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Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge
Free School Lane, Cambridge, CB2 3RH
Telephone: 01223 334500 Fax: 01223334554 www.hps.cam.ac.uk
The Department

Introduction

Perhaps the most significant departmental news for the year was the introduction of a new MPhil in Health, Medicine and Society, run in collaboration with the Departments of Social Anthropology and Sociology. This programme gives students a uniquely interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research in the social, ethical and historical analysis of health and medicine, and students are offered the opportunity to work with academic staff from across all of the departments involved. The first year cohort comprised 11 students and it is intended that the intake will be larger in forthcoming years. Students choose three essay titles from a large list compiled by the course organisers, as well as writing a dissertation. New prizes, the Habib Prize and the Forrester Prize, have also been established for the highest overall performance in the essay component and dissertation respectively.

This year we welcomed a new Whipple Librarian to the department, Jack Dixon. Jack started in January 2017, joining us from the Taylor Library at Corpus Christi, where he was the assistant librarian. The full library report for the year is on page 30.

The Whipple Museum closed towards the end of summer for major repair work and renovations, and will be closed through until the beginning of 2019. New skylights will be installed in the main gallery, and the carpet tile floor is being replaced with wood-effect luxury vinyl in a style sympathetic to the building. This will make the main gallery a much more attractive and welcoming space for future visitors. The Museum's report for the year is on page 35.

The Museum was used a lot this year for departmental events; as we hosted a number of book launches by HPS staff as well as friends and associates of the department. In February, we had the launch for Richard McKay’s Patient Zero and the Making of the AIDS Epidemic, which focuses on the life of Gaetan Dugas to explore the early history of the epidemic, refuting the myth that he was the North American ‘Patient Zero’. In May, we hosted the launch of Adrian Currie’s Rock, Bone and Ruin: An Optimist’s Guide to the Historical Sciences, which argues that we ought to be optimistic about the success of geology, palaeontology and archaeology, despite their working with ‘mere traces of the past’ for evidence. This was followed later in May with the launch of Jacob Stegenga’s Medical Nihilism, which combines careful discussion of biomedical research and practice with thorough philosophical analysis to make the striking argument that we shouldn’t have high confidence in the success of medical interventions. We hope that our academics keep up their industrious pace and that we’ll have more book launches to celebrate in the refurbished main gallery in the future.

In February we were excited to learn that Simon Schaffer had been awarded the annual Dan David Prize, a major international prize for lifetime intellectual achievement and innovation. The categories for the prize are ‘Past’, ‘Present’, and ‘Future’, and this year the field chosen for ‘Past’ was the history of science. In the prize committee’s words, Simon was awarded the prize for ‘transforming our understanding of science in history by consistently targeting key issues, and probing the limits of current debate’.

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This year the department also ran the first PhD Student Reunion, for which there is a short report and some photos on page 5.

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**Annual HPS Fungus Hunt, King’s Forest, 23 October 2017**

*As told by Nick Jardine*

This was our 27th HPS Annual Fungus Hunt, and the 12th to forage in the King’s Forest.

The weather was clement, and the expedition was well attended, with 25 (including dogs and children). Thanks to those who brought cars—happily there were just enough spaces to take everyone who signed up. Special thanks also to the eager and sharp-eyed children, responsible for finding the really interesting small fungi. Identifying them has cost a dozen or so hours.

Alas, edible ones were sparse: just a couple of Pine Ceps, *Boletus badius*, found by Shelley and eaten by me, and some old and moldy Red Cracking Boletes, *Xerocomellus cisalpinus.* However, we found plenty of uncommon fungi, no less than six of them being species not recorded on our previous visits. Among the new finds were two species of Pinkgill, *Entoloma longistriatum* and *Entoloma incanum.* The latter is a beauty, with cap yellowish, stem blue-green and gills pink. In some of the books it is given the name Mousepee Pinkgill on account of its smell, which other books describe as of burnt horn—not much help if one isn’t a mouse-sniffer or horn-burner. Its odour reminded me of roast chestnuts. Other good finds included the Dewdrop Dapperling, *Chamaemyces fracidus,* and a species of heathland Navel, *Omphalina griseopallida.*
Congratulations

This year we were excited to learn that two members of academic staff are being promoted: Lauren Kassell has been promoted to a Professorship, and Anna Alexandrova, has been promoted to a readership. These are both excellent news for the Department, and we wish them the best with their future endeavours.

In February, we learned that digital media company All Seeing Eye, in collaboration with Helen Curry, won the Wellcome Trust’s Developing Beyond challenge for their virtual reality videogame ‘Seed’, which allows players to engineer and create plant seeds which then grow procedurally. The challenge paired videogame developers with academics to create an entertaining and immersive game that explored themes in the sciences.

In April, Leah Astbury was awarded a non-stipendiary Junior Research Fellowship at Darwin College, which she will hold concurrently with a three year Wellcome Trust Research Fellowship on Marriange and Compatibility in Early Modern England. We also learned in April that Jack Wright was appointed a Postdoctoral Research Associate at CRASSH on the ERC funded project, ‘Qualitative and Quantitative Social Science: Unifying the Logic of Causal Inference?’, which he will start at the conclusion of his PhD in December 2018.

Boyd Brogan was appointed to a two year fellowship at the Centre for Future Health Research at the University of York, a post that he will take up in October 2018. This post will allow him to build on his work on early modern chastity diseases, a field on which he has already worked in the HPS Department as part of the Casebooks Project and with a Wellcome Trust Humanities Fellowship.

Eesha Khare, an MPhil student in the department, was awarded the ‘Best 5 Minute Talk’ prize by the Trinity Research Forum, the college at which she was a student. Her talk, based on her HPS Dissertation, was titled ‘The Shape of Motion: Influence of Airplanes on Automobile Shape Design’.

In June we learned that Andrew Buskell was offered a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship. Andrew returned to the HPS Department last year after a year teaching at LSE; he was previously in the department as a PhD student.

Jenny Bangham was awarded a Wellcome University Award at Queen Mary University of London in August for her project ‘Encountering genes: Postwar genetic counselling in the UK and Ireland’, which she will take up at the end of her current research fellowship at the beginning of March 2020.

Finally, we were delighted to say hello to three HPS babies during this academic year. In October 2017, Susannah Gibson and Seb Falk sent us news of the birth of Oisín. In January 2018 Milena Ivanova and Matt Farr announced the birth of Cailyn. Finally, in April 2018, Jenny Bangham and Boris Jardine announced the birth of Avery. Congratulations to all.
HPS PhD Student Reunion 2018

This year the department held the first ever HPS PhD Graduate Reunion, inviting our PhD graduates to Cambridge for two days of events at Peterhouse and in the HPS Department.

Monday 2nd July

At Peterhouse Deer Park and Lubbock Rooms

12:30-14:00
Garden Party, Deer Park

14:00-15:30
Talks, Lubbock Lecture Theatre

15:30-16:00
Tea

16:00-17:00
Talks, Lubbock Theatre

18:00-20:00
Reception, Whipple Museum

Tuesday 3rd July

10:00
Tea and coffee, HPS Department

10:30-11:30
HPS Quiz

11:45-15:00
A choice of:

Punting to Grantchester Meadows, Free time to explore Cambridge
with a picnic lunch
Attendees, as well as present staff and students, agreed that the reunion was a success and the department is planning to organise another PhD graduate reunion in the future. Thanks to everyone who attended, and to everyone in the department who helped with the running of the event.
Staff and Affiliates

Administrative Staff
Tamara Hug
Agnieszka Lanucha
Louisa Russell
David Thompson
Toby Bryant
James Livesey
Lukasz Hernik

Computing Staff
Mark Rogers

Library Staff
Jack Dixon
Agnieszka Lanucha
James Livesey
Dawn Kingham

Museum Staff
Rosanna Evans
Jenny Mathiasson
Joshua Nall
Alison Smith
Claire Wallace

Teaching Officers
Anna Alexandrova
Mary Brazelton
Hasok Chang
Helen Curry
Marta Halina
Nick Hopwood
Stephen John
Lauren Kassell
Tim Lewens
Dániel Margócsy
Simon Schaffer
Jim Secord
Richard Staley
Jacob Stegenga
Liba Taub

Teaching Associates
Salim Al-Gailani
Agnes Bolinska
Matt Farr
Joe Martin

Research Fellows
Leah Astbury
Boyd Brogan
Sarah Bull
Andrew Buskell
Jo Edge
Jean-Baptiste Grodwohl
Mike Hawkins
Boris Jardine
Natalie Kaoukji
Richard McKay
Rune Nyrop
Jesse Olsynko-Gryn
Yvonne Martin-Portugues
Rob Railley
John Young

Affiliated Lecturers & CTOs
Patricia Fara
Marina Frasca-Spada
Sachiko Kusukawa
Deborah Thom
College Fellows
Jeremy Butterfield
Seb Falk
Peter Jones
Melanie Keene
Simon Mitton
Valentina Pugliano
Andreas Sommer
Charu Singh

Emeritus Professors
German Berrios
Andrew Cunningham
Nick Jardine
Geoffrey Lloyd
Michael Redhead

Other UoC People who do HPS
Shahar Avin
Debby Banham
Sara Baker
Michael Bravo
Angela Breitenbach
Gabrielle Badano
Adam Caulton

Chris Clarke
Adrian Currie
Shinjini Das
Robbie Duschinsky
Gabriele Ferrario
Rebecca Flemming
Sarah Franklin
Sietske Fransen
Richard Holton
Shelley Innes
Joel Isaac
Martin Johnson
Tony Lawson
Kathy Liddell
Scott Mandelbrote
Peter Mandler
Alexander Marr
Janjun Mei
Francis Neary
Alison Pearn
Brian Pitts
Huw Price
Katherine Reinhart
Sally Riordan
Richard Serjeantson
Sujit Sivasundaram
Jeff Skopek
David Sloan
Richard Smith
Emma Spary
Simon Szreter
Daniel Wilson
Louise Wilson

Affiliated Scholars
Robert Anderson
Siva Arumugam
Peter Bowler
Robert Bud
Margaret Carlyle
Soraya De Chadarevian
Silvia De Renzi
Katie Eagleton
Roger Gaskell
Susannah Gaskell
Sonia Horn
Milena Ivanova
Richard Jennings
Gerald Kitcher
Chris Lewis
Visitors and Students

**Visitors**
- David Aron
- Jan Baedke
- Julie De Ganck
- Steven Denison
- Petter Hellström
- Linn Holmberg
- Elaheh Kheirandish
- Huacheng Li
- Wenjing Li
- Xiaoxia Li
- Jean-Pierre Llored
- Dejan Lukic
- Catarina Madruga
- Adam Mezes
- Fernando Pompeu
- Jan Potters
- Sarah Scheidmantel
- Caterina Schurch
- Sophie Veigl
- Pierce Williams
- Yuan Yuan

**PhD students**
- Claudia Baisini
- Laura Brassington
- Gregory Bridgman
- Jules Brown
- Tyler Brunet
- Jenny Bulstrode
- Eoin Carter
- Azita Chellappoo
- Stijn Conix
- Charlotte Connelly
- Caitlin Doherty
- Matthew Drage
- Adrian Erasmus
- Angela Gui
- James Hall
- Sebastian De Haro
- Meira Gold
- Sebastian Kroupa
- Katrina Maydom
- Ziniale Mncube
- Erlend Owesen
- Daniel Ott
- Jonathan Penn
- Karoliina Pulkkinen
- Peter Rees
- Timothy Rees-Jones
- Edwin Rose
- Hardy Schilgen
- Christophe Schinckus
- Raphael Scholl
- Susanne Schmidt
- Guy Sechrist
- Reuben Shielts
- Anna Skulberg
- Hamed Tabatabaei Ghomei
- Michael Thornton
- Ann-Sophie Thwaite
- Elina Vessonen
- Bob Vos
- Michelle Wallis
- Elise Williams
- William Wong
- Jack Wright
- Joseph Wu
- Jia Yu
- Pascal Zambito

**MPhil students**
- Ossama Abu-Halawa
- Alexander Bjornson
- Deniz Cataltepe
- Genevieve Caulfield
- Konstantinos
- Chatzigeorgiou
- Vassili Christodoulou
- Katie Cohen
- Rhianna Elliott
- Ayesha Evans
- Vincent Femia
- Rachel Fong
- Evan Garnick
- Matthew Green
- Arthur Harris
- Yijie Huang
- Oscar Kent-Egan
- Eesha Khare
- Hamidah Mahmud
- Julian Menzel
- Daniel Muller
- Emma Neville
- Margaret Panetta
- Howard Parchment
- Rosalind Rei
- Hannah Resnick
- Christian Ruhl
- Elizabeth Seger
- John Stowell
- Alex Westin-Hardy
- Jack Wright
- Hehua Xia

**Part III students**
- Nadia Blackshaw
- Tabitha Burden
- Jack Congdon
- Jonathan Cooper
- Helen Fishwick
- Shanna Hart
- Daisy Irving-Hyman
- William Sears
- Robert Shearme
- Yenga Yan

**HMS MPhil**
- Sally Butler
- Francesca De Rosa
- Ranana Dine
- Bethan Flaherty
- Heqing Huang
- Angela Madira
- Lucy Morgan
- Elliott Reichardt
- Calum Smith
- Ben Teasdale
Allan Wang

**Part II Students**
Amin Abdelhamid
Anna Barkemeyer
Khuram Chaudhry
Henry Clifford
Michael Davin
Grace Eapen
Hamish Evans
Michael Gibson
Gianamar Giovanetti-Signh
Beth Greenwood
Alice Hayler
Ruth Harvey
Nadya Kelly
Rory Kent
Gaelan Komen
Sophia Luu
Tom Mumby
Lizzy O’Brien
Sara Rasul
Rebeca Reti
Alex Ridley
Tara Slade
Will Smart
Eddie Spence
Vicky Tavernor
Ramnik Uppal
James Winter
Alvin Wong
Hannah Yogasundram

**BBS Early Medicine**
Madeleine Knightley

**BBS Modern Medicine**
Emily Bedborough
Nicola Elliott
Jane Grant
Fang Lin
Honor Pollard
Cara Woods

**BBS PEM**
Rowan Beckett
Petros Beeley
Maggie Belcher
Kate Gargan
Sophia Kakarala
Jennifer Shuttleworth
Rhys Thomson
Victoria Walker

**PBS taking IB HoS**
Laura Green
Sophia Rogerson
Olivia Rowe
Bushra Zafar
Nikolay Zhelyazkov

**HSPS taking IB HoS**
Belen Bale
Katelyn Nash
Aisling Murray
Todd Gillespie

**PBS taking IB PoS**
Stephanie Ashbridge
Issaac Barkway
Nicole Bazarova

Sophie Lowe
Jali Packer
Ainoa Thaka Galdor
Josefina Weinerova

**HSPS taking IB PoS**

**PBS taking BBS 114**
Katt Weaver

**PBS taking Part II Paper 5**
Oxana Grosseck
Oliver Smith

**HSPS taking Part II Paper 5**

**HSPS Taking Part II Paper 6**
Minnie Crampton
Tirion Rees Davis

**History Students taking**
**BBS Early Medicine**
Alexandra Barnett
Meghan Curran
Sally Dickens
Imogen Granger
Martha Homfray-Cooper
Katriona King
Nadine Maji
Robert Martin
Ella Sbaraini
Sally Scrivener
Comings and Goings

**Boyd Brogan** left us in September 2018 after being appointed to a two-year fellowship at the Centre for Future Health Research at the University of York.

Our new Whipple Librarian, **Jack Dixon**, started in January 2018; he was previously working as Assistant Librarian at the Taylor Library, Corpus Christi College

**Lukasz Hernik** became our new cleaner after **Maria Iljuczonek** left in September 2017 after six years with the Department

**James Livesey**, one of our previous MPhil students, started as Graduate Secretary for the HMS MPhil course at the beginning of September 2017 and then took up the post of Library Assistant at the end of September in the same year


**Daniel Ott** and **Elise Williams** joined the Library as Invigilators in Lent 2018. Daniel left in August 2018

**Rosanna Evans** resigned as Museum Technician in September 2018 to start a PhD part-time, however she will continue in her role as the Museum’s Learning Coordinator.

At the end of the 2017-18 academic year, we said goodbye to the Casebooks team: **Mike Hawkins** (Technical Director), **John Young** (Senior Editor), **Jo Edge** and **Yvonne Martin-Portugues** (Assistant Editors). All had contributed immensely to the project, led by Lauren Kassell, which ran for eight years.
Roles and Responsibilities

Departmental Positions

**Head of Department:** Liba Taub

**Departmental Administrator:** Tamara Hug

**Director of Graduate Studies:** Nick Hopwood (Michaelmas & Easter), Simon Schaffer and Mary Brazelton (Lent)

**MPhil Managers:** Jacob Stegenga and Mary Brazelton (HPS), Lauren Kassell (HMS)

**Part III Manager:** Anna Alexandrova (Michaelmas & Lent), Richard Staley (Easter)

**Part II Manager:** Dániel Margócsy

**Part IB Manager:** Simon Schaffer

**Staff Development Officers:** Liba Taub (academic staff) and Tamara Hug (support staff)

**Dignity Officers:** Liba Taub and Richard Staley

**College Liason Officer:** Lauren Kassell

**Chair of the Monitoring Committee:** Dániel Margócsy

**Graduate Training Officer:** Joe Martin

HPS Board and Degree Committee

**Chair of the HPS Board Committee:** Simon Schaffer

**Chair of the HPS Degree Committee:** Nick Hopwood, Simon Schaffer (Lent)

**Professors and Readers:** Professors Hasok Chang, Tim Lewens, Simon Schaffer (Chair), Jim Secord, Liba Taub, and Dr Lauren Kassell

**Curator and Director of the Whipple Museum:** Liba Taub

**Secretary of the Board and Secretary of the Degree Committee:** Tamara Hug

**Librarian:** Jack Dixon

**General Board Members:** Prof. Richard Holton, Dr. Rebecca Flemming, Dr Paulina Sliwa

**Co-options:** Anna Alexandrova (Michaelmas & Lent), Mary Brazelton, Stephen John (Michaelmas), Richard Staley (Michaelmas & Easter), Jacob Stegenga, Dániel Margócsy

**Elected Members:** Marina Frasca-Spada

**Junior Members:**

**Philosophy Faculty Board Representative:** Jacob Stegenga

Examiners

**NST Part IB History and Philosophy of Science**

**Senior Examiner:** Jacob Stegenga

**Examiners:** Matt Farr, Jenny Bangham, Tim Lewens, Nick Hopwood, Natalie Kaoukji
NST Part II History and Philosophy of Science including BBS Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine

**Senior Examiners:** Richard Staley, Anna Alexandrova (Lent)

**Examiners:** Nick Jardine, Agnes Bolinska, Dániel Margócsy, Salim Al-Gailani, Joe Martin

**External Examiner:** Rachel Cooper
(University of Lancaster)

MPhil/Part III in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine

**Senior Examiner:** Lauren Kassell

**Examiners:** Mary Brazelton, Jacob Stegenga, Dániel Margócsy, Nick Hopwood (Michaelmas & Easter) and Simon Schaffer (standing in, Lent), Matt Farr, Richard Staley (Michaelmas & Easter) Anna Alexandrova (standing in, Lent)

**External Examiner:** Staffan Müller-Wille
(University of Exeter)

MPhil in Health Medicine and Society

**Senior Examiner:** Mary Brazelton

**Examiners:** Anna Alexandrova (Michaelmas & Lent), Tim Lewens (Easter), Maryon McDonald (Social Anthropology), Darin Weinberg (Sociology)

**External Examiner:** Andrew Webster
(University of York)
Prizes, Projects and Honours

Student Prizes

**Bronowski Prize (Part II) – Best Performance on the HPS Part II Exams**
Gianamar Giovannetti-Singh (Trinity Hall) and Nadya Kelly (Gonville and Caius)

**Willmoth Prize – Best Dissertation Performance in HPS Part II**
Rory Kent (Trinity Hall), Ruth Harvey (Magdalene), and Sophia Luu (Clare)

**Bronowski Prize (Part III) – Best Performance on the First Half of the HPS Part III Course**
Jonathan Cooper (Pembroke)

**Rausing Prize – Best Dissertation Performance in the MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine**
Julian Menzel (Clare)

**Habib Prize – Best Overall Performance in the Essay Component of the MPhil in Health Medicine and Society**
Elliot Reichardt (Girton)

**Forrester Prize – Best Dissertation Performance in the MPhil in Health Medicine and Society**
Elliot Reichardt (Girton)

**Jennifer Redhead Prize – Best Overall Performance in the Essay Component of the MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine**
Arthur Harris (Christ’s)

**Anita McConnell Prize – Outstanding Performance on an Essay or Dissertation Based on an Object in the Whipple Collection**

**Tabitha Burden** (Newnham) for ‘Characterising collections: on the preservation of old scientific apparatus at the Cavendish Laboratory and the Whipple Museum, Cambridge’ (Part III Dissertation)

**Hannah Resnick** (Murray Edwards) for ‘(Un)folding proteins: Courtauld’s chemical models, British industrial fibre development and the search for the alpha-helix’ (HPSM MPhil Essay)

**Matthew Green** (Peterhouse) for ‘Chicken heads and Punnett squares: Reginald Punnett and the use of visualizations in early genetics, Cambridge, 1900-1935’ (HPSM MPhil Essay)
Seminars and Special Lectures

**Wellcome Lecture**

The 13th Annual Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine was given by Professor Alisha Rankin (Tufts University) on the 1st of March 2018 in the HPS Department, with the title ‘Poison trials, panaceas and proof: debates about testing and testimony in early modern European medicine’.

**Rausing Lecture**

The 23rd Annual Hans Rausing Lecture was given by Andreas Malm (Lund University) on the 17th of May 2018 in the McCrum Lecture Theatre, Bene’t Street, with the title ‘Steamroll all the Brutes: Coal, Steam and British Imperialism in Mid-Nineteenth Century Levant and West Africa’.

Seminars, Reading Groups, Graduate Workshops, and Language Groups

**Research Seminars**

**Departmental Seminars** organised by Agnes Bolinska

**Twentieth Century Think Tank** organised by Richard Staley, Mary Brazelton, Joe Martin, and Jesse Olszynko-Gryn

**Cabinet of Natural History** organised by Sebestian Kroupa

**AD HOC (History of Chemistry)** organised by Karoliina Pulkkinen

**Early Science and Medicine** organised by Lauren Kassell and Dániel Margócsy

**History of Modern Medicine and Biology** organised by Mary Brazelton and Nick Hopwood

**Generation to Reproduction** organised by Nick Hopwood and Lauren Kassell

**CamPOS** organised by Huw Price, Jeremy Butterfield, and Anna Alexandrova

**Graduate Seminars**

**Aims and Methods of Histories of Sciences** organised by Nick Jardine, Geoffrey Lloyd, Hasok Chang and Cristina Chimisso

**Science in Print: Book Production in the Hand Press Period** organised by Roger Gaskell and Dawn Kingham

**Reading Groups**

**Philosophy of Biology Reading Group** organised by Azita Chellappoo and William Wong

**Twentieth Century Reading Group** organised by Mary Brazelton, Joe Martin and Richard Staley

**The Intersection of Gender, Race and Disability of Philosophy of Science** organised by Azita Chellappoo

**Science and Literature Reading Group** organised by Melanie Keene and Charissa Varma

**Philosophy of Medicine Reading Group** organised by Tim Lewens, Stephen John, Jacob Stegenga and Anna Alexandrova

**Philosophy and History of Physics Reading Group** organised by Richard Staley and Jeremy Butterfield

**Casebooks Therapy** organised by Lauren Kassell

**Language Groups**

**Latin Therapy** organised by Boyd Brogan

**Greek Therapy** organised by Liz Smit

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## Student Statistics

### Student Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Part IB</th>
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<th>Part III</th>
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<td>PhD</td>
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### Examination Results

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<tr>
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<th>Average mark</th>
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<tr>
<td>Part IB</td>
<td>62.5</td>
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<tr>
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### Graduate Degrees Awarded

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Part II Essay and Dissertation Titles

Primary Source Essays

Franz Boas, *The Mind of a Primitive Man*

On the Jew and the Primitive – silence and writing in the relations between science and literature

Franz Boas, geography, and *The Mind of a Primitive Man*

How does Boas challenge the idea of a racial hierarchy in the 1938 edition of *The Mind of a Primitive Man*?

Civilization and culture in Franz Boas’ *The Mind of Primitive Man*: an analysis of word use

How does Boas assess the link between language, culture and individual cognitive expression in *The Mind of Primitive Man*?

Franz Boas and the ‘fetters of tradition’: double identities in *The Mind of Primitive Man*

Evolution of cultural evolution: painting Franz Boas as an antievolutionist and transitional figure in the move away from cultural evolutionism in the early 20th century

Weaving between art and artefact: Boas’ definitions of art as spontaneous cultural forms

An analysis of Franz Boas’ scientific and political agenda and how this manifests itself in *The Mind of Primitive Man*

Compare and contrast the discussion of race and intelligence in *The Mind of Primitive Man* (Boas, 1938) and *The Bell Curve* (Hernstein and Murray, 1994)

The exemplification of Boas’ *The Mind of Primitive Man* through the rise of jazz

To what extent do Boas and Galton hold concurrent views on race, heredity, intelligence and psychology?

What can a comparison between the writings of Franz Boas and G. Stanley Hall on the mental characteristics of primitive people illustrate about the relationship between anthropology and psychology in the early 20th century? Comparing *The Mind of Primitive Man* with *Adolescence Volume II*

How does Boas confront the contradiction in scientifically arguing against classification?

Boas’ methodology in *The Mind of Primitive Man*: using the Middle East and ‘Mohammedans’ as examples to aid the discussion of immigrations

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The Stanford School

A defence of epistemic pluralism

Nancy Cartwright’s entity and capacity realism

Dupré, feminist epistemology and epistemic virtues: a new means of evaluating scientific theories
Realism through validation: do Hacking’s arguments for seeing through a microscope represent examples of a wider justification for realism about unobservable entities?

In *The Disunity of Science*, is Dupré successful in arguing against methodological unity?

Is Dupré justified in dismissing the unity of science?

Agnosticism between universalism and Cartwright’s patchwork of laws

An exploration into the descriptive limitations and normative applications of John Dupré’s epistemic virtues

Are the three facets of Cartwright’s philosophy consistent?

Manipulation – a theory-laden criterion

**Reichenbach’s *The Direction of Time***

Are the laws of physics time-symmetric?

The time direction of entropy increase and Hans Reichenbach’s hypothesis of the branch structure

‘[T]he theory of relativity has not contributed to the problem of time direction.’ Was Reichenbach right to omit considerations of relativity from *The Direction of Time*?

What are the differences between ‘reductionist’ and ‘non-reductionist’ accounts of time direction?

Is next week really later than tomorrow?

Supertime direction – a new distinction between direction and order

**Discovery and Visual Culture: The *Nova Reperta* of Johannes Stradanus**

From silk to sugar: relating the depictions of agriculture in Johannes Stradanus’ *Nova Reperta* to the economic fortunes of late 16th-century Florence

Absolutism vs. individualism reflected in 16th-century European works on inventions and trades

What role does humanist imagery play in Stradanus’ Astrolabium in the *Nova Reperta*, and what does this tell us about the message he wishes to convey?

