

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.

- 15 January **Hélène Mialet (Harvard University)**
Thinking ‘through numbers’
- 22 January **Mario Biagioli (Harvard University)**
Between law and astronomy: Kepler, Galileo and the uses of witnessing
- 29 January **John Abraham (University of Sussex)**
History and philosophy of regulatory science: the case of pharmaceuticals
- 5 February **Markus Asper (New York University)**
Narratives in Greek mathematics?
- 12 February *Jointly hosted with CRASSH, and held in their seminar room at 17 Mill Lane*
Louis Sass (Rutgers University, New Jersey)
‘A falling star’ – the sovereign self in Otto Weininger
- 19 February **Leon Antonio Rocha (HPS, Cambridge)**
Scientia sexualis versus *ars erotica*: Foucault, van Gulik, Needham, Orientalism
- 26 February **Stephan Hartmann (Tilburg University)**
Consensus and disagreement in science
- 5 March **Max Kolbel (University of Barcelona)**
On recent work on faultless disagreement

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.

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

Abstracts

15 January **Hélène Mialet (Harvard University)**
Thinking ‘through numbers’

Science studies has shown that scientific knowledge is above all about practice. In my paper, I will question the possibility of doing theoretical physics without being able to manipulate equations or draw diagrams. Can one see ‘through numbers’? And/or can numbers be replaced by words? Is intuition an individual or a collective process? Can we eliminate the persistent phantom of cognitive explanations, and, if not, has anthropology of science failed? Or can we talk about cognitive processes differently? If we think that the term practice embraces all activities and that the dichotomy between theory and practice is only a theoretical one, what do theoreticians ‘do’ that is different from what experimentalists or accountants do? What kinds of objects are produced? And how do we/they produce ‘abstraction’?

22 January **Mario Biagioli (Harvard University)**
Between law and astronomy: Kepler, Galileo and the uses of witnessing

Through an analysis of the radically different uses of witnessing in Kepler’s and Galileo’s texts and letters concerning the telescopic discoveries of 1609–10, I revisit the discussion about the place of testimony in early modern natural philosophy, and its relations to different legal traditions.

29 January **John Abraham (University of Sussex)**
History and philosophy of regulatory science: the case of pharmaceuticals

This paper traces some of the key historical developments in the modern regulatory science of pharmaceuticals, including toxicology, clinical testing, and pharmacovigilance. Attention focuses on what can be learned about regulatory science by examining both international differences in its conduct and the subsequent efforts at international harmonisation. Regulatory science is heavily influenced by social and political factors, but contrary to fashionable constructivist philosophy/sociology of science, this does not imply that regulatory science is simply politics by another name. By looking substantively at the history of regulatory science, one can see that there are intra-scientific material aspects that are relatively autonomous and/or independent of pervasive, powerful and undeniably influential extra-scientific socio-political forces. Empirical history of regulatory science is consistent with a realist, rather than a relativist or constructivist philosophy of science.

5 February **Markus Asper (New York University)**
Narratives in Greek mathematics?

At first glance, both ancient Greek and modern mathematics appear to be narrative-free. Nonetheless, there has been recent debate about the relative merits of looking for narratives in modern mathematics (see Senechal 2006). Two aspects of this discussion lend themselves to my project:

(1) How do narratives about Greek mathematics relate to mathematical practices? One finds such narratives in introductory letters, anecdotes, and ancient commentaries. Research on modern mathematics suggests that such stories do contribute in certain ways to the practices that they are about (Traweek 1999, Corfield forthcoming). They situate the core texts within their social, dogmatic, historical, ideological, etc., contexts.

(2) Aesthetics of narrative and aesthetics of proof: second, a closer look at the mathematical texts themselves reveals that they follow principles of structure and aesthetics that one also finds in literary narratives (suspense, surprise, sequential organization, closure; see Doxiadis 2005). Notions

of ‘beauty’ and ‘elegance’ come up. Especially rewarding will be a closer look at how Greek mathematical aesthetics relates to literary aesthetics of the time (compare Netz forthcoming). Perhaps one could understand (mathematical) proofs and solutions of problems as specialized stories.

