

# Seminars

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## 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 Helen Curry.

- 24 October **Josh Nall (HPS, Cambridge)**  
'A trip to Mars by aeroplane': genres of public astronomy and the practice of astrophysics in the *fin de siècle*
- 31 October **David Teplow (UCLA)**  
A California Yankee in King Arthur's Court (with apologies to Mark Twain), or why a molecular neurobiologist landed in HPS
- 7 November **John Doris (Washington University in St Louis)**  
Talking to our selves: reflection, scepticism and agency
- 14 November **Feredica Russo (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)**  
Causal assessment and the question of stability
- 21 November **Laurence Totelin (Cardiff University)**  
The love of plants: from love to sex in the history of botany
- 28 November **Richard McKay (HPS, Cambridge)**  
'VD is no camp': creating and communicating knowledge about same-sex venereal disease transmission in the Anglo-American world, c.1939–1984

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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](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars)

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

# Abstracts

24 October **Josh Nall (HPS, Cambridge)**

‘A trip to Mars by aeroplane’: genres of public astronomy and the practice of astrophysics in the *fin de siècle*

In 1901, visitors to Buffalo’s Pan-American Exposition were able to take a journey into space. Trips aboard the airship *Luna* were made by ‘a combination of electrical mechanism and scenic and lighting effects ... to produce the sensation of leaving the Earth and flying through space amidst stars, comets and planets’. Although easily dismissed as mere popular spectacle, I will argue that after 1870 emergent forms of mass media – ranging from the material culture of public expositions to newspapers, globes, magic lantern lectures, encyclopaedias, and mass-circulation periodicals and books – were integral to the development and success of a new type of imaginative astronomical practice. In the wake of fierce contests over the use and validity of new experimental astrophysical techniques in the science, this imaginative, publically-oriented astronomy was posited by some as a viable solution to the discipline’s growing crisis of identity. By exploring the wide variety of media that made this new, contested knowledge travel, I will show how practitioners both for and against imaginative astronomy engaged with genres of public science as part of their work to forge rival identities for themselves and their competing sub-disciplines. The paper suggests that the general strictures of astronomy’s cultural marketplace – the resources and constraints this public sphere provided – were embedded within, and therefore constitutive of, debates over the practice of this ‘new astronomy’.

31 October **David Teplow (UCLA)**

A California Yankee in King Arthur’s Court (with apologies to Mark Twain), or why a molecular neurobiologist landed in HPS

It is obvious that to study the history or philosophy of science, science itself must first exist. It is much less obvious to many, and especially to students, that to ‘do science’ optimally requires an equally deep grounding in the history and philosophy of science. What applies to students applies no less, and possibly even more, to professors in the natural sciences. In this seminar, I discuss the clinical and scientific history of Alzheimer’s disease, with special reference to controversies that have arisen from one of the most common and insidious errors of scientific practice, misassumption. Misassumptions will be exemplified through the consideration of a priori bias and inappropriate adherence to dogma. Examples of Kuhn-like paradigm shifts will be discussed. Concluding remarks will address the current state-of-the-art in Alzheimer’s disease research and offer suggestions for facilitating progress towards a cure.

7 November **John Doris (Washington University in St Louis)**

Talking to our selves: reflection, scepticism and agency

In philosophy, agents are often distinguished by a propensity for reflection – conscious and self-conscious mentation effecting control of behaviour. In psychology, quantities of research on parallel processing suggest that the philosophical conception of agency is empirically inadequate; much human behaviour is not consciously controlled, and is evaluatively incongruent with the deliverances of reflection. A psychologically lifelike conception of agency will therefore de-emphasize reflection; instead, the forms of self-direction marked with the honorific morally responsible agency emerge in the social dialogue by which humans regulate their behaviour.

14 November **Feredica Russo (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)**  
Causal assessment and the question of stability

Causal assessment is the problem of establishing whether a relation between (variable) X and (variable) Y is causal. This problem, to be sure, is widespread across the sciences. According to the 'received view', invariance under intervention provides the crucial test to decide whether X causes Y. This account of invariance has been criticised, among other reasons, because it makes manipulations on the putative causal factors fundamental. Consequently, the account is ill suited to those contexts where manipulations are not performed, for instance the social sciences. In this talk, I explain why stability is an important feature of causal relations (in social contexts and elsewhere). I then discuss how to extend the received account of invariance, in a way that manipulations on the putative causal factors are not methodologically fundamental, and yet invariance remains key for causal assessment.

