

# Seminars

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## Departmental Seminars

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

Organised by Karin Ekholm.

- 19 January **Staffan Müller-Wille (University of Exeter)**  
*Seventh Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine*  
Revisiting the Mendelian revolution
- 26 January **Huw Price (Faculty of Philosophy, Cambridge)**  
Time's arrow and Eddington's challenge
- 2 February **Michela Massimi (University College London)**  
Scientific perspectivism and its foes
- 9 February **Irma Taavitsainen (University of Helsinki)**  
Medical discourse and scientific thought-styles: what changes and what remains constant
- 16 February **Andreas Mayer (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)**  
Impossible objects? Towards a history of modern sleep and dream research
- 23 February **Ellen Clarke (All Souls College, Oxford)**  
How to count organisms
- 1 March **Mauricio Suárez (Universidad Complutense de Madrid and LSE)**  
Metaphors, similarities and inferences
- 8 March **Marta Hanson (Johns Hopkins University)**  
Visualizing the geography of diseases in China, 1870s–1920s

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

Seminar information is also available at [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars)

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

# Abstracts

19 January **Staffan Müller-Wille (University of Exeter)**  
*Seventh Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine*  
Revisiting the Mendelian revolution

Much research into heredity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries took place in such applied contexts as seed production, breeding yeast and cereals for large-scale beer making, mass-manufacture of vaccines, efforts to further public health, administration of psychiatric hospitals and eugenic programmes. In these areas increasing division of labour and more bureaucratic control promoted a culture of expertise and scientificity. We need to understand this if we want to explain the effect on the life sciences of the so-called rediscovery of Mendel's laws in 1900. Mendelism was not taken up as a theory, but as a set of important methods for realizing scientific values such as analyticity, exactitude, calculability and predictability. Breeders and eugenicists, in particular, shared a combinatorial approach that promised the transparent and reliable production of effects from one generation to the next. Synthetic chemistry, not physics, provided the model science. Framed in this way, the origin of genetics appears as much less of a revolutionary break. The concepts and procedures of early Mendelians fitted rather well into a world that had already been thoroughly shaped by medical and agro-industrial concerns with the production of stable varieties.

26 January **Huw Price (Faculty of Philosophy, Cambridge)**  
Time's arrow and Eddington's challenge

When Sir Arthur Eddington died in 1944, *Time* magazine noted that 'one of mankind's most reassuring cosmic thinkers' had passed away: 'Sir Arthur,' *Time* said, had 'discoursed on his cosmic subject with a wit and clarity rare among scientists.'

One of Eddington's favourite cosmic subjects was 'time's arrow', a term he himself introduced to the literature in his 1928 book, *The Nature of the Physical World* (though without his celebrated clarity about what it actually means, as Grunbaum was later to note). What is clear is that Eddington thought that there is something essential about time that physics is liable to neglect: the fact that it 'goes on', as he often puts it.

Despite the best efforts of Grunbaum, Smart and many other philosophers to pour cold water on this idea, similar claims are still made today, in physics as well as in philosophy. All sides in these debates can profit, in my view, by going back to Eddington. Eddington appreciates some of the pitfalls of these claims with greater clarity than most of their contemporary proponents; and also issues a challenge to rival views that deserves to be better known.

2 February **Michela Massimi (University College London)**  
Scientific perspectivism and its foes

In this paper I discuss Ron Giere's scientific perspectivism (2006) and a recent challenge raised by Anjan Chakravartty (*SHPS* 41, 2010). Scientific perspectivism is meant to be a middle ground between what Giere calls 'objectivist realism' and 'relativism', but – as foes have noted – the position seems trapped between two strictures. It either (1) collapses into another variant of relativism, or (2) it is not worth pursuing since perspectival knowledge is ultimately reducible to non-perspectival knowledge of objects' dispositions.

I tackle objection (2), and show that perspectivism is worth pursuing after all. Perspectival knowledge does not reduce to knowledge of non-perspectival, dispositional facts about the target system, if we interpret 'reduce' in the philosophically interesting, epistemic sense of how we come to know those facts. I draw on Ernest Sosa's perspectival coherentism to illustrate this point against dispositional realists.

