



standards. An article is published in *Social History of Medicine* (Soc Hist Med) (2015) 28 (1): 22-44. doi: 10.1093/shm/hku068, URL: <http://shm.oxfordjournals.org/content/28/1/22.abstract>).

Another case study focuses on Sri Lankan medical objects from the Kandyan period (c. 1595-1815) in museum collections. I use the objects to reflect on some key questions about cosmopolitanism and periodisation in Sri Lankan history as well as understanding how material culture relates to medical culture. The Casey Wood collection of medical objects from Sri Lanka is discussed on this blog, written with other McGill researchers while I was studying this collection (<http://blogs.mcgill.ca/caseywoodcollectionsproject/>).

A further case study in progress focuses on the medicinal tree *Azadirachta indica*, or 'neem'. Neem has been a test-case for battles over intellectual property, beginning with the legal battle over the patent claimed by a multinational company during the 1990s. This prompted an investigation of its traditional uses and widespread advocacy for planting and using neem, so that it now grows in around eighty countries. My work investigates the earlier history of the distribution of neem, looking at botanical descriptions and herbarium specimens from the late sixteenth century onwards. I am particularly interested in the transplantation of neem to Eastern Africa by South Asian migrants and its acceptance within traditional African medicine.

In addition to my own work, I organised a conference back in 2013 at McGill University called 'Histories of Medicine and Healing in the Indian Ocean World'. The papers from this conference as well as some additional essays and an afterword by Michael Pearson were edited by Facil Tesfaye and me and published as *Histories of Medicine and Healing in the Indian Ocean World* (Palgrave, 2015; Vol. 1

<http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137567604> and 2 <http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137567611>). The collection ranges

from work on the writings of al-Razi to fertility medicine on the early modern Malabar coast of India to the healthcare of migrant workers in Mauritius and it includes writings by historians and anthropologists.

My British Academy fellowship has also allowed me the time to complete work on my first monograph, *Hybrid Knowledge in the Early East India World* (Palgrave, 2016; <http://www.palgrave.com/la/book/9781137380197>) and to contribute to the co-edited volume, *The East India Company and the Natural World* (Palgrave, 2014 <http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9781137427267>).