

# Departmental Seminars

Seminars meet on **Thursdays at 4pm in Seminar Room 2**, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge. There is tea beforehand in Seminar Room 1 at 3.45pm. Organised by Simon Schaffer.

21 October **John Pickstone (University of Manchester)**

Sociology of scientific knowledge versus historical big pictures: who needs this opposition?

28 October **Kim Sterenly (Australian National University)**

Ecological communities: theorists' projections or natural systems?

4 November **Nick Tosh (HPS, Cambridge)**

Historiography and the philosophy of science: how not to oppose naive realism

11 November **Marja-Liisa Kakkuri-Knuuttila (Helsinki School of Economics)**

The relevance of Aristotle's dialectic to his scientific method

18 November **Andrew Warwick (Imperial College London)**

Rethinking the early history of x-rays in medicine: the case of orthopaedic surgery in the German speaking lands, 1895-1900

25 November **Stéphane van Damme (Maison Française, Oxford)**

How to produce local knowledge in a European capital: the territorialization of science in Paris from Descartes to Kant

2 December **Hilary Carey (University of Newcastle, NSW)**

The social transformation of astrology in the waning middle ages

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

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

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

# Abstracts

21 October **John Pickstone (University of Manchester)**

Sociology of scientific knowledge versus historical big pictures: who needs this opposition?

Some reviews of my book on *Ways of Knowing* (Manchester University Press, 2000) seem to confirm a presumed opposition between two types of the history of science, technology and medicine. Detailed, contextual case-studies drawing on the sociology of scientific knowledge are seen as somehow incompatible with long-term, wide-scope, analytical histories. But are they and need they be? I will draw on various responses to the book to try to answer these questions – or, at least, to carry the argument forward.

28 October **Kim Sterenly (Australian National University)**

Ecological communities: theorists' projections or natural systems?

Much of ecology has been the study of local communities, attempting to uncover the principles which determine membership and abundance within them. But are these local ecological communities objective, observer-independent biological systems? They may instead be arbitrary segments of a seamlessly interconnected set of interacting organisms, chosen for interest or convenience. I shall discuss this issue through a long-standing debate within ecology about the extent to which communities are internally regulated or structured. The aim is not so much to determine whether communities are really out there, independently of us, but to see whether realism about ecological communities depends on bold, controversial claims in ecological theory.

4 November **Nick Tosh (HPS, Cambridge)**

Historiography and the philosophy of science: how not to oppose naive realism

“Actors’-eye-view” history of science is now a well-established historiographical genre. Although it deprives the historian of certain explanatory resources, there are many sensible – and philosophically straightforward – things to say in its defence. This talk will focus on some of the less straightforward (and, in my view, less successful) options. In particular, I will argue that the currently-fashionable historiography has little to gain from an alliance with philosophical relativism.

11 November **Marja-Liisa Kakkuri-Knuuttila (Helsinki School of Economics)**

The relevance of Aristotle's dialectic to his scientific method

Aristotle notes in his *Metaphysics* that while the aim of philosophy is truth, the task of dialectic is merely to examine given views. However, contemporary scholars have suggested that the dialectic formulated in Aristotle's *Topics* – a certain kind of question-answer dialogue – might well be relevant to the search for truth, or perhaps even for to the search for the first principles of science. This paper approaches this issue from a new perspective by investigating the relationship between the dialogue rules for the questioner and answerer presented in Book VIII of the *Topics* and the argument forms involved. It turns out that the rules can be neatly divided into definitional and strategic rules, the role of the latter being to guide the search after truth. The paper argues, furthermore, that the rules for the questioner and the answerer scattered in different chapters of the *Topics* form pairs so that foremost the answerer is responsible for the quality of the disputation. For all that, the argument forms of dialectic are insufficient for Aristotle's scientific method.

18 November **Andrew Warwick (Imperial College London)**

Rethinking the early history of x-rays in medicine: the case of orthopaedic surgery in the German speaking lands, 1895-1900

Current accounts of the early uses of x-rays in medicine contain an interesting ambiguity concerning the significance of x-rays as a diagnostic tool. On the one hand, they chronicle and celebrate the widespread excitement generated throughout the international medical community by the unexpected arrival of x-ray photography early in 1896, on the other they emphasise the limited diagnostic use to which the rays were put until roughly the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. It has been suggested that x-rays prompted a major shift in progressive medicine, from hygiene and social improvement to 'miracle technology', and that the 'rapidity with which clinical researchers adopted this new tool for the analysis of medical conditions was unsurpassed'. This line of argument sits somewhat uneasily with equally general claims, sometimes by the same authors, that the early use of x-rays was confined almost entirely to the detection of foreign bodies and fractures, that many doctors were suspicious of a technology which exemplified the new laboratory medicine and might therefore challenge their professional expertise, and that even in the case of, say, fracture diagnosis, x-rays were regarded for many years as a novelty that offered little beyond traditional diagnostic techniques such as palpation. In my seminar I shall suggest that producing an analytical framework within which the widely varying uses of x-rays in medicine circa 1900 can be understood requires us to situate those uses within the development of medical practice in the late nineteenth century. X-rays were important to surgery precisely because they impinged upon several historical and sociological questions of clinical and especially surgical practice and knowledge. I shall raise and discuss a number of issues that relate to the history and sociology of surgery circa 1900.

25 November **Stéphane van Damme (Maison Française, Oxford)**

How to produce local knowledge in a European capital: the territorialization of science in Paris from Descartes to Kant

My current research project asks how the circulation of knowledge shaped the making of the great cultural metropolises in the period between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, in sites such as Paris, Lyon, London, Edinburgh, Rome and Naples. What is at stake in this historiographical shift is not to revive the tradition of history of capitalism, but to locate the process of territorialization of knowledge between the Fronde and the Revolution. Several recent works in history of science and urban studies pay more attention to the role played by such centres in the diffusion of knowledge and information in Europe. They criticise the functionalist metaphor of capital. In seeking to displace the reliance of social history of science on grand narratives of macro-social development, such as the analysis of the 'colonial machine', some historians of science have posited a grand theory of local knowledge which privileges ethnographic conversation, local interaction and tacit knowledges built by indigenous people (as in several works in the history of cartography). But they also contribute to dissolving the problematic of 'capitals' as a centre of knowledge by privileging short circles of diffusion as opposed to long-distance networks. Far from being opposed, local knowledge and universal natural philosophy could use the same social practices to gain access to different levels of recognition. We would like to show the various operations which led to this situation, and to argue that the recognition of local knowledge depends on the specific social practices, cultural institutions and networks of power such knowledge involved within the city.

2 December **Hilary Carey (University of Newcastle, NSW)**

The social transformation of astrology in the waning middle ages

In the fifteenth century, scholars based at the University of Cambridge led one of Europe's leading centres for the scientific study of astrology and medicine. By the sixteenth century, astrology was more popular than ever but had traded in its intellectual cachet for the sleazy London-based underworld of the Renaissance practitioner. What forces led to the social and intellectual transformation of astrology in this period? This talk will consider ways in which the translation of the Arabic and Latin astrological corpus into English in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries provides an indication of the changing character of late medieval astrology.

## Research Methods Seminars

Seminars on research methods and topics in history and philosophy of the sciences, for all new graduate students, are held in the first two weeks of term, on **Thursdays at 4pm in Seminar Room 2**. Tea is available from 3.45pm in Seminar Room 1.

Each seminar will consist of short informal talks presenting research methodologies and areas, and introducing the Research Methods Guide on the HPS website at **[www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research)**.

Organised by Marina Frasca-Spada and Nick Jardine.

7 October **Chaired by Nick Jardine**

**Peter Lipton:** Writing philosophy

**Nick Hopwood:** Writing history

**Liba Taub:** Instruments

**Patricia Fara:** Scientific images

**Nick Jardine:** Historiography of the sciences

**John Forrester:** The temptations of the academic researcher

14 October **Chaired by John Forrester**

**Eleanor Robson:** History of science in strange languages

**Andrew Cunningham:** Writing discipline history in the history of medicine

**Tim Lewens:** Philosophy of the life sciences

**Helen Macdonald:** Environmental history

**Stephen John:** The risks of bioethics

**Sujit Sivasundaram:** Science and empire

**Richard Noakes:** History of physics and the occult

# Psy Studies

## History of Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychoanalysis and Allied Sciences

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

Organised by John Forrester and Deborah Thom.

20 October **Annette Mülberger (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)**

Three varieties of psychology in Spain, 1919-1970

3 November **Jan Abram (British Psychoanalytical Society)**

Survival of the object: does Winnicott's work constitute a change in the symbolic matrix of psychoanalysis?

17 November **Lisa Downing (Queen Mary, University of London)**

Narrating the nightmare: literary and scientific accounts of night terrors in nineteenth-century France

1 December **Sonu Shamdasani (Wellcome Trust Centre, University College London)**

'Psychotherapy': the invention of a word

# Psychoanalysis and the Humanities

Seminars are held fortnightly on **Wednesdays at 5pm in G-R 07, Faculty of English, 9 West Road**. *Please note the change of venue*. All welcome.

Organised by Mary Jacobus and David Hillman.

