BAN8 Health and disease in anthropological perspective (BBS paper 103)

Lectures: Friday 9-11am Michaelmas and Lent Term.

Overview:

From conception to death, humans undergo a process of development that is shaped by both genes and environment. This process is thus a product both of a long-run evolutionary process and of the succession of environments that individuals encounter through their lives, resulting in health patterns in populations that vary greatly with time, space and culture. This paper selectively explores means to characterize health patterns of different populations, from the archaeologically recovered and historically documented past, remote and otherwise, up to the present day. Thus the paper investigates how disease has shaped the way humans have evolved, and how diseases have evolved to exploit humans. It also discusses how human genetic variation influences our susceptibility to infectious diseases, as well as considering the causes of the varying health profiles of different present-day populations, with special attention to tropical infections.

If you read one thing: