

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 Helen Curry.

- 16 January ***Ninth Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine***
Malcolm Nicolson (University of Glasgow)
The clinic of the birth: obstetric ultrasound, medical innovation and the clinico-anatomical project
- 23 January **Phyllis Illari (UCL)**
Information channels and biomarkers of disease
- 30 January **Alice Bamford (English, Cambridge)**
Demotic mathematics and modernism's shipwrecked poetics of insurance
- 6 February **Geoffrey Cantor (UCL)**
New perspectives on the Great Exhibition
- 13 February **Shane Glackin (University of Exeter)**
Two views of linguistic science and its data
- 20 February **Catherine Jami (CNRS-SPHERE, Paris)**
Science and empire: the view from Beijing, c. 1700
- 27 February **Stephen Pumfrey (Lancaster University)**
Harrisonomastix: dismantling the connection between experimental religion and experimental science in early modern England
- 6 March **Rae Langton (Philosophy, Cambridge)**
Generic speech acts and social kinds

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

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

Abstracts

16 January *Ninth Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine*
Malcolm Nicolson (University of Glasgow)

The clinic of the birth: obstetric ultrasound, medical innovation and the clinico-anatomical project

Ultrasonic images of the fetus are now ubiquitous. Like many innovations in medical imaging, the origins of obstetric ultrasound are often located in medical physics and engineering rather than to clinical medicine. I will argue, by contrast, for the crucial role of clinical pathology in the invention of diagnostic ultrasound. Several authors, notably Foucault in *The Birth of the Clinic*, have described the impact on 19th-century medicine of systematic correlation between lesions revealed upon dissection and signs and symptoms observed while the patient was still alive. Laboratory medicine is widely presented as having eclipsed the clinico-anatomical project in the 20th century. This lecture will show that clinical pathology continued to inspire innovation in medical imaging after 1950. It will also argue that ultrasonic scanning is more like traditional forms of physical examination than is usually assumed.

Discussion led by Malcolm Nicolson: James Young Simpson, the practice of gynaecological examination, and the 19th-century medical gaze

Thursday 16 January at 11.30am in Seminar Room 1 – all welcome

Historians of gynaecology and obstetrics enjoy relating tales of the 18th-century man-midwife fumbling blindly under bedclothes or petticoats. Such stories serve to mark a vivid contrast between an older, backward form of practice and a reformed gynaecology led by far-sighted men like James Young Simpson, Edinburgh Professor of Midwifery and pioneer of obstetric analgesia. It is assumed that Simpson, as a disinterested scientific clinician, would have had unrestricted access to the bodies of his patients. The removal of prudish hindrances signals how far gynaecology had emancipated itself from a benighted past. However, reading Simpson, it is evident that, in mid century, the practitioner's ability to examine female patients remained constrained by social conventions. Thus, the extent to which Simpson's practice represents a complete departure from older modes of gynaecological work has been exaggerated. By the 1850s, the medical gaze had gained only partial and conditional access to the female body.

23 January **Phyllis Illari (UCL)**

Information channels and biomarkers of disease

Current research in molecular epidemiology uses biomarkers to model the different disease phases from environmental exposure, to early clinical changes, to development of disease. The hope is to get a better understanding of the causal impact of a number of pollutants and chemicals on several diseases, including cancer and allergies. In a recent paper Russo and Williamson (2012) address the question of what evidential elements enter the conceptualisation and modelling stages of this type of biomarkers research. Recent research in causality has examined Ned Hall's distinction between two concepts of causality: production and dependence (Hall, 2004). In another recent paper, Illari (2011b) examined the relatively under-explored production approach to causality, arguing that at least one job of an account of causal production is to illuminate our inferential practices concerning causal linking. Illari argued that an informational account solves existing problems with traditional accounts.

This paper follows up this previous work by investigating the nature of the causal links established in biomarkers research, examining the methodologically innovative current FP7 project EXPOsOMICS (www.EXPOsOMICSproject.eu). We argue that traditional accounts of productive causality are unable to provide a sensible account of the nature of the causal link in biomarkers research, while an informational account is very promising.