Space and visual organisation in Stradanus’s *Nova Reperta*

‘Someone to be negotiated with, rather than something to be deployed’: the human relationship with the horse in Stradanus’s *Nova Reperta*

Navigation of Earth – God’s domain

A comparative study between Giovanni Stradanus and Theodor De Bry’s presentations of the New World through their prints

Galenism, Paracelsus and New World drugs: Johannes Stradanus and Guaiacum

Comparing Johanne Stradanus’ *Nova Reperta* and Polydore Vergil’s *De Inventoribus Rerum***
Medical Reports of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service

Obstetric interventions of foreign physicians facing protracted labour in the late Qing, as recorded in the medical reports of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service

How did attitudes towards quarantines compare to actual practices of quarantine in 19th-century China?

Leprosy: an infectious disease?

Did Wong Fun play a role as an intermediary between European and Chinese medicine, and how did his identity shape his work for the Imperial Maritime Customs Service?

Why did Manson include illustrations in his medical reports for the Imperial Maritime Customs Service?

How did IMCS doctors, particularly Alexander Jamieson, shape the discussions of obstetrics and midwifery in 19th-century China?

The medicalisation of suicide in the Chinese Maritime Customs Medical Reports

Depictions of war in the medical reports of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service

What can the Medical Reports of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service show about the Western physicians’ attitudes towards local perspectives of syphilis in 19th-century China?

What reasons did the Imperial Maritime Customs Service Reports give to explain resistance to vaccination and what did this imply about the relationship between the Chinese and Westerners?

How did the meteorological data and the discussions of public health infrastructure in China achieve the aims of the Chinese Maritime Customs Serve and what does this tell us about Western imperialism?

The Macy Conferences Transactions, 1949-1953

To what extent does Cybernetics: the Macy Conferences, 1949-1953 provide evidence for the marginalisation of women from the history of cybernetics?

Tracking information in the mind: how reductionist philosophy exposed dissent in the Macy Conferences, 1949-1953

Stuck in the trap of misinterpretations: a comparison between what cybernetics meant for academics and how it was covered in the media

To what extent did the cybernetics conference presentation by Ralph W. Gerard in 1950 change the way the neurone was understood?

How useful was analogy in the Macy conferences?
Part II Dissertation Titles

X-ray films in motion – the case of Robert Janker and his controversial films

The role of the Chilean experience in shaping the primary healthcare movement within international public health

Do films do philosophy? AI in the movies

Realism and string theoretic dualities

Sick cell anaemia: a British disease?

The dual-use dilemma in biomedical research

What role did Michele Ruggieri’s Atlante della Cina play in Jesuit cartography and natural history in early modern China?

Optics, perspective and art

Does quantum mechanics need interpretation?

A study of industrial climate scepticism in late 20th-century America

Who nose best? Expertise in the material culture of scent

What is the role of science and technology in developing countries?

‘Getting the message across’: the history of genetic counselling and the Pakistani Muslim community in Britain

The feminist views of the NHS in the 1970s and 1980s; with a focus on abortion law reform

A recent history of male contraception

Ethical problems concerning the treatment of obese patients

What problems does quantum mechanics pose for scientific realism?

Fake news and the communication of climate knowledge through online media

A history of obstetric ultrasound: the reception to visualising the foetus
HMS MPhil, HPSM MPhil and Part III Essay and Dissertation Titles

**HPSM MPhil Essay and Dissertation Titles**

**Ossama Abu-Halawa**

Rights, consent and the use of health information

Machine learning in medicine: decision trees, eliminative induction, and causal relevance

The case for looping effects: an inquiry of interactive (human) and indifferent (natural) kinds

*Dissertation*: Rights, consent and the use of health information

(supervised by Jacob Stegenga)

**Alexander Bjornson**

What was Charles Darwin’s view of human nature?

Does the Anthropocene require the writing of a new kind of history?

Do new trends in evolutionary psychology give a sufficient account of human nature?

*Dissertation*: Causes of death and conditions for knowledge: reading the body at the intersection of law, medicine and natural philosophy in 17th-century legal trials

(supervised by Lauren Kassell)

**Deniz Cataltepe**

The rise to visibility of tuberous sclerosis in the United States, 1968–1986

The practicality of quality of life questionnaires in cancer clinical trials

Demanding the freedom to choose their bread: the British Housewives’ League and the campaign for better bread, 1946 to 1965

*Dissertation*: Beyond the first breath: hyaline membrane disease and the construction of the neonatal patient in the United States, 1959–75

(supervised by Salim Al-Gailani)

**Genevieve Caulfield**

Johannes Kepler (1571–1630): optics and theology

Bodies and violence: a case study of the 1641 Irish Rising

Wollaston hypsometers vs. mountain barometers in 19th-century surveying

*Dissertation*: The virtuous eye: perspectiva and the Octagon at Ely Cathedral (supervised by Richard Oosterhoff)

**Konstantinos Chatzigeorgiou**

Metaphysics, science and history in E.A. Burtt and R.G. Collingwood

A reappraisal of Smart’s ‘materialist metaphysics’

Koyré and Drake on the cognitive significance of Galileo’s metaphysics

*Dissertation*: Chomsky’s historical criticism of physicalism: motivations, historical accuracy and philosophical prospects (supervised by Matt Farr)

**Vassili Christodoulou**

So long and thanks for all the fish: John Lilly and science fiction

The herd mentality: BSE, MMR and the politics of proof
Can an app a day keep the doctor away?
Investigating digital therapeutics

_Dissertation:_ A new and curious treatise upon the paradoxical proclivities of Dr James Graham: or, immortality and orgasm in the Age of Enlightenment (supervised by Simon Schaffer)

Kate Cohen

The intramedical transplantation debate: reevaluating the kidney shortage in 1970s Britain

Birth, circulation, death: twilight sleep's journey through the American press

'American Jezebel': Anne Hutchinson and the myth of the midwife-witch

_Dissertation:_ Reframing 'reform' eugenics: the 1936 depopulation panic and the shifting policies of the British Eugenics Society (supervised by Nick Hopwood)

Rhianna Elliott

Menstruation and the moon: sexual difference, astrology and medicine in 17th-century medical manuals

Reconstructing natural knowledge: gender and genre in closet books, 1650–1700

Agent of empire: the authority and attribution of knowledge in Robert Swinhoe's ornithological work in China, 1855–1876

_Dissertation:_ The doctrine of critical days: astrological medicine in 17th-century England (supervised by Lauren Kassell)

Ayesha Evans

Inconsistency, uncertainty and risk: how the shortcomings of evidence-based medicine are detrimental to providing the best patient care

The overdiagnosis of major depressive disorder and how value judgements and pragmatism influence the demarcation between mental disorder and normality

How teleological semantics shape representation in scientific explanations and encourage misconstrued conceptions of the nature of biological mechanisms

_Dissertation:_ The rationality of alternative medicine (supervised by Jacob Stegenga)

Vincent Femia

A sympathetic solution: Robert Fludd and a musical defense of the weapon salve

Building a global network: the World Day Program as a web of international science

From totality to reality: Mabel Loomis Todd and the hierarchy of emotions in solar eclipse observation

_Dissertation:_ Forecasting doom: scientific prophets, the emotional regime of science, and the accommodated uncertainty of United States congressional testimony, 1963–88 (supervised by Richard Staley)

Rachel Fong

Van Fraassen's response to the no miracles argument and the demand for the explanation for the success of science

Disambiguating the EBM+ thesis: a proposition for a stronger formulation of evidence of mechanisms in EBM+

Is naturalism still defensible in the social sciences?

_Dissertation:_ The significance of science and human flourishing: a humanitarian solution to the problem of scientific significance (supervised by Rune Nyrup)

Evan Garnick

Journalism, testimony and moral progress
Non-epistemic values and scientific classification

Towards a pragmatist theory of disease

*Dissertation:* On cultural explanation
(supervised by Jacob Stegenga)

Matthew Green

Elie Metchnikoff's sour milk therapy, 1900–1920: New York newspapers as sites of medical authority

A defense of soft paternalism in public health communication in the case of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV

Chicken heads and Punnett square: Reginald Punnett and the use of visualizations in early genetics, Cambridge, 1900–1935

*Dissertation:* Polar bear science and climate change denial: insights from a representational analysis of scientific, popular scientific, and online media (supervised by Richard Staley)

Arthur Harris

Analogical explanation via language and diagrams in the Peripatetic Mechanical Problems

The Quinean argument for scientific realism

'New diseases' and sectarian debate in Hellenistic and Roman medicine

*Dissertation:* 'The knowledge of antiquity and the pursuit of new discoveries' in Edward Sherburne's The Sphere of Marcus Manilius Made an English Poem: with Annotations and an Astronomical Appendix (1675) (supervised by Liba Taub)

Yijie Huang

The marginalisation of female practitioners within the 17th-century English household through the lens of Willis's Oxford Casebook

A view from Peking's streets: drinking water, wells and hygiene in late 19th-century Beijing

Distilling craft and knowledge: distillation in early modern English households

*Dissertation:* Sensible touch: pulse taking, manual knowledge and learned authority in English medicine, c.1650–c.1700 (supervised by Lauren Kassell)

Oscar Kent-Egan

St George and the pterodactyl: the Crystal Palace monsters and British identity, 1838–1873

Thomas Molyneux, Hans Sloane and understandings of giants at the Royal Society, 1694–1728


*Dissertation:* Isaac Van Amburgh 'the brute tamer': spectacle, education and natural history in Britain, 1825–72 (supervised by Paul White)

Eesha Khare

British public response to 1970s acid rain debates through the lens of lichen

Should libel have a place in science? Community norms and legal philosophy to address the internal criticism and diversity tension

Philosophy of scientific knowledge produced in secrecy: the case of DARPA

*Dissertation:* The shape of motion: the influence of aeronautics on automobile aerodynamic design (supervised by Joe Martin)

Hamidah Mahmud
Career opportunity for whom? The Dufferin Fund's approach to traditional midwifery in British India, 1880–1920

Hinojosos' Suma y Recopilación de Cirugía: 16th-century Mexico City's vernacular medical guide

Human objects of Other Lands: adapting nature study to the British imperial curriculum

Dissertation: Reincarnation and reinterpretation: the story of the Karman cannula (supervised by Jesse Olszynko-Gryn)

Julian Menzel

Manhattan Project compartmentalization and prewar physics

Wheeler's Bohr

Aesthetics and the practice of theoretical physics


Daniel Muller

Wound treatment in World War I: the invention and uses of Bipp

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: autonomy and end-of-life decisions

The Black Death and religion: the English ecclesiastical and lay response to pestilence

Dissertation: 'To serve the people': Chinese medical diplomacy in Africa during the Cold War (supervised by Mary Brazelton)

Emma Neville

Empowerment, knowledge and deception in online health support groups

Epistemic injustice and mental illness

'Is there something wrong with me?: mental health, medicalisation and meaning-making in children's literature

Dissertation: 'Feminist angst': defending a place for gender in sex-based medicine (supervised by Jacob Stegenga)

Margaret Panetta

'The best baby picture of the Universe ever taken': precision, mapping and empirical evidence in the growth of modern cosmology

Using the forest to see the trees: the explanatory value of idealized protein models in microscopy

Collecting, pleasure and botanical practice in Victorian wildflower books

Dissertation: Observatories, data and cosmological conflict in public controversy over the Thirty Meter Telescope (supervised by Simon Schaffer)

Victor Parchment

Beyond known and unknown

Cybernetics as idea and institution: research-disciplinary divides in a 20th-century science

Representational intentionalism: misrepresentation and misinterpretation in scientific modelling

Dissertation: The meeting of medical minds and mental machines: a primer on the new philosophy of clinical expert systems (supervised by Tim Lewens)

Rosalind Rei

What's in a world? Possible worlds as instrument and object in postwar US philosophy and economics

Measurement and value in Restoration credit schemes
Natural economy and the over-fishing concept: early 19th-century debates on variability in herring catch

*Dissertation:* Lineages of the company state: genealogical reasoning in William Jones' colonial sciences (supervised by Simon Schaffer)

**Hannah Resnick**

(Un)folding proteins: Courtaulds chemical models, British industrial fibre development and the search for the alpha-helix

Personal narratives and controlled studies: evidence and authority in the 1970s British debate over induced labour

On (or off) the cutting edge: vivisection and physiological education at Girton College, 1877–1898

*Dissertation:* Making scientific women: practical chemistry instruction for women at Cambridge, 1890–1916 (supervised by Liba Taub and Josh Nall)

**Christian Ruhl**

'They laugh at vs for such as wee bring': global networks and geography in Sir Thomas Roe's embassy to the Mughal Empire

Atoms for peace and profit: radioisotope distribution, research reactor proliferation, and US private industry

'The argument, perhaps, appears clearer when applied to China': Malthus, China and the science of population

*Dissertation:* Dealing arms and making knowledge: the work of Cornelis Drebbel and maritime grand strategy in the 17th century (supervised by Dániel Margócsy)

**Elizabeth Seger**

A climate of resistance: building a democratic government's obligation to fund climate science despite contrary public priorities

Transparency triage: prioritizing types of transparency in AI-user interaction for the purpose of grounding user trust

Into the abyss: narratives in black hole popularization and pedagogy

*Dissertation:* Evidence for existential risk: identifying effective and appropriate sources of evidence for the analysis of uncertain, low-probability, high-impact risks (supervised by Agnes Bolinska)

**John Stowell**

The life and afterlife of Bateson's chickens: pedagogical objects in the construction of the Cambridge Mendelian research program, 1900–1910

Teleology and prior actuality in Aristotle's theory of spontaneous generation – a new reading

Indexicality and the pragmatics of representation – a critical reading of Bas van Fraassen's Scientific Representation

*Dissertation:* On the causal interpretation of the Price equation in cultural evolutionary theory (supervised by Tim Lewens)

**Alex Westin-Hardy**

The 1881 International Sanitary Conference and the limitations of international disease notification

Institutional success and practical failure: how the International Atomic Energy Agency established a global network of plant mutation breeding programmes

Intellectual property rights and biomedical research: reframing the debate

*Dissertation:* Science at the Cape: Andrew Smith, the institutionalisation of science, and
the South African Quarterly Journal
(supervised by Simon Schaffer)

Jack Wright
Special status: do rare diseases deserve higher cost-effectiveness thresholds?
The role of judgments in choosing a fixed effect or random effects model for meta-analysis
Differential diagnosis and emerging infectious diseases
Dissertation: Mechanism 'completeness' and the problem of extrapolation (supervised by Jacob Stegena)

Hehua Xia
An analysis on Poincaré's acceptance of the atoms
A battle on two fronts: the theory-practice duality in Monge's descriptive geometry and French naval architecture
Did Coulomb 'discover' the inverse square law with his electric torsion balance experiment?
Dissertation: Precision measurement in the French metric reform: a study of Borda's repeating circle (supervised by Richard Staley)

Part III Essay and Dissertation Titles

Nadia Blackshaw
Slaying a beautiful hypothesis with an ugly fact: an analysis of the use of beauty in science
Branching, probability and personal identity in the many-worlds interpretation
Dissertation: The minds behind the madness: analysing the many minds interpretation of quantum mechanics (supervised by Matt Farr)

Jack Congdon
Scientific forestry, enclosure and the collapse of forest law, c.1800: a case study of Alice Holt Forest
'Forcing taxonomies': the classificatory legacy of 19th-century sexology on the historiography of male homosexuality
Dissertation: The 'effeminate' man: 19th-century sexology and the conflation of homosexuality and effeminacy (supervised by Sarah Bull)

Tabitha Burden
Collecting habits and valuable antique scientific instruments: what can annotated sales catalogues tell us?
Friction in medical epistemology
Dissertation: Characterising collections: on the preservation of old scientific apparatus at the Cavendish Laboratory and the Whipple Museum, Cambridge (supervised by Boris Jardine)

Jonathan Cooper
Joseph Massie and the 'Science of Commerce'
Natural analogy in English economic thought, 1622–1672
Dissertation: Metallurgy, agronomy and utopianism: Gabriel Plattes's discovery of infinite treasure, 1639–44 (supervised by Felix Waldmann)
Helen Fishwick

Individuality in pregnancy and the need for a new abortion debate

Kraepelin the multitasker: balancing knowledge and care in psychiatry

**Dissertation:** Pragmatism in psychiatric nosology: towards a greater focus on the practical impacts of diagnostic categories (supervised by Anna Alexandrova and Tim Lewens)

Shanna Hart

Sense and reason: resolving the issue of consonance in the late Middle Ages

Environmentalism in the 18th century

**Dissertation:** Of mammoths and men: contextual understandings of species extinction in the Age of Revolution (supervised by Dániel Margócsy)

Daisy Irving-Hyman

Operationalising the capability approach: a futile endeavour?

Space, science and gender in late-19th and early-20th century Britain

**Dissertation:** The Balfour Laboratory: a case study in gender, space and science in late-19th and early-20th century Britain (supervised by Simon Schaffer)

Will Sears

A discussion of the revenue surveys of colonial India

A discussion of the influence and reputation of Alexander von Humboldt in Britain in the 19th century

**Dissertation:** The natural philosophy of Thomas Hobbes (supervised by Joseph Martin)

Rob Shearme

On the metaphysics of de-extinction

Man and mammoth – a critical literature review of the ethics of mammoth de-extinction

**Dissertation:** Ontogeny recapitulating phylogeny (supervised by Adrian Currie)

Yenga Yan


A review of scholarship on sugar refining technology in late 19th-century China

**Dissertation:** Sugar imperialism in the late Qing: Jardine Matheson and the China Sugar Refining Company, 1867–1928

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**HMS MPhil Essay Titles**

(Questions answered by MPhil students shown below, with the number of students answering each question shown in brackets.)

Assess changes and continuities in the history of the medical encounter (2)

‘What counts as real illness is a matter of politics not science.’ Discuss. (2)

Should we seek to reduce health inequalities? (1)
Is medical paternalism always problematic? (1)

Does the disease/illness dichotomy once promoted by Kleinman have any analytical usefulness? (1)

What historical changes produced the clinical trial as we know it today? (1)

What, if anything, do informed consent requirements protect or promote? (1)

Critically evaluate the link between health and social inequality with respect to one of the following variables: class, race, gender. (1)

What is the relationship between the ethics of care and paternalism? (1)

Is social marginality better understood as a cause or as a characteristic of mental disorder? (1)

How would you characterize the connection between colonial medicine and global health? (2)

Wealth inequalities cause health inequalities; therefore, as long as wealth inequalities are just, so, too, are any health inequalities. Discuss. (1)

What are the consequences of the medicalisation of food and eating for human health? (2)

Must physicians respect patients' autonomy? (1)

What was at stake in ancient debates about male and female contribution to offspring? (1)

Was pre-modern childbirth "natural"? (1)

‘Food is a system of communication, a body of images, a protocol of usages, situations and behaviours’ (Barthes) – Discuss in relation to a public health intervention targeting diet. (1)

‘The universal, culture-free body is itself a cultural artefact’. Discuss. (1)

‘Focusing on users and use rather than on engineers and design would enable historians to go beyond histories of men inventing and mastering technology’ (Nelly Oudshoorn and Trevor Pinch, 2003). Discuss with reference to reproductive technologies. (1)

(How) can surrogacy be carried out in agreement with reproductive justice? (1)

What are the benefits and harms of screening programmes? (1)

Is white bread a health food? (2)

To what extent does 23andme exemplify Srnicek's model of a new form of 'platform capitalism'? (1)

Where and when did global health originate: tracing the development of public and global health iconography through Venetian plague art (1)

Biotechnology is a neoliberal science. Discuss. (1)

Give a brief explanation of the relationship between sanitary science and Chinese weisheng (1)

What factors have affected changes in the practice of sperm donation over time? (1)

How might Jason Moore’s notion of capitalism as ‘world ecology’ help to explain growing rates of overconsumption and overweight around the world? (1)
HMS MPhil Dissertation Titles

Sally Butler
The Story of H. pylori: An Ethnographic Approach

Francesca DeRosa

Ranana Dine
Jewish and Catholic Law on the Burial and Mourning of Suicides in the 20th Century

Bethan Flaherty
Should the social stigma of obesity be used as a policy tool to tackle the obesity ‘epidemic’?

Heqing Huang
Tension in the doctor-patient relationship in China: The underlying causes, its nature, and how it has changed in recent years

Angela Madira
Ethics and efficacy of current mammalian models in laboratories

Lucy Morgan
Feelings, Figures, and Family Planning: British Egg Donors’ Experiences of Fertility Screening

Elliott Reichardt
Cancer Overdiagnosis: An Ethnographic Examination in Biomedical and Clinical Literature

Calum Smith
From the ‘War on Drugs’ to family loss: an ethnographic examination of changing narratives concerning drugs.

Allan Wang
The ethics of neuro-enhancement: the relationship between emerging neuro-technologies and distributive justice
PhD Theses

Awarded

Carl Fisher for ‘Early Darwinian Commemoration in Britain, 1882-1914’


Stijn Conix for ‘Radical pluralism, ontological underdetermination, and the role of values in species classification’

Christophe Schinkus for ‘When Physics Became Undisciplined: An Essay on Econophysics’
2017-18 has been an eventful year in the Whipple Library. After bidding a very fond farewell to Anna Jones in August, Dawn Kingham stepped up as Acting Whipple Librarian for Michaelmas term, pending the appointment of a new Librarian. In September we said goodbye to Clare Matthews, who left us to pursue a PhD in *Classical culture and the industrial city: Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool and the art of Greece and Rome* at the University of Birmingham. Clare had worked within the library for 2½ years, initially as Library Assistant and then moving to a role as Special Collections Assistant, and her contributions to the library will live on in the many blog posts and virtual exhibitions on the Library website.

Between August and December we welcomed Toby Bryant for four afternoons a week as General Assistant, through the generosity of the department.

James Livesey also joined the Library in September, working two days a week as Library assistant, as well as continuing his work as HMS Module co-ordinator.

We were fortunate to have many of our lunchtime and evening invigilators continue from the previous academic year, and the ongoing stalwarts of Meira Gold, Aga Lanucha, Jack Tavener and Annie Thwaite, were aided by Daniel Ott and Elise Williams in Lent and Easter terms.

Finally Jack Dixon was appointed as the new Whipple Librarian and arrived in January. Jack was previously Assistant Librarian at Corpus Christi College (so didn't have far to move), and before that had a number of roles in the University Library. Jack would like to express his thanks to the existing library staff who maintained excellent service levels during the 'interregnum', and also to the Department and the wider HPS community as a whole for being so welcoming.

January also saw the long anticipated launch of the new Library Management System, known as Alma. Preparation for the Library Management System switchover was a large scale multi-stage project which had been ongoing for over two years, and, like all major projects, was not without its hiccups and teething problems along the way. Due to the dedication of Whipple Library staff throughout the run up and training periods, however, the transition went smoothly and service disruption was kept to an absolute minimum. The launch of Alma is not the end, however. The LMS will continue to evolve and grow with the needs of the Cambridge scholarly community. The first addition to the LMS went live in July and was the Cambridge Library Patron System (known as CLiPS), which enables simplified management of library users details and permissions. A number of future evolutions of Alma are currently being considered, some of the most exciting being the potential addition of dedicated reading list management and referencing software.

Collections

The collection has continued to develop over the last year. Purchasing continued (though at a reduced pace) through Michaelmas term, and accelerated throughout Lent and Easter to ensure
reading list materials were acquired and requests for research materials were fulfilled. 382 print titles and 12 ebooks were added to the collection.

2 items have been added to the Whipple library special collections in the last year, and both were bloggers about in detail. They were;

R. Lee Taxidermy: or the art of collecting, preparing and Mounting Objects of Natural History for the use of Museums and Travellers' (London, Longman, 1835)


And

Leadbeater’s The Gentleman and Tradesperson’s Compleat Assistant; or, the Whole art of Measuring and estimating, made Easy. In three parts. 3rd ed. 1770.

Staffing

Library staff:

Whipple Librarian: Jack Dixon

Library Assistants: Dawn Kingham, James Livesey


Training & professional development

All permanent members of staff attended Strategic Priorities working groups organised by the UL. This was a fantastic opportunity to have our voices heard in the wider Cambridge library community and has fed back into the Strategic Drivers for Change document currently being finalised and shortly to go before the University Library Syndicate for approval. This major policy document will set the strategic direction of the University Libraries for some years to come. Dawn, James and Jack had the opportunity for a tour around the brand new Library Storage Facility in Ely. This enormous facility will open up new possibilities for storage of low-and-no-usage material across the Cambridge Library landscape, and we hope to be able to take advantage of this in future. The LSF has conservation grade air protected by 3 layers of airlock, 106 km of 11 meter high shelves built to VNA (Very Narrow Aisle!) standard, and is being filled at a rate of 12 tonnes (about 400 linear meters) per week.

All permanent staff also attended All Staff Briefings by the University Librarian, Jess Gardener, in January, as well as the ever popular Evacuation Chair and Stair Climber Refresher courses, and completed the yearly online fire safety and diversity training.

Not content with stepping up as Acting Librarian during the summer and Michaelmas Term, and leading the way with blog updates, Dawn attended training offered by the Office of Scholarly Communication and became a Research Skills Ambassador.

James complemented his existing skills by training as a Mental Health First Aider, and also volunteered to run tours around the University Library’s ‘Tall Towers’ exhibition, becoming one of the only members of staff of an affiliated library to do so.

Jack had a busy program of training and induction on arrival, and also attended the Cambridge Information Literacy Conference in June, and is regularly attending the Public Programming Working Group based in the main UL.

User Education

Science in Print

Science in Print ran during Michaelmas term, but was unfortunately affected by the industrial action in Lent. During the Michaelmas term session Roger Gaskell ran 4 sessions on book production in the hand press period. Attendees were able to gain valuable experience of handling Special Collections material.

Induction Tours

Induction tours took place at the start of the academic year as usual. These welcome incoming staff and students into the library space and provide a useful introduction to the services which we offer.
Tours were also arranged for arriving Visiting Scholars throughout the year, and on a one to one basis on request.

Outreach and Public Events.

Displays

Three displays took place in the Library this academic year, as usual accompanied by virtual displays online.

Exploring Deep History (September 2017 – February 2018)

Clare Matthews curated this display which was inspired by a generous donation of books and prints from Professor Martin Rudwick, affiliate of the Department of HPS and leading expert in the history of the earth sciences. His donation to the Whipple has greatly enriched our geological collections and includes a number of important 19th century works. From the interpretation of fossil finds, to studies of geological strata, maps and artistic illustrations, the items on view here reflect the unearthing of the “deep history” of our world, and the recognition that this history was far longer and more complex than previously imagined.

https://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/special/exhibitions-and-displays/exploring-deep-history/exploring-deep-history

Marginalia (February – July 2018)

Curated by James Livesey with input from Toby Bryant, this display included a selection of books from the library’s special collections that have, at one time or another, been subjected to notes, annotations, or other such inscriptions by their previous owners.