21 November **Laurence Totelin (Cardiff University)**  
The love of plants: from love to sex in the history of botany

Love and sex were concepts prevalent in botanical writing well before Erasmus Darwin composed his *Love of the Plants*. Here I focus on the Greek and Roman tradition of plant love. While the Greeks and Romans were completely ignorant of what we now recognise as the principles of plant sexuality and pollination, they used sexual vocabulary in their description of plants. Some of the passages where this imagery is used are well known: in particular passages relating to the reproduction of the fig and the palm trees. I want to cast my net wider and show that love rather than sex is the prevalent concept in ancient botany. For beside sexual lust, ancient plants felt maternal love, filial love, hatred and friendship. I will show that this anthropomorphism in the description of plant relationships has various roots: some to be found in philosophy (where the concepts of sympathy and antipathy are important); some in poetry; some even in economic thought. My sources will be varied, ranging from the classic *History of Plants* of Theophrastus (fourth century BCE), to less well-known astro-botanical texts, and passing by the poems on grafting by Columella (first century CE) and Palladius (fifth century CE).

28 November **Richard McKay (HPS, Cambridge)**  
'VD is no camp': creating and communicating knowledge about same-sex venereal disease transmission in the Anglo-American world, c.1939–1984

In 1964, the Mattachine Society of New York – then one of the United States' largest groups advocating for the public understanding of homosexuals – found itself under pressure to address the issue of venereal disease (VD). Amid nation-wide concern that VD rates had been increasing steadily for a number of years, several reports highlighted the seemingly new and prominent role of homosexual men in the spread of sexually transmitted infections, particularly syphilis. At a time when homosexual relations were still penalized by law and many gay men were deeply uneasy about co-operating with public authorities, the New York Mattachine Society collaborated with the city's health department to publish an informational leaflet, entitled 'VD is no camp', which was aimed specifically at this group. This presentation will examine the delicate navigations undertaken by members of the Mattachine Society to produce and distribute its leaflet. It will contrast the organisation's collaboration with the city's health department, on the one hand, with the suspicion of public health authorities advocated by its Californian contemporaries on the other. The presentation's focus on these debates will highlight the need to complicate a conventional historical periodization which implies that VD did not emerge as a serious concern for men having sex with men until the 1970s. Finally, by tracing the leaflet's circulation beyond US borders, the presentation suggests that a transnational framework may be important when analyzing responses to VD during the middle decades of the twentieth century.

# 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 Natalie Lawrence.

- 14 October **Scott Mandelbrote (History, Cambridge)**  
The illustration and publication of Robert Morison's *History of Plants* (1672–99)
- 21 October **Kathryn Ticehurst (University of Sydney)**  
Anthropological field work in 'mixed race' Aboriginal communities in Australia, 1940–65
- 28 October Fungus Hunt at Bradfield Woods
- 4 November **Damian Hughes (De Montfort University)**  
Hidden in plain sight: early ecology as visual science
- 11 November **Charissa Varma (Darwin Correspondence Project)**  
Willi Hennig and philosophy
- 18 November **Anna Maerker (King's College London)**  
'Dangerous and improper material': models, preparations and the relationship between object and user in 18th- and 19th-century anatomical collections
- 25 November **Andrew Buskell (HPS, Cambridge)**  
Bringing up the body: psychology and embodiment in the 20th century
- 2 December **Francis Neary (HPS, Cambridge)**  
The sources of Charles Darwin's work on animal reasoning

## 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 **Thursdays 10 & 17 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](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research).

Organised by Anna Alexandrova and Hasok Chang.

- 10 October **Matthew Lane:** Research skills training offered by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences  
**Patricia Fara:** Scientific images  
**Jonathan Birch:** Naturalistic philosophy  
**Nick Jardine:** Brief overview of HPS research resources
- 17 October **Anna Alexandrova:** Introduction to research resources for philosophers  
**Josh Nall and Seb Falk:** Researching in the Whipple Museum  
**James Poskett:** Global histories of science  
**Dmitriy Myelnikov:** Researching the history of 20th-century biology

## Early 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 Lauren Kassell.

22 October **Gabriella Zuccolin (Open University)**  
Gendering Renaissance medicine: vicarious menstruation and anomalous bleeding

19 November **Mark Jenner (University of York)**  
Polite and excrement labour? Sanitary services in London c.1650–c.1830

## History of Modern Medicine and Biology 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 Helen Curry.

8 October **Christoph Gradmann (University of Oslo)**  
Reinventing infectious disease: antibiotic resistance and drug development at the Bayer Company, 1940–1980

5 November **Christina Brandt (Ruhr University Bochum)**  
The ‘premature arrival of the future’: temporalities of cloning in 1970s life sciences and culture

## 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](http://www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk)). Tea and biscuits are available from 4.40pm. All welcome!

