

# Seminars

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## 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 Helen Curry.

- 25 April **John Forrester (HPS, Cambridge)**  
Freud, Russell and Wittgenstein: 'therapeutic positivism', psychoanalysis and the origins of analytic philosophy in Cambridge
- 2 May **Gerald Kutcher (Binghamton University)**  
Controversy, mistrust, even witchcraft: the failure of cancer therapy with neutrons
- 9 May **Hannah Newton (HPS, Cambridge)**  
'Nature concocts and expels': recovery from illness in early modern England, 1580–1720
- 16 May **Stephen John (HPS, Cambridge)**  
The problem of inductive risk and the ethics of communication
- 23 May ***Eighteenth Annual Hans Rausing Lecture***  
*Winstanley Lecture Theatre, Trinity College*  
**Crosbie Smith (University of Kent)**  
Coal, steam and ships: economic historians versus historians of technology?

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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](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars)

**Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge**  
**Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RH**

# Abstracts

25 April **John Forrester (HPS, Cambridge)**

Freud, Russell and Wittgenstein: 'therapeutic positivism', psychoanalysis and the origins of analytic philosophy in Cambridge

The paper will discuss the very different responses of Bertrand Russell and Ludwig Wittgenstein to the work of Sigmund Freud in the period 1917–55, concentrating mainly on the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Russell's response was very much typical of his contemporaries, both in his scepticism and his enthusiasm, and also reflected his political and educational projects as much as his philosophical preoccupations. Wittgenstein, on the other hand, turned out to be a true Freudian, fiercely critical and under his spell. Wittgenstein's response – and the quasi-Freudian reading by early-20th century philosophers of Wittgenstein himself – give us a new insight into the origins of analytic philosophy in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s.

2 May **Gerald Kutcher (Binghamton University)**

Controversy, mistrust, even witchcraft: the failure of cancer therapy with neutrons

Shortly following World War II, the Medical Research Council funded a cyclotron for the Hammersmith Hospital in London, which by the late 1960s was committed primarily to neutron therapy. The leader of the project, Mary Catterall, reported outstanding clinical outcomes, which greatly influenced worldwide support for neutron machines. Nevertheless, within a few years, William Duncan who headed a second MRC cyclotron in Edinburgh reported no improvement in tumour control and severe complications. The ensuing controversy between Duncan and Catterall spread into the broader public community when Catterall attempted to fund a new cyclotron in London with the support of the office of Prime Minister Thatcher. The controversy which was marked by highly personal attacks against Catterall so badly discredited neutron therapy that within a few years programs were closed down on both sides of the Atlantic. The neutron story is more than a tale of operatic proportions, for it reveals the crucial role trust plays in medical research and how in spite of formal clinical trials the reception of a new therapy can be damaged by the perceived character of an investigator.

9 May **Hannah Newton (HPS, Cambridge)**

'Nature concocts and expels': recovery from illness in early modern England, 1580–1720

The historiography of early modern medicine often makes depressing reading. It implies that people fell sick, took ineffective remedies, and died. My paper seeks to rebalance our picture of health at this time, by investigating recovery from illness. Drawing on sources such as diaries, doctors' casebooks, and medical texts, it asks how physicians and laypeople defined and explained recovery, and examines the care of the recovering patient. These questions have rarely been addressed, despite the widespread use of terms such as 'cure' and 'recover' by scholars. I show that in Galenic and Hippocratic traditions, recovery meant the complete 'away-taking of the Disease', and restoration of 'pristine health'. It was driven by 'Nature', under the direction of God, and with the assistance of medicine. Nature was depicted as a 'homely woman' who removed illness by cooking the bad humours and washing them from the body – processes called 'concoction' and 'expulsion'. But she was also a 'princely soldier', who fought and defeated the disease. I suggest that this double-gendering of Nature enabled patients and practitioners of both sexes to engage in gender construction during recovery. Whilst some work has been conducted on the roles of God and medicine, the vital force of Nature has been largely overlooked. The paper also sheds light on a number of wider issues, such as definitions of disease and health, and concepts of age and gender.

16 May **Stephen John (HPS, Cambridge)**

The problem of inductive risk and the ethics of communication

Philosophers of science long ago rejected the distinction between contexts of discovery and of justification. More recently, many have challenged the claim that the practice of science ought to be free of non-cognitive ethical or political values. My aim in this talk is to defend the 'value-free ideal' for science against one attack – the argument from inductive risk – by appeal to a distinction between different contexts of scientific activity. Specifically, I argue that close attention to the norms which ought to govern the context of scientific communication can provide second-order value-considerations in favour of a first-order value-free science. Along the way, I point to some more general lessons about the proper role of values in science and the need to distinguish different forms of communication, particularly in health and environmental contexts.

# 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 James Hall.

- 29 April **Stephanie O'Rourke (Columbia University)**  
Impressed upon the countenance: knowledge and visibility in Lavaterian physiognomy
- 6 May **Richard Serjeantson (Trinity College, Cambridge)**  
The education of Francis Willughby: new philosophy and natural history in mid-17th-century Cambridge
- 13 May **Salim Al-Gailani (HPS, Cambridge)**  
Antenatal affairs: discourses of pregnancy and the unborn c.1900
- 20 May **Simon Nightingale (Visiting Scholar, HPS, Cambridge)**  
Seeing with words: tours, surveys and agricultural improvement in Britain, c.1770–c.1820

Friday 24 May Cabinet trip

Friday 14 June Cabinet garden party

## CamPoS

CamPoS (Cambridge Philosophy of Science) is a network of academics and students working in the philosophy of science in various parts of Cambridge, including the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Faculty of Philosophy. For further details of the composition and activities of CamPoS, see [www.camposgroup.org](http://www.camposgroup.org).

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 Vashka dos Remedios. If you have any queries or suggestions for other activities that CamPoS could undertake, please contact Huw Price, Jeremy Butterfield or Hasok Chang.

Seminars are held on **Wednesdays, 1.00–2.30pm in Seminar Room 2**.

- 1 May **William Harper (University of Western Ontario)**  
Isaac Newton's scientific method
- 8 May **Paulina Sliwa (Philosophy, Cambridge)**  
Knowing and understanding
- 15 May **Donald Gillies (UCL)**  
Two views on the relation between causality and probability
- 22 May **Ian Kidd (Durham University)**  
Epistemic humility

# Things: Early Modern Material Cultures

The seminar meets **alternate Tuesdays, 12.30–2.30pm in the Seminar Room, Alison Richard Building, West Road**. A light lunch will be provided. Organised by Katy Barrett, Sophie Waring and others.

Further information at [www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1036/things-material-cultures-.htm](http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1036/things-material-cultures-.htm)

- 30 April **Sean Roberts (University of Southern California)** and **Elizabeth Upper (UL Munby Fellow)**  
Printed things
- 14 May **Elaine Leong (Max Planck Institute, Berlin)** and **Helen Smith (University of York)**  
Paper, making, things
- 28 May **Melanie Vandenbrouck (National Maritime Museum)**, **Felicity Powell (Artist)**, and **Ben Carpenter (University of Wolverhampton)**  
Handling things
- 11 June **Matthew Hunter (McGill University)** and **Mark Hallett (Paul Mellon Centre)**  
Painted things

# Field Notes: Histories of Archaeology and Anthropology

The seminar meets **alternate Thursdays, 1.30–3.30pm in the Seminar Room, Alison Richard Building, West Road**. Organised by William Carruthers and others.

Further information at [www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1113/field-notes.htm](http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1113/field-notes.htm)

- 25 April **Mirjam Brusius (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)**  
Discussant: **Christina Riggs (University of East Anglia)**  
Objects: from the excavation site to storage: archaeological objects in transit
- 9 May **Chris Manias (University of Manchester)**  
Discussant: **Peter Mandler (History, Cambridge)**  
Cultural evolution: interpreting the art of the old stone age and the origins of human nature, 1870–1940
- 23 May **Charlotte Roberts (English, Cambridge)**  
Discussant: **Melissa Calaresu (History, Cambridge)**  
Excavation: living with the ancient Romans: past and present in 18th-century encounters with Herculaneum and Pompeii
- 6 June **Sadiah Qureshi (University of Birmingham)**  
Discussant: **Sujit Sivasundaram (History, Cambridge)**  
Empire: displayed peoples, empire and anthropology in the Metropole

# Twentieth Century Think Tank

The Twentieth Century Think Tank (TCTT) 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.