9 February **Irma Taavitsainen (University of Helsinki)**

Medical discourse and scientific thought-styles: what changes and what remains constant

Corpus linguistic studies have shown that it is possible to trace the lines of changing thought-styles in different layers of writing in more detail than has been done before. For this purpose, we are compiling a large electronic database with background information of language-external facts. Two parts have already been published: *Middle English Medical Texts 1375–1500* (2005) and *Early Modern English Medical Texts 1500–1700* (2010). The third part, *Late Modern English Medical Texts 1700–1800*, is under way. We have already conducted some studies with focus on what changes and how and why changes take place. The results show that conventions are carried over from previous texts, and stylistic innovations take place within the existing frame of old traditions. The great majority of writings do not change much, or they change very slowly. The old scholastic way of writing with frequent references to authorities gains new stylistic functions, e.g. to lend an aura of learning to texts for more heterogeneous and popular audiences in the early modern period. In my talk I shall explain the theoretical and methodological background, describe the corpus, and finish with an empirical study of keyword analysis.

16 February **Andreas Mayer (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)**

Impossible objects? Towards a history of modern sleep and dream research

In my talk, I will address rise of the scientific study of sleeping and dreaming in Europe and the US after 1850. Whereas dreams have always been a troubling phenomenon for Western rationality, attempts at the systematic observation and control of the dreaming process only emerged in the 19th century. Within a new scientific culture of objectivity, dreams posed a challenge: since they appear in the sleeper's mind as fleeting phenomena and can only be known after awakening, they could hardly be considered as observable objects; and more disturbingly, their irregular, immoral, and irrational aspects threatened the unity of the observer. This twofold uncertainty gave rise to a regime of observation in which dreams and similar mental phenomena were objectified, a process in which the use of new visual media was of key importance. By reconstructing the genealogies of the practices by which dreams were objectified, my aim is not only to bring to the fore the specificities of the cross-disciplinary field of sleep and dream research, but also to offer historical and epistemological elucidations of the current ambitions voiced by the exponents of new subdisciplines (most notably cognitive or neuroscientific approaches to psychoanalysis).

23 February **Ellen Clarke (All Souls College, Oxford)**

How to count organisms

Organisms are indispensable objects in our everyday ontology and in biology. We know that counting particular lumps of living matter, and not others, allows us to describe and make predictions about evolutionary processes. Yet we lack a theory telling us which lumps to count. In some cases the answer is obvious; we find it easy to count piglets without worrying that we have confused parts of the mother with her babies. Yet once we turn to organisms which reproduce by tearing themselves in half (starfish) or growing copies of themselves at the ends of their limbs (plants) our intuitions desert us. Darwin's *Origin of the Species* describes how the differential births and deaths of individuals produce evolutionary change. If we cannot decide how to count some creatures then we cannot apply our evolutionary theory to them. Do they fall outside of evolution then? Or is the intuitive organism really less obvious than we think? I present a novel definition of the organism which achieves a reconciliation of conflicting accounts by identifying a common functional effect of the mechanisms identified in those different accounts.

1 March **Mauricio Suárez (Universidad Complutense de Madrid and LSE)**  
Metaphors, similarities and inferences

I review and update Max Black's 'interactive' view of metaphor. On this view metaphor cannot be reduced to, or analyzed in terms of, similarity. A metaphor does not merely state a similarity; it rather brings into being a similarity that was not there before. The interactive view has cash value in literary theory, where it originates, but its application to science has often been questioned. I defend a version of the interactive view by providing an account of the role that metaphor plays in fostering inferences from representational sources to targets. The account draws on historical scholarship on 19th-century electrodynamics, and I point out some relevant links with Mary Hesse's celebrated work on models.