Works cited

- Corfield, M. forthcoming. ‘Narrative and the Rationality of Mathematical Practice.’ In: B. Mazur and A. Doxiadis, eds. *Mathematics and Narrative*. Athens. Forthcoming in 2008.
- Doxiadis, A. 2005. ‘The Mathematical Logic of Narrative.’ In: Miranesi, M. ed. *Mathematics and Culture in Europe. Mathematics in Art, Technology, Cinema and Theatre*. Milano, 167–177.
- Netz, R. forthcoming. ‘Greek Mathematics and the Hellenistic Aesthetics.’ in M.A. Harder, G. Regtuit, and E. Wakker, eds. *Science and Nature in Hellenistic Poetry*. Leiden. Forthcoming in 2008.
- Senechal, M. 2006. ‘Mathematics and Narrative at Mykonos.’ *Mathematical Intelligencer* 28.2: 24–33.
- Traweek, Sh. 1999. ‘Pilgrim’s Progress. Male Tales Told During a Life in Physics.’ In: Biagioli, M. ed. *The Science Studies Reader*. New York, 525–542.

12 February *Jointly hosted with CRASSH, and held in their seminar room at 17 Mill Lane*

Louis Sass (Rutgers University, New Jersey)

‘A falling star’ – the sovereign self in Otto Weininger

‘*Individuality is the fall of man, and its symbol is the falling star.*’ (Weininger, OLT 149)

My paper offers a case study of a one-dimensional view of the self, one that attempts to postulate the ideal of an autonomous, even sovereign, reflective self or ego that would separate itself from both the body and the social world. The theorist in question is Otto Weininger, a once-famous figure from fin-de-siècle Vienna whose notorious book, *Sex and Character*, appeared in 1903. Weininger influenced many luminaries of early 20th century culture, all of whom viewed him as having the qualities of genius – these include August Strindberg, D.W. Lawrence, Oswald Spengler, Hermann Broch, and Ludwig Wittgenstein.

My focus will be on the most abstract and foundational level of Weininger’s theorizing, which is his post-Kantian or hyper-Kantian conception of the essential nature of human consciousness and the transcendental ego. I shall discuss Weininger’s affinities with as well as divergences from the thought of Kant, Fichte, and the German idealist tradition in general. My focus will be on the inherent contradictions, both logical and existential, which Weininger’s extreme, one-dimensional view seems to have entailed, and which may have contributed to his suicide at age 23. Weininger’s work and life can be seen as a fable of the impossibility, and ultimate unlivability, of a mode of being that would reject the embedded and embodied nature of human selfhood.

19 February **Leon Antonio Rocha (HPS, Cambridge)**

Scientia sexualis versus *ars erotica*: Foucault, van Gulik, Needham, Orientalism

My paper begins with a discussion on the *scientia sexualis* – *ars erotica* distinction, which Foucault first advances in *History of Sexuality Vol. 1: The Will to Knowledge*. The distinction has been repeatedly employed by scholars from a range of disciplines: to study D.H. Lawrence, or the history of Japanese homosexuality, or to talk about the *Kama Sutra* and *Perfumed Garden*, and indeed in analysis of Chinese sexual alchemy. Though Foucault subsequently expresses his doubts regarding his conceptualisation of the ‘essential differences’ between Western and Eastern discourses of desire, he never entirely disowns it. In fact, Foucault remains convinced that ancient China must have an *ars erotica*. So I will explore the making of *History of Sexuality* and Foucault’s sources of information. To that end, I introduce the work of Dutch diplomat and sinologist, Robert van Gulik, who published the tremendously influential *Sexual Life in Ancient China* in 1961, and also discuss Joseph Needham’s work on Daoist sexual alchemy. I argue that, Foucault, in his fierce polemic

against the ‘Repressive Hypothesis’, himself imagined a utopian Other where pleasure and desire would be organised differently. This is another manifestation of the quiet ‘Oriental subtext’ in the work of the later Foucault. Nevertheless I suggest that the *scientia sexualis* – *ars erotica* distinction is still analytically useful if carefully reconfigured: for studying the transmission of knowledge and the rhetoric of ‘Third-World’ intellectuals interested in sex and its power to transform nations, at the moment of colonial modernity. I end with a discussion of Orientalism, and the project of *sinography* (contrasted to *sinology*), associated with comparative literature scholars Haun Saussy and Eric Hayot.

