

Departmental Seminars

Seminars meet on **Thursdays at 4.30pm in Seminar Room 2**, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge. *Please note the change of time.* There is tea beforehand in Seminar Room 1 at 4.15pm. Organised by Tim Lewens.

- 20 January **Sadiah Qureshi (HPS, Cambridge)**
Ethnological showbusiness, collecting people and the natural history of man, 1800-1855
- 27 January **André Ariew (University of Rhode Island)**
Neo-Darwinian fitness
- 3 February **Mohan Matthen (University of British Columbia)**
Reduction, realization and ontology
- 10 February **Richard Yeo (Griffith University, Brisbane)**
John Locke and his notebooks: between memory and information
- 17 February **Anne Hardy (Wellcome Trust Centre at UCL)**
Borderlands of knowledge: salmonella in the twentieth century
- 24 February **James Ladyman (University of Bristol)**
Relations among the phenomena
- 3 March **Francesca Bordogna (Northwestern University)**
Ecstasy and community: William James and the politics of the self
- 10 March **Sverker Sörlin (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm)**
Pre-global warming interpretations of glacial reduction: the case of Hans Ahlmann, polar science and British meteorology, 1930-1955

Special Philosophy Seminar

Friday 25 February at 3pm in Seminar Room 2 – all welcome!

Patricia Glazebrook (Dalhousie University)

Heidegger's environmental phenomenology

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 on our website at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars.

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Abstracts

20 January **Sadiah Qureshi (HPS, Cambridge)**

Ethnological showbusiness, collecting people and the natural history of man, 1800-1855

Throughout the Regency and early Victorian period, writers described London as a cosmopolitan city whose population encompassed global diversity. In the streets they could see people of diverse ethnic and social backgrounds crowding together, whilst, for a fee, they could also see living foreign, often colonised, peoples perform songs, dances and other rites as demonstrations of ethnic difference. In the first half of the 1800s, groups of Sámi, Native Americans, South Americans, Africans, ‘Aztecs’ and Inuits performed for the benefit of the public and provided some of the most profitable and publicly accessible forms of metropolitan entertainment. My talk examines these shows in relation to London’s entertainment scene in general, as opportunities for intercultural contact and as opportunities for scientific enquiry. The current literature on human display either briefly examines individual examples, or is devoted to the broader context of the post-Darwinian, large-scale, European and American world fairs. Furthermore, this literature has tended to present ethnological shows as purely racist entertainment, and has unhelpfully polarised them into examples of a ‘white self’ observing the ‘black other’. In contrast, my talk proposes that such shows were a genre that united entertainment and science and, as such, were formative for historical debates on human variation.

27 January **André Ariew (University of Rhode Island)**

Neo-Darwinian fitness

There are significant differences between Darwin’s concept of ‘advantageousness’ and the 20th century post-synthesis concept of fitness. The contemporary philosophy of biology literature has failed to take these differences on board. As a result there is much confusion about the nature and scope of natural selection explanations. I will describe the differences between Darwin’s and neo-Darwinian theories of natural selection with the aim of providing an account of the nature of natural selection explanations.

3 February **Mohan Matthen (University of British Columbia)**

Reduction, realization and ontology

In the middle of the twentieth century, philosophy of science was dominated by certain questions about the relationships between concepts, particularly in discussions of scientific change. By the end of the century, however, it was becoming clear that some of these problems could be addressed by appealing to what might be called ‘extension-anchored concepts’, i.e., concepts which are essentially tied to a particular domain, rather than to any particular description of things in this domain. In this paper, I develop this notion, showing how it arises out of human cognitive processes and showing how it sheds light on inter-theoretic relations of reduction and micro-explanation.

10 February **Richard Yeo (Griffith University, Brisbane)**

John Locke and his notebooks: between memory and information

John Locke's first mature publication appeared in the *Bibliothèque Universelle* of 1686. It was later translated for the *Posthumous Works* (1706) as 'A New Method of a Common-Place-Book'. In this article, Locke revealed his lifelong habit of note-taking by the method of 'commonplacing' – collecting quotations under 'Heads' or topics, as advocated by Renaissance humanists. (The first draft of his *Essay* occurs in one of his commonplace books.) Locke's practice appears to conflict with his criticisms of the bookish culture to which such note-taking belonged. I explain that he did not accept the whole package. His new method of indexing provides some clues to his departure from standard assumptions on two crucial issues – the role of memory, and the choice of Heads. Locke shifted the emphasis from rhetoric to research, making the commonplace book (and other notebooks) part of a system for storing a more diverse range of information. Retrieval, not recall from memory, was now the rationale. His break with memory training posed the question of how diverse information (including scientific data) should be collected and stored; his break with the notion of 'common' Heads complicated the Baconian project, to which (along with his friends Hooke and Boyle) Locke was a keen subscriber.

