

Seminars

Departmental Seminars

Seminars are held on **Thursdays from 4.30 to 6.00pm in Seminar Room 2**, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge. There is tea beforehand from 4pm in Seminar Room 1.

Organised by Lauren Kassell.

- 23 April **Mark Jackson (University of Exeter)**
Fusing modern art and science: Marian Dale Scott, Hans Selye, and the visualisation of life
- 30 April **Alex Broadbent (HPS, Cambridge)**
Causation, models of disease and epidemiology
- 7 May **Sonu Shamdasani (University College London)**
Insanity, divine madness and prophecy in Jung's self-experimentation
- 14 May **Peter Harrison (University of Oxford)**
Experimental religion and experimental natural philosophy in early modern England
- 21 May **Guy Ortolano (University of Virginia)**
The two cultures controversy: science, literature and cultural politics in postwar Britain
- 28 May ***Fourteenth Annual Hans Rausing Lecture (McCrum Lecture Theatre)***
Pamela H. Smith (Columbia University)
Local crafts and universal science: lived experience and the written word in the early modern world
- 4 June ***Valedictory Lecture***
Martin Kusch (HPS, Cambridge)
Rulers, clocks and common sense: metrology as a key to Wittgenstein's *On Certainty*

Seminar Programmes are sent out at the start of every term to the names on our mailing list. Please contact the Department if you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list, or if you change your address.

Seminar information is also available at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars

Details of the Department's programme of graduate training workshops – for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers – are available at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/students/training and in the Graduate Handbook.

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Abstracts

23 April **Mark Jackson (University of Exeter)**

Fusing modern art and science: Marian Dale Scott, Hans Selye, and the visualisation of life

In June 1943, the prominent Canadian artist Marian Dale Scott unveiled a mural, entitled 'Endocrinology', that she had been commissioned by the Hungarian-born scientist Hans Selye to paint on a wall of the reading room in the Histology Department at McGill University. By focusing on a range of scientific motifs and clinical manifestations of hormone function and malfunction, Scott's painting aimed not only to capture the 'spirit of scientific research', but also to invigorate the attempts of modern artists to leave the 'isolation of the studio' and engage more fully 'with the moving forces of his age'. This paper explores the origins, development, delivery and legacy of this innovative collaborative project between a modern artist and scientist.

30 April **Alex Broadbent (HPS, Cambridge)**

Causation, models of disease and epidemiology

In the nineteenth century, many cases of disease previously thought to have diverse causes began to be explained by the action of a single kind of cause, e.g. a certain parasitic infestation. Some have argued that this conceptual shift was key to the advancement of medicine through the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The focus of much recent epidemiology, however, is on chronic non-communicable diseases, which frequently do not seem to be attributable to any single causal factor. This paper is an effort to resolve the resulting tension. I propose a 'contrastive' multifactorial model, on the grounds that it links the notions of disease and of general explanation, while avoiding the philosophical naiveties and practical difficulties of the monocausal model.

7 May **Sonu Shamdasani (University College London)**

Insanity, divine madness and prophecy in Jung's self-experimentation

Following a series of apocalyptic visions in 1913, C.G. Jung engaged in protracted period of self-experimentation which took the form of provoking an extended series of waking fantasies, and then attempting to understand them psychologically. Fusing these materials with historical researches, he composed an unpublished illuminated manuscript in a self-styled prophetic form, called the Red Book (forthcoming, W.W. Norton), which forms the central work in his oeuvre. One of its critical themes is the significance of divine madness, which this talk opens up for discussion.

14 May **Peter Harrison (University of Oxford)**

Experimental religion and experimental natural philosophy in early modern England

One of the curious features of the theological literature of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century is the frequency with the term 'experimental' is used in relation to a variety of religious beliefs and practices – experimental knowledge of God, experimental prayer, experimental reading of scripture, experimental witnesses, experimental divines, and so on. If we pay close attention to the contexts in which these expressions appear, we see the beginnings of a technical vocabulary in which 'experimental' becomes more than simply a synonym for 'experiential' and in which the virtues of experimental knowledge are variously contrasted with mere speculative knowledge, with

book learning, with second-hand reports of particular religious experiences, and with the doctrinal pronouncements of religious authorities. In the early modern English vocabulary of experimental religion, I suggest, there developed sets of oppositions that were subsequently taken up by promoters of experimental natural philosophy.

