

Research Methods Seminars

Seminars on research methods and topics in history and philosophy of the sciences and medicine, 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. All welcome.

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.

Organised by Marina Frasca-Spada and Nick Jardine.

6 October **Chaired by Nick Jardine**

Peter Lipton, Writing philosophy

Lauren Kassell, Writing history

Nick Jardine and others, Reading groups and seminars as resources

Liba Taub, Resources of the Whipple Museum

Shelley Innes, Alison Pearn and Paul White, The Cambridge University Library Darwin archives as a resource

Tim Eggington, Resources of the Whipple Library

Soraya de Chadarevian, Interviews

13 October **Chaired by Eleanor Robson**

Eleanor Robson, History of science in strange languages

Andrew Cunningham, Writing discipline history in the history of medicine

Matteo Mamei, Philosophy of biology

Christina McLeish, Problems of scientific realism

Helen Macdonald, Environmental history

Patricia Fara, Scientific images

Stephen John, The risks of bioethics

Free School Lane Workshop on Reproduction

This one-day workshop, to be held on Monday 17 October 2005, brings together researchers from neighbouring departments on Free School Lane to discuss our common interest in issues related to reproduction. Informal presentations will be given by members of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, the Department of Social Anthropology and the Centre for Family Research in the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

The aim is to share our perspectives with our neighbours in order to promote exchange – and perhaps even collaboration – along Free School Lane and beyond.

The workshop is intended in the first instance for members of the Free School Lane departments, but is open to all. The deadline for registration is Monday 10 October; please use the booking form available at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/medicine/reproduction.html.

Organisers: Nick Hopwood, Monica Konrad and Zeynep Gürtin-Broadbent

Support: Wellcome Trust

Departmental Seminars

Seminars meet on **Thursdays at 4.30pm in Seminar Room 2**, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge. There is tea beforehand in Seminar Room 1 at 4.15pm.

Organised by Stephen John.

20 October **Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard University)**

Ontological surgery and the comparative politics of biotechnology

27 October **Bertrand Taithe (University of Manchester)**

Ethics and heroics: can we write a history of French humanitarian medicine?

3 November **Barry Barnes (University of Exeter)**

Are there really genes? Please yourselves!

10 November **Miguel A. Granada (University of Barcelona)**

The dissolution of the solid celestial spheres and Tycho Brahe's questionable indebtedness to Christoph Rothmann

17 November **David Papineau (King's College London)**

Troubles with zombies

24 November **Mark Sprevak (HPS, Cambridge)**

Realism about computation

1 December *The First Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine*

Helen King (University of Reading)

Women's bodies in sixteenth-century medicine: using the classical tradition

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

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Abstracts

20 October **Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard University)**

Ontological surgery and the comparative politics of biotechnology

In speaking of the politics of knowledge societies, we have to take on board the *political* place of knowledge. Put differently, we have to re-theorize the role of knowledge in politics. I argue in this talk that politics must be seen as a metaphysical instrument: it helps to produce the ontologies that underpin the law, condition social behaviour, and sort new entities (and sometimes old ones) into manageable categories. In short, politics as much as science performs the ontological surgery that reveals where nature's 'joints' are located, at least for purposes of political action. There is, however, no singular path in the project of ontological clarification as carried out in contemporary democracies. Using examples from Germany, the UK and the US, I show how differences of both *is* and *ought* arise and persist even among similarly knowledgeable, modern, rational, democratic societies. Cross-national comparison, I suggest, sheds light on the divergent systems of authorization through which modern polities place one set of beliefs above another, creating disparate orderings of knowledge and power.

27 October **Bertrand Taithe (University of Manchester)**

Ethics and heroics: can we write a history of French humanitarian medicine?

This paper considers the conflictual representations of medical humanitarianism since the late nineteenth century and focuses on the ethical issues arising from the history of humanitarian medicine. It looks in particular at the history of Médecins sans Frontières and at the internal debates that have shaped this particular NGO. It is a paper based on work in progress.

3 November **Barry Barnes (University of Exeter)**

Are there really genes? Please yourselves!