30 January **Alice Bamford (English, Cambridge)**

Demotic mathematics and modernism's shipwrecked poetics of insurance

'Demotic' or vernacular mathematics names the mathematical ideas and practices that are woven into literature: counting, statistics, half-forgotten schoolroom geometry, measurement and risk. In this paper I will unpick the ideas about probability that literary modernism inherits from mathematical probability theory, statistics, accident insurance and 19th-century philosophy. Adolphe Quetelet believed that the mean values of society's gathered facts could form the contours both of the 'average man' and of a refined literary method. The literary future of the average man didn't, of course, play out quite as Quetelet expected. Nonetheless the average man, the Gaussian distribution and the 'law of large numbers' have had a literary history. I will sketch one version of this history through a reading of Robert Musil's *The Man Without Qualities* (1930–43) before looking at the grammar of probability as it is lived with, habituated and estranged by modernism's 'insurance men': Leopold Bloom, Wallace Stevens and Franz Kafka. The categories I will propose ('demotic mathematics' and the 'poetics of insurance') are tentative attempts to take the history and sociology of applied mathematics into account when reading literature written 'in the landscape of the curve'.

6 February **Geoffrey Cantor (UCL)**

New perspectives on the Great Exhibition

The Great Exhibition of 1851 is widely regarded as a major public event that has provided a common focus for scholars studying diverse aspects of 19th-century history. However, despite an extensive secondary literature the meaning of the Exhibition has proved elusive and research has concentrated on a few disparate areas to the neglect of many others. In gathering material for a recently-published documentary history of the Exhibition I became increasingly aware of the vast range of meanings that contemporaries attributed to it – scientific, technological, social, political, religious, etc. – while historians have added further perspectives. The problem of engaging the Exhibition is compounded by the extensive range of sources that it generated, some of which have been neglected by historians; in particular commentaries in the contemporary periodical literature and the accounts written by visitors. Thus, for example, in contrast to the narratives manufactured by the Exhibition's organisers, visitors' accounts show how individuals with different backgrounds and interests navigated the Exhibition. Drawing on a variety of sources this paper will offer some new perspectives on the Exhibition and its significance for the history of the mid-19th century.

13 February **Shane Glackin (University of Exeter)**

Two views of linguistic science and its data

According to the increasingly radical view of Noam Chomsky and his followers, the only proper object of a truly scientific biolinguistics is the 'I-language'; the internal neurological structures possessed by individual mature speakers, and realised in their substantially-overlapping idiolects. According to a rival view, advanced by Stephen Anderson, Eva Jablonka, and myself, it makes neither conceptual nor evolutionary sense to think about the I-language in isolation from the public language object – corresponding more or less to Saussure's *langue* – of which it forms part.

As I further argue here, we cannot even have a *coherent* science concerned solely with idiolects. Chomsky advocates a 'Galilean' understanding of science, in which no individual datum or observation need tally exactly with the predictions of 'idealised' covering laws; but the idea that linguistics is concerned only with the I-language is belied by linguists' real-life methodology, which could not even make sense of linguistic data considered independently of the wider, norm-giving, linguistic community. Specifically, the ubiquitous process of identifying aberrant or 'ungrammatical' utterances presumes a normative status for grammatical rules which is explicitly eschewed by Chomsky, and available to linguists only on a communitarian understanding of language as a necessarily public phenomenon.

20 February **Catherine Jami (CNRS-SPHERE, Paris)**
Science and empire: the view from Beijing, c. 1700

Twentieth-century historiography of imperialism has consistently depicted China as patient rather than as agent. This view ignores the fact that from the mid-17th century onwards, Beijing was the centre of a large and aggressively expanding empire, an empire unique in that the great majority of its conquests remain intact to the present day. The neglected example of this great land empire enables us to transcend the stereotype of science and empire studies as mainly or solely concerned with the expansion of European powers overseas. In this talk, I will show how the sciences of empire were constructed during the first century of the Qing dynasty (1644–1911). Conversely, I will explore the extent to and the ways in which the Qing expansion in central Asia broadened the Chinese world of knowledge.

