Einladung zur
2. Max Neuburger Lecture

„Anatomical traditions, concepts of heredity and urban reform in the early 20th century Vienna“

mit einer Vorlesung (in englischer Sprache) von Tatjana BUKLIJAS
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Eröffnung durch Christiane DRUML
Direktorin des Josephinum – Medizinische Sammlungen

**Wann:** 24. Mai 2016, um 18.00 Uhr (s.t)

**Wo:** Josephinum, Lesesaal
1090 Wien, Währinger Straße 25

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*In Kooperation mit der Arbeitsgruppe Geschichte der Medizin, Kommission für Geschichte und Philosophie der Wissenschaften an der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*
Anatomical traditions, concepts of heredity and urban reform in the early 20th century Vienna

There is a strong and enduring interest in the relationship between eugenics and political ideology in the interwar Vienna, in particular the ostensibly ambiguous ideas of the Social Democratic politician and architect of the “Red Vienna” urban reform, Julius Tandler. Yet it is only recently, under the influence of the contemporary rise of epigenetics and the challenge to the genetic dogma, that the diversity of the science of heredity linked to eugenic ideologies and practices has been reassessed. Rather than dismissing all challenges to Mendelian genetics — in particular the inheritance of acquired characteristics, also known as “neo-Lamarckism” and “soft” heredity — as fringe pseudoscience, scholars now recognize the plurality of ideas on heredity and diverse success they enjoyed in different milieus.

Vienna, the home to one of the re-discoverers of Gregor’s Mendel’s work, Erich von Tschermak, was also a place where “soft” heredity thrived and Paul Kammerer conducted his famous, or notorious, experiments in the Vivarium. Indeed, a connection has been proposed between the diverse ideas on heredity in the early 1900s and a “pluralist” eugenics ranging from “productive” (or “regenerative”) to negative approaches. How can we explain these connections?

I draw on international scholarship, in particular in the history of heredity, as well as on my own earlier work on traditions in Viennese medicine, especially anatomy in which Tandler was trained and to which he dedicated most of his career. I will propose how socio-political conditions at the end of the nineteenth century as well as longue durée medical traditions could influence thinking of heredity, and consequently eugenics, well into the interwar period.

Tatjana Buklijas

Tatjana Buklijas was trained as a physician in her hometown of Zagreb, Croatia, but then changed career to first study (M.Phil. and PhD) and then work, as a Welcome Research Fellow, in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge. Her project in Cambridge explored anatomy in Vienna between 1845 and 1945: how a discipline deeply embedded into urban tissue - through its use of human bodies - responded to social and political changes across this period. The project resulted in a number of publications, for example “Cultures of death and politics of corpse supply: anatomy in Vienna, 1848-1914,” Bulletin of the History of Medicine 82(2008): 570-607.

In 2008 Tatjana moved to New Zealand and took up a research fellowship at the Liggins Institute. She works in the Centre for Human Evolution, Adaptation and Disease on projects mostly related to evolutionary medicine and developmental origins of health and disease, especially from the perspective of the history and philosophy of evolution and development.

She is spending the academic year 2015-2016 at the Institute for Advanced Study, Central European University, Budapest, completing the manuscript of her book on anatomy in Vienna. In July 2016 she will commence a new project on the history of epigenetics, funded by the Royal Society of New Zealand.