Organised by Nick Hopwood and Lauren Kassell.

15 October **Lisa Smith (University of Saskatchewan)**  
The lived experience of fertility problems in the 18th century

12 November **Sandra Eder (University of Zurich)**  
The birth of gender: transforming sex at Johns Hopkins in the 1950s

## 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](http://www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk)). We also hold work-in-progress sessions.

This term's meetings will be at **5.00–7.00pm** (tea from 4.50) on **Tuesdays 29 October and 26 November in Seminar Room 1**.

# 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](http://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 Christopher Clarke. 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.**

- 16 October **John Dupré (University of Exeter)**  
TBC
- 23 October **Phil Dawid (Statistical Laboratory, Cambridge)**  
Individual risk: does it exist?
- 30 October **Robert Northcott (Birkbeck)**  
Opinion polling and social science
- 6 November **Sam Fletcher (UC Irvine)**  
The topology of intertheoretic reduction
- 13 November **Lena Zuchowski (HPS, Cambridge)**  
Gestalt switches in the prize paper: inspiration for, but not an instance of, chaos
- 20 November **Matteo Mameli (KCL)**  
TBC
- 27 November **Katie Steele (LSE)**  
Climate models, calibration and confirmation
- 4 December **Kerry McKenzie (University of Calgary)**  
The plurality of priority

# Seminars at CRASSH

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## Global Science

Science operates on a global stage, but this is not a recent phenomenon. Our research group explores the relationship between global history and science studies. Science here is broadly construed. Histories of natural knowledge, technology and medicine all fall under the remit of this group. By adopting this approach we look to invite discussion on the relationship between the politics of globalisation and the making of the very category of 'science'. What counts as science is precisely the product of a series of uneven historical encounters. Often the transit of scientific material, from books to barometers, relied on the lopsided development of colonialism and global capitalism. We therefore hope to trace, not only the movement of science across borders, but also the limits of the apparent globalisation of scientific knowledge.

In 2013–2014 we bring together speakers from history, geography and anthropology. By drawing on academics from across disciplines, we offer a new base for the growing network of academics working on global histories of science.

Seminars are held on **alternate Tuesdays, 12.00–2.00pm in Room SG1, Alison Richard Building, West Road**. Organised by James Poskett, James Hall and others.

Website: [www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1219/global-science.htm](http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1219/global-science.htm)

- 15 October **Eóin Phillips (HPS, Cambridge)**  
**Sujit Sivasundaram (History, Cambridge)**  
Feeling between the lines: astronomical situation and global history in the Pacific
- 29 October **Ruth Prince (African Studies, Cambridge)**  
Traditions of health and biomedicine in modern East Africa
- 12 November **Megan Barford (HPS, Cambridge)**  
**Michael Bravo (SPRI, Cambridge)**  
The surveyors' St Lawrence, 1830–1850
- 26 November **Tara Alberts (University of York)**  
**Lauren Minsky (New York University Abu Dhabi)**  
Finding effective cures in Southeast Asia, 1500–1700: theories and practices

# Things: Comparing Material Cultures, 1500–1900

The seminar meets **alternate Wednesdays, 12.00–2.00pm in Room SG1, Alison Richard Building, West Road**. Organised by Michelle Wallis, Lesley Steinitz and Sophie Waring.

- 23 October **Ulinka Rublack (History, Cambridge)**  
**Spike Bucklow (Hamilton Kerr Institute, Cambridge)**  
Reconstructing things: from colourful clothes to paintings and pigments
- 6 November **Tim Knox (Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum)**  
**Nicholas Tromans (Curator of the Watts Gallery)**  
Housing things: reconstructing the interiors of the Soane Museum and the Watts Gallery
- 20 November **Sally-Ann Ashton (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge)**  
**Jean Michel Massing (History of Art, Cambridge)**  
Carved things, carved identities: early modern Luso-African ivories and the history of African combs
- 4 December **Nicholas Thomas (Director and Curator of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge)**  
**Anita Herle (Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge)**  
Things between places: artefacts from Oceania and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

## Field Notes: Histories of Archaeology and Anthropology

The seminar meets **alternate Mondays, 5.00–7.00pm in the Seminar Room, Alison Richard Building, West Road**. Organised by William Carruthers and others.