Meetings are held on **Thursdays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**. All welcome!

Organised by Helen Curry.

25 April **Etienne Benson (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)**

Digital maps and minimal animals in movement ecology

2 May **Mandisa Mbali (University of Stellenbosch)**

Science, sexuality and transnational networks in South African AIDS activism, 1994– 2001

## Exploring Traditions: Sources for a Global History of Science

These two lectures will take place on **Thursdays 9 and 16 May at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**.

Organised by Simon Schaffer and Sujit Sivasundaram.

9 May **Irfan Habib (National University of Educational Planning and**

**Administration, New Delhi)**

Early Islamic eclecticism and the pursuit of science

16 May **Keith Breckenridge (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research,  
University of the Witwatersrand)**

Galton's imperial science: the African origins and objects of eugenics

# Graduate workshops

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## HPS History Workshop

Need help writing a tricky part of your argument, converting a PhD chapter into an article, or simply getting fresh ideas and references? The History Workshop is an informal setting to discuss your written works-in-progress on any area of the history of science, medicine and technology, and get feedback from your early-career colleagues. A draft chapter, article, or conference paper will be circulated by email before each meeting. We'll then discuss it together over tea and biscuits at **5pm on alternate Wednesdays in Seminar Room 1**.

Contact Michael Bycroft or Francis Neary if you are interested in sharing your work in this forum.

8 May **Simon Nightingale (Visiting Scholar, HPS, Cambridge)**

Liebig's vampire: agricultural chemistry and the embodied earth in mid-19th century Britain

22 May **Oliver Marsh (HPS, Cambridge)**

Mythologizing popular scientists: the cult of Feynman and the image of Sagan

5 June **Shane McCristine (Geography, Cambridge)**

Have you heard the northern lights? Science and re-enchantment in 19th-century Arctic exploration

19 June **Michelle Wallis (HPS, Cambridge)**

Laughing at the doctors: satire and public practice, 1660–1720

## HPS Philosophy Workshop

Would you like to get feedback on your work-in-progress in a friendly and supportive atmosphere? Texts will be circulated one week in advance and discussed over tea and biscuits in **Seminar Room 1 on alternate Wednesdays, 5–6pm**. Share a draft of your MPhil essay, PhD chapter, potential article, or any research-in-progress in the philosophy of science, broadly construed.

Organised by Toby Bryant.

## Graduate Training

Training workshops for the Department's graduate students and postdoctoral researchers are held throughout the academic year. Most, but not all, are on **Fridays at 1pm**. The full programme is at [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/students/training](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/students/training).

# Reading and discussion groups

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## Nature and Culture Reading Group

This group is supported by Tim Lewens's SCINAT ERC Grant. All are welcome, including those sceptical of the cultural evolutionary project. In addition to philosophers and historians of science we also hope to attract researchers from the biological sciences, psychology and all branches of archaeology and anthropology.

Meetings will take place on **Wednesdays at 11am in Seminar Room 1**. For further information contact Beth Hannon or Tim Lewens.

- 24 April Hull, D. (1986) 'On Human Nature', *PSA: Proceedings of the Biennial Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association*, pp. 3–13  
Also in Stephen M. Downes and Edouard Machery (2013) *Arguing About Human Nature: Contemporary Debates*, Oxford: Routledge
- 1 May Geertz, C. (1973) 'The Impact of the Concept of Culture on the Concept of Man', in his *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*, New York: Basic Books
- 8 May Machery, E. (2008) 'A Plea for Human Nature', *Philosophical Psychology*, 21, pp. 321–329  
Also in Stephen M. Downes and Edouard Machery (2013) *Arguing About Human Nature: Contemporary Debates*, Oxford: Routledge
- 15 May Ramsey, G. (2013) 'Human Nature in a Post-Essentialist World', in Stephen M. Downes and Edouard Machery (eds) *Arguing About Human Nature: Contemporary Debates*
- 22 May Henrich, J., Heine, S.J. and Norenzayan, A. (2010) 'The Weirdest People in the World', *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 33, pp. 61–83
- 29 May Responses to 'The Weirdest People in the World' (2010), *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 33, pp. 84–135
- 5 June Bloch, M. (2012) *Anthropology and the Cognitive Challenge*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 4
- 12 June Strathern, M. (1980) 'No Nature, No Culture: The Hagen Case', in C.P. MacCormack, M. Strathern (eds) *Nature, Culture and Gender*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 174–222

## Generation to Reproduction Reading Group

This group discusses pre-circulated papers, classics as well as our own work, in the area of our Wellcome Trust strategic award in the history of medicine ([www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk](http://www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk)). We also hold work-in-progress sessions.

