

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 Nicky Reeves.

- 20 January ***Sixth Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine***
Mary Fissell (Johns Hopkins University)
Encountering *Aristotle's Masterpiece*, or how to find a racy book about reproduction
- 27 January **Simone Turchetti (University of Manchester)**
'In God we trust, all others we monitor': seismology and international affairs during the Cold War
- 3 February **Helen Beebe (University of Birmingham)**
How to carve nature across the joints without abandoning Kripke-Putnam semantics
- 10 February **Jimena Canales (Harvard University)**
A history of a tenth of a second
- 17 February **James Ladyman (University of Bristol)**
How much pluralism?
- 24 February **Fiona Clark (Queen's University Belfast)**
Autoptēs: anti-venereal trials and the deconstruction of credibility, Mexico City (1790–92)
- 3 March **Elma Brenner (HPS, Cambridge)**
Leprosy and identity in medieval Rouen
- 10 March **Joel Isaac (Queen Mary, University of London/CRASSH, Cambridge)**
Kuhn's education: Wittgenstein, pedagogy, and the road to structure

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

20 January **Sixth Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine**

Mary Fissell (Johns Hopkins University)

Encountering *Aristotle's Masterpiece*, or how to find a racy book about reproduction

Aristotle's Masterpiece was the most popular English book about reproduction from its first publication in 1684 all the way into the 1930s. It is not by Aristotle, nor a masterpiece, but affords the historian an unusual glimpse into plebeian sexuality and reading habits. While much of the content is typical of a late 17th century midwifery guide, its extremely long life makes it unique.

The lecture explores the many physical spaces in which readers encountered and bought the *Masterpiece* in an attempt to understand its long-lived success. The book was hidden under teenage boys' mattresses; thumbed through in book stalls; read aloud in girls' boarding schools, and sold by chapmen bringing metropolitan wares to distant rural communities. These many venues provide a key to the book's success: it was many things to many readers.

27 January **Simone Turchetti (University of Manchester)**

'In God we trust, all others we monitor': seismology and international affairs during the Cold War

Although seismology is primarily concerned with the study of earthquakes, its expansion during the Cold War depended on using seismic instrumentation to monitor the advancement of nuclear weapons programmes. Several historians have looked extensively at these developments focussing especially on how they overlapped negotiations on nuclear testing. In this paper I seek to expand on this literature by analyzing the uses of seismology for intelligence-gathering purposes. I thus suggest that as information-seeking was the priority for some of the key actors involved in negotiating a test ban, the striking of an international moratorium was made conditional upon this urgency. In fact these intelligence activities represented a major obstacle to the signing of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and deeply affected international relations during the Cold War period.

3 February **Helen Beebe (University of Birmingham)**

How to carve nature across the joints without abandoning Kripke-Putnam semantics

Kripke-Putnam semantics (KP) for natural kind terms, according to which truths like 'water is H₂O' are metaphysically necessary but knowable only a posteriori, is often taken to have significant metaphysical consequences. In particular, it is often taken to justify 'natural kind essentialism'. I argue that the metaphysical consequences of KP are in fact extremely weak; in particular, KP is consistent both with species pluralism (the view that there are several, equally 'correct' ways of classifying organisms) and with Kuhnian relativism.

10 February **Jimena Canales (Harvard University)**

A history of a tenth of a second

In the late fifteenth century, clocks acquired minute hands. A century later, second hands appeared. But it wasn't until the 1850s that a widespread need was felt for instruments that could recognize a tenth of a second. Once they did, the profound impact of these tiny moments was revealed as they related to broader conceptions about the nature of time, causality, and free will. Intimately connected to technologies that defined modernity (telegraphy, photography, cinematography), this talk locates the reverberations of this perceptual moment for science, philosophy and mass media. Once scientists associated the value with the speed of thought, they developed reaction time

experiments with lasting implications for experimental psychology, physiology and optics. Astronomers and physicists struggled to control the profound consequences of results that were a tenth of a second off. And references to the interval were part of a general inquiry into time, consciousness, and sensory experience that involved rethinking the contributions of Descartes and Kant. This talk investigates how these moments defined modernity (and the place of fingers and eyes in it) by asking what it means to write the history of a radically different time period.

