

#UCLfacesRace: Eugenics@UCL

Galton Lecture Theatre, 10 October 2014, 6 – 9pm



A fact-filled revelatory exploration of UCL's hitherto hidden history discusses Francis Galton's 'Eugenics Record Office', the research constructing unjust racial hierarchies and its legacy. In this first of three conversations in #UCLfacesRace, speakers and the audience are invited to consider how we evaluate the historical memory and, indeed, silence in order to address the challenges today. Please tweet through the event #UCLfacesRace.

On 10 October 1904, Francis Galton wrote to Sir Arthur Rücker (Principal of the University of London) with an offer to fund a study of National Eugenics, which he defined as: 'the influences that are socially controllable, on which the status of the nation depends. These are of two classes: (1) those which affect the race itself and (2) those which affect its health.' This date of this event commemorates that letter and takes place in a lecture theatre named after Francis Galton himself.

PROGRAMME

Convener: **Debbie Challis** is Public Programmer at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL. Her second book, *The Archaeology of Race. The Eugenic Ideas of Francis Galton and Flinders Petrie* (2013), is now in paperback.

Screening of Short Films: **Mahmoud Arif** (UCL Student) asks 'Why do we celebrate Francis Galton when he hated people like us?'; **Subhadra Das** (Curator, UCL Teaching & Research Collections, Biomedical & Galton) introduces the Galton Collection at UCL; **Carole Reeves** (UCL Science & Technology Studies) discusses the Haarfarbentafel, an instrument in the Galton Collection; **Debbie Challis** talks about the archaeologist Flinders Petrie's racial theories.

Topics and Speakers:

'The Galton Archive': **Katy Makin** (UCL Special Collections) as Project Archivist was responsible for managing the cataloguing of the Galton Papers as part of Codebreakers: Makers of Modern Genetics, a major digitisation project funded by the Wellcome Trust (<http://wellcomelibrary.org/using-the-library/subject-guides/genetics/makers-of-modern-genetics/>). She also oversaw the arrangement and cataloguing of related collections including the archive of the Galton Laboratory and the Karl Pearson Papers, all held by UCL Special Collections.

'Teaching about Science and Race at UCL': **Lars Fischer** (UCL History) was educated at Queen Mary and Westfield College (University of London) and UCL. Before returning to UCL, he was the Academic Director of the Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations in Cambridge and previously held lectureships in Modern European History at King's College London and German History at UCL. Grounded in a strong interest in historiographical issues and intellectual history, his research focuses predominantly on the history of antisemitism and Jewish/non-Jewish relations in the later modern German context.

'Gender and Eugenics': **Lesley Hall** FRHistS is Senior Archivist, Special Collections, Wellcome Library, and Honorary Lecturer in History of Medicine, UCL. She is the author of *Sex, Gender and Social Change in Britain since 1800* (Palgrave, 2nd edition, 2012), among other books, as well as numerous chapters and articles, including 'Women, Feminism and Eugenics' (1998) and (with Lucy Bland), 'Eugenics in Britain: The view from the metropole', in *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Eugenics* (2010).

'Nurturing Chinese students': **Vivienne Lo**, (UCL History) is Director of the UCL China Centre for Health and Humanity. Her research concerns the social and cultural origins of acupuncture and therapeutic exercise as well as the transmission of scientific knowledge along the so-called Silk Roads through to the modern Chinese medical diaspora.

'The economics of Eugenics': **Hugh Goodacre** (UCL Economics & University of Westminster) Teaching Fellow in Economics, University College London, and Senior Lecturer, University of Westminster, specialising in the history of economic thought, with particular reference to the colonialist roots of today's mainstream economics.

Eugenics@UCL – Factsheet

Dates and information mainly taken from the fuller timeline around eugenics in Alison Bashford & Philippa Levine (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Eugenics* (2010) and M. Eileen Magnello, 'The Non-Correlation of Biometrics and Eugenics: Rival Forms of Laboratory Work in Karl Pearson's Career at University College London Part 1 & 2', *Hist. Sci.*, xxxvii (1999).

- 1869 Francis Galton publishes *Hereditary Genius: An Inquiry into Its Laws and Consequences*
- 1883 Francis Galton defines eugenics in *Inquiries into Human Faculty and Its Development*.
- 1901 Influenced by Galton's *Natural Inheritance* (1889), Karl Pearson and Walter Weldon (both at UCL) found the journal *Biometrika* as a qualitative study of evolution.
- 1903 The Biometric Laboratory is formed at UCL under the directorship of Karl Pearson after a grant of £1,000 for 2 years from the Worshipful Company of Drapers. The grant of £500 per year continued until 1931-32.
- 1904 The Eugenics Record Office is established by Galton in 2 rooms at 50 Gower St at UCL with £1,000 for 3 years.
- 1907 The Eugenics Records Office is renamed the Francis Galton Laboratory for the Study of National Eugenics (UCL). 1 February Karl Pearson takes over directorship from Galton and establishes a collection of family histories with the publication of a *Treasury of Family Inheritance* from 1909 to 1930.
- The Eugenics Education Society is formed (independent from UCL)
- 1909 Francis Galton publishes *Essays in Eugenics* (mostly publications of lectures)
- 1911 Karl Pearson set up Department of Applied Statistics at UCL – both laboratories part of this department.
- Francis Galton dies and bequeaths £30,000 to UCL for the Eugenics Laboratory and a Chair. Paid staff at laboratory include Amy Barrington and Ethel Elderton.
- Karl Pearson is appointed first Galton Professor of Eugenics, UCL ; retires from Chair of Applied Mathematics.
- 1912 Eugenics Laboratory lecture series established. First International Eugenics Congress takes place in London.
- 1922 Drapers' Biometrics Laboratory and Galton National Eugenics Laboratory housed together in Bartlett Building (since rebuilt) and comprised lecture theatre, museum and library as well as research and experiment rooms.
- 1926 First publication by the Francis Galton Laboratory for National Eugenics of *Annals of Eugenics: A journal for the Scientific Study of Racial Problems*. Renamed *Annals of Human Genetics* in the 1950s.
- Eugenics Education Society renamed Eugenics Society
- 1933 Karl Pearson retires from UCL and the Galton Chair of Eugenics is split into three: Eugenics (R. A. Fisher), Statistics (Egon S. Pearson) and the Weldon Chair of Biometry (J. B. S. Haldane).
- 1963 The Francis Galton Laboratory for the Study of National Eugenics is renamed the Galton Laboratory of the Department of Human Genetics and Biometry, UCL.
- 1989 Eugenics Society renamed the Galton Institute
- 2011 Centenary of Galton's death marked by 2 exhibitions and public programme of events at UCL
- 2014 Galton Archive is digitised with Wellcome Collection funding: <http://wellcomelibrary.org/using-the-library/subject-guides/genetics/makers-of-modern-genetics/digitised-archives/francis-galton/#?asi=0&ai=129&z=-0.1275%2C-1.1983%2C1.2549%2C3.1869>