The difficulties encountered in attempting to identify genes with specific lengths of genomic DNA, particularly in the case of complexly organised eukaryotic genomes like the human genome, are becoming increasingly well known. Whilst some of those faced with the consequent problems are willing to put a great amount of work and effort into 'solving' them, there are also suggestions that the problems are intractable. Some of the problems derive from the desire to retain the notion of a particulate gene as a unitary object even whilst agreeing that the object must be constituted of DNA. Other problems arise from the fact that genes have been regarded as particles defined by their functions. It is also clear that views on how to solve the problem vary according to what the specialists involved are doing, whether as researchers or as knowledge transmitters, that the division of technical labour is salient to an understanding of a distributed semantics of 'gene', and that different solutions to the problem of what the notion 'really means' are likely to possess different amounts of ontological authority. Whether anything more than this needs to be said on the issue of whether there 'really are' genes is moot.

10 November **Miguel A. Granada (University of Barcelona)**

The dissolution of the solid celestial spheres and Tycho Brahe's questionable indebtedness to Christoph Rothmann

Scholarship in the last twenty years has debated the question of priority in the dissolution of the solid celestial spheres, challenging traditional accounts that attribute precedence to Tycho Brahe. Notably, Christoph Rothmann, who independently came to the same conclusion as Tycho, has emerged as a very probable influence, beginning in 1586. We will present Rothmann's largely unacknowledged indebtedness to a previous author, Jean Pena, whose notion of a fluid heaven filled with air could also have been known to Tycho via Johannes Praetorius. Chiefly, however, we will

concern ourselves with the analysis of select texts of Tycho from the 1570s and 1580s in order to evaluate the possibility that he arrived at the elimination of the solid spheres before ever becoming aware of Rothmann's independent conception in 1586.

17 November **David Papineau (King's College London)**

Troubles with zombies

Suppose God is creating the universe, and has put all the physical stuff in place. Is His work done, or does He still need to add the feelings? Materialists will say he is finished, since feelings are nothing but physical states – not even God can make a zombie. Still, aren't zombies at least conceivable? Contemporary materialists allow the conceivability of zombies, but deny their possibility – we may imagine feelings as separate from brain states, but in reality they are one and the same.

One influential school of dualists (Chalmers, Jackson) argues that the conceivability of zombies entails real mind-brain difference – our concepts of conscious states cannot fail to reveal their true nature. Materialists deny this kind of epistemological transparency. This recent debate has distracted attention from Kripke's original argument against materialism, which hinges on the apparent contingency (actual truth plus possible falsity) of mind-brain identities, not just their possible falsity alone. Kripke forces materialists to say that mind-brain identities seem actually false, and leaves them with the problem of squaring this with their truth.

24 November **Mark Sprevak (HPS, Cambridge)**

Realism about computation

If one is a realist about Xs, then one supposes that Xs exist independently of us and our beliefs about them. Can one be a realist about computation? If there were no human beings or interpreting agents, would there still be computations? In this paper, I present some arguments for and against realism about computation. The main battleground for a realist/anti-realist dispute about computation is the computational theory of the mind. I show how issues concerning realism connect to the computational theory of mind. I consider a number of difficulties and argue for a particular way in which the realist/anti-realist dispute about computation should be phrased in this context.

1 December *The First Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine*

Helen King (University of Reading)

Women's bodies in sixteenth-century medicine: using the classical tradition

Before the discovery of the ovum, how was women's contribution to generation envisaged? While women could be seen as merely containers for male seed, other Western traditions gave menstrual blood a key role, making menstruation not evidence of failure to generate, but an essential element of generation. This talk will examine the uses made of the Hippocratic and Galenic texts on gynaecology and reproduction in the sixteenth century. It will focus on the work of the Galenist Sylvius (Jacques DuBois) on generation and menstruation (1555); Sylvius taught at Paris, and was physician to Henri II, and to the royal children. In the French translation (1559), made by Guillaume Chrestien, physician in ordinary to the Duke of Bouillon, and subsequently to François I and to Henri II, the section on generation is dedicated to the future François II on his marriage, and that on menstruation to Diane de Poitiers. Chrestien's preface is also very Galenic in content, despite his reference to 'Father Hippocrates, author of all those good things which we have in the art of medicine', and gives us a valuable insight into the gendering of both medical knowledge and medical care. I will argue that recent work claiming to identify change in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century notions of generation, and to tie this to very specific social and economic changes, overlooks the important and lasting contribution made by classical Greek and Roman texts.

