

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 Karin Ekholm.

- 11 October **Inaugural Lecture by Professor Hasok Chang**
Scientific pluralism and the mission of history and philosophy of science
4.45pm in Mill Lane Lecture Room 3
- 18 October **Eleanor Robson (HPS, Cambridge)**
Geographies of knowledge in Assyria and Babylonia, c.800–200 BC
- 25 October **Anna Alexandrova (HPS, Cambridge)**
Reasoning about well-being: between psychometrics and philosophy
- 1 November **Huw Price (Philosophy, Cambridge)**
Where would we be without counterfactuals?
- 8 November **Alex Marr (History of Art, Cambridge)**
Ingenuity in the gallery
- 15 November **Christina Benninghaus (HPS, Cambridge)**
Infertility – the making of a modern experience, Germany 1870–1930
- 22 November **Tiago Mata (HPS, Cambridge)**
The knowledge practices of *Fortune* magazine: leadership, numeracy and poetry, 1930–1945

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

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Abstracts

11 October **Hasok Chang (HPS, Cambridge)**

Scientific pluralism and the mission of history and philosophy of science

What is HPS for? Why do we need such a professional academic discipline? There are many ways of doing HPS and many functions it can serve. However, especially when we intend it as a separate discipline apart from general history, general philosophy, and science itself, I believe that HPS at its best is an expression of pluralism concerning science. The need for HPS in this mode arises from the tendency of modern science to assume that it is in possession of the one right way of studying nature that will eventually yield a uniquely correct and unchangeable body of knowledge. Such an assumption can and should be countered both by philosophical critique and historical awareness. HPS can promote a healthy pluralism concerning science, which holds that it is beneficial to maintain multiple systems of knowledge even within one field of study, both for the distinctive contributions that each system can make and for the benefits of interactions between different systems. This mission of HPS can be most effectively achieved if history and philosophy work together, each maintaining respectful yet critical engagement with science itself. HPS practiced in this way, which I call ‘complementary science’, can improve scientific knowledge by recovering forgotten knowledge from past science, extending the recovered knowledge, and enhancing critical awareness. HPS can also contribute to the maturing of the role of science in society, by helping science move beyond monistic arrogance and enter into an open-minded and constructive engagement with other spheres of life. A full integration of HPS into science education and public intellectual life would be a momentous step, enabling the educated public to participate once again in the cultivation of our knowledge of the universe.

18 October **Eleanor Robson (HPS, Cambridge)**

Geographies of knowledge in Assyria and Babylonia, c.800–200 BC

Over the past decade or so, geographical questions have become increasingly prominent in the history and sociology of recent science: how and why do ideas, techniques, theories, and methods propagate around the scientific world (or fail to do so), and how do they acquire meaning and value as they do so? How do changing socio-political contexts affect those movements and interpretations? For the past five years, I’ve been leading an AHRC-funded research project here in the Department that poses (and attempts to answer) similar questions about how scholarly knowledge travelled in the ancient Middle East. In this seminar I will describe what we’ve been doing and some of the conclusions we’ve reached. I will focus especially on Babylonia (southern Iraq) in the first millennium BC, when successive conquests and occupations by the Assyrians, Persians and Greek Macedonians each had a major impact on where scholarly work took place, for whom, and what it meant to its practitioners and patrons.

25 October **Anna Alexandrova (HPS, Cambridge)**

Reasoning about well-being: between psychometrics and philosophy

Well-being is nowadays an object of science. It has various formal properties: precise definitions, measurement procedures, causal maps. But along with that, it remains an object of social policy and personal deliberation, and this requires normativity – well-being must be something worth pursuing and promoting. That is, a scientific construct of well-being must refer to something that a normative argument identifies as reasonably close to well-being. What sort of argument and how can we secure it? Philosophers think such an argument must come from a theory of prudential value (traditionally eudaimonism, hedonism and desire fulfillment). Scientists, on the other hand, validate their constructs and measures using psychometric tests. I argue that neither option is right and outline a better way.

1 November **Huw Price (Philosophy, Cambridge)**

Where would we be without counterfactuals?