27 February **Stephen Pumfrey (Lancaster University)**
Harrisonomastix: dismantling the connection between experimental religion and experimental science in early modern England

The main purpose of this seminar is to demonstrate the power of research methods being developed at Lancaster University which apply computer linguistic analyses to scientific (and other) texts made available via *Early English Books Online*. The seminar will focus on early modern English discourses of experiment. I will argue that these methods have refuted the claim of Prof. Peter Harrison (*Intellectual History*, 2011: doi: 10.1080/17496977.2011.623882) that discourse of ‘experimental philosophy’ was facilitated by an earlier discourse of ‘experimental religion’.

6 March **Rae Langton (Philosophy, Cambridge)**
Generic speech acts and social kinds

Generics are a primitive default mode of generalizing: ‘Tigers have stripes’, ‘Birds fly’, ‘Mosquitoes carry the West Nile virus’. They pick up on significant or striking properties, and link them to a psychologically salient kind. Current work in psychology reveals their role in ‘essentialist’ thinking about natural and social kinds. I want to focus on their social role – e.g. ‘Women can’t do science’, ‘Hispanics are lazy’ – connecting this with their force when used in illocutionary speech acts. In the social domain generic speech acts can be powerful tools for the expression and creation of social norms, group prejudice, stereotyping, and hate speech. Their subtle workings make them hard to notice, and hard to fight. This talk will identify some problems, but thoughts about remedies will be welcome.

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 Natalie Lawrence.

- 20 January **Gowan Dawson (University of Leicester)**
Citizen Cuvier: radical appropriations of Georges Cuvier's law of correlation in Edinburgh and London, 1801–1837
- 27 January **Cassandra Gorman (English, Cambridge)**
The atom as metaphor: responses to atomism in 17th-century English literature
- 3 February **Anna Marie Roos (University of Lincoln)**
The elephant in the room: historians and scientists working together
- 10 February **Joydeep Sen (University of Kent)**
Philology, mythology and geology in colonial India
- 17 February **Margaret Carlyle (HPS, Cambridge)**
Skeletons in the cabinet and the Grand Tour of anatomy
- 24 February Cabinet outing: Linnean Society
- 3 March **Jon Agar (UCL)**
What counts as threatened? Population biology, objectivity and the sixth extinction
- 10 March **James Poskett (HPS, Cambridge)**
National types: the transatlantic publication and reception of *Crania Americana* (1839)

Twentieth Century Think Tank

The Twentieth Century Think Tank (TCTT) offers broad coverage of 20th- and 21st-century topics in the history, philosophy and sociology of science, technology and medicine. The regular programme of papers and discussions takes place on Thursday (fortnightly) over lunch.

This term's meetings are devoted to an exploration of atomic lives/the atomic age, and will complement a related set of readings in the Twentieth Century Reading Group, which meets on alternate Thursdays.

Think Tank meetings are held **every other Thursday, 1–2pm in Seminar Room 2**, beginning in the third week of term. All welcome! Organised by Richard Staley.

- 30 January **Richard Maguire (University of East Anglia)**
Framing the nuclear: the psychology of British governmental nuclear decision making
- 13 February **Milena Wazeck (University of East Anglia)**
Acid fallout: the 1980s US scientific and political debates on the atmospheric transport of sulphur dioxide
- 27 February **Adrian Bingham (University of Sheffield)**
'The monster'? The British popular press and nuclear culture, 1945–1960s

Early Medicine Seminars

Seminars are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 2**. Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

Organised by Lauren Kassell.

