

The Eradication of Smallpox: Lessons for Epistemology and Politics, James Robert Brown

The eradication of smallpox was one of humanity's greatest achievements. In spite of many cultures, religions, and divergent approaches to treating the disease, the world as a whole brought about this spectacular result. A number of philosophical questions arise concerning just how this was done, both epistemic and political. Contemporary analytic philosophers and social constructivists seem largely incapable of understanding this major event. I will try to say why and to also try to shed some light on future projects of a similar nature.