This term's meeting will be at 5.00–7.00pm (tea from 4.50) on **Tuesdays 14 and 21 May in Seminar Room 1**.

# CamPhor (Phenomenology) Reading Group

This new reading group focuses on the presence and use of Phenomenology and Phenomenological tools within contemporary philosophy, with a particular emphasis on Phenomenology's relevance to debates within the philosophy of science.

In Easter Term we will be reading selections from Joseph Schear's edited volume 'Mind, Reason, and Being-in-the-world: The McDowell-Dreyfus Debate'. The McDowell-Dreyfus debate is a critical back-and-forth over the appropriation of Kant's transcendental philosophy, in particular – as picked up by McDowell in 'Mind and World' – over the nature of our conceptual capacities and their penetration into the realm of sensation. Dreyfus' 2005 APA presidential address is generally seen as sparking off the debate, which continued on into the pages of *Inquiry* and indeed into Schear's volume.

The term's readings are structured so as to introduce some of the major themes of the McDowell-Dreyfus debate before approaching the two eponymous essays. Afterwards, we move on to chapters that draw more explicitly on the debate to craft unique approaches to the underlying issues.

Photocopies of the relevant chapters can be made available by request.

Meetings are **every Friday, 12noon–1pm in Seminar Room 1**. You are welcome to bring your lunch with you. Organised by Andrew Buskell.

All readings are drawn from Joseph Schear (ed.) 'Mind, Reason, and Being-in-the-world: The McDowell-Dreyfus Debate'.

- 26 April Pippin, Chapter 4: What is 'conceptual activity?'
- 3 May Crane, Chapter 10: The Given  
Professor Tim Crane will join us for the discussion
- 10 May Zahavi, Chapter 15: Mindedness, mindlessness, and first-person authority
- 17 May Dreyfus, Chapter 1: The myth of the pervasiveness of the mental
- 24 May McDowell, Chapter 2: The myth of the mind as detached
- 31 May Siewert, Chapter 9: Intellectualism, experience, and motor understanding
- 7 June Rouse, Chapter 11: What is conceptually articulated understanding
- 14 June Schear, Chapter 13: Are we essentially rational animals?  
Dr Joseph Schear will join us for the discussion



# History and Theory Reading Group

Meetings take place on **Fridays, 2.30 to 4.00pm in the Lodge Seminar Room**. Hard copies of the readings will be placed in a box in the Whipple Library, and soft copies sent to the hps-discussion list in advance of each meeting. Links to some readings are available at [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars). Organised by Megan Barford, Sean Dyde, Eóin Phillips and Minwoo Seo.

3 May Roger Cooter and Claudia Stein, 'The New Poverty of Theory: Patrick Joyce and the Politics of "The Material Turn"' (pre-publication)

Bruno Latour, 'An Attempt at a "Compositionist Manifesto"', *New Literary History* 41 (2010), pp. 471–490

17 May Friedrich Nietzsche, 'On the Use and Abuse of History for Life' (1874)

31 May Walter Benjamin, 'On the Concept of History' (1940):

Laurie Anderson, 'Dream Before'

Paul Klee, 'Angelus Novus'

## Kant Reading Group

In Easter Term, we will have a Joint Reading Group together with the Kant Reading Groups in Edinburgh and St Andrews. We will discuss a selection of secondary readings on the topic 'Kant and the Lawfulness of Nature'. The Joint Reading Group is linked to the International Network 'Kant and the Laws of Nature: Lessons from the Physical and the Life Sciences of the 18th Century', which is funded by the Leverhulme Trust and whose Principal Investigator is Dr Michela Massimi (University of Edinburgh). More information on this network as well as the blog that will go along with the reading group discussions can be found online: <http://kantandlaws.com/>. The exact reading list will be finalized by the first week of term.