History of Medicine

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

- 18 October **David Wootton (University of York)**
Medical history in perspective: Leeuwenhoek to Lister
- 1 November **Laurence Totelin (Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine, UCL)**
Sex and vegetables in the Hippocratic gynaecological treatises and attic comedies (fifth and fourth centuries BC)
- 15 November **Alisha Rankin (Trinity College, Cambridge)**
Knowing the handwork: women and medical experimentation at the courts of early modern Germany
- 29 November **Catherine Rider (Christ's College, Cambridge)**
The doctor and the witches: Bartholomaeus Carrichter's *On the Curing of Magical Illnesses* (1551)

History of Modern Medicine and Biology

Organised by Tatjana Buklijas and Soraya de Chadarevian

- 11 October **Keith Wailoo (Rutgers University)**
How cancer crossed the colour line: race and disease in twentieth-century America
- 25 October **Michael Sappol (National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD)**
Anatomical storytelling and the performance of medical identity in nineteenth-century America; or, the case of Dr Charles Knowlton (1800-1850), an 'odd', body-snatching, 'atheistical' physician of antebellum New England
- 8 November **Ulf Schmidt and David Willcox (University of Kent)**
Cold War at Porton Down: informed consent in Britain's biological and chemical warfare experiments
- 22 November **Philipp Felsch (Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften, Vienna)**
Cultures of speechlessness: scrambles amongst the Alps, 1800-1900

Modal Logic Reading Group

The Modal Logic Reading Group meets on **Mondays at 3pm in the HPS Lodge**. This term we will be reading the section on computability in the infamous Boolos, Burges and Jeffreys, *Computability and Logic* (Cambridge: CUP).

For more information, please contact Paul Dicken.

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 this year by Emese Lafferton, Andreas Mayer and Deborah Thom.

- 19 October **Stephanie Dupouy (ENS, Paris)**
Magic lanterns of physiognomy: Rodolphe Töpffer and Duchenne de Boulogne on facial expression
- 2 November **Emese Lafferton (HPS, Cambridge)**
Hypnosis and the mental geography of science
- 16 November **Richard Noakes (HPS, Cambridge)**
Between the laboratory and the séance: territorial disputes in physics and psychical research in Britain, 1870-1920
- 30 November **Lydia Marinelli (S. Freud Foundation, Vienna)**
and Andreas Mayer (HPS, Cambridge)
History of the couch

Criticism and Culture

Formerly titled Psychoanalysis and the Humanities, these seminars are held fortnightly on **Wednesdays at 5pm in the Faculty of English, 9 West Road**. All welcome. Organised by Mary Jacobus and David Hillman.

- 12 October **Neil Hertz (Johns Hopkins University)**
Rock-bottom rhetoric
- 26 October **Marina Warner (University of Essex)**
Phantasmagoria
- 9 November **Janet Sayers (University of Kent)**
Squiggling, art and psychoanalysis: Winnicott, Bion, Kristeva
- 23 November **Rachel Bowlby (University College London)**
The Cronus Complex: psychoanalytic myths of the future for boys and girls

Latin Therapy

The Latin Therapy Group meets on **Fridays at 4pm in the HPS Lodge** to practise the art of translation, improve our Latin grammar, and determine who deserves more sympathy on account of the difficulty of their sources – all in a mutually supportive environment! 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. Select meetings will be held in historic college libraries, beginning with Jesus' Old Library in October. The language tutor is Debby Banham. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, and to be added to the mailing list, please contact Patrick Boner. Information is also available on the Latin Therapy website, www.hps.cam.ac.uk/latintherapy.