4 March **Sandra Cavallo (Royal Holloway)**

From the individual to the collective: changing ideas of complexion in the Italian health-advice literature of the long 16th century

History of Modern Medicine and Biology Seminars

Seminars are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 2**. Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

Organised by Helen Curry and Nick Hopwood.

21 January **Dmitriy Myelnikov (HPS, Cambridge)**

The multiple inventions of transgenic mice

25 February **Niki Vermeulen (University of Manchester)**

From reductionism towards integration: systems biology as a scientific social movement

Generation to Reproduction Seminars

This term we have two joint events at different times and in different places from usual.

Monday 27 January, 5.15pm

Helen King (Open University)

One-sex, two-sex, them and us? Changing sex and challenging 'Making Sex'

Joint event with CIRF and the Classics Faculty (c caucus).

Note: This seminar is at 5.15pm in Room G21 in the Faculty of Classics (Sidgwick Site).

Tuesday 18 February, 8.30pm

Alexandra Walsham (History, Cambridge)

Spiritual genetics: hereditary sin and religious genealogy in early modern England

Joint event with the Comparative Social and Cultural History Seminars on 'Generations'.

Note: This seminar is at 8.30pm in the Senior Parlour, Gonville Court, Gonville and Caius College.

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 **5.00–7.00pm** (tea from 4.50) on **Tuesdays 11 February and 11 March in Seminar Room 1**.

CamPoS

CamPoS (Cambridge Philosophy of Science) is a network of academics and students working in the philosophy of science in various parts of Cambridge, including the Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Faculty of Philosophy. For further details of the composition and activities of CamPoS, see www.camposgroup.org. The Wednesday afternoon seminar series features current research by CamPoS members as well as visitors to Cambridge and scholars based in nearby institutions. If you are interested in presenting in the series, please contact Christopher Clarke. If you have any queries or suggestions for other activities that CamPoS could undertake, please contact Huw Price, Jeremy Butterfield or Hasok Chang.

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

- 22 January **Mauricio Suarez (Complutense University of Madrid)**
Propensities and pragmatism
- 29 January **Lisa Bortolotti (University of Birmingham)**
The epistemic innocence project
- 5 February **Tim Lewens (HPS, Cambridge)**
TBC
- 12 February **Sophia Efstathiou (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)**
TBC
- 19 February **Alexander Bird (University of Bristol)**
Inference to the best explanation and paradigms
- 26 February **Leon Horsten (University of Bristol)**
TBC
- 5 March **Caterina Marchionni (University of Helsinki)**
TBC
- 12 March **Theo Kuipers (University of Groningen)**
Nomic truth approximation by revising models and postulates in the light of increasing evidence

Seminars at CRASSH

Global Science

Science operates on a global stage, but this is not a recent phenomenon. Our research group explores the relationship between global history and science studies. Science here is broadly construed. Histories of natural knowledge, technology and medicine all fall under the remit of this group. By adopting this approach we look to invite discussion on the relationship between the politics of globalisation and the making of the very category of ‘science’. What counts as science is precisely the product of a series of uneven historical encounters. Often the transit of scientific material, from books to barometers, relied on the lopsided development of colonialism and global capitalism. We therefore hope to trace, not only the movement of science across borders, but also the limits of the apparent globalisation of scientific knowledge.

In 2013–2014 we bring together speakers from history, geography and anthropology. By drawing on academics from across disciplines, we offer a new base for the growing network of academics working on global histories of science.

Seminars are held on **alternate Tuesdays, 12.00–2.00pm in Room SG1, Alison Richard Building, West Road**. Organised by James Poskett, James Hall and others.