17 February **Anne Hardy (Wellcome Trust Centre at UCL)**

Borderlands of knowledge: salmonella in the twentieth century

The history of disease is a multifaceted enterprise in which social, cultural, demographic, economic and sociological approaches have played a dominant role in recent decades. Yet disease also has a scientific dimension which repays examination. Some (but not all) diseases constitute sites of extended negotiation and conflict, shaping the way in which medical disciplines develop and affecting their ability to influence public health policy and human lives. In this paper I explore the long discovery of salmonellosis (in Britain the dominant food-poisoning entity into the 1990s), whose complex ecology commands interdisciplinary communication, and the disciplinary borderlands where expert knowledges and disciplinary identities converged between epidemiology, microbiology, veterinary medicine and public health.

24 February **James Ladyman (University of Bristol)**

Relations among the phenomena

Scientific realism is the view that science tells us a more or less true story about the unobservable causes of the phenomena we observe. Bas van Fraassen is one of the best known critics of scientific realism. His view of science is called constructive empiricism, which is roughly the view that scientific theories need only be regarded as empirically adequate rather than true. Recently, van Fraassen has emphasised the importance of structural representation in science and called his view 'structuralist empiricism', summarised in the slogan: 'science tells us about relations among the phenomena'. I will argue that there the idea of relations among the phenomena is ambiguous. By understanding it as referring, not merely to extensional relations among the actual phenomena, but to modal relations among actual and possible phenomena, we get a form of structural realism. The inadequacies of both constructive empiricism and standard scientific realism suggest that this modal structural realism is the best of both worlds.

3 March **Francesca Bordogna (Northwestern University)**

Ecstasy and community: William James and the politics of the self

Thinking about the self is often a way of thinking about society. Vice versa, ideas about community and forms of social interaction often map onto visions and practices of the self. This paper argues that the notion of the self that William James worked and reworked over a period of thirty years developed in tandem with his social and political vision. Drawing from medical, religious and occult practices and from political discourses of the time, James depicted the human self as unsubstantial, divided and bounded only loosely by uncertain contours. I argue that James mobilized the divided and open self in order to further his political vision of engaged citizenship, and to promote a cooperative society based on sympathy, intimacy, and solidarity. The techniques for the cultivation of the self that James borrowed from mental hygienists and yoga teachers promised a new, sustained form of unity, self-mastery and agency, one that would enable the individual to resist the depersonalizing action of the big economic and political forces at work in a capitalist society. At the same time, the ecstatic experiences of the open self allowed for mystical union with the supernatural and for intimacy and solidarity among fellow human beings, firmly rooting the individual in community. I discuss the ways in which James's vision of the self and community related to those advocated by a range of mystical-cum-political writers of the time (including, for example, his father, Henry James Sr., and the British mystical socialist/anarchist Edward Carpenter) and conclude by unveiling the social and political dimension of James's latest religious metaphysics, his so-called 'pluralistic panpsychism', a metaphysics which, I suggest, was premised on his account of the pluralistic and open self.

10 March **Sverker Sörlin (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm)**

Pre-global warming interpretations of glacial reduction: the case of Hans Ahlmann, polar science and British meteorology, 1930-1955

In the 1930s Swedish geographer Hans Ahlmann found increasing evidence of rapidly retreating glaciers in Scandinavia, Greenland, and North Atlantic Islands such as Svalbard. The communication of his findings was partly overshadowed by the war, but interest in his data continued and reached a peak around 1950, when Ahlmann had organized a joint Norwegian-Swedish-British Antarctic expedition as part of an effort to establish a global web of empirical evidence for climate 'embetterment' (as the current phrase ran). His own explanation of the observed phenomena relied purely on global weather systems and did not include Arrhenius's 1896 Greenhouse Effect hypothesis. At the same time, however, British engineer-meteorologist G. S. Callendar claimed that human climate forcing, i.e. the Greenhouse Effect, was a valid hypothesis. In this paper I will look into how these arguments were shaped in different scientific cultures – 'engaged amateur' meteorology and physical geography – and how this may have affected research programs and planning after World War II, in particular the continuing scepticism towards climate warming among certain strands of physical geography and geophysics. I will also briefly explore possible explanations why Greenhouse effect theories did not gain ground at the time.

