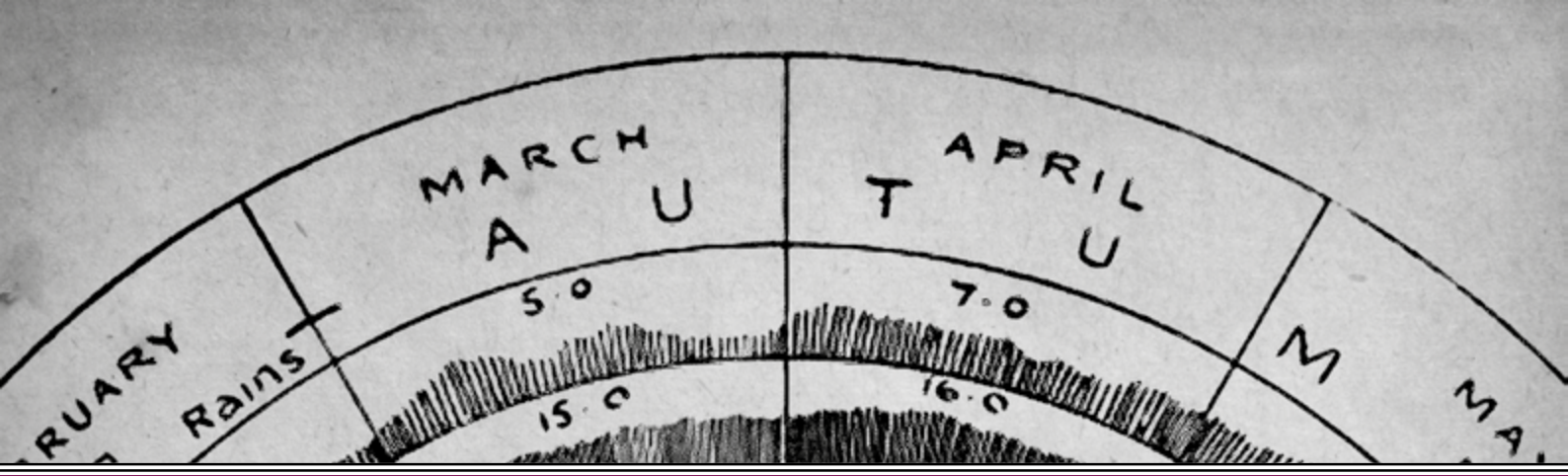
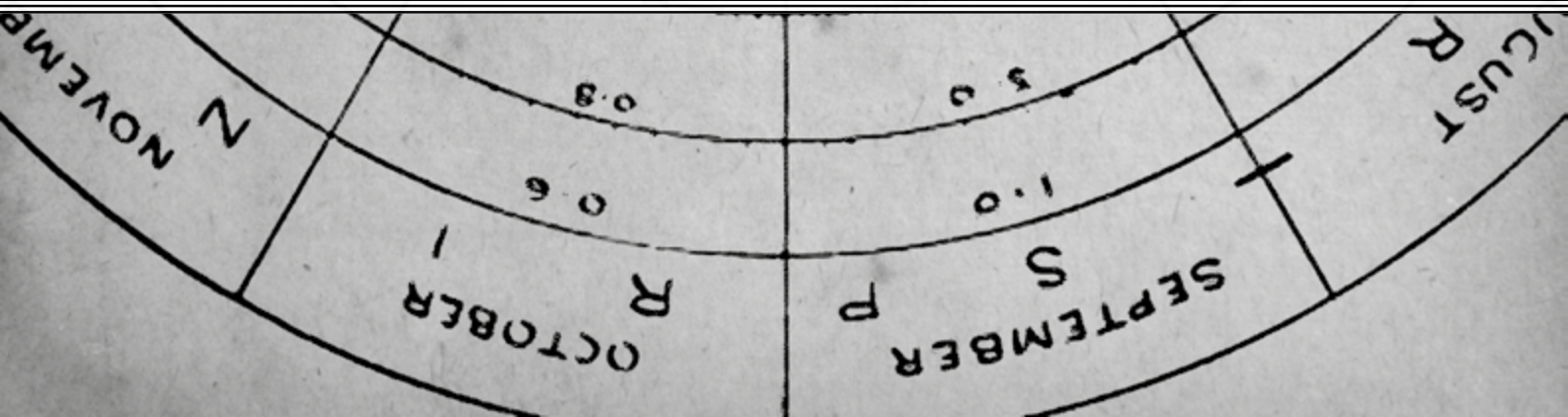


CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Palgrave Handbook for the History of Epidemiology

Editors: Lukas Engelmann, Carolina Mayes & John Nott

The **Epidemy Lab** at the University of Edinburgh invites proposals for contributions to an innovative, wide-ranging, and interdisciplinary Open Access collection, funded by the European Research Council.



