

Call For Papers

Disease and Exploration History: A Special Issue of *Terrae Incognitae*
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With global awareness of how germs spread through travel peaked by the COVID-19 pandemic, and after identifying a gap in recent literature, this thematic issue of *Terrae Incognitae* seeks innovative approaches to exploration history at the crossroads with disease. Scholars from any discipline are invited to contribute to this interdisciplinary issue. Topics might address:

1. Alfred Crosby's theory of the "Columbian Exchange" underlines the colonial and Eurocentric understanding about the spread of disease from a predominately western perspective, which has impacted the development over the last five decades of both environmental and exploration history as disciplines. How has the spread of germs been experienced by non-western people, what historical circumstances or underlying conditions have linked disease to travel and exploration?
2. Much exploration scholarship has focused on the spread of disease among the crews of exploration vessels, who comprise some of the first nodes of contact between people that can enable the spread of disease among populations unfamiliar with an illness. The masculine skein of this scholarship nearly entirely excludes the roles that women of any background played in the propagation of disease when two distinct peoples encounter each other for the first time. How did women contribute to or inhibit the spread of disease leading up to, during, or following expeditions abroad, and what were the experiences of women who themselves became infected by unknown or newer illnesses in the context of exploration history?
3. Science has long served as both a means of understanding how disease works and furthering the ambitions of explorers. Many canonical works of exploration history document the spread of disease among the populations they encountered. What non-western science (medicines, foods, treatments, spiritual practices, etc.) treated European disease, and how were these technologies appropriated by western science?
4. In the last couple centuries new spheres of exploration have resulted in humanity's interest in traveling to space and under the sea—how have germs informed the decision-making and choices of explorers as they push further into these frontiers?
5. The visualization of disease upon the map, whether in the form of toponymy or vignettes that illustrated illness associated with certain populations, could powerfully send a cautionary message to the map viewer. How have artists and cartographers articulated disease on maps that still showed unknown lands with uncertain coastlines?

Important Dates

Abstract submission due: October 1st, 2021

Final submission due: August 1st, 2022

Publication: April 2023

Co-Editors

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Submission Details

Proposals should include a 250-word abstract that articulates the aims of the article, why it is innovative, what conclusions it plans to yield, as well as the critical or theoretical framework that will be used, in addition to a 150-word biography sent to hbarnet2@uwo.ca and lbeck@mta.ca by October 1st, 2021.

Once accepted, articles will be due by August 1st, 2022. Articles should be no longer than 8,000 words (including notes) and must closely follow the [journal's style guide](#).