The meetings in Cambridge are held in the **Lodge Seminar Room, 3.30–5.00pm on Tuesdays** from 30 April to 4 June. They begin with a short presentation and are followed by general discussion. All are most welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Katharina Kraus.

## Philosophy and History of Physics Reading Group

We meet on **Tuesdays, 2.00–3.00pm in Seminar Room 1**. Organised by Jeremy Butterfield, Hasok Chang and Nazim Bouatta.

This term we will be reading selected chapters from the book *QED and the Men who Made It* by Silvan Scweber (Princeton University Press 1994), which is on reserve in the Whipple Library. The first two sessions will be:

30 April **Matthew Donald:** Introductory comments on quantum field theory and its history (no reading)

7 May **Nazim Bouatta:** Chapter 7: Schwinger and the Formalization of Quantum Field Theory

The readings for subsequent sessions (14 and 21 May) will be decided later.

# Science and Literature Reading Group

## Geology

We meet fortnightly on **Mondays from 7.30 to 9pm in the Godwin Room at Clare College (Old Court)**. Some readings are available online: follow the links at [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars). Copies of the harder-to-obtain items will be placed in our box file in the Whipple Library.

Organised by Liz Smith (Darwin Correspondence Project), Esther Momcilovic (HPS) and Daniel Friesner (Science Museum). All welcome!

- 29 April Bob King, *Geology*, Marlboro Review, Issue 16, 2005  
Brian Rosen, *Drifting Impressions*, c.1973  
Barbara Cumbers, *Field Notebook*  
W. Hart Smith, *The Geologist*, c.1960
- 13 May Margaret Atwood, *Stone Mattress*, New Yorker, 19 December  
Kristen Iskandrian, *The Geology*
- 27 May Jules Verne, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*
- 10 June Special event: Please check our website nearer the time for details

## AD HOC

For the Easter Term, the Cambridge-side AD HOC programme will offer a four-session graduate seminar on the philosophy of chemistry led by Hasok Chang. This is intended to provide an introduction to some key issues in the field, especially for those whose primary interests are in related fields such as the history of chemistry, the philosophy of physics or biology, and chemistry itself. Philosophical issues will always be formulated and illustrated through episodes from the history of chemistry, especially from the 18th century onward.

The following three questions will provide running themes for all sessions. (1) How do general epistemological and metaphysical issues in the philosophy of science apply to chemistry? (2) How does chemistry relate to other sciences? (3) How can the history and the philosophy of chemistry interact productively?

Meetings will be held on **Mondays, 5.00–6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Part III, MPhil and PhD students in the Department are especially welcome to attend this seminar, but it is open to everyone. Readings will be announced and made available in time for each meeting.

- 29 April Reductionism and the place of chemistry
- 6 May Chemical explanations
- 20 May Realism in chemistry: theories, models, and experiments
- 3 June Scientific method in chemical practice

# Language groups

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## Latin Therapy

Latin Therapy will meet on **Fridays in the Lodge Seminar Room from 4.00 to 5.30pm**. All levels are welcome and beginners are strongly encouraged to come along. Each week we will cover some introductory grammar, followed by a text suggested by members. The pain of the ablative absolute will be salved with copious tea and biscuits!

More information can be found at our website: [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/latintherapy](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/latintherapy). To be added to the mailing list, or to suggest a text, please contact Seb Falk.

## Greek Therapy

Greek Therapy meets **every Wednesday during term time in the Lodge Seminar 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 (often, but not always, Plato); this term we will be reading selections from Aristophanes' *The Clouds*. For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email Liz Smith.

## Forthcoming conferences

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The following conferences are supported by the Generation to Reproduction programme through a Wellcome Trust strategic award in the history of medicine. See the Generation to Reproduction website at [www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk](http://www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk) for more information.

### **In/Fertility and Sacred Space: From Antiquity to the Early Modern**

15–16 July 2013

CRASSH, Alison Richard Building, West Road, Cambridge

### **Cities as Epidemiological Drivers and the Removal of the 'Urban Penalty'**

15–16 September 2013

Department of Geography, Downing Place, Cambridge