THE AIM OF THE HANDBOOK

- to revise the history of epidemiological theories, practices, and frontiers: how and why have theories of transmission changed, how have practices and methods shaped knowledge of crowd disease and population health, and who has drawn up the boundaries of epidemiology?
- to unpack the scope and depth of epidemiological reasoning in modern times: how have outbreaks been separated from endemics, how have patterns of disease been measured and visualized, how have epidemics been defined and characterized, and who has been trusted to contain and control epidemics?
- to focus on the transfer of epidemiological knowledge, on theories and practices in transit and on the networks formed at the frontiers of knowing, understanding and controlling epidemic phenomena; from state craft to statistical concepts, from imperial governance to environmental exposure, from occupational risks to maternal health, from microbiology to sociology and from economic modelling to anthropological theorizing.
- to challenge the common historical geography of epidemiological thought and practice, to move the field's historiography beyond its overly narrow Anglo-American conception.
- to provide an accessible, disruptive, and instructive teaching and reference resource for students and researchers in the history of science, technology, and medicine, in medical anthropology and sociology, in STS, as well as for public health and epidemiology itself.

PRAISE FOR THE HANDBOOK PROJECT

"a much-needed proposal from an under-researched field."

"an exciting, timely and ambitious project which promises to expand the scholarship on the history and practice of epidemiology well beyond the rigid parameters of existing studies"

"This handbook on the history of epidemiology is an excellent idea."

"a persuasive case for the need for a new, authoritative study of the history of epidemiology"

"goes beyond the usual histories of epidemiology, which tend to be organized around major precursors and figures of the discipline and on the development and refinement of epidemiological knowledge and tools, particularly statistics and modelling"

STRUCTURE

The handbook is structured into three sections, each accommodating 10 – 15 chapters.

Section 1: Concepts, theories and methods

The modern history of epidemiology is often told as a series of increasingly complex formal approaches to epidemic phenomena. However, the theoretical and conceptual foundations of epidemiological reasoning - with and without numbers - reach far beyond formal matters. What counts as epidemic crisis, how the validity of vaccine thresholds is determined, and methodological controversies in the evaluation of effective interventions in chronic diseases are rooted in a history of epistemological conflicts which exceed the boundaries of the epidemiological project. The aim of the chapters assembled in this section is to embed epidemiological theorizing in the broader theoretical currents of science and medicine in the last 150 years.

Chapter topics might include but are not limited to:

disease; endemic; epidemic; contagion; infection; ecology; vector; mapping; causation and correlation; data; field; pathogen; modelling; immunity; justice; vaccine; risk; hygiene; chronicity; crowd; population; governance; security

Section 2: Practices and infrastructures

Tracing, analysing, and plotting past and future patterns of disease is dependent on data; data drawn from hospital records, field surveys, and laboratory analyses. In this respect, epidemiological praxis relies on a wide range of infrastructures, all of which are shaped by geographical and historical contexts. Such infrastructures have been established and controlled by range of institutions—the state, the empire, the university, or the aid agency—and must be understood as part of the long history of biopolitical surveillance and control. The chapters in this section investigate the origins and effects of the various practices and infrastructures which provide the building blocks of epidemiology, and question how these disrupt our understandings of disease and its spread.

Chapter topics might include but are not limited to:

the League of Nations & the WHO; food and nutrition; experimental epidemiology; epidemiological intelligence; disease classification and nomenclature; hospital epidemiology; health surveying; big data; telecommunications, digitisation, and computation; censuses and health surveys; colonial epidemiology; demography and population health; outbreak investigations; zoonoses; cohort studies; forecasting; AMR

Section 3: Fields and frontiers

Despite the fact that there are handbooks of 'epidemiology' and that 'epidemiological training' is offered in universities, epidemiology has never become a single discipline. Epidemics are indeed complex events whose study requires extensive transdisciplinarity. They are not only driven by dangerous pathogens, but also by people, non-human animals, insects, plants, symbiotic or commensal microbes, fomites, urbanism, cities, roads, migrations, density, environmental degradation, climate, wars, politics and so on. Chapters in this section explores the dynamic frontiers of epidemiology, presenting the collaborations and conflicts which employ and contest the social and human sciences in the name of disease control.