Further information at [www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1113/field-notes.htm](http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/page/1113/field-notes.htm)

- 14 October **Astrid Swenson (Brunel University)**  
Of cats, cathedrals and crusaders: rethinking approaches to ‘heritage’ through representations of restoration in Cyprus
- 28 October **Miquel Carandell Baruzzi (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)**  
People and Places Reading Group: Experts, politicians, labs and media in late 20th-century palaeoanthropological knowledge production
- 11 November **Helen Roche (Classics, Cambridge)**  
Narrating the fall of empires in Weimar and National Socialist racial ideology
- 25 November **Debbie Challis (UCL)**  
Skull triangles: Flinders Petrie, craniometry and race



# Graduate workshops and seminars

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## HPS History Workshop

Need help writing a tricky part of your argument? Need some fresh ideas and references? Or simply want to see how your early-career colleagues approach the writing process? The History Workshop is an informal setting to discuss our written works-in-progress on any area of the history of science, technology and medicine, and share feedback. A draft PhD 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 Andreas Sommer or Seb Falk if you are interested in sharing your work in this forum, or would like to be added to the mailing list.

- 23 October **Zina Ward (Philosophy, Cambridge)**  
The changing face of Penfield's homunculus
- 6 November **Margaret Carlyle (HPS, Cambridge)**  
Illustrating Enlightenment science: women at the margins in 18th-century France
- 20 November **Allegra Fryxell (History, Cambridge)**  
'The past which gnaws into the future': figuring 'time' in late 19th-century philosophy and psychology
- 4 December **Sophie Waring (HPS, Cambridge)**  
Finding space to swing a pendulum: the Board of Longitude and 19th-century geodesy, weights and measures

## 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 Toby Bryant.

## 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](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/students/training).

# Science in Print: Understanding Book Production from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries

A series of five sessions led by Roger Gaskell, Anna Jones and Jim Secord on **Tuesdays at 11am in the Whipple Library**, starting on 5 November.

Understanding the book as a physical object is a vital complement to the study of its contents, helping to locate its economic and social context, its audience, and ultimately its historical significance. Using examples from the Whipple Library's rare book collections and the University Library's Historical Printing Collection, this workshop series will explore some bibliographical techniques to identify and describe the structure and production of printed material from the hand press (16th–18th centuries) and mechanized (19th century) periods. Particular attention will be given to illustration processes. Sessions will be organised thematically as follows, and can be attended individually, but participants will benefit from attending the whole series if possible:

- 5 November Survey of the hand press period
- 12 November Book production in the hand press period
- 19 November Field trip to UL Historical Printing Room to see hand press in action\*
- 26 November Analysis of hand press period books
- 3 December Nineteenth-century book production

This series is open to all (undergraduates, graduates and beyond). Please contact Anna Jones to register your interest as places may be limited to ensure all have full access to the examples.

\* This session will take place in the Historical Printing Room at the University Library – booking compulsory.

## Aims and Methods of Histories of the Sciences

A series of six workshops led by Nick Jardine on **Mondays at 11am in Seminar Room 1**, starting on 28 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.

# Reading and discussion groups

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## Nature and Culture Reading Group

Meetings will take place on **Tuesdays, 1.00–2.00pm in Seminar Room 1**. For further information contact Beth Hannon or Christopher Clarke.