Cabinet of Natural History

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

- 10 October **Helen Macdonald (HPS, Cambridge)**
Military falcons
- 17 October *No Cabinet because of Free School Lane Workshop on Reproduction (see page 2)*
- 24 October **THE ANNUAL FUNGUS HUNT**
- 31 October **Sophie Forgan (University of Teesside)**
Splashing about in popularisation: Penguins, Pelicans and the common reader in mid-twentieth century Britain
- 7 November **Francis Lucian Reid (HPS, Cambridge)**
The Sumner cave controversy revisited: provincialism, class and the politics of colonial science
- 14 November **Jim Endersby (HPS, Cambridge)**
'The origin of species is an object of experimental investigation': de Vries, Oenothera and the fate of the mutation theory
- 21 November **Greg Radick (University of Leeds)**
Reading birdsong (with sidelong glances at radios, deafness and war)
- 28 November **Elizabeth J. Cole (Faculty of History, Cambridge)**
The Duchess of Beaufort's guava, 1692-1704

Epistemology Reading Group

We will be reading from Matthias Steup and Ernest Sosa (eds) *Contemporary Debates in Epistemology* (Blackwell, 2005). 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 pair of essays, 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.

- 6 October Fred Dreske and John Hawthorne: 'Is Knowledge Closed under Known Entailment?'
- 13 October Earl Conee and Stewart Cohen: 'Is Knowledge Contextual?'
- 20 October Jonathan Vogel and Richard Fumerton: 'Can Skepticism be Refuted?'
- 27 October Laurence Bonjour and Michael Devitt: 'Is There A *Priori* Knowledge?'
- 3 November Catherine Z. Elgin and James van Cleve: 'Can Beliefs be Justified through Coherence Alone?'
- 10 November John Greco and Richard Feldman: 'Is Justification Internal?'
- 17 November Jonathan Kvanvig and Marian David: 'Is Truth the Primary Epistemic Goal?'
- 24 November Richard Foley and Nicholas Wolterstorff: 'Is Justified Belief Responsible Belief?'

STS Workshop

Meetings are held on **Thursdays, 12noon to 1.30pm in Seminar Room 1** (expect the meeting on 3 November, which will be from 12.30pm to 2pm). All welcome.

Organised by Jon Agar, Ipek Demir, Rob Doubleday and Martin Kusch.

- 13 October **Jeff Kochan (ETH Zurich)**
STS's Plato: rescuing the Gorgias from Latour
- 20 October **Andrew Barry (Goldsmiths College, London)**
'A scandal in Georgia': where to find out the facts about capitalism
- 27 October **Sheila Jasanoff (Harvard University)** will introduce a discussion on ch. 10, 'Census, Map, Museum', of B. Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, Verso 1991: 163-186 (a copy of the text will be on reserve in the Whipple Library)
- 3 November **Barry Barnes (University of Exeter)** will introduce a discussion on C.E. Rosenberg, 'Scientific Theories and Social Thought', in B. Barnes (ed.), *Sociology of Science*, Penguin Books 1972: 292-305 (a copy of the text will be on reserve in the Whipple Library)
- 10 November **Timo Airaksinen (University of Helsinki)**
Human-centred technology and its rivals
- 17 November **Rob Doubleday (Nanoscale Science Laboratory, Cambridge)**
A sociologist at large in the Nanoscale Science Laboratory
- 24 November **Michael Bravo (Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge)**
Where is upstream? Science and its publics for International Polar Year (2007-2008)

German Therapy

The German Therapy Group meets on **Fridays from 1pm to 2.30pm in Seminar Room 1** starting on 14 October. Modelled on the successful departmental Latin Therapy group, we aim to acquire and practise skills in reading German for research purposes, and translate texts people have come across in their studies. We welcome beginners as well as those with some knowledge in German language; the level and pace of the class will be tailored to the participants.

For more information, and to be added to the mailing list, please contact the tutor, Anke Timmermann. The set work this term will be taken from the Rogallas' *German for Academic Purposes*, copies of which may be viewed in the relevant box file in the Whipple Library.

Reading Kant

We meet on **Tuesdays, 1.00-2.30pm in the HPS Lodge**. This term we shall be discussing Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, in the Guyer and Wood translation (Cambridge University Press, 1998). For a listing of the weekly presentations see www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars. Organised by Yoon Choi and Marina Frasca-Spada.

Science and Literature Reading Group

Held in association with the Department of English, Drama & Writing at APU, the Science and Literature Reading Group meets fortnightly on **Wednesdays from 8-10pm** in the upstairs seminar room at **Darwin College**.