8 March **Marta Hanson (Johns Hopkins University)**  
Visualizing the geography of diseases in China, 1870s–1920s

From the beginning, medical mapping was not just a way of thinking but also a way to visualize certain conceptions of knowledge. Physicians used them for various functions in China from the 1870s, when they first published them to work out causal relationships, to the 1910s and 20s, when they transformed them for new political purposes. They were also one of the most succinct ways to circulate complex syntheses of then current medical knowledge. The earliest disease maps were statements in an argument, evidence furthering a specific case, and visualizations of possible causal relationships. On the one hand, disease incidence, and on the other hand, potential causes – the climate or weather, water and air quality, geological features such as elevation, waterways and mountains, or an unknown poison in the environment. Over 50 maps of diseases in China were published from the 1870s to the 1920s. They were both analytical tools intended to visualize the relationship between space and disease and political images that legitimated colonial control (Russian in Harbin, English in Hong Kong), and later, provided evidence of Chinese state power over their populations. They also present a visual history of major changes in the conception of what was modern Western knowledge within China from the mid 19th-century peak of medical geography to the eventual victory of laboratory medicine by the early 20th century. The earliest disease maps, like 19th-century vital statistics and Petri-dishes, made causal relations newly visible. During the 1910–20s, however, new kinds of maps of diseases in China functioned more to legitimate colonial and later Chinese state-populace relationships than to elucidate causal disease-agent ones. Finally, the first disease maps in vernacular Chinese were of the distribution of bubonic plague, pneumonic plague, cholera, and apoplexy in China and the world. Published on public-health posters in the late 1920s, they attempted to convince a wary public of an entirely novel way of seeing epidemic disease, themselves, and their place in a newly globalizing world.

# 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 Sophie Waring.

- 23 January **Caitlin Wylie (HPS, Cambridge)**  
Creativity and the construction of fossils: 'The artist's piece is already in the stone'
- 30 January **Dominic Berry (University of Leeds)**  
Agricultural science and the Development Commission: the Olby account revisited
- 6 February **Miruna Achim (Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, Mexico City)**  
Skulls and idols: anthropometrics, antiquity collections, and the origin of American man
- 13 February **Karin Ekholm (HPS, Cambridge)**  
Recalled into stalk and leaves: the many methods and meanings of early modern palingenesis
- 20 February **Dmitriy Myelnikov (HPS, Cambridge)**  
Virgin birth crosses the Atlantic: Jacques Loeb's experiments on artificial parthenogenesis in the British press, 1900–06
- 27 February **Caroline Cornish (Royal Holloway)**  
Curating science in an age of empire: the Kew Museums of Economic Botany
- 5 March **William Burns (Imperial College London)**  
Apple cultures: pests, pumps and pipes in interwar British orchards
- 12 March **Jenny Uglow**  
Thomas Bewick, engraving the world

## 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 Karin Ekholm, Vanessa Heggie and Elaine Leong.

- 24 January **Yolanda Eraso (University of Oxford)**  
Imagin(in)g the breast: mammography and breast cancer in the context of South-North American exchanges
- 14 February **Christelle Rabier (LSE)**  
Fitting for health: steel-trusses in the enlightened economy of healthcare
- 21 February **Matthew Smith (University of Strathclyde)**  
A pre-peanut history of food allergy
- 6 March **Jennifer Richards (Newcastle University)**  
Useful books: reading vernacular regimens in 16th-century England

## 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](http://www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk)). Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

Organised by Nick Hopwood.

- 31 January **Kate Fisher (University of Exeter)**  
British 'sexology' and the uses of the past
- 28 February **Ed Ramsden (University of Exeter)**  
Health, height and intelligence in history: surveying the British population through the 20th century

## Generation to Reproduction Reading Group

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

This term's meeting will be at 5–7pm (tea from 4.50) on **Tuesday 7 February in Seminar Room 1**. (The session on 13 March is for the PIs only.) To join the group, please email [generate@hermes.cam.ac.uk](mailto:generate@hermes.cam.ac.uk).

# Twentieth Century Think Tank

The Twentieth Century Think Tank (TCTT) is a discussion group organised by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows at HPS. It offers broad coverage of 20th- and 21st-century topics in the history, philosophy and sociology of science, technology and medicine.