Psy Studies

History of Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychoanalysis and Allied Sciences

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

Organised by John Forrester and Deborah Thom.

2 February **A.S. Byatt (writer, London)**

From soul to heart to psyche to personality

● The venue for this seminar will be the **Faculty of English, 9 West Road**

16 February **Ben Shephard (writer and historian, author of *A War of Nerves*)**

From traumatic neurosis to PTSD: putting Abram Kardiner in context

2 March **Leslie Topp (Oxford Brookes University)**

Architecture, psychiatry and the modernist mental hospital in early twentieth-century Austria

16 March **Michael Roper (University of Essex)**

Beyond containing: middle-class sons and emotional experience in the First World War

Psychoanalysis and the Humanities

Seminars are held fortnightly on **Wednesdays at 5pm in the Faculty of English, 9 West Road**. All welcome.

Organised by Mary Jacobus and David Hillman.

26 January **Kate Belsey (University of Cardiff)**

Psychoanalysis beyond idealism: Freud or the cultural script?

9 February **Yael Navaro-Yashin (Department of Social Anthropology, Cambridge)**

Legality and affectivity in Cyprus and Britain: an anthropological and psychoanalytic approach

23 February **Pam Thurschwell (University College London)**

Psychoanalysis and the 'case' of adolescence: Sigmund Freud, G. Stanley Hall and Willa Cather

9 March **Valerie Sinason (St George's Hospital Medical School)**

Titus Andronicus, cannibalism and multiplicity

A Light Lunch

Join us for a chance to see Simon Schaffer's BBC Four series *Light Fantastic* on Friday lunchtimes (28 January, 4 February, 11 February and 18 February) at 1pm in Seminar Room 2. You are welcome to bring your lunch.

History of Medicine Seminars

History of Medicine seminars are held on **Tuesdays at 5pm in Seminar Room 1**. Tea is available from 4.40pm. All welcome.

Early Medicine and Natural Philosophy

Organised by Lauren Kassell

- 1 February **Leigh Chipman (University of Jerusalem)**
'... the pharmacist, who was my student in Mecca': pharmacists in medieval Arabic biographical dictionaries
● Please note this seminar will be at **1pm**
- 15 February **Philip van der Eijk (University of Newcastle)**
Aristotelianism and the development of medicine: the case of John Philoponus
- 1 March **Lucia Dacome (University College London)**
The anatomy of the Pope: modelling the Catholic Enlightenment
- 15 March **Carole Rawcliffe (University of East Anglia)**
Creating the medieval leper: some nineteenth-century myths

History of Modern Medicine and Biology

Organised by Nick Hopwood

- 25 January **Christina Brandt (MPI, Berlin)**
Between fact and fiction: bioscientific research and early debates about cloning (in Germany)
- 8 February **Sven Dierig (MPI, Berlin)**
Mechanical beauty: *Bildung* and the aesthetics of experiment in nineteenth-century German physiology
- 22 February **Nick Hopwood (HPS, Cambridge)**
'The proletariat can find in my preparations protection for their corpses': politics of anatomical modelling in the nineteenth century
- 8 March **Debbie Brunton (Open University)**
1848 and all that: writing public health history beyond the public health acts

Medieval Philosophy Reading Group

The Medieval Philosophy Reading Group will meet on Wednesdays, 1.00-2.00pm, in L1 Great Court, Trinity College. We shall be reading al-Farabi's commentary on 'De interpretatione' by Aristotle, using the translation by F. Zimmermann (Oxford University Press).

For more information contact John Marenbon.

Cabinet of Natural History

The seminar will meet on **Mondays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**. You are most welcome to bring your lunch with you. Organised by Melanie Keene.