21 May **Guy Ortolano (University of Virginia)**

The two cultures controversy: science, literature and cultural politics in postwar Britain

This talk will be about my recent book *The Two Cultures Controversy: Science, Literature and Cultural Politics in Postwar Britain* (Cambridge, 2009). Ever since the scientist-turned-novelist C.P. Snow clashed with literary critic F.R. Leavis in the early 1960s, it has been a commonplace to lament that intellectual life is divided between ‘two cultures’, the arts and sciences. Yet why did a topic that had long been discussed inspire such ferocious controversy at this particular moment? This talk answers that question by recasting this dispute as an ideological conflict between competing visions of Britain’s past, present and future. By excavating the political stakes of the ‘two cultures’ controversy, this talk seeks to explain the workings of cultural politics during the 1960s more generally, while also revising the meaning of a term that continues to be evoked to this day.

4 June *Valedictory Lecture*

Martin Kusch (HPS, Cambridge)

Rulers, clocks and common sense: metrology as a key to Wittgenstein’s *On Certainty*

The paper suggests a new interpretation of Wittgenstein’s last notebooks that were published posthumously under the title *On Certainty*. I seek to show that the common-sense certainties at issue in these notebooks can best be understood on the model of metrological standards (like the prototype meter in Paris). Along the way, I defend Wittgenstein’s controversial claim that the prototype meter is not one meter long (against Kripke); illustrate the relevance of metrological analogies for many of Wittgenstein’s central concerns (in the philosophy of psychology and mathematics); highlight the influence of Einstein’s ideas on clock synchronisation; and explain the nature of Wittgenstein’s anti-sceptical argument. (The talk is non-technical and does not presuppose any prior knowledge of either Wittgenstein or metrology.)

Cabinet of Natural History

This research seminar is concerned with all aspects of the history of natural history and the field and environmental sciences.

Seminars are held on **Mondays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**. You are welcome to bring your lunch with you.

Organised by Sophia Davis.

- 20 April **Bernard Lightman (York University, Canada)**
Popularizing evolution: biographies and books for children
- 27 April **Efram Sera Shriar (University of Leeds)**
Founding the science of ethnology: James Cowles Prichard and his 'Researches into the physical history of man'
- 4 May **Christopher Plumb (University of Manchester)**
'It is to do one's best to look without laughing': the spectacle of the kangaroo in late eighteenth-century London
- 11 May **Richard Coulton (Queen Mary, University of London)**
Gardening like gentlemen? Constructing the nurseryman in early eighteenth-century London
- 18 May **Philip Kerrigan (University of York)**
Reality and representation: Mark Catesby's natural history of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands and the epistemological limits of pictorial illustration
- 25 May **Katie Zimmerman (HPS, Cambridge)**
Locating true North: a physiognomic analysis of Marianne North and the North Gallery at Kew
- 1 June Field trip to Wicken Fen
- Friday 12 June 1–4pm: Garden party on Darwin College's island, with punting

Psy Studies

History of Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychoanalysis and Allied Sciences

Seminars are held on **Wednesdays at 5pm in Seminar Room 1**. Tea is available from 4.40pm. All welcome.

Organised by John Forrester and Deborah Thom.

- 6 May **Eli Zaretsky (New School for Social Research, NY, and Institut du Temps Présent, Paris)**
Psychoanalysis and war

Graduate workshops

HPS History Workshop

The HPS History Workshop is a seminar group devoted to peer discussion of work in progress in all areas of the history of science, medicine and technology. All HPS postgraduate students with an interest in history are welcome to present draft MPhil essays, PhD chapters, conference papers, etc. The workshop encourages friendly and constructive feedback while providing a fortnightly point of contact for postgraduate historians at HPS.

If you are interested in giving a paper or need more information, please contact Iris Montero.