26 February **Stephan Hartmann (Tilburg University)**
Consensus and disagreement in science

There is a considerable amount of disagreement amongst scientists. They disagree on methodological questions regarding the virtues of a good theory as well as on conclusions drawn from observed data. But the domain of disagreement extends beyond purely academic questions: policy recommendations based on scientific theories and the distribution of research funds are typical examples of socially relevant areas of dissent in science. In many cases, the initial disagreement eventually leads to a consensus. This raises several questions: When is it rational for scientists to disagree? How should a group of scientists proceed to reach a decision? Which factors facilitate a consensus? The answers to these questions will surely depend on the specific case under investigation. I will argue, however, that formal methods can also be used to shed some light on these questions.

5 March **Max Kolbel (University of Barcelona)**
On recent work on faultless disagreement

In a number of different areas, there have recently been debates about two different forms of construing context-dependence: contextualism (indexical relativism) and relativism. For example, consider those who think that the truth of claims about what is known depends on an epistemic standard (e.g. Cohen 1986, DeRose 1991 and Lewis 1996). For example, the claim that Anna knows that she has hands, will be true with respect to low epistemic standards, but not true with respect to the highest epistemic standards. Supposing that the truth of such claims does indeed depend on epistemic standards, then there are two different ways of explaining this. The first one is to say that it is the propositional content of claims that varies with the context. Thus, when I say first, truly, that Anna knows she has hands, and then later say falsely that she knows she has hands, then the change in truth value is due to the fact that the two utterances expressed different propositions (each of them about a different epistemic standard). This can be called ‘contextualism’. The second way of construing the situation is to say that the proposition expressed is the same on each of the occasions, it’s only that that proposition is evaluated with respect to different epistemic standards (e.g. MacFarlane 2005). This can be called ‘relativism’. The same alternatives arise in many other areas, e.g. epistemic modals/probabilities, evaluative sentences, future contingents, causal claims, etc.

In this paper, I first review the motivations for supporting either of the two alternatives, in particular recent work by MacFarlane, Recanati and Cappelen and Hawthorne. I show that even in the hardest cases (e.g. future contingents) there are no compelling reasons to prefer relativism to contextualism or vice versa, though some weak reasons to do with theoretical elegance can be adduced in favour of relativism. Then I consider some phenomena that are difficult to explain for both relativists and contextualists. I offer a tentative explanation of these phenomena.

History of Medicine

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

Early Medicine and Natural Philosophy

Organised by Lauren Kassell and Laurence Totelin.

- 10 February **David Leith (Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL)**
'Atomism' and the criterion of truth: Asclepiades of Bithynia's appropriations of Epicureanism
- 24 February **Chiara Crisciani (University of Pavia)**
The radical moisture between theology and medicine (13th–14th centuries)
- 3 March **Karen Buckle (Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL)**
How (not) to read the advertisements of oculists: records, testimonies and the strategy of personal encounters in the early 18th century

History of Modern Medicine and Biology

Organised by Vanessa Heggie and Nick Hopwood.

- 27 January **Roberta Bivins (University of Warwick)**
Genetically ethnic? Medicine, heredity and immigration in post-war Britain
- 17 February **Katherine Foxhall (University of Manchester)**
The diseased convict and the Australian voyage: medical knowledge, penal reform and colonisation
- 10 March **Salim Al-Gailani (HPS, Cambridge)**
Pregnancy, pathology and public morals: making antenatal care in early twentieth-century Edinburgh

From Generation to Reproduction

This seminar, which is funded by our Wellcome enhancement award in the history of medicine, is a forum for discussion of how, since 1500, our world of reproductive practices and controversy was created.

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

Organised by Nick Hopwood and Lauren Kassell.

- 20 January **Conan Doyle (Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, Cambridge)**
Gynaecological fragments in a pragmatic archbishop's handbook: the Old English *Formation of the Foetus* in context
- 3 February **Deborah Nicholson (University of the West of Scotland, Paisley)**
Womb with a view: transforming obstetric ultrasound into a consumer experience

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.