Meetings are held **every other Tuesday during term from 1pm–2pm in Seminar Room 1**. All welcome, and feel free to bring lunch! There will also be occasional film and documentary showings.

For more information, please visit our website <https://sites.google.com/site/hpsthinktank>. To join the mailing list, please contact the organisers, Leon Rocha and Kathryn Schoefert.

- 31 January **Alison McDougall-Weil (Engineering Design Centre, Cambridge)**  
The case of social interaction in bioscience laboratories: a multi-site ethnographic study of design intent and user experience
- 14 February **Leslie Topp (Birkbeck, University of London and CRASSH, Cambridge)**  
The challenge of the asylum mortuary in early 20th-century Central Europe
- 28 February **Julie Walsh (HPS, Cambridge)**  
The narcissist and the coquette: contesting figures of sexual sociability
- 13 March **Duncan Wilson (University of Manchester)**  
Principles, pluralism and ‘moral experts’: reassessing the history of bioethics

# Things: Material Cultures of the Long Eighteenth Century

The seminar meets **alternate Tuesdays 12.30–2.30pm in the CRASSH Seminar Room at 7 West Road on the Sidgwick Site**. A light lunch will be provided.

Each seminar features two talks considering the same type of object from different perspectives. Further information at [www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1036/thingsmaterial-cultures-18thc.htm](http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1036/thingsmaterial-cultures-18thc.htm)

- 24 January **John Styles (University of Hertfordshire)**  
**Amy Miller (National Maritime Museum)**  
Fashion
- 7 February **Philippa Hubbard (Adam Matthew Digital)**  
**Jenny Basford (University of York)**  
Advertising
- 21 February **Dame Rosalind Saville (Wallace Collection)**  
**Anne Gerritsen (University of Warwick)**  
Porcelain
- 6 March **Katie Scott (Courtauld Institute of Art)**  
**Hannah Williams (University of Oxford)**  
Artist’s things

# Graduate workshops

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## HPS History Workshop

Are you wishing for advice on how to write the tricky bit of your argument? Not sure how to write a good introduction? Trying to convert an essay or a chapter into an article? Sign up to share a draft of your next PhD chapter, book chapter, conference paper, journal article or MPhil essay with an audience of friendly HPS postgraduates and postdocs!

The History Workshop is an informal setting to discuss your written works-in-progress on any area of the history of science, medicine and technology, and get feedback from your early-career colleagues. Your paper will be circulated by email before the workshop. We'll then discuss it together over tea and biscuits at **5pm on alternate Wednesdays in Seminar Room 1**.

Sign up now to share your work with this new format of the History Workshop! Please contact Rohan Deb Roy or Caitlin Wylie.

- 1 February **Jiri Hudecek**: How to assess influence: Wu Wen-Tsun's work in measure, number and weight
- 15 February **Francis Neary**: Technological trajectories of hip replacement
- 29 February **Dmitriy Myelnikov**: 'Mouse No. 48' and 'Mouse No. 73': first gene transfer experiments, 1977–1980
- 14 March **Ruth Horry**: Egoists and intriguers? Disciplinary conflict in Assyriology at the University of Pennsylvania around 1900

## 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** (starting 25 January) **from 1–2pm in Seminar Room 1**. If you would like to present, or have any questions, please contact Emily McTernan.

## Graduate Training

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



# Reading and discussion groups

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## Philosophy of Science Reading Group

We will be reading selected chapters from two anthologies by John Dupré: *Humans and Other Animals* (OUP, 2002) and *Processes of Life* (OUP, 2012). Meetings will involve a short presentation by a member of the group followed by a general discussion.

Meetings will take place on **Thursdays at 2–3.30pm in Seminar Room 1** and are open to all. Organised by Hasok Chang and Jonathan Birch.

