Fertility Medicine & the Body
Theory and Practice across the Premodern World

22-23 May 2023

Coordination
Tomaso M. Pedrotti dell’Acqua
Jan Seiwerth

Contacts
csmbr.fondazionecome.org
info@csmbr.fondazionecome.org

Domvs Comeliana
Pisa
22 May

09:00 Registration
09:30 Welcoming Address
09:45 Physicians, Rabbis & Women: Medieval Jewish Views & Practices on Generation, Fertility & Pregnancy
Carmen Caballero Navas
11:00 Coffee Break

Session I - Infertility & Preventing Conception

11:30 Women’s Infertility in the Kitab al-Malaki & its Latin Translations
Anna Gili
12:00 An Irish Fertility Ritual in Its Insular Context
Deborah Hayden
12:30 Menstruation & Fertility in the High Middle Ages
Koesie Bernheim
13:00 Lunch

Session II - Midwifery, Knowledge of Reproduction & Fertility

14:00 ‘The Uterine Liver, or the Foetus’s Friend’ Medical & Cultural Approaches to the Afterbirth in Early Modern Europe
Paige Donaghy
14:30 ‘For Defawe of Kopfng & of Kmynng’: Reconsidering the Medieval Midwife in Middle English Texts
Claire Collins
15:00 Fruitful Metaphors: the Regimen Praegnantium in Late-Medieval Europe
Noa Nikolsky
15:30 Fertility & Mental Health in Late Medieval Southern Europe
Naama Cohen-Hanegbi
16.00 ‘I Would Prove a Pretty Apothecary for You’ Lay Male Involvement in Tudor Fertility, Childbirth, & Maternal Care
Yishu Wang
16:40 Coffee Break
17.00 Fertility on Prescription: Comparing Medieval & Modern Reproductive Medicine
Regina Toepfer
17:00 Dinner

Session IV - Remediying Infertility

09:00 Helping the Childless in Ancient Rome: Roman Fertility Treatments
Rhian Williams
09:30 Precious Stones as a Tool to Regulate Fertility in the High Middle Ages
Fiona Harris-Stoertz
10:00 Women’s Health in the Spanish Manuscript Books of Secrets
Maria Muñoz
10:30 ‘Take by Mouth All the Medicines that Could Help Her Conceive’ Jeanne de Bourbon & Catherine de Médicis’ Attempts to Remedy Childlessness
Alexandra Forsyth
11:00 Coffee Break
11:30 ‘Eve & Ecclesia’ The Female Reproductive Body in Hildegard of Bingen
Tatiana Barkovskiy
12:30 ‘Sexual Practices Leading to Infertility in the Middle Ages
Andreas Prasinos
12:30 The Ottoman Medical Recommendations for Healthy Sexual Practice in the 17th-Century
Ibn Sallum Al-Halabi as a Case Study
Ayman Yasin Atat
13:00 Lunch

Session V - Sex & Fertility

13:30 ‘For Defawe of Kopfng & of Kmynng’: Reconsidering the Medieval Midwife in Middle English Texts
Claire Collins
14:30 ‘For Defawe of Kopfng & of Kmynng’: Reconsidering the Medieval Midwife in Middle English Texts
Claire Collins
15:00 Fertility & Mental Health in Late Medieval Southern Europe
Naama Cohen-Hanegbi
16.00 ‘I Would Prove a Pretty Apothecary for You’ Lay Male Involvement in Tudor Fertility, Childbirth, & Maternal Care
Yishu Wang
16:40 Coffee Break
17.00 Fertility on Prescription: Comparing Medieval & Modern Reproductive Medicine
Regina Toepfer
17:00 Dinner

Session VI - Age & Fertility

14:30 ‘Eve & Ecclesia’ The Female Reproductive Body in Hildegard of Bingen
Tatiana Barkovskiy
15:00 Fertility & Mental Health in Late Medieval Southern Europe
Naama Cohen-Hanegbi
16.00 ‘I Would Prove a Pretty Apothecary for You’ Lay Male Involvement in Tudor Fertility, Childbirth, & Maternal Care
Yishu Wang
16:40 Coffee Break
17.00 Fertility on Prescription: Comparing Medieval & Modern Reproductive Medicine
Regina Toepfer
17:00 Dinner

15:00 The “Narrowness of the Vessels” & Other Obstacles for the Multiplication of the Indigenous Population: Pregnancy, Childcare, & Child Born Rate in Las Casas’s Projects
Paola Uparela
15:30 ‘Eve & Ecclesia’ The Female Reproductive Body in Hildegard of Bingen
Tatiana Barkovskiy
16:00 Fertility Remedies in Early Colonial New Spain (1550–1620)
Jacqueline Holler
16:30 Coffee Break
17:00 ‘Bodies that Echo’ Resonances of Premodern In/Fertility in the Modern World
Tracey Loughran