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

How much pluralism?

Strong forms of scientific realism seem indefensible in the face of the history of science, and in particular the long list of theories that enjoyed great empirical success and yet whose central ontological and metaphysical commitments were abandoned by subsequent scientists. Pluralism is the thesis that there are alternative possible histories of science to our own in which quite different theoretical commitments were adopted at crucial stages. However, consideration of a few examples, including Newtonian gravitation, the ether and phlogiston, show that even in cases of radical theory change more than purely empirical structure is retained in subsequent science. Strong forms of antirealism are also indefensible in the light of a proper appreciation of the continuity in the history of science. The synthesis that resolves the dialectic is of course structural realism. The question as to how much pluralism is appropriate will be considered in the light of the cases discussed.

24 February **Fiona Clark (Queen's University Belfast)**

Autoptēs: anti-venereal trials and the deconstruction of credibility, Mexico City (1790–92)

In 1792, at the request of the Real Academia de Medicina de Madrid, Daniel O'Sullivan, Surgeon to the Spanish Infantry at Puebla de los Ángeles, composed a 75-page report into the circumstances governing the introduction of a new non-mercurial anti-venereal treatment known as the 'Beato method' in the Hospital de San Andrés, Mexico City. The details recorded in his report – the *Relación Histórico-Crítica de un supuesto Nuevo Methodo Antivenereo* (A historico-critical report into a purported new anti-venereal method) – demand serious consideration and should lead us to question whether they are merely the rantings of a half-crazed Irishman, or whether, embellishments notwithstanding, they provide new insights into the mechanisms of power in colonial Mexican and Spanish medicine. This paper will explore the way in which O'Sullivan adopts a range of literary devices in order to cast doubt on figures of authority, medical methodology, and institutional credibility. In his role as witness, and through use of the grotesque, theatricality, and the creation of suspense, the author seeks to create a mundo al revés (upside down world) in which the exercise of medical authority and all resulting claims are deemed unreliable, at best, and, at worst, pernicious to humanity. As such, the report acts as a witness and anatomy of the trials, laying bare the fabric of institutional corruption and the role of the ecclesiastical community within this. O'Sullivan's work stands in stark contrast to any of the existing contemporary accounts of these events that have formed the framework for any historical narrative written to date.

3 March **Elma Brenner (HPS, Cambridge)**

Leprosy and identity in medieval Rouen

Leprosy (Hansen's disease) has been described as the disease of the Middle Ages, and my research examines the impact that it had on the society of Rouen, one of the leading cities of medieval Western Europe. This paper will approach leprosy and its sufferers through the concept of identity, from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries. Firstly, it will consider how the identity of lepers themselves was affected by their affliction. The social identity of individual lepers prior to contracting the disease undoubtedly played an important part in shaping their fate, since those who had financial backing entered monastic leper hospitals, while poorer lepers were left to beg.

However, the language used to describe lepers suggested that their social status was transformed by the disease. Lepers were labelled as ‘leprosus’, ‘infirmus’, ‘pauper Christi’, ‘ladre’, ‘mesel’ and, for those lepers who begged, ‘leprosus extraneus’ or ‘lépreux forain’. In addition, lepers’ physical appearance, particularly their facial features, degenerated as a result of their disease. Since a person’s facial appearance is understood to reflect their individual personality, what impact did this have on the perception of lepers by others? Was their physical decay understood to reflect the sinfulness of their souls? The second part of the paper will examine the identity of the disease. Clerics and, in the later Middle Ages, physicians and surgeons, were called upon to diagnose suspected cases of leprosy. Sometimes cases were misdiagnosed, but recent archaeological work at a leper hospital cemetery near Rouen has revealed that the vast majority of residents indeed suffered from Hansen’s disease. The cemetery also contains skeletons exhibiting signs of other conditions such as polio. The paper will consider whether leprosy was linked to other illnesses that resulted in disability and physical degeneration, and the extent to which it was viewed by contemporaries as the disease afflicting their society.

