

Introduction

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This volume contains four articles representing very different approaches and perspectives in the history of public health, illustrating the richness and great variety of the research field. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the authors contributing to an interesting volume of *Hygiea*.

Kari Tove Elvbakken and *Kari Ludvigsen* present a case study from Norway 1800-1940 discussing the relations between the medical profession and the state health authorities with regard to the development in hygiene and psychiatry, and how these two medical fields contributed to the professionalization of medicine and health administration.

Alberto Tanturri discusses how the efforts to engage the clergy in smallpox vaccination in Southern Italy in early Nineteenth Century often were met by skepticism and distrust by the parish priests. Tanturri's text could be extra interesting from a contemporary Swedish perspective, where the parish priests of the Lutheran state church were the major agents in the extensive smallpox vaccination program.

Jiong Tu presents the current Chinese health care insurance reform, and discusses how it serves as a mechanism of state control and governance and produces inequality by excluding large groups of citizens, such as the rural-to-urban migrant workers. These effects are interestingly illuminated by the presentation of some individual cases.

Finally *Michelle Monachino* and *Paulo Moreira* discusses the actual and potential contribution of the private business sector to national and international mental health promotion and governance through a new approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), by presenting a case study from the pharmaceutical industry.