

Departmental Seminars

*** Please note change of format ***

This term we have changed the format for the Departmental Seminar. Papers (either work-in-progress or published papers or chapters) will be pre-circulated, and speakers will provide a short account of their work followed by a response by the Seminar Chair, with the rest of the session used for debate and discussion. The papers for each session will be available in a box-file in the library and at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars/dept.html

Seminars are on **Thursdays at 4.30pm in Seminar Room 2**, with tea and biscuits beforehand from 4pm in Seminar Room 1. Organised by Stephen John.

- 2 November **Duncan Pritchard (University of Stirling)**
Perceptual knowledge and discrimination (work in progress)
- 9 November **Michael Wintroub (University of California, Berkeley)**
Making truth or masking lies: the triumph of the Conards
- 16 November **John Hawthorne (University of Oxford)**
Agreement and the new relativism (work in progress)
- 23 November *Second Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine*
Hilary Marland (University of Warwick)
Doctors, motherhood and insanity of childbirth in Victorian Britain

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. The Research Methods Guide is on the HPS website at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research.

Organised by Marina Frasca-Spada and Nick Jardine.

- 5 October **Chaired by Peter Lipton**
 - Nick Jardine:** Reading groups, seminars and other resources
 - Tim Lewens:** How to write a philosophy essay
 - Helen Macdonald:** Environmental history
 - Christina McLeish:** Problems of scientific realism
 - Ayesha Nathoo:** History of modern medicine
- 12 October **Chaired by Nick Jardine**
 - Nick Hopwood:** Doing history
 - Alix Cohen and Brian King:** Kant and the sciences
 - Patricia Fara:** Scientific images
 - Stephen John:** The risks of bioethics
 - Ruth Horry and Margaret Olszewski:** Working on Whipple collection objects

Abstracts for Departmental Seminars

2 November **Duncan Pritchard (University of Stirling)**

Perceptual knowledge and discrimination (work in progress)

This paper discusses the relationship between perceptual knowledge and discrimination. In particular, it argues for a re-evaluation of a range of cases that have been central to epistemological discussion and which have prompted some to question the truth of certain highly plausible epistemic principles, such as the ‘closure’ principle for knowledge. It is claimed that provided one has the right understanding of the perceptual knowledge at issue in these cases, then they pose no problem for such principles. Furthermore, it is argued that accepting these principles does not commit one to a ‘discrimination’ principle for knowledge, a principle that can initially seem plausible but which places an unduly austere constraint on knowledge. Finally, it is claimed that further support for this picture of the relationship between perceptual knowledge and discrimination can be gleaned by considering the conditions under which claims to know are inappropriate, and by distinguishing the cases under discussion from sceptical cases which, it is argued, require a separate treatment, despite being apparently analogous.

9 November **Michael Wintroub (University of California, Berkeley)**

Making truth or masking lies: the triumph of the Conards

We will be reading two chapters from my recently published book, *A Savage Mirror: Power, Identity and Knowledge in Early Modern France*. The first sets out the social and epistemic fields within which popular urban traditions such as the charivari were linked to a display of New World peoples organized by the city of Rouen for their king’s royal entry. It argues that the carnivalesque was neither a critique of France’s ‘established hierarchies’ nor of its traditional order, but aimed to satirize the social aspirations of new urban elites, while at the same time valorizing ideals of natural virtue and simplicity that were associated with both feudalism and peoples from the New World. Like popular social satire, the verisimilar representation of the New World found in the entry is linked to an ‘empiricist’ response to the social and epistemic instabilities that accompanied the discovery of the New World, the fracturing of religious unity, humanist philological historicism, and the rising power of France’s new elites. The next chapter focuses on the relationship between early modern collecting practices and the form and content of the king’s entry. It argues that it was through acts of collecting that France’s civic elites sought to fashion themselves as a new kind of nobility and to resurrect the lost Age of Gold. At the same time, it suggests that insofar as nobility came to be seen as an art to be affected rather than a natural (e)state, the question of how authenticity – that is, how truth – was to be adjudicated took centre stage. Attempts to answer this question – prescriptively and in social practice – came to play an important and often overlooked role in the social history of our own representational practices.