10 March **Joel Isaac (Queen Mary, University of London/CRASSH, Cambridge)**
Kuhn’s education: Wittgenstein, pedagogy, and the road to structure

The theoretical edifice of *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* rests on a very particular – and peculiar – account of what is involved in learning a theory by example. Normal science, anomaly, crisis, revolution, even the paradigm itself – each of these mechanisms driving scientific development can operate in the way that Kuhn suggests only insofar as theories and their applications are learned, not as sets of explicit rules or operational algorithms, but instead from a concrete and finite range of model puzzle solutions enshrined in textbooks and laboratory or classroom demonstrations. What is peculiar about this account of the learning of scientific theory through practical modes of instruction is that, despite the recent flourishing of historical studies in science pedagogy – many of which take Kuhn as their lodestone – few of *Structure*’s innumerable exegetes have noted how philosophically undermotivated and historiographically unsubstantiated the treatment of this topic is in Kuhn’s book. We see this most clearly in the chapter that presents the nerve of Kuhn’s argument about how normal science can function without collective agreement on rules: Chapter V – The Priority of Paradigms.

Drawing on Kuhn’s unpublished papers, I show that the all-important Chapter V – and Kuhn’s repudiation of rules in favour of paradigms – were very late additions to *Structure*. This apparently minor revision in the drafting process is illuminating in several respects. Kuhn’s enthusiastic endorsement of Wittgenstein’s discussion of an agent’s learning of words through exposure to finite sets of applications (with the implication that a family resemblance or overlap between speakers’ model examples of the application of a term would be enough to secure common meaning in the absence of rules) reflected the growing influence of the *Philosophical Investigations* on American philosophy and the human sciences in the 1960s. Importantly, however, Kuhn’s appeal to Wittgenstein was at variance with the sceptical surmises that colleagues such as Stanley Cavell took from the *Investigations*. Even more significant was Kuhn’s near total neglect of the historical study of the textbooks and pedagogical regimes that underpinned both normal and revolutionary science. Here I argue that Kuhn’s elaborate appeal to the idea of learning by example – in the absence of any systematic historical study of science pedagogy – can be explained by his acculturation in case-based pedagogy and the theory of general education at Harvard University during the late 1940s and early 1950s. Thus the hastily patched together remarks on Wittgenstein and training regimes in *Structure*’s Chapter V are, so I will claim, the shadow cast by Kuhn’s formative engagement with the case method at Harvard University.

Cabinet of Natural History

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

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

Organised by Caitlin Wylie.

- 24 January **Valentina Pugliano (University of Oxford)**
The hungry cats of Pietro Antonio Michiel, or the fragile nature of Renaissance collecting
- 31 January **Simon Schaffer (HPS, Cambridge)**
The poisoner's regress: on orientalism and natural history
- 7 February **Clare Roche (Birkbeck, University of London)**
Mountainous effects: Alpine space and Victorian lady climbers
- 14 February **Ruth Prince (Cambridge Centre of African Studies)**
Healthcare and welfare in contemporary Kenya
- 21 February **Shana Worthen (University of Arkansas at Fort Worth)**
The subjectivity of early modern knowledge in the Garden of Life
- 28 February **Susannah Gibson (HPS, Cambridge)**
Newtonian vegetables and perceptive plants
- 7 March **Mirjam Brusius (HPS, Cambridge)**
'Map of Turkey, a flexible hat, pencils, and the Talbotype': travelling artists in mid-19th century archaeological expeditions to the Middle East
- 14 March **Ruth Horry (HPS, Cambridge)**
Using Babylonian gods to sell cod liver oil: Henry Wellcome and medical interest in Assyriology around 1900

Twentieth Century Think Tank

The Think Tank offers broad coverage of 20th-century and contemporary topics in the history and philosophy of science. We alternate sessions between seminar talks presented by invited speakers and reading groups led by members of the Department. Copies of the texts for the reading group sessions can be found in the TCTT box in the Whipple Library.

Our slot alternates with the Twentieth-Century Biology Reading Group (see page 12), with **meetings every other Tuesday, 1–2pm in Seminar Room 1**. Everyone is welcome, and feel free to bring lunch!