Books attract annotations for many reasons. The author might be marking up their own book for future editions; the interested reader highlighting passages of interest or making notes to refer back to; the less-interested reader venting their opinions – via comments, scribbles, or doodles. The books that were included in this display have been marked up by people both known and unknown, for a variety of reasons. Where the provenance is known we have indicated this, but often the interest lies in the types of markings and comments made, and not specifically in their author.

https://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/special/exhibitions-and-displays/marginalia/marginalia

Personifying Plague (July 2018 – October 2018)
This exhibition was curated by Ranana Dine, student on the MPhil in Health, Medicine and Society 2017-18, with support from the staff of the Whipple Library. For more than a millennium the disease commonly called the plague has terrorized, frightened and fascinated people around the globe. The plague has always been a horrifying disease and until the advent of antibiotics in the twentieth century it had an extremely high fatality rate. Throughout its long and terrifying history the plague has been visualized differently, depending on its context and victims. This exhibit focuses on three ways the plague has been imagined in the West, based on materials from the Whipple Library collection as well as other libraries in Cambridge.

https://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/special/exhibitions-and-displays/personifying-plague

School sessions and visits

Working with Museum Learning Co-ordinator Rosanna Evans, the library contributed again to delivering the ‘Medicine and Anatomy though time’ and ‘Darwin, Evolution and The Origin of Species’ workshops to several visiting school groups. Jack also arranged a successful day visit of gifted and talented Year 9 students to the Parker, Whipple and University Libraries. The library also hosted visits for staff from Churchill College Archives Centre, the Social and Political Science Library, Anglia Ruskin University Library, the Haddon Library and the University Library. We also hosted a student from Parkside Academy, Francesca, for a week’s Work Experience in July, and visits from interns from the UL and Parker Libraries.
The Museum

Over the last year, the Whipple Museum has seen an enormous amount of gallery redevelopment and change. *Astronomy and Empire* was the first exhibition to be installed in our new Special Exhibition Gallery, plenty of changes have been made in store and the Main Gallery was completely deinstalled in preparation for essential building works to take place.
Exhibitions

Astronomy and Empire

*Astronomy & Empire* was the first exhibition to be staged in the Whipple Museum’s newly refurbished Special Exhibition Gallery and opened on October 2nd 2017. It explores the tangled history of science and the British Empire through the instruments, tools, and practices of those sent around the globe to observe, survey, navigate, and chart on behalf of Imperial interests.

The British Empire was built on scientific labour. Precision instruments made in London, charts published by the Royal Observatory, chronometers set to Greenwich time: all of these material tools and many others were essential for the navigation of Britain’s ships to far flung corners of the globe. On foreign soil, astronomers, surveyors, and geographers worked side by side with administrators and the military during British efforts to discover, conquer, settle, and manage new colonies. Once established, the imperial world also served as a crucial field site for numerous astronomical enterprises, from the periodic observation of eclipses to the establishment of major new observatories.

This exhibition uses the rich collections of the Whipple Museum and the University of Cambridge’s Institute of Astronomy to exhibit and critique these sciences of empire. It displays the instruments at the heart of colonial rule, exploring how these material tools were deployed, used, traded, and received in often remote locations, as part of strenuous efforts to secure and further British dominion. And it attempts to recover the human stories that underpin these enterprises, on both sides of the Imperial encounter.

Thematic displays evoke the often rough and always challenging work of precision science conducted in the field and aboard ship. They ask how the instruments crucial for these practices were transported, calibrated, used, and exchanged. And they draw attention to the human actors—some very visible in the historical record, many others nearly invisible—who made these enterprises work. Using numerous direct quotes from those tangled up with astronomy and empire, the exhibition explores the many different types of labour and power that made observations count between the 18th century and the end of Empire.

This project was also incorporated into the University of Cambridge Museums outreach and engagement programme, *India Unboxed*, which included a range of public events, including curator of the exhibition Joshua Nall presenting a Facebook Live broadcast discussing the exhibition.
We are very grateful to the Institute of Astronomy, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, The Royal Astronomical Society, and Simon Schaffer (HPS) for kindly lending us objects for inclusion in this exhibition.

The Whipple Museum of the History of Science would also like to acknowledge the generous assistance of the following people and institutions during the preparation of *Astronomy & Empire*:

Malavika Anderson
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Tamara Hug
Mark Hurn
Brian Jackson
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Higher Education Funding Council for England
The National Film and Sound Archive of Australia
The PRISM fund, ACE
The Syndics of Cambridge University Library
Special Projects

*Gallery and Store Developments*

**Main Gallery**

The window-frames of the skylights within the Main Gallery are rotten and need to be replaced. This has been a long-standing issue which Estate Management has now been given permission and resources to address. In order for the works to take place, the Museum closed to the public on 4th July 2018. The gallery was completely de-installed of objects and the display cases have been boarded in to protect them. In addition to these works, there are funds for other repairs and improvements. In the Main Gallery, we will be fitting UV filters to the new skylights, replacing the lighting, installing secondary double-glazing to the large window and also re-flooring the gallery. In addition, the skylights in the Upper Gallery will be replaced. We are taking the opportunity to re-floor the Learning and Special Exhibition Galleries and to install a new public toilet in the Learning Gallery.

**Stores**

Following a successful bid to the Capital Equipment Fund, we purchased new plan chests to store our flat material in a more environmentally sound manner. The re-packing of the plan chests has begun and this has also given us the opportunity to store some objects in a way which better suits their size and material.

To facilitate the Main Gallery de-installation, we moved our collection of Trade Literature temporarily and installed eight new storage cabinets throughout our storage areas.

**Other Developments**

**Engaging Collections Online**

Following the joint-award in 2016 of Designated Development Funding from Arts Council England, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Whipple are continuing to work on producing an online Research Portal. This project will allow online access to the Whipple Museum’s database for the first time, and provide researchers with immediate access to images as well as extensive information on the collection and trade literature.
Teaching and Research

Departmental Teaching

The Whipple Museum plays an important role in teaching within the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. Lecturers use the Museum displays and the collection to illustrate their own lectures, and lecture-demonstration classes on instruments, models and collections are specifically offered for the Part III and MPhil programmes. Students have the opportunity to work with the Museum’s collection as part of their studies and in recent years a number of undergraduates and postgraduate theses have been undertaken on objects in the collection.

Student Essays and Theses


Matthew Green, ‘Chicken Heads & Punnett Squares: Reginald Punnett and the Role of Visualization in Early Genetics Research, Cambridge, 1900–1930’.

Tabitha Burden, ‘Collecting Habits and Valuable Antique Scientific Instruments: What can annotated sales catalogues tell us?’

Object-based teaching

‘Researching in Museums’ session

In November Josh Nall, Jenny Bulstrode, and Boris Jardine delivered a graduate training session on ‘Researching in Museums’ for the new cohort of Part III and MPhil students. The session was held in the New Gallery and used objects from the collection.

Use of Museum objects in other lectures and seminars

In November, the New Gallery played host to Joe Martin’s primary source seminar on cybernetics, which included the opportunity for Part II students to investigate the Museum’s two chassis from EDSAC II.

In November, the New Gallery hosted Simon Schaffer’s MPhil ‘Masterclass’ on ‘Materiality and scientific instruments’, which also included a follow-up handling session for self-nominated students.

In December, the Museum hosted an object-based session of the Cabinet of Natural History, led by Brian Ford and based around the Museum’s rich collection of simple microscopes.
In December, Joshua Nall led a tour and discussion of *Astronomy & Empire* for MPhil students taking the Cambridge University Archaeological Heritage and Museums course.

In February, Boris Jardine and Joshua Nall delivered an object-based teaching seminar for Part Ib students from the English Faculty, as part of their study into the impact of science upon literature in the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

In March, Museum objects were used in a Part II lecture given by Daniel Margocy on timekeeping and the enlightenment.

In May, Joshua Nall ran a tour and seminar discussion in the Museum for the History Faculty Part II paper on ‘The History of Collecting’.

### Summer teaching with objects

In July, Joshua Nall gave an object-based lecture on ‘The Moving Image in Victorian Popular Culture’ for the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education Art and Visual Culture Summer Programme.

In August, Josh taught a class on ‘Astronomy, Instruments, and Empire’ at the Centre for the History and Philosophy of Physics Summer School: “History of Physics: Scientific Instruments and Environmental Physics”.

### Research workshops

In October the Museum hosted a 3-day workshop, ‘How Collections End: Objects, Meaning and Loss in Laboratories and Museums’, organised by Leverhulme Trust-funded post-doctoral researcher Boris Jardine. The interdisciplinary workshop brought together scholars of museums and laboratories working with a range of different kinds of scientific collections. Participants included scholars from Brazil, Denmark, Australia, Scotland, England, Australia and the U.S.A.

In December, the Museum hosted a meeting between the University of Cambridge Museums and six Leibniz-Gemeinschaft Research Institutions, sponsored by the DAAD Cambridge Research Hub for German Studies. The workshop examined the question ‘Is it Real? Historical Authenticity in Collections and Museums’. This marked the beginning of ongoing collaboration; a second meeting is planned for April 2019, as well as museum exchanges for curators.

### Staff Research


In June Joshua Nall gave a talk, ‘Collectors, forgers, and curators: Scientific instruments and the foundation of history of science in Cambridge’, at the workshop ‘Objects and the formation of (disciplinary) knowledge in universities and beyond (18th and 19th centuries)’, Historic Observatory, Universität Göttingen.

In June Joshua Nall gave a talk, “A cultural accessory to modern research”? The Whipple Museum of the History of Science as a research collection – past, present, and future’, at the ‘Engaging 21st Century Researchers’ workshop, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge.

Josh Nall published two articles relating to his research:


Steve Kruse published a book chapter based on his MA dissertation:


In April, Liba Taub’s paper on ‘What is a Scientific Instrument, Now?’ was presented to the 2018 Gordon Cain Conference at the Science History Institute, Philadelphia, ‘Where to Put It All? Some Thoughts about Collections, Museums, and History’; this will be published as part of a special issue of the Journal of the History of Collections.

**Formal and Lifelong Learning**

Our Learning Co-ordinator, Rosanna Evans, has continued teaching schools as well as organizing family and adult events and outreach over the last year.

Over Michaelmas term, Rosanna supported Activate, a Cambridge based Arts-project co-led by the City Council and various arts organisations in Cambridge, creating and delivering content for several sessions on the history of cartography, surveying, and astronomy - all related to our Special Exhibition Astronomy and Empire. In the summer term, their performance, ‘The Museum of Maps’, featured astrolabes, star charts and navigation. Rosanna continued to welcome school and Widening Participation groups into the Museum until the closure, with our joint GCSE and A Level sessions with the Whipple Library continuing to prove popular.

The year’s events provided interactions with broader audiences and increased visitor numbers. In January, the Whipple was one of four museums participating in the first Cambridge Climate Hack, spearheaded by Charlotte Connelly and the Polar Museum. With huge thanks to Richard Staley, who helped lead an intro session, a group of innovators, creators, digital artists and museum educators installed an interactive activity in the Whipple and got people thinking about how museums can provoke discussions about climate change science and sustainability, really demonstrating the power of having new input in curation and engagement opportunities. Our Cam Late ‘Science and Magic’ sold out, and the Naked Scientists came to get an exciting preview of our joint event with the Whipple Library, ‘Mind Your Head: Phrenology at the Whipple’. Over the summer, Rosanna was kindly hosted by colleagues across the University of Cambridge Museums for Summer at the Museums, and tripled the number of interactions we’ve had over any summer. Two events were particularly exciting: the
collaboration with the Fitzwilliam Museum and Digital Maker, Katy Marshall, which led 8-12 year olds creating their own digital compass alethiometer, inspired by the ADC production of Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials* and the Whipple collections, as a part of Fitz Family Art Week, and a joint event with the other UCM Science Museums and Botanical Garden that crossed venues and genres to teach forensic skills and solve crimes.

The Handling Collection project continued, and several acquisitions were made; this has enhanced the quality of our object-led teaching and activities outside of the Museum. Thanks to the Museum of Technology, we have acquired 5 objects relating to Cambridge industry and that can immediately be used in sessions. Rosanna and our Handling Collection Project Assistant, Jenny Williams, visited a Scientific Instruments Fair in order to make acquisitions and we also have a new host of Victorian Optical Toys. Jenny additionally updated some of our Adventure bags to simplify them and reflect changes in the galleries. We have additionally been working with Graeme Durant from Makespace in order to create a portable table orrery made of family-friendly materials with visible mechanism to use in our Earth and Space sessions and to take out to schools.

As a part of a bigger project to improve accessibility to the Whipple collection, Rosanna has continued to take Museum objects to patients undergoing kidney dialysis and has jointly led two tours for people with visual impairments with Jennifer Williams, the Education Assistant at MAA, one of which was featured on BBC Look East. Following an Access Review funded by the UCM, work began to create more opportunities within the Museum for families and visitors with additional needs.

**Blog posts**

*The Whipple Museum: Past and Future*
https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/blog/2018/06/05/the-whipple-museum-past-and-future/

*Her Story: Eliza Brightwen’s Bible Album*
https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/blog/2018/03/29/her-story-eliza-brightwens-bible-album/

*Crate expectations: curating as a collaborative endeavour*
https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/blog/2018/01/18/crate-expectations-curating-as-a-collaborative-endavour/

*India Unboxed: Astronomy and Empire*
https://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/blog/2017/10/10/india-unboxed-astronomy-and-empire/
Outreach Events

Festival of Ideas

Can Machines Think?
On Wednesday 18th October, Marta Halina’s talk explored what is unique about the human mind and whether we can build machines that match or exceed our abilities.

Fakes, Mistakes and Mystery at the Whipple
On Thursday 19th October, we trialled an interactive crime-solving event based on research conducted by Boris Jardine, Josh Nall and James Hyslop that traced fake objects in the Whipple Collection back to their dealers. Josh Nall also gave a talk about the process of unearthing fakes in the collection.

Astronomy and Empire: Curator talk
Joshua Nall, on Friday 20th October, led a tour of our first Special Exhibition, *Astronomy and Empire*.

Imposter!!
Detectives were joined by families on Monday 23rd October to hunt out fakes on display throughout the Museum before creating their own forged scientific instrument using embossing foil.

Festival of Light
At the Botanical Gardens on Wednesday 25th October, the Whipple joined other University of Cambridge Museums with activities themed around Diwali as a part of *India Unboxed*, inviting families to make a Nakshatra lantern, and learn more about historical Indian astronomy and astrology.

Mothers Who Make
On the 16th January, the Whipple hosted the first Cambridge meeting of Mothers Who Make, a group designed to welcome mothers and their children and encourage creative practices and collaboration.

Climate Hack
From Friday 19th - Sunday 21st January, the Whipple joined three other museums as a part of a Climate Hack, organised by the Polar Museum. Teams of makers, creators and educators were
invited into the museums to create interactive activities that provoked audiences to consider contemporary issues related to climate change.

**Twilight at the Museums**

On the evening of the 13th February, the Museum turned off its ordinary lights and the Junction provided projection and theatrical lighting for an ‘Eclipse Expedition’ theme, which invited families to locate tools needed for an expedition. The Museum welcomed 979 visitors over the event’s three hours!

**Science Festival**

**Astronomy and Empire: late opening**

On Wednesday 14th March, the Whipple kept its doors open until 8pm and visitors enjoyed a glass of wine whilst visiting our special exhibition.

**Stargazers around the World**

Inspired by our exhibition *Astronomy and Empire*, on Saturday 17th March, visitors joined explorers at the Whipple for family hunts and activities that travelled far and wide.

**Astronomy and Empire: Curator talk**

On Wednesday 21st March, curator Dr. Joshua Nall spoke about our newest special exhibition, *Astronomy and Empire*, the first exhibition to inhabit our newly refurbished Special Exhibition Gallery.

**Science and Magic**

On the 29th March, visitors enjoyed an evening of jaw-dropping trickery and slight-of-hand inspired by the Whipple Museum's collection of historic scientific instruments and models.

**Festival of Education: Marketplace**

Rosanna joined Learning Officers from across the University of Cambridge Museums at Homerton College on the 9th June for a marketplace stall demonstrating our offer to teachers.
Pacific Tours

On the 26th June and 25th July, Jenny Williams and Rosanna Evans led handling sessions and audio descriptive tours of Astronomy and Empire at the Whipple Museum as well as the new Pacific cases at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for people with visual impairments.

Summer at the Museums

Arbury Primary School Fair

On the 29th June we visited Arbury School Fair to make models of celestial motions.

Big Weekend: Make and Create Tent

On the 14th July, we joined the University of Cambridge Museums’ Make and Create Tent, making models of different celestial motions – examining eclipses, planetary transits and orbits.

Brain storm

We joined the Sedgwick Museum on the 26th July to explore different types of brain and how we understand them. Visitors made their own thinking cap and model brain.

Digital Dark Materials at Fitz Family Art Week

For the first week of August, summer visitors joined us for pop-up workshops at The Fitzwilliam Museum: making their own moving, digitally-enhanced alethiometer, inspired by the ADC production of His Dark Materials and the Whipple’s exciting collections.

Time-travelling Scientists

On the 6th August, visitors stepped back in time to find out about science in ancient Greece and Rome. How did they build impressive buildings? How did they cure their illnesses? And how did they make sense of the stars?

Science Detectives

On the 18th August, young people joined the Whipple, the Museum of Zoology, the Polar Museum, the Sedgwick Museum and the Botanical Gardens to hone their scientific skills in preparation for a forensic investigation at the Botanic Gardens.

Whipple Wildlife
At the Museum of Zoology, on the 21st August, the Whipple used past zoologists' tried and tested techniques to help visitors hone their investigative skills so they can get a better look at animals and specimens.

All at Sea

On the 30th August, with help from the Whipple Museum visitors learned how people from across the world navigated the oceans, using a compass to explore the Museum and play a Pacific-themed trading game. They then had the opportunity to make their own bean map to take home.

Open Cambridge

Mind your head: Phrenology at the Whipple

The Whipple Library hosted a special display of Museum and Library pamphlets, books, models and ephemera relating to phrenology on 14th September. Guides created by work experience student Jack Campbell helped visitors form their own phrenological diagnosis.

Other Events

Special Exhibition opening

On 17th October, 5pm to 7pm, the Museum hosted an opening event for Astronomy & Empire, the first exhibition in the Whipple Museum’s newly refurbished Special Exhibition Gallery.

Book-launch for Patient Zero and the Making of the AIDS Epidemic

Richard McKay's first book, Patient Zero and the Making of the AIDS Epidemic, was launched in the Whipple Museum on Friday 16th February.

Book-launch for Rock, Bone and Ruin

From 5-7 pm on Thursday 10th May, the Museum hosted a book launch for Rock, Bone and Ruin: An Optimist's Guide to the Historical Sciences by Adrian Currie.

Book-launch for Medical Nihilism

The Museum hosted Jacob Stegenga's book-launch for Medical Nihilism on Friday 25th May.
Memorial event for Frances Willmoth

On Tuesday 26 June, there was a gathering in the Learning Gallery to share memories of Frances Willmoth, a longstanding friend and supporter of the Whipple Museum.

Two short talks on work related to Frances’ own interests and scholarship were offered by Emma Perkins and Arthur Harris.

Special Visits

In February, Josh Nall and Boris Jardine lead a tour and handling study session in the Museum for members of the Scientific Instrument Society. Details of the tour and an account of the Museum’s displays and collection were subsequently written up by Jonathan Maxwell in No. 137 of the Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society, pp.35-39.

In April, Joshua Nall lead a tour for members of the International Map Collectors Society.

In April, members of the Directorate Admin team of the Science Museum, London, visited the Whipple Museum for a tour and to discuss with Josh Nall the Whipple’s approach to interpreting and displaying the material culture of science.

In May, Josh Nall hosted researchers from the Royal Holloway research project ‘The Mobile Museum: Economic Botany in Circulation’.

Television, Radio and Magazine Appearances

On 8th November, Joshua Nall gave an interview and tour of Astronomy & Empire for Cambridge TV, a spot that was then broadcast on local BBC news.

On 16th July, Rosanna Evans and Jenny Williams’s tour for people with visual impairment was broadcast on BBC Look East.

On the 13th September, Rosanna Evans and Jack Dixon were interviewed by Georgia Mills for the Naked Scientists radio segment on the BBC Cambridge Breakfast show.
Grants and Donations

Connecting Collections

Rosanna Evans received a Strategic Enablement Grant of £5,000 to support her education and outreach activities throughout the year. The Museum also received £500 funding to allow us to be open on occasional weekends throughout the year, and £500 to support workforce development and attendance at conferences. The Museum is grateful to Arts Council England for this funding, provided through their Major Partner Museum Programme.

Whipple Museum of the History of Science Conservation Fund

Following the establishment of the Whipple Museum of the History of Science Conservation Fund, Robert Whipple’s grandchildren have continued to be very generous to the Museum and have given further donations to actively conserve the collection.

Other Donations

We thank the Ann D Foundation for their continuing contributions.
Staff News

The Museum hosted four work experience students on the 27th and 28th June as well as the 4th and 5th July as a part of the UCM work experience weeks. We also hosted Jack Campbell for a week of work experience at the end of August.

In February, Christina Rozeik joined the Whipple for five months as Temporary Collection Assistant to help with re-packing the collection.

In February, Jenny Williams left the role of Handling Collection Assistant. She assisted Rosanna on a project that tracked and improved the standard of the objects used for teaching and activities as a part of public engagement and teaching in the Museum.

From July to November, Matthew Green joined the Museum as Summer Intern after completing his MPhil in History and Philosophy of Science. He catalogued the Dillon Weston materials and made great progress on the accessioning backlog.

In September, Rosanna Evans left her part-time role as Collections Assistant and took up a PhD with the University of Leeds and the Science Museum; she continues as our part-time Learning Coordinator.

In November, Joshua Nall took up the Chair of the Astronomical Heritage Committee of the Royal Astronomical Society.
Training

26th October 2018

*Cheap and Easy Digital Learning* (run by SHARE)

Rosanna Evans attended this workshop focusing on construction and practical methods to integrate low-cost digital techniques into museums’ learning offers.

31st October

*Museums, Health and Wellbeing training* (run by the National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing)

Rosanna Evans attended the second part of this training course, which shared practical advice for establishing partnerships with health organisations, preparing meaningful offers to facilitate wellbeing, and help create supportive work environments.

10th January

*Raspberry Pi and Digital Engagement training* (run by SHARE)

Rosanna Evans attended this training at the Centre for Computing History which introduced participants to the possibilities for using Raspberry Pi as a part of museum interactive and learning opportunities.

1st-2nd February 2018

*First Aid at Work requalification*

Claire Wallace attended this course which renewed her First Aid at Work qualification for another three years.

19th February 2018

*Introduction to Evaluating Science Communication & Public Engagement*

Rosanna Evans attended this day-long introduction to logic models and evaluation techniques focused on science-specific activities.

3rd May

*Volunteer Makers training*
Rosanna Evans attended this half day of training to use new online system Volunteer Makers, which the University of Cambridge Museums hope to introduce in 2019.

12th – 13th June 2018

Managing Indoor Climate Risks

Steve Kruse attended this two-day workshop which focused on the practice of risk-based decision making to optimize the management of indoor climate conditions for collections and buildings. During the two days the participants learnt about the most current research in managing indoor climate risks and were guided through the process of decision making, from identifying climate risks for collections to the development of climate control strategies.

29th May 2018

Project Management in Conservation & Collections Care: Intermediate Course

Building on the basic course attended in late 2016, Steve Kruse took part in this session, which explored the practical application of the principles of project management to conservation and collections care. The participants worked on case studies, used tools and implemented techniques that will help them to run small and mid-sized projects efficiently.

9th July 2018

Behaviour training (run by Artswork)

Rosanna Evans attended this day of training aimed at introducing techniques for managing difficult behaviour in museum environments.
**Loans**

The Whipple Museum continues to receive frequent requests from other museums for the loan of objects from its collection, evidence of how highly regarded the collection is both nationally and internationally. The Whipple contributes material to exhibitions in other institutions in order to encourage new research in and public enjoyment of its collection. Below is a list of the borrowing institutions, exhibitions held and the objects borrowed during this academic year.

**Loans in**

Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge

21st July 2017-August 2019

E579.1 A3 – Worth mirror in packing box
E579.2 1936 Solar Eclipse large-format plates in wooden box
E579.3 1898 Eclipse – original negatives in small wooden tray

Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge

22nd August 2017- August 2019

E582.1 Coelostat mirror no.3
E582.2 Mount for equatorial telescope

Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge

29th August 2017- August 2019

E583.1 J. Foldingham, *Madras observatory papers* (1827)
E583.2 W. Wales, *Astronomical observations...in the Southern Hemisphere* (1788)
E583.3 Three boxes of eclipse negatives (HIN 547-549)
E583.4 Three photographs of the 1898 eclipse expedition to Pulgnon, India (EX/2)
E583.5 Two bound volumes of sun photographs taken in India (HIN 451)

Professor Simon Schaffer, Department of History & Philosophy of Science, Cambridge

8th September 2017- August 2019
E585 Tibetan prayer wheel

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge
29th September 2017-4th July 2018
E586.1 D1914.37 – Shell Trumpet, first Cook voyage, Society Islands
E586.2 1922.373 – Pantochronometer, UK
E586.3 2017.26 – Palm Leaf Almanac, India
E586.4 Z 5962 – Tattooing Instrument, Samoa
E586.5 Z 29400 – Cast Otaheite Medal, UK

29th September 2017- August 2019
E587 Sextant in box – previously belonged to Capt. James Cook

Loans out

University Library, Cambridge
Landscaes Below, 20th November 2017 – 3rd April 2018
Wh. 1503 Wollaston-type Goniometer, by Cary, circa 1820
Wh. 1581 Wooden Geological Models of Sedimentary Strata, by Sopwith, circa 1841

Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, University of Cambridge
Small display for official opening of new building, 24th April 2018
Wh.6081 Bacon Fuel Cell
                 Presentation Plaque
                 Copy of review lecture “The Development and Practical Application of Fuel Cells”

The British Library, London
James Cook’s Voyages, 18th April-31st August 2018
Wh.1837 Reflecting Telescope (Gregorian), by James Short, circa 1760
The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford


Wh.0336  Ptolemaic Armillary Sphere, 15th century
Outreach Loans Out

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Filming event, October 2017
HC53  Zoetropes and picture strips

Coleridge Community College, Cambridge
Activate Session, November 2017
HC18  Urania’s Mirror
HC125  “Oriental” Astrolabe
Unaccessioned Astrolabe
Unaccessioned Astrolabe back
Unaccessioned Celestial Globe fragment

Coton Primary School, Coton
Teaching Session, 12th March 2018
HC68  Electro-medical device
HC134  Macaura’s Pulsocon

Kidney Dialysis Unit, Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge
Handling Session, 24th April 2018
HC18  Urania’s Mirror
HC112  Consul the Educated Monkey
HC125  “Oriental” Astrolabe
HC129  Telescope
HC132.1  Stereoscopic Viewer (+ 2 cards)

Kettle’s Yard, University of Cambridge
Summer at the Museums event, August 2018
HC07  Set of 20 weights in brass
Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge

*Science Detectives, August 2018*

HC23  Simple Microscope

HC24  Compound Microscope
New Acquisitions

Wh.6642 Portable sundial, attributed to Richard Glynne, English, c.1720
Wh.6643 Sector, brass, 11", by Elias Allen, English, c.1615
Wh.6644 Horary quadrant, paper-on-wood, by Henry Sutton, c. 1658
Wh.6645 Molecular model kit, by Framework, U.S.A., c. 1965
Wh.6646 Stereophotographs of the Deutsches Museum, 207 photos in three slip cases, by Alfred Krauth and Deutscher Stereo-Bild Verlag, German, c. 1920
Wh.6647 Fossil collection, displayed in a book-shaped box, by Vaclav Fric, Austro-Hungarian, c. 1870
Wh. 6648 Henley’s electrometer, by George Adams (Jnr.), English, c. 1780
Wh.6649 Wedgewood pyrometer, by Dumotiez, French, late 18th century
Wh.6650 Pyrometer, Watkins and Hill, English, early 19th century
Wh.6651 Gauger’s slide rule, Everard type, English, c. 1820. Used by Excise Officer Frederick E. Dash
Wh.6652 Mercury thermometer (Fahrenheit and Reaumur), by George Adams, English, c. 1800
Wh.6653 Compendium with tide computer and calendar disks, attributed to Charles Whitwell, English, late 16th century
Wh.6654 Sector, brass, attributed to Elias Allen, English, early 17th century
Wh.6655 Terrestrial orbit calendars, by Emile Kraft, French, c. 1940
Wh.6656 Microscope, No. 25, by F. W. Schiek, German, mid 19th century. Used by Dr. Martin Barry and with bound volume of the works of Barry, Scottish, mid-19th century
Wh.6657 Coffee table with botanical drawings on tiles, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century
Wh.6658.1 Ceramic tile with drawing of lettuce with tip-burn, no. 1 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century
Wh.6658.2 Ceramic tile with drawing of lettuce, no. 2 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century
Wh.6658.3 Ceramic tile with drawing of mildewed lettuce, no. 3 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century
Wh.6658.4 Ceramic tile with drawing of a spotted brassica leaf, no. 4 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century
Wh.6658.5 Ceramic tile with drawing of a chard leaf, no. 5 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century
Wh.6658.6 Ceramic tile with drawing of infected (fava bean?) leaves, no. 6 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.7 Ceramic tile with drawings of infected celery, no. 7 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.8 Ceramic tile with drawings of celery root, no. 8 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh. 6658.9 Ceramic tile with drawing of infected celery, no. 9 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.10 Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected root, no. 10 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.11 Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected sugar beet, no. 11 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh. 6658.12 Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected carrot, no. 12 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.13 Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected onion, no. 13 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.14 Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected potato, no. 14 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.15 Ceramic tile with drawings of infected potatoes, no. 15 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.16 Ceramic tile with drawings of infected potatoes, no. 16 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.17 Ceramic tile with drawings of damaged potatoes, no. 17 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.18 Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected tree section, no. 18 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.19 Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected tree section, no. 19 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.20 Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected blackberry branch, no. 20 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.21 Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected blackberry branch, no. 21 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.22 Ceramic tile with drawings of infected raspberry branch, no. 22 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.23 Ceramic tile with drawings of an infected branch section, no. 23 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.24 Ceramic tile with drawings of infected wheat, no. 24 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century
Wh.6658.25  Ceramic tile with drawing of an asparagus shoot, no. 25 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.26  Ceramic tile with drawings of mildewed spinach, no. 26 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.27  Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected apple plant, no. 27 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.28  Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected apple, no. 28 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.29  Ceramic tile with drawing of an infected iris (?) leaf, no. 29 of 38, by Dr W. A. R Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.30  Ceramic tile with drawings of infected tomatoes, no. 30 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.31  Ceramic tile with drawings of infected gladiolus bulbs, no. 31 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.32  Ceramic tile with drawings of infected gladiolus bulbs, no. 32 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.33  Ceramic tile with drawings of infected plants (?), no. 33 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.34  Ceramic tile with drawing of soil cross-section with roots, no. 34 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.35  Ceramic tile with drawing of soil cross-section with roots, no. 35 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.36  Ceramic tile with photographs of infected sugar beet, no. 36 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.37  Ceramic tile with photograph of infected sugar beet (?), no. 37 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6658.38  Ceramic tile with photograph of an infected sugar beet leaf, no. 38 of 38, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, mid-20th century

Wh.6659  Chemistry set, Merit No. 2, by J. & L. Randall, English, c. 1962

Wh.6660  Chemistry set, Lott’s Chemistry Outfit No. 1, by Lott’s Bricks, English, early 20th century

Wh.6661  Chemistry set, Gilbert Chemistry Outfit, by A. C. Gilbert Co., U.S.A., c. 1936

Wh.6662.1  Folder of 19 paintings/drawings labelled “Asparagus”, no. 1 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.2  Folder of 23 paintings/drawings labelled “Barley”, no. 2 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.3  Folder of 29 paintings/drawings labelled “Beans”, no. 3 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s
Wh.6662.4 Folder of 7 paintings/drawings labelled “Carrot”, no. 4 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.5 Folder of 45 paintings/drawings labelled “Clover”, no. 5 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.6 Folder of 14 paintings, drawings & photographs labelled “Currant, Blackberry, Loganberry”, no. 6 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.7 Folder of 13 paintings/drawings labelled “Gooseberry”, no. 7 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.8 Folder of 23 paintings/drawings labelled “Lettuce”, no. 8 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.9 Folder of 14 paintings/drawings labelled “Mint Rust” no. 9 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.10 Folder of 46 paintings/drawings labelled “Oats”, no. 10 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.11 Folder of 18 paintings/drawings labelled “Onion”, no. 11 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.12 Folder of 12 paintings/drawings labelled “Parsnip and Celery”, no. 12 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.13 Folder of 11 paintings/drawings labelled “Peas”, no. 13 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.14 Folder of 53 paintings, drawings & photographs labelled “Potato various diseases”, no. 14 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.15 Folder of 25 paintings, drawings & photographs labelled “Potato various notes”, no. 15 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.16 Folder of 9 paintings/drawings labelled “Strawberry”, no. 16 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.17 Folder of 10 paintings/drawings labelled “Swede”, no. 17 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.18 Folder of 5 paintings/drawings labelled “Tomato”, no. 18 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.19 Folder of 49 paintings/drawings labelled “Wheat”, no. 19 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.20 Folder of 31 paintings/drawings labelled “Vegetables”, no. 20 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.21 Folder of 46 paintings, drawings & photographs labelled “Sugar Beet”, no. 21 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.22 Folder of 57 paintings/drawings labelled “Sugar Beet”, no. 22 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s
Wh.6662.23  Folder of 43 paintings, drawings and photographs labelled “Sugar Beet Pests”, no. 23 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.24  Folder of 32 paintings/drawings labelled “Sugar Beet Deficiency Diseases”, no. 24 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.25  Folder of 25 paintings/drawings labelled “Trees”, no. 25 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.26  Folder of 42 paintings, drawings and photographs labelled “Fruit Trees”, no. 26 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.27  Folder of 13 paintings, drawings and photographs labelled “Silver leaf”, no 27 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.28  Folder of 14 paintings/drawings labelled “Apple scab”, no. 28 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.29  Folder of 36 paintings, drawings and paper models labelled “Apple scab”, no. 29 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.30  Folder of 28 paintings, drawings and photographs labelled “Apple Various Disorders”, no. 30 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.31  Folder of 32 paintings/drawings labelled “Pear Scab”, no. 31 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.32  Folder of 25 paintings, drawings & photographs labelled “Flowers (I)”, no. 32 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.33  Folder of 36 paintings, drawings & photographs labelled “Flowers (II)”, no. 33 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.34  Folder of 7 paintings/drawings, unlabelled (mostly grasses), no. 34 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.35  Folder of 12 paintings/drawings, labelled “Miscellaneous”, no. 35 of 35, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6662.36  Envelope of loose drawings and associated ephemera, by Dr W. A. R. Dillon Weston, English, 1930s

Wh.6663  Chemistry set, Merit Chemistry Outfit, by J. & L. Randall Ltd., English, c.1954

Wh.6664  Chemistry set, No. 2, by A. C. Gilbert Co., U.S.A., c. 1936

Wh.6665  Microscope set for children, Gilbert Microscope no. 21, by A. C. Gilbert Co., U.S.A., c.1948

Wh.6666  Advertisement for chemistry sets by Chemcraft, from Popular Mechanics Magazine, U.S.A., c. 1929

Wh.6667  Level & angle indicator, by Fletcher & Sinclair, English, late 19th century

Wh.6668  Miniature crystal radio receiver, “vest-pocket” size, by Radiax Ltd., English, early 20th century
Double-convex lens filled with clear liquid (water?) mounted on a stand
Pocket microscope with slides, “Midgard” model, German, early 20th century
Polarising toy with Nicol prism, German, early 20th century
Compound microscope, “Improved” model, by W. and S. Jones, English, early 19th century
Microscope slide preparation rotating stage, with prepared specimens, 19th century
Simple microscope with multi-chamber base containing various seeds, 19th century
Joly photometer, c. 1900
Hobby instrument set for children, “100” outfit, made by Construments, English, 1930s
Replica of a Leeuwenhoek simple microscope, 18th century
Anaglyph spectacles, by Redheffer & Co., c. 1900
Photomicrographic camera and microscope, by F. Davidson and Co., English, c.1920
Orrery with tellurion, by Parkes and Hadley, English, c. 1910
Microscope, simple binocular type, by R. & J. Beck, English, c. 1875
Compound microscope, “Student” type, by Beck, English, c. 1930
Two pocket lenses, 19th century
Microscope slide preparation set, in case with royal cypher of Queen Charlotte, c. 1774
Visibility meter, designed by Ernest Gold, by Casella, English, 1943
Microscope slide preparation/mounting set, by R. & J. Beck, English, c. 1875
Double pillar compound microscope in box, French, late 19th century
Centrifuge, hand-cranked, sold by Andrew H. Baird, Scottish, c. 1900
Children’s chemistry experiment book, Experiment book no. 1, by Chemcraft, U.S.A., c. 1933
Comparison microscope eyepiece attachment, by Beck, English, 20th century
Tourmaline tongs, device for polarising light, 19th century
Crookes tube, paddlewheel type, 20th century
Geissler tube, 20th century
Magazine advertisement, ‘Scientific Wonders for Boys and Girls’, including Gilbert chemistry sets, U.S.A., 1948
Wh.6695 Surface tension apparatus, by the Cambridge Instrument Company, English, c. 1953
Wh.6696 Husun Star Globe, celestial globe to aid navigation, by H. Hughes & Son, English, 1920
Wh.6697 Compound microscope, No. 1 Stand, by Powell & Lealand, English, 1884

HC125 Replica astrolabe after Diya’al Din Muhammad’s 1647 astrolabe, by Hemisferium, Spanish, early 21st century
HC126 Surgical silk cord, by Down Bros., English, early 20th century
HC127 Replica astrolabe after Johann Richter’s 1591 astrolabe, late 20th century
HC128 Replica planispheric astrolabe by Hemisferium, early 21st century
HC129 Handheld 4-drawer refracting telescope by G. Willson of London, early 19th century
HC130 Circular slide rule (‘Fowler’s Magnum’) by Fowler & Co, 20th century
HC131 Universal equinoctial ring dial, by Michael Kala, Austrian, early 21st century
HC132.1 Stereoscope (1 of 2) by Underwood & Underwood, early 20th century
HC132.2 Stereoscope (2 of 2) by Underwood & Underwood, early 20th century
HC133 Napier’s bones, late 20th century
HC134 ‘Macaura’s Pulsocron’, ‘blood circulator’ vibrating massage medical device, by British Appliances Manufacturing Company; English, c. early 20th century
Annual Reports of Members of the Department

Anna Alexandrova

With my first book *A Philosophy for the Science of Well-being* (OUP) appearing in print last summer, I was busy writing blog posts and giving talks about it. I am grateful for the book launch in October at the Whipple Museum and for the Author Meets Critics session at the Pacific APA in San Diego California in March. Stephen John and I have completed the project *Limits of the Numerical* at CRASSH and started working on an eponymous edited volume. My role at the Leverhulme Centre for Future of Intelligence now includes directing the programme on *Philosophy and Ethics of AI*, as part of which I have been working on a report for Nuffield Foundation on the ethical implications of algorithms, data, and AI. At the department I especially enjoyed running the CamPoS speaker series, looking after this year’s Part III students, and continuing to teach philosophy of social science to students of several tripos, including HPS, Economics, Philosophy, and Human Social and Political Sciences.

Publications

Articles in journals


Online

Reddit Philosophy Ask Me Anything, https://www.reddit.com/r/philosophy/comments/7vfoyh/i_am_anna_alexandrova_philosopher_of_science/, over 33,000 views


ann-a-alexandrova-a-philosophy-for-the-science-of-well-being, December 2017


Lectures, seminars and conferences

September 2017

“Are social scientists experts on values?” Keynote Address, European Network for the Philosophy of the Social Sciences (ENPOSS) 2017 conference (Poland, Cracow, 20-22 September).

October 2017

“Who to trust about healthcare?” Festival of Ideas Panel.

February 2018

Comments on Kate Raworth’s *Donut Economics*, Murray Edwards On The Edge Series.


“What (not) to trust in the science of well-being”, University of Geneva.

March 2018

Author Meets Critics, Pacific Division of the Americal Philosophical Association

April 2018

“How to build an ethics: lessons for mathematics from other fields” First Workshop on Ethics in Mathematics, Cambridge

June 2018

“Ethical Principles for human kinds”, Plenary session, British Society for Philosophy of Science, Oxford

Grants and Honours:

“Best of 2017” in Oxford Philosophy Journals for “Is Well-being Measurable Afterall?”

Pl on Expertise Under Pressure, a four year collaborative project at the Centre for Humanities and Social Change, CRASSH Cambridge.

Salim Al-Gailani

In 2018 Salim was appointed as a Bye-Fellow at St Edmund’s College, where he is also Director of Studies in HPS.

Publications

Articles in books

“Antenatal affairs”: maternal marking and the medical management of pregnancy in Britain around 1900”, in U. Helduser and B. Dohm (eds), Imaginationen des Ungeborenen/Imagining the Unborn (Heidelberg: Winter-Verlag, 2018), 153–172

Articles in journals


Lectures, seminars and conferences

March 2018

‘Hospital birth’, University of Groningen Honours College Winterschool on the History of Reproduction, Clare College, University of Cambridge

July 2018

‘Risky Pregnancies: Teratology and Clinical Genetics in Postwar Britain and West Germany’, Society for the Social History of Medicine Conference, University of Liverpool

Leah Astbury

From August 2017 to August 2018 I was the Molina Fellow in History of Medicine and Allied Sciences at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California. In this post I conducted archival research for my project to be conducted as a Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of History & Philosophy of Science and continued preparing a monograph provisionally titled Breeding Bodies: Childbirth, Health and the Family in Early Modern England. I returned to the Department September 2018 to take up my Fellowship.

Publications

Articles in books

Leah Astbury, "Ordering the Infant": Caring for Newborns in Seventeenth-Century England", in S. Cavallo and T. Storey (eds.), Conserving
Health in Early Modern Culture. Bodies and Environments in Italy and England (Manchester University Press, 2017).

**Articles in journals**


**Online**

Curated and transcribed cases from The Casebooks Project on 'Bad Marriages', 'Can beget no child' and 'Childbirth and after': https://casebooks.wordpress.com/, Published online 1 January 2019.

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**Jenny Bangham**

During 2017-18, Jenny was in the second year of her 3-year Wellcome Trust Medical Humanities Fellowship. She collected oral history interviews and archival material on research trips in the UK and Europe. In October 2017 she co-organised the international workshop ‘How Collections End: Objects, Meaning and Loss in Laboratories and Museums,’ with Boris Jardine (HPS) and Emma Kowal (Deakin University, Melbourne), held in the Whipple Museum. Jenny, Boris and Emma are editing the workshop papers for the 2019 issue of BJHS Themes. In July 2018 Jenny was awarded a Wellcome University Award at Queen Mary University of London for her future project, 'Encountering genes: Postwar genetic counselling in the UK and Ireland', which she will begin in March 2020. From March to October 2018 Jenny was on parental leave with her baby daughter, Avery.

**Publications**

**Articles in journals**


**Lectures, seminars and conferences**

October 2017


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**Debby Banham**

I was absolutely thrilled at the beginning of July to be honoured (on the occasion of my 65th birthday) with three sessions of papers and a slap-up dinner at the International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds. Among the speakers were former Latin Therapists Drs Christine Voth (who organised the whole bash) and Conan Doyle.

**Publications**

**Articles in books**


**Lectures, seminars and conferences**

November 2017

‘The Early English Bread project’, Food History Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London

February 2018

April 2018

‘Women’s work and the domestic sphere in Anglo-Saxon England’, The Anglo-Saxons at Home, Manchester Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies, University of Manchester

May 2018

‘What did Beowulf eat? Food and farming in Anglo-Saxon England’, Beowulf Festival, Woodbridge, Suffolk

June 2018

‘Women’s work and the body in early medieval England’, Wilhelm Levison Workshop, Durham University

July 2018

‘Memory and mimicry: the transmission of practical skills in early medieval England’, International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds.

Mary Augusta Brazelton

Activities included co-organization of a series of events associated with the Decolonize movement in Easter term, as well as participation in the week-long China in a Global WWII Summer Institute at CRASSH; a podcast series on the exhibition “Astronomy and Empire” in the Whipple Museum; and “The Political and the Colonial in Science” (with Professors Simon Schaffer and Richard Friend), a session hosted by the Cambridge UCU Teach-Outs series in March. Other planned activities, including a lecture and a panel discussion at the Whipple for the Science Festival, both in March, were cancelled due to the UCU industrial action.

Publications

Articles in books


Reviews

Lectures, seminars and conferences

August 2018
Guest Lecturer, Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business EMBA Programme, Møller Institute, Churchill College, Cambridge

July 2018

May 2018
“Fighting plagues in southwest China: A case study in the history of science," invited lecture at Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge.

May 2018
“Mass immunization, medical diplomacy, and global health in modern East Asia, 1945-75," Seminar on Comparative Histories of Asia, Institute for Historical Research, London.

April 2018

March 2018
“Patriotic hygiene and mass immunization in the early People’s Republic of China," Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC.

November 2017
"Negotiating immunity: Mass vaccination in modern China and East Asia, 1945-75," Seminar at Centre for History in Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Andrew Buskell

This year I continued to work as part of the large project “Putting the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis to the Test.” As part of this project, I organised a two-day workshop—held at the department in May—entitled United Fronts: Unity, Organisation, and Syntheses in the Life Sciences, which brought together an international group of philosophers, scientists, historians, and social scientists. Also in May, I was awarded a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust to pursue a project entitled “Counting Cultures: The Metaphysics of Cultural Individuality”, which I will take up at HPS in the spring of 2019.

Publications

Articles in journals


Review


Lectures, seminars and conferences

**November 2017**

“Synthesising Arguments and the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis.” Evolutionary Ecology Seminar, Lund University

**May 2018**

“Cognitive Gadgets and Creative Cultural Evolution.” Centre for Cultural Evolution, University of Stockholm

“Synthesising Arguments and the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis.” at the workshop “United Fronts: Unity, Organisation, and Syntheses in the Life Sciences”, University of Cambridge

**July 2018**


“Cognitive Gadgets and Creative Cultural Evolution.” at the workshop “Author Meets Critics: Cecilia Heyes’ *Cognitive Gadgets*”, Australian National University

**September 2018**

“Cultures as Species.” Departmental Seminar, Australian National University

Hasok Chang

The academic 2017–18 year was a period focused primarily on research, being the first of my three years of research leave as a British Academy Wolfson Research Professor.

In the Department, while not doing undergraduate teaching or master’s supervisions, I have continued to look after a large number of PhD students. I have resumed the overall coordination of the Coffee with Scientists seminar group. My collaborative agreement with the Department of Chemistry for experimental work continues, having been renewed for 3 years in August 2016. I also organised and delivered (with Adrian Currie) a special course of HPS lectures for graduate students and postdocs in Chemistry. I remain a Fellow of Clare Hall.

In professional service, I continued to focus on the cause of integrated history and philosophy of science. I have finished a 3-year term as the Chair of the Committee for Integrated HPS in the summer of 2018 (and oversaw the group’s 7th international conference in Hannover in July 2018), and maintained a key role in the UK Integrated HPS Network (which held its annual meeting in June 2018 at UCL). I have continued chairing the history–philosophy Joint Commission of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST). From 2017, I have also served as a member of the Governing Board of the Philosophy of Science Association, and as the Deputy Chairman of the Society for History of Alchemy and Chemistry.

Publications

*Articles in books*


**Articles in journals**


**Reviews**


**Lectures, seminars and conferences**

**November 2017**


‘Science and practical knowledge’, CSH/Philosophy Colloquium, University of Bern, 23 November 2017

**December 2017**

‘The mutual relation between science and technology: the case of the Voltaic battery’ (in Korean), The Association of Korean Scientists and Engineers in Cambridge, 1 December 2017

‘Philosophy of active scientific knowledge’, Launch of the British Academy – Wolfson Research Professorships, The British Academy, 4 December 2017

‘Electrical batteries: technoscience in the 19th century’, Science Studies Colloquium, University of Oslo, 6 December 2017

**January 2018**

‘What can we learn from the history of science?’, Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, 8 January 2018

‘American Pragmatism: The Origins & Future (Lecture 1. The origins of pragmatism; Lecture 2. Pragmatism as thorough empiricism), CORE: Initiative for College of Humanities’ Research and Education, Hanyang University, Seoul, 18–19 January 2018

**February 2018**

‘Who cares about the history of science? The case of Voltaic batteries’, Gallery Talk, Gabriele Possanner Institut für interdisziplinäre Forschung, Vienna, 26 February 2018

‘Is pluralism compatible with scientific realism?’, DK Program Seminar, University of Vienna, 28 February 2018

**March 2018**

‘Who cares about the history of science?’, The Danby Society, Downing College, Cambridge, 9 March 2018

‘Quantification: the case of temperature’, Bucharest Colloquium in Early Modern Science, 15 March 2018

‘Pragmatist lessons for the historiography of scientific practices’, Bucharest Graduate Conference on HPS, 16 March 2018

**April 2018**
‘Beyond truth-as-correspondence: realism for realistic people’, LOGOS Colloquium, Barcelona, 4 April 2018

‘Pragmatism as thorough-going empiricism’, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 5 April 2018

Discussion of ‘Is pluralism compatible with scientific realism?’, Gent–Brussels Seminars in Logic, History and Philosophy of Science, 19 April 2018

May 2018

‘Pragmatism and philosophy of science’, DK-Kolloquium, University of Vienna, 2 May 2018

‘Measurement’, ‘Realism’, and ‘Reductionism’, Philosophy for Chemists, Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge, 8, 15 and 22 May 2018


June 2018

‘How to build real entities: a new pragmatist foundation for scientific realism’, 3rd European Pragmatism Conference, Helsinki, 13 June 2018

July 2018

‘Operational coherence as the effective harmony of actions’, Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice Biennial Conference, Ghent, 2 July 2018

‘Humanism and science’, Ewha–Luce International Seminar (ELIS): Expanding Horizons, Ewha Womans [sic] University, Seoul, 11 July 2018

‘Philosophy of science in the age of artificial intelligence: humanism and pragmatism’ (in Korean), 2018 Annual Conference of the Korean Society for the Philosophy of Science, Korean National University of Education, 12 July 2018

‘Why tomorrow’s leaders need historical and philosophical perspectives on science’ (in Korean), The 26th Distinguished Lecture, Daegu–Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST), 13 July 2018

September 2018

‘Pragmatist epistemology for the historiography of technoscience’, part of the symposium on ‘What is it We are Talking about When We Talk about the History of Science?’, European Society for the History of Science Annual Conference, UCL, 15 September 2018

Helen Anne Curry

I spent the academic year in residence at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala, Sweden, as part of my CRASSH ProFutura Scientia Fellowship (2017–2020) and was a visiting fellow at the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra from July to September. My project for both of these periods was to continue work on my book Endangered Maize, which offers a history of efforts to gather and conserve the biological diversity of this critical global crop. As consultant to the digital design firm All Seeing Eye, I participated in the creation of a virtual reality experience, SEED, which enables players to tinker with plants as amateur breeders. Several components of the game were inspired by moments in the history of amateur breeding (an earlier focus of my research). In February 2018 the game took the $150,000 first prize at “Developing Beyond,” a competition sponsored by Wellcome Trust and Epic Games.

Publications

Reviews

Lectures, seminars and conferences

October 2017

"From Bean Collection to Seed Bank: Transformations in Heirloom Vegetable Conservation and the Fate of Burt Berrier's Beans," at the workshop "How Collections End," University of Cambridge.

November 2017

"Biology as Technology: An Unexpected History of Innovation in Living Things," Department of History of Science and Ideas, Uppsala University, Sweden.

February 2018


April 2018


August 2018


September 2018

"Seed Banks or Seed Morgues? Salvaging Crop Diversity from the Seed Bank," Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, Canberra.

Matt Farr

Publications

Articles in journals

‘Causation and time reversal’, British Journal for the Philosophy of Science, Online first (June 2018), DOI: https://doi.org/10.1093/bjps/axx025

Lectures, seminars and conferences

November 2017

‘Explaining Temporal Qualia’, Philosophy Departmental Seminar, University of Bristol

‘Explaining Temporal Qualia’, Serious Metaphysics Group, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge

April 2018

‘The C Theory of Time’, Sigma Club, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, London School of Economics and Political Science

May 2018

‘The C Theory of Time’, Philosophy of Physics Seminar, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford
This year I was on research leave as Director of the “Kinds of Intelligence” project at the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence. This project draws on work in psychology, neuroscience, philosophy, computer science, and cognitive robotics to further develop and critically assess notions of intelligence in AI research. In May 2018, I was awarded a grant from the Templeton World Charity Foundation to expand this project to the topic of “creative intelligence” with Adrian Currie. Two postdocs, Henry Shevlin and Karina Vold, began working on the Kinds of Intelligence project this year, and I was excited to welcome two PhD students, Erlend Owesen and Daniel Ott, to the Department. In professional service, I served on the Programme Committee for the British Society for the Philosophy of Science in the spring, and within Cambridge, sat on the Executive Group for the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence.

Publications

Articles in journals


Articles in books


Reviews and commentaries


Lectures, seminars and conferences

December 2017


April 2018

“Insightful AI,” meeting of The Mind Network: A Network for Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science, University of Edinburgh

June 2018

“Varieties of Mind Conference,” Co-organised with Henry Shevlin and Karina Vold with support from the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence. A four-day conference bringing together leading researchers in psychology, animal cognition, artificial intelligence, and philosophy of mind.
“Insightful AI,” as part of the symposium “Culture, Cognition, and Creative Evolution,” meeting of the British Society for the Philosophy of Science, University of Oxford

“Insightful AI,” Conference on Creativity in Art, Science, and Mind Conference, University of Cambridge

Public Engagement and Impact

I have been involved in a variety of public engagement activities this year from speaking to the House of Lords Select Committee on AI to being interviewed for a podcast on octopus consciousness. In addition to the activities listed below, I co-organised with Karina Vold and Henry Shevlin two public lectures and two public debates in association with our June 2018 Varieties of Mind conference. The first public lecture was by Margaret A. Boden on “The Future of Intelligence: What Matters?” and represented the Inaugural Margaret Boden Lecture. The second was by Peter Godfrey-Smith on “Varieties of Mind and the Mind-Body Problem.” The two public debates took place in the Debate Chamber of The Cambridge Union. The motions were “This House believes we cannot understand non-human minds” and “This House believes there is nothing special about human intelligence.” Both of these debates were recorded and are available as podcasts.

October 2017

“Can Machines Think?” Public Lecture for the Cambridge Festival of Idea, Whipple Museum, University of Cambridge

Interview for BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on the evolution of consciousness and artificial intelligence.