- 15 October Defining Religion in Anthropology  
Eller, Jack 2007 'Studying Religion Anthropologically: Definitions and Theories' Chapter 1 from *Introducing the Anthropology of Religion* (London: Routledge) 1–27
- 22 October Defining Religion II  
Asad 1993 [1982] Excerpt from 'The Construction of Religion as an Anthropological Category' *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam* (Baltimore: John Hopkins) 27–54  
McCutcheon, Russell T. 2012 'More than a shapeless beast: Lumbering through the academy' Chapter 1 from *Critics Not Caretakers: Redescribing the Public Study of Religion* (SUNY Press)
- 29 October Religious Symbols: Structural Functionalism  
E.E. Evans-Pritchard, 1956 Excerpt from 'The Problem of Symbols', in *Nuer Religion* (Oxford: Clarendon Press)  
Malinowski 1954 [1926] Excerpt from 'Myth in Primitive Psychology' from *Magic Science and Other Essays*, 100–26
- 5 November Religious Symbols: Geertz and Hermeneutics  
Hamilton, M. 2001 'Religion and Meaning' and 'Secularization' from *The Sociology of Religion* (London: Routledge) 177–214
- 12 November Interpreting Religious Behaviour  
Winch, Peter 1964 'Understanding a Primitive Society' *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 1: 307–324
- 19 November Interpreting Irrational Behaviour  
Risjord, Mark 2000 chapter 4 from *Woodcutters and Witchcraft: Rationality and Interpretive Change in the Social Sciences*
- 26 November Cognitive Approaches to Religion  
Boyer, Pascal 2001 Excerpt from 'What are the Origins?' chapter 1 in *Religion Explained: The Evolutionary Origins of Religion* (Basic Books) 1–51
- 3 December Cognitive Approaches to Religion II  
Lawson, E. Thomas and Robert N. McCauley 1990 'Connecting the cognitive and the cultural' Chapter 7 in *Rethinking Religion: Connecting Cognition and Culture* (Cambridge University Press) 170–84

# History and Theory Reading Group

Meetings take place on **alternate Fridays, 3.30 to 5.00pm in Seminar Room 1**. Organised by Minwoo Seo, Eóin Phillips and Megan Barford. All welcome!

- 18 October Giorgio Agamben, 'What is a paradigm?'  
Peter Dear, 'Science Is Dead; Long Live Science', *Osiris* (2012) 37–55  
Paul Veyne, 'Foucault revolutionises history' in Arnold Davidson, *Foucault and His Interlocutors* (1997)
- 1 November Mark Phillips, 'On the Advantage and Disadvantage of Sentimental History for Life', *History Workshop Journal* (2008)  
Mark Phillips, 'Distance and historical representation', *History Workshop Journal* (2004)
- 15 November Peter Galison, 'Trading with the Enemy' in Michael Gorman, *Trading Zones and Interactional Expertise* (2010)  
Marilyn Strathern, 'The Nice Thing about Culture Is That Everyone Has It' in Marilyn Strathern, *Shifting Contexts* (1994)  
Bruno Latour, 'Localising the Global' in Bruno Latour, *Reassembling the Social* (2005)
- 29 November Theodore Porter, 'Thin Description: Surface and Depth in Science and Science Studies', *Osiris* (2012) 209–226  
Franco Moretti, 'Conjectures on World Literature', *New Left Review* (2000)

# Calculating People: A History and Philosophy of Social Science Reading Group

## Social and Individual Agency in Epistemology

We will meet on **Thursdays, 2pm–3.30pm in Seminar Room 1** on the dates listed below; additional meetings may be organised if there is interest. Organised by Hasok Chang and Anna Alexandrova.

- 10 October Hasok Chang, 'Philosophy of Scientific Practice: The Challenge of the Social' (manuscript)
- 17 October Melinda Fagan, 'Do Groups Have Scientific Knowledge?', in Sara Chant, Frank Hindriks, and Gerhard Preyer, eds., *From Individual to Collective Intentionality: New Essays*, Oxford University Press (in press, to appear in January 2014)
- 31 October Martin Kusch, *Knowledge by Agreement: The Programme of Communitarian Epistemology* (Oxford: Clarendon Press), 175–196 (chapter 14, 'Normativity and Community')
- 21 November Lev S. Vygotsky, *Mind in Society: The Development of Higher Psychological Processes*, with an introduction by Michael Cole and Sylvia Scribner (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1978), chapters 4 and 6, and Afterword

# Twentieth Century Reading Group

The group discusses books and papers relating to the history and historiography of 20th-century science, technology and medicine, broadly construed. Readings can be found in advance in our Whipple Library box.

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

Organised by Dmitriy Myelnikov and Kathryn Schoefert.

17 October Introduced by **Helen Curry**

Etienne Benson, *Wired Wilderness: Technologies of Tracking and the Making of Modern Wildlife* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010)

- Introduction
- Chapter 1, Cold War Game

31 October Introduced by **Michael McGovern**

Nathan Ensmenger, *The Computer Boys Take Over: Computers, Programmers, and the Politics of Technical Expertise* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2010)

- Introduction
- Chapter 2, The Black Art of Programming
- *Optional*: Chapter 4, Tower of Babel

14 November Introduced by **Salim Al-Gailani**

David Wright, *Downs: The History of a Disability* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)

- Chapter 4, *Trisomie vingt-et-un*
- Chapter 5, Into the mainstream

28 November Introduced by **Dmitriy Myelnikov**

Angela Creager, *Life Atomic: A History of Radioisotopes in Science and Medicine* (Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press, 2013)

- Chapters TBC

# Science and Literature Reading Group

We meet on **Mondays from 7.30 to 9pm in the Godwin Room at Clare College (Old Court).** Organised by Liz Smith (Darwin Correspondence Project), Esther Momcilovic (HPS) and Daniel Friesner (Science Museum). All welcome!