- 24 January **David Neufeld (Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge)**
Understanding Caribou: Western biological and Aboriginal traditional sciences
- 31 January **Matthew Underwood (Harvard University)**
'To ask questions of men that converse with things': reconsidering the Royal Society's History of Trades
- 7 February **Pamela Smith (Department of Archaeology, Cambridge)**
A splendid idiosyncrasy: prehistory at Cambridge, 1915-50
- 14 February **Paul White (HPS, Cambridge)**
Darwin and the imperial archive
- 21 February **Darwin Correspondence Project**
- 28 February **Cédric Cremière (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris)**
The culture of donation: the international network of naturalists of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle of Paris (Chair of Comparative Anatomy in the XIXth century)
- 7 March **Christina Granroth (Wolfson College, Cambridge)**
Linnaeus and the troglodyte: man, beast and European knowledge of the East Indies in the early-modern era
- 14 March **Alan Rushton (Medical University of the Americas, Nevis)**
Bateson and the doctors: the introduction of Mendelian genetics to the British medical community, 1900-1910

Science and Literature Reading Group

In association with the Department of English, Drama & Writing at APU. We meet fortnightly on Wednesdays, upstairs in Darwin College at 8pm. Everybody welcome, from any background – no prior knowledge required! For more information please contact Katy Price.

Natural Philosophy & Poetry

- 26 January Henry Baker, *Universe: a poem intended to restrain the pride of man* (1834). Introduced by Melanie Keene. Copies on sale in the Whipple Library.
- 9 February Erasmus Darwin, *Temple of Nature* (1803). In *Cosmologia: A Sequence of Epic Poems in Three Parts* (Stuart Harris, ISBN 0954215109, £8).
- 23 February Robert Browning, *Paracelsus* (1835). Available in library editions of Browning's poetical works.
- 9 March Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura* [on the nature of things] (50 BCE). Available on various websites and in paperback editions. We'll decide which section(s) to focus on nearer the time.

Epistemology Reading Group

We will be reading from John W. Carroll (ed.) *Readings on Laws of Nature* (paperback, Pittsburgh, 2004). Two copies are on reserve in the Whipple Library. Each meeting of the group will focus on one or two articles, with a member of the group offering a preliminary evaluation, followed by a general discussion.

Meetings will take place on **Thursdays at 2pm in Seminar Room 1** and are open to all. Organised by Peter Lipton.

- 20 January Frank Jackson and Robert Pargetter, 'Confirmation and the Nomological' and Elliott Sober, 'Confirmation and Lawlikeness'
- 27 January John Foster, 'Induction, Explanation and Natural Necessity'
- 3 February Bas van Fraassen, 'Armstrong on Laws and Probabilities'
- 10 February John Bigelow, Brian Ellis and Caroline Lierse, 'The World as One of a Kind: Natural Necessity and Laws of Nature'
- 17 February Marc Lang, 'Natural Laws and the Problem of Provisos'
- 24 February Barry Loewer, 'Humean Supervenience'
- 3 March John Earman and John Roberts, 'Ceteris Paribus, There is No Problem of Provisos'
- 10 March Helen Beebe, 'The Non-Governing Conception of Laws of Nature'

Wittgenstein Reading Group

We will be going through Part I of the *Philosophical Investigations* (Blackwell, 1953). Meetings will take place weekly on **Tuesdays 3.00-4.30pm in the HPS Lodge**. For further information please contact Lorenzo Bernasconi or Bill Grundy.

- 18 January §§1-64: the Augustinian Picture of Language (as in the *Tractatus* and Russell's logical atomism)
- 25 January [2] §§65-88: the attack on the *Tractatus's* and Frege's ideal of determinacy of sense
[3] §§89-133: the nature of philosophy, and logic's quest for an ideal language
- 1 February [4] §§134-42: the general propositional form and the nature of truth
- 8 February [5] §§143-84: linguistic understanding and the concept of reading
- 15 February [6] §§185-242: rule-following and the framework of language
- 22 February [7] §§243-315: the private-language argument
- 1 March [8] §§316-62: thought and thinking
- 8 March [9] §§363-97: imagination and mental images
[10] §§398-411: the first-person pronoun 'I' and the nature of the self
[11] §§412-27: consciousness
- 15 March [12] §§428-65: intentionality – the harmony between language and reality

History of Science Workshop

The History of Science Workshop is a seminar group devoted to peer discussion of work in progress on the history and historiography of science, for example PhD chapters, dissertations, articles intended for publication, or conference papers. The seminar aims to provide an informal arena for the exchange of ideas among students of the history of science in HPS and elsewhere.

We meet on **alternate Wednesdays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**. Papers are circulated by e-mail before each meeting, and a copy is left in our box file in the Whipple Library. Please contact Anke Timmermann if you are interested in giving a paper or adding your name to the e-mail list.