November 2017


“Insightful AI,” Summer School Lecture for Selwyn College, University of Cambridge


Interviewed Peter Godfrey-Smith for the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence Podcast Series, University of Cambridge

May 2018

“Inspirational Thinking, Down, and All Around,” Event speaker and panelist. Organised by Susan MacTavish Best and the Templeton World Charity Foundation, Shoreditch, London

“Insightful AI,” Public Lecture for “I think, therefore AI” event, Pint of Science Festival, Panton Arms, Cambridge UK

“Human Beings,” Song Project in collaboration with artist Mikey Georgeson for Creative Reactions, Pint of Science Festival, Cambridge UK

Remco Heesen

Publications

Articles in journals

‘Communism and the Incentive to Share in Science’, Philosophy of Science 84 (2017), 698–716
Nick Hopwood

Nick Hopwood continued as director of graduate studies and chair of the degree committee, except that in Lent Term he took sabbatical leave to work on his visual history of human embryos. With coeditors Rebecca Flemming and Lauren Kassell, he saw Reproduction: Antiquity to the Present Day through the press; Cambridge University Press will publish this large, accessible, illustrated book in November. Nick is a deputy chair of a Strategic Research Initiative on Reproduction, which the University has funded for three years from October 2018, and became a faculty advisor of a new CRASSH research group on Health, Medicine and Agency. He began a three-year stint on the History of Science Society’s Levinson Prize committee and a second term as an associate editor of the Journal of the History of Biology. He also joined the advisory board of the edition of Ernst Haeckel’s letters based at the Leopoldina Academy and the Haeckel House.

Publications

Articles in journals


Reviews


Lectures, seminars and conferences

October 2017

‘Proof and publicity in claims to human in vitro fertilization’, Ideas in Print: Journalistic Forms
‘Farewell to the collections; or, The tragedy of the emeritus’, How Collections End: Objects, Meaning and Loss in Laboratories and Museums, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge

March 2018

‘Human embryology at the Carnegie Department’, Provenienzforschung in der Sammlung Blechschmidt. Zwischenergebnisse und Ausblick, Anatomy Centre, University of Göttingen

‘Modern reproduction: technologies of conception’, History of Reproduction, University of Groningen Honours College Winter School, Clare College, Cambridge

April 2018

‘Inclusion and exclusion in the history of developmental biology’, plenary session: The History and Future of Developmental Biology, British Society for Developmental Biology, 70th annual spring meeting, University of Warwick

May 2018

Commentary on Erika Lorraine Milam, ‘Sociobiology, evolutionary scientism, and the conflict thesis’, United Fronts: Unity, Organization and Syntheses in the Life Sciences, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge

Panel on ‘Scientific publishing’, Coffee with Scientists, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge

June 2018

‘Visualizing human embryos’, keynote lecture, Visualizing Reproduction: an Interdisciplinary Inquiry, Photographic History Research Centre and Centre for Reproduction Research, De Montfort University, Leicester

September 2018

‘Proof and publicity: claims to human in vitro fertilization’, keynote lecture, Belgian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science and National Committee for Logic, Philosophy and History of Science Sixth Young Researchers Days in Logic, Philosophy and History of Science, Royal Academy, Brussels

Nick Jardine

Nick has continued with graduate supervision and helping with the organisation of seminars and workshops, notably Aims and Methods of Histories of the Sciences, Ideologies of Science, the Cabinet of Natural History, and Greek and Latin Therapy. He is currently preparing a collection of essays on the historiography of the sciences. Nick is on the Botanic Garden Syndicate, and spends much of his time studying fungi and the history of mycology.

Publications

Articles in books


Articles in journals


Boris Jardine

In March 2018 Boris Jardine entered the third year of his Leverhulme Trust/Isaac Newton Trust project entitled ‘The Lost Museums of Cambridge Science, 1865–1936’. This project, hosted by HPS and the Whipple Museum, and sponsored by Prof. Liba Taub, recovers the history of the ‘New Museums Site’, and will result in a major new online digital archive
relating to the site, and a book on the history and fate of scientific collections in Victorian Cambridge.

Publications

Reviews


Lectures, seminars and conferences

October 2017

Co-organiser (with Jenny Bangham and Emma Kowal) of the workshop ‘How Collections End: Objects, Meaning and Loss in Laboratories and Museums,’ Whipple Museum of the History of Science, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, October 24–26, 2017

November 2017

“Lost and Found: The Serendipity of Collecting” (talk and discussion with Jo Atherton, as part of ‘Being Human: A Festival of the Humanities,’ Cambridge University Library, 25 November 2018)

May 2018

“A Dark and Sordid Muddle’: On Getting Lost in the (History of the) New Museums Site” (paper presented to the Society for the History of the University, Cambridge, 10 May 2018)

June 2018


August 2018


September 2018


Stephen John

This year was the last year of the “Limits of the Numerical” project, which I ran with Anna Alexandrova, at CRASSH, culminating in an international conference in July 2018, which, we hope, will lead to an edited volume. I was also lucky enough to enjoy funding from the Cambridge Cancer Centre’s Early Detection programme, which supported a conference in December 2017, and a term of leave in Lent 2018. Finally, I continued to build on my links in Beijing, spending three weeks as a visiting scholar at the Department of Medical Humanities at Peking University.

Publications

Articles in books

“NICE’s Cost-Effectiveness Threshold, or: How We Learned to Stop Worrying and (Almost) Love the £20,000– £30,000/QALY Figure” (with Badano, G and Junghans, T) in I. McClimans (ed) Measurement in Medicine: Philosophical Essays on Assessment and Evaluation (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017)

**Articles in journals**

“Epistemic trust and the ethics of science communication: against transparency, openness, sincerity and honesty” Social Epistemology 32(2): 75-87


**Online**

“Was anyone harmed by the breast cancer screening scandal?” The Conversation May 9th 2018 https://theconversation.com/was-anyone-harmed-by-the-breast-cancer-screening-scandal-96314

**Lectures, seminars and conferences**

*March 2017*

“First, Do No Harm?” Ethical Issues in Early Diagnosis St Edmunds College, University of Cambridge

*April 2017*

“First Do No Harm” Is cancer special? CRASSH, University of Cambridge

*June 2017*

“Diagnosis: representation or intervention” Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice Annual Conference, University of Ghent, Ghent

*August 2017*

“First Do No Harm?” Medical Humanities Centre, Peking University, Beijing

**Lauren Kassell**

Lauren Kassell was promoted to the position of Professor of History of Science and Medicine. She continued to direct the Casebooks Project and to contribute to ‘Generation to Reproduction’, both supported by Strategic Awards from the Wellcome Trust. With co-editors Nick Hopwood and Rebecca Flemming, she saw the large manuscript of Reproduction: Antiquity to the Present Day through the press. It was published by Cambridge University Press in December 2018. She managed the inaugural cohort for the MPhil in Health, Medicine and Society, and secured a batch of three Wellcome studentships for future years. She continued as the Department’s College Liaison Officer.

With the establishment of Cambridge Digital Humanities, she became the representative of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences on the Digital Humanities Working Group and the Co-Director, with Andrew Webber, of Cambridge Digital Humanities Research. She continued to direct studies in HPS at Pembroke College, where she is also a member of the Mill Lane Project Board, a major building initiative. She continued to serve on the advisory boards of Annals of Science and Renaissance Studies and on the Research Libraries UK Special Collections Advisory Group.

**Publications**

**Online**

The work of the Casebooks Project reached its final stages, and a preliminary version of the new website—https://casebooks.lib.cam.ac.uk—went live in September 2018.

In October 2018 Casebooks Release 12 became available. Release 12 announces that a total of 73,362 cases are now accessible through GitHub. The exhibition ‘CASEBOOKS:
Six contemporary artists and an extraordinary medical archive’ has been documented in a 9 minute film by Huw Wahl (viewable through our CASEBOOKS page), together with a downloadable book about our work with artists and other material and press about the exhibition. A new ‘Meet the patients’ page has been added to the website, setting out case histories and contextual information about selected patients.

Lectures, seminars and conferences

February 2018

Public Lecture. ‘Magic and Medicine. 500 Years of the College of Physicians: The First 100 Years’, 21 February 2018, Royal College of Physicians of London.

April 2018

The Casebooks Project. www.magicandmedicine.hps.cam.ac.uk, History of Science, Medicine, and Technology Seminar, History Faculty, University of Oxford, 30 April 2018

July 2018


Melanie Keene

Melanie continued as Graduate Tutor at Homerton College, and also lectured on the history of education for Parts I and II of the Education Tripos. She is an affiliated member of the Centre for Research in Children’s Literature at Cambridge. With Charissa Varma, she organised the Science and Literature Reading Group.

Online

“Michael Faraday and his ‘instructess’ in chemistry”, Science Stories, BBC Radio 4, December 2017 and August 2018

“Dinosaur Poop Pt 2: The Coprolite Queen”, Tumble podcast, 23rd March 2018

Lectures, seminars and conferences

November 2017


December 2017

“Mary Anning and the history of palaeontology for children” (paper presented at Popularising Palaeontology conference, King’s College London, 13th-14th December 2017)

August 2018

“The Singing Scientists” (lecture to Homerton International Programme students, 27th August 2018)

Sachiko Kusukawa

My research project, ‘Making Visible: The visual and graphic practices of the early Royal Society’ mounted an exhibition at the Royal Society in the summer of 2017 (https://royalsociety.org/science-events-and-lectures/2018/07/visible-science/), with a corresponding virtual exhibition on Google art and culture (https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/zAKSobbRe6LpIA) and an exhibition catalogue (http://www.mv.crassh.cam.ac.uk/science-made-visible-drawings-prints-objects/). These were curated by Dr. S. Fransen and Dr K. Reinhart, post-doctoral researchers on this project.
Publications

**Articles in journals**


**Reviews**


**Lectures, seminars and conferences**

November 2017


December 2017

‘The visual and graphic practices of the early Royal Society’, History Department, Research Seminar, University of Durham

January 2018

‘Robert Hooke’s Micrographia (1665): art and science in the early Royal Society’ Bibliographical Society, London

Tim Lewens

Tim continued to work on the multi-institution project ‘Putting the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis to the Test’. In Michaelmas 2017 he was Visiting Professor at the University of Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne, and Directeur d’Études Associé at the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, Paris.

Publications

**Edited books**

(with E Hannon) Why we Disagree about Human Nature (Oxford University Press, 2018)

**Articles in books**


**Articles in journals**


**Online**


**Lectures, seminars and conferences**

October 2017


November 2017

‘Science and Values: Options for the Epistemic Externalist’ Kings College London.

‘Self, Nonself, Many selves, No self’ Lakatos Award Workshop for Thomas Pradeu, LSE.


December 2017
Joseph D. Martin

Throughout the 2017–18 academic year I served as co-editor-in-chief of Endeavour, managing editor of Physics in Perspective, and consulting editor for H-PhysicalSciences. I was elected and began a term as Vice-Chair of the American Physical Society Forum on the History of Physics and continued as a member of the American Physical Society Historic Sites Committee and the History Programs Task Force on Professional Standards and Operations, American Institute of Physics, Center for History of Physics/Niels Bohr Library and Archives. I co-convened (with Kathy Olesko) the Physical Sciences Working Group of the Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine. I held two one-on-one meetings with Policy Fellows from the Centre for Science and Policy.

Publications

Books


Articles in books


Articles in journals


Reviews


Lectures, seminars and conferences

October 2017


March 2018


May 2018


June 2018

“Five Ways AI Is Not Like the Manhattan Project (and One Way It Is).” Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge, 25 June 2018.

July 2018

“Mildred Dresselhaus and Solid State Pedagogy at MIT.”
1. AIP Center for History of Physics, College Park, MD, 27 July 2018.

September 2018


Daniel Margócsy

This year saw the publication of The Fabrica of Andreas Vesalius, a book I co-authored with Mark Somos and Stephen N. Joffe, the culmination of the Vesalius Census project. This project also resulted in a number of shorter articles for Nature and the Hungarian journal Per aspera ad astra, and a website that publishes regular updates to the census. (www.vesaliuscensus.com). Mark Somos and I have also applied the methods of the Vesalius Census to Hugo Grotius’ Mare liberum, the foundational text of modern international relations, and published the results in Grotiana. In April 2018, I gave the Annual Friends of the Rare Book Room lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine. Throughout the year, I also gave talks at the Hagströmer Library in Stockholm, the University of Cologne, the University of Warsaw, and the Institute of Philosophy of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Publications

Books


Articles in journals


Pirating Mare Liberum (1609). Grotiana 38 (2017), 176-210 (co-authored with Mark Somos).

Online


Lectures, seminars and conferences

October 2017

Nicolaes Witsen, Shipbuilding an the Problem of Technology Transfer in Early Modern Europe. EMPHASIS Seminar, London
November 2017
A Natural History of Satyrs, King’s College, London

December 2017
The Vesalius Census, Hagströmer Library, Stockholm.

February 2018
A Natural History of Satyrs, University of Cologne

Nicolaes Witsen, Shipbuilding an the Problem of Technology Transfer in Early Modern Europe. University of Cambridge Early Modern World History Seminar.

April 2018
Annual Friends of the Rare Book Room Lecture, New York Academy of Medicine.

The Vesalius Census, University of Warwick.

June 2018
The Vesalius Census, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest.

July 2018
Vesalius Copied: Pictorially Repeatable Statements in Theory and Practice. Multiplied and Modified conference, University of Warsaw

September 2018
Stables as Collections: Displaying and Experimenting with Horses in Early Modern Europe. ESHS Annual Conference.


Richard A. McKay

Working 50% full-time as a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow and the remainder of his time as a coach for academics, writers, and other creative thinkers at Rich Life Coaching (www.richlifecoaching.co.uk), during the 2017-18 academic year Dr Richard A. McKay also continued in his position as Director of Studies for HPS at Magdalene College. As chief investigator for the ‘Before HIV’ project, he conducted participatory research in London, Vancouver, and New York City. Dr McKay also continued in his role as Policy Development Officer on the executive committee of the Society for the Social History of Medicine, served on the advisory committee of the New York City Health Commissioner Records Processing Project, and worked as a historical consultant for the documentary film based on his first book.

Publications

Books

(narrated by Paul Woodson) Patient Zero and the Making of the AIDS Epidemic (HighBridge Audio, 2017)

Lectures, seminars and conferences

February 2018

May 2018
“In delicate country': responding to ‘the homosexual VD problem' in postwar California, 1945-1965” (paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Los Angeles, 13 May 2018)

July 2018
“Why do we do what we do? The values of the Society for the Social History of Medicine” (coordinated and chaired roundtable discussion at the biennial meeting of the Society for the Social History of Medicine, Liverpool, 12 July 2018)

**Public Engagement and Impact**

*December 2017*


*January 2018*

“The Before HIV Project” (presentation at Health Initiative for Men, Vancouver, 9 January 2018)

“The Before HIV Project” (presentation at Vancouver Prime Timers, Vancouver, 14 January 2018)


*February 2018*


*March 2018*

“Patient Zero, Before HIV” (presentation at SAGE Midtown Center, New York City, 30 March 2018)

*April 2018*

“Patient Zero and the Making of the AIDS Epidemic” (presentation and discussion with Sarah Schulman at Bureau for General Services - Queer Division, New York City, 6 April 2018), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijf5Li-TguY

*May 2018*

“Patient Zero: Richard A. McKay in conversation with Steven Reigns” (presentation and discussion with Steven Reigns at the City of West Hollywood, 9 May 2018), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVhNS--cnyA


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**Jaume Navarro**

Ikerbasque Research Professor at the University of the Basque Country. In the year 2017-18, Basque Fellow at Clare Hall College, Cambridge.

**Publications**

**Edited books**


**Articles in books**


“Science contra Science. The battle for legitimate knowledge in the Spanish Catholic journals in the early twentieth century” in

**Articles in journals**


**Lectures, seminars and conferences**

**November 2017**

Annual HSS Meeting, Toronto, 9 to 12 November, 2017. Paper: ‘The circulation of the conflict thesis as a political tool in fin-de-siècle Spain’

Guest Professor at the Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Puebla (Mexico), 13-18 November 2017.

**January 2018**


**April 2018**

Invited Seminar at the University of Athens: “Ether: the multiple lives of a resilient concept in the early twentieth century”, 17 April 2018.

**May 2018**

Invited paper at the workshop “Biographies in the History of Physics”, Bad Honnef (Germany), 22-25 May, 2018. Paper: “A biographical sketch of the last days of the ether”.

**September 2018**


**Rune Nyrup**

In addition to the academic outputs listed below, I have also appeared on an episode of BBC Radio 4’s *Moral Maze* (22 Nov 2017) on “The Morality of AI”, and was featured in an interview on the ethical issues of AI in the Danish newspaper *Kristeligt Dagblad* (published 27 Dec 2017).

**Publications**

**Articles in journals**


Lectures, seminars and conferences

December 2017

‘Navigating the Interpretative Dilemma: Making Progress through Failed Analogies’, Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, Cardiff University.

‘Three Uses of Analogy in Archaeology’, Baltic Archaeology Seminar, University of Helsinki.

May 2017

‘The Value of Speculation: A Second Look at Female Viking Warriors’, Material Culture Lab, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge.

‘Explaining Deep Neural Nets: What is it and what’s the problem?’, Explainable AI Workshop, University of Copenhagen.

June 2017


‘How Archaeologists Resolve the Inductive Risk Argument’, Biennial Conference of the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice, University of Ghent.

July 2017

‘What is Algorithmic Bias and How can it be Justified?’, Open Sessions of the Joint Sessions of the Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association, University of Oxford.


September 2018

‘Explainable Artificial Intelligence: What is it and What’s the Problem?’, Philosophy and the Ethics of Algorithmic Decision Making, University of Cambridge.

Jennifer Rampling

I finished my monograph The Making of English Alchemy (for the University of Chicago Press), and stepped down as Editor of Ambix after a five year term. At Princeton I continued to co-direct (with Tony Grafton) the digital project The Winthrop Family on the Page. I also joined the faculty of the Princeton Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials (PRISM), which will provide lab and imaging facilities for The Dark Glass, a new project on reconstructing historical experiments funded by an Innovation in Social Sciences grant. In September I began a visiting fellowship in Department II at the MPIWG, Berlin.

Publications

Edited collections


Articles in journals


Online publications


Lectures, seminars and conferences
December 2017

‘Alchemy in Tudor England: an ingenious history’ (Davis Center Work-in-Progress Seminar, Princeton).

(with Lawrence M. Principe) ‘Recreating the vegetable stone’ (8th SHAC Graduate Workshop, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia).

March 2018

‘Edward Kelley, booked’ (Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans).

‘From myth to matter: picturing alchemical change’ (American Chemical Society and Department of Chemistry, Princeton).

April 2018

‘English alchemy in the margins’ (Textuality, Materiality, and Reading Practices Seminar, Princeton University).

May 2018


June 2018

‘The image of alchemy: depicting chemical change in medieval England’ (Plenary lecture, Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Lehigh University, Bethlehem).

‘Reading alchemically: early modern guides to impossible practices’ (Learning by the Book: Manuals and Handbooks in the History of Knowledge, Princeton).

‘From script to print, and back again: the making of Elias Ashmole’s Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum (1652)’ (Alchemy and Print Culture, UCL Institute of Education, London).

‘Reading (with) alchemical images’ (Keynote lecture, Experience and Experiment: Materiality of (Al)chemical Texts and Objects 9th Annual SHAC Graduate Workshop, Royal Institution of London).

September 2018

‘Picturing experiment: reconstructing alchemy in image and practice’ (Young Scholar Lecture, European Society for the History of Science biennial meeting, London).

Martin J.S. Rudwick

Publications

Articles in journals


Lectures, seminars and conferences

February 2018

‘I the geologist’: Charles Darwin’s first career’, Annual Darwin Lecture, Shrewsbury Museum, Shrewsbury; repeated for Shrewsbury University Centre (Universit of Chester), Shrewsbury

Simon Schaffer

In 2016-17 Simon Schaffer chaired the Board of History and Philosophy of Science and the Faculty Senior Academic Promotions Committee. He served on the Management Committee of the Scott Polar Research Institute and on the Advisory Board of the Science Museum, London. He was a member of selection panels for Newton International Fellowships, British Academy-Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowships and for British Academy Postdoctoral Awards and Knowledge Frontier Awards. He was awarded the Dan David Prize in the field of history of science and elected an honorary fellow of Trinity College Cambridge.
Publications

Articles in books


‘Ting Tong Chang in conversation” in Antonia Harrison (ed.), The Marvellous Mechanical Museum (Compton Verney, 2018), 49-57

Articles in journals

‘Late enlightenment crises of facts: mesmerism and meteorites’, Configurations 26 (2018), 119-48

Lectures, seminars and conferences

November 2017

“Kepler’s Trial”, round-table, Victoria and Albert Museum London, November 9, 2017

February 2018

“Malarial subjects by Rohan Deb Roy”, round-table, Royal Asiatic Society, February 26, 2018

March 2018

“The political and colonial in science”, Cambridge UCU / CUSU teach-out, March 12, 2018

May 2018

“Material culture and scientific enlightenments”, Tel Aviv University, May 8, 2018

June 2018

Workshop on the material practices of science in a global context, European University Institute, Florence, June 18, 2018

“Airy’s enterprise and the Northumberland telescope”, Workshop on George Biddell Airy, University Library Cambridge, June 29, 2018

September 2018

“Electric motors and lightning rods in colonial Calcutta”, XXXVII Scientific Instrument Symposium, Museum Boerhaave Leiden, September 6, 2018

Public engagement and impact

“Science stories: Descartes’ daughter”, BBC Radio 4, contributor, first transmission June 27, 2018

“Mechanical monsters”, Furnace TV / BBC4, writer and presenter, first transmission August 8, 2018

Jim Secord

Jim Secord was on leave in Michaelmas and Easter terms, including a productive three months at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.

Publications

Edited books

(with F. Burkhardt and the Darwin Correspondence Project staff) The Correspondence of Charles Darwin (Cambridge University Press, 2017), vol. 25.

Articles in journals


Lectures, seminars and conferences

November 2017

‘Global geology and the tectonics of empire’, Conference on political geology, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge
Richard Staley

This year I continued my research on physicist anthropologies and the history of mechanics, and climate change and environmental physics.

Publications

Articles in books


“Understanding Climate Change Historically,” in Alexander Elliott, James Cullis and Vinita Damodaran, eds. Climate Change and the Humanities: Historical, Philosophical and Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Contemporary Environmental Crisis (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2017), pp. 43-68.

Articles in journals


Lectures, seminars and conferences

November 2017


January 2018


February 2018

“Sensory Studies, or, When Physics was Psychophysics: Ernst Mach and Physics Between Physiology and Psychology, 1860-71,” Science and Technology Studies Colloquium, History Department, University of British Columbia, 1 February 2018.

March 2018
“The Economic Explanation,” draft article for Ethnographies of Explanation and the Explanation of Ethnography: Beyond Ethnographic Foundationalism? A publication workshop organized by Matei Candea and Paolo Heywood was held on 22-23 March 2018, and an edited book proposal is being considered for publication.

April 2018

“Physics as a Comparative Science: On the Relations between Ernst Mach’s Critiques of Mechanics and his Account of the Nature of the Sciences,” invited contribution to workshop “Practices of Comparing and Narrating in Sciences,” University of Bielefeld, 5 April 2018.

May 2018

Commentator for a session in “Biographies in the History of Physics: Actors, Institutions, and Objects,” Physikzentrum, Bad Honnef, 22 May 2018.

August 2018


September 2018


Jacob Stegenga

2018 was a successful year -- I published two books, and gave talks in many countries. I began my research leave, during which I brough a number of high quality articles though the pipeline to journal submission, and began a new long-term research project.

Publications

Books

Medical Nihilism, 2018, Oxford University Press

Care and Cure: An Introduction to Philosophy of Medicine, 2018, University of Chicago Press

Lectures, seminars and conferences

“Response to Commentators on Medical Nihilism”

• Book Symposium, University of Bordeaux, France

“The Natural Probability Theory of Stereotypes”

• University of Toronto HPS Colloquium, Toronto, Canada
• University College Cork Philosophy Colloquium, Cork, Ireland

“The Early Detection Debate: A Resolution”

• University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France
• Early Detection Workshop, Cambridge, UK

“The Perils of P-Hacking and the Promise of Pre-Analysis Plans (with Zoë Hitzig)”
Keynote Lecture, Perspectives on Scientific Error, Groningen, Netherlands
Understanding Replication Across the Sciences, Western University, London, Canada
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, San Diego, USA

“Bayesian Mechanista”
- University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland
- Inter-University Centre 45th Annual Philosophy of Science Conference, Dubrovnik, Croatia

“Medical Nihilism”
- Philosophy of Science Association, Seattle, USA
- How The Light Gets In Festival, Hay-on-Wye, UK
- University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

Rick Welch
Rick Welch is Emeritus Dean of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He is a Resident Member of Clare Hall and an Affiliated Research Scholar in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge. He is currently working on a book project, entailing a historical perspective on the Western conception of “life” that consists of a philological study of “words for life” (under contract with Peter Lang International Academic Publisher, to appear in the series “Science, Nature, and the Arts”).

Lectures, seminars and conferences

November 2017
Invited speaker at an international conference (Festschrift) honouring Prof. James S. Clegg, held at Bodega Marine Laboratory, University of California, Davis, California, USA, 3-5 November 2017.
Seminar Programmes

Michaelmas

Departmental Seminars

Seminars are held on **Thursdays from 3.30 to 5pm in Seminar Room 2**. There are refreshments after the seminar at 5pm in Seminar Room 1.

Organised by Agnes Bolinska.

**19 October**
Charu Singh (University of Cambridge)  
Genres of prediction: astrology between Sanskrit and Hindi print in colonial north India  

Bringing together the histories of science, print, language and empire, this paper examines the circulation of jyotihśāstra, the Sanskrit astral sciences, in British India. By the late nineteenth century, jyotisha was a widely read and published genre of Sanskrit knowledge in print, appearing in a range of publishing formats in bilingual editions with Hindi translation. The paper reconstructs the social world and knowledge communities of astrology (phalit jyotisha) by studying the changing textuality and linguistic practices of Hindi readers, writers, publishers and translators in the burgeoning print culture of colonial north India.

**26 October**
Robin Scheffler (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)  
A contagious cause: the search for cancer viruses and the growth of American biomedicine  

Throughout the twentieth century, successive generations of medical, scientific and organizational advances confronted, and were confounded by, the challenge of cancer. Few theories of cancer embodied this cycle of hope and frustration better than the idea that cancer might be caused by an infectious agent, particularly a virus. Following cancer viruses through the twentieth century allows us to understand the political ground upon which biology and medicine merged together to form biomedicine in America, as well as the impact that this new political formation had on the capacity of biologists to reimagine the nature of life in molecular terms. In considering this path, I also offer some more general points as to how historians of science and medicine should think about the relationship between experimental and political systems and the relevance that this relationship has for our understanding of 'failed' scientific endeavours.

**2 November**
Sandra Harding (UCLA)  
Yet another unity of science? Latin American challenges to history, philosophy and social studies of scientific knowledge  

Recently there has appeared an explosion of writings in English focused on perspectives on science, technology and society from Latin America. These have met with varied responses from Northern 'international' history, philosophy and social studies of science and technology. Here I suggest that many of the most positive and welcoming such responses nevertheless tend to replicate the now long discredited Unity of Science program. They do so insofar as they propose, often enthusiastically, to include the Latin American issues and arguments into their existing conceptual frameworks for the history, philosophy or social studies of science. Yet many of the Latin American accounts overtly resist such inclusion. Rather they insist on foregrounding the different worlds assumed by such Latin American work, and, consequently, what they regard as valuably persisting
conflicts and tensions between these worlds. They advocate for parochializing Northern history, philosophy and social studies of science, and thus for ontological as well as epistemological pluralism in these fields.

