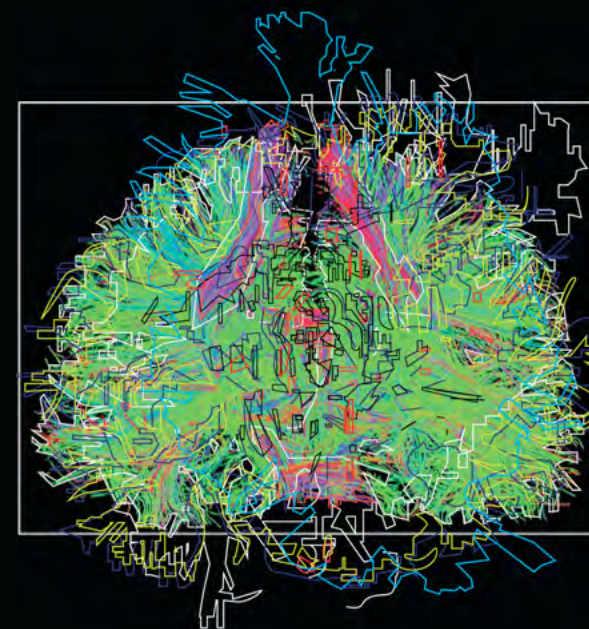


School of Geography, David M. Smith Annual Lecture 2014

# Well-Being, Mental Health and the Smiths

Professor Chris Philo, University of Glasgow



**Wednesday 26 November 2014 at 6pm**

David Sizer Lecture Theatre, Bancroft Building

How should we understand and respond to damaged psyches living in devastated places? The need to take seriously well-being and mental health has recently become part of wider public discussion. However, this often ignores the substantial efforts made by geographers in the 1970s to invigorate a cross-disciplinary concern for well-being. This lecture will look at two such pioneers in this field named Smith: David and Chris.

The innovative work of David M. Smith sought to create a geography of well-being (or 'welfare geography'), by considering how the material and structural inequalities of wealth and social class shaped levels of well-being for particular people living in particular places. His namesake, Chris Smith, concentrated on positive mental health and introduced the notion of 'therapeutic communities' to geographers in the late-1970s/early-1980s. For these scholars, the complex relations between mental ill-health and good mental health were interwoven with a host of spatial and environmental considerations. This lecture will explore these issues in order to look at current mental health agendas (in academic and policy circles) where individualising constructs of 'happiness' arguably present a neo-liberal 'wash', draining away sensitivity – and possible practical responses – towards those with mental illness and the places they inhabit.

**Chris Philo** is Professor of Geography in the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow. He has published extensively on the historical, cultural and rural geographies of mental ill-health, including his 2004 book, *A Geographical History of Institutional Provision for the Insane from Medieval Times to the 1860s in England and Wales: The Space Reserved for Insanity*.

**A reception will follow the lecture**

## Ticket Information

This event is free to attend, but you must book tickets online in advance if you wish to attend. Please click the button on the right and follow the instructions to make a booking. You will then be emailed an e-ticket and you should bring this with you on the day.

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## Map and Directions

This event takes place at our Mile End Campus. Please click on the icon below for the map and directions:



Mile End Campus



The nearest tube stations are Stepney Green and Mile End

David Sizer Lecture Theatre, Bancroft Building  
Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS

## Further Information

If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Andrew Loveland, email: [a.loveland@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:a.loveland@qmul.ac.uk)

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