This term's rather eclectic texts come under the broad theme of 'literature and technology'. Photocopies of the extracts will be available from 1 October in the group box file in the Whipple Library; original texts can be found in Cambridge libraries. All are most welcome to come along and contribute to what is usually a lively and wide-ranging discussion. To introduce any session, join the e-mail list or for more information please contact Katy Price or Melanie Keene.

- 12 October John Wilkins, 'Digression on Noah's Ark' (pp. 162-168) from *An Essay Towards a Real Character and a Philosophical Language* (1668), and chapter XIV of his *Mathematical Magic* (1648)
- 26 October James Ferguson, 'A Short Account of the Life of the Author' (pp. i-xliii), and 'The Description of a new Machine, called the Mechanical Paradox' (pp. 44-71) from *Select Mechanical Exercises* (1773), available on Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)
- 9 November Charles Babbage, *Passages From the Life of a Philosopher* (1864), chapters V-VIII, and *Ninth Bridgewater Treatise* (1837), especially chapters II and XIII
- 23 November Ilya Ehrenburg (trans. Joachim Neugroschel), *The Life of the Automobile* (originally published 1929)

Wittgenstein Reading Group

Meetings take place fortnightly on **Tuesdays 3.00-4.30pm in the HPS Lodge**. This term we shall be reading secondary texts related to the *Philosophical Investigations*. Each meeting will focus on one or two essays with a member of the group offering a short introductory presentation. Copies of the readings will be made available in a reserve folder in the Whipple Library. For further information please contact Lorenzo Bernasconi or Bill Grundy. The provisional programme is as follows:

- 11 October **Early Responses:** Strawson, P.F. (1954) 'Review of Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations' in Pitcher, *Wittgenstein: The Philosophical Investigations*
Dummett (1959) 'Wittgenstein's Philosophy of Mathematics', in Pitcher, *Wittgenstein: The Philosophical Investigations*
- 25 October **Stanley Cavell:** Cavell, S. (1976) 'The availability of Wittgenstein's later philosophy', in Cavell, *Must we Mean What we Say?*
- 8 November **Cora Diamond:** Diamond, Cora (1995) 'Realism and the realistic spirit', Chapter 1 of *The Realistic Spirit*
- 22 November **WRG Fieldtrip!** Tour of the Cambridge Wittgenstein Archive (<http://www.wittgen-cam.ac.uk/>) by Michael Nedo (Director)
- 6 December **John McDowell:** McDowell, J. (1981) 'Non-cognitivism and rule-following', in Alice Crary and Rupert Read, eds., *The New Wittgenstein.*, pp. 38-53
McDowell, J. (1984) 'Wittgenstein on Following a Rule', *Synthese* 58: 325-63
McDowell, J. (1992) 'Meaning and Intentionality in Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy' in Peter A. French, Theodore E. Uehling, Jr., and Howard K. Wettstein, eds., *The Wittgenstein Legacy*, pp. 40-52. *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 17. Notre Dame, Ind: University of Notre Dame Press, 1992.

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 our box file in the Whipple Library. Please contact Anke Timmermann if you are interested in giving a paper or adding your name to the e-mail list.

12 October **Stefan Sperling**: A failed experiment: the ends of East German science and conscience

26 October **Liana Ashenden**: Daedalus and the 'To-day and To-morrow' series – scientific futures of the 1920s

9 November **Rachel Berger**: Ayurveda and the emergence of colonial modernity: indigeneity, medicine and the construction of medical authority in nineteenth-century North India

23 November **Melanie Keene**: Things that talk: the voices of Victorian objects

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.

19 October **Jeff Kochan**: Heidegger on tool-use, memory and history

2 November **Paul Dicken**: van Fraassen on observability

16 November **Allan McRobie**: Epistemology for engineers: from rational choice to evolutionary aesthetics (via irrationality)

30 November **Bill Grundy**: Language and the body in philosophical investigations

Greek Therapy

The Greek Therapy Group meets on **Fridays from 2.30 to 4pm, in the HPS Lodge**. Laurence Totelin will be the language tutor. We will be working through *Greek for Beginners* by L.A. Wilding, and *A Primer of Greek Grammar* by Abbott & Mansfield (both published by Duckworth). Photocopies of the first two weeks' material will be placed in a folder behind the desk in the Whipple Library.

For more information contact Nick Tosh.