21 October Do objects exist when I am not perceiving them?

E.M. Forster, *The Longest Journey* (1907), Chapter 1

Ray Bradbury, 'No particular night or morning', in *The Illustrated Man* (1951)

These readings are available online: follow the links from [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars/slr.html](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/seminars/slr.html)

18 November The birth of cyberpunk

William Gibson, *Neuromancer* (1984). Available for £5.59 from [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.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.

This term's meetings take the form of a *Postcolonial Science Reading Group*.

Meetings are held **every other Thursday, 1–2pm in Seminar Room 1**. All welcome!

Organised by Noemi Tousignant, Branwyn Poleykett and John Manton.

10 October Issues and approaches

Sandra Harding, 'Introduction. Beyond Postcolonial Theory: Two Undertheorized Perspectives on Science and Technology', in Sandra Harding, ed. *The Postcolonial Science and Technology Studies Reader* (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2011): 1–32.

24 October Science as liberation

David Arnold, 'Nehruvian Science and Postcolonial India', *Isis*, 2013, 104: 360–370 (free access on Jstor).

'The African Manifesto for Science, Technology and Innovation' (online), pp 3–12.

7 November Science as hierarchy

Guillaume Lachenal, 'The Intimate Rules of the French Coopération: Morality, Race and the Postcolonial Division of Scientific Work at the Pasteur Institute of Cameroon', in Geissler, Wenzel, and Catherine Molyneux, eds. *Evidence, Ethos and Experiment: The Anthropology and History of Medical Research in Africa* (Berghahn Books, 2011): 373–402.

21 November Science as violence

Ashis Nandy, 'Introduction: science as a reason of state', *Science, hegemony and violence: a requiem for modernity* (1988): 1–23 (online).

# Philosophy of Psychology Reading Group

## Measurement and Mis-measurement in Psychology

We meet on **Thursdays, 11am–12noon in Seminar Room 1**. Organised by Riana Betzler.

- 10 October Introduction to philosophy of psychology  
Bermudez, J.L. (2005). Chapter 1: What is the philosophy of psychology? In *Philosophy of Psychology: A Contemporary Introduction* (pp. 1–14). New York and London: Routledge.
- 17 October Measurement in Psychology 1  
Michell, J. (1999). Chapter 1: Numerical data and the meaning of measurement. *Measurement in Psychology* (pp. 1–24). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 24 October Measurement in Psychology 2  
Cronbach, L.J. & Meehl, P.E. (1955). Construct Validity in Psychological Tests. *Psychological Bulletin*, 52, pp. 281–302.
- 31 October Psychometrics  
Boorsboom, D., Mellenbergh, G.J., & Heerden, J.v. (2004). The Concept of Validity. *Psychological Review*, 111(4), pp. 1061–1071.  
Michell, J. (2008). Is Psychometrics Pathological Science? *Measurement: Interdisciplinary Research and Perspectives*, 6(1–2), pp. 7–24.
- 7 November Measuring Difficult Things: Empathy  
Zhou, Q., Valiente, C. & Eisenberg, N. (2003). Empathy and Its Measurement. In S.J. Lopez & C.R. Snyder (eds.), *Positive Psychological Assessment: A Handbook of Models and Measures* (pp. 269–284). Washington DC: American Psychological Association.  
Hornblow, A.R. (1980). The Study of Empathy. *New Zealand Psychologist*, 9, 19–28.
- 14 November Measuring Difficult Things: Wisdom  
Sternberg, R.J. (1998). A Balance Theory of Wisdom. *Review of General Psychology*, 2(4), 347–365.  
Staudinger, U.M. & Leipold, B. (2003). The Assessment of Wisdom-Related Performance. In S.J. Lopez & C.R. Snyder (eds.), *Positive Psychological Assessment: A Handbook of Models and Measures* (pp. 171–180). Washington DC: American Psychological Association.
- 21 November Mis-measurement: Replication issues in social psychology  
Bargh, J.A., Chen, M. & Burrows, L. (1996). Automaticity of Social Behavior: Direct Effects of Trait Construct and Stereotype Activation on Action. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 71(2), pp. 230–244.  
Doyen, S., Klein, O., Pichon, C. & Cleeremans, A. (2012). Behavioral Priming: It's all in the Mind, but Whose Mind? *PLoS One*, 7(1), pp. 1–7.  
And some relevant popular press articles about the issue:  
Yong, E. (2012). Replication Studies: Bad copy. *Nature*, 485, pp. 298–300.  
Bower, B. (2012). The hot and cold of priming: Psychologists are divided on whether unnoticed cues can influence behavior. *Science News*, 181(10), pp. 26–29.  
Bargh, J.A. (2012). Priming Effects Replicate Just Fine, Thanks. *Psychology Today*.  
Marcus, G. (2013). The crisis in social psychology that isn't. *The New Yorker*.  
Kahneman's open letter: A proposal to deal with questions about priming effects.
- 28 November Mis-measurement: Fallacies in perception research  
Firestone, C. (2013). How 'paternalistic' is spatial perception? Why wearing a heavy backpack doesn't – and couldn't – make hills look steeper. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 8, pp. 455–473.  
Proffitt, D.R. (2013). An Embodied Approach to Perception: By what units are visual perceptions scaled? *Perspective on Psychological Science*, 8, pp. 474–483.  
Optional: Firestone, C. & Scholl, B.J. (in press). 'Top-down' effects where none should be found. The El Greco fallacy in perception research. *Psychological Science*.

