

## [‘Taming the Tropics’: Naval Surgeons, Tropical Medicine and Colonial India](#)

Announcement published by Lucy Dale on Monday, December 9, 2019

Type:

Seminar

Date:

January 21, 2020

Location:

United Kingdom

Subject Fields:

British History / Studies, Colonial and Post-Colonial History / Studies, History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Maritime History / Studies, South Asian History / Studies

Join us for a free talk in central London on tropical medicine and colonial India.

Tropical diseases, particularly amongst those voyaging to Asia, were a major concern for the British Empire. Keeping sailors healthy and free from disease was essential since Britain relied on them for its military and commercial needs.

Manikarnika Dutta (University of Oxford) will use new research to show how naval surgeons shaped tropical medicine and hygiene in the 1800s. Years of working in the Indian Ocean enabled surgeons to conduct surveys of and experiments on ailing seamen. Their ideas often refined and even challenged medical knowledge back in Britain, and were part of a wider imperial aim of ‘taming the tropics’.

Covering fevers, plague and cholera, this paper will draw upon the writings of naval surgeons, medical journals, newspaper reports and a wide range of other sources.

Seminars start at 5.15pm in Wolfson NB01, Senate House, London, WC1 7HU.

All are welcome and there is no need to book.

[Find out more about the Maritime History and Culture Seminars](#)

Contact Info:

Lucy Dale

Assistant Curator | Royal Museums Greenwich

Contact Email:

[ldale@rmg.co.uk](mailto:ldale@rmg.co.uk)

URL:

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/exhibitions-events/taming-tropics-naval-surgeons-tropical-medicine-and-colonial-india>

Citation: Lucy Dale. ‘Taming the Tropics’: Naval Surgeons, Tropical Medicine and Colonial India. H-Announce. 12-09-2019. <https://networks.h-net.org/node/73374/announcements/5526402/%E2%80%98taming-tropics%E2%80%99-naval-surgeons-tropical-medicine-and-colonial>

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