23 May

15:00 The “Narrowness of the Vessels” & Other Obstacles for the Multiplication of the Indigenous Population: Pregnancy, Childcare, & Child Born Rate in Las Casas’s Projects
Paola Uparela
15:30 ‘Eve & Ecclesia’ The Female Reproductive Body in Hildegard of Bingen
Tatiana Barkovskiy
16:00 Fertility Remedies in Early Colonial New Spain (1550–1620)
Jacqueline Holler
16:30 Coffee Break
17:00 ‘Bodies that Echo’ Resonances of Premodern In/Fertility in the Modern World
Tracey Loughran

Programme

Organisers
Catherine Rider
Sarah Toulalan

Keynote Speakers
Carmen Caballero Navas
Regina Toepfer
Tracey Loughran
Fertility Medicine & the Body
Theory and Practice across the Premodern World

22-23 May 2023

Coordination
Tomaso M. Pedrotti dell’Acqua
Jan Seiwerth

Contacts
csmbr.fondazionecomel.org
info@csmbr.fondazionecomel.org

Domvs Comeliana
Pisa
Organisers
Catherine Rider
Sarah Toulalan

Keynote Speakers
Carmen Caballero Navas
Regina Toepfer
Tracey Loughran

Programme

22 May

09:00 Registration
09:30 Welcoming Address

09.45 Physicians, Rabbis & Women: Medieval Jewish Views & Practices on Generation, Fertility & Pregnancy
Carmen Caballero Navas

11:00 Coffee Break

Session I - Infertility & Preventing Conception

11.30 Women’s Infertility in the Kitab al-Malaki & its Latin Translations
Anna Gili

12.00 An Irish Fertility Ritual in its Insular Context
Deborah Hayden

12.30 Menstruation & Fertility in the High Middle Ages
Kosalie Bernheim

13.00 Lunch

Session II - Midwifery, Knowledge of Reproduction & Fertility

14:00 ‘The Uterine Liver, or the Foetus’s Friend’ Medical & Cultural Approaches to the Afterbirth in Early Modern Europe
Paige Donaghy

14:30 ‘For Defawe of Koprig & of Kümmyng’: Reconsidering the Medieval Midwife in Middle English Texts
Claire Collins

15.00 Fruitful Metaphors: the Regimen Praegnantium in Late Medieval Europe
Noa Nikolsky

15.30 Fertility & Mental Health in Late Medieval Southern Europe
Naama Cohen-Hanegbi

16.00 ‘I Would Prove a Pretty Apothecary for You’ Lay Male Involvement in Tudor Fertility, Childbirth, & Maternal Care
Yishu Wang

16.40 Coffee Break

17.00 Fertility on Prescription: Comparing Medieval & Modern Reproductive Medicine
Regina Toepfer

17.30 Coffee Break

19:30 Dinner

Session IV - Remedying Infertility

09:00 Helping the Childless in Ancient Rome; Roman Fertility Treatments
Rhian Williams

09:30 Precious Stones as a Tool to Regulate Fertility in the High Middle Ages
Fiona Harris-Stoertz

10:00 Women’s Health in the Spanish Manuscript Books of Secrets
Maria Muñoz

10:30 ‘Take by Mouth All the Medicines that Could Help Her Conceive’ Jeanne de Bourbon & Catherine de Médicis’ Attempts to Remedy Childlessness
Alexandra Forsyth

11:00 Coffee Break

Session V - Sex & Fertility

11:30 Eve & Ecclesia’
The Female Reproductive Body in Hildegard of Bingen
Tatiana Barkovskiy

12:00 Sexual Practices Leading to Infertility in the Middle Ages
Andreas Frasinos

12:30 The Ottoman Medical Recommendations for Healthy Sexual Practice in the 17th-Century
Ibn Sallum Al-Halabi as a Case Study
Ayman Yasin Atat

13:00 Lunch

Session VI - Age & Fertility

14:00 Minimum Marriagable Age

23 May

15.00 The ‘Narrowness of the Vessels’ & Other Obstacles for the Multiplication of the Indigenous Population: Pregnancy, Childcare, & Child Born Rate in Las Casas’s Projects
Paola Uparela

15:30 Windy Fortunes: the Geopolitics of Pregnancy Optimisation in Late Sixteenth-Century Europe
Isabel Davis

15:45 Coffee Break

‘Bodies that Echo’
Resonances of Premodern Infertility in the Modern World
Tracey Loughran

16:00 Fertility Remedies in Early Colonial New Spain (1550–1620)
Jacqueline Holler

16:30 Coffee Break

17:00 ‘Bodies that Echo’
Resonances of Premodern Infertility in the Modern World
Tracey Loughran

17:30 Dinner

Session VII - Fertility in Political & Colonial Contexts

15:00 The ‘Narrowness of the Vessels’ & Other Obstacles for the Multiplication of the Indigenous Population: Pregnancy, Childcare, & Child Born Rate in Las Casas’s Projects
Paola Uparela