**John Brewer (California Institute of Technology)**

**9 November** Reforming Naples/how to use a network: Vesuvius and savants in the two kingdoms of Sicily

This paper shows how an international interest in Vesuvius was exploited by reformist savants in nineteenth-century Naples to promote a modernizing agenda for the Kingdom. It focuses on one key figure, Teodoro Monticelli, secretary of the Royal Scientific Academy, who connected reformers in Naples, concerned with public health, ecology, education and infra-structural development to an international network of scholars (from Brazil to Russia) studying the volcano. Monticelli not only worked in Naples with figures such as Davy, Humboldt, Biot, Babbage, Buckland and Lyell, and put together collections of Vesuvian rocks and minerals for Academies in Europe and the Americas, but with his colleagues used these international connections and recognition to push a reforming agenda within the kingdom itself.

**Adrian Currie (University of Cambridge)**

A bold hypothesis about pursuit

Many decisions in science are not about how well-confirmed or otherwise some hypothesis is, but about which hypotheses or investigations should be chased up. This is the context of pursuit. I’m developing an account of pursuit which is built around a bold hypothesis: that questions of pursuit best turn on the biproducts rather than the products of scientific investigations. I’ll start by motivating my analysis via a discussion of the pursuitworthiness of morphological phylogenetics in paleontology. I’ll make a pessimistic bet that the central product of such investigations – knowledge of the ancestral relationships between extinct taxa – are unlikely to be forthcoming. But I’ll then argue that a biproduct of such investigations, knowledge of the evolutionary and developmental nature of characters, is forthcoming and underwrites the pursuitworthiness of the practice. With this in place, I’ll then provide an account of a practice or investigation’s ‘products’ and ‘biproducts’ which turns on investigations themselves (as opposed to merely scientists) having aims (I’ll co-opt some recent work by Hasok Chang to do this). I’ll close by considering some possible arguments in favour of the bold hypothesis, and briefly considering two possible circumstances where the hypothesis might break down: investigations involving inductive risk, and some highly controlled experimental contexts.

**Saul Dubow (University of Cambridge)**

**23 November** Before the big bang of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA): 250 years of astronomy in South Africa

South Africa is in the process of building the world’s largest radio telescope as part of a major international consortium. When the Square Kilometre Array begins to operate (around 2021) it is envisaged that the telescope, comprising hundreds of linked dishes, will offer exceptional image resolution quality and allow astronomers to catalogue radio sources with unprecedented speed and range. The promoters of the SKA stress the benefits that will accrue to the ‘rainbow nation’. In doing so, they rely heavily on South Africa’s remarkable history of astronomical activity – a story that goes back to Nicolas-Louis de La Caille’s pioneering work in the mid-eighteenth century, as well as the role of the Royal Astronomers at the Cape and the scientific contributions of John Herschel. My own survey of this history seeks to contextualise astronomy more broadly in South African history as part of a contribution to discussions about the developmentalist objectives and political implications of the SKA project and the role of ‘big science’ in Africa.
Twentieth Century Think Tank

The Twentieth Century Think Tank offers broad coverage of 20th- and 21st-century topics in the history, philosophy and sociology of science, technology and medicine. The regular programme of papers and discussions takes place on Thursdays over lunch.

Think Tank meetings are held on Thursdays, 1–2pm in Seminar Room 2. All welcome!

Organised by Richard Staley, Mary Brazelton, Joseph Martin and Jesse Olszynko-Gryn.

5 October    Jahnavi Phalkey (King's College London)
German émigré scientists and engineers and aeronautics in India

I wish to explore the stories of German émigré scientists and engineers in India through the history of India's first jetfighter, Marut – HF 24. For this, I selectively study three separate waves of German emigration to India from the 1930s to the 1950s and trace their links to the development of facilities for advanced research and education in aeronautics and aerodynamics, and eventually to manufacturing of aircraft. Two aspects of this story are significant: the transnational networks of German speaking aeronautical engineers and scientists, including that of Indian students trained in Germany, and the constraints of Cold War geopolitics as they shaped the conditions under which the aircraft could be manufactured. I make two arguments: the first concerns the nature of state power in India after independence; and the second is about the specific configuration of the military-industrial-academic complex in India, an idea that is yet to receive substantial attention.

19 October    Eglė Rindzevičiūtė (Kingston University)
A struggle for the Soviet future: the birth of scientific forecasting in the Soviet Union

This paper argues for the importance of Soviet forecasting and scientific future studies in shaping Soviet governmentalities in the post-Stalinist period. The de-Stalinization of Soviet governance not only involved the abolition of Iosif Stalin's personality cult but also led to wider intellectual changes in conceptions of the nature, possibilities, and tasks of governance. Some of these changes, such as the impact of cybernetics after its rehabilitation in 1956, have been explored by historians of science and technology. However, although cybernetic control is based on prediction and therefore principally oriented toward the future, a new branch of scientific governance, scientific forecasting, has been overlooked, despite its transformative role as an applied policy science. Scientific forecasting sought to generate knowledge about the future states of the Soviet economy and society, becoming a field of reform, innovation, and power struggle, one that needs to be rediscovered by scholars. This paper (recently published in Slavic Review) lays the groundwork for such rediscovery, outlining a brief history of Soviet scientific forecasting and drawing out its relation to east-west intellectual and governmental interaction.

9 November    Bernhard Leitner (University of Vienna)
Neuro-empire: rise of a medical-scientific discipline in modern Japan

The foundation of the Institute for Anatomy and Physiology of the Central Nervous System in Vienna in the year 1882 marks without a doubt the birth of neurology as a science based medical discipline. This paper attempts to answer the question why already after a short period of time a significant number of Japanese scholars visited the renowned Viennese laboratory. I argue that the appropriation of cutting-edge scientific knowledge by Japanese medical professionals not only altered the trajectories of adjacent medical disciplines like psychiatry, but at the same time promised
solutions to a range of problems of the young modern Japanese nation on a national as well as international scale. Historians of science have extensively studied German influences on the formation of academia in Meiji-Japan (1868–1912), but have consistently overlooked an Austrian institution and the vital role it played in this process, a role possibly concealed in a tacit dimension.

16 November  
Paul A. Roth (University of California, Santa Cruz)  
The structure of structure: how Kuhn establishes that science requires historical explanation

As is well known, Kuhn restricts a designation of 'normal science' to those disciplines with accepted research practices. What makes for normal science, of course, shifts with changes in paradigms on Kuhn's account. Now this way of specifying normal science has a whiff of circularity inasmuch as it defines normal science by reference to 'scientific research', but that can be overlooked. Sufficient for my purpose will be to take as a 'science' whatever comes to pass as such. In this respect, given the century old controversy regarding history's status as a science, I propose focusing rather on the question of how whatever passes as 'normal science' comes to achieve that status. My argument will be that any answer to a question about how normal science comes to be, i.e., one that develops a non-a priori causal/explanatory account, will have to utilize what I term an 'essentially narrative explanation'. In other words, my account shows how in SSR Kuhn crafts a narrativized account of normal science. This will count as naturalistic in a minimalist sense inasmuch as it does not begin with any philosophical definition of what is or is not a science, and utilizes in its explanation nothing more than facts narratively ordered so as to explain (in the sense of revealing how a later point time results from earlier ones) how what comes to be called science achieves that status. Understanding Kuhn's work in this way helps naturalize narrative explanation through a form of mutual containment — since narrative helps constitute any understanding of what counts as normal science, that narrative becomes a part of any account that comes to be viewed as science. It would be highly ironic then to reject an explanation form that in fact proves unavoidable for purposes of revealing why what passes as science at a particular time does so.

Cabinet of Natural History

This research seminar is concerned with all aspects of the history of natural history and the field and environmental sciences. The regular programme of papers and discussions takes place over lunch on Mondays. In addition, the Cabinet organises a beginning-of-year fungus hunt and occasional expeditions to sites of historical and natural historical interest, and holds an end-of-year garden party.

Seminars are held on Mondays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1, with the exception of the special lecture-demonstration held on Thursday 19 October at 11am – 12.30pm in the New Gallery, Whipple Museum. You are welcome to bring your lunch with you to the Monday seminars.

Organised by Sebestian Kroupa (sk796).

9 October  
Nicholas Thomas (Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, Cambridge)  
On Tupaia Street: the travels of artefacts from Cook's first voyage

This presentation reviews the history of collections and particularly ethnographic collections made during Cook's voyages. The field has been much studied over the last 50 years and it might be assumed that the histories of extant artefacts and other records are now well established. Taking as examples the travels of textiles and the misidentification of Australian artefacts that have recently
become highly controversial, the talk explains why not, and why new complexities have emerged that point to a fresh programme of cross-disciplinary research.

Lachlan Fleetwood (History, Cambridge)

16 October
'The motion of the blood is in fact a sort of living barometer': altitude sickness, poisonous plants and instrumentalised bodies in the Himalaya, 1800–1850

Motivated by both science and empire, European explorers increasingly ventured into the high Himalaya after 1800, where they encountered the insidious yet little understood effects of altitude sickness. They did not, however, do so alone. Tensions arising from the highly unpredictable distribution of symptoms were exacerbated by the way explorers were dependent on pre-existing networks of expertise and labour, which forced them to measure their minds and bodies against those of their Asian guides and porters. In this talk, I examine altitude physiology in the early nineteenth century, largely overlooked by scholars in favour of the systematic and often institutionally-sponsored scientific studies of the later period. I consider the way travellers presented their bodily debility in relation to their guides in published accounts, their examination of the indigenous explanation for altitude sickness (resulting from the Bis or poisonous miasmas from plants), and their experimental approaches around quantification and the instrumentalisation of bodies. I use these to examine expedition sociability and agency, and bring into focus the practical, everyday aspects of intermediary relationships. Throughout, I situate this story within the context of the constitution of the Himalaya as the northern borderlands of British India. I also show that grappling with the problem of altitude was an intrinsically comparative process for the European actors, drawing on perceived and actual differences with the Alps and the Andes, and argue that this allows us to examine the formulation of what was an inherently global science.

Thu 19 October
11am – 12.30pm
Brian J. Ford
Complex constructs from the simple microscope

This extended session is co-organised with the Whipple Museum and Library and includes demonstration from the speaker.

Conventional academic accounts reiterate a standard view of early microscopes – they were capable only of low magnification and inferior resolution, and museum displays perpetuate the notion that they generated images that were distorted by chromatism and spherical aberration. Popular presentations emphasise that the pioneers crudely tore their specimens open to peer uneducatedly at what lay within.

The deficiency lies, not in the microscopes, but the in present-day neglect by scholars of the need for technical precision and investigative originality. Surprisingly, single-lens microscopes from the seventeenth century can be used to provide images that were within a factor of four of the maximum theoretical resolution of a conventional optical microscope. Today we will revisit the work of the pioneers, and we can personally experience how they used their instruments.

The dawn of microscopy underpinned the era of the scientific enlightenment, yet present-day interpretations can mislead the unchaperoned enthusiast. Here we will witness how microscopical discovery was made.

23 October
Annual Fungus Hunt

30 October
Andrew Lacey (Making & Knowing Project, Columbia University)
Experimental reconstruction of the bronze life-cast lizard of the Renaissance
The technique of recreating objects or processes to gain deeper understanding has been used widely in the disciplines of archaeology and anthropology. Complex multi-staged processes with a verifiable material outcome offer the greatest scope for this method of analysis. As such, the anonymous sixteenth-century French artisanal and technical manuscript (MnF MS. Fr.640 for short) currently being explored by Pamela Smith with The Making and Knowing Project offers numerous opportunities for such an investigation. One particular chapter discusses life casting in exquisite detail, involving the sacrificial loss of the subject consumed by the fire and replaced by the bronze. These cremated animals included snake, salamander, toad and crab. Such macabre yet beautiful objects offered the Renaissance scholar a meditation on natural history and the cycle of life and death through technical virtuosity.

This paper focuses on one particular passage from the chapter dedicated to the life-casting of a lizard in MnF MS. Fr.640. The solid bronze lizard experimentally recreated here from this text, was dissected and subject to x-ray analysis for comparison with similar museum artefacts. However, by embodied experience of the recreation one may go beyond the material and gain unique insights that may not be reached otherwise. Consider that the anonymous author of the text lived in a time when material transformations were observed and governed by the senses. The author's internal thoughts, hesitations and warnings given in notes, diagrams and marginalia are made visceral when experienced directly through the senses. We may then understand more of the unspoken tacit knowledge underpinning the text.

Catarina Madruga (Universidade de Lisboa)

6 November What's in a name? Negotiations of credibility and authority in the naming of the giant otter shrew (Potamogale velox)

The nineteenth century is commonly associated with the growth of imperial trade routes and a 'deluge' of specimens that is said to have flooded natural history museums and collections together with a surge in the number of known biological species. However, the practice of naming new species continued to pose a challenge to an increasingly larger, more international, and more specialized community of naturalists.

This paper introduces the context behind the numerous names and descriptions of the elusive giant otter shrew (Potamogale velox), a small African mammal with a laterally compressed tail, aquatic feeding, and elusive behaviour that challenged its first scientific descriptions. In his travel accounts in 1861, the French-American explorer Paul Du Chaillu provisionally called the animal that he had caught in Gabon – and that he thought was a new species of carnivore – Cynogale velox. After observing the specimen, John Edward Gray, the keeper of the British Museum, called the animal Mythomys, a figment of the explorer's imagination. When new and more complete specimens arrived in Europe some years later, the Portuguese zoologist and museum director José Vicente Barbosa du Bocage, proposed to review it as the insectivore Bayonia angolensis, while almost at the same time, the Scottish professor George J. Allman named it Potamogale velox, referring back to Du Chaillu as the original describer.

The problematic characteristics of the actual animal were reflected in the confused description, publication, and nomenclature process. Beyond the specimens themselves, this paper demonstrates that the naturalists' practices of negotiation of credibility and authority were just as problematic, as these experts put forward their claims for what constitutes a credible name and an appropriate description, and fought over who should have the credentials to name new species. This paper shows how the Code for Zoological nomenclature, the nature of which was being discussed in the community at the time, was not sufficient to assure standardization of practices when so little information was available and, especially, when credit, authority, and reputation were at stake.
13 November  Jenny Bulstrode (HPS, Cambridge)
Iron holds the whale

Just past noon, on 30 January 1839, a fight broke out in the Admiralty Library. On the one side, an official committee of savants in magnetic surveying, appointed to reform the Navy's dangerously defective compasses; on the other, the Reverend William Scoresby, a whaler turned clergyman who ministered to his congregation of mariners from a floating pulpit. While the committee and the former captain shared a common evangelism, they differed in its expression; a conflict that erupted over knowledge of iron.

A household name for his whaling journals and Arctic natural histories, in 1836 Scoresby caused a stir among the magnetic community for his remarkable mastery of the properties of iron. In particular, his 'compound needle' drew envious eyes, so light, and so powerful it would surpass the finest variation compass. In spring 1838, the committee solicited Scoresby's help; a year later they pulled him, and his compound needle, apart in a heated contest of disputed ownership. Through the early nineteenth century, revolutionary changes in the means of production transformed the nature of iron, rendering its properties in flux and uncertain. The right to make, manipulate, and assess iron became the stuff of ferocious contest for savants of the survey sciences, as it was for combinations protesting the depreciation of their work under the changing labour economy. Scoresby staked his claim to knowledge of the metal by drawing on the labour law of the whale-boats, a culture peculiarly preoccupied with the properties of certain materials, ink and skin, parchment and iron. Extant collections of Scoresby's iron in Greenwich and Whitby are the traces of a battle between ways of knowing this protean metal; 'not down in any map; true places never are'.

Alex Aylward (University of Leeds)

20 November From natural histories to man-made futures: the origins and ends of R.A. Fisher's Darwinism

The Modern Synthesis in evolutionary biology (ca. 1930–1950) is supposed to have provided a unified and comprehensive approach to the study of life, its diversity, and its evolution. However, several naturalists and historians have complained that natural history has been routinely sidelined – scientifically, institutionally, and historiographically – from the story. One means of rectifying this situation is to examine the constructive and critical roles of self-describing naturalists in the making and shaping of the synthesis. Another is to examine the role(s) of natural history – its practices, insights, and style of thought – in the work of the recognised synthesis 'architects'. In focusing upon Ronald Aylmer Fisher (1890–1962), the present paper takes the latter approach. A trained mathematician and principal founder of theoretical population genetics, his 1930 work The Genetical Theory of Natural Selection is cited by many as the most important evolutionary work since Darwin's Origin. Several commentators have puzzled over Fisher's unwavering commitment to Darwinism, given his training in a context (pre-war Cambridge) in which the stock of the gradualist doctrine stock was low, and Mendelian-saltationist accounts of organic change held sway. Nevertheless, in comparing Fisher's evolutionary world-view with that of the American geneticist Sewall Wright (1889–1988), historian Bill Provine influentially cites the 'Importance of Traditions in Natural History and Taxonomy' in understanding their differing visions of organic change. We hear that the tradition to which Fisher was a neo-Darwinian, adaptationist one, whilst Wright's challenged such a view. This paper will explore (and ultimately contest) the historical accuracy and historiographic utility of accounting for Fisher and Wright's theoretical divergences by reference to their immersion in opposing natural historical and taxonomic 'traditions'. It turns out that, more than describing and accounting for life's past and present diversity and adaptedness, Fisher's particular reimagining of Darwinism allowed the tantalising possibility of remaking and remodelling life – and particularly human life – for the future. From this perspective, we can begin to understand the ways
in which Fisher drew upon natural historical resources, material and conceptual, whilst at the same
time extricating them from their bases in both 'Nature' and 'History'.

Katalin Pataki (Central European University, Budapest)
27 November  A silent servant of natural knowledge: the herbarium of 'The Flying Monk' Brother Cyprian

The herbarium of Brother Cyprian (1724–1775) is a unique collection of 283 medicinal herbs and other plants that the Camaldolese lay brother, nicknamed 'The Flying Monk' for his legendary Daedalic exploits, collected in the surroundings of the so-called Red Monastery (Červený Kláštor, Slovakia) in the Pieniny and Tatra Mountains at the borders of the Hungarian Kingdom and Poland. Brother Cyprian was in charge of the infirmary of the monastery, as well as providing medical services to the inhabitants of the nearby settlements, and his herbarium contains valuable records about his medical experience and observations. Although Cyprian's work has attracted the attention of historians of medicine and botanists, who pointed to his receptivity to current trends in natural knowledge, no written evidence has been found that would inform about his ambitions to use his knowledge in long-distance networks of intellectual or material exchange. For this reason, my research focuses on two alternative ways to learn about his strategies and attitudes to acquire and use his natural and medical expertise. On the one hand, I explore his personal interactions with other intellectuals in the region as potential mediators, who shaped his interests and ways of observations. On the other hand, relying on the inventories of the monastery, I will reconstruct Cyprian's working environment and investigate the making and the use of the herbarium in the context of the material culture in which it was created.

AD HOC

AD HOC (Association for the Discussion of the History of Chemistry) is a group dedicated to history of chemistry. While our main focus is historical, we also consider the philosophical, sociological, public and educational dimensions of chemistry. This term’s theme is 'Order in Chemistry'. The group meets on Mondays at 5pm in Seminar Room 1. Coordinated by Karoliina Pulkkinen.

25 September  Klaus Ruthenberg (Coburg University of Applied Sciences)
The history of the glass electrode for pH measurement

2 October     Alex Mankoo (UCL)
Ordering public bodies in wartime through chemical control: gas tests in WWII Britain

23 October    Cancelled

30 October    Stephen Irish
The corundum stone and crystallographic chemistry

6 November    Konstantin Kiprijanov (University of Leeds)
Challenging chemical chaos during the Cold War: the case of the BelousovZhabotinsky reaction

13 November   Jean-Pierre Llored (Visiting Scholar, Linacre College, Oxford; Associate Researcher, Laboratory SPHERE, Paris 7 University)
How do chemists order their knowledge and know-how?
History of Medicine

Seminars are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

Early Science and Medicine

Organised by Lauren Kassell and Dániel Margócsy.

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<tr>
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<th>Speaker</th>
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<td>10 October</td>
<td><strong>James Clifton (MFA, Houston)</strong></td>
<td>Joachim Wtewael and the human body</td>
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<td>24 October</td>
<td><strong>Maaike van der Lught (University of Versailles)</strong></td>
<td>Individual complexion and personalized care in medieval medicine</td>
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<td>21 November</td>
<td><strong>Erica Charters (University of Oxford)</strong></td>
<td>Knowing numbers, counting men: paper technology and manpower in the eighteenth century</td>
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History of Modern Medicine and Biology

Organised by Mary Brazelton and Nick Hopwood.

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<td>7 November</td>
<td><strong>Kathleen Vongsathorn (University of Warwick)</strong></td>
<td>The place of birth: mothers, midwives, birth attendants, and choices about childbirth in twentieth-century Uganda</td>
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<td>14 November</td>
<td><strong>Stuart Hogarth (Sociology, Cambridge)</strong></td>
<td>Regulatory regimes for diagnostic devices</td>
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<td>28 November</td>
<td><strong>James Stark (University of Leeds)</strong></td>
<td>The cult of youth: rejuvenation in interwar Britain</td>
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Generation to Reproduction

Organised by Nick Hopwood and Lauren Kassell.

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<tr>
<td>17 October</td>
<td><strong>Nicole Bourbonnais (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva)</strong></td>
<td>Spreading the good news around the world: international family planning prophets in the mid-twentieth century</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October</td>
<td><strong>Boyd Brogan (HPS, Cambridge)</strong></td>
<td>Generation, demons and disease: rethinking gender in the Denham exorcisms, 1585–86</td>
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CamPoS

CamPoS (Cambridge Philosophy of Science) is a network of academics and students working in the philosophy of science in various parts of the University of Cambridge, including the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Faculty of Philosophy. The Wednesday afternoon seminar series features current research by CamPoS members as well as visitors to Cambridge and scholars based in nearby institutions. If you are interested in presenting in the series, please contact Brian Pitts
If you have any queries or suggestions for other activities that CamPoS could undertake, please contact Huw Price, Jeremy Butterfield or Anna Alexandrova.

Seminars are held on **Wednesdays, 1.00–2.30pm** (unless otherwise noted) in Seminar Room 2.

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Carlo Rovelli (Aix-Marseille University)</td>
<td>What is quantum theory actually telling us about the world? The 'relational' interpretation</td>
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<td>18 October</td>
<td>Jacob Stegenga (with Zoë Hitzig) (HPS, Cambridge)</td>
<td>The perils of p-hacking and the promise of pre-analysis plans</td>
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<td>25 October</td>
<td>Sam Fletcher (University of Minnesota)</td>
<td>The principle of stability</td>
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<td>Eric Martin (Baylor University)</td>
<td>‘The battle is on’: Lakatos, Feyerabend and the student protests</td>
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<td>8 November</td>
<td>Melissa Fusco (Columbia University)</td>
<td>Causal decision theory and tragic evidence: Death in Damascus revisited</td>
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<td>15 November</td>
<td>Paul A. Roth (University of California, Santa Cruz)</td>
<td>Reviving analytical philosophy of history</td>
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<td>22 November</td>
<td>Harvey Brown (University of Oxford)</td>
<td>Quantum Bayesianism: the ineffable reality behind 'participatory realism'</td>
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<td>29 November</td>
<td>Alisa Bokulich (Boston University)</td>
<td>Representing and explaining: The eikonic conception of explanation</td>
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<td>6 December</td>
<td>Emily Thomas (Durham University)</td>
<td>What's the point of Margaret Cavendish's <em>Blazing World</em>?</td>
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**Aims and Methods of Histories of the Sciences**

**Nick Jardine, Geoffrey Lloyd, Hasok Chang and Cristina Chimisso; Mondays 11am–12.30pm, weekly from 23 October (6 sessions)**

These graduate seminars will consider aspects of the history, aims, methods and current problems of the history of science. In the opening sessions NJ will give an overview of the formation of history of science as a discipline and of the range of recent approaches. Then HC and NJ will debate the problems of anachronism faced by historians of science. Subsequent meetings will address the historiography of the French historian of chemistry Hélène Metzger (Cristina Chimisso, Open University), the roles of sympathy and antipathy in historical biographies (NJ), and approaches to the history of cross-cultural communication in the sciences (GERL & NJ).

Those participating in these seminars are likely to find interesting the meetings of the...

**23 and 30 October**

**Nick Jardine: Formation and transformations of history of science**
These two opening sessions will sketch the ways in which history of science became established as a discipline. There will then be an overview of some of the main approaches that have dominated the field over the past century: positivist narratives of scientific progress, social histories of the sciences, cultural histories, and global histories.

Readings:

- On the formation of history of science as an academic discipline:

- Specimens of divergent approaches to the history of science:

6 November
Hasok Chang and Nick Jardine: Anachronism

There are obvious problems with writing about the past from the perspective of the present. But can the historian escape the present completely? Can anachronism ever be put to productive uses?

Readings:

- H. Chang, ‘We have never been whiggish (about phlogiston)’, *Centaurus*, 51 (2009), 239–264.

13 November
Cristina Chimisso: Hélène Metzger on the methods and aims of history of science
Can the historian understand past texts just as readers who lived at the time when the texts were written did? Should this be the historian’s aim? Is history of science relevant to current philosophy and science? These are some of the questions that the historian of chemistry Hélène Metzger (Chatou, France, 1889 – Auschwitz, 1944) aimed to answer. This session will discuss her innovative historiography of science.

Readings:

- Hélène Metzger, *Chemistry* [1930], transl. C. V. Michael (West Cornwall CT, 1991), chapters 2 and 3.

20 November
**Nick Jardine: Emotional engagement in scientific biographies**

Many accounts of historical interpretation assign central roles to empathetic re-enactment of past agents’ motivations and reasonings. This session will address, with examples, the strengths and weaknesses of sympathetic, antipathetic and ironic engagement by historians of science with their subjects.

Readings:


27 November
**Geoffrey Lloyd and Nick Jardine: Histories of cross-cultural communication in the sciences**

Global circulation of scientific knowledge is a, if not the, currently fashionable field in the history of science. This session will consider some of the theoretical frameworks that have been employed in such studies. It will be suggested that the term ‘global’ is potentially misleading, given that many of the most significant studies have focussed on local negotiations and exchanges.

Readings:


Further readings:

**Science in Print I: Book Production in the Hand Press Period**

Roger Gaskell; Wednesdays 11am–12.30pm, weekly from 8 November (4 sessions), Whipple Old Library, except session 2

Understanding how the book is made is vital to the study of its contents, helping to locate its economic and social context, its audience, and ultimately its historical significance. Using examples from the Whipple Library's rare book collections and the University Library's Historical Printing Collection, this workshop series will explore some bibliographical techniques to identify and describe the structure and production of printed material from the hand press period (16th–18th centuries), and consider the uses and abuses of online derivatives. Although the focus will be on scientific texts and illustrations, these sessions will be of interest to book historians in all disciplines, and all are welcome.

- 8 November: Survey of the hand press period I
- 15 November: Hand press book production and its implications (in the Historical Printing Room at the University Library)
- 22 November: Survey of the hand press period II
- 29 November: Analysing books from the hand press period

The sessions are open to all (undergraduates, graduates, visitors and beyond), but places are limited to ensure all have full access to the examples. Please contact Dawn Kingham (dm313) to register your interest. The sessions are conceived as a series, but it is possible to sign up for individual sessions to suit your interests if you can't make them all. Please indicate when booking which session(s) you would like to attend.

