



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF MEDICINE AND THE BODY IN THE RENAISSANCE

ISTITUTIO SANTORIANA  
FONDAZIONE COMEL

UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA



STUDIO FIRMANO  
PER LA STORIA DELL'ARTE MEDICA E DELLA SCIENZA

Julius-Maximilians-  
**UNIVERSITÄT  
WÜRZBURG**

**PSMEMM**  
Palgrave Studies in Medieval & Early Modern Medicine

CSMBR  
ONLINE  
EVENTS

# MEASURING HEALTH AND THE BODY

25  
JANUARY  
2022  
4.00 pm CET

SIZE, WEIGHT, AND PULSE IN MEDICAL THEORY AND PRACTICE

Organised by **MARSHA WUBELS** • University of Exeter

Expressing the Pulse in  
Seventeenth-Century England:  
Idioms, Numbers, & Measurement

**Yijie Huang**  
University of Cambridge

Food and Fat: Creating Body Size in  
Early Modern Germany

**Holly Fletcher**  
University of Sussex

A Weighty Matter: Understanding  
Santorio's 'Healthful Standard' and  
Early Modern Body-Weighing Practices

**Marsha Wubbels**  
University of Exeter

Using Big Numbers. The Meaning and  
Purpose of Weight Indications in Medical  
Texts on Corpulence, c. 1600-1900

**Alexander Pyrges**  
University of Würzburg

Taking measurement of the body is all but standard practice in modern medicine. Indeed, we rely to a great degree on figures such as our body weight and our heart rate to inform us of the state of our health. This seminar will present how and why the pre-modern body was measured and explore how new methods of measuring, quantifying, and understanding the body affected early modern medical theory and andpractice. The individual papers

practice. The individual papers presented will all explore how different aspects of the body such as fat, blood, and excreta, were measured using various instruments and research methods. As such, this seminar will address a myriad of questions, relating to how new instruments and methods of measurements affected medical theory and practice, to what extent they challenged or reinforced existing knowledge, how measurements helped to determine what was healthy and unhealthy, normal and abnormal, and how researching this can help us understand how early modern society understood the relationship between the body and its environment.

The event is free to attend but registration is required. Info at [csnbr.fondazionecomel.org](http://csnbr.fondazionecomel.org)