

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 Nicky Reeves.

7 & 14 October *Research Topics and Resources Seminars: see page 5*

- 21 October **Chitra Ramalingam (Science Museum and CRASSH, Cambridge)**
How to see movement: visual experience in early nineteenth-century physics
- 28 October **Miruna Achim (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico City)**
From rustics to savants: the uses of indigenous *materia medica* in colonial New Spain
- 4 November **Rasmus Grønfeldt Winther (University of California, Santa Cruz, and University of Copenhagen)**
'Wir sind alle Afrikaner': abstraction and reification of 'race' in the age of genomics
- 11 November **Ellie Kingma (King's College London)**
Health and disease: beyond naturalism and normativism
- 18 November **Donald Gillies (UCL)**
Lessons from the history and philosophy of science for research assessment systems
- 25 November **Jennifer Rampling (HPS, Cambridge)**
Alchemy as 'practical exegesis' in early-modern England

The sixth annual Cambridge Wellcome Lecture in the History of Medicine will be delivered next term, on 20 January 2011. **Mary Fissell (Johns Hopkins University)** will speak on 'Encountering *Aristotle's Masterpiece*, or how to find a racy book about reproduction'.

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

Details of the Department's programme of graduate training workshops – for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers – are available at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/students/training and in the Graduate Handbook.

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Abstracts

21 October **Chitra Ramalingam (Science Museum and CRASSH, Cambridge)**

How to see movement: visual experience in early nineteenth-century physics

It is well known that there was widespread interest in human vision, optical illusions and optical toys in the early nineteenth century. One optical phenomenon that attracted attention from European scientists, intellectuals and publics alike was ‘visual persistence’, which would eventually come to be understood as the basis for the illusion of motion perceived in cinema. The earliest systematic investigation of this illusion was carried out by two individuals most commonly associated with the history of physics: the London experimental philosophers Charles Wheatstone and Michael Faraday. In this paper I explore why this pair placed the study of human visual experience and its limitations at the centre of their experimental activities in acoustics and electricity in the 1820s and 1830s. A rigorous exploration of the operation of human vision, put to use in lecture performance techniques and exquisitely engineered optical instruments, could turn private ocular experiences of transient movements (like sound vibrations or electric sparks) into authoritative, publicly accessible visual facts about the lawlike regularity of nature. The early physics laboratory and lecture hall are found to be important sites where provocative theses about nineteenth-century ‘ways of seeing’ – such as that of the influential art historian Jonathan Crary – can be tested.

28 October **Miruna Achim (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico City)**

From rustics to savants: the uses of indigenous *materia medica* in colonial New Spain

This talk explores the ways indigenous knowledge about plant and animal remedies was gathered, classified, ‘translated’, tested and circulated across wide networks of exchange for natural knowledge between Europe and the Americas. There has been much recent interest in the ‘bioprospecting’ of local natural resources – medical and otherwise – by Europeans in the early modern world. However, some opacity continues to surround the description of how knowledge travelled. While the strategies employed by European travellers, missionaries or naturalists have been well documented, there has been less written on the role played by indigenous and creole intermediaries in this process. And yet, the transmission of knowledge between indigenous communities and the European cabinet was neither transparent nor natural, and often involved epistemological, linguistic and religious obstacles. Drawing on a number of printed and manuscript sources, collections of indigenous remedies, written in places as diverse as Guatemala, the Yucatán, Chiapas and Mexico City, in the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries, I am interested in exploring how local intermediaries, like creoles scholars, sought to overcome such obstacles by observing indigenous uses of remedies, by studying indigenous languages and by producing natural histories and pharmacopeias in indigenous languages (Nahuatl and Maya Quiché, for instance). Ultimately, behind the creole participation in the transmission of indigenous remedies, one can point to more inclusive definitions of knowledge, which cut across oppositions between science and superstition, cabinet and field, centre and periphery.

4 November **Rasmus Grønfeldt Winther (University of California, Santa Cruz, and University of Copenhagen)**

‘Wir sind alle Afrikaner’: abstraction and reification of ‘race’ in the age of genomics

Race is a notoriously contentious political, ideological, and sociological concept. By definition, a racial proper name (e.g. ‘African’, ‘Han Chinese’) is meant to refer to, and identify, a coherent human group (at various levels). But are there really such natural, biological groups, or are they solely cultural constructs? That is, are phenotypic ‘racial’ differences in hair texture, skin colour or various morphological characters (external traits) actually grounded in genetic or other biological differences (internal traits)? And if so, how broad are such basic, reductive biological differences? Do they also explain group-level differences in proneness to certain diseases or even IQ(!), that seem to robustly exist across human groups? Since biology clearly has ideological and social consequences, much is at stake in scientific attempts to assess the

naturalness of ‘race’. In this talk, I critically examine the abstraction of human groups (and ‘races’) through the use of contemporary data-driven (e.g. SNPs, haplotypes and microsatellites) modelling strategies (e.g. STRUCTURE computer program, phylogenetic inferences). I employ my philosophical framework of the reification of scientific abstractions. I argue that the real yet partial population structure of humans across the globe, as well as the various empirically-adequate models of human evolution, do not justify a reification of the race concept. The concept does not have strong biological support, and I suggest that scientific honesty demands that we abandon it. (Even then, we could still search for genes and developmental processes underlying diseases, as well as try to reconstruct the evolutionary history of genetically diverse human groups.) Indeed, as indicated in an ongoing exhibition on human evolution at the Neues Museum in Berlin, we are all Africans.

11 November **Ellie Kingma (King’s College London)**

Health and disease: beyond naturalism and normativism

What is health? What is disease? Thirty years of philosophical debate has failed to answer these questions. Instead the literature has revolved around one single question: are the concepts of health and disease value-free? Naturalists ardently argue in favour, whilst normativists equally vehemently oppose. Neither of these approaches has succeeded, however; naturalists fail to make good on their promise of providing a fully naturalistic account of disease – and even if they were able to provide this, the disease concept they discuss is a pure theoretical one, and not applicable to either practice, ethics or policy. Normativists, on the other hand, fail to unpack the claim that health and disease are value-laden, and offer analyses that beg the question with respect to applications in policy, ethics and practice. It is time for a different approach. Rather than debating value-free or value-laden definitions we should consider how the concepts of health and disease came to be what they are. In this process both values and biological descriptions play an interactive role. The creative synthesis of naturalism and normativism I thus offer moves beyond the traditional stalemate, and has profound implications for bioethicist.

18 November **Donald Gillies (UCL)**

Lessons from the history and philosophy of science for research assessment systems

The thesis of this paper is that material from the history and philosophy of science is highly relevant to the question of the efficacy of research assessment systems such as the RAE or REF. Systems of this kind are based on peer review or metrics. However, the study of historical examples such as Frege, Semmelweis and Copernicus shows that both peer review and metrics have important defects and can lead to the rejection of innovative research. This phenomenon is explained using ideas of Kuhn and Lakatos. The conclusion drawn is that systems such as the RAE or REF are likely to make research output worse rather than better, and an alternative approach to research organisation is suggested.

25 November **Jennifer Rampling (HPS, Cambridge)**

Alchemy as ‘practical exegesis’ in early-modern England

Alchemy had many goals, from the transmutation of metals to the creation of the ‘vegetable stone’: a powerful medicinal elixir capable of healing bodies, restoring youth, and prolonging life. In the late fifteenth century, English practitioners began to describe a mysterious substance, ‘sericon’, used in the manufacture of the vegetable stone. Yet the nature of sericon was not fixed. Both its identity and the alchemical practice it represented underwent radical reinterpretation between the fifteenth and seventeenth centuries, as the original process was eclipsed by new methods and materials, notably those popularised by George Starkey (1628–1665). The rise and fall of ‘sericonian’ alchemy provides a case study for examining one challenge facing modern scholars: the difficulty of isolating and charting changes in alchemical ideas, practices and nomenclature without succumbing to anachronism. I shall argue that early modern practitioners faced similar interpretative difficulties when decoding their authorities, which they tried to solve by refashioning their medieval sources in light of both textual exegesis and practical experience.

