

LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



**SYMPOSIUM:  
ENTWINED HEALTH SYSTEM HISTORIES: NEW ZEALAND AND  
BRITAIN SINCE 1938**

**DATE:** Tuesday 24 October 2017, 12.50-6.30

**VENUE:** Penthouse, New Zealand High Commission, 80 Haymarket, London  
SW1Y 4TQ

The aim of this symposium is to consider the history of parallel developments in the New Zealand and British health systems, and to ask how these might be explained. Both countries were forerunners in legislating for universal, comprehensive care and coverage. Their history of cross-cutting influences goes back at least to the time of New Zealand's Social Security Act (1938) and Britain's Beveridge Report (1942). More recent parallels have included managerialism in the hospital sector (1980s), the internal market (1990s) and debates over contracting services (2000s). How do we explain this? One hypothesis worth exploring is that 'families of nations' linked by language, culture and institutional legacies can follow similar trajectories. We want to consider whether this idea is applicable, and if so, how it might work.

In the first part of the meeting there will be academic presentations from historians on what is known so far. Then we will have an oral history session, where people who have worked more recently in the two systems can join in a structured discussion and share their reflections.

The detailed programme and the call for oral history participants are overleaf.  
**PLEASE CIRCULATE TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED!**

Attendance is free, but you must REGISTER FIRST. Contact

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## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

### ENTWINED HEALTH SYSTEM HISTORIES: NEW ZEALAND AND BRITAIN SINCE 1938

**12.50-1.00 Welcome and Introduction**

**1.00–2.30 Panel 1**

- **Martin Gorsky (LSHTM)** Introduction: Culture, language and networks: ‘families of nations’ and the making of health policy in Britain and New Zealand since 1938.
- **John Stewart (Wellcome Unit, Oxford)** The Old Country and the New Country: British progressives and social reform in New Zealand, 1934-1948.
- **Glen O’Hara (Oxford Brookes)** ‘The Land with the Midas Touch’: British Perceptions of New Zealand between the 1930s and the 1970s.

**2.30-2.45 Tea/Coffee Break**

**2.45-4.15 Panel 2**

- **Linda Bryder (Auckland)** No grounds for complacency: New Zealand’s “National Health Service” and Sir Douglas Robb, 1938-1974
- **Roland Petchey (City)** New Zealand and U.K. health policy in the 1950s: the role of transnational knowledge networks and think tanks
- **Hayley Brown (LSHTM)** Neo-liberal ideas and policy-making in the United Kingdom and New Zealand National Health Services in the 1980s

**4.15-4.30 Break**

**4.30 – 6.30 Oral History Discussion**

We invite attendees who have worked either short- or long-term across the two systems to share reflections in an open discussion, structured around these themes:

- **Motives for moving:** what have been the factors encouraging New Zealand professionals to work in Britain, and vice versa?
- **Networks:** what were the professional networks, both formal and informal, that connected the two countries? How did these operate?
- **Impressions 1:** what impressions did you form of the similarities and differences between the two systems?
- **Impressions 2:** how would you compare the political values and public expectations of these two systems?
- **Knowledge exchanges:** in your roles, what observations have you formed about the flow of ideas and policy-learning between the two countries? Is this distinctive, or typical of health policy-making in advanced industrial nations?
- **Conclusions:** What have we learned?

**6.30–c.8.00 Drinks Reception**

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## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

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Are you a doctor, health services manager, health economist or health services researcher who has worked in both the New Zealand and UK health systems? Would you be interested in being part of a symposium that explores the history of linkages between the two countries in this field? If so, read on for details:

- The symposium arises from a collaboration between the history departments of the University of Auckland and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It is sponsored by NZ/UK Link and by the Wellcome Trust.
- We are interested in the history of parallel developments of the British NHS and New Zealand's health system. This goes back at least to the influence of the NZ Social Security Act on Britain's Beveridge Report in the 1940s. More recent parallels have included managerialism in the hospital sector (1980s), the internal market (1990s) and debates over contracting services (2000s).
- We would like to know more about the viewpoints and reminiscences of people who have experience of both health systems, particularly those with roles in health policy.
- Partly we are interested in personal biographies, to understand the networks through which New Zealanders have come to work in Britain's NHS, or vice versa. We also want to learn how knowledge transfer and policy learning across the two systems has worked, whether at the technical level or that of political ideas. Does it make sense to talk of a 'family of nations' where health policy is concerned?
- The day will begin with some academic presentations from historians on what is known so far. Then we would like to have an oral history session, where participants join in a structured discussion and share their reflections.

If interested, please contact: Dr Hayley Brown, Centre for History in Public Health, London  
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