

Workshop:

***Establishing  
Medical Genetics:  
Programs, Practices, Political  
Contexts, ca. 1910-1960***

28 – 30 June 2007  
Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen



Recent research into the history of science and medicine has demonstrated that the development of the field of medical genetics during the early decades of the Twentieth Century was fundamentally linked to the emergence of eugenics. The workshop will examine the establishment of medical genetics in an international perspective by placing it within the context of longer term developments of eugenic programs and medical research policies. Emphasis will be placed on examining research programs and practices, their political and cultural contexts, as well as the role they played in the development of scientific standards and research trends. Further, it will be explored how specific local and national background conditions contributed to the institutionalization of medical genetics in Germany, England, the United States, Israel, and France.

**Organization:**

Institute for the History of Medicine  
Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen  
Jheringstr. 6, 35392 Gießen, Germany

**Convenors:**

Volker Roelcke, Anne Cottebrune

***Venue:***

*Congress Hall* (Kongresshalle)  
Berliner Platz 2, Gießen

## **Program**

### **Thursday, 28 June**

Room: Kerkrade-Zimmer

- 16.00 Get together / Coffee and Tea
- 16.30 Anne Cottebrune, Volker Roelcke:  
*Welcome*
- 16.45 Volker Roelcke: *Introduction*
- 17.00 Bernd Gausemeier (Berlin): *The Impact of Genealogy on the Formation of the Field of Medical Genetics*
- 17.45 Edmund Ramsden (London): *Lionel Penrose and the Population Genetics of mental Ability, Deficiency and Disease in the UK and US*
- 19.30 Dinner (India Restaurant, Ludwigstraße 8)

### **Friday, 29 June**

Room: Kerkrade-Zimmer

- 9.30 Volker Roelcke (Giessen): *Establishing the Scientific Foundations of Eugenic Policies: Ernst Rüdin and Psychiatric Genetics at the German Psychiatric Research Institute, 1918-1945*
- 10.15 Sheila Weiss (Potsdam, NY): *Between Church and State: The Eugenics of Otmar Freiherr von Verschuer, 1930-1968*

- Coffee break -

- 11.30 Etienne Lepicard (Jerusalem/ Giessen): *Eugenics and Demography in the work of Alexis Carrel and Jean Sutter, ca. 1930-1960.*

- 12.15 Ohad Parnes (Berlin): *Robert Rössle and the Pathology of the Family*

- Lunch -

Room: Versailles-Zimmer

- 14.00 Staffan Müller-Wille (Exeter): *Hermann Lundborg and Gunnar Dahlberg on eugenics and medical genetics - a comparison*

- 14.45 Paul Weindling (Oxford): *International anti-racist networks of biomedical scientists in the 1930s and 40s*

- Coffee break -

- 16.00 Alexander von Schwerin (Braunschweig): *The Legacy of Mice and Rabbits in German Medical Genetics 1930-1970*

- 16.45 Anne Cottebrune (Giessen): *Franz Joseph Kallmann (1897-1965) and the Roots of Psychiatric Genetics in the United States: Transfer of German Scientific Concepts in the Context of North American Eugenics*

- Coffee break -

- 18.00 Garland Allen (Washington): *Waxing and Waning of Genetic Determinism: Criticisms of Eugenics, 1935-1950 and the Rise of the 'New' Genetic Determinism, 1969-2000*

- 18.45 Nurit Kirsh (Tel Aviv): *Chaim Sheba, Elisabeth Goldschmidt and the Screening for Genetic Diseases in Israel during the 1950s*

20.00 Dinner ("Takt", Ludwigstraße 30)

### **Saturday, 30 June**

Room: Kerkrade-Zimmer

- 9.15 Pnina G. Abir-Am (Brandeis University/ Belmont, MA): *The Rockefeller Foundation's shift of strategy in the post WW2 era: Ramifications for Molecular Biology and Genetics*

- 10.00 Heike Petermann (Münster): *Medical Genetics and Eugenics in Germany, the UK, and USA: The Path to the Ciba Symposium "Man and his future" (London, 1962)*

- Coffee break -

- 11.00 Diane Paul (Boston): *Newborn Screening and the Rhetoric of Reproduction in the 1960s*

- 11.45 Helga Satzinger (London): *Comments*

- 12.00 General discussion