Bertrand Russell's famous lecture 'On the Notion of a Cause' was first delivered to the Aristotelian Society on 4 November 1912, as Russell's Presidential Address. The paper is best known for a characteristically provocative passage in which Russell positions himself between the traditional metaphysics of causation and the British crown, firing a broadside in both directions. 'The law of causality', he declares, 'Like much that passes muster in philosophy, is a relic of a bygone age, surviving, like the monarchy, only because it is erroneously supposed to do no harm.' To celebrate the lecture's approaching centenary, I offer a contemporary assessment of the significance and fate of the issues that Russell here puts on the table, and of the health or otherwise, at the end of its first century, of his notorious conclusion.

8 November **Alex Marr (History of Art, Cambridge)**

Ingenuity in the gallery

Willem II van Haecht's 'Gallery of Cornelis van der Gheest' (1628) is the best known and most extensively discussed example of the Flemish 'pictures of collections' genre, which rose to prominence in Antwerp in the first half of the seventeenth century. Yet despite the painting's fame, a key aspect of its allegory has been curiously overlooked. This paper will argue that the image should be read as a celebration of *ingenium*: a shared attribute of the *cognoscenti* – be they patrons, artists, or scholars – that populate the gallery space.

15 November **Christina Benninghaus (HPS, Cambridge)**

Infertility – the making of a modern experience, Germany 1870–1930

When IVF was introduced, it was seen as ushering in a new era marked by the ability to manipulate life. Regarding infertility, IVF was perceived as a watershed, neatly dividing a past in which infertility had been regarded as fate and present in which involuntarily childless couples faced unprecedented but ethically problematic options. Historians of medicine would not subscribe to this view. Rather they would point to the fact that infertility had long been perceived as a medical condition, demanding sound diagnosis and at times rather aggressive forms of treatment. In my paper, I will ask how the meaning of infertility changed during the late 19th and the early 20th century. I will look at the forms of diagnosis and treatment that were available during this period but also at the changing value Western societies attributed to motherhood and fatherhood, to children and to the ability to shape one's own life course. Was there something specifically 'modern' about the ways in which infertility was perceived during this period? How does it compare to earlier times? And if there was substantial change, how can we understand the relationship between broader social and cultural changes and the dynamics brought about by advances in science and medicine?

22 November **Tiago Mata (HPS, Cambridge)**

The knowledge practices of *Fortune* magazine: leadership, numeracy and poetry, 1930–1945

Fortune magazine, with its first issue in February 1930, was a luxury item for the Great Depression, expensive, extravagantly written and ornately illustrated. The second title in Henry Luce's publishing empire set out to reinvent business reporting. In its first two decades, it laid claim to innovation with the corporation story, surveys of popular opinion and with expert round tables. Drawing on archival records I will reconstruct the working relations between editors, writers, artists, researchers and the ever present editor-in-chief Luce. I will contrast *Fortune*'s reporting with the evolving repertoire of social representation of 1920 and 1930s North America, notably Cornelia Stratton Parker's 'Working with the Working Woman' at *Harper's Magazine*, *Survey Graphic*, and the Farm Security Administration's photojournalism. I argue that *Fortune*'s documentary gaze extends a heroic imaginary of industry to all quarters of social life in the Great Depression.

Cabinet of Natural History

This research seminar is concerned with all aspects of the history of natural history and the field and environmental sciences. Seminars are held on **Mondays at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**. You are welcome to bring your lunch with you.

Organised by James Hall.

- 8 October **Jim Moore (Open University)**
Making livings: the economic worlds of Wallace and Darwin
- 15 October **Nicky Reeves (HPS, Cambridge)**
The Whipple Museum is full of rubbish!
- 22 October Fungus Hunt
- 29 October **Anne Secord (HPS, Cambridge)**
'The man with the detective eye': observation in Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne* (1789)
- 5 November **Helen Curry (HPS, Cambridge)**
Radiation and restoration: saving the American chestnut tree in the Atomic Age
- 12 November **Allison Ksiazkiewicz (HPS, Cambridge)**
'The Age of Reptiles' and 'Memnonium or Head of Rameses': the frontispiece of George Fleming Richardson's *Geology for Beginners* (1842 and 1843)
- 19 November **Megan Barford (HPS, Cambridge)**
Camelopardalis Giraffa in 1830s London: polite spectacle at Regent's Park
- 26 November **Natalie Lawrence (HPS, Cambridge)**
Birds of paradise and collecting Eden: mythogenesis in Renaissance natural history

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 on **Thursday 4 October and Monday 15 October 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 introducing some basic topics and methodologies. The seminars are complemented by an online guide at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research.