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 Caitlin Wylie.

- 11 October **Carl Fisher (HPS, Cambridge)**
Some aspects of early Darwinian commemoration
- 18 October **Sophie Brockmann (HPS, Cambridge)**
Maya ruins, volcanoes and the colonial state in 18th-century Central America
- 25 October Fungus Hunt
- 1 November **Alexander Wragge-Morley (HPS, Cambridge)**
Politeness and the ethical force of natural history
- 8 November **Gowan Dawson (University of Leicester)**
Victorian palaeontology and serial publication
- 15 November **Francis Neary (HPS, Cambridge)**
The human automatism debate in the late 19th century
- 22 November **Hilary Powell (HPS, Cambridge)**
The making of the medieval English therapeutic landscape
- 29 November **Nils Guettler (Humboldt University and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)**
Mutable mobiles: the circulation of botanical maps between Humboldtian Germany and Victorian Britain

Research Topics and Resources Seminars

Seminars on research topics and resources 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 seminars are complemented by an online guide at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research.

Organised by Tim Lewens and Eleanor Robson.

- 7 October **Matthew Lane:** Research training offered by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Nick Whitfield: Archives
Jenny Bangham: Researching the history of twentieth-century biology
Billy Wheeler: Non-standard resources for philosophy of science
- 14 October **Nick Jardine:** Introduction to research resources in HPS
Patricia Fara: Scientific images
Josh Nall: Researching in the Whipple Museum
John Forrester: Crucial trivia

Twentieth Century Think Tank

The Think Tank offers broad coverage of 20th-century and contemporary topics in the history and philosophy of science. We alternate sessions between seminar talks presented by invited speakers and reading groups led by members of the Department. Copies of the texts for the reading group sessions can be found in the TCTT box in the Whipple Library.

Our slot alternates with the Twentieth-Century Biology Reading Group (see page 14), with **meetings every other Tuesday, 1–2pm in Seminar Room 1**. Everyone is welcome, and feel free to bring lunch!

For more information email hps-think-tank@lists.cam.ac.uk

19 October Seminar: **Joel Isaac (Queen Mary, University of London)**

Beyond epistemology: rethinking the relationship between philosophy and the human sciences in the twentieth century

2 November Reading group: **Jenny Bangham (HPS, Cambridge)**

Talking about biological and social kinds

Readings:

Ian Hacking, 'Genetics, biosocial groups and the future of identity', *Daedalus*, 135 (2006), 81–95.

Paul Rabinow, 'Artificiality and Enlightenment: from Sociobiology to Biosociality', in: Jonathan Crary and Sanford Kwinter (eds.), *Incorporations* (New York: Zone Books, 1992); reprinted in: Paul Rabinow, *Essays on the Anthropology of Reason* (Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996), 91–111; and in: Mario Biagioli (ed.), *The Science Studies Reader* (Routledge, New York and London, 1999): 407–416.

Ian Hacking, 'Degeneracy, Criminal Behaviour, and Looping', in: David Wasserman and Robert Wachbroit (eds.), *Genetics and Criminal Behaviour* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 141–167.

16 November Seminar: **Malcolm Thompson (University of British Columbia)**

The virtual object of public health, or: the problem of 'life' in China, 1911–1937

30 November Reading group: **Boris Jardine (HPS, Cambridge)**

Theories of science between the wars

Readings:

Hans-Jörg Rheinberger, *On Historicizing Epistemology: An Essay* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010), Chapters 2 and 3, 19–50.

John O'Neill & Thomas Uebel, 'Horkheimer and Neurath: Restarting a Disrupted Debate', *European Journal of Philosophy*, 12, No. 1 (2004), 75–105.

David Kaiser, 'A Mannheim for All Seasons: Bloor, Merton, and the Roots of the Sociology of Scientific Knowledge', *Science in Context*, 11, No. 1 (1998), 51–87.

History of Medicine Seminars

Seminars are on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome! Organised by Nick Hopwood and Lauren Kassell.

- 12 October **Sujit Sivasundaram (Faculty of History, Cambridge)**
Diseased on an Indian Ocean island: medicine, stishness and colonialism
- 19 October **Hilary Powell (HPS, Cambridge)**
The 'miracle of childbirth': the portrayal of parturient women in medieval miracle narratives
- 26 October **Tim McHugh (Oxford Brookes University)**
Catholic activists, medical authority and the limiting of peasant choice in rural Brittany, 1650–1750
- 9 November **Nick Whitfield (HPS, Cambridge)**
'A cold-blooded business'? Making the modern blood donor in wartime London

Generation to Reproduction Seminars

These seminars, on **Tuesdays from 5.00 to 6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**, are funded by our Wellcome Trust strategic award in the history of medicine (www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk). Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

- 16 November **Sarah Toulalan (University of Exeter)**
Diagnosing child sexual abuse in early modern England
- 23 November **Florence Vienne (Technical University, Braunschweig)**
Spermatic animalcules and concepts of life around 1800

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).

This term's meetings will be at **5–7pm on Tuesdays 2 November and 30 November in Seminar Room 1**. To join the group, please email generate@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Graduate workshops

HPS History Workshop

The HPS History Workshop is a seminar group devoted to peer discussion of work in progress in all areas of the history of science, medicine and technology. All HPS postgraduate students with an interest in history are welcome to present draft MPhil essays, PhD chapters, conference papers, etc. The workshop encourages friendly and constructive feedback while providing a fortnightly point of contact for postgraduate historians at HPS.

Sessions will be held on alternate **Wednesdays in Seminar Room 1, 1pm–2pm**.

Organised by Sophie Brockmann.

13 October **Alexander Wragge-Morley (HPS, Cambridge)**

Representational practices and the ethics of natural history, 1650–1720

27 October **Christian Strother (Faculty of History, Cambridge)**

From unhealthy lands to foyers of endemicity: malaria's place in the medical geography of French West Africa, ca.1880–1920

10 November **Anne Katrine Kleberg Hansen (University of Copenhagen)**

Concepts and perceptions of body size within western medicine in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries

24 November **Sophie Waring (HPS, Cambridge)**

The Board of Longitude and the amateur: an investigation into the public culture of science and expertise, 1780–1820

Philosophy Workshop

The HPS Philosophy Workshop is a fortnightly seminar devoted to the discussion of on-going work by researchers in philosophy. Papers are invited from all graduate students and post-docs: it is a great format for getting some constructive and informal feedback on an essay, PhD chapter or potential article. Papers are circulated by email one week in advance of each meeting – the author will then give a brief synopsis on the day followed by roughly 45 minutes of Q&A.

Meetings take place **every other Wednesday from 1–2pm in Seminar Room 1**. The meeting dates are as follows:

20 October

3 November

17 November

1 December

If you would like to present, or have any questions, please contact Sacha Golob.

Reading and discussion groups

AD HOC

AD HOC is a history of chemistry reading group based in Cambridge and London. While our main focus is historical, we also consider the philosophical, sociological, public and educational dimensions of chemistry. This term's theme is 'Between Alchemy and Chemistry'.

The group meets four times per term, on **Wednesdays, 5pm–6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Readings are available from the Whipple Library, and also circulated via our mailing list. A parallel series of meetings is held in London, and travel bursaries are available for students interested in attending both. For details visit our website, www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc.

Organised by Hasok Chang and Jenny Rampling.

20 October 'Alchemy vs. chemistry'

Introduced by **Jennifer Rampling (HPS, Cambridge)**

Readings:

1. William R. Newman & Lawrence Principe, 'Alchemy vs. chemistry. The etymological origins of a historiographic mistake', *Early Science and Medicine* 3:1 (1998): 32–65.
2. J. R. R. Christie and J. V. Golinski, 'The Spreading of the Word: New Directions in the Historiography of Chemistry 1600–1800', *History of Science*, 20:4 (1982): 235–266.

27 October 'Alchemy from the perspective of later chemistry'

Introduced by **Hasok Chang (HPS, Cambridge)**

Readings:

1. Justus von Liebig, *Familiar Letters on Chemistry*, 3rd ed. (London, 1851): Letters III (main reading) and IV (recommended).
2. 'Alchemy'. Entry in the 1911 *Encyclopedia Britannica*, vol. V01, p. 520.
3. To be confirmed.

10 November 'Alchemy's place in the history of science and medicine'

Introduced by **Rob Ralley (HPS, Cambridge)**

Readings:

1. Lauren Kassell, 'Secrets Revealed: Alchemical Books in Early-Modern England', forthcoming in *History of Science*.
2. Bruce T. Moran, *The Alchemical World of the German Court: Occult Philosophy and Chemical Medicine in the Circle of Moritz of Hessen (1572–1632)* (Stuttgart, 1991), chapter 4 (pp. 50–67).

1 December 'Newton's alchemy'

Introduced by **Peter Jones (King's College, Cambridge)** and **John Young (HPS, Cambridge)**

Hands-on session at King's College Library, examining some of Isaac Newton's alchemical manuscripts. Meet at 5pm in the Library Reading Room.

Background reading:

1. Betty-Jo Teeter Dobbs, *The Janus Faces of Genius: The Role of Alchemy in Newton's Thought* (Cambridge: CUP, 1991), chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1–52).
2. Browse 'The Chymistry of Isaac Newton' website: www.chymistry.org (particularly the Introduction to Newton's short tract *On nature's obvious laws*, at <http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/newton/mss/intro/ALCH00081>)

Philosophy of Science Reading Group

We will be reading from Stephen H. Kellert, Helen E. Longino and C. Kenneth Waters (eds.), *Scientific Pluralism* (University of Minnesota Press, 2006). Three copies of the book are on reserve in the Whipple Library. Meetings will involve a short presentation by a member of the group followed by a general discussion.

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

- 7 October Stephen H. Kellert, Helen E. Longino and C. Kenneth Waters, 'The Pluralist Stance'
- 14 October Alan W. Richardson, 'The Many Unities of Science: Politics, Semantics, and Ontology'
- 21 October Ronald N. Giere, 'Perspectival Pluralism'
- 28 October Michael Dickson, 'Plurality and Complementarity in Quantum Dynamics'
- 4 November Helen E. Longino, 'Theoretical Pluralism and the Scientific Study of Behaviour'
- 11 November C. Wade Savage, 'A New/Old (Pluralist) Resolution of the Mind-Body Problem'
- 18 November Carla Fehr, 'Explanations of the Evolution of Sex: A Plurality of Local Mechanisms'
- 25 November C. Kenneth Waters, 'A Pluralist Interpretation of Gene-Centred Biology'

Kant Reading Group

Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science

Metaphysische Anfangsgründe der Naturwissenschaft

'Nature taken in this sense of the word has two main parts, corresponding to the main line through our senses: one part contains the objects of the external senses. Any theory about that will be a doctrine of body, dealing with extended Nature. The other part contains the object of the internal sense. Any theory about it will be a doctrine of soul, dealing with thinking Nature.' (Metaphysical Foundations, AA VI:467)

This term the Kant Reading Group will read the Metaphysical Foundations of Natural Science. Meetings are held in the **HPS Lodge from 3.30–5.00pm on Tuesdays**. They begin with a short presentation and are followed by general discussion. All are most welcome. We will fix our schedule of presenters in the first meeting, though please feel free to contact Katharina Kraus if you would like to sign up in advance for a particular slot, or if you have any questions.

- 12 October Introduction and Preface (AA VI:467 – VI:479)
- 19 October Phoronomy: Part I: AA VI:480 – VI:487
- 26 October Phoronomy: Part II: AA VI:487 – VI:495
- 2 November Dynamics: Part I: AA VI:496 – VI:503
- 9 November Dynamics: Part II: AA VI:503 – VI:508
- 16 November Dynamics: Part III: AA VI:508 – VI:515
- 23 November Dynamics: Part IV: AA VI:516 – VI:523
- 30 November Dynamics: Part V: AA VI:523 – VI:535

Science and Literature Reading Group

Meteorology and Climate Change

We meet on **Mondays from 7.30 to 9pm in the Skillicorn and Bamford Rooms at Homerton College**. Many of the selections we have chosen are available online. Copies of the harder-to-obtain items will be placed in our box file in the Whipple Library.

Organised by Daniel Friesner (Science Museum) and Melanie Keene (Homerton College). See our blog at <http://sci-lit-reading-group.blogspot.com/> for news and updates; email Melanie to join our dedicated mailing list. *All welcome!*

18 October Extreme events (in the Skillicorn Room)

Daniel Defoe, *The Storm* (1704), especially Chapter III, 'Of the Storm in General', pp. 26–36 in the Penguin Classics edition. To find this chapter online, search for the phrase 'before we come to examine the damage' on Google Books.

1 November Clouds (in the Bamford Room)

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, poems in honour of Luke Howard (1820–22). Translated in Kurt Badt, *John Constable's Clouds*, trans. Stanley Godman (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1950), pp. 12–14. To find this online, search for the phrase 'walks and flickers' on Google Books.

John Ruskin, *The Storm Cloud of the Nineteenth Century: two lectures delivered at the London Institution* (1884). Lecture 1, 4th February, especially the beginning and end of the lecture, pp. 1–8 and 29–44 on Internet Archive; pp. 1–6 and 20–30 on Project Gutenberg.

15 November Weather control (in the Skillicorn Room)

Eliza Leslie, 'The Rain King; or, A Glance at the Next Century'. *Godey's Lady's Book*, Vol. 25, July 1842, pp. 7–11. To find this online, search for the phrase 'so many new stars had been added' on Google Books.

Carl Barks, 'The Master Rainmaker'. *Walt Disney's Comics & Stories* #156 (Vol. 13, No. 12, September 1953). Reprinted in *Walt Disney's Donald Duck*, No. 284 (Series II), May 1994. Also reprinted (in black and white) in *The Journal of Weather Modification*, Vol. 23, No. 1, April 1991, pp. 90–100.

Daniil Granin, *Idu na grozu* (1961). Translated as *Into The Storm* (Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1965) pp. 33–39, 182–187, 197–203, 239–249, 254–257, 307–309.

29 November Cooling down and warming up (in the Skillicorn Room)

Arthur C. Clarke, 'The Forgotten Enemy'. *King's College Review*, December 1948, pp. 20–24. Reprinted in various collections, including *SF: Author's Choice 4* and *The Collected Stories of Arthur C. Clarke*.

J. G. Ballard, 'The Drowned World'. *Science Fiction Adventures*, #24 (Vol. 4, January 1962), pp. 2–56, especially pp. 2–25 and 55–56. (This is the original novella, which was afterwards expanded into a novel.)

History and Theory Reading Group

The group will discuss articles (their own, and those of others) relating to problems of historical research, interpretation, explanation and narration. Articles will be placed well in advance in a History and Theory box in the Whipple. Suggested additional readings are listed at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars/theory.html

We meet on **Fridays, 2.30pm to 4pm in Seminar Room 1**. Organised by Jenny Bangham and Katharina Kraus.

15 October **Jesse Olszynko-Gryn (HPS, Cambridge)**

Laboratory histories: what does it mean to be ethnographic thirty years on?

Robert E. Kohler (2008), 'Lab History. Reflections' *Isis* 99: 761–768.

'Postscript to Second Edition (1986)', 273–290 in Bruno Latour and Steve Woolgar, *Laboratory Life: The Construction of Scientific Facts* (1979; new ed., Princeton, N.J.: Princeton Univ. Press, 1986).

29 October **Rowan Boyson (King's College, Cambridge)**

Description and sensuousness

Cynthia Sundberg Wall, 'A History of Description, a Foundling', in *The Prose of Things: Transformations of Description in the Eighteenth Century* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006).

Alain Corbin, 'Charting the Cultural History of the Senses', in *Empire of the Senses: The Sensual Culture Reader*, ed. by David Howes (Basingstoke: Berg, 2004).

Michel Serres, 'Tables' in *The Five Senses: A Philosophy of Mingled Bodies*, trans. by Peter Cowley and Margaret Sankey (London: Continuum, 2009).

12 November **Hasok Chang (HPS, Cambridge)**

A new look at Whiggism

Chang, Hasok (2009) 'We Have Never Been Whiggish (About Phlogiston)' *Centaurus*, 51: 239–264.

Forman, Paul. (1991) 'Independence, Not Transcendence, for the Historian of Science' *Isis* 82: 71–86.

26 November **Leon Rocha (HPS and Needham Research Institute, Cambridge)**

Global histories of science

Sivasundaram, Sujit (2010) 'Introduction' *Isis*, 101: 95.

Elshakry, Marwa (2010) 'When Science Became Western: Historiographical Reflections' *Isis*, 101: 98.

Tilley, Helen (2010) 'Global Histories, Vernacular Science, and African Genealogies; or, Is the History of Science Ready for the World?' *Isis*, 101: 110.

Sivasundaram, Sujit (2010) 'Sciences and the Global: On Methods, Questions, and Theory' *Isis*, 101: 146.

Philosophy of Biology Reading Group

The Philosophy of Biology Reading Group meets **weekly on Fridays from 2–3pm in the HPS Lodge Seminar Room**.

In Michaelmas Term we will be reading sections from the volume *Contemporary Debates in Philosophy of Biology* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009). The book is highly modular, composed of ten sections consisting of two short articles that address a certain philosophical question. We will be reading one section each week.

Everyone is welcome, and undergraduates and MPhils are especially encouraged to join. No prior knowledge of philosophy of biology is required.

Organised by Joeri Witteveen.

- 8 October Part I: Is it possible to reduce biological explanations to explanations in Chemistry and/or Physics? [articles by Keller and Dupré]
- 15 October Part II: Have traits evolved to function the way they do because of past advantage? [articles by Perlman and Cummins]
- 22 October Part III: Are species real? [articles by Claridge and Mishler]
- 29 October Part V: Are microevolution and macroevolution governed by the same processes? [articles by Dietrich and Erwin]
- 5 November Part VI: Does evolutionary developmental biology offer a significant challenge to the neo-Darwinian paradigm? [articles by Laubichler and Minelli]
- 12 November Part VII: Were the basic components of the human mind solidified during the Pleistocene epoch? [articles by Starratt and Downes]
- 19 November Part VIII: Does memetics provide a useful way of understanding cultural evolution? [articles by Blackmore and Wimsatt]
- 26 November Part IX: Can the biological sciences act as a ground for ethics? [articles by Ruse and Ayala]

Medieval Medicine Discussion Group

This discussion group caters for all scholars with an interest in the field of medieval medicine. It is intended to be an informal gathering to discuss work in progress. All are welcome to attend and partake in our discussions.

Meetings will be held on **alternate Mondays, 2.30–4pm** in the Old Library section of the Whipple Library. Coffee and tea will be available. Organised by Hilary Powell.

- 25 October **Conan Doyle (ASNC, Cambridge)**
The vernacular fortunes of the Pseudo-Galenic *Liber tertius* in Anglo-Saxon England
- 22 November **Peter Jones (King's College, Cambridge)**
Images in medicine, medicine in images
- 6 December **William MacLehose (UCL)**
Sleep and rationality in medieval medicine

Twentieth-Century Biology Reading Group

The group will discuss papers relating to the history, philosophy and historiography of twentieth-century biology. Articles will be placed well in advance in a box in the Whipple Library. Meetings are **every other Tuesday from 1–2pm in Seminar Room 1**, alternating with the Twentieth Century Think Tank.

Organised by Jenny Bangham.

12 October **Ruth Horry (HPS, Cambridge)**

Uses of medical history by the medical profession

Cantor, David (ed.) (2002) *Reinventing Hippocrates* (Aldershot: Ashgate). Introduction and Chapter 11: Lederer, Susan E. ‘Hippocrates American style: representing professional morality in early twentieth-century America’.

Huisman, Frank and Warner, John Harley (eds.) (2004) *Locating Medical History: the Stories and their Meanings* (Baltimore; London: The Johns Hopkins University Press). Chapters 1 and 7.

Schlich, Thomas (1995) ‘How Gods and Saints Became Transplant Surgeons: the Scientific Article as a Model for the Writing of History’. In *History of Science* 33: 311–331.

26 October **Salim Al-Gailani (HPS, Cambridge)**

Genetics and atomic science

Campos, Luis and von Schwerin, Alexander (eds.) (2010) ‘Making Mutations: Objects, Practices, Contexts’ (*Max Planck Institute for the History of Science Preprint* 393). Introduction and Soraya de Chadarevian’s *Mutations in the Nuclear Age*, p. 179.

Beatty, John (1991) ‘Genetics in the atomic age: the Atomic Bomb Causality Commission, 1946–1956’. In K. B. Benson, J. Maienschein and R. Rainger (eds), *The Expansion of American Biology* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press) pp. 284–324.

Lindee, Susan (1994) *Suffering Made Real: American Science and the Survivors of Hiroshima* (Chicago University Press) (Selected chapters to be confirmed.)

9 November **Dmitriy Myelnikov (HPS, Cambridge)**

Model organisms and medical genetics

Lynch, M. E. (1988) ‘Sacrifice and the Transformation of the Animal Body into a Scientific Object: Laboratory Culture and Ritual Practice in the Neurosciences’. *Social Studies of Science*, 18: 265–289.

Rader, K. A. (1998) “‘The Mouse People’: Murine Genetics Work at the Bussey Institution, 1909–1936’. *Journal of the History of Biology*, 31: 327–354.

Haraway, Donna (2007) *When Species Meet* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007). Chapter 3: ‘Shared Suffering: Instrumental Relations between Laboratory Animals and their People’, pp. 69–94.

23 November **Jenny Bangham (HPS, Cambridge)**

Cell culture

Skloot, Rebecca (2009) *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (Crown, New York). Prologue and Part Three: Immortality.

Landecker, Hannah (2007) *Culturing Life: How Cells Became Technologies* (Harvard University Press). Chapter 4: HELA, pp. 140–179.

Evolution Reading Group

This term the Evolution Reading Group will take as its theme ‘Observing Evolution’, in order to examine how the process (whose scale and duration places itself beyond the limits of direct human observation) was observed by those seeking evidence of natural selection’s role in the divergence and development of life’s ‘endless forms’. The readings for this term are taken from works of natural history written in the last decades of the 19th century. Each week will also feature a corresponding secondary source. Please find all readings in our box in the Whipple Library.

We meet on **alternate Thursdays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**. For more information, please contact Katie Zimmerman.

- 14 October Selected readings from Walter Henry Bates, *In the Heart of the Amazon Forest* (1863) and George Woodcock, *Henry Walter Bates: Naturalist of the Amazons* (1969).
- 28 October Selections from George Romanes, *Animal Intelligence* (1882) and Gillian Beer, ‘Darwin and the consciousness of others’ in *Darwin’s Plots*, 3rd ed. (2009).
- 11 November Selections from Fritz Müller, *Facts and Arguments for Darwin* (1869) and readings from the correspondence between Müller and Darwin via Darwin Correspondence Project.
- 25 November Selections from Grant Allen, TBA, and ‘Darwin’s Plants’, Chapter 4 in Jonathan Smith’s *Charles Darwin and Victorian Visual Culture* (2006).

The ERG will also host a film night each term, date and location TBA. This term we will screen and discuss *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed* (2008).

Language groups

Latin Therapy

Latin Therapy will meet on **Fridays in the HPS Lodge from 4–5.30pm**. For this term, the first meeting will take place on 15 October and the last on 26 November, with a surprise fieldtrip on 3 December. All levels are welcome and beginners are strongly encouraged to come along. Each week we will cover some introductory grammar, followed by a text suggested by members. The pain of the ablative absolute will be salved with copious tea and biscuits!

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