

“For Infants and Invalids: Medicalizing Children’s Food in the Nineteenth Century”

Helen Zoe Veit, Assistant Professor of History, MSU

Friday, April 19, 3:30 pm
Old Hort Conference Room

Beliefs about children’s food have changed enormously over time. Today, many Americans believe that children have naturally delicate tastes. But Americans in the nineteenth century more often claimed the opposite: children had naturally delicate bodies, they said, and dangerously omnivorous tastes. This paper explores changing ideas about children’s food, a seemingly biological subject that continues to be deeply influenced by beliefs about medicine, mortality, the duties of good parents, and the nature of childhood itself.