Website: www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/global-science

- 21 January **Alison Bashford (History, Cambridge)**
Richard McKay (HPS, Cambridge)
Quarantine: local and global histories
- 4 February **Howard Chiang (University of Warwick)**
Rachel Leow (History, Cambridge)
Sex changed China: science, medicine and visions of transformation
- 18 February **Antonia Walford (University of Manchester / Open University)**
Jon Agar (UCL)
Scientific knowledge, observational data, and ‘dead heads’: a comparative exploration of informational flux in the Brazilian Amazon
- 4 March **Caroline Cornish (Royal Holloway / Kew)**
Francis Neary (Darwin Correspondence Project, Cambridge)
Imperial indigo: Kew, T.N. Mukharji, and the 19th-century exhibitionary complex

Things: Comparing Material Cultures, 1500–1900

The seminar meets **alternate Wednesdays, 12.00–2.00pm in Room SG2, Alison Richard Building, West Road**. Organised by Michelle Wallis, Lesley Steinitz and Sophie Waring.

Website: www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/things

- 15 January **Jason Scott-Warren (English, Cambridge)**
Nancy Cox (University of Wolverhampton)
Inventories of things
- 29 January **Lawrence Klein (History, Cambridge)**
Kate Retford (Birkbeck)
Polite things (to talk about): conversation pieces
- 12 February **Sarah Ann Robin (Lancaster University)**
Sally Holloway (Royal Holloway)
Romantic things
- 26 February **Tara Hamling (University of Birmingham)**
Catherine Richardson (University of Kent)
Domestic things

Field Notes: Histories of Archaeology and Anthropology

The seminar meets **alternate Mondays, 5.00–7.00pm in Room SG1, Alison Richard Building, West Road**. Organised by William Carruthers and others.

Website: www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/field-notes

- 20 January **Richard Staley (HPS, Cambridge)**
Simon Schaffer (HPS, Cambridge)
Physics, anthropology and the cultural history of mechanics, 1870–1930
- 3 February **Alice Stevenson (UCL)**
Ruth Horry (HPS, Cambridge)
Archaeological context in motion: Egyptian field sites and the world's museums, 1880–1930
- 17 February **Christina Riggs (University of East Anglia)**
Chris Wingfield (Archaeology, Cambridge)
Beautiful burials, beautiful skulls: the aesthetics of the Egyptian mummy
- 3 March **Stephen Quirke (UCL)**
Kate Nichols (CRASSH, Cambridge)
Egyptian archaeology under British military occupation, 1882–1956

Graduate workshops and seminars

HPS History Workshop

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

Please contact Andreas Sommer or Seb Falk if you are interested in sharing your work in this forum, or would like to be added to the mailing list to receive the papers before the seminars.

- 29 January **Clara Florensa (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)**
Spaces for debate between science and religion in Franco's Spain: the intellectual conversations of Poblet (1959–1961)
- 12 February **Ken Corbett (University of British Columbia)**
Sensible error and other silly notions: galvanizing time in Victorian London
- 26 February **Kathryn Schoefert (HPS, Cambridge)**
Grünthal, Nikolai Hartmann and Schichtenlehre: instituting brain anatomy in a 1950s Swiss psychiatric hospital
- 12 March **Melanie Keene (HPS, Cambridge)**
Dinosaurs don't die: the Crystal Palace monsters in children's literature, 1854–2001

HPS Philosophy Workshop

Would you like to get feedback on your work-in-progress in a friendly and supportive atmosphere? Texts will be circulated one week in advance and discussed over tea and biscuits in **Seminar Room 1 on alternate Fridays, 12–1pm** (please note the new day and time). Share a draft of your MPhil essay, PhD chapter, potential article, or any research-in-progress in the philosophy of science, broadly construed. Organised by Toby Bryant.

- 24 January **Brian Earp (HPS, Cambridge)**
The medicalisation of love
- 7 February **Matt Penfold (HPS, Cambridge)**
TBC
- 21 February **Marion Boulicault (HPS, Cambridge)**
TBC
- 7 March **Andrew Buskell (HPS, Cambridge)**
The prospects for Darwinian imperialism

Philosophy of Chemistry

Hasok Chang leads a series of four Graduate Seminars on **Mondays at 5pm in Seminar Room 2** on the dates listed below.