# CamPhor (Phenomenology) Reading Group

This reading group examines the use of Phenomenology and Phenomenological tools within contemporary philosophy, with a particular emphasis on Phenomenology's relevance to debates within the philosophy of science.

In Michaelmas Term, we will be reading work by John Haugeland, predominantly those essays collected in his posthumously published book *Dasein Disclosed* (edited by Joseph Rouse). The primary focus of this term's readings will be how Haugeland's existential conception of 'understanding' illuminates issues within the philosophy of science. At the same time however, the group aims at a greater understanding of this philosopher's contribution to a rapprochement between phenomenology and contemporary analytic philosophy.

Photocopies of the relevant chapters can be made available by request.

Meetings are **every Friday from 12–1pm in Seminar Room 1**. You are welcome to bring your lunch with you. Organised by Andrew Buskell.

Readings from:

*Having Thought* are from Haugeland, J. (1998) *Having Thought*, Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA.

*Dasein Disclosed* are from Haugeland, J. (2013) *Dasein Disclosed*, Harvard University Press: Cambridge, MA.

- 11 October Chang, H. 'Ontological Principles and Intelligibility of Epistemic Activities', in Henk de Regt, Sabina Leonelli, and Kai Eigner, eds., *Scientific Understanding: Philosophical Perspectives*, University of Pittsburgh Press: Pittsburgh, pp. 64–82  
Haugeland, J. 'Introduction', in *Having Thought*, pp. 1–6
- 18 October Haugeland J. 'Two Dogmas of Rationalism', available online  
Rouse, J. 'Heidegger's Philosophy of Science', in Mark Wrathall and Hubert Dreyfus eds., *A Companion to Heidegger*, Blackwell: Oxford, pp. 173–189
- 25 October Haugeland, J. 'Understanding: Dennett and Searle' in *Having Thought*, pp. 291–304  
De Regt, H.W. 'Discussion Note: Making Sense of Understanding', *Philosophy of Science*, Vol. 71(1), pp. 98–109
- 1 November Haugeland, J. 'Authentic Intentionality', in *Dasein Disclosed*, pp. 260–274
- 8 November Haugeland, J. Part 1 of 'Truth and Rule Following', in *Having Thought*, pp. 305–327 (up to, but not including, §10)
- 15 November Haugeland, J. Part 2 of 'Truth and Rule Following', in *Having Thought*, pp. 327–354
- 22 November Haugeland, J. 'Letting Be', in *Dasein Disclosed*, pp. 167–178
- 29 November Haugeland, J. 'Truth and Finitude', in *Dasein Disclosed*, pp. 187–220



# Kant Reading Group

In Michaelmas Term we will read the Transcendental Aesthetic of the *Critique of Pure Reason*. Since this is a short, but very dense text, we will supplement it with a few additional primary passages as well as selected secondary literature. Our focus will be on a careful analysis of Kant's arguments. Topics to be discussed include the following: the distinction between intuitions and concepts; the notion of a pure intuition; Kant's philosophy of geometry; and Transcendental Idealism.

