‘SURGERY AND EMOTION BEFORE ANAESTHESIA’

DR MICHAEL BROWN
Reader in History at the University of Roehampton

6pm, Thursday, 23 April 2020
Apothecaries Hall, Black Friar’s Lane, London EC4V 6EJ

Michael Brown is an expert on the history of medicine and surgery in nineteenth-century Britain. He is the author of *Performing Medicine: Medical Culture and Identity in Provincial England, c.1760-1850* (2011) as well as a forthcoming book on the history of surgery and emotion. The period prior to the introduction of anaesthesia in the 1840s is often characterised as a dark age of surgery, replete with blood and suffering and presided over by practitioners whose dispassion bordered on cruelty. This lecture seeks to challenge these stereotypes and show that pre-anaesthetic surgery was, in fact, an emotionally rich and complex affair. Surgeons of the period, far from adopting a position of detachment, shaped identities as men of feeling, while emotional sensitivity was an essential tool of clinical decision-making and therapeutic management.

Library open from 5pm. Refreshments from 5:30pm.

Join us for a subscription buffet supper after the lecture:
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For those attending the lecture, a suggested voluntary donation (£5 members, £10 non-members) to support the Faculty would be most welcome. Gift aid envelopes will be available.

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