This series is intended to provide an introduction to key issues in the philosophy of chemistry, especially for those whose primary interests are in related fields such as the history of chemistry, the philosophy of physics or biology, and chemistry itself. Philosophical issues will always be formulated and illustrated through episodes from the history of chemistry, especially from the 18th century onward. The following questions will provide running themes for all sessions. How do general epistemological and metaphysical issues in the philosophy of science apply to chemistry? How does chemistry relate to other sciences? How can the history and the philosophy of chemistry interact productively?

20 January The relation between chemistry and physics

3 February Chemistry and realism

17 February Elements, classification and chemical practice

3 March The nature of the chemical bond

Clouds and Climate Change

Richard Staley leads a series of four Graduate Seminars on **Tuesdays at 2pm in Seminar Room 1**, weekly from 18 February.

This workshop follows both clouds and the science of climate change through nature, laboratory, computer representation, policy and public engagement, examining revealing episodes from the 19th century through to the present which have often turned on arguments about both the distant past and near future. Our dual focus will allow us to tackle issues critical to current understandings of the sciences, and to explore some of the key virtues and limitations of the historiography of the physical sciences. Particular themes will include politics and infrastructural sciences, and the early anthropogenic hypothesis.

Graduate Training

Training workshops for the Department's graduate students and postdoctoral researchers are held throughout the academic year. Most, but not all, are on **Fridays at 1pm**.

The full programme is available at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/students/training.

Reading and discussion groups

Coffee with Scientists

The aim of this new group is to explore and enhance the interface between HPS and science. Many of us in HPS already have close engagements with science and scientists, but we do not often pull together our activities in those directions. We could benefit from more explicit discussions about the relationship between HPS and the sciences themselves, and from encouraging HPS-scholars and scientists to help each other's work. Many of our graduate students and postdocs currently work in isolation from scientists; they may benefit from the stimulation of interactions with colleagues and mentors from various science departments (in Cambridge and elsewhere), difficult to induce in our regular seminars and reading groups, which tend to be infused with standard HPS expectations, assumptions and customs.

During Lent Term 2014 we will meet on **alternate Fridays, 3.30–5.00pm in Seminar Room 2**, on the following dates: 24 January, 7 February, 21 February, and 7 March. In addition, we may also organise evening meetings in social spaces outside the Department. Organised by Hasok Chang.

Nature and Culture Reading Group

Meetings will take place on **Tuesdays, 1.00–2.00pm in Seminar Room 1**.

This term the reading group will focus on developmental systems theory and its critics. We will be discussing various readings from *Cycles of Contingency: Developmental Systems and Evolution*, edited by Susan Oyama, Paul E. Griffiths and Russell D. Gray. Please contact Beth Hannon if you have any difficulty locating the readings.

- 21 January Lewontin, R.C., 'Gene, Organism, and Environment: A New Introduction' (pp. 55–7) and 'Gene, Organism, and Environment' (pp. 59–66)
- 28 January Laland, K.N., Odling-Smee, F.J. and Feldman, M.W., 'Niche Construction, Ecological Inheritance, and Cycles of Contingency in Evolution' (pp. 117–26)
- 4 February Griffiths, P.E. and Gray, R.D., 'Darwinism and Developmental Systems' (pp. 195–218)
- 11 February Wimsatt, W.C., 'Generative Entrenchment and the Developmental Approach to Evolutionary Processes' (pp. 219–37)
- 18 February TBC
Introduced by Riana Betzler
- 25 February Sterelny, K., 'Niche Construction, Developmental Systems, and the Extended Replicator' (pp. 333–49)
- 4 March Taylor, P., 'Distributed Agency within Intersecting Ecological, Social, and Scientific Processes' (pp. 313–32)
- 11 March Godfrey-Smith, P., 'On the Status and Explanatory Structure of Developmental Systems Theory' (pp. 283–97)

History and Theory Reading Group

Meetings take place on **alternate Fridays, 3.30 to 5.00pm in Seminar Room 1**. Organised by Minwoo Seo, Eóin Phillips and Megan Barford. All welcome!