For more information email hps-think-tank@lists.cam.ac.uk

25 January Seminar: **Katy Price (Anglia Ruskin University)**
Dreaming the future: J.W. Dunne's *An Experiment with Time*

8 February Reading group: **Kathryn Schoefert (HPS, Cambridge)**
In a particular setting

Readings:

1. Thomas Gieryn, 'What Buildings Do', *Theory and Society* 31, No. 1 (2002), pp. 35–74.
2. Bruno Latour and Alben Yaneva, "'Give Me a Gun and I Will Make All Buildings Move': An ANT's View of Architecture", in Reto Geiser (ed.), *Explorations in Architecture: Teaching, Design, Research* (Basel: Birkhäuser, 2008), pp. 80–89.
3. [Optional] Stuart W. Leslie, "'A Different Kind of Beauty": Scientific and Architectural Style in I.M. Pei's Mesa Laboratory and Louis Kahn's Salk Institute', *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 38, No. 2 (2008), pp. 173–221.

22 February Seminar: **Claire Blencowe (Newcastle University)**
'Biosociality' to feminist-eugenics: rethinking contingency and racism in 20th-century sociological science

8 March Reading group: **Jesse Olszynko-Gryn (HPS, Cambridge)**
Historians and the patient-consumer

Readings:

1. Flurin Condrau, 'The Patient's View Meets the Clinical Gaze', *Social History of Medicine* 20 (2007), pp. 525–540.
2. Alex Mold, 'Patient Groups and the Construction of the Patient-Consumer in Britain: An Historical Overview', *Journal of Social Policy* 39 (2010), pp. 505–521.

History of Medicine Seminars

Seminars are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome! Organised by Nick Hopwood, Lauren Kassell and Francis Neary.

- 25 January **Peregrine Horden (Royal Holloway, University of London)**
Spaces of healing: Byzantium and medieval Islam compared
- 8 February **Richard McKay (University of Oxford)**
'Patient zero' and the early years of the North American AIDS epidemic
- 22 February **Valentina Pugliano (University of Oxford)**
Mortars, exotic drugs, and a battle for expertise: Verona 1561–1566
- 8 March **Kate O'Riordan (University of Sussex)**
Cloning and film: fictional vectors of factual imaginaries
(This seminar links to the series of six films on reproduction that begins at the Arts Picturehouse, Cambridge, on 7 March.)

Generation to Reproduction Seminars

These seminars, on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**, are funded by our Wellcome Trust strategic award in the history of medicine (www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk). Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

- 1 February **Sandrine Bertaux (Marmara University, Istanbul)**
Race and population: fertility theories and the status of demography, 1920s–1960s
- 1 March **Mary Fissell (Johns Hopkins University)**
Sarah Stone, William Cadogan and Enlightenment motherhood

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). We also hold work-in-progress sessions.

This term's meetings will be at **5–7pm** (tea from 4.50) on **Tuesdays 15 February and 15 March in Seminar Room 1**. To join the group, please email generate@hermes.cam.ac.uk

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.

Sessions will be held on alternate **Wednesdays in Seminar Room 1, 1pm–2pm**.

Organised by Alexandra Bacopoulos-Viau.

- 26 January **Jesse Olszynko-Gryn (HPS, Cambridge)**
Pregnancy testing and the 1930s controversy over the hormonal placenta
- 9 February **Jacob Orrje (Uppsala University/HPS, Cambridge)**
To graze and virtue: Anders Gabriel Duhre as a virtuous maker of useful knowledge in early 18th-century Sweden
- 23 February **Thibaud Trochu (University of Paris-I Sorbonne)**
How the Harvard archives reveal that William James was a highly skilled hypnotist
- 9 March **Raf De Bont (KU Leuven/Imperial College London)**
'Lies and frivolity': manners in scientific dispute in 19th-century Britain and Germany

HPS Philosophy Workshop

The HPS Philosophy Workshop is a fortnightly seminar devoted to the discussion of on-going work by researchers in philosophy. Papers are invited from all graduate students and post-docs: it is a great format for getting some constructive and informal feedback on an essay, PhD chapter or potential article. Papers are circulated by email one week in advance of each meeting – the author will then give a brief synopsis on the day followed by roughly 45 minutes of Q&A.

