

Anglophone travel literature and health tourism (18th-19th century)

Master seminar (M1 and M2), 24h, 3 ECTS

The intersection of traveling and health has recently become an eerie combination of restrictions, impossibilities, and risks. As members of the European Union, the larger Western world, and a globalized world, we have lived with the belief in unlimited and relatively safe traveling options. But the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020 suddenly confronted us with the dangers of infection, xenophobia, closed borders, warnings of risk zones as well as major social differences. Every pandemic – be it the fourteenth-century Black Death, the 1918 Spanish flu, or the current 2020 disease – has produced individual medical as well as social, political, cultural, and economic hardships and crises that effected radical changes in societies and individuals all over the world. The difference today is that we have at least more insight into how to fight such a pandemic. Moreover, in the past, questions of health have also motivated people to travel because they were doctors or nurses who wanted to help in the fight against diseases or tourists who looked for rest and recreation but succumbed to illness or even aristocrats who tried to escape from diseases and chronic illness by hiding in supposedly secure and healthy locations in Southern Europe.

The narratives studied in this class stem from European and North-American Anglophone travel literature (understood in its broadest sense, i.e. travelogues, diaries, reportage, novels, short stories etc.) of the 18th and 19th centuries.

In our discussions, we will thematize questions of narrative perspective and genre, the representation of otherness and othering, language used to depict diseases and their effects on human behavior and traveling, health resorts in Southern Europe and their climate as well as questions of well-being.

By including medical, historical, and cultural backgrounds as well as conventions of travel writing as life writing, we aim at a thorough understanding of the intersections of disease/health, travel, and writing and of how past literary (in a broad sense) knowledge can be used to discuss present developments.

This course has been designed as an online seminar taught by professors from Germany, France and Portugal:

- Prof. Carmen Birkle, Philipps-Universität Marburg
- Prof. Jan Borm, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines/Université Paris-Saclay
- Dr. hab. Fátima Outeirinho, Universidade do Porto.

The seminar is scheduled Tuesdays, 4-6pm (French time). Six sessions will be organized together by the three universities November 3, 10, 17, 24 and December 1 and 8.

EUGLOH students are welcome to join the seminar either as guest listeners or to enroll with Prof. Borm.

To validate the 3 ECTS, EUGLOH students need to attend all of the sessions (in case of illness, provide medical certificate). They also have to make a 20-minute oral presentation on one of the set texts and to write a paper in English of a minimum of 6000 signs at the end of the semester on a set text (deadline January 11, 2021).

Provisional Schedule:

- Sept 22 – Intro – travel literature (History of exploration, Grand Tour, tourism, health tourism)
- Sept 29 – Fielding, Henry. *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon* (1755)
- Oct 6 – Smollett, Tobias. *Travels in France and Italy* (1766)
- Oct 13 – Sterne, Laurence. *Sentimental Journey* (1768)
- Oct 20 – Thicknesse, Philip. *A Year's Journey through France and Part of Spain* (1777)
- Nov 3 – tbd
- Nov 10 – Titmarsh, M. A. (Thackeray, William Makepeace). *Notes of a Journey from Cornhill to Grand Cairo* (1844, chapter on Lisbon)
- Nov 17 – Bennett. *Winter and Spring on the Shores of the Mediterranean*
- Nov 24 – tbd
- Dec 1 – tbd
- Dec 8 – tbd
- Dec 15 – Mayle, Peter. *A Year in Provence* (1989)

Reading List:

Fielding, Henry. *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon* (1755)

<https://archive.org/details/b30526310>

Smollett, Tobias. *Travels in France and Italy* (1766)

<https://archive.org/details/travelsthroughfr00smol/page/n65/mode/2up>

Sterne, Laurence, *Sentimental Journey* (1768)

<https://archive.org/details/asentimentaljou01unkngoog/page/n29/mode/2up>

Thicknesse, Philip. *A Year's Journey through France and Part of Spain* (1777)

<https://archive.org/details/yearsjourneythro00thic/page/176/mode/2up>

Beckford, William. *Italy with Sketches of Spain and Portugal*, London, (1834), 2 vols.

Vol. 1 - <https://archive.org/details/italywithsketches00beck/page/n25/mode/2up>

Vol. 2 - <https://archive.org/details/italywithsketches00bec>

Borrow, George. *The Bible in Spain: or the Journey, Adventures, and Imprisonment of an Englishman in an Attempt to Circulate the Scriptures in the Peninsula* (1843)

<https://archive.org/details/bibleinspainorj06borrgoog>

Titmarsh, M. A. (Thackeray, William Makepeace), *Notes of a Journey from Cornhill to Grand Cairo* (1844, chapter on Lisbon) - <https://archive.org/details/notesofjourneyfr00thac>

Dickens, Charles. *Pictures from Italy* (1846)

<https://archive.org/stream/picturesfromital00dickrich#page/n7/mode/2up>

Bennett, James Henry. *Winter and Spring on the Shores of the Mediterranean* (1870)

<https://archive.org/details/winterspringonsh00unse/page/n17/mode/2up>

Some critical references:

Haley, Bruce. *The Health Body and Victorian Culture* (1978)

Howell, Jessica. *Exploring Victorian Travel Literature: Disease, Race and Climate* (2014)

Hulme, Peter and Youngs, Tim (eds.). *The Cambridge Companion to Travel Writing* (2002)

Thorold, Peter. *The British in France. Visitors and Residents since the Revolution* (2008)