh/research/research_conferences/language_illness_pain)