- 19 January **Alison Wood (King's College London)**
Responding to Darwin: The Reverend Thomas Stebbing (1835–1926), clergyman, naturalist and apologist
- 2 February **Marionne Cronin (Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge)**
The ends of the earth: rearticulating the image of the poles in the age of polar aviation
- 9 February **Becky Brown (HPS, Cambridge)**
Long in the tooth: a study of a set of papier-mache horses' teeth
- 16 February **Andy Hammond (University College London)**
JBS Haldane on the role of disease in evolution (1949): sickle cell anaemia, ecology, evolutionary medicine, and feeding the world
- 23 February **Jessica Hughes (Open University)**
Punishing bodies: image and ambiguity in the Lydian-Phrygian 'confession stelae'
- 2 March **Eric Ash (Wayne State University, USA)**
'The unrecovered country': the non-drainage of the Fens, 1619–20
- 9 March **Brigitte Resl (University of Liverpool)**
Distancing animals in medieval chronicles

Philosophy of Cognitive Science

Seminars are held on **Wednesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 2**. The seminars mix philosophy with contemporary work in the cognitive and brain sciences. All are welcome.

Organised by Mark Sprevak.

- 21 January **Matthew Broome (University of Warwick)**
Psychiatry as cognitive neuroscience
- 4 February **Mike Wheeler (University of Stirling)**
Recarving the cognitive joints of nature
- 18 February **Ron Chrisley (University of Sussex)**
The phenomenology of the extended mind: why your beliefs are not in your iPhone
- 4 March **Maggie Boden (University of Sussex)**
How creative is evolutionary computation?

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.

- 28 January **Pieter R. Adriaens (University of Leuven)**
Ultimate fantasies: Sigmund Freud and evolutionary psychiatry
- 11 March **Christian Ydesen (Aarhus University and University of Edinburgh)**
Transfer, translation, trading: how can we understand international influence and inspirations on a national educational field?

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.**

21 January **Signe Nipper Nielsen (HPS, Cambridge)**

Products of conception and the order of nature in Danish natural philosophy and medicine, c.1650–1800

4 February **Sophie Brockmann (HPS, Cambridge)**

The golden road to China: cartographical representations of an improbable railway project, c.1881–5

18 February **Michael Barany (HPS, Cambridge)**

God, king, and geometry: Cauchy's reactionary rigour

4 March **Katie Taylor (HPS, Cambridge)**

Visual organisation of heavenly knowledge in the 16th and 17th centuries

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.

28 January **Jiri Hudecek and Michael Barany (HPS, Cambridge)**

Proofs, refutations and heuristics: historical and essentialist standpoints in Lakatos's philosophy of mathematics

11 February **Nathan Wildman (Faculty of Philosophy, Cambridge)**

Defending shallow essentialism

25 February **Céline Kermisch (Université Libre de Bruxelles)**

Towards a postmodern concept of risk: the contribution of risk perception studies

11 March **Florian Steinberger (Faculty of Philosophy, Cambridge)**

Where do the laws of logic come from?

Reading and discussion groups

Metaphysics Reading Group

The group meets on **Mondays 1.00–2.30pm in the HPS Lodge**. This term we will be reading from *Time's Arrow and Archimedes' Point* by Huw Price. Meetings are open to all, and usually start with a brief, informal introduction to the week's reading from a group member. All welcome.

Organised by Alex Broadbent.

- 19 January The View from Nowhen; and 'More Apt to Be Lost than Got': The Lessons of the Second Law
- 26 January New Light on the Arrow of Radiation
- 2 February Arrows and Errors in Contemporary Cosmology
- 9 February Innocence and Symmetry in Microphysics
- 16 February In Search of the Third Arrow
- 23 February Convention Objectified and the Past Unlocked
- 2 March Einstein's Issue: The Puzzle of Contemporary Quantum Theory
- 9 March The Case for Advanced Action; and Overview

Science and Literature Reading Group

This term we shall focus on historical fiction about actual and invented lives in the mathematical and physical sciences. All of the novels will be made available in our box-file for reading in the Whipple Library *only*; many are also held in Cambridge University Library, or are still in print. Useful background reading for all of this term's seminars can be found in the *Isis* Focus section on 'History of Science and Historical Novels', *Isis* 98 (2007), 755-795: <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/529266>

We meet fortnightly on **Mondays in the upstairs seminar room at Darwin College, from 7.30–9pm**. All welcome! Please see our blog for details of the specific chapters on which our discussions will focus, and 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.

