

Palgrave Historical Studies in the Criminal
Corpse and its Afterlife

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Aim of the Series

This limited, finite series is based on the substantive outputs from a major, multi-disciplinary research project funded by the Wellcome Trust, investigating the meanings, treatment, and uses of the criminal corpse in Britain. It is a vehicle for methodological and substantive advances in approaches to the wider history of the body. Focussing on the period between the late seventeenth and the mid-nineteenth centuries as a crucial period in the formation and transformation of beliefs about the body, the series explores how the criminal body had a prominent presence in popular culture as well as science, civic life and medico-legal activity. It is historically significant as the site of overlapping and sometimes contradictory understandings between scientific anatomy, criminal justice, popular medicine, and social geography.

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Owen Davies · Francesca Matteoni

Executing Magic in the Modern Era

Criminal Bodies and the Gallows
in Popular Medicine

palgrave
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*Bah! What matters it? A man hanged, and then a rope
to be taken away, a scaffold to be unnailed, a corpse to be buried;
what does it all amount to?*

*Victor Hugo, Victor Hugo: A Life Related by One Who Has Witnessed It,
Vol. 2 (London, 1863), p. 214.*

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