- 17 January Judith Butler, 'Performative Agency', *Journal of Cultural Economy* (2010) 3:2, 147–161
Michel Callon, 'Performativity, Misfires and Politics', *Journal of Cultural Economy* (2010) 3:2, 163–169
- 31 January Harold Garfinkel, *Studies in Ethnomethodology* (1984) chapters 1&2
Michale Lynch, *Scientific Practice and Ordinary Action* (1997), Introduction, chapters 1&7
- 14 February Pierre Bourdieu, [selections from] *Outline of a Theory of Practice* (1972)
Bourdieu, 'The Peculiar History of Scientific Reason', *Sociological Forum* (1991) 6:1, 3–26
- 28 February Agustí Nieto-Galan, 'Antonio Gramsci Revisited: Historians of Science, Intellectuals, and the Struggle for Hegemony', *History of Science* (2011)
Antonio Gramsci, [selections from] *Selections from Prison Notebooks* (1971)

Twentieth Century Reading Group

The group discusses books and papers relating to the history and historiography of 20th-century science, technology and medicine, broadly construed. This term, we explore the themes of atomic lives and the atomic age to complement talks given at the Twentieth Century Think Tank, which meets on alternate Thursdays. We will read selected chapters (to be confirmed) from the books below. Readings will be made available in advance in our Whipple Library box.

Meetings are held **every other Thursday, 1–2pm in the Lodge Seminar Room**.

Organised by Dmitriy Myelnikov and Kathryn Schoefert.

- 23 January Introduced by **Richard Staley**
Matthew Lavine, *The First Atomic Age: Scientists, Radiations, and the American Public, 1895–1945* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)
- 6 February Introduced by **Dmitriy Myelnikov**
Angela Creager, *Life Atomic: A History of Radioisotopes in Science and Medicine* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2013)
- 20 February Introduced by **Helen Curry**
Kate Brown, *Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013)
- 6 March Introduced by **Kathryn Schoefert**
Tom Vanderbilt, *Survival City: Adventures among the Ruins of Atomic America* (Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 2010)

AD HOC Cambridge

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 alchemy and chemistry.

AD HOC Cambridge meets several times per term, on **Mondays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 2**. For details, or to join our mailing list, please contact Hasok Chang or Anke Timmermann.

27 January **Tillmann Taape (HPS, Cambridge)**
Distilling reliable remedies: Hieronymus Brunschwig's *Liber de arte distillandi*
between alchemical learning and craft practice

In addition, we will hold four meetings which comprise Hasok Chang's Graduate Seminar series on the Philosophy of Chemistry, as follows:

20 January The relation between chemistry and physics
3 February Chemistry and realism
17 February Elements, classification and chemical practice
3 March The nature of the chemical bond

The London branch of the group will also continue to have its monthly meetings.

Philosophy of Psychology Reading Group

Moral Psychology

We meet on **Thursdays, 11am–12noon in Seminar Room 1**, except for the meeting on 16 January, which will be in the Lodge Seminar Room. Organised by Riana Betzler.

All this term's readings are from Doris, J.M. & The Moral Psychology Research Group (2010) *The Moral Psychology Handbook* (Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press). An electronic copy is available through the UL: <http://search.lib.cam.ac.uk/?itemid=eresources|70142>

16 January Introduction & Chapter 1: Evolution of Morality
23 January Chapter 2: Multi-system Moral Psychology
30 January Chapter 4: Moral Emotions
6 February Chapter 5: Altruism
13 February Chapter 6: Moral Reasoning
20 February Chapter 10: Responsibility
27 February Chapter 11: Character
6 March Chapter 12: Well-Being

CamPhor – Cambridge Phenomenology Reading Group

In Lent Term we will be investigating the thought of French philosophers and historians of science from the first half of the 20th century. In particular, we will be looking at a particular lineage of thinkers: Gaston Bachelard, Georges Canguilhem and Michel Foucault.