13 October **Matthew Bennett (University of East Anglia)**

The turn of the screw, hysteria and the cinematograph

27 October **Naomi Segal (Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of London)**

Entering the skin of the other

10 November **Claire Kahane (University of Berkeley, CA)**

Anecdotal selves: Flannery O'Connor and me

24 November **Joan Raphael-Leff (Anna Freud Centre and University of Essex)**

'Between the conception and the creation...falls the Shadow': gender, generative identity and the creative process

# History of Medicine Seminars

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

## Early Medicine and Natural Philosophy

Organised by Lauren Kassell

19 October **Robert Ralley (HPS, Cambridge)**

Clerical medicine and textual appropriation in fifteenth-century England

2 November **Harriet Knight (Birkbeck College, London)**

‘More copious, and less unaccurate’: Robert Boyle’s planned second edition of his *Memoirs for the History of Human Blood*

16 November **Silvia De Renzi (Open University)**

Resemblance, paternity and imagination in early modern courts

30 November **Elaine Leong (University of Oxford)**

Recipe collections in early modern England: women, household and science

## History of Modern Medicine and Biology

Organised by Nick Hopwood

12 October **Emm Barnes (University of Manchester)**

Mr Clever, Captain Chemo and the elephants: mediating childhood cancer

26 October **Sarah Wilmot (HPS, Cambridge)**

Replacing the bull with a small glass phial: artificial insemination and the ambitions of interwar science

9 November **Ian Burney (University of Manchester)**

Poison, detection and the Victorian imagination

23 November **Michael Bresalier (HPS, Cambridge)**

Flu research after the great pandemic: experimental medicine and the making of a virus disease

## Latin Therapy Group

The Latin Therapy Group meets on **Fridays at 3pm in Seminar Room 1** to practise the art of translation, improve our Latin grammar, and determine who deserves the most sympathy on account of the difficulty of their sources – all in a mutually supportive environment! Well-known (usually classical) texts of relevance to the history of science are studied, as well as texts on which members of the group are working. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, and to be added to the mailing list, please contact Rob Ralley.

# Cabinet of Natural History

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

- 11 October **Nick Grindle (Oxford Brookes University)**  
Francis Willughby, John Ray and the importance of collecting pictures
- 18 October **Elizabeth Edwards (University of Kent)**  
Three late seventeenth century Dutch plant collectors: Simon van Beaumont, Hieronymous van Beverningk and Gaspar Fagel
- 25 October **ANNUAL FUNGUS HUNT led by Nick Jardine**  
Meet at 1pm in front of Department. Please sign up on list on Department noticeboard.
- 1 November **Melanie Keene (HPS, Cambridge)**  
John Mill's *The Fossil Spirit: A Boy's Dream of Geology*: education and the voices of science in Victorian Britain
- 8 November **Pat Morris**  
Changing public attitudes towards taxidermy
- 15 November **Jim Livesey (Trinity College, Dublin)**  
The community of naturalists in Montpellier in the eighteenth century
- 22 November **Andrew Mendelsohn (Imperial College London)**  
Message in a bottle: the business of vaccines and the nature of heredity after 1880
- 29 November **Naomi Beck (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)**  
F.A. von Hayek: an evolutionary economist

# Wittgenstein Reading Group

We will be reading Wittgenstein's *Blue and Brown Books* (Blackwell, 1958). Meetings will take place fortnightly on **Tuesdays 3.00-4.30pm in the HPS Lodge**.

For further information please contact Lorenzo Bernasconi or Bill Grundy.

- 12 October Blue Book, pages 1 - 30
- 26 October Blue Book, pages 30 - 74
- 9 November Brown Book (Part I), pages 77 - 127
- 23 November Brown Book (Part II), pages 127 - 185

# Epistemology Reading Group

We will be continuing to read articles from Michael Lynch (ed.) *The Nature of Truth* (MIT, 2001). The book is available in paperback, and two copies are on reserve in the Whipple Library. Each meeting of the group will focus on one article, with a member of the group offering a preliminary evaluation, followed by a general discussion.

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

- 7 October Michael Dummett, 'Truth'
- 14 October Hilary Putnam, 'Two Philosophical Perspectives' and 'The Face of Cognition'
- 21 October Richard Rorty, 'Is Truth a Goal of Inquiry? Donald Davidson versus Crispin Wright'
- 28 October Martin Heidegger, 'On the Essence of Truth' and Michael Foucault, 'Truth and Power'
- 4 November Donald Davidson, 'The Folly of Trying to Define Truth'
- 11 November Ernest Sosa, 'Epistemology and Primitive Truth'
- 18 November Jennifer Hornsby, 'Truth: The Identity Theory'
- 25 November Crispin Wright, 'Minimalism, Deflationism, Pragmatism, Pluralism'

# Science and Literature Reading Group

We meet fortnightly on Wednesdays, in the upstairs seminar room in Darwin College at 8pm. Everybody is welcome; for more information please contact Kate Price. Reading packs containing all this term's texts (except Poe) are on sale in the Whipple Library, £7. Poe available in numerous editions or at <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/poe/eureka.html>