Organised by Eleanor Robson and Tim Lewens.

- 4 October **Eleanor Robson:** Introduction to research resources in HPS
Salim Al-Gailani: Researching the history of twentieth-century biology
Katharina Kraus: Researching philosophy of science
Josh Nall: Researching in the Whipple Museum
- 15 October **Matthew Lane:** Research skills training offered by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Jenny Rampling: Working with Early Modern sources
Shirlene Badger: Interviewing scientists for sociological research
Patricia Fara: Scientific imagery

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!

Early medicine seminars are organised by Peter Jones and Hannah Newton; modern medicine by Salim Al-Gailani and Helen Curry.

- 9 October **Ayesha Nathoo (HPS, Cambridge)**
A delicate alliance: aid agencies and the media in Britain since the 1960s
- 23 October **Hannah Murphy (University of California, Berkeley)**
Consensus, correspondence and the development of the 'second opinion' in Nuremberg's medical reformation, 1560–1598
- 13 November **Keren Hammerschlag (King's College London)**
Group formations: surgeons and artists in Victorian group portraiture
- 27 November **Seth LeJacq (Johns Hopkins University)**
Ordinary seamen, bodily knowledge and Royal Navy sex crimes trials, 1688–1783

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!

Organised by Nick Hopwood and Lauren Kassell.

- 16 October **Gayle Davis (University of Edinburgh)**
Test-tubes and turpitude: infertility and artificial insemination in mid-twentieth-century Scotland
- 6 November **Marisa Benoit (University of Oxford)**
'No good fruit': attitudes toward infertility in colonial New England

Generation to Reproduction Reading Group

This group discusses pre-circulated papers, classics as well as our own work, in the area of our Wellcome Trust strategic award in the history of medicine (www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk). We also hold work-in-progress sessions.

This term's meetings will be at 5–7pm (tea from 4.50) on **Tuesdays 30 October and 20 November in Seminar Room 1**. To join the group, please email generate@hermes.cam.ac.uk.

Twentieth Century Think Tank

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

Meetings are held **every other Thursday at 1pm in Seminar Room 1**. All welcome!

Organised by Helen Curry.

- 11 October **Soraya de Chadarevian (UCLA)**
Heredity under the microscope
- 25 October **Katherine Angel (University of Warwick)**
Wanting your own words: writing in the first person about sexuality and feminism
- 8 November **Boris Jardine (Science Museum, London)**
The Peckham Experiment
- 22 November **Martin Underwood (University of Oxford)**
Joseph Rotblat: physics, the Bomb and some consequences

Things: Early Modern Material Cultures

The seminar meets **alternate Tuesdays, 12.30–2.30pm in the Seminar Room, Alison Richard Building, West Road**. A light lunch will be provided.

The early-modern period was the age of ‘stuff’. Public production, collection, display and consumption of objects grew in influence, popularity and scale. The form, function and use of objects, ranging from scientific and musical instruments to weaponry and furnishings were influenced by distinct and changing features of the period. Early-modern knowledge was not divided into strict disciplines, in fact practice across what we now see as academic boundaries was essential to material creation. This seminar series uses an approach based on objects to encourage us to consider the unity of ideas of this period, to emphasise the lived human experience of technology and art, and the global dimension of material culture. Each seminar will feature two talks each considering the same type of object from different perspectives.

Organised by Katy Barrett, Sophie Waring and others.

Further information at www.crash.cam.ac.uk/page/1036/things-material-cultures-.htm

- 9 October **Jonathan Lamb (Vanderbilt University) and Elizabeth Eger (King’s College London)**
Thinking things
- 23 October **Mary Laven (History, Cambridge) and Maia Jessop (Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge)**
Worshipping things
- 6 November **Hanneke Grootenboer (University of Oxford) and Joserra Marcaida Lopez (University of Cambridge)**
Stilling things
- 20 November **Simon Chaplin (Wellcome Library) and Christelle Rabier (London School of Economics)**
Curing things

CamPoS

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

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

- 10 October **Dean Rickles (University of Sydney)**
All possible perspectives: a defence of Eddington's selective subjectivism
- 17 October **Emily Thomas (Philosophy, Cambridge)**
Catharine Cockburn on substantival space: a 'new' 18th-century solution
- 24 October TBC
- 31 October **Adam Caulton (Philosophy, Cambridge)**
TBC
- 7 November **Jonathan Birch (HPS, Cambridge)**
Altruism and relatedness in microbial populations
- 14 November **Angela Breitenbach (University of East Anglia)**
Aesthetics in science
- 21 November **Giovanni Valente (University of Pittsburgh)**
Lanford's theorem and the emergence of irreversibility
- 28 November **Arif Ahmed (Philosophy, Cambridge)**
Modality in decision theory

Graduate workshops

HPS History Workshop

Need help writing a tricky part of your argument, converting a PhD chapter into an article, or simply getting fresh ideas and references? The History Workshop is an informal setting to discuss your written works-in-progress on any area of the history of science, medicine and technology, and get feedback from your early-career colleagues. The workshop continues in Michaelmas after a successful first year in 2011–2012. A draft chapter, article, or conference paper will be circulated by email before each meeting. We'll then discuss it together over tea and biscuits at **5pm on alternate Wednesdays in Seminar Room 1**.

Contact Michael Bycroft or Francis Neary if you are interested in sharing your work in this forum.

17 October **Alexi Baker (HPS, Cambridge)**

Jane Squire, the lone woman of the longitude: gender and religion in early modern science

31 October **Jenny Rampling (HPS, Cambridge)**

'What is Mercury?', chapter 1 of *The Making of English Alchemy*, the speaker's forthcoming book

14 November **Nicky Reeves (HPS, Cambridge)**

Everything is illuminated: candles, funerals and sensuous technology in 18th-century London

28 November **Iain P. Watts (Princeton University)**

Fashionable intelligence: popular experiences of galvanism and the Regency newspaper press

HPS Philosophy Workshop

Would you like to get feedback on your work-in-progress in a friendly and supportive atmosphere? Texts will be circulated one week in advance and discussed over tea and biscuits in **Seminar Room 1 on alternate Wednesdays, 5–6pm**. Share a draft of your MPhil essay, PhD chapter, potential article, or any research-in-progress in the philosophy of science, broadly construed.

Organised by Vashka dos Remedios.

10 October **Shahar Avin (HPS, Cambridge)**

Science funding 2.0

24 October **Steve Irish (HPS, Cambridge)**

The chemical origins of Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie Jr.'s *Calculus of Chemical Operations*

7 November **James Poskett (HPS, Cambridge)**

Mind your Ps and Qs: a contrastive account of testimonial inference to the best explanation

21 November **Katharina Kraus (HPS, Cambridge)**

Objectivity in psychology – a Kantian perspective

Aims and Methods of Histories of the Sciences

A series of six workshops led by Nick Jardine on **Thursdays at 10am in Seminar Room 1**, starting on 18 October.

These workshops are for discussion of the identity, aims, methods and problems of the history of science. In the first, NJ will give an overview of the formation of history of science as a discipline. In the second, we shall discuss problems of anachronism. Possible subsequent topics include 'sociological approaches to the history of science', 'Big Pictures versus microhistories', 'histories of the circulation of scientific knowledge', 'the purposes of the history of science'. Suggestions for topics and readings will be welcome as will volunteers to introduce topics.

Graduate Training

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

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

Language groups

Latin Therapy

Latin Therapy will meet on **Fridays in the Lodge Seminar Room from 4–5.30pm**. The first meeting this term will take place on 12 October and the last on 23 November. 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 Seb Falk.

Greek Therapy

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

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

Reading and discussion groups

Nature and Culture Reading Group

This term we will be reading a series of articles drawn from the recent special issue of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* (2012: 367) entitled 'New Thinking: The Evolution of Human Cognition', edited by Cecilia Heyes and Uta Frith. This new group is supported by Tim Lewens's SCINAT ERC Grant. All are welcome, including those sceptical of the cultural evolutionary project. In addition to philosophers and historians of science we also hope to attract researchers from the biological sciences, psychology and all branches of archaeology and anthropology.

The papers can all be accessed online from
<http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/367/1599.toc>

Meetings will take place on **Fridays, 2–3pm in the Lodge Seminar Room**. For further information contact Beth Hannon or Tim Lewens.

- 5 October Cecilia Heyes, 'New thinking: the evolution of human cognition'
- 12 October Peter Godfrey-Smith, 'Darwinism and cultural change'
- 19 October Cecilia Heyes, 'Grist and mills: on the cultural origins of cultural learning'
- 26 October Kim Sterelny, 'Language, gesture, skill: the co-evolutionary foundations of language'
- 2 November Daphna Buchsbaum, Sophie Bridgers, Deena Skolnick Weisberg and Alison Gopnik, 'The power of possibility: causal learning, counterfactual reasoning, and pretend play'
- 9 November Nicholas Shea, 'New thinking, innateness and inherited representation'
- 16 November Chris D. Frith, 'The role of metacognition in human social interactions'
- 23 November Nikolaus Robalino and Arthur Robson, 'The economic approach to "theory of mind"'

Philosophy and History of Physics Reading Group

This reading group meets on **Tuesdays, 2.00–3.00pm in Seminar Room 1**.

Organised by Hasok Chang, Simon Schaffer, Nazim Bouatta and Jeremy Butterfield.

- 9 October **Dean Rickles (University of Sydney)**
Institute of Field Physics, Inc

During the remainder of Michaelmas Term we will be discussing Theodore Arabatzis, *Representing Electrons: A Biographical Approach to Theoretical Entities* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006).

Science and Literature Reading Group

Rivers, Lakes and Oceans

We meet fortnightly on **Mondays from 7.30 to 9pm in the Godwin Room in Clare College**. Please note the different arrangements for our second meeting. Many of the readings are available online: follow the links at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars. Copies of the harder-to-obtain items will be placed in our box file in the Whipple Library.

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

- 15 October Owen Chase, *Narrative of the most extraordinary and distressing shipwreck of the whale-ship Essex*, etc. New York, 1821.
- 29 October We will go and see David Lebrun's film *Proteus* (2004), which is showing at the Picturehouse on St Andrew's Street, as part of the 'Darwin and Human Nature' film series. Please buy your own ticket, and note the early start time of 6.30pm. The film is 60 minutes long, and is inspired by Ernst Haeckel's studies of radiolarians. Afterwards we will repair to Clare College for refreshments and further discussion. If you have time, please also read:
Henrik Ibsen, *The Lady from the Sea* (1888).
- 12 November Lidiya Zinovyeva-Annibal, 'The Monster', from *The Tragic Menagerie* (1907), translated by Jane Costlow (Northwestern University Press, 1999), pp. 61–74. Reprinted in Robert Chandler (ed), *Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida* (Penguin, 2005).

L.P. Hartley, *The Shrimp and the Anemone* (1944), Chapter 1. Reprinted in *Eustace and Hilda* (1958).
- 26 November David Starr Jordan, 'The story of a strange land', *Popular Science Monthly*, February 1892, pp. 447–458.

Yokomitsu Riichi, 'Shizuka naru raretsu' (1925), translated by John Bester as 'Silent Ranks', in *Time and Others*, 1965, pp. 69–103.

Twentieth Century Reading Group

The group will discuss books and papers relating to the history and historiography of 20th-century science, technology and medicine, broadly construed. Readings will be placed well in advance in a box in the Whipple Library and on CamTools.

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

Organised by Dmitriy Myelnikov.

- 18 October Jon Agar, *Science in the Twentieth Century and Beyond*, Cambridge: Polity, 2012
Ch. 18. Networks (433–465)
Ch. 20. Conclusions (499–530)
- 1 November Soraya de Chadarevian, *Designs for Life: Molecular Biology after World War II*, Cambridge: CUP, 2002
Ch. 5. Televisual Language (136–163)
Ch. 9. Laboratory cultures (264–299)
- 15 November David Kirby, *Lab Coats in Hollywood: Science, Scientists and Cinema*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011
Ch. 5. Cinematic Fact-Checking: Negotiating Scientific Facts within Filmmaking Culture (95–119)
Ch. 9. The Future is Now: Diegetic Prototypes and the Role of Cinematic Narratives in Generating Real-World Technological Development (193–219)
(Optional) Ch. 3. Valuing expertise: The Entertainment Industry's and Scientific Community's Motivations in the Science Consulting Relationship (41–65)
- 29 November Gregg Mitman, *Breathing Space: How Allergies Shape Our Lives and Landscapes*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007
Ch. 4. Choking Cities (130–167)
Ch. 5. On the Home Front (167–205)

History and Theory Reading Group

Culture in Transit

In this term, we are broadly interested in the conceptions and uses of culture, and their models in the history of science and technology. We start with Jim Secord's model to characterize science and knowledge: a communicative model of knowledge, followed by particular cultural responses and adaptations to the Industrial Revolution and Weimar Culture. In between, we will also have a look at various theoretical construals of culture.

Meetings take place on **Fridays, 3.00 to 4.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. Hard copies of the readings will be placed in a box in the Whipple Library, and soft copies sent to the hps-discussion list in advance of each meeting. Links to some readings are available at www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars. Organised by Eóin Phillips and Minwoo Seo. All welcome!

12 October 'Communicative model of knowledge' with **Jim Secord**

Jim Secord, 'Knowledge in Transit', *Isis* 95 (2004), pp. 654–672

Jim Secord, 'A Planet in Print: Rethinking the Discovery of Neptune' (unpublished draft)

Jim Secord, 'Scientific Discovery as Illustrated News in Early Victorian Britain' (unpublished draft)

26 October 'Cultural interpretations of technology and the Industrial Revolution' with **Alex Hutton**

Thomas Carlyle, 'Signs of the Times' (1829)

D.H. Lawrence, 'Nottingham and the Mining Country' in his *Selected Essays* (Penguin, 1930)

Danny Boyle's Olympic Opening Ceremony

9 November 'Culture and exchange' with **Eóin Phillips**

Raymond Williams, 'Culture is Ordinary', in his *Resources of Hope: Culture, Democracy, Socialism* (Verso, pp. 3–14)

Marshall Sahlins, 'Cosmologies of Capitalism: The Trans-Pacific Sector of "The World System"', *Proceedings of the British Academy* 74 (1988), pp. 1–51

William Sewell, 'The Concepts of Culture', in Victoria E. Bonnell and Lynn Hunt, eds., *Beyond the Culture Turn* (University of California Press, 1999), pp. 35–61

23 November 'Political culture and adaptation' with **Hasok Chang**

Paul Forman, 'Weimar Culture, Causality, and Quantum Theory, 1918–1927: Adaptation by German Physicists and Mathematicians to a Hostile Intellectual Environment', *Historical Studies in the Physical Sciences* (1971), pp. 1–115

Kant Reading Group

The Transcendental Ideal in Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*

The topic in Michaelmas term will be Kant's critique of traditional metaphysics – with a particular focus on rational theology and the conception of an ideal. Our discussions will be based on several passages from the Transcendental Dialectic of the *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781/7). In the Dialectic, Kant puts forward his critique of traditional metaphysics by describing the transcendental illusions that occur if the categories of the understanding are misapplied to entities beyond the bounds of sense. In order to get a general idea of Kant's strategy, we will first read the introductory sections of the Dialectic, in which he introduces his account of reason (in contrast to the understanding) and his conception of 'transcendental ideas'. We will then turn to Kant's critique of speculative theology, as presented in Book 3 of the Dialectic. In it, Kant elaborates on the transcendental ideal and the thesis of complete determination. We will finally round off our discussions by looking at the Appendix of the Dialectic, which specifies the regulative use of the ideas of reason.

Meetings are held in the **Lodge Seminar Room, 3.30–5.00pm on Tuesdays**. They begin with a short presentation and are followed by general discussion. All are most welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Katharina Kraus.

Kant, Immanuel (1781/7, 1998) (CpR) *Critique of Pure Reason*, trans. and ed. P. Guyer and A.W. Wood, Cambridge: CUP.

- 9 October Introduction to the Transcendental Dialectic & Book 1 (A293/B349 – A338/B396)
Focus of the session: 'Introduction' (A293/B349 – A309/B366)
- 16 October Introduction to the Transcendental Dialectic & Book 1 (A293/B349 – A338/B396)
cont.
Focus of the session: 'On the concepts of pure reason' (Book 1, Sec. I) & 'On transcendental ideas' (Book 1, Sec. II) (A310/B366 – A332/B389)
- 23 October Introduction to the Transcendental Dialectic & Book 1 (A293/B349 – A338/B396)
cont.
Focus of the session: 'The system of transcendental ideas' (Book 1, Sec. III) & additionally 'On the dialectic inferences of pure reason' (Book 2, Sec. I) (A333/B390 – A340/B398)
- 30 October Introduction to the Transcendental Ideal (A567/B595 – A583/B611):
Focus of the session: 'On the ideal in general' (Third Book, Sec. I) & 'On the transcendental ideal' (Book 3, Sec. II) (A567/B595 – A575/B603)
- 6 November Introduction to the Transcendental Ideal cont. (A567/B595 – A583/B611):
Focus of the session: 'On the transcendental ideal' (Book 3, Sec. II cont.) (A575/B603 – A583/B611)
- 13 November Appendix 'On the regulative use of ideas' (A642/B670 – A651/B679)
- 20 November Appendix 'On the regulative use of ideas' cont. (A651/B679 – A660/B688)
- 27 November Appendix 'On the regulative use of ideas' cont. (A660/B688 – A668/B696)

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.

The group meets four times per term, on **Mondays, 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. For details visit our website, www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc.

Organised by Hasok Chang and Jenny Rampling.

15 October **Peter M. Jones (King's College, Cambridge)**

Alchemy and medicine in the later Middle Ages

Chiara Crisciani & Michela Pereira, 'Black Death and Golden Remedies: Some Remarks on Alchemy and the Plague', in Agostino Paravicini Bagliani & Francesco Santi (eds.), *The Regulation of Evil: Social and Cultural Attitudes to Epidemics in the Late Middle Ages* (Florence: Sismel, 1998), 7–39

Michela Pereira, 'Mater Medicinarum: English Physicians and the Alchemical Elixir in the Fifteenth Century', in Roger French, Jon Arrizabalaga, Andrew Cunningham & Luis Garcia-Ballester (eds.), *Medicine from the Black Death to the French Disease* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 1998), 26–52

Later start time for this session: 5.30pm to 7pm

29 October **Iain P. Watts (Princeton University)**

Electrochemistry and fashionable science

Humphry Davy, 'Lecture: Introductory to Electro-Chemical Science [delivered 1808]', in John Davy (ed.), *The Collected Works of Sir Humphry Davy*, vol. VIII (London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1840), 274–286

Thomas Skinner Surr, *A Winter in London*, vol. 2 (London: Phillips, 1806), 172–186

12 November **Jeremiah James (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)**

Origins of modern chemical modelling

Jeremiah James, 'The Materiality of Modern Bonds: Early-Twentieth-Century Transformations in Chemical Modeling' (draft chapter)

Eric Francoeur, 'Molecular Models and the Articulation of Structural Constraints in Chemistry', in Robert Cohen, Jürgen Renn & Kostas Gavroglu (eds.), *Tools and Modes of Representation in the Laboratory Sciences* (Boston: Kluwer, 2001), 95–115

26 November **James Sumner (University of Manchester)**

Controversy brewing, or, the problem with making beer chemical

James Sumner, 'Chemists, Druggists and Beer-Doctors'. Draft of Ch. 5, *The Book and the Brewhouse* (forthcoming)

Fredrick Accum, *Treatise on Adulterations*, 2nd ed. (London, 1820), 145–212

John Tuck, *Private Brewer's Guide*, 2nd ed. (London, 1822), Preface (viii–xii) and 231–244

This special session will be held in a nearby pub, with live demonstrations by Dr Sumner!