**Philosophy of Biology Reading Group**

The aim of the group is to discuss important, recent ideas in the field of the philosophy of biology, especially ones not under the purview of other reading groups. For Michaelmas 2017, readings have been fashioned primarily around 3–4 different themes including (but not limited to): Populations, Evolutionary Ethics, Evolutionary Contingency, and Cultural Evolution. All are welcome. Organised by Azita Chellappoo and William Wong.

We meet on Thursdays, 11am to 12noon, in the Board Room.

**26 October**


**2 November**

9 November


16 November

Heyes, C., 2017. Enquire Within: Cultural evolution and cognitive science. *Philosophical Transactions B: Biological Sciences*.

23 November


30 November


Twentieth Century Reading Group

The group discusses books and papers relating to the history and historiography of 20th-century science, technology and medicine, broadly construed. We meet on **Thursdays, 1pm to 2pm in the Board Room**. Organised by Mary Brazelton, Joe Martin and Richard Staley.

Everyone is welcome – feel free to bring along your lunch.

The Intersection of Gender, Race and Disability with Philosophy of Science

This new reading group meets on **Mondays, 2–3pm, in the Board Room**. Organised by Azita Chellappoo (asc63).

**Week 2 (16 October)**


**Week 3 (23 October)**


**Week 4 (30 October)**

Chapter from ‘Queer Science: The Use and Abuse of Research Into Homosexuality' by Simon LeVay (to be circulated).

**Week 5 (6 November)**

Chapter from 'Philosophy of Science and Race' by Naomi Zack (to be circulated).

**Week 6 (13 November)**
Week 7 (20 November)


Science and Literature Reading Group

This term the Science and Literature Reading Group gets down to earth. We will complete our cycle of themes based on the four elements by exploring how different authors have tackled terrestrial topics, from muddy slimescapes to sublime mountain-top. We are delighted to meet in an appropriate new venue: the Watson Gallery of the Department of Earth Sciences, home to the John Watson Building Stones Collection.

All are welcome to join in our wide-ranging and friendly discussions, which take place fortnightly on Monday evenings from 7.30–9pm. The group is organised by Melanie Keene and Charissa Varma.

For recaps, further readings, news, and other updates, please follow us on Twitter [@scililreadgrp](http://twitter.com/scililreadgrp) or visit our blog.

16 October – Stone

- Pliny, *Natural History*, books XXXVI ('The Natural History of Stones') and XXXVII ('The Natural History of Precious Stones')

30 October – Ground

- Edmond Halley, ‘An Account of the Cause of the Variation of the Magnetical Needle; With an Hypothesis of the Structure of the Internal Parts of the Earth: As It Was Proposed to the Royal Society in One of Their Late Meetings’ (1753)

13 November – Mountain


27 November – Mud

Read as many poems from our muddy anthology as you’d like:

- Mary Borden, *from 'At the Somme: The Song of the Mud'* (1917)
- U. A. Fanthorpe, "Earthed"
- Seamus Heaney, "Digging" (1966)
- Andrew Hudgins, "Child on the Marsh" (1988)
- Curzio Malaparte, translated by Water Murch, "Xian of Eight Rivers" (2012)
- Roger McGough, "Soil"
- Jana Prikryl, "Geodes of the Western Hemisphere" (2016)
- Helen Saunders, "A Vision of Mud" (1915)
- Robert William Service, "Mud"
- Joyce Sidman, "Into the Mud" (2005)
- George Szirtes, "Soil" (2000)
- Tess Taylor, "Mud Season" (2016)
- Alison Townsend, "Mud poem" (2002)
- John Vernon, "Mud Man" (1982)

**Philosophy of Medicine Reading Group**

This reading group is dedicated to new and old problems in philosophy of medicine. All are welcome.

Meetings take place on **Tuesdays, 1–2pm, in Seminar Room 1**.

Conveners: Tim Lewens, Stephen John, Jacob Stegenga, Anna Alexandrova

This term, we will focus our readings on philosophical issues arising in cancer research, treatment and prevention. These readings also allow us to cover a range of fundational questions in the Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine, including the goals of medical research, the harms of overdiagnosis, the nature of disease, the social epistemology of medical knowledge, and the broader relationships between science and society. In December, there will also be a major, one-day International conference on the Philosophy of Cancer, which group members are all invited to attend.

**Week 1: Researching cancer 1: reductionism or organicism?**


**Week 2: Researching cancer 2: integration or pluralism?**


**Week 3: Diagnosing cancer 2: defining and naming disease**

Week 4: Diagnosing cancer 3: diagnosing or predicting?


Week 5: Screening for cancer 1: the epistemology of screening


Week 6: Screening for cancer 2: the ethics of screening


Week 7: Screening for cancer 3: the ethics of screening


Week 8: Cancer in, and cancer as, society

Sontag, S (1978) Chapters 1, 2, 8 and 9 of Illness as Metaphor. Farrar, Strauss and Giroux.

Additional event

13 December 2017: One Day Workshop on Philosophy of Cancer; HPS. Speakers include Anya Plutynski, Justin Biddle, Lynnette Reid, Alex Voorhoeve. For more information, contact Stephen John (sdj22) or Joseph Wu (jw895).

Philosophy and History of Physics Reading Group

The reading group meets on Tuesdays, 4.30pm to 6.30pm in the Board Room. Please contact Richard Staley (raws1) or Jeremy Butterfield (jb56) if you would like access to a copy of the readings.

The theme for the term is Symmetry and Explanation in Physics. We suggest the following readings for the first three sessions, and list some other possible readings. But at the first one or two sessions, we will plan later sessions in the light of participants’ interests, and we finish the term with a visit from Alisa Bokulich.

10 October

- Ernst Mach, ‘On Symmetry’, in Popular Scientific Lectures (Chicago/London: Open Court/Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. 1898 [1871]), pp. 89–106; and


17 October

24 October


For later weeks, we are considering reading (not necessarily in this order):


28 November

Alisa Bokulich (University of Boston)

'Losing sight of the forest for the Ψ: a call for a successor to the realism question'

Abstract:

Traditionally the realist project in quantum theory has taken one of two forms: First, defending one of many different possible interpretations of quantum theory as the one true depiction of reality. Second, defending what has been termed wavefunction realism, according to which ordinary space is an illusion and we in fact live in a 3N-dimensional configuration space, where N is the number of particles in the universe. Neither of these projects has managed to produce a broad consensus, in striking contrast to the near universal agreement that quantum theory is one of the most successful theories ever devised. In recent years there has been a shift in the physics community away from a focus on the search for a 'theory of everything' towards an emphasis on the importance of effective theories. In this talk I explore how this effective-theory mindsight might help us transform our philosophical debates about realism. As a way of regaining sight of the proverbial 'forest', from what I argue has been an excessive focus on the Ψ, I will examine hydrodynamic representations in physics across many scales. In particular, I will focus on the different representations of the quantum state that one finds in both Eulerian and Lagrangian quantum hydrodynamics. I conclude that the largely stagnant project of depiction realism in quantum theory should be replaced with the pluralist project that I label inferential realism.

Casebooks Therapy

Organiser: Lauren Kassell

'Casebooks Therapy' is an informal reading group for those interested in using the manuscripts of Simon Forman and Richard Napier in their research.

The aim of the reading group is to improve the palaeography skills of those who attend, as well as to provide guidance about how to make sense of Forman's and Napier's records. No familiarity with early modern handwriting is necessary, and the group is open to all. Attendees are invited to suggest a particular page or case from the casebooks that they have trouble reading to work through collaboratively. Participants should bring a laptop.
Meetings are held on occasional Wednesdays, 5.00–6.30pm in the Department, beginning 25 October. If you are interested in attending, please email Lauren Kassell (ltk21).

**Latin Therapy**

Latin Therapy is an informal reading group. All levels of Latin are very welcome. We meet on Tuesdays, **3.30–5.00pm in Room P19**, to translate and discuss a text from the history of science, technology or medicine. This is an opportunity to brush up your Latin by regular practice, and if a primary source is giving you grief, we'd love to help you make sense of it over tea and biscuits!

To be added to the mailing list, or to suggest a text, please contact Boyd Brogan (bb320).

**Greek Therapy**

Greek Therapy meets **every Wednesday during term time in the Board Room from 5.30 to 7pm**.

We are an informal group for beginners and for experienced readers of Greek seeking to brush up their skills – all levels are welcome. Sessions usually involve a basic grammar session at the beginning followed by reading through a more advanced text. This term we will be reading Xenophon's *Oeconomicus*.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email Liz Smith.

**Lent Term**

**Departmental Seminars**

Seminars are held on **Thursdays from 3.30 to 5pm in Seminar Room 2**. There are refreshments after the seminar at 5pm in Seminar Room 1.

Organised by Agnes Bolinska.

**18 January**  **Charlotte Sleigh (University of Kent)**  
Making sense of art and science

Historian of science Charlotte Sleigh has been working with science-artists since 2013, and in this talk she presents her reflections on hoped-for and actual relations between the two disciplines. A brief history of the field of A&S (art and science) will highlight the different purposes that art-science hybrids have fulfilled in different contexts, with particular emphasis on the past twenty years in the UK. Key concepts that have been marshalled to mediate between the two fields are subjected to critical analysis.

A second part of the talk draws on Charlotte’s particular experience in two A&S projects of her own: *Chain Reaction!* (2013) and *Biological Hermeneutics* (2017). In it, she reflects on some of the difficult and even embarrassing realities involved, drawing on Shapin’s notion of ‘lowering the tone’ to help highlight some of the political tensions between art and science. Institutionalisation, money and space emerge amongst the categories in urgent need of more honest appraisal. Finally, related questions of research and critique are raised. There is a failure on the part of many scientists (just as there is amongst the general public) to understand and hence respect the research and critical
practice that underpins contemporary art practice. What appears in galleries and elsewhere is the top tenth of the iceberg; research and critical practice are the nine-tenths that lie beneath. A&S collaborations may be improved, Sleigh argues, by an improved communication of this little-appreciated feature of contemporary art. Additionally she suggests that contemporary artists (as well as scientists) may have their research enhanced through an engagement with STS, which may be considered as the 'out-sourced' critical practice element of science.

25 January  
Casey McCoy (University of Edinburgh)  
Modelling at the border of experimental and theoretical practice in physics

In exploratory contexts in contemporary physics, such as the hunt for beyond standard model physics and the search for the nature of dark energy, physicists regularly cite the importance of 'model independence' for guiding experimental design and interpretation. What is model independence, how did it come to be a term of art in physics, and what is it good for? In answering these questions I show, among other things, how epistemic context distinguishes phenomenological modelling from a model independent approach, how this approach produces a means of communication at the border of experimental and theoretical practice in physics, and how model independence creates a target for experimental triangulation.

1 February  
David Singerman (University of Virginia)  
Sugar, science and the history of capitalism

In recent years, the history of capitalism has gained prominence as a powerful framework for understanding the development of the United States and its relationship to the world. But many of the field's claims about commodities, networks and knowledge rest on categories which the history of science has shown to be unstable and contested. This paper takes as its focus the sugar trade of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, one of the history of capitalism's canonical cases. Sugar showcases how approaches pioneered by the history of science can reorient our understanding of corruption, monopoly, labour and other problems that remain as crucial to today's Second Gilded Age as they were to the First.

8 February  
Jack Stilgoe (UCL)  
Machine learning, social learning and self-driving cars

Self-driving cars, a quintessentially 'smart' technology, are not born smart. The algorithms that control their movements are learning as the technology emerges. Self-driving cars represent a high-stakes test of the powers of machine learning, as well as a test case for social learning in technology governance. Starting with the successes and failures of social learning around a much-publicized fatal Tesla Model S crash in 2016, I argue that trajectories and rhetorics of machine learning in transport pose a substantial governance challenge. Governing these technologies in the public interest means improving social learning by constructively engaging with the contingencies of machine learning.

15 February  
John Tresch (University of Pennsylvania)  
Barnum, Bache and Poe: the forging of science in the Antebellum US

Two opposed tendencies characterised US public culture around 1840: first, a sharp increase of printed matter in which the sites, audiences, styles and speakers for matters of public concern exploded in number and diversity; second, an elite movement to unify knowledge through centralised institutions. In the domain of science, Barnum's 'American Museum' typified the first, while the US Coast Survey, directed by patrician polymath and West Point graduate Alexander Dallas Bache, exemplified the second. The life and writings of Edgar Allan Poe – who trained at West Point, and
wrote constantly about the sciences, even as he struggled to survive as an editor, poet and storyteller – pushed in both directions at once. Poe ‘forged’ American science and letters in two senses: by crafting believable fakes which fed the uncertainty about authority over knowledge, and by lending aid to projects to restrict the flow of information and establish a unified intellectual infrastructure. His work thus offers uniquely astute, if dramatically conflicted commentary on the relations of science and public in a key phase of national consciousness and industrialisation.

22 February  

*The seminar originally scheduled here will be given on Wednesday 21 February at 1pm as part of the CamPoS series*

1 March  

**Thirteenth Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine**

Alisha Rankin (Tufts University)

Poison trials, panaceas and proof: debates about testing and testimony in early modern European medicine

At the courts of sixteenth-century Europe, a number of princely physicians and surgeons tested promising poison antidotes on condemned criminals. These tests were contrived trials, in which a convict took a deadly poison followed by the antidote. The medics sometimes shared detailed descriptions of their poison trials in printed publications or private correspondence, much as they shared case histories of ill patients. Yet these very same physicians disputed the value of remarkably similar tests on animals conducted by charlatans and empirics in marketplace shows. Sometimes, however, these worlds overlapped directly. In 1583, an empiric named Andreas Berthold published a work in Latin praising the virtues of a marvellous new drug, a clay called 'Silesian terra sigillata'. Berthold presented the drug as a perfect Paracelsian remedy for poison and, like most antidotes, useful against many other illnesses as well. While such lofty claims might easily have been disregarded, Berthold noted that his readers did not have to 'trust me on my bare words'. He concluded his book with three testimonial letters from powerful figures – two German princes and one town mayor – about trials they had conducted on the drug in 1580 and 1581. In all three cases, physicians had given poison to test subjects (two used dogs, one a condemned criminal), followed by the antidote. In every case, the subjects who were given the Silesian terra sigillata survived the poison. These testimonial letters provided official legitimacy to an alchemical empiric, in the form of tests conducted by physicians. Meanwhile, other alchemists began to use a different form of testimony to demonstrate the marvellous effects of their antidote cure-alls: testimonial letters from patients describing their miraculous recoveries, which physicians derided as a perversion of the case history. Some of these alchemists likewise ridiculed the poison trial as a lowly and irrelevant form of proof. This talk examines the overlap between the genres of poison antidote and panacea and the debates these drugs engendered in attempts to 'prove' their efficacy.

8 March  

*Cancelled*

**Twentieth Century Think Tank**

The Twentieth Century Think Tank offers broad coverage of 20th- and 21st-century topics in the history, philosophy and sociology of science, technology and medicine. The regular programme of papers and discussions takes place on Thursdays over lunch.

Think Tank meetings are held fortnightly on **Thursdays, 1–2pm in Seminar Room 2.** All welcome!

Organised by Mary Brazelton, Joseph Martin and Richard Staley.
Jaume Navarro (University of the Basque Country)
Ether: the multiple lives of a resilient concept

In this session I propose to discuss the text of the introduction to a collective volume on the ether in the early twentieth century soon to be published by Oxford University Press. This book is a snapshot of the ether qua epistemic object in the early twentieth century. The contributed papers show that the ether was not necessarily regarded as the residue of old-fashioned science, but often as one of the objects of modernity, hand in hand with the electron, radioactivity or X-rays. Instrumental was the emergence of wireless technologies and radio broadcasting, certainly a very modern technology, which brought the ether into social audiences that would otherwise have never heard about such an esoteric entity. Following the prestige of scientists like Oliver Lodge and Arthur Eddington as popularisers of science, the ether became common currency among the general educated public. Modernism in the arts was also fond of the ether in the early twentieth century: the values of modernism found in the complexities and contradictions of modern physics such as wireless action or wave-particle puzzles a fertile ground for the development of new artistic languages; in literature as much as in the pictorial and performing arts.

The question of what was meant by ‘ether’ (or ‘aether’) in the early twentieth century at the scientific and cultural levels is also central to this volume. The essays in this volume display a complex array of meanings that will help elucidate the uses of the ether before its purported abandonment. Rather than thinking of the ether as simply a name that remained popular among several publics, this book shows the complexities of an epistemic object that saw, in the early twentieth century, the last episode in the long tradition of stretching its meaning and uses.

Seung-joon Lee (National University of Singapore)
People’s vital minimum: canteens and nutrition science in industrial China

At the moment when Mao Zedong was triumphantly standing atop the Heavenly Peace Gate in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square to declare the founding of a new socialist regime on 1 October 1949, China was facing an existential crisis: food shortages. The Communists now had to face the same dilemma that had long haunted their political arch-enemy, because food scarcity and rampant malnutrition could not be solved overnight, even after the downfall of the KMT rule. The malnourished population, once a strategic target for mobilization against their political opponent, could turn into a potential political threat to the new regime’s stability. Furthermore, food calories arguably remained the prime source of energy in China’s national economy, which was predominantly agricultural. To build a strong socialist economy — industrially mighty and yet egalitarian — the Chinese working population would need to eat better and consume more food than it ever had before.

Against this backdrop, the Communist authorities undertook unsparing efforts to promote nutrition science in order to optimize the working population’s food consumption. Rather than starting from ground zero, however, the Communists emulated the state-led nutrition movement that the previous regime had once practised. Industrial canteens — once a political battleground upon which workers seeking their food entitlement and the KMT-style labour management frequently collided — transformed into a new space that embraced various culinary innovations, nutritional experiments, and the politicization of nutrition science.

Susan Jones (University of Minnesota)
The homelands of the plague: Soviet disease ecology in Central Asia, 1920s–1950s
This presentation analyzes the development of an important Russian/Soviet school of 'disease ecology' at the intersection of human medicine, veterinary medicine, and ecological fieldwork. Part of a larger study in progress, I will argue that (1) although entanglements with the dynamic Soviet political system directly affected scientists' work and ideas, analysis of their local activities in the borderlands demonstrates a surprising independence and autonomy; and (2) initial analysis also points to the importance of indigenous nomadic peoples' knowledge and lived experience in informing scientific theories about endemic diseases. I conclude by discussing how collaboration between HSTM graduate students, scientists, and informants in Kazakhstan have been essential to this historical project.

1 March  
Cancelled

Fri 23 March  
Mario Biagioli (University of California, Davis)  
How to game the citation metrics game in contemporary science

Coffee with Scientists

The aim of this group is to explore and enhance the interface between HPS and science. Though many of us in HPS engage closely with science and scientists, we could benefit from more explicit discussions about the relationship between HPS and science itself, and from more opportunities for HPS-scholars and scientists to help each other's work.

Generally we meet on Fridays, 3.30–5.00pm in Seminar Room 2. Further information and reading materials will be distributed through the email list of the group; please contact Hasok Chang (hc372) if you would like to be included on the list.

26 January  
Marie-Ann Ha (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medical Science, Anglia Ruskin University), hosted by Hasok Chang  
Is 5-a-day enough? Nutrition, a science at crossroads

9 February  
Longzhu Shen (Research Associate, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge), hosted by Agnes Bolinska  
Predicting the evolutionary trajectory of influenza

9 March  
Robert Asher (Senior Lecturer, Department of Zoology, and Curator, University Museum of Zoology, University of Cambridge) with Adrian Currie (Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge)  
Taxonomy, trees and truth in historical mammalogy

Cabinet of Natural History

This research seminar is concerned with all aspects of the history of natural history and the field and environmental sciences. The regular programme of papers and discussions takes place over lunch on Mondays. In addition, the Cabinet organises a beginning-of-year fungus hunt and occasional expeditions to sites of historical and natural historical interest, and holds an end-of-year garden party.

All seminars are held on Mondays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1. Please feel free to bring your lunch.

Organised by Sebastian Kroupa (sk796).
In 1732, Habsburg military surgeons handed in an autopsy report to the provincial administration, in which they described several corpses that local Serbian Orthodox villagers claimed to be vampires. The report discussed an epidemic that disrupted the public order and resulted in dozens of dead subjects, many of whom (despite having been buried for up to two months) apparently refused to decay properly. The report incited a short-lived, but vigorous debate in the learned circles with contributors from the ranks of theology, natural philosophy, medicine and law. The phenomenon did not easily fit existing natural philosophical and demonological theories, hence opening the room for various ideas, such as vitalism, sympathies, astral influences, chemical processes and demonic activity to be discussed alongside one another. Since the eighteenth century, the debate has occupied a stable position in the narratives of disenchantment and enlightenment as a swift and complete victory of natural sciences over superstition.

Based on a reconstruction of the channels through which the first-hand reports travelled, the talk will argue that the learned debate started out at the provincial level in the form of appeals to the learned elite for scientific clarification, but it soon became a discourse in its own right. Furthermore, based on a comparative analysis of treatises and first-hand reports, the talk will try to show that the administrative and the learned discourses had different priorities and interests, which meant that in the end, the learned conclusions could not be convincingly applied at the grassroots level.

The 1850s through early 1860s was a transformative period for Victorian studies of the remote human past, across many new and evolving disciplines. Yet very little is known about the role of ancient Egypt as a focus of these discussions. Naturalists and scholars with Egyptological knowledge fashioned themselves as authorities to contend with the divisive topic of human antiquity and looked to the country's ancient monuments and written records to support their various claims. In a characteristic case of long-distance fieldwork, British geologist Leonard Horner relied on Turkish-born, English-educated, Cairo-based engineer Joseph Hekekyan to measure Nile silt deposits around pharaonic monuments at the ancient sites of Heliopolis and Memphis. The excavations were jointly-funded by the Royal Society of London and Egyptian government and contributed to a research program, championed by Horner and his son-in-law Charles Lyell, to assign absolute dates to the most recent geological period. Hekekyan meticulously recorded his field observations in hundreds of letters, reports, sketches and maps, which he sent to Horner for analysis. Their conclusion in 1858 that humans had existed in Egypt for over 13,000 years was particularly shocking to those who endorsed traditional biblical chronology and the work entered heated exchanges about man's place in nature and Scriptural authority.

This talk will discuss these geo-archaeological investigations, the production and circulation of field records, Hekekyan's role as a go-between, and lastly, the publication's mixed reception by several groups in Britain, including Egyptologists, geologists, ethnologists, anthropologists, Scriptural chronologists and German biblical critics. The episode is indicative of the many practical attempts in this period to deal with the growing anxieties of human antiquity. It further illuminates the roles of local knowledge and ancient Egypt within debates about the age of humans and highlights mid-Victorian attempts to reshape porous disciplinary boundaries.
5 February  
Simon Werrett (University College London)  
Joseph Banks: science, culture and the remaking of the Indo-Pacific world

In this presentation I assess the findings of a one-year AHRC-funded project on the career of Sir Joseph Banks, naturalist on Cook's first voyage and president of the Royal Society from 1778 to 1820. Against a view of Banks as a 'centre of calculation' participants reconsidered Banks as a connecting agent among existing imperial and scientific networks mobilising plants around the world and transforming British enterprises in the Indo-Pacific world. Participants also explored Banks after Cook, in a period between c.1780 and 1820 that is rarely discussed in the literature. During this period Banks fitted into a variety of networks of men and women engaged with the sciences, acted as an information manager and broker, and managed a diverse collection of botanical and personal images and texts. Participants doubted that he followed a coherent agenda in these activities.

12 February  
Petter Hellström (Uppsala Universitet)  
Trees as keys, ladders, maps: a revisionist history of early systematic trees

In recent years, there has been a profusion of studies charting the history of tree diagrams in natural history and biological systematics. Whereas some of these have focused on one or a few arboreal schemes, the majority have presented long histories, spanning centuries and occasionally even millennia. Early or 'pre-Darwinian' trees typically feature in these histories as precursors to phylogenetics; sometimes even as the 'roots' of later trees. Together with colleagues in France, I have previously argued that one of the most frequently cited early tree diagrams, Augustin Augier's 'Botanical Tree' (1801), cannot in any reasonable way be made to play the role of forerunner to later, evolutionary trees – even as the author pitched his tree of natural families in explicitly genealogical terms. In this talk, I push the argument further by proposing an alternative reading of the historical record. Starting from Augier's tree and other early examples, I argue that 'pre-evolutionary' trees should be understood less in terms of what came after, and more in terms of what came before. Attending to the functions they performed as keys, ladders and maps, I argue that early trees were logical, rhetorical and mnemonic devices drawn to imagine perfect, static order.

19 February  
Caterina Schürch (LMU München)  
Physico-chemical biology in practice, 1920s–1930s

During the interwar period, 'physico-chemical biology' was institutionalised on an unprecedented scale. A group of eminent researchers, science managers and philanthropists promoted the view that physical and chemical concepts and methods could and should be adopted in biology. My talk is concerned with the practical implementation of this vision: how did researchers (from the physical and the biological sciences) identify biological problems that were to be approached from a physico-chemical standpoint? And, after all, why did they decide to work on problems at the interface between the physical and life sciences? I will introduce four interwar research programs in which physical or chemical methods and concepts were used to investigate biological phenomena: research on plant growth hormones in Utrecht and Pasadena; Selig Hecht's work on the physical and chemical basis of vision; Cambridge biochemist Rose Scott-Moncrieff's study of the biochemical basis of flower colour inheritance; and the activities of Prague's 'biological-physical working group'. The talk will focus on the early phases of these research programs and show how these cross-disciplinary studies were planned, implemented, and evaluated. The analysis emphasises the material and technological conditions of the modern life sciences and, at the same time, provides insights into the methodological norms that shaped scientists' actual research actions. Secondly, it promises to speak to the motivations behind cross-disciplinary research collaborations. I will argue that researchers were willing to cooperate with practitioners from other disciplines, since they recognised their epistemical interdependence.
26 February  Cancelled
5 March  Cancelled
12 March  Cancelled

AD HOC

AD HOC (Association for the Discussion of the History of Chemistry) is a group dedicated to history of chemistry. While our main focus is historical, we also consider the philosophical, sociological, public and educational dimensions of chemistry. The group meets on Mondays at 5pm in Seminar Room 1. Coordinated by Karoliina Pulkkinen.

22 January  Chris Campbell (UCL)
Josiah Cooke and Charles Peirce: North American chemists in search of orderliness

5 February  Frank James (UCL; The Royal Institution)
Humphry Davy’s mineral collecting for the early Royal Institution

19 February  Carolyn Cobbold (Clare Hall, Cambridge)
The wonders of coal tar: when chemistry became a nineteenth-century media sensation

5 March  Vanessa Seifert (University of Bristol)
The integration of history and the philosophy of chemistry: how historical evidence can be used in support of a unificatory understanding of the relation of chemistry and physics
Venue: Newnham Terrace 1, Darwin College

History of Medicine

Seminars are on Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1. Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

Early Science and Medicine

Organised by Lauren Kassell and Dániel Margócsy.

30 January  Sasha Handley (University of Manchester)
Sleep piety and healthy sleep in early modern English households

20 February  Yari Perez-Marin (Durham University)
Pain and physiological processes in sixteenth-century medical texts from Mexico and Spain

6 March  Cancelled

History of Modern Medicine and Biology

Organised by Jenny Bangham and Mary Brazelton.
Margaret Charleroy (University of Warwick)
23 January 'Don't eat the pudding': food and nourishment in the nineteenth-century English prison system

13 February Elise Burton (Newnham College, Cambridge)
Genes against beans: favism, malaria and nationalism in the Middle East

13 March Cancelled

Generation to Reproduction
Organised by Lauren Kassell and Jesse Olsynko-Gryn.

