



THE OREGON BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES
COLLOQUIUM PRESENTS

"The History of Medical Uncertainty"

BY VERA KELLER, PHD
PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH FROM 8-9AM PT
THIS IS A VIRTUAL EVENT

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ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



Vera Keller is an academic expert in the history of science and technology and modern Europe. Her research explores the origins of modern science in early modern Europe from several different perspectives: the relationship between art, craft, and experimentation; curiosity; wishlists and futurism; the history of entrepreneurship and "projects"; the relationship between science, technology and politics; the history of economic ideas, specifically cameralism, and its role in making the modern scientific disciplines; scientific rhetoric; the origins of museums and research libraries; and knowledge management techniques. She is a 2020 Guggenheim Fellow in Intellectual and Cultural History.

She is also author of three monographs, *Knowledge and the Public Interest, 1575–1725* (Cambridge UP, 2015), *The Interlopers: Early Stuart Projects and the Undisciplining of Knowledge* (Hopkins, 2023), and *Curating the Enlightenment: Johann Daniel Major and the Experimental Century* (forthcoming, Cambridge UP) and over forty articles and book chapters on the development of the idea and practices of research in early modern Europe. She is particularly interested in the emergence of experimental science and the entanglements of research with capitalism, colonialism, and political economy.

Objectives:

1. To analyze the epistemological role played by uncertainty in medical research
2. To explore the tools and formats historically used to manage uncertainty in medicine
3. To assess how changing research infrastructure and media affect uncertainty in order to suggest future directions

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