Chapter topics might include but are not limited to:

gender and sex; sex and sexuality; class; race; colonisation and empire; postcolonial and decolonial theory; psychiatry; anthropology; maternal and child health; migration; social justice; democracy and government; vaccine hesitancy; Global Health; social medicine; heritability, eugenics, and epigenetics; activism; One Health

LOGISTICS

Timeline

1 September 2023: open call for contributions

15 September 2023: feedback on proposal

31 January 2024: chapter drafts due

1 March 2024 : feedback on chapters due

1 May 2024: final chapters due

June 2024: submission to publisher

Proposals

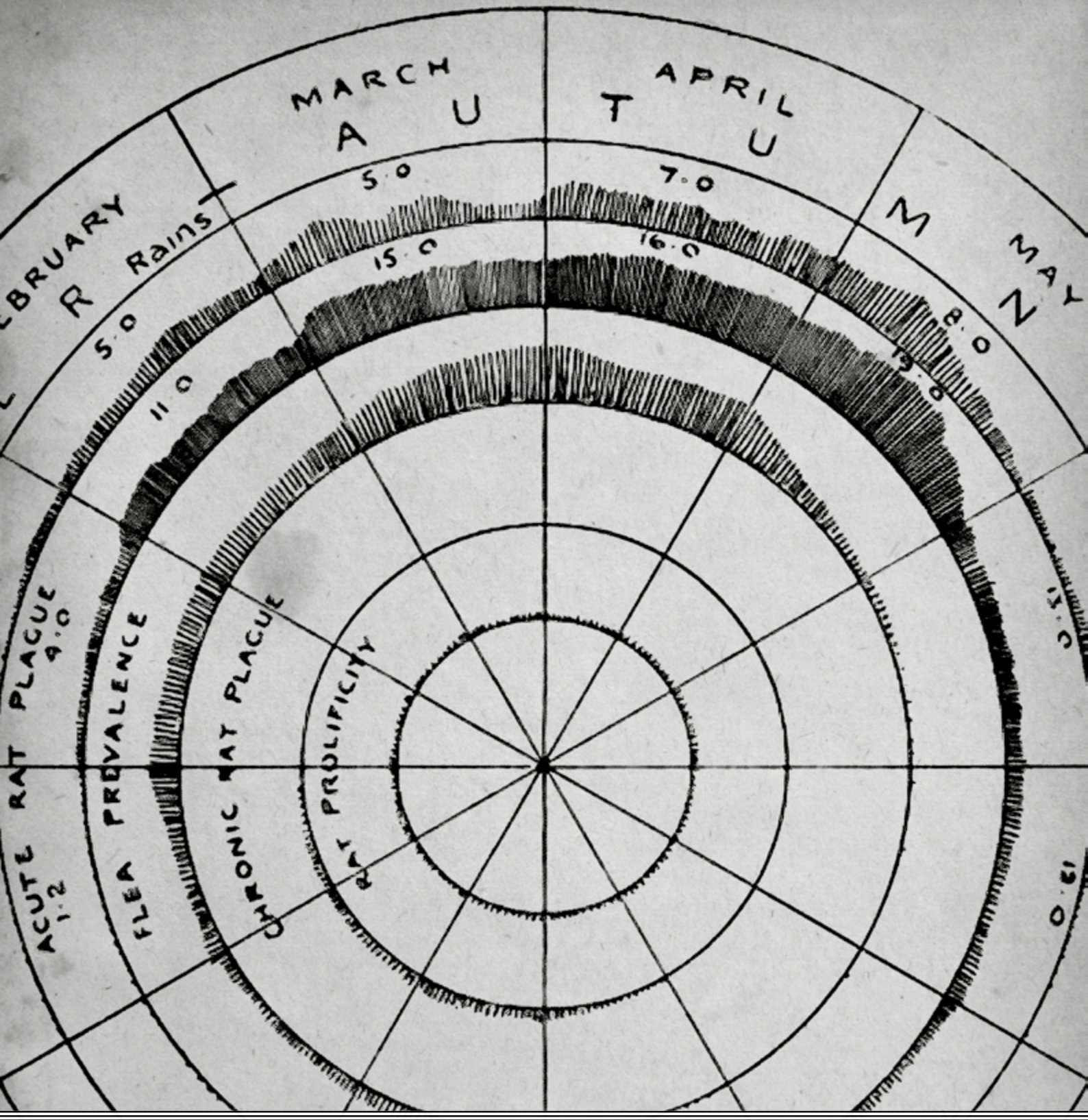
100-200 words, including short bio note (50 words), due per email to **epidemy@ed.ac.uk** by 1 September 2023. Please indicate the relevant section to which your chapter will contribute.

Chapter length: 5000 – 8000 words

Format

Emphasis on bibliography and historiography, focus on theme in broad terms, incorporating personal expertise, individual research perspective and selected case studies.

Please do not hestiate to get in touch with any questions: epidemy@ed.ac.uk



THE EPIDEMY LAB

Web: https://epidemy.org

Twitter: @epidemyerc

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