Meetings take place **every other Wednesday from 1–2pm in Seminar Room 1**. The meeting dates are as follows:

- 2 February
- 16 February
- 2 March
- 16 March

If you would like to present, or have any questions, please contact Emily McTernan.

Reading and discussion groups

AD HOC

AD HOC is a history of chemistry reading group based in Cambridge and London. While our main focus is historical, we also consider the philosophical, sociological, public and educational dimensions of chemistry. This term's theme is 'Building Blocks of Chemistry'.

The group meets four times per term, on **Wednesdays, 5pm–6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Readings are available from the Whipple Library, and also circulated via our mailing list. A parallel series of meetings is held in London. For details visit our website, www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc.

Organised by Hasok Chang and Jenny Rampling.

19 January 'Structures'

Introduced by **Cristina Chimisso (Open University)**

Draft of ch. 4 ('Le matérialisme composé') of Gaston Bachelard, *Le matérialisme rationnel* (1953), trans. Nick Jardine and Jenny Bangham

2 February 'Atoms'

Selection from D.S.L. Cardwell (ed.), *John Dalton and the Progress of Science* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1968)

16 February 'Molecules'

Introduced by **Hasok Chang (HPS, Cambridge)**

'HO or H₂O? Underdetermination Revisited'. Draft chapter from Hasok Chang, *Is Water H₂O? Evidence, Realism and Pluralism* (forthcoming with Boston Studies in Philosophy of Science, Springer)

9 March 'Principles'

Introduced by **Jo Hedesan (University of Exeter)**

1. Jan Baptist van Helmont, *Oriatrike, or, Physick Refined*, trans. John Chandler (London, 1662; repr. 1664): Ch. 57, 'Tria prima Chymicorum principia or The three first Principles of the Chymists' (esp. pp. 401–408)

2. Robert Boyle, *The Sceptical Chymist* (London, 1661): pp 173–185

3. Allen G. Debus, *The Chemical Philosophy*, vol. 1 (New York, 1977): extract from Ch. 2, 'The Chemical Philosophy' (the subchapter 'Chemical Theory and the Elements'): pp. 78–84

17 March 'Affinities'

Introduced by **Mi Gyung Kim (North Carolina State University)**. Please note that this special session takes place on a **Thursday**.

1. Extract(s) from Mi Gyung Kim, *Affinity, That Elusive Dream: A Genealogy of the Chemical Revolution* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003)

2. Essay review: Mary Terrell, 'Public Science in the Enlightenment', *Modern Intellectual History* 2 (2005), pp. 265–276

3. Review: Robert Fox, 'Friends of the Salt and Earth Varieties', *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, 16 January 2004, p. 30

Philosophy of Science Reading Group

We will be reading *Science, Policy, and the Value-Free Ideal* by Heather E. Douglas (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009). Meetings will involve a short presentation by a member of the group followed by a general discussion.

Meetings will take place on **Thursdays at 2pm in Seminar Room 1** and are open to all. Organised by Hasok Chang and Jonathan Birch.

- 20 January Chapter 1, 'Introduction: Science Wars and Policy Wars'
- 27 January Chapter 2, 'The Rise of the Scientific Advisor'
- 3 February Chapter 3, 'Origins of the Value-Free Ideal for Science'
- 10 February Chapter 4, 'The Moral Responsibilities of Scientists'
- 17 February Chapter 5, 'The Structure of Values in Science'
- 24 February Chapter 6, 'Objectivity in Science'
- 3 March Chapter 7, 'The Integrity of Science in the Policy Process'
- 10 March Chapter 8, 'Values and Practices'

Philosophy of Biology Reading Group

We will be reading Kim Sterelny's *Thought in a Hostile World: The Evolution of Human Cognition* (Blackwell, 2003), winner of the 2004 Lakatos Award.

Meetings will take place on **Fridays at 2pm in the Lodge Seminar Room** and are open to all. Organised by Joeri Witteveen and Jonathan Birch.