We meet on **alternate Wednesdays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1.**

- 29 April **Geoff Belknap (HPS, Cambridge)**
Placing trust in photographs – photography and the illustrated press
- 13 May **Alexandra Bacopoulos-Viau (HPS, Cambridge)**
Mad women and mad-doctors
- 27 May **Frans Lundgren (Uppsala University)**
The politics of participation: Francis Galton's Anthropometric Laboratory and the formation of civic selves
- 10 June **Gerardo Con Díaz (HPS, Cambridge)**
'Strange are the ways of providence': Calvinism, evolution, and the autobiography of James Croll

Philosophy Workshop

The PW is a fortnightly peer group seminar devoted to the discussion of on-going work by researchers in philosophy. Short papers will normally be circulated by e-mail one week in advance of each meeting, where the author will give a brief synopsis. The aim of the seminar is to provide a forum for informal, constructive interaction amongst those currently engaged in philosophical research.

Meetings take place **every other Wednesday at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**, and are open to all researchers. For more information, or to add your name to the list of e-mail recipients, contact Mark Sprevak.

- 6 May **Louise Braddock (Girton College, Cambridge)**
So what is psychological identification anyway?
- 20 May **Ciara Fairley (Faculty of Philosophy, Cambridge)**
What reasons needn't be
- 3 June **Sacha Golob (HPS, Cambridge)**
Autonomy and ontology: freedom in Kant and Heidegger

Reading and discussion groups

Evolution Reading Group

This group discusses readings in the themes, ideas and individuals associated with theories of evolution in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Each meeting is based around a single text, extract or article, introduced by a member of the group. We discuss both primary sources and secondary texts, and draw on a range of perspectives in history, philosophy and ethics. All are welcome, and we would be very interested to receive suggestions for readings.

Meetings are **every other Thursday in term time, at 1pm in Seminar Room 2**: please feel free to bring lunch. Photocopies of all readings will be made available in the group's box in the Whipple Library. For more information, please contact Jenny Bangham or Richard Barnett.

- 30 April Thomas Henry Huxley, 'Evolution and Ethics: the Romanes lecture for 1893', and Julian Huxley, 'Evolution and Ethics: the Romanes lecture for 1943'.
- 7 May Theodosius Dobzhansky, *Genetics and the Origin of Species* (1937), chapter 9, 'Species as natural units'; Julian Huxley, *Evolution: A Modern Synthesis* (1942), chapter 7, 'Speciation, evolution, taxonomy', section 3, 'Modes of speciation and taxonomic method'.
- 21 May Gillian Beer, *Darwin's Plots: evolutionary narrative in Darwin, George Eliot and nineteenth-century fiction* (1983), chapters 2 & 3.
- 4 June Charles Kingsley, *The Water Babies* (1863), chapters 1–4.

Kant Reading Group

This term the Kant Reading Group will be looking at a mixture of primary and secondary texts on Kant's theoretical and practical philosophy.

Meetings are on **Tuesdays, 1.00–2.30pm in the HPS Lodge**. For further information please contact Sacha Golob. All welcome!

Metaphysics Reading Group

The group meets on **Mondays 1.00–2.30pm in the HPS Lodge**. Meetings are open to all, and usually start with a brief, informal introduction to the week's reading from a group member.

This term we will be reading papers chosen by participants. If you would like to suggest a paper please e-mail Alex Broadbent.

Science and Literature Reading Group

We meet fortnightly on **Mondays in the upstairs seminar room at Darwin College, from 7.30–9pm**. All welcome!

Please see our blog for further information about the group: www.sci-lit-reading-group.blogspot.com. To join our dedicated mailing list, e-mail Melanie Keene or Daniel Friesner.

History and Theory Reading Group

The group will discuss articles relating to problems of historical research, interpretation, explanation and narration. Articles will be placed in the History and Theory box in the Whipple Library at the start of Easter Term.

We meet on **alternate Fridays, 2.30pm to 4pm in the HPS Lodge**. All are welcome, graduate students in particular.

Organised by Nick Whitfield.

1 May **Boris Jardine:** The double- and triple-binds of modernist historiography

Lerner, D. 'Interviewing Frenchmen', *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 62, No. 2, Sep., 1956, pp. 187–194.

Anderson, P. 'Modernity and revolution', *New Left Review* I/144, March–April 1984, pp. 96–113.

Galison, P. 'History, Philosophy, and the Central Metaphor', *Science in Context* 2, 1988, pp. 197–212.

Carnap, R. 'On the Character of Philosophic Problems', *Philosophy of Science*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan., 1934, pp. 5–19.

