

KEIR WADDINGTON

School of History, Archaeology and Religion (Cardiff University)

<https://profiles.cardiff.ac.uk/staff/waddingtonk>

EDUCATION

1992-1995	PhD History (University College London)
1991-1992	MA History (University College London)
1988-1991	BA (Hons) History (University of East Anglia)

Favourite university module

A module on the Victorian city and architecture (wish I could remember the title) with Roy Church and Stefan Muthesius.

Favourite history book

Of all the books I read as an undergraduate, the one I remember most was F. B. Smith, The People's Health, 1830-1910 (1979). The book wasn't on any module reading list. Curiosity led me to pick it up in a second-hand bookshop in Brighton. But it sparked my interest in the social history of medicine and people's experiences.

EMPLOYMENT

2012-present	Professor History (Cardiff University)
2008-2012	Reader in History (Cardiff University)
2004-2008	Senior Lecturer in History (Cardiff University)
2002-2004	Lecturer in History (Cardiff University)

1997-2002	Research Fellow (Cardiff University)
1997-1999	Research Fellow (St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry)
1995-1996	Research Fellow (Wellcome Centre for History of Medicine, London)

I was a teaching assistant during my PhD but then moved into two research posts after my PhD. The first took me to Bethlem hospital (Bedlam) and the second to Barts where I nearly changed career to train (as my mother would say) as 'a proper doctor'. With one post ending, I got a job in Cardiff where I have stayed and have the privilege of working with some amazing colleagues who have helped shape (and reshape) me as an historian.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

'A World After the Pandemic: Covid-19 Narratives, Environment, and Histories of the Future' (with Jim Scown and Martin Willis), in Michael Fuchs et al. (eds), *Coming to Terms with a Crisis: Cultural Engagement with Covid-19* (transcript publishing, 2025).

"'In constant fear of some dire epidemic breaking out": Rural Responses to Infectious and Epidemic Disease, 1870-1920', *Rural History* 35:2 (2024), 211-232.

'Problems of Progress: Modernity and Writing the Social History of Medicine', *Social History of Medicine* 34:4 (2021), 1053-67.

'Vitriol in the Taff: River Pollution, Industry and Rural Public Health in late-Victorian South Wales', *Rural History* 29:1 (2018), 23-44.

'Science Humanities: Theory, Politics and Practice' (with Martin Willis and James Castell), *Journal of Literature and Science* 10:2 (2017), 1-5.

"'I should have thought that Wales was a wet part of the world": Drought, Rural Communities and Public Health, 1870-1914', *Social History of Medicine* 30:3 (2016), 590-611.

'The Dangerous Sausage: Diet, Meat and Disease in Victorian and Edwardian Britain', *Cultural and Social History* 8:1 (2011), 51-71.

An Introduction to the Social History of Medicine: Europe since 1500 (Palgrave, 2011).

'More like Cooking than Science: Narrating the Inside of the British Medical Laboratory, 1880-1914', *Journal of Literature and Science* 3:1 (2010), 50-70.

The Bovine Scourge: Meat, Tuberculosis and Public Health, 1850-1914 (Boydell, 2006).

Medical Education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, 1123-1995 (Boydell, 2003).

Charity and the London Hospitals, 1850-1898 (Woodford: Boydell, 2000).

The History of Bethlem (with Jonathan Andrews, Asa Briggs, Roy Porter, and Penny Tucker) (Routledge, 1997).

Thanks to Professor Roy Church (UEA) and Professor Martin Daunton (UCL), I started out as an economic historian who was interested in charities. This led me to hospitals, asylums, and medical schools and the social history of medicine, before I shifted focus to think about public health (an area I got my lowest essay mark in while an undergraduate) and the environment. Occasionally, I became side-tracked from reading Victorian gothic fiction into working on medicine and literature, often collaboratively. At the time these shifts in focus never felt like a shift. They have always been about following strands in the archives and thinking about how people in the past interacted with the institutions or the places they found themselves in – sometimes literally when writing about Bedlam and sometimes more generally in terms of the environment and landscapes they lived in. What has connected all these strands is an interest in everyday experiences.