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 Thomas Land.

- 15 October Tr. Aesthetic, §§1, 2 and 4 (focus on the first two Space Arguments and the first two Time Arguments)  
Daniel Warren, 'Kant and the Apriority of Space', *Philosophical Review* 107:2 (1998), 179–224.
- 22 October Tr. Aesthetic, §§2 and 4 (focus on the last two Space Arguments and the last two Time Arguments)  
Lanier Anderson, 'The Wolffian Paradigm'
- 29 October 'The Discipline of Pure Reason in its Dogmatic Use' (A712/B740–A738/B766)  
Kästner Review ("Über Kästners Abhandlungen", Ak. 20: 410–423; translation Henry Allison, *The Kant-Eberhard Controversy*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1973)  
Emily Carson, 'Kant on Intuition in Geometry', *Canadian J of Phil* 27 (1997), 489–512.
- 5 November Tr. Aesthetic, §3  
Lisa Shabel, 'Kant's "Argument from Geometry"', *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 42 (2004), 195–215
- 12 November Tr. Aesthetic, A26/B42–A30/B45 and §§6–8
- 19 November Lucy Allais, 'Kant's Idealism and the Secondary-Quality Analogy', *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 45:3 (2007), 459–84
- 26 November Desmond Hogan, 'How to Know Unknowable Things in Themselves', *Nous*, 43:1 (2009), 49–63
- 3 December TBC

# Philosophy and History of Physics Reading Group

We meet on **Tuesdays, 2.00–3.00pm in Seminar Room 1**. Organised by Jeremy Butterfield, Hasok Chang and Nazim Bouatta.

This term we will be reading Richard Staley, *Einstein's Generation: The Origins of the Relativity Revolution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008). This book is available for purchase (in paperback); there will also be copies on reserve in the Whipple Library.

# 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 alchemy and chemistry. This term's theme is **'Early Modern Chemistry'**.

The group meets several 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](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc).

Organised by Hasok Chang and Jenny Rampling.

Thursday 10 October (7pm):

'Practically Making the Philosophers' Stone: Recreating Alchemical Experiments'

Lecture by **Jennifer Rampling (HPS, Cambridge)**, sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Venue: Department of Chemistry, Lensfield Road.

21 October **Anke Timmermann (Cambridge University Library)**

Rhyming recipes and alchemy

Selection of alchemical poems from Elias Ashmole (ed.), *Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum* (London, 1652).

Didier Kahn, 'Alchemical Poetry in Medieval and Early Modern Europe: A Preliminary Survey and Synthesis. Part I – Preliminary Survey', *Ambix*, 57 (2010): 249–274; and 'Part II – Synthesis', *Ambix*, 58 (2011): 62–77.

11 November **Stephen Clucas (Birkbeck, University of London)**

John Dee and alchemy

Nicholas H. Clulee, 'Astronomia inferior: Legacies of Johannes Trithemius and John Dee', in William R. Newman and Anthony Grafton (eds.), *Secrets of Nature: Astrology and Alchemy in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001), pp. 173–233.

Nicholas H. Clulee, *John Dee's Natural Philosophy: Between Science and Religion* (London and New York: Routledge, 1988), Chapter 4 ('The Hieroglyphics of Nature'), pp. 77–115.

2 December **Simon Werrett (University College London)**

Early modern pyrotechnics

Simon Werrett, *Fireworks: Pyrotechnic Arts and Sciences in European History* (Chicago, 2010), Introduction and Ch. 1 ("Perfecting the Pyrotechnique story": The Ingenious Invention of Artificial Fireworks'), pp. 1–46.

# Language groups

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## Latin Therapy

Latin Therapy is an informal reading group. All levels of Latin (including beginners) are very welcome. We meet **every Friday in the Lodge Seminar Room from 4.00 to 5.30pm**, to translate and discuss a text from the history of science, technology or medicine. If a primary source is giving you grief, we'd love to help you make sense of it over tea and biscuits! Thus we provide a free translation service for the Department, and a means for members to brush up their skills.

More information can be found at our website: [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/latintherapy](http://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); this term we will be reading Plato's *Crito*. For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please email Liz Smith. Please note that there will be no session on Wednesday 30 October.