16 November **John Hawthorne (University of Oxford)**

Agreement and the new relativism (work in progress)

David Kaplan once suggested that propositions are not true or false simpliciter, but only relative to times. The kind of semantical framework he offered – whereby propositions are only true relative to a particular parameter of evaluation – has been the basis of various recent relativist proposals. This paper offers a critique of this Kaplanian strategy.

23 November *Second Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine*
Hilary Marland (University of Warwick)
Doctors, motherhood and insanity of childbirth in Victorian Britain

This lecture will explore the close and complex relationship between mental disorder and childbirth in the treatment of what in the early nineteenth century came to be called 'puerperal insanity'. The disorder was described as severe, dangerous and, because its victims challenged domestic order and ideals of motherhood, a threat to the sanctity of the Victorian home. Yet, at the same time, therapeutics were typically patient and expectant, with little medical intervention. Even women admitted to asylums were usually subjected to mild curative regimes based largely around the principles of 'moral management'. Doctors, in describing what they feared was becoming a prevalent disorder, referred extensively to the physical and mental challenges of pregnancy, birth and childrearing, and in so doing problematised in unexpected ways the ideals of maternity and domestic ideology. Explanations for the onset of puerperal insanity were drawn, not just from notions of female vulnerability and biology, but also from a broad set of moral, social and environmental frameworks. Using especially the case notes of private and asylum practice, I shall argue that rather than solidly supporting traditional female roles and duties, doctors questioned them, presenting motherhood as often disappointing, demanding and overwhelming.

WORKSHOP: 'Future mothers of Empire? Representations of girls' health, 1890-1930'
11.30-1.00 in Seminar Room 1
Professor Marland will introduce a discussion of a paper that will be circulated about two weeks in advance. All welcome!

Interdisciplinary Workshop on Reproduction

Friday 17 November 2006, Department of History and Philosophy of Science

This workshop aims to promote communication and exchange among people in Cambridge working on various aspects of reproduction. It follows a successful event involving Free School Lane institutions last year. Informal 20-minute talks will introduce the work of an individual or group to an interdisciplinary audience.

The workshop is open to all Cambridge-based researchers. Please book your place by Friday 3 November. The programme and booking form are available at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/medicine/reproduction06.html. Other inquiries to repro@hermes.cam.ac.uk.

This is the first of a pair of workshops. The second will be held on Friday 2 March 2007.

Organised by the Cambridge Interdisciplinary Reproduction Forum with support from a Wellcome enhancement award in history of medicine to the Department of History and Philosophy of Science.

Zeynep Gürtin-Broadbent (Centre for Family Research)
Nick Hopwood (Department of History and Philosophy of Science)

History of Medicine

Seminars are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Tea is available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

Early Medicine and Natural Philosophy

Organised by Lauren Kassell, Elaine Leong and Alisha Rankin.

10 October **Lisa Smith (University of Saskatchewan)**
Sterility and the disordered household in Early Modern England and France

31 October **David Gentilcore (University of Leicester)**
The renaissance tomato, from botanical curiosity to culinary condiment

21 November **Marjo Kaartinen (University of Turku)**
'Desperate and incurable': defining breast cancer in England, c.1550-1800

History of Modern Medicine and Biology

Organised by Tatjana Buklijas and Nick Hopwood.

17 October **Roger Cooter (University College London)**
and Claudia Stein (University of Warwick)
Thinking in posters: AIDS and the power of the visual

7 November **Robert Kirk (University of Manchester)**
From standardization to welfare: the origins of the '3 Rs' approach to managing laboratory animals

28 November **Aya Homei (University of Manchester)**
The H-bomb, fishermen and an unusual infection: the Bikini incident and the rise of a new medicine in Cold War Japan

From Generation to Reproduction

This seminar, which is funded by our Wellcome Trust enhancement award in the history of medicine, is a forum for discussion of how, since 1500, our world of reproductive practices and controversy was created.

Seminars are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Tea is available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

Organised by Laurence Totelin and Nick Hopwood.

24 October **Rebecca Cassidy (Goldsmiths College, London)**
'It's all in the blood': thoroughbred racehorse reproduction

14 November **Rebecca Flemming (Faculty of Classics, Cambridge)**
Nature, nurture or neither? Some Hippocratic generations of difference

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 David Feller.

- 9 October **Simon Chaplin (Hunterian Museum, Royal College of Surgeons)**
The strange tale of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hunter: the social and professional life of naturalist John Hunter (1728-1793)
- 16 October **Sujit Sivasundaram (Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge)**
Botany, empire, religion and collecting in early nineteenth-century north India
- 23 October **FUNGUS HUNT**
- 30 October **Jasper Heinzen (Darwin College, Cambridge)**
Transcultural botany: Japanese gardens in New Zealand, 1890-1950
*** This seminar will start at 12.30 ***
- 6 November **Jim Moore (Open University)**
R.A. Fisher: a faith fit for eugenics
- 13 November **Margaret Schabas (University of British Columbia)**
More like apes than angels: natural history and the political economy of David Hume and Adam Smith
- 20 November **Niall O'Flaherty**
Divine design arguments in the eighteenth century
- 27 November **Salim Al-Gailani (HPS, Cambridge)**
Tropical invalids: climate and culture in nineteenth-century British natural history

Psy Studies

History of Psychiatry, Psychology, Psychoanalysis and Allied Sciences

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

Organised by John Forrester, Andreas Mayer and Deborah Thom.

- 25 October **Hans Pols (University of Sydney)**
Psychiatry and colonial politics: colonial psychiatry and indigenous physicians in the former Dutch East Indies
- 1 November **Fay Bound Alberti (University of Lancaster)**
Angina pectoris and the Arnolds: emotions and the framing of heart disease in medical history
- 15 November **Edgar Jones (King's College London)**
Shell shock to PTSD: a step change in the conceptualisation of psychological responses to traumatic events
- 29 November **Michel Feher (École Normale Supérieure, Paris)**
Four erotic problems: elements of a history of arts of love

Epistemology Reading Group

We will be reading from Jennifer Lackey and Ernest Sosa (eds) *The Epistemology of Testimony* (OUP, 2006). 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 essay, 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.

- 5 October Robert Audi, 'Testimony, Credulity, and Veracity'
- 12 October James Van Cleve, 'Reid on the Credit of Human Testimony'
- 19 October Sanford C. Goldberg, 'Reductionism and the Distinctiveness of Testimonial Knowledge'
- 26 October Keith Lehrer, 'Testimony and Trustworthiness'
- 2 November Jennifer Lackey, 'It Takes Two to Tango: Beyond Reductionism and Non-Reductionism in the Epistemology of Testimony'
- 9 November Frederick F. Schmitt, 'Testimonial Justification and Transindividual Reasons'
- 16 November Elizabeth Fricker, 'Testimony and Epistemic Authority'
- 23 November Richard Moran, 'Getting Told and Being Believed'

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, with a session at Jesus College's Old Library anticipated 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.

Greek Therapy

The Greek Therapy Group meets on **Fridays from 2.30 to 4pm in the HPS Lodge**. Laurence Totelin is our language tutor. We are working through the final chapters of the diminutive *Greek for Beginners* by L.A. Wilding, referring as needed to *A Primer of Greek Grammar* by Abbott & Mansfield (both published by Duckworth). We hope to graduate to some of the easier passages from Plato later this term. All welcome; anybody with a smattering of Greek from school or college would be able to catch up very quickly.

For more information contact Nick Tosh.

Kant Reading Group

We meet on **Tuesdays from 1pm to 2.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Organised by Marina Frasca-Spada.

‘Kant’s philosophy and the sciences’

- 17 October **Paul Dicken** will introduce P. Strawson, *The Bounds of Sense*, London: Methuen, 1966, Part 5, ‘Kant’s theory of geometry’, pp. 277-92
- 24 October **Brian King** will introduce A. Quinton, ‘Spaces and Times’, *Philosophy* 37 (1962): 130-147 (and possibly M. Hollis, ‘Times and Spaces’, *Mind* 76 (1967): 524-536; L. Falkenstein, ‘Spaces and Times: a Kantian response’, *Idealistic Studies* 16 (1986): 1-11)
- 31 October **Marina Frasca-Spada** will introduce M. Friedman, *Kant and the Exact Sciences*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1992, ch. 2, ‘Concept and intuitions on the mathematical sciences’, pp. 96-135
- 7 November **Sasha Mudd** will introduce M. Friedman, ‘Kant’s Causal Laws and the Foundations of Natural Science’, in P. Guyer (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Kant*, Cambridge: CUP, 1992, pp. 161-199
- 14 November **Alix Cohen** will introduce E. Watkins, *Kant and the Metaphysics of Causality*, Cambridge: CUP, 2005, ch.3, ‘Kant’s Second and Third Analogies of Experience’, pp. 185-229
- 21 November **Sacha Golob** will introduce B. Longuenesse, *Kant on the Human Standpoint*, Cambridge: CUP, 2005, ch. 7, ‘Kant’s standpoint on the whole: disjunctive judgment, community, and the Third Analogy of Experience’, pp. 184-208
- 28 November **Angela Breitenbach** will introduce O. O’Neill, *Constructions of Reason*, CUP, 1989, ch. 3, ‘Reason and Autonomy in Grundlegung III’, pp. 51-65

Science and Literature Reading Group

This term the group will explore the question ‘what is science journalism?’.

We will meet fortnightly on Mondays 16 and 30 October, and 13 and 27 November, from 7.30-9pm, in the upstairs seminar room of Darwin College. All welcome!

For the first session we will be discussing contemporary science journalism, alongside the ‘Science and the Media’ section of the Government Select Committee on Science and Technology’s third report. This is available at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldselect/ldsctech/38/3810.htm>

If you’re thinking of attending then please bring along a few examples from recent newspapers or magazines.

In following sessions we will go back in time to see how the aims and problems of communication have been addressed in previous centuries, including the writings of J.G. Crowther, the nineteenth century periodical press, and earlier broadsides. A selection of these texts will be available in the Whipple Library from the beginning of term for reading and photocopying.

For further information, please visit our new weblog at <http://sci-lit-reading-group.blogspot.com>, or e-mail Katy Price or Melanie Keene.

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 Nicky Reeves if you are interested in giving a paper or adding your name to the e-mail list.

11 October **Melanie Keene (HPS, Cambridge)**

Bangs and stinks: Ede's 'Youth's Laboratories' and the smell of useful knowledge

25 October **Lise Kvande (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)**

Maternal or fetal diagnostics? Practices of ultrasound imaging in Norway, 1970-1995

8 November **Boris Jardine (HPS, Cambridge)**

Darwin's microscopes: theory, practice and reputation

22 November **Jaume Navarro (HPS, Cambridge)**

Electrons in the family

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.

18 October **Mark Sprevak (HPS, Cambridge)**

Not all computations are effective methods

1 November **Joab Rosenberg (HPS, Cambridge)**

Philosophy on the move: mind and body in Stanley Cavell's work

15 November **Paul Dicken (HPS, Cambridge)**

Three degrees of (anti-realist) modal involvement

29 November **Joe Sandham (HPS, Cambridge)**

Relative meaning