

Graduate Seminar: Science, History of Science, and Modernity

Department of the History and Philosophy of Science, Lent Term 2020

Organizer: Lorraine Daston

The discipline of the history of science originated with the claim that science made the modern world and our periodization still hinges on the premodern/modern divide. But recent scholarship, especially in global history, has challenged the very idea of modernity. We'll be reading both classical and current work on this question and discussing its implications for rethinking the history of science.

Meetings: Tuesday, 9:30-11:00, Seminar Room 1

All readings will be supplied by the organizer.

Week One, 21 January: Time Accelerates

Reinhart Koselleck, "Neuzeit": Remarks on the Semantics of the Modern Concepts of Movement," in idem, *Futures Past*, trans. Keith Tribe (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1985), pp. 231-266.

Week Two, 28 January: Science as the Engine of Modernity: The Founding Narrative of the Discipline of the History of Science

Alfred North Whitehead, *Science and the Modern World* [1925] (New York: Free Press, 1967), pp. 1-18.

Herbert Butterfield, *The Origins of Modern Science 1300-1800*, rev. ed. (New York: The Free Press, 1957), pp. 187-202.

Week Three, 4 February: Modernity with and without Science: Two Visions of the Paris of the Future, c. 1770 and c. 1860

Louis-Sébastien Mercier, *L'An 2440, rêve s'il en fut jamais* [1770], translated by William Hooper as *Memoirs of the Year Two Thousand Five Hundred* [1772], vol. 1, pp. 15-20, 27-31; vol. 2, pp. 61-87.

For those who have French:

Jules Verne, *Paris au XXe siècle* [comp. 1863] (Paris: Hachette, 1994), pp. 27-65.

Week Four, 11 February: Science and the Experience of Modernity, c. 1900

C.A. Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004), pp. 451-467.

Henry Adams, "The Grammar of Science (1903)", in *The Education of Henry Adams. An Autobiography* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1961), pp. 449-461.

Week Five, 18 February: Science and Modernization Theory

W. W. Rostow, *The Stages of Economic Growth. A Non-Communist Manifesto* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960), pp. 1-21.

Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Modern Life," [1902-3] in Malcolm Waters, ed. *Modernity: Critical Concepts* (London: Routledge, 1999), vol. 2, pp. 35-46

Week Six, 25 February: Can We Live Without Modernity?

David Wootton, *The Invention of Science. A New History of the Scientific Revolution* (London: Allen Lane, 2015), pp.3-14; 449-475.

Huri Islamoglu, "Modernities Compared: State Transformations and Constitutions of Property in the Qing and Ottoman Empires", in Huri Islamoglu and Peter C. Perdue, eds., *Shared Histories of Modernity: China, India, and the Ottoman Empire* (Routledge, 2009), pp. 109-143.