Eugenics: Critical historical and ethical reflections

Wednesday 21st January, 2015, 1:30 – 6pm

McCrum Lecture Theatre, Bene't Street, Cambridge

This afternoon workshop brings together historical and ethical perspectives on eugenics. It seeks to offer a more nuanced view of the concept than popular readings allow. It will critically assess the historical existence and ethical implications of eugenic practices in various national contexts from the twentieth century to the present day.

The workshop is the first to be held by the Gerard Duveen Social Sciences Society at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and is co-hosted by the Centre for Family Research, Cambridge.

1:30: Welcome and introduction

Sophie Zadeh

1:40: Eugenics and neo-Malthusianism: Infant life and death in the early twentieth century

Professor Alison Bashford

2:25: Eugenics and the state: Historic practices and 'reparative justice'

Dr Véronique Mottier

3:10: Making better babies: Artificial insemination and eugenics

Professor Martin Richards

3:55: Tea break

4:20: What is wrong with eugenics?

Professor Stephen Wilkinson

5:05: Clinically-assisted reproduction: Eugenic and/or problematic?

Sophie Zadeh

5:50: Concluding remarks

Professor Martin Richards