Valerie Worth (University of Oxford)
6 February Slaying (or at least taming) a dreadful monster: Louis de Serres' treatise of 1625 for women suffering from infertility

27 February Cancelled

CamPoS
CamPoS (Cambridge Philosophy of Science) is a network of academics and students working in the philosophy of science in various parts of the University of Cambridge, including the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Faculty of Philosophy. The Wednesday afternoon seminar series features current research by CamPoS members as well as visitors to Cambridge and scholars based in nearby institutions. If you are interested in presenting in the series, please contact Brian Pitts (jbp25). If you have any queries or suggestions for other activities that CamPoS could undertake, please contact Huw Price, Jeremy Butterfield or Anna Alexandrova.

Seminars are held on Wednesdays, 1.00–2.30pm in Seminar Room 2.

24 January J. Brian Pitts (Philosophy, Cambridge)
Even observables change in Hamiltonian general relativity

31 January Bennett Holman (Yonsei)
Dr Watson: the impending automation of medical diagnosis and treatment

7 February Wolfgang Schwarz (Edinburgh)
No interpretation of probability

14 February Craig Callender (UCSD)
Yikes! Why did past-me say he'd give a talk on future discounting?

21 February Mariam Thalos (University of Utah)
Disaggregating goods

28 February Cancelled

7 March Cancelled
14 March  Cancelled

Twentieth Century Reading Group

The group discusses books and papers relating to the history and historiography of 20th-century science, technology and medicine, broadly construed. We meet on Thursdays, 1pm to 2pm in the Board Room. Organised by Mary Brazelton, Joe Martin, Charu Singh and Richard Staley.

Everyone is welcome – feel free to bring along your lunch.

This term we will consider readings on infrastructure, scale, climate and cartography on the following dates (alternating with Twentieth Century Think Tank):

25 January, on scale:


8 February, on place and geographies of climate change:


22 February

Cancelled

1 March

We will meet to discuss the work of Naomi Oreskes in preparation for her visit to Cambridge in mid May. We will focus on her important work with Erik Conway, *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming* (New York/Berlin/London: Bloomsbury Press, 2010). The book is widely available in Cambridge libraries with a copy on reserve at the Whipple and online access at designated PCs in the UL and affiliate libraries.

We suggest reading chapter 6, ‘The Denial of Global Warming’, together with the conclusion and epilogue (which offer an account of the motivations underlying the work of major denialists, and ‘a new view of science’).

8 March

Cancelled

The Intersection of Gender, Race and Disability with Philosophy of Science
This new reading group meets on **Mondays, 2–3pm, in the Board Room**. Organised by Azita Chellappoo (asc63).

**Week 1 (22 January)**


**Week 2 (29 January)**


**Week 3 (5 February)**


**Week 4 (12 February)**


**Week 5 (19 February)**


**Week 6 (26 February)**


**Week 7 (5 March)**


**Week 8 (12 March)**


**Science and Literature Reading Group**

Following our tour of the four classical elements, this term the Science and Literature Reading Group looks to the fifth: aether. Our first three meetings focus on ways in which ethereal concepts have been used: as a vehicle for the imagination; as a medium for interconnection; and as a means of communication. The final meeting will celebrate completing the elementary series with a found poetry workshop using all of the texts we have read and discussed over the past year.

All are welcome to join in our wide-ranging and friendly conversations, which take place at Darwin College on selected Monday evenings from 7.30–9pm. The group is organised by Melanie Keene and Charissa Varma.
For recaps, further readings, news, and other updates, please follow us on Twitter @sciltreadgrp or visit our blog.

**22 January – Imagination**

- Anna Laetitia Barbauld, 'A Summer Evening's Meditation' (1773)

**5 February – Connection**

- John Davidson, 'Fleet Street' (1909)
- Oliver Lodge, *Ether and Reality* (1925), ch. 2, 'Fundamental notions about an ether', 33–46

**26 February – Communication**

- Rudyard Kipling, 'Wireless' (1902)
- Philip R. Coursey, 'Interplanetary Wireless?', *Wireless World* (1920)
- Eric Roach, 'Beyond' (1950)

**12 March – Elementary Poetry workshop**

- Online introduction to found poetry, and examples

**Philosophy of Medicine Reading Group**

This reading group is dedicated to new and old problems in philosophy of medicine. All are welcome.

Meetings take place on **Tuesdays, 1–2pm, in Seminar Room 1.**

Conveners: Tim Lewens, Stephen John, Jacob Stegenga, Anna Alexandrova

**Week 1 (23 January)**


**Week 2 (30 January)**


**Week 3 (6 February)**


**Week 4 (13 February)**


**Week 5 (20 February)**
Gillies, D. 'Evidence of mechanism in the evaluation of streptomycin and thalidomide.' *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 66 (2017) 55–62.

**Week 6 (27 February)**


**Week 7 (6 March)**


**Week 8 (13 March)**


**Philosophy and History of Physics Reading Group**

The reading group meets on **Tuesdays, 4.30pm to 6.30pm in the Board Room**. Please contact Joe Martin (jdm205) or Jeremy Butterfield (jb56) if you would like access to a copy of the readings.

The theme for the term is Gravitational Waves. We suggest the following readings for the first three sessions, and list some other possible readings. But at the first one or two sessions, we will plan later sessions in the light of participants' interests.

**23 January**

- The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics: popular science background

**30 January**

- D. Kennefick, *ibid.*, chapter 5;
- The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics: scientific background

**6 February**


There is a copy of the Kennefick and Thorne books in the Whipple, on Reserve. The book by D. Kennefick is also an *ebook*, freely available in the Cambridge University domain, through iDiscover.

**Casebooks Therapy**

Organiser: Lauren Kassell
'Casebooks Therapy' is an informal reading group for those interested in using the manuscripts of Simon Forman and Richard Napier in their research.

The aim of the reading group is to improve the palaeography skills of those who attend, as well as to provide guidance about how to make sense of Forman's and Napier's records. No familiarity with early modern handwriting is necessary, and the group is open to all. Attendees are invited to suggest a particular page or case from the casebooks that they have trouble reading to work through collaboratively. Participants should bring a laptop.

Meetings are held on occasional Wednesdays, 5.00–6.30pm in the Department. If you are interested in attending, please email Lauren Kassell (ltk21).

**Latin Therapy**

Latin Therapy is an informal reading group. All levels of Latin are very welcome. We meet on Tuesdays, 3.30–5.00pm in Room P19, to translate and discuss a text from the history of science, technology or medicine. This is an opportunity to brush up your Latin by regular practice, and if a primary source is giving you grief, we'd love to help you make sense of it over tea and biscuits!

To be added to the mailing list, or to suggest a text, please contact Boyd Brogan (bb320).

**Greek Therapy**

Greek Therapy meets every Wednesday during term time in the Board Room from 5.30 to 7pm.

We are an informal group for beginners and for experienced readers of Greek seeking to brush up their skills – all levels are welcome. Sessions usually involve a basic grammar session at the beginning followed by reading through a more advanced text. This term we will be reading Xenophon's *Oeconomicus*.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email Liz Smith.

**Easter Term**

**Departmental Seminars**

Seminars are held on Thursdays from 3.30 to 5pm in Seminar Room 2. There is tea and coffee before the seminar at 3pm in Seminar Room 1, and there are refreshments afterwards at 5pm in Seminar Room 1.

Organised by Agnes Bolinska.

26 April Remco Heesen (Philosophy, Cambridge)

Statistical biases in peer review

Various biases are known to affect the peer review system, which is used to judge journal articles for their suitability for publication and grant proposals for their suitability for funding. These biases are generally attributed to cognitive biases held by individual peer reviewers. For example, gender bias in peer review is explained by the (explicit or implicit) gender bias of individual peer reviewers, as
evidenced by the generally lower scores given to submissions authored by women. Here I introduce
the notion of ‘purely statistical biases’: biases in peer review that arise even when individual peer
reviewers are unbiased. This notion suggests that certain social groups or research programs may
be disadvantaged by the peer review system even in the absence of cognitive biases. I use formal
models to identify three possible mechanisms for purely statistical biases. The first mechanism relies
on differences in information about authors available to decision makers. The second mechanism
relies on differences in the underlying distributions of the ‘quality’ of submissions. Finally, the third
mechanism comes into play when reviewers judge submissions on multiple criteria: aggregating
these judgments into a final decision leads to a third possible source of bias.

3 May  Wendy S. Parker (Durham University)
Explaining the recent ‘hiatus’ in global warming: models, measurement and media

In both scientific journals and the blogosphere, there has been much discussion of a recent ‘hiatus’
or ‘pause’ in global warming. Climate skeptics have characterized the hiatus as a major problem for
climate change science. In response, climate scientists have invested significant time and energy
investigating the hiatus and have developed explanations of it that require no revision to existing
theory or models. This talk will provide an overview of these efforts, in order to illustrate some
striking features of explanatory practice in climate science. It will focus in particular on the important
contributions of computer simulation models, as well as some of the challenges and limitations
associated with their use. The analysis will suggest that quantitative ‘how-plausibly’ explanations are
the best that can be hoped for in the case of the recent hiatus.

10 May  Erika Milam (Princeton University)
Creatures of Cain: the hunt for human nature in Cold War America

After the Second World War, the question of how to define a universal human nature took on new
urgency. This talk charts the rise and precipitous fall of a theory that attributed man's evolutionary
success to his unique capacity for murder amid the tense social climate of Cold War America. The
scientists who advanced this ‘killer ape’ vision of humanity capitalized on an expanding postwar
market in intellectual paperbacks and widespread faith in the power of science to solve humanity's
problems, even answer fundamental questions of human identity. The killer ape theory spread
quickly from colloquial science publications to late-night television, classrooms, political debates, and
Hollywood films. Behind the scenes, however, scientists were sharply divided. Then, in the 1970s,
the theory unravelled altogether when primatologists discovered that chimpanzees also kill members
of their own species. This discovery brought an end to definitions of human exceptionalism marked
by violence. Some evolutionists reacted by arguing for a shared chimpanzee-human history of
aggression even as other scientists discredited all such theories as sloppy popularizations. The
legacy of the killer ape persists today in Americans' conviction that fundamental questions of human
nature are resolvable through science.

Twenty-Third Annual Hans Rausing Lecture
Andreas Malm (Lund University)
17 May  Steamroll all the brutes: coal, steam and British Imperialism in mid-nineteenth century
Levant and West Africa
McCrum Lecture Theatre, Bene't Street, at 4.30pm

Twentieth Century Think Tank
The Twentieth Century Think Tank offers broad coverage of 20th- and 21st-century topics in the
history, philosophy and sociology of science, technology and medicine. The regular programme of
papers and discussions takes place on Thursdays over lunch.
Think Tank meetings are held fortnightly on **Thursdays, 1–2pm in Seminar Room 2. All welcome!**

Organised by Mary Brazelton, Joseph Martin and Richard Staley.

**Siva Arumugam (Cambridge)**

**3 May** Number, probability and community: the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern data model, Monte Carlo simulations and counterfactual futures in cricket

The Duckworth-Lewis-Stern model of cricket, used to set targets in weather-shortened matches, is framed around two distinct concerns — fairness and prediction. These two concerns are somewhat at odds with one another. I will argue that the fact that this is a data model raises issues surrounding number, probability and community. The relationship between this model, subsequent Monte Carlo models, and cricket is worth examining because it both stands in for and performs a way in which 'data governmentality' might be constructed for society at large. Data models are being used to, for example, determine job applications, college entry, insurance rates, access to credit, voter persuasion, and to monitor health. In this paper, I argue that Monte Carlo models work on and through us by forming new kinds of rule-driven, probabilistic communities oriented towards counterfactual futures.

**Renny Thomas (University of Delhi)**

**17 May** Science, scientific method and rationality: Nehru's engagement with Ayurveda

This paper, through detailed archival work looks at Nehru's engagement with Indian knowledge systems. It looks at various ways in which Nehru tried imposing the identity of tradition/religion/superstition to knowledge systems such as Ayurveda. He makes a clear distinction between tradition and modernity, wherein western medicine is seen as modern, and Indian as traditional.

Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, was a spokesperson of modern science and technology and saw elements of emancipation in it. For him, scientific method through laboratory work was the only way to 'validate' any systems of knowledge. The massive institutionalization of modern science and technology invited anger from some politicians and leaders as these projects had totally ignored Indian systems of medicine like Ayurveda and Unani. To become 'modern' the existing knowledge systems were asked to prove their scientificity. There were politicians who thought Nehru lacked an understanding of the 'Indian knowledge system'. Nehru responded to the advocates of Indian systems of knowledge by saying that the Government will not support non-scientific, religious and superstitious beliefs and practices. Indian systems such as Ayurveda was perceived as religious by Nehru, wherein he clearly made a distinction between science and religion; western system as rational and scientific, and Indian systems of knowledge as religious. While one must be conscious of the right-wing Hindutva version of Indian systems of knowledge, one needs to also look critically the way in which modern science and medicine was used to marginalize Indian systems such as Ayurveda during Nehru's time.

**Sonja Amadae (MIT)**

**Wed 30 May** Before Trump: the neoliberal–illiberal alliance of the IMF and WTO with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

5.00–6.30pm (note unusual day and time)

Western commentators scratch their heads over the new phenomenon of illiberalism that has recently gained ground in Europe and North America. This trend toward illiberalism has been identified as a particular feature of developmental progress of states without sufficient constitutional safeguards to offer institutional defenses against illiberal tendencies (Zakaria 1997). Yet we now can see that even fully developed constitutional democracies, most prominently the US, have taken this
turn. This paper hypothesizes that neoliberalism, specifically in the form promoted by the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, forms an ideological and practical alliance with illiberal developmental trends in Eurasia characterized by the Shanghai Cooperative Organisation.

While Western institutions tend to at least pay lip service to democratic governance, in fact the IMF and WTO sponsor policies that do not recognize the value of grass roots participation in the organization of politics and civil society. Whereas the WTO and IMF stand in opposing spheres of interest from the SCO, none of these organizations sponsors the celebrated twentieth-century marriage of free markets under the duly constituted rule of law sustained by democratic politics. Thus, perhaps the global trend towards illiberal regimes with various forms of authoritarian rule should not be surprising given the lack of contemporary robust practical and theoretical defense of open and democratic institutions. This paper closes with a preliminary exploration of modes of institutional organization that may support collective socio-technical imaginaries conducive to legitimate participatory governance. It hypothesizes that the price paid for neglecting inclusive public will formation may be deference to authoritarian forms of leadership that resonate with traditional imaginaries of collective purpose and meaning.


Coffee with Scientists

The aim of this group is to explore and enhance the interface between HPS and science. Though many of us in HPS engage closely with science and scientists, we could benefit from more explicit discussions about the relationship between HPS and science itself, and from more opportunities for HPS-scholars and scientists to help each other’s work.

Generally we meet on Fridays, 3.30–5.00pm in Seminar Room 2. Further information and reading materials will be distributed through the email list of the group; please contact Hasok Chang (hc372) if you would like to be included on the list.

11 May
Julie-Anne Gandier (Bioproducts Laboratory, Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, University of Toronto), hosted by Agnes Bolinska
Regenerating nature’s smart fabric: identification, characterization and engineering of non-catalytic proteins for the development of environmentally responsive plant-derived textiles materials

25 May
Nick Hopwood, Stephen Eglen, Patricia Fara and Richard Smith
Scientific publishing

Cabinet of Natural History

This research seminar is concerned with all aspects of the history of natural history and the field and environmental sciences. The regular programme of papers and discussions takes place over lunch on Mondays. In addition, the Cabinet organises a beginning-of-year fungus hunt and occasional expeditions to sites of historical and natural historical interest, and holds an end-of-year garden party.

All seminars are held on Mondays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1. Please feel free to bring your lunch.

Organised by Sebestian Kroupa (sk796).

30 April
Kathleen Murphy (California Polytechnic State University)
Beetles in a haystack: collecting insects via the eighteenth-century British slave trade
In 1766, a British ship captain in the Gabon Estuary, just north of the equator in the Gulf of Guinea, found one of the largest beetles then known floating in the river. The Goliath beetle, as it came to be called, quickly became an object of desire among natural history collectors. This talk traces the efforts of Dru Drury, a British silversmith and entomologist, to acquire a specimen of the Goliath beetle by means of the slave trade. The silversmith's correspondence, account books, museum inventory and remarkable ledger of prospective specimen-collectors allow us to trace how a naturalist in the mid-eighteenth century might utilize British commercial and naval circuits to Africa in the pursuit of a particular specimen. The dramatic expansion in British participation in the slave trade by the middle of the century facilitated the efforts of naturalists such as Drury to collect specimens through the same circuits that collected enslaved Africans. Drury believed that Britain's commercial networks would not only enable him to acquire various new African specimens but, in particular, to obtain a Goliath beetle for his own museum. To encourage mariners to become collectors, Drury provided collecting supplies, images of what he desired, directions, and cash payments for each specimen delivered to his London home. In the search for the Goliath beetle, the naturalist repeatedly articulated ways that collecting slaves might lead to collecting specimens.

Marine Bellégo (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)
7 May
Watering plants, drying specimens: the Calcutta Botanical Garden and its fraught relationship with moisture (c.1864–c.1900)

Created at the end of the eighteenth century, the Calcutta Botanical Garden was an important element of the network of imperial gardens that served economic and political enterprises of the Raj. In the nineteenth century, it became a centre where plants were nursed, grew, transited, fell sick and often died. Some plants were dried in order to be incorporated into the herbarium, the place which was considered the most 'scientific' by the British botanists who claimed to run the garden. Growing plants and drying them both implied controlling quantities of water and moisture, a task that was seen as particularly difficult in what the garden's administration called an 'Indian context'. Plants in the ground were subject to drought, plants in pots fell victims to overwatering, and herbarium specimen were never dry enough. Regulating water was all the more necessary as the garden was situated on the bank of the Hooghly, an arm of the Ganges, and was frequently subject to floods. I argue that this constant and sometimes obsessional preoccupation with moisture expressed the failure of the imperial claim to reduce 'place' to 'context', especially during the period of 'High Imperialism' that characterised the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

László Kontler (Central European University, Budapest)
14 May
Earthquakes, the end of the world, and perspectives on the Last Judgment (1686–1756)

This paper – inspired by the prompt in Bernard de Fontenelle's Entretiens sur la pluralité des mondes (1686) that 'suns' may and do become extinguished, and 'worlds' come to an end as a result of ordinary processes of transformation in the universe – investigates an aspect of the imbrication of the 'new science' and religious thought in the late seventeenth and the early eighteenth centuries. Firstly, it explores reports, accounts, interpretations of earthquakes (deliberately not the much discussed contributions of Enlightenment classics, but sources from learned journals, independent essays, treatises, sermons etc.) between those of Jamaica (1692) and Lisbon (1755) to assess the extent to which such calamities invited reflection on their natural causes in combination with a consideration of the possibility that they may prefigure an 'end of the world'. Such reflections were not unusual. Secondly, the paper also attempts to establish whether the possibility of such an end of 'this world' also evoked, in this period, thinking that pointed towards Enlightenment as 'the pursuit of happiness in this world, regardless of what may or may not come in the next one'. In this regard the result is rather negative: in so far as authors were concerned with larger meanings as to the kind of
lives human beings are supposed to lead, preoccupation with 'the other world' remained highly resilient.

**Friday 18 May**

**Cabinet of Natural History Excursion to Stowe Landscape Gardens**

We will be visiting Stowe, where we will receive a guided tour of the Gardens, followed by a picnic lunch and finally some free time to explore at our own leisure.

The entrance fee is £12. The Cabinet will provide transport and lunch. Please feel free to bring food to share. We will depart from the Department of Engineering at 10.30am and return to Cambridge by 5pm. Due to the capacity of the minibuses, the number of participants is limited to 14. Please RSVP to Sebastian Kroupa (sk796).

**21 May**

Déborah Dubald (European University Institute, Florence)

**Inventorying the Rhone: the scientific travels of Claude Jourdan collecting for the Natural History Museum of Lyon, 1834–1869**

Serving as the director of the Natural History Museum of Lyon from 1834 to 1869, Claude Jourdan managed the museum's collections for nearly a lifetime with determination of his own. The museum's archive and his *Journal d'Entrées* are particularly representative of the importance of travel in Jourdan's collecting practices, especially of his efforts to assemble a comprehensive collection of minerals and fossils documenting the geology of the Rhone river basin. The respective specimens shed light on locational patterns, as well as pointing to the social dimension of Jourdan's mobility. The web of intermediaries and contacts patiently weaved together over decades provides insights into the collecting strategies developed by Jourdan, but also into the construction of his own persona within the scholarly world.

As an employee of a municipal museum, Jourdan also operated as a servant of the public establishment. Therefore, in addition to gathering specimens for the museum, Jourdan was charged with defining professional competences in the context of a public institution, as well as with negotiations with funding bodies, which were simultaneously local political authorities. Through looking at the prevailing and the peculiar in Jourdan's collecting practices, this paper will emphasise situational and contextual aspects of scientific knowledge production in Lyon. In particular, I seek to expose the construction modalities of the museum authority as a site of scientific knowledge and interrogate the extent to which this was tied to the invention of the director's own authority and persona.

**Friday 15 June**

**Cabinet of Natural History Garden Party**, Caius Fellows' Garden, 1–3pm

Dániel Margócsy (HPS, Cambridge)

A natural history of satyrs

This talk examines how European natural historians made a connection between Ancient fables and exotic animals from the Renaissance to Darwin's contemporaries, focusing on the identification of the satyr with the orangutan. In recent years, historians have examined how early modern naturalists relied on humanist philology to identify the Greek plants of Dioscorides and Theophrastus with local plants in their environs. Yet the scholarship has ignored how naturalists also consulted myths and fables to make sense of exotic plants and animals. Well into the nineteenth century, natural historians assumed that, poetic licence aside, these sources offered factual evidence about real species. An expertise in natural history included the interpretive skill to tease out the difference between fact and fiction in poetry. This talk examines how European scholars justified their belief in
the power of myth by making complex arguments about the age-old circulation of knowledge between the Far East and Europe.

AD HOC

AD HOC (Association for the Discussion of the History of Chemistry) is a group dedicated to history of chemistry. While our main focus is historical, we also consider the philosophical, sociological, public and educational dimensions of chemistry. The group meets on Mondays at 5pm in Seminar Room 1. Coordinated by Karoliina Pulkkinen.

14 May Frank James (UCL; The Royal Institution)
Humphry Davy’s mineral collecting for the early Royal Institution

CamPoS

CamPoS (Cambridge Philosophy of Science) is a network of academics and students working in the philosophy of science in various parts of the University of Cambridge, including the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Faculty of Philosophy. The Wednesday afternoon seminar series features current research by CamPoS members as well as visitors to Cambridge and scholars based in nearby institutions. If you are interested in presenting in the series, please contact Brian Pitts (jbp25). If you have any queries or suggestions for other activities that CamPoS could undertake, please contact Huw Price, Jeremy Butterfield or Anna Alexandrova.

Seminars are held on Wednesdays, 1.00–2.30pm in Seminar Room 2.

Further details of the composition and activities of CamPoS

2 May Natalie Gold (KCL)
Guard against temptation: team reasoning and the role of intentions in exercising willpower

9 May Agnes Bolinska (HPS, Cambridge) and Julie-Anne Gandier (University of Toronto)
Understanding protein function through multiple models of structure: barriers to integration

16 May Mike Stuart (LSE)
A new way to defend the value free ideal for science

23 May Darrell Rowbottom (Lingnan University; Durham University)
What can scientific realists think about scientific method(s)?

30 May Mazviita D. Chirimuuta (University of Pittsburgh)
Constructing the organism in the age of abstraction

The Intersection of Gender, Race and Disability with Philosophy of Science

This new reading group meets on Mondays, 2–3pm, in the Board Room. Organised by Azita Chellappoo (asc63).

Week 1 (30 April)

**Week 2 (7 May)**


**Week 3 (14 May)**


**Week 4 (21 May)**


**Week 5 (28 May)**


**Week 6 (4 June)**


**Week 7 (11 June)**


**Science and Literature Reading Group**

The Science and Literature Reading Group will hold two sessions which were postponed from last term due to industrial action. We first complete our explorations of the aether by looking at the theme of communication, across and beyond the globe. We will then celebrate the end of our elements series with a found poetry workshop using all of the texts we have read and discussed over the previous two academic years.

All are welcome to join in our wide-ranging and friendly conversations, which take place at Darwin College on selected Monday evenings from 7.30–9pm. The group is organised by Melanie Keene and Charissa Varma.

For recaps, further readings, news, and other updates, please follow us on Twitter @scilitreadgrp or visit our blog.

**14 May – Communication**

- *Rudyard Kipling, 'Wireless' (1902)*
- *Philip R. Coursey, 'Interplanetary Wireless?', Wireless World (1920)*
- *Eric Roach, 'Beyond' (1950)*

**4 June – End of year party and Elementary Poetry workshop**
Online introduction to found poetry, and examples

Philosophy of Medicine Reading Group
This reading group is dedicated to new and old problems in philosophy of medicine. All are welcome.
Meetings take place on Tuesdays, 1–2pm, in Seminar Room 1.
Conveners: Tim Lewens, Stephen John, Jacob Stegenga, Anna Alexandrova

1 May Jacob Stegenga: ‘Bayesian Mechanista’

8 May Hamed Tabatabaei-Ghomi: ‘Mirror mirror on the wall: can we decompose them all? What we learn about decomposability by looking into recomposition?’

15 May Raphael Scholl: ‘Bridging the gap between populations and individuals by n-of-1 studies’

22 May Tim Lewens: ‘Blurring the germline’

Casebooks Therapy
Organiser: Lauren Kassell
‘Casebooks Therapy’ is an informal reading group for those interested in using the manuscripts of Simon Forman and Richard Napier in their research.
The aim of the reading group is to improve the palaeography skills of those who attend, as well as to provide guidance about how to make sense of Forman’s and Napier’s records. No familiarity with early modern handwriting is necessary, and the group is open to all. Attendees are invited to suggest a particular page or case from the casebooks that they have trouble reading to work through collaboratively. Participants should bring a laptop.
Meetings are held on occasional Wednesdays, 5.00–6.30pm in the Department. If you are interested in attending, please email Lauren Kassell (ltk21).

Latin Therapy
Latin Therapy is an informal reading group. All levels of Latin are very welcome. We meet on Tuesdays, 3.30–5.00pm in Room P19, starting on 1 May, to translate and discuss a text from the history of science, technology or medicine. This is an opportunity to brush up your Latin by regular practice, and if a primary source is giving you grief, we’d love to help you make sense of it over tea and biscuits!
To be added to the mailing list, or to suggest a text, please contact Boyd Brogan (bb320).
Manchu Therapy

The Manchu Therapy group meets **fortnightly on Tuesdays, from 3.00 to 4.00pm, in the Board Room** starting on Tuesday 24 April.

Manchu Therapy is an informal group for those who have an interest in the Manchu language, or who are working with Manchu documents, to learn more and improve their reading skills. (See this brief description of the [Manchus and the Manchu language](#).) Every other week, we will meet to read texts together. All are welcome.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Mary Brazelton.

Greek Therapy

Greek Therapy meets **every Wednesday during term time in the Board Room from 5.30 to 7pm**.

We are an informal group for beginners and for experienced readers of Greek seeking to brush up their skills – all levels are welcome. Sessions usually involve a basic grammar session at the beginning followed by reading through a more advanced text. This term we will be reading selections from Athenaeus' *Deipnosophistae*.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email Liz Smith.