15 May **Leon Rocha:** Theory of/as science fiction

Anne Cranny-Francis (1998) 'The "science" of science fiction: a sociocultural analysis' in J.R. Martin and Robert Veel (eds.) *Reading Science: Functional and Critical Perspectives on Discourses of Science*. London: Routledge, pp. 63–80.

Donna Haraway (1989) *Primate Visions: Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science*. London: Routledge. See Chapter 16, 'Reprise: Science Fiction, Fictions of Science, and Primatology', pp.368–382.

Donna Haraway (1991) 'A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century' in her *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. London: Routledge, pp.149–182.

29 May **Lydia Wilson:** Constructing 'horizons of expectation'

Hans Robert Jauss (1982) *Toward an Aesthetic of Reception*. Minnesota Press, 1982. Chapter 1 'Literary History as a Challenge to Literary Theory'.

Alastair Fowler: *Kinds of Literature: An Introduction to the Theory of Genres and Modes*. Harvard, 1982. Chapter 10 'Transformations of Genre'.

Nicholas Jardine: 'Dead Questions and Vicarious Understandings: questioning Gadamer's Genealogy', *Journal of the Philosophy of History*, Vol 1, No. 1, 2007 pp. 63–78.

Scientific Images Discussion Group

The seminar aims to discuss the relationship between history and philosophy of science and the visual image. Meetings will take place fortnightly on **Thursdays, 1pm–3pm in Seminar Room 1**. All welcome.

Each presenter will choose a text to be prepared by the group for their topic. You will find these texts a week in advance in the group's box in the Whipple Library. If you want to join the group, or receive information and texts through our mailing list, please contact Geoff Belknap.

- 30 April 1. **Chitra Ramalingam** – The historiography of the scientific image
2. **Nick Whitfield** – Images of blood transfusion in wartime London
- 14 May 1. **Michael Barany** – Picturing points: geometric imagination in the first English translations of Euclid's *Elements*
2. **Gerardo Con Diaz** – Doughnut holes and paper cut-outs: image, visualization and manipulation in low dimensional topology
- 28 May 1. **Alexander Wragge-Morley** – A (visual) tour of the wisdom of the human eye with Robert Boyle
2. **Katie Zimmerman** – Visualizing nature: Marianne North's botanical portraits at Kew
- 11 June 1. **Melanie Keene** – 'Science in Sport, or the Pleasures of Astronomy' (1804)
2. **Mirjam Brusius** – Is art historical methodology useful for HPS and how could it be applied?

Astronomical Images

These meetings are part of the AHRC project 'Diagrams, Figures and the Transformation of Astronomy, 1450–1650', which analyzes the production, function and terminology of early modern astronomical imagery. Our meetings take the form of discussing papers or presentation by scholars (migrating once a month to Latin Therapy for a close reading of primary texts).

All members associated with HPS are welcome; please feel free to bring lunch. Reading material will be available in a box ('Astronomical Images') in the library. Organised by Katie Taylor.

Friday 24 April, 4.00 – 5.30pm: Joint session with Latin Therapy

Thursday 7 May, 1.00 – 3.00pm

Sachiko Kusukawa (Trinity College, Cambridge)

Conrad Gessner's images of the soul

Thursday 21 May, 1.00 – 3.00pm

Renée Raphael (Princeton University)

Astronomical tables as images? An exploratory study focusing on Kepler's Rudolphine Tables

Friday 29 May, 4.00 – 5.30pm: Joint session with Latin Therapy

Thursday 4 June, 1.00 – 3.00pm

Andrew Cunningham (HPS, Cambridge)

Looking at anatomical diagrams and figures, 1450–1650

Twentieth Century Think Tank

The Think Tank offers broad coverage of 20th-century topics in the history and philosophy of science. Sessions alternate between readings and talks, and each term has a different theme. Copies of all texts can be found in the TCTT box in the Whipple Library. Meetings are **every other Tuesday at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**. Everyone is welcome, and feel free to bring lunch!

For more information visit <http://20cthinktank.googlepages.com/>

28 April Talk: **Jenny Bangham (HPS, Cambridge)**

“‘Social biology and population improvement’ in the work of Hogben and Needham in the 1930s’

Reading: 1. Diane Paul, ‘Eugenics and the Left’, in *The Politics of Heredity* (New York: State University of New York Press, 1988), pp. 11–36.

