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RHUL seminar, 1-2pm, Wednesday 16 November 2011
Dept of Geography, Queen’s Building, room Q136

At Home in the Institution explores the impact of the design, decoration and furnishing of nineteenth-century residential institutional spaces on the experiences of their inmates. Foucault’s seminal analysis of the prison and asylum has inspired scholars to explore the role of architectural planning in discipline. This project, however, takes a new approach by assessing the role of institutional interiors in shaping the experiences of their inhabitants, and therefore considers spatial arrangements, furnishings and material and visual culture, in addition to the architectural features of the institution. The project focuses on three case studies: lunatic asylums (as they were known to contemporaries), schools for middle-class children, and common and charitable lodging houses.

Further information: This seminar is part of a series of events to be held in 2011 and 2012 related to the project ‘Accommodating Strangers? The (Geo)Politics of Home and Hospitality’ led by Dr Katherine Brickell (katherine.brickell@rhul.ac.uk). The project is supported by the the Humanities and Arts Research Centre at Royal Holloway http://www.rhul.ac.uk/harc/home.aspx