- 19 January John Banville, *Doctor Copernicus* (1976)
Available in Cambridge University Library, and also still in print.
- 2 February Daniel Kehlmann, *Measuring the World* (2007 translation by Carol Brown Janeway). In print.
- 16 February Russell McCormmach, *Night Thoughts of a Classical Physicist* (1982)
Available in Cambridge University Library, and also still in print.
- 2 March C.P. Snow, *The Search* (1934)
Available in Cambridge University Library, and from second-hand booksellers.

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 Lent Term. Links to some of these articles are available at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars/theory.html

We meet on alternate **Fridays, 2.30pm to 4pm in the HPS Lodge**. Graduate students are particularly welcome. Organised by Nick Whitfield.

23 January **Nick Whitfield:** Truth, Holocaust denial, and the history of science

Eaglestone, R. *Postmodernism and Holocaust Denial* (Icon, 2001): pp.3–35.

Finney, Patrick, 'Ethics, Historical Relativism and Holocaust Denial', *Rethinking History*, 1998, vol. 2, no. 3: pp.359–70.

Merton, Robert K., 'The Institutional Imperatives of Science', in B. Barnes (ed.) *Sociology of Science: Selected Readings* (Penguin, 1972), pp.65–79.

Stark, J., 'The Pragmatic and Dogmatic Spirit in Physics', *Nature*, 30 April, 1938, vol. 141: pp.770–72.

6 February **Eleanor Robson:** Translation, representation, interpretation

Bernard, A. 2003. 'Ancient rhetoric and Greek mathematics: a response to a modern historiographical dilemma', *Science in Context*, vol. 16: pp.391–412.

Robson, E., 'Inside ancient mathematics: translation, representation, interpretation', chapter 9.3 of *Mathematics in Ancient Iraq: A Social History* (Princeton University Press, 2008): pp.274–284.

Unguru, S., 'On the need to rewrite the history of Greek mathematics', *Archive for the History of Exact Sciences*, vol. 15: pp.67–114.

20 February **Melanie Keene and Anne Secord:** Things

Ken Alder, 'Thick Things – Introduction', *Isis*, 2007, vol. 98: pp.80–83.

Bill Brown, 'Thing Theory', *Critical Inquiry*, 2001, vol. 28: pp.1–22.

Lorraine Daston, 'On Scientific Observation', *Isis*, 2008, vol. 99: pp.97–110.

Bruno Latour, 'Can we get our materialism back, please?', *Isis*, 2007, vol. 98: pp.138–142.

6 March **Elise Juzda:** Debating Whig history

Harrison, Edward, 'Whigs, Prigs and Historians of Science', *Nature*, September 27, 1987, vol. 329: pp.213–14.

Jardine, Nick, 'Whigs and Stories: Herbert Butterfield and the Historiography of Science,' *History of Science*, 2003, vol. 41: pp.125–140.

Wilson, Adrian and T. G. Ashplant, 'Whig History and Present-Centred History', *The Historical Journal*, 1988, vol. 31, no. 1: pp. 1–16.

Some might also wish to consult Herbert Butterfield's book *The Whig Interpretation of History* (1931), although the arguments presented therein are summarized in the readings above.

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 on **Wednesdays (please see the dates below) in Seminar Room 1**, starting on 21 January. 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 give a talk in Easter Term, join the group, or receive information and texts through our mailing list, please contact Mirjam Brusius.

21 January 11am – 12noon

Chitra Ramalingam: 'The historiography of the scientific image'

28 January 11am – 12noon

Florence Grant: 'Human art and natural beauty in eighteenth-century microscopy'

4 February 11am – 12noon

Joshua Nall: 'Mars globes and the canal controversy'

11 February 11am – 12noon

Antje Pfannkuchen: 'When nature begins to write herself: German Romantics read the Electrophore'

4 March 10am – 12noon

Nick Hopwood: Discussion of *Pictures of Evolution and Charges of Fraud*

11 March 10am – 12noon

1. **Iris Montero Sobrevilla:** 'Time flies: exploring visual links between hummingbird iconography and the Aztec calendar'

2. **Susanna Edwards:** 'Curious – looking at microscopy through craft and technology'

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. Our first meeting of the term will be held on Thursday 15 January, when we will discuss Janet Browne's *The Origin of Species: A Biography* (Atlantic Books, 2006). Details of future readings will be discussed during the meetings and circulated via e-mail.