[<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2709374>]

2. F.A.E. Crew et al., ‘Social biology and population improvement’, *Nature* 144 (1939), 143–144. [<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v144/n3646/pdf/144521a0.pdf>]

12 May Talk: **Jiri Hudecek (HPS, Cambridge)**

‘Leaping from theory to practice: mathematics in China in the 1950s’

Reading: 1. Theodore Hsi-en Chen, ‘Science, scientists and politics’, in S.H. Gould (ed.), *Sciences in Communist China* (Washington: American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1961), pp. 59–102, especially p. 75 ff.

2. R.P. Suttmeier, ‘Party views of science: the record from the first decade’, *The China Quarterly* 44 (1970), 146–168. [<http://www.jstor.org/stable/651958>]

3. Yeu-Farn Wang, *China’s Science and Technology Policy: 1949–1989* (Stockholm: University of Stockholm, 1991), chapters 3 & 4.

26 May Talk: **Nick Whitfield (HPS, Cambridge)**

‘Who is my Donor? How to recruit blood-givers in a Total War, London 1939–1945’

Reading: 1. Steven Shapin, *The Scientific Life: A Moral History of a Late Modern Vocation* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), chapter 1.

2. Steven Shapin, *The Social History of Truth* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994), epilogue, pp. 409–418.

Monday 8 June Talk: **David Singerman (HASTS, MIT)**

‘Keynes’s genetics and the ethical life’

Reading: 1. Robert Skidelsky, *John Maynard Keynes: A Biography*, Vol. I (London: Macmillan London, 1983), chapter 6.

2. W. Bateson, ‘The methods and scope of genetics: inaugural lecture delivered 23 October 1908, Cambridge’, in W. Bateson and B. Bateson, *William Bateson, F.R.S. Naturalist: His Essays & Addresses together with a Short Account of His Life* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1928), pp. 317–333.

3. Francis Galton, ‘Probability, the Foundation of Eugenics’, *Popular Science Monthly*, Vol. LXXI (July to December, 1907), 165–178.

16 June Talk: **Janet Vertesi (Department of Informatics and Computer Sciences, University of California, Irvine)**

“‘Seeing like a Rover’’: images in interaction on the Mars Exploration Rover Mission’

Language groups

Latin Therapy

The Latin Therapy Group meets on **Fridays at 4pm in the HPS Lodge** to practise the art of translation, improve our Latin grammar, and determine who deserves more sympathy on account of the difficulty of their sources – all in a mutually supportive environment! Each week we study a classical, medieval or early modern text selected by members of the group. Latin texts are circulated in advance, and further support is provided by our language tutor, Debby Banham. All are welcome.

This year, Latin Therapy also joins forces with the AHRC-funded project ‘Diagrams, Figures and the Transformation of Astronomy, 1450–1650’ to investigate some early modern astronomical texts and images.

More information can be found at our website: www.hps.cam.ac.uk/latintherapy. To be added to the mailing list, or to suggest a text, please contact Katie Taylor.

We will meet at 4.00–5.30pm on the following dates:

- 24 April Joint session with the Astronomical Images Group
- 1 May
- 8 May
- 15 May Guided tour of St John’s Library, with a chance to look at any rare materials of interest (sign up with Katie Taylor in advance)
- 22 May
- 29 May Joint session with the Astronomical Images Group
- 12 June

Please note that there will be no session on Friday 5 June, owing to a clash with the Department garden party. The date for the Latin Therapy garden party will be confirmed nearer the time.

Greek Therapy

We are a small informal group seeking to improve our Ancient Greek with the help of our tutor, Liz Smith. At present we are reading Porphyry’s *Life of Pythagoras* and we hope to move on to some easy Plato in the course of the year.

Meetings are provisionally scheduled for **5.30pm on Tuesdays** in full term (but this is flexible). All are welcome. For further information please contact Lydia Wilson.

Arabic Therapy

Arabic Therapy meets on **Mondays during term-time, from 5.00–6.30pm in the HPS Lodge**, starting in Week 3. The group provides a weekly, relatively low-impact class, aimed at acquiring a basic reading knowledge of Arabic from scratch, through taught sessions and group exercises. In Easter Term we continue to learn the grammatical building blocks, supplemented with some basic reading. Regular classes (led by our tutor, Lydia Wilson) will also be supported by visits to the Cambridge University Language Centre.

For further details, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Jenny Rampling.