

The Material History of Blindness

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A three-year Ph.D. scholarship has been announced at Medical Museion, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Copenhagen. The scholarship is part of the research project 'Vision and touch: a material history of the world of blindness', which deals with the history of blindness and its intricate relation to vision, representation, touch and physical objects.

The aim of the project is to study the history of blindness from a material culture perspective. This will be done through the use of Medical Museion's historical collection of artefacts related to visual impairment. Objects such as three-dimensional maps, choral books in Braille and palpable models of famous statues and buildings, point in a very concrete way to a world in which vision has ceased to prevail. Besides bearing witness of the daily routines at the medical and pedagogical institutions for the blind, the material heritage of blindness stresses the cultural tension in contemporary Western society between vision in all its abundant technologies and touch as a socially restrained mode of experience.

The project combines a historical viewpoint with a museum studies approach. The Ph.D.-part of the project can, for instance, relate to questions concerning blindness and the cultural history of the senses and blindness, artefacts and touch from the perspective of museum studies.

The formal announcement can be found here or here:

http://healthsciences.ku.dk/phd/apply/funding/other/Opslag_skabelon_UK_JEO_ThS_rev_16_maj_2011.pdf/

Deadline for applications is 1 September 2011. For further information contact [Jan Eric Olsén](#).