- 19 January ‘The Constituents of Life 1: Species, Microbes and Genes’ (*Processes* Ch. 4)
- 26 January ‘The Constituents of Life 2: Organisms and Systems’ (*Processes* Ch. 5)
- 2 February ‘Varieties of Living Things: Life at the Intersection of Lineage and Metabolism’ (*Processes* Ch. 12)
- 9 February ‘Causality and Human Nature in the Social Sciences’ (*Processes* Ch. 16)
- 16 February ‘Human Kinds’ (*Humans* Ch. 6)
- 23 February ‘Sex, Gender and Essence’ (*Humans* Ch. 8)
- 1 March ‘The Inseparability of Science and Values’ (*Processes* Ch. 3)
- 8 March Q&A session with John Dupré (Background reading: ‘The Miracle of Monism’ (*Processes* Ch. 1))

## Philosophy of Biology Reading Group

We will be reading *Evolution and the Levels of Selection* by Samir Okasha (OUP, 2006). Meetings will involve a short presentation by a member of the group followed by a general discussion.

Meetings will take place on **Fridays at 2–3pm in the Lodge Seminar Room** and are open to all. Organised by Jonathan Birch.

- 20 January Chapter 1, ‘Natural Selection in the Abstract’
- 27 January Chapter 2, ‘Selection at Multiple Levels: Concepts and Methods’
- 3 February Chapter 3, ‘Causality and Multi-Level Selection’
- 10 February Chapter 4, ‘Philosophical Issues in the Levels-of-Selection Debate’
- 17 February Chapter 5, ‘The Gene’s-Eye View and Its Discontents’
- 24 February Chapter 6, ‘The Group Selection Controversy’
- 2 March Chapter 7, ‘Species Selection, Clade Selection, and Macroevolution’
- 9 March Chapter 8, ‘Levels of Selection and the Major Evolutionary Transitions’

# Science and Literature Reading Group

## Botany and Literature

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

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

### 30 January Travellers' tales

'Description of the poison-tree, in the island of Java, by N.P. Foersch. Translated from the original Dutch, by Mr. Heydinger.' *The London Magazine*, Vol. 52, 1783, pp. 512–517.

Stéphanie Félicité de Genlis, *Zuma, ou la decouverte de quinquina* (1817), translated as *Zuma, or the tree of health*, London: 1818.

### 13 February The joys of botanising

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Letters on the Elements of Botany: Addressed to a Lady*, translated by Thomas Martyn. Second edition, London: 1787. Letter I, 22 August 1771, pp. 19–26.

Grant Allen, 'Dissecting a Daisy'. *Cornhill Magazine*, Vol. 37, Jan. 1878, pp. 61–75.

A.J. Cronin, *A Song of Sixpence*, Ch. 13, pp. 103–111. London: Heinemann, 1964.

### 27 February The loves of the botanists

Erasmus Darwin, *The Loves of the Plants* (1789), Canto I. Fourth edition 1796, pp. 1–38.

Charlotte Smith, 'A Walk in the Shrubbery'. In *Beachy Head, with Other Poems*, London: 1807, pp. 125–130.

W.R. Megaw, *Ulota*, Ch. VIII, pp. 66–87, 'A story with many interruptions'. Belfast: The Quota Press, 1934.

### 12 March Deadly pursuits

Nathaniel Hawthorne, 'Rappaccini's Daughter', first published under the title 'Writings of Aubépine', *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*, Vol. XV, December 1844, pp. 545–560. Reprinted in *Mosses from an Old Manse* (1846). Edinburgh: 1883, pp. 93–130.

John Murray Reynolds, 'The Devil-Plant'. *Weird Tales*, Vol. 12, Sept 1928, pp. 295–302, 430–432.

## 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 we will continue with our theme of ‘**Elements of Controversy**’, while broadening our focus to include cross-cultural encounters.

The group meets four times per term, on **Mondays, 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](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc).

Organised by Hasok Chang and Jenny Rampling.

23 January **Geoffrey Lloyd (HPS, Cambridge)**

Fire and water: Elements? Processes? Greek and Chinese views

Extracts from Heraclitus (12, 30 and 31 in Kirk, Raven & Schofield, *Presocratic Philosophers*), Aristotle (*De Caelo* III 3 and *De Generatione et Corruptione* II 3–5) and Theophrastus (*On Fire*, chs. 3–4).