For more information, please contact Jenny Bangham or Richard Barnett.

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.

Thursday 15 January, 12.30 – 2.30

Stephen Johnston (Museum of the History of Science, Oxford)

Cometary theory and graphical practice: Wren, Hooke and the comet of 1664–5

Thursday 22 January, 12.30 – 2.30

Liba Taub (Whipple Museum, Cambridge)

Instrumental images in Tycho Brahe’s work

Friday 30 January, 4.00 – 5.30

Joint session with Latin Therapy

Thursday 5 February

Historical Printing Workshop with **Nick Smith (Deputy Head of Rare Books, University Library, Cambridge)** – meet in entrance hall of the UL at 12.30pm. This session will give an introduction to printing by hand followed by a more detailed look at illustrations.

Thursday 12 February, 12.30 – 2.30

Renée Raphael (Princeton University)

A discussion of Galileo’s diagrams

Thursday 19 February, 12.30 – 2.30

José Marcaida (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid)

Paintings and diagrams

Friday 27 February, 4.00 – 5.30

Joint session with Latin Therapy

Thursday 5 March, 12.30 – 2.30

Raphaële Fruet (Trinity College, Cambridge)

Belleforest’s 1575 translation of Munster’s *Cosmographie*

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/>

Experiment

- 20 January Talk: **Ruth Horry (HPS, Cambridge)**
'Botany of the air: experiments, airships and agriculture in 1930'

Reading: Galison, P. 'The many faces of big science'. Introduction in: P. Galison & B. Hevly (eds.) *Big science: the growth of large-scale research* (Stanford University Press, 1992), pp.1–17.
- 3 February 1. H. Collins and T. Pinch, *The Golem* (Cambridge University Press, 1993), chapter 7: 'Set the controls for the heart of the sun: the strange story of the missing solar neutrinos', pp.121–138.
2. B. Latour and S. Woolgar, *Laboratory Life: The Social Construction of Scientific Facts* (Sage, 1979), chapter 2: 'An anthropologist visits the laboratory', pp.43–90.
3. B. Latour, *Science in Action* (Open University Press, 1987), chapter 6: 'Centres of calculation', pp.215–257.
- 17 February 1. P. Galison & A. Assmus, 'Artificial clouds, real particles'. In: D. Gooding, T. Pinch and S. Schaffer (eds.) *The uses of experiment: studies in the natural sciences* (Cambridge University Press, 1989), pp. 225-274.
2. R.E. Kohler, *Landscapes & Labscales: Exploring the Lab-field Border in Biology* (University of Chicago Press, 2002), chapter 1: 'Borders and history', pp.1–22; and chapter 5: 'Experiments in nature', pp.135–174.
- 3 March Talk: **Simon Schaffer (HPS, Cambridge)**
'High science: hill stations and modern astrophysics'

Reading: 1. Simon Schaffer, 'Astrophysics, anthropology and other imperial pursuits'. In: J. Edwards, P. Harvey and P. Wade (eds.) *Anthropology and science: epistemologies in practice* (Berg, 2007), pp.19–38.
2. D. MacKenzie, 'From Kwajalein to Armageddon? Testing the social construction of missile accuracy'. In: D. Gooding, T. Pinch and S. Schaffer (eds.) *The uses of experiment: studies in the natural sciences* (Cambridge University Press, 1989), pp.409–436.

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.

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

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 related to the history of science, medicine and technology, selected by members of the group – perhaps as research for an essay or paper, or simply to revive rusty language skills. We warm up with a short introductory piece before moving onto the main text, aiming to produce a working translation each week. 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. These joint sessions will take place on 30 January and 27 February at the usual time.

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 Jenny Rampling.

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**. 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 Michaelmas Term we began by learning Arabic script and verb forms, and by constructing simple sentences. This 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.