9 February **Sarah Dry:** Barometers for fishing, fishing for barometers: maritime safety and meteorological expertise in mid-Victorian Britain

23 February **Trish Stewart:** 'Madness in a bottle': absinthe at the Fin de Siècle

9 March **Marcia Holmes:** Early ergonomics research in Cambridge: the Applied Psychology Research Unit, 1945-1950

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.

2 February **Arash Pessian:** A causal contrastive theory of reference

16 February **Christina McLeish:** Disjunctive reference

2 March **Alex Broadbent:** Realism, structure and reference

16 March **Ben Irvine:** Schopenhauerian inconsistency and Rorty's pragmatism...

Latin Therapy Group

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 the most sympathy on account of the difficulty of their sources – all in a mutually supportive environment! Well-known (usually classical) texts of relevance to the history of science are studied, as well as texts on which members of the group are working. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, and to be added to the mailing list, please contact Jason Rampelt. Information is also available on the Latin Therapy website, at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/latintherapy.

STS Workshop

Meetings are held on **Thursdays, 12noon to 1.30pm in Seminar Room 2**. All welcome.

Organised by Jon Agar, Rob Doubleday and Martin Kusch.

- 20 January **Simon Schaffer (HPS, Cambridge)** talks on ‘Public experiments and their private arts’
- 27 January Discussion of a chapter by Philip Brey, ‘Theorizing modernity and technology’, in Thomas J. Misa, Philip Brey and Andrew Feenberg (eds.), *Modernity and Technology* (Cambridge, MA and London: MIT Press, 2003), pp.33-71. (A copy of the paper will be on reserve in the Whipple Library)
- 3 February **Javier Lezaun (Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation, LSE)** talks on ‘Making opinions an object of STS investigation: the focus group as experimental setting’
- 10 February Discussion of a chapter by Richard Tutton, Anne Kerr and Sarah Cunningham-Burley, ‘Myriad stories: Constructing expertise and citizenship in discussions of the new genetics’, and a chapter by Shiv Vishvanathan, ‘Knowledge, justice and democracy’, in Melissa Leach, Ian Scoones and Brian Wynne (eds.), *Science and Citizens: Globalization and the Challenge of Engagement* (London: Zed Books, 2005) (A copy of these chapters will be on reserve in the Whipple)
- 17 February Discussion of two chapters of Sheila Jasanoff’s forthcoming book, *Designs on Life* (A copy of these chapters will be on reserve in the Whipple)
- 24 February **Susan Owens (Geography, Cambridge)** talks on ‘Knowledge brokers or policy entrepreneurs? The role and influence of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution’
- 3 March **Andy Stirling (SPRU, University of Sussex)** talks on ‘Science, precaution and participation: fundamental challenges – practical responses’
- 10 March Discussion of Eric Steven Raymond, ‘Homesteading the Noosphere’, published in Raymond, *The Cathedral and the Bazaar* (O’Reilly, 2001), but available at: <http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/cathedral-bazaar/homesteading/>

Modal Logic Reading Group

The Modal Logic Reading Group meets on **Mondays at 3pm in the HPS Lodge**, and aims to provide an informal and supportive environment for those wishing to learn the various systems of modal logic.

For more information, contact Paul Dicken.

Reading Kant

We meet on **Tuesdays 1.00-2.30pm in the HPS Lodge.**

Organised by Alix Cohen, Stephen John and Marina Frasca-Spada.

25 January *Anthropology*, Book 3, pp. 151-173
(Presentation: Alix Cohen)

1 February *Anthropology*, Book 3, pp. 174-193
(Presentation: Nick Jardine)

8 February 'Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View'
(Presentation: Steve John)

15 February 'An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?' and from *The Critique of Pure Reason*, AA 3 491-495
(Presentation: Sasha Mudd)

22 February *Toward Perpetual Peace*, Section I through First Supplement (8:344 -8:368), pp. 317-337
(Presentation: Yoon Choi)

1 March *Toward Perpetual Peace*, Second Supplement through to the end (8:369-8:386), pp.337-351
(Presentation: Marina Frasca-Spada)

8 March 'An Old Question Raised Again: Is the Human Race Constantly Progressing?'
(Presentation: Axel Gelfert)

15 March 'What is Orientation in Thinking?'
(Presentation: TBA)