*The Huainanzi: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Government in Early Han China*, by Liu An, King of Huainan, trans. & ed. J.S. Major, S. Queen, A. Meyer, and H. Roth (New York, 2010), chs. 3–4.

6 February **Vangelis Koutalis (University of Ioannina)**

The conception of elements in Humphry Davy’s *Elements of Chemical Philosophy*  
Humphry Davy, *Elements of Chemical Philosophy*, Pt. 1, Vol. 1 (London, 1812), pp. xi–xiv, 478–489.

Thomas Thomson, *Elements of Chemistry*, Vol. I (Philadelphia, 1810), pp. 13–14, 67, 92.

John Murray, *Elements of Chemistry* (Edinburgh, 1810), pp. 13–16.

20 February ‘Oxygen’ (details TBC)

5 March **Gabriele Ferrario (Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, Cambridge)**

Sulphur and mercury: Judaeo-Arabic alchemy in the Cairo Genizah

Gabriele Ferrario, ‘Judaeo-Arabic Alchemy and Medicine’ (draft book chapter).

## Twentieth-Century Biology Reading Group

The group will discuss papers relating to the history, philosophy and historiography of 20th-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 the Lodge Seminar Room**. Organised by Dmitriy Myelnikov and Salim Al-Gailani.

24 January Ilana Löwy, *A Woman’s Disease: The History of Cervical Cancer* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)

7 February Ilana Löwy, *Preventive Strikes: Women, Precancer, and Prophylactic Surgery* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010), chapters TBA

21 February Hans-Jörg Rheinberger, *An Epistemology of the Concrete: Twentieth-Century Histories of Life* (Durham & London: Duke University Press, 2010), chapters TBA

6 March Michael Lynch, Simon A. Cole, Ruth McNally and Kathleen Jordan, *Truth Machine: The Contentious History of DNA Fingerprinting* (University of Chicago Press: 2009), chapters TBA

# History and Theory Reading Group

## Classics in Integrated HPS

This term we continue our series on influential past works that combine history of science and philosophy of science. There will be meetings on three linked nineteenth-century authors (Whewell, Mill and Peirce) followed by one meeting on the Department's founder, Gerd Buchdahl.

We meet on **alternate Fridays, 2.30pm to 4pm in Seminar Room 1**. Articles will be placed in a History and Theory box in the Whipple and emailed to the hps-discussion list. Organised by Michael Bycroft and Minwoo Seo.

20 January **Simon Schaffer** introduces William Whewell's 'History/Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences'

Selections from Whewell's 'History of the Inductive Sciences' and 'Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences'.

Selections from Simon Schaffer, 'Whewell's Politics of Language', in *William Whewell: A Composite Portrait*, ed. Menachem Fisch and Simon Schaffer (Oxford: Clarendon, 1991).

Richard Yeo, 'Using History' (ch. 6), in *Defining Science: William Whewell, Natural Knowledge, and Public Debate in Early Victorian Britain* (Cambridge University Press, 1993).

3 February **Anna Alexandrova** introduces John Stuart Mill's 'On the Logic of the Moral Sciences'

Selections from Mill's 'On the Logic of the Moral Sciences' (Bk. VI), in *A System of Logic* (Toronto University Press, [1843], 1974).

Laura Snyder, 'Mill's Radicalization of Induction', in *Reforming Philosophy: A Victorian Debate on Science and Society* (University of Chicago Press, 2006).

17 February **Chiara Ambrosio** introduces Charles Sanders Peirce's philosophy of history of science

Selections from Peirce, *Historical Perspectives on Peirce's Logic of Science*, ed. by Carolyn Eisele (New York: Mouton, 1985).

Chiara Ambrosio, 'Reasoning in Action: Charles S. Peirce and the History of Science'.

