Attempts to eliminate sleeping sickness from central Africa in the middle years of the 20th century created a controversy that still continues today - as does the latest epidemic. Mass campaigns involving millions of doses of prophylactics posed major issues of safety, efficiency and drug resistance. Using this troubled history as an example, this seminar shows why it is so difficult to sustain the elimination of tropical diseases. The presenters are Dr Guillaume Lachenal, Lecturer at the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Paris Diderot, and Dr Jean Jannin, Coordinator of Innovative & Intensified Disease Management at the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, WHO, Geneva.