

For Immediate Release  
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## “Prisoners or Patients?”

Free public lecture presented by the Museum of Health Care

(KINGSTON, ON) – On Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, the Museum of Health Care will present its annual Margaret Angus Research Fellowship Lecture. Madeleine McKay will deliver a lecture titled “Prisoners or Patients?” in Watson Hall 217, 49 Bader Lane, Queen’s University. Refreshments will follow. Admission is free.

Named in honour of local historian Dr. Margaret Angus, the fellowship supports the study of history of health and health care, as they relate to the Museum’s collections. This year’s recipient, Madeleine McKay, is in her final semester of her Honours Bachelor of Social Science at the University of Ottawa, majoring in Anthropology and minoring in the Social Sciences of Health.

Nineteenth-century ideology believed that social deviants, such as convicts and “mad” people, could be “cured” using discipline and hard work. In what came to be known as moral therapy, everyday objects and activities were medicalized for a psychiatric purpose, while the treatment of physical health was increasingly neglected.

In her lecture, McKay will present her findings regarding the Kingston Penitentiary and Rockwood Asylum in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and their use of moral therapy to treat inmates diagnosed with psychiatric conditions. McKay will highlight the personal stories and experiences of these Kingstonian prisoners and patients.

“This research draws on a wide variety of Museum of Health Care collection items, the most striking of which come from convict and patient labour. Brooms, carpentry tools, and gardening tools can all be found among the museum’s collection, and they reflect moral therapy’s inclination to medicalize the ‘everyday’ objects and routines of 19th century life,” McKay concluded.

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