

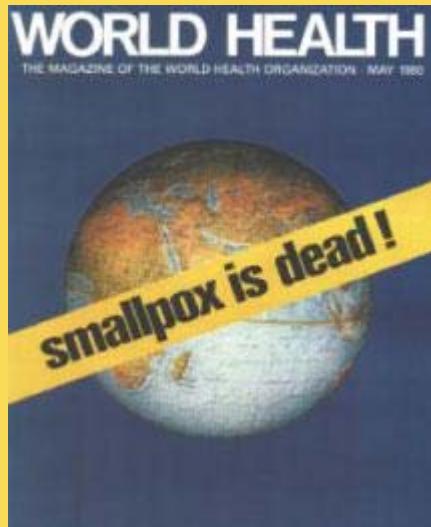
WHO 60th Anniversary Global Health Histories Seminars

LUNCHTIME SEMINAR,
Thursday 2nd October 2008
12.30 – 14.00, Library Meeting Room



The fruits of a new internationalism?: South Asian governments, the WHO and global smallpox eradication

Dr. Sanjoy Bhattacharya, The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, UK



Smallpox eradication is widely regarded as the greatest triumph of global public health in the 20th century. The achievement – formalized by the World Health Assembly in 1980 – was a monumental one. Smallpox killed on a large scale and maimed many survivors for life. This lecture focuses mainly on the national smallpox eradication projects in the South Asian sub-continent in the 1960s and the 1970s which received protracted attention from WHO and its international partners. Sanjoy Bhattacharya raises provocative questions often ignored by recent chroniclers of the programme. How did it develop, often in surprisingly unintended ways and directions? What were its organizational weaknesses and strengths? What strategies were deployed in the field and how were they adapted in different contexts? His presentation also considers lessons provided by the history of smallpox eradication – and the important strategic information it can provide to those involved in contemporary global health projects such as polio eradication and primary health care.

Co-organized with The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, University College, London
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The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL

