

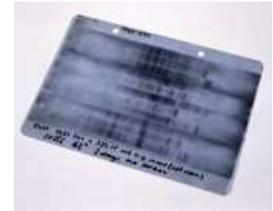
A visit to see FORENSICS The Anatomy of Crime

A group of 15 Psychology A level students from Woodford visited a major exhibition on forensic medicine at the Wellcome Collection on Friday 19th June.

The show took the visitor on a fascinating, and unsettling journey, from crime scene to courtroom. We learned about the delicate process of recording, collecting, analysing and presenting the evidence that secures justice for the victims of crime. Rich in visual, historical and artistic material, the exhibition explored our understanding of decomposition through the work of forensic entomologists whose understanding of the life cycle of the fly offers unexpected clues as to the time and place of death. Our response to the signs of decay was considered through visual art, including the exquisite 'Kusozu' sequence of 18th century Japanese watercolours detailing the physical deterioration of a dead noblewoman in nine paintings, and 21C American photographer Sally Mann's arresting portraits of open air 'body farms' in Tennessee, where corpses are laid out in different outdoor settings for the purposes of study. Edmond Locard founded the first police crime laboratory in early 20th century Lyon and his simple theory that 'every contact leaves a trace' remains a guiding principle in forensic science today.



Exhibits explaining the trace evidence techniques of blood and poison analysis that have made traceless crimes visible, were placed alongside photographs taken by Bertillon, the pioneer of mug shots as well as Edward Henry's original fingerprint classification kit. We also saw Leicester University based UK



scientist, Alec Jeffreys' first genetic fingerprint, a simple procedure, which has revolutionised crime detection. The reconstructions of movement and identity required in the absence of bodies following mass killing and genocide, was the subject of some moving art works. A newly commissioned film installation by Šejla Kamberic, projected in the refrigeration unit of a morgue, highlighted the ongoing search for identification and justice of massacre victims in the 1992-95 Bosnian war. These unsettling pieces trace different and urgent searches for justice, in the face of personal and political atrocities.

Ms Liebeskind, Head of Psychology