- 21 January Chapter 1, 'Evolutionary Naturalism', and Chapter 2, 'Detection Systems'
- 28 January Chapter 3, 'Fuels for Success', and Chapter 4, 'Fuels for Success: The Social Intelligence Hypothesis'
- 4 February Chapter 5, 'The Descent of Preference'
- 11 February Chapter 6, 'Reconstructing Hominid Evolution'
- 18 February Chapter 7, 'The Cooperation Explosion'
- 25 February Chapter 8, 'The Self-made Species', and Chapter 9, 'Heterogeneous Environments and Variable Response'
- 4 March Chapter 10, 'The Massive Modularity Hypothesis'
- 11 March Chapter 11, 'Interpreting Other Agents'

Twentieth-Century Biology Reading Group

The group will discuss papers relating to the history, philosophy and historiography of twentieth-century biology. Articles will be placed well in advance in a box in the Whipple Library. Meetings are **every other Tuesday from 1–2pm in Seminar Room 1**, alternating with the Twentieth Century Think Tank.

Organised by Dmitriy Myelnikov.

1 February Styles of thought in genetics

Harwood, Jonathan. *Styles of scientific thought: the German genetics community, 1900–1933*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 1993. Chapter 1 (pp. 1–48).

15 February Communicating biology and medicine

Myers, Greg. *Writing biology: texts in the social construction of scientific knowledge*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1990. Chapter 4 (pp. 101–140).

Nathoo, Ayesha. *Hearts exposed: transplants and the media in 1960s Britain*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009. Chapter 3 (pp. 57–85).

1 March Genetics and making maps

Falk, Raphael. ‘Applying and extending the notion of genetic linkage: the first fifty years’. In *Classical genetic research and its legacy: the mapping cultures of twentieth-century genetics*, edited by Hans-Jörg Rheinberger and Jean-Paul Gaudillière. Abingdon: Routledge, 2004. (pp. 34–56).

Hilgartner, Stephen. ‘Making maps and making social order’. In *From molecular genetics to genomics: the mapping cultures of twentieth-century genetics*, edited by Jean-Paul Gaudillière and Hans-Jörg Rheinberger. Abingdon: Routledge, 2004. (pp. 113–128).

15 March Medicine and the laboratory

Papers from the special issue of *Social History of Medicine* (forthcoming); details TBC.

Science and Literature Reading Group

Dialogues

We meet on **Mondays from 7.30 to 9pm in the Skillicorn Room at Homerton College**. Readings are available online: follow the links at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars.

Organised by Daniel Friesner (Science Museum), Melanie Keene (Homerton College) and Liz Smith (Darwin Correspondence Project). For more information, or to join our email list, please contact Daniel Friesner. *All welcome!*

31 January Plato, *Meno* (c. 380 BC)

14 February Galileo Galilei, *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* (1632) (Second Day)

28 February Denis Diderot, *The Dream of D’Alembert* (1769)

14 March Gerard Manley Hopkins, ‘On the Origin of Beauty’ (1865)
Oscar Wilde, ‘The Decay of Lying’ (1889)

History and Theory Reading Group

The group will discuss articles (their own, and those of others) relating to problems of historical research, interpretation, explanation and narration. Articles will be placed well in advance in a History and Theory box in the Whipple Library. Suggested additional readings are listed at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars/theory.html

We meet on **Fridays, 2.30pm to 4pm in Seminar Room 1**. Organised by Jenny Bangham and Katharina Kraus.

21 January **Sophie Waring (HPS, Cambridge)**

Boundary work in the history of science

Gieryn, Thomas F., 'Boundary-work and the Demarcation of Science from Non-Science: Strains and Interests in Professional Ideologies of Scientists'. *American Sociological Review* (1983) 48. 6, 781–795.

Barton, Ruth, 'Men of Science: Language, Identity and Professionalization in the mid-Victorian Scientific Community'. (2003) *History of Science*. 41, 73–119.

4 February **Daniel Wilson (Cambridge Victorian Studies Group)**

Truth and postmodernity

Paul Forman, '(Re)Cognizing Postmodernity: Helps for Historians – of Science Especially' in *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte* 33, 2 (2010): 157–75.

