

British Academy – Final Abstract

Anna Winterbottom – ‘Medicine in the Indian Ocean World, 1500-1800’

May 2013

The research project focuses on the early modern history of medicine in the Indian Ocean World (IOW): a region now often described as the ‘cradle of globalisation’. The study of medicine will provide a nuanced account of the cultural effects of processes including the spread of religions, the movement of migrant populations, and the rise and fall of empires. Anna will combine different approaches to the topic including overviews of the trade in medical goods in the period combined with 'biographies' of specific medical substances or practises as they move through time and space. Anna will produce a monograph and supply data to two large scale collaborative projects based at Sussex University and McGill University. She will use archives and form research partnerships in Sri Lanka, India, East Africa, the UK, Canada, Europe and Iran and aim to produce content for a virtual exhibition on Sri Lankan medicine.