

Global Health Histories Seminar 88

THURSDAY, 21 May 2015

| 14.00-15.30 CET | Library meeting room |



Professor Brian Balmer

*University College London,
United Kingdom*



Dr Caitriona McLeish

*University of Sussex,
United Kingdom*



Dr Maurizio Barbeschi

*Preparedness, Mass Gatherings
and Deliberate Events Team,
World Health Organization*

Chemical and Biological Weapons

Forty years ago, as the Cold War entered a period of détente, the Biological Weapons Convention came into force, banning disease as a weapon of war. There are currently 172 nations that are States Parties to the Treaty. Prof Balmer and Dr McLeish will present some early findings from a three-year research project on the historical context of the treaty. They will provide an overview of the history of the treaty and the weapons it bans, and focus on two aspects of the context: US and UK press coverage of biological warfare during the treaty negotiations; and the role of the WHO in contributing to the discussions about biological disarmament.

Dr Barbeschi's presentation will examine the issue of CBW and WHO, drawing from his experience as Senior Policy Officer of the Verification Division of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, CBW Inspector in the UN Mission in Iraq and as Head of the WHO component to the UNSG investigation mission to the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria, 2013.

For more information, please contact: GHHistories@who.int