

Global Vaccination Graduate Research Scholarship

University of Tasmania

The Global Vaccination Revolution: A Transnational and Comparative Perspective

In 1798 Edward Jenner presented his thesis that inoculation with cowpox provided protection against smallpox, the greatest killer of the age. Against a background of revolution, war and imperial expansion, the idea, the practice and the cowpox virus itself (the first 'vaccine') spread around the globe astonishingly rapidly. By 1805 vaccination had gone round the world in both directions. Vaccination programs were solidly established in most European countries, the Americas and British India.

The specific aims of this project are to explain the rapid mobilization of opinion and resources in the vaccination cause, to analyze the aims and achievements of the early vaccination programs, and to understand the reception, positive and negative, of vaccination in a range of political, social and cultural contexts.

The project offers a range of possible topics for MA and PhD candidates. Given its geographical scope, for example, a regionally based study would be a good option. Applications from candidates able and wishing to pursue projects using sources in languages other than English are particularly encouraged. A range of perspectives — cultural, social, political and economic as well as demographic and medical — are viable. Issues of gender and race might be explored. Projects might also be developed on smallpox and older forms of inoculation in the eighteenth century, or on nineteenth-century developments, including compulsory vaccination and opposition to vaccination.

Applicants must hold at least an upper second class honours degree in history or cognate discipline and be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia.

For enquiries please contact Professor Michael Bennett on 03 6226 2302 or email michael.bennett@utas.edu.au

Applications can be downloaded from:

www.research.utas.edu.au/gr/scholarships/domestic_scholarships.htm

Applications close: 1 March 2008