

Actualités du Pharo 2022 – Session 1

Crossing history and philosophy of epidemics: cycles or emergencies?

Keywords: epidemics, history, cycles, emergencies, philosophy

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The history of humanity is punctuated by epidemics, against which countless countermeasures have been invented. Our generation, which had embarked on a programme of eradication, is now confronted with what it sees not as a cycle or eternal return of the same evils, but as a succession of emergencies, difficult to prevent and, when the time comes, to manage. How can we understand this paradox of modernity? Where can we find the explanation and, more importantly, how can we collect relevant information and give meaning to the expression, which tends to be overused, of global health, when the universal right to health is largely a fiction? Following in the footsteps of the anthropologist and physician Paul Farmer, who died in April 2021, a tireless denouncer of health inequalities, AM Moulin proposes to combine philosophy and history to shed light on a future that some describe as a "new microbial age".