

SYMPOSIUM: 'Zola and Co'

Health Matters: Working at Being Well in France
and the Francophone world (1840–1900)

Saturday 12 October 2024, St Peter's Hall, 119 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AL
11.00-17.00

'Zola & co' symposium series

The symposium series – 'Zola & co' – aims to explore topics of critical significance to humanities research in the 21st century. Its scope, focused on France and the French-speaking world in the period 1840–1900, extends across literary genres, cultural histories and geographies, visual cultures, and critical thought. Its remit includes Zola and his interlocutors, whilst actively encouraging wider disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. The '& co' encompasses authors, artists, thinkers, and representatives of movements, communities, and cultural forces of the period, as these relate to France and the French-speaking world.

The series launches in October 2024 with the symposium described in the Call for Papers below.

A symposium exploring the intersection of nineteenth-century French/Francophone studies
and the contemporary Health Humanities

Health Matters

Working at Being Well in France and the Francophone world (1840–1900)

This symposium turns away from the standard focus on pathologies and medical trauma in order to shine a light on cultural representations of affirmative health and positive well-being. Such representations may be less spectacular (and less critically examined) than dramatic scenes of suffering and distress, but they speak to a profound, everyday desire for holistic physical and mental well-being that endures through time and across cultures.

Proposals for 20-minute papers may include Zola, his contemporaries of the period 1860–1900 (novelists, painters, poets, theorists, therapists, physicians), and cultural representations of the later nineteenth century. Approaches in (and beyond) cultural studies, postcolonial approaches, literary studies, environmental humanities, visual culture studies, and the 'care turn' are welcome.

Proposals (300 words max) should reach Susan Harrow (s.r.harrow@bristol.ac.uk) by 15 April 2024.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

Walking/talking cures
Spa cultures
Food and diet
Breathing
Bathing
Longevity
Sport and active well-being
Sensory pleasures
Plenitude
Health management
Weather and well-being
Leisure and laziness
Therapies
Holidays
Animal/human relations and health
Nature and the environment
Health benefits
The cost of health
Resilience and recuperation