Of specific interest this term is the way in which these thinkers conceptualised the epistemic dimension in the history of science: whether they saw science as a continuous process of accumulation, or whether this process was punctuated, disrupted, or in other ways impeded – and if so, what their solution to such disruptions might be.

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

Meetings are on **Fridays from 12–1pm in Seminar Room 1**. You are welcome to bring your lunch. Organised by Andrew Buskell.

17 January Chimisso, C. (2001) *Gaston Bachelard: critic of science and the imagination*. London: Routledge. Ch. 5, pp. 129–154

Bachelard, G. (2005) ‘From *Essai sur la connaissance approché*’ in Gutting, G. (ed.) *Continental Philosophy of Science*. Oxford: Blackwell. Ch 14, pp. 176–183

31 January Rheinberger, H. (2005) ‘Reassessing the Historical Epistemology of Georges Canguilhem’ in Gutting, G. (ed.) *Continental Philosophy of Science*. Oxford: Blackwell. Ch 15, pp. 187–197

Canguilhem, G. (2005) ‘The Object of the History of Sciences’ Gutting, G. (ed.) *Continental Philosophy of Science*. Oxford: Blackwell. Ch 15, pp. 198–208

Optional: Foucault, M. (1978) ‘Introduction’, in Canguilhem, G. *The Normal and the Pathological*. Dordrecht: Riedel. pp. ix–xx

14 February Kusch, M. (1991) *Foucault’s Strata and Fields*. Dordrecht: Kluwer. Ch. 5 (‘The Archaeological Model I’), pp. 58–82

28 February Kusch, M. (1991) *Foucault’s Strata and Fields*. Dordrecht: Kluwer. Ch. 6 (‘The Archaeological Model II’), pp. 83–109

Philosophy and History of Physics Reading Group

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

In the first half of this term we will be finishing our study of Richard Staley, *Einstein’s Generation: The Origins of the Relativity Revolution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008) in weeks 1–3, followed by the reading of an article by Daniel Mitchell and Graeme Gooday on classical and modern physics. In the second half of the term, Richard Staley will offer a Graduate Seminar series on ‘Clouds and Climate Change’.

Science and Literature Reading Group

We meet on **Mondays from 7.30 to 9pm in the Godwin Room at Clare College (Old Court)**.

All this term's readings are available online: follow the links from www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars/slrg.html

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

3 February Charles R. Gibson, *The Autobiography of an Electron* (1911), Chapters 2–4
James Clerk Maxwell, 'Answer to Tait'
Robert Frost, 'A Wish To Comply' (1947)

3 March Harriet Monroe, 'A Power Plant', in *You and I* (1914)
Henry Adams, *The Education of Henry Adams* (1918). Chapter 25, 'The Dynamo and the Virgin (1900)'
H.G. Wells, 'The Lord of the Dynamos', first published in the *Pall Mall Budget*, 6 September 1894. Reprinted in *The Stolen Bacillus, and Other Incidents*. Warning: this story contains some racist ideas and words, which we will of course examine critically.

Kant Reading Group

Meetings are held in the **Lodge Seminar Room, 3.00–4.30pm 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 Thomas Land.

The topic for this term will be recent work on Transcendental Idealism.

Language groups

Latin Therapy

Latin Therapy is an informal reading group. All levels of Latin (including beginners) are very welcome. We meet **every Friday in the Lodge Seminar Room from 4.00 to 5.30pm**, to translate and discuss a text from the history of science, technology or medicine. If a primary source is giving you grief, we'd love to help you make sense of it over tea and biscuits! Thus we provide a free translation service for the Department, and a means for members to brush up their skills.

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 Seb Falk.

Greek Therapy

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

We are an informal group for beginners and for experienced readers of Greek seeking to brush up their skills – all levels are welcome. Sessions usually involve a basic grammar session at the beginning followed by reading through a more advanced text (often, but not always, Plato). For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email Liz Smith.