(Optional) John Wettersten and Joseph Agassi, 'Whewell's Problematic Heritage', in *William Whewell: A Composite Portrait*, ed. by Menachem Fisch and Simon Schaffer (Oxford: Clarendon, 1991).

2 March **Katharina Kraus** introduces Gerd Buchdahl's 'Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Science'

Selections from Buchdahl, 'Kant: The Shift from Metaphysics to Transcendental Logic', in *Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Science: the Classical Tradition from Descartes to Kant* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1969).

Buchdahl, 'The Study of Science as Vocation and as Criticism' (*The Cambridge Review*, 9 June, 1962).

Buchdahl, '25 Years of HPS at Cambridge' (*The Cambridge Review*, Dec. 1989).

Nick Jardine, 'Hermeneutic Strategies in Gerd Buchdahl's Kantian Philosophy of Science', *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A*, 34 (2003), 183–208.

# Kant Reading Group

In Lent Term, we will read the **Analytic** of the *Critique of Practical Reason* (1788).

The *Critique of Practical Reason*, the second of Immanuel Kant's three *Critiques*, deals with his account of moral philosophy. In it, Kant develops his theory of practical reason as the faculty for determining the will and he restates his claim to have discovered the supreme principle of practical reason, which he calls the Categorical Imperative (5:21; 5:30). According to Kant, this principle is an imperative for finite beings like us, who have needs and inclinations and are not perfectly rational. Alongside the derivation of his supreme moral principle, Kant analyses its relation to the idea of freedom. Thus, he gives a short, yet powerful argument from freedom to the Categorical Imperative (5:19–30). In addition to claiming that freedom implies subjection to the Categorical Imperative, Kant also argues that moral obligation implies freedom. Furthermore, Kant maintains that the consciousness of this fundamental moral law is a 'fact of reason' because one cannot derive it from any other data of reason (5:31) – a claim that has caused considerable controversy among commentators.

Meetings are held in the **Lodge Seminar Room, 3.30–5.00pm on Mondays**. 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.

Kant, Immanuel (1788, 1996) (CpracR) *Critique of Practical Reason*, trans. and ed. Mary J. Gregor, Cambridge: CUP.

23 January Preface & Introduction, 5:03–16

30 January Chapter I: On the Principles of Pure Practical Reason (1.–6.), 5:19–30

6 February Chapter I: On the Principles of Pure Practical Reason (7.–8.), 5:31–41

13 February I. On the Deduction of the Principles of Pure Practical Reason, 5:42–50  
II. On the Warrant of the Pure Reason in its Practical Use, 5:50–57

20 February Chapter II: On the concept of an object of pure practical reason, 5:57–71

27 February Chapter III: On the incentives of pure practical reason, 5:71–89

5 March Critical Elucidation of the Analytic of Pure Practical Reason, 5:89–106

12 March Outlook: Dialectic:

Chapter II: On the dialectic of pure practical reason in determining the concept of the highest good, 5:110–113

III. On the Primacy of Pure Practical Reason in its Connection with Speculative Reason, 5:119–121

# Philosophy and History of Physics Reading Group

## The Rise of Field Physics

This reading group meets on **Tuesdays, 2.30–3.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Organised by Hasok Chang, Simon Schaffer, Nazim Bouatta and Jeremy Butterfield.

See [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars) for this term's schedule.

# Language groups

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## Latin Therapy

Latin Therapy will meet on **Fridays in the Lodge Seminar Room from 4–5.30pm**. The first meeting this term will take place on 20 January and the last on 16 March. All levels are welcome and beginners are strongly encouraged to come along. Each week we will cover some introductory grammar, followed by a text suggested by members. The pain of the ablative absolute will be salved with copious tea and biscuits!

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

## Greek Therapy

Greek Therapy meets **every Wednesday during term time in the Lodge Seminar Room from 5.30 to 7pm**.

We are an informal group for beginners and for experienced readers of Greek seeking to brush up their skills. The first hour of every session consists of a basic grammar session and reading simple texts, followed by an hour of reading a slightly more advanced text (TBA, but often Plato). For information or to be added to the mailing list, please email Liz Smith.