- 13 October *A History of the Moon* (1835) and *A History of the Sun* (1835)  
Meet the lunarian ladies and tour Pandemonium, the great solar city. All courtesy of Sir John Herschel's marvellous telescope.
- 27 October Edgar Allen Poe, *Eureka* (1848)  
Ever stood on top of the world, spun on your heel, and taken in the whole of creation at once? Give it a whirl...
- 10 November An Anonymous Tartar (ed), *The Comet* (1857)  
It is 1857, and a German astronomer has spotted a comet headed for the Earth. With temperatures soaring, lava flowing and the plague spreading, men of science, politicians and even journalists face a sticky end.
- 24 November John Mill, *The Fossil Spirit* (1853)  
Talking trilobytes are ten a penny. But a talking ammonite with a subsequent career as a plesiosauras, an iguanadon, a dodo, and a monkey, who can remember it all, and carry a tune? Selected chapters included in reading pack.



# History of Science Workshop

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

We meet on **alternate Wednesdays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**. Papers are circulated by e-mail before each meeting, and a copy is left in Box File 30 in the Whipple Library. Please contact Anke Timmermann if you are interested in giving a paper (new PhD students and MPhils welcome) or adding your name to the e-mail list.

13 October **Saira Malik**

The rainbow in medieval Arabic science: the case of Kamal al-Din

27 October **Meredith Price**

DNA and the news media: science journalism and the history of DNA research

10 November **James Hannam**

Learning mathematics at Oxford and Cambridge in the 16th century

24 November **Michael Edwards**

Digressing with Aristotle: natural philosophy in Hieronymus Dandinus' *De corpore animato* (1610)

# Philosophy Workshop

The PW is a fortnightly peer group seminar devoted to the discussion of on-going work by researchers in philosophy. Short papers will normally be circulated by e-mail one week in advance of each meeting, where the author will give a brief synopsis. The aim of the seminar is to provide a forum for informal, constructive interaction amongst those currently engaged in philosophical research.

Meetings take place **every other Wednesday at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**, and are open to all researchers. For more information, or to add your name to the list of e-mail recipients, contact Mark Sprevak.

20 October **William Grundy**

Language and World in the early Wittgenstein

3 November **Anandi Hattiangadi**

Why we do the things we do

17 November **Lorenzo Bernasconi**

Some Kripkean reflections on Bourdieu's notion of the Habitus

1 December **Axel Gelfert**

Vorsprung durch Testimony

# Reading Kant

We meet on **Tuesdays 1.00-2.30pm in the HPS Lodge**. Organised by Alix Cohen, Stephen John and Marina Frasca-Spada.

This term we shall read Book I of the *Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View*.

- 12 October Introduction to §4: On the definition of pragmatic anthropology and on the self. (Presentation: **Alix Cohen**)
- 19 October §5–§11: On ideas and sensibility. (Presentation: **Brian King**)
- 26 October §12–§23: On perception and the senses. (Presentation: **Nick Jardine**)
- 2 November §24–§30: On inner sense, the faculty of the senses and imagination. (Presentation: **Marina Frasca-Spada**)
- 9 November §31–§36: On the sensory productive faculty. (Presentation: **Yoon Choi**)
- 16 November §37–§44: On the involuntary invention in a sound mental state. (Presentation: **Tim Lewens**)
- 23 November §45–§53: On the soul's weaknesses and illnesses. (Presentation: **Sasha Mudd**)
- 30 November §54–§59: On the cognitive faculty. (Presentation: **Axel Gelfert**)

## Further reading

- Frierson, P. (2003): *Freedom and Anthropology in Kant's Moral Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) [especially chapters 2 and 3].
- Jacobs, B. and Kain, P. (eds) (2004): *Essays on Kant's Anthropology* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
- Louden, R. (2000): *Kant's Impure Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press) [especially chapter 3 which is specifically dedicated to Kant's *Anthropology*].
- Schleiermacher, F. (1998): 'Review of Kant's *Anthropology*', translation Jacqueline Mariña, in *Schleiermacher on Workings of the Knowing Mind*, ed. by Ruth Drucilla Richardson (Lewiston, Queenston, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press).
- Van de Pitte, F. (1971): *Kant as a Philosophical Anthropologist* (The Hague: Nijhoff).
- Zammito, J. (2002): *Kant, Herder, and the Birth of Anthropology* (Chicago: Chicago University Press).

# Medieval Science and Philosophy Reading Group

The Medieval Science and Philosophy Reading Group will meet on **Wednesdays, 1.00-2.00pm, in L1, Great Court, Trinity College**. We shall be reading Peter of Spain's 'Tractatus' (better known as 'Summulae logicales').

For more information contact John Marenbon.