15:30 Windy Fortunes: the Geopolitics of Pregnancy Optimisation in Late Sixteenth-Century Europe
Isabel Davis

16:00 Fertility Remedies in Early Colonial New Spain (1550–1620)
Jacqueline Holler

16:30 Coffee Break

17:00 ‘Bodies that Echo’
Resonances of Premodern Infertility in the Modern World
Tracey Loughran

17:30 Dinner

Session VIII - Fertility in Political & Colonial Contexts

15:00 The ‘Narrowness of the Vessels’ & Other Obstacles for the Multiplication of the Indigenous Population: Pregnancy, Childcare, & Child Born Rate in Las Casas’s Projects
Paola Uparela

15:30 Windy Fortunes: the Geopolitics of Pregnancy Optimisation in Late Sixteenth-Century Europe
Isabel Davis

16:00 Fertility Remedies in Early Colonial New Spain (1550–1620)
Jacqueline Holler

16:30 Coffee Break

17:00 ‘Bodies that Echo’
Resonances of Premodern Infertility in the Modern World
Tracey Loughran

17:30 Dinner
Programme

22 May

09:00 Registration
09:30 Welcoming Address
09:45 Physicians, Rabbis & Women: Medieval Jewish Views & Practices on Generation, Fertility & Pregnancy
Carmen Caballero Navas
11:00 Coffee Break

Session I - Infertility & Preventing Conception
11:30 Women’s Infertility in the Kitab al-Malaki & its Latin Translations
Anna Gili
12:00 An Irish Fertility Ritual in Its Insular Context
Deborah Hayden
12:30 Menstruation & Fertility in the High Middle Ages
Rosalie Bernheim
13:00 Lunch

Session II - Midwifery, Knowledge of Reproduction & Fertility
14:00 ‘The Uterine Liver, or the Foetus’s Friend’ Medical & Cultural Approaches to the Afterbirth in Early Modern Europe
Paige Donaghy
14:30 ‘For Defawte of Kepyng & of Kunnyng’: Reconsidering the Medieval Midwife in Middle English Texts
Claire Collins
15:00 Fertility Remedies: the Regimen Praegnantium in Late-Medieval Europe
Noa Nikolsky
15:30 Fertility & Mental Health in Late Medieval Southern Europe
Naama Cohen-Hanegbi
16:00 ‘I Would Prove a Pretty Apothecary for You’ Lay Male Involvement in Tudor Fertility, Childbirth, & Maternal Care
Yishu Wang

16:40 Coffee Break

Session III - Maternal Care
16:00 Women’s Health in the Spanish Manuscript Books of Secrets
Maria Muñoz
17:00 Fertility on Prescription: Comparing Medieval & Modern Reproductive Medicine
Regina Toepfer
19:30 Dinner

23 May

Session IV - Remediing Infertility
09:00 Helping the Childless in Ancient Rome: Roman Fertility Treatments
Rhiannon Williams
09:30 Precious Stones as a Tool to Regulate Fertility in the High Middle Ages
Fiona Harris-Stoezter
10:00 Coffee Break

10:30 Women’s Health in the Spanish Manuscript Books of Secrets
Maria Muñoz
11:00 Coffee Break

Session V - Sex & Fertility
11:30 ‘Eve & Ecclesia’ The Female Reproductive Body in Hildegard of Bingen
Tatiana Barkovskiy
12:00 Sexual Practices Leading to Infertility in the Middle Ages
Andreas Prasinos
12:30 The Ottoman Medical Recommendations for Healthy Sexual Practice in the 17th-Century: Ibn Sallum Al-Halabi as a Case Study
Ayman Yasin Atat
13:00 Lunch

Session VI - Age & Fertility
14:00 Minimum Marriageable Age

Organisers
Catherine Rider
Sarah Toulalan

Keynote Speakers
Carmen Caballero Navas
Regina Toepfer
Tracey Loughran

in Early Modern Sweden: from Physical Signs & Malleable Ideals to Abstract Concepts & Strict Norms
Maja Bendestam
14:30 ‘They Are So Ripe They Are Rotten’ The Cesation of Terms in Early Modern Culture
Anna Graham

Session VII - Fertility in Political & Colonial Contexts
15:00 The “Narrowness of the Vessels” & Other Obstacles for the Multiplication of the Indigenous Population: Pregnancy, Childcare, & Child Born Rate in Las Casas’s Projects
Paola Uparela
15:30 Windy Fortunes: the Geopolitics of Pregnancy Optimisation in Late Sixteenth-Century Europe
Isabel Davis
16:00 Fertility Remedies in Early Colonial New Spain (1550–1620)
Jacqueline Hoffer
16:30 Coffee Break

17:00 ‘Bodies that Echo’ Resonances of Premodern Infertility in the Modern World
Tracey Loughran
Fertility Medicine & the Body
Theory and Practice across the Premodern World
22-23 May 2023