Paul Forman, 'Truth and Objectivity, Part 1: Irony' in *Science* 269, 5223 (1995): 565–567.

Paul Forman, 'Truth and Objectivity, Part 2: Trust' in *Science* 269, 5224 (1995): 707–710.

18 February **Sam James (Faculty of History, Cambridge)**

Narrative, knowledge and explanation in the critical philosophy of history

Louis O. Mink, 'The Autonomy of Historical Understanding', *History and Theory* 5 (1966): 24–47.

Louis O. Mink, 'History and Fiction as Modes of Comprehension', *New Literary History* 1 (1970): 541–58.

Louis O. Mink, 'Narrative Form as a Cognitive Instrument'. First published in *The Writing of History*, ed. R. Canary and H. Kozicki, 129–49 (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1978); now available more conveniently in Louis O. Mink, *Historical Understanding*, ed. Brian Fay, Eugene O. Golob, and Richard T. Vann, 182–203 (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1987), or in Geoffrey Roberts (ed.), *The History and Narrative Reader* (London: Routledge, 2001), 211–20.

4 March **Katharina Kraus (HPS, Cambridge)**

Critical uses of history by philosophers

Peter Hylton, *Russell, Idealism and the Emergence of Analytic Philosophy*. (Oxford: OUP, 1990), Introduction: 1–17.

Richard Rorty, 'The Historiography of Philosophy: Four genres' in: *Philosophy in History. Essays on the historiography of philosophy*, Richard Rorty, J.B. Schneewind, Quentin Skinner (eds.) (Cambridge: CUP, 1984), 49–75 (+ Introduction: 1–14).

Michael Rosen, 'The History of Philosophy as Philosophy', in Brian Leiter and Michael Rosen (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Continental Philosophy* (Oxford: OUP, 2007), 122–54.

Kant Reading Group

Kant's Transcendental Arguments

In Lent Term, we will try to explore Kant's notion of transcendental argument and we also discuss more recent interpretations of transcendental arguments, such as those by Cassam, McDowell, Stroud and others.

Meetings are held in the **HPS Lodge from 3.30–5.00pm on Tuesdays**. 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.

- 25 January Addendum to the *Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science* (Michaelmas 2010)
Watkins, Eric 'Kant's Justification of the Laws of Mechanics', in: Eric Watkins (ed.) *Kant and the Sciences*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 136–159.
- 1 February An original: The transcendental argument for causality
Kant, Immanuel, *Critique of Pure Reason*, The Second Analogy (A189/B232–A211/B256)
- 8 February Stern, Robert (1999) 'On Kant's Response to Hume: The Second Analogy as Transcendental Argument', in: Robert Stern (ed.) (1999) *Transcendental Arguments*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 47–66.
- 15 February Cassam, Quassim (1999) 'Self-Directed Transcendental Arguments', in: Robert Stern (ed.) *Transcendental Arguments*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 83–110.
Cassam, Quassam (1987) 'Transcendental Arguments, Transcendental Synthesis and Transcendental Idealism', in: *Philosophical Quarterly* 37(149), 355–378.
- 22 February McDowell, John (2008) 'The Disjunctive Conception of Experience as Material for a Transcendental Argument', in: Fiona Macpherson & Adrian Haddock (eds.), *Disjunctivism: Perception, Action, Knowledge*. Oxford University Press.
- 1 March Lear, J. and Stroud, B. (1984), 'The Disappearing "We"', *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, Supplementary Volumes, 58, 219–58.
- 8 March Chang, Hasok (2008) 'Contingent Transcendental Arguments for Metaphysical Principles', in: *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement* 63, 113–133.
- 15 March Bell, David (1999) 'Transcendental Arguments and Non-Naturalistic Anti-Realism', in: Robert Stern (ed.) *Transcendental Arguments*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 189–210.

Language groups

Latin Therapy

Latin Therapy will meet on **Fridays in the HPS Lodge from 4–5.30pm**. 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. To be added to the mailing list, or to suggest a text, please contact Susannah Gibson.