



## **Seminar in Early Modern Economic and Social History Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, Lent 2020**

The seminar meets Thursdays at 5 pm in Room 12 of the History Faculty.  
We normally have dinner with the speaker afterwards, to which all are welcome.  
Convenors: Amy Erickson, Leigh Shaw-Taylor, Hillary Taylor, and Paul Warde

**23 January: Samantha Williams (Cambridge)**

### ***The ‘unruly infected’: enforcing the plague orders in Cambridge in 1625***

The plague orders that were issued by the English government between 1518 and 1666 aimed to ensure treatment of the sick and limit the spread of the disease, but government orders were only as good as their enforcement at the local level. Focussing on Cambridge, this paper examines the way in which plague orders were implemented, and infringements against them punished, as heard at the Vice Chancellor’s and Mayor’s Court in 1625.

**6 February: Paul Warde (Cambridge)**

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**20 February: Karolina Hutkova (London School of Economics)**

### ***West Indies technologies in the East Indies: Imperial preference and sugar business in Bihar, 1800-1850s***

European sugar entrepreneurs in Bihar adopting West Indian sugar technologies in the 1830s-40s faced a lack of irrigation technologies, a lack of internal transport networks, and low yielding sugar cane varieties. When Britain equalised duties on slave and non-slave sugar, London prices fell and Indian sugar producers went bankrupt. Sugar was among the chief Indian exports and a major source of foreign exchange. This policy change betrays inconsistency in British imperial policies towards overseas colonies and a lack of consideration of colonial manufacturing.

**12 March: Jonas Lindstrom (Uppsala University)**

### ***Making verbs capture change***

The verb-oriented method was developed to make possible the study of work in the early modern period (see M. Ågren, ed., *Making a Living, Making a Difference: Gender and Work in Early Modern European Society* (2017)). To what extent, and how, can it be used to study the transition to the modern world? How do verb phrases relate to occupational descriptors, to questions of specialization and to changing labour relations?

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