Welcome to Chicago

by Nick Huggett, University of Illinois at Chicago

[The HSS offers its thanks to our local arrangements team of Ken Alder, Bob Richards, Tania Munz and Nick Huggett for their work on this year’s conference. We are grateful for the many hours they have devoted to the 2014 HSS and PSA meetings.]

Getting About

- **Walk:** Chicago is remarkably flat (though one of the few “hills” is the ramp up to and down from the Michigan Avenue Bridge over the Chicago River).
- **Bike:** If you don’t bring your own, the extensive Divvy Bike system ([https://www.divvybikes.com](https://www.divvybikes.com)) gives unlimited biking (in 30 minute blocks) for a day for $7.
- **Taxi:** Chicago taxis are very reasonable and plentiful downtown—if you are daring, download a rideshare app, such as Uber, and it’s even cheaper (and perhaps easier if you are further from the center).
- **CTA (Chicago Transit Authority)** - [http://www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com). Public transportation in

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Chicago is very useable. $2.25 for a ride in cash (beware—no change is given), $10 for daily passes $10 for one day or $20 for three day passes (at some stores, or at the stations). There are many buses traveling along Michigan Ave., and the hotel is not far from the State and Chicago Red Line stop; both buses and station are wheelchair accessible. (In Chicago the lines are named for colors. Also be aware that the street name alone may not individuate a station: for instance the Chicago Avenue Red Line and Brown Line stations are distinct.) Unfortunately, the Blue line, which runs to O’Hare, does not come very close to the hotel.

Chicago is on a grid system: 0 N/S and 0 E/W is at Madison and State, in the Loop. In each compass direction the street numbers increase by exactly 400 for every half-mile: so, for instance, the hotel (at 909 N Michigan Ave.) is just over a mile north of Madison. Major streets (best for buses and taxis) are every half-mile (so multiples of 400).

Entertainment

From the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to Steppenwolf Theater, from B.L.U.E.S. Chicago to the famous improv theater Second City there’s a lot to do if you take a night off from the meeting. The Chicago Reader (http://www.chicagoreader.com), Time Out Chicago (http://www.timeout.com/chicago), and NewCity (http://newcity.com) should cover what’s on. Also, this year’s conference coincides with the Chicago Humanities Festival, one of the largest such festivals in the world: http://chicagohumanities.org/.

What follows are a few subjective recommendations for eating and visiting, culled from various locals—though of course there are many other options.

Streeterville, Gold Coast and Magnificent Mile

Visiting

- **Museum of Contemporary Art**: 220 E. Chicago Ave. (just around the corner from the hotel). The blockbuster show “David Bowie Is,” will be on during the meeting.
- **Oak Street Beach**: Just north of the hotel on Michigan.
Welcome to Chicago, cont.

- **Lots of shopping:** Everywhere.
- **Hancock Building:** The observatory 360 Chicago has probably better views than the Willis Tower, but so does the Signature Lounge on the floor above, and a drink there is probably cheaper than admission to the observatory.

Eating

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In addition to the usual Starbucks, Corner Bakeries, Chipotles, etc., the following are quick and reasonably priced, in the general area of the hotel.

- **Foodlife:** In the Water Tower Mall, at 835 N. Michigan. A quick and cheap(ish) place right by the hotel. Cafeteria-style, with a variety of options, including vegetarian (open 8:00-8:00 most days).
- **900 North Michigan Shops:** 900 N. Michigan Ave. A bit fancier than a food court, but with several options from Freshii and Potbelly for take-out, to Thai and pizza sit-downs.
- **West Egg Café:** 620 N. Fairbanks Ct. A popular, fancy diner (open 6:30-3:00 most days).
- **Dao Thai:** 230 E. Ohio St. Good, convenient food (open 11:00-10:00 most days).
- **Epic Burger:** 40 E. Pearson St. Craft burgers at slightly more than fast food prices (open 10:00-9:00 most days).

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- **Le Pain Quotidien:** 10 E. Delaware Pl. European-style sandwiches, quiches, salads, and baked goods.
- **Eataly:** 43 E. Ohio St. An Italian food court on steroids from gelato to cheeses to a sit-down Mario Battali restaurant, there is something for everyone.
- **Oak Tree Restaurant and Bakery:** 900 N. Michigan Ave. All-day breakfast and lunch (open 7:30-5:00, bakery open until 6pm).
- **Karyn’s Cooked:** 738 N. Wells St. A little bit further, but strictly vegan. (The sister restaurant, Karyn’s on Green is a little further, but also recommended.)
- **Sayat-Nova:** 157 E. Ohio St. Terrific food (Armenian—think Russian meets Mediterranean) and a wonderful, intimate atmosphere.
- **Slurping Turtle:** 116 W. Hubbard St. Funky Japanese.

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- **Puck’s Café:** Wolfgang Puck’s café inside the Museum of Contemporary Art. Closes with the museum (admission not needed), but excellent food and service in a stunning space.
- **Cicchetti:** 671 N. St. Clair St. Trendy, very highly rated Italian restaurant. (Another excellent fine Italian restaurant nearby is Café Spiaggia, at 980 N. Michigan Ave.)
- **Le Colonial:** 937 N. Rush St. French Vietnamese fine dining, lovely atmosphere, good food. There are a number of superb restaurants in the same area.

Loop (and around)

Visiting

- **Millennium Park:** 201 E. Randolph St. Mayor Daley’s legacy project is a beautiful and popular park along Michigan Ave., well worth a walk around. Stop by the fountain, see the Frank Gehry band shell, or take a picture with the Chicago skyline reflected in Anish Kapoor’s Cloud Gate (affectionately known as “The Bean”).
- **Art Institute of Chicago:** 111 S. Michigan Ave. The Art Institute houses a world-class collection that any city would be proud of. Visitors are often especially amazed by the
many major works from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but the collection also covers antiquity, and American and non-Western art. If you do one thing in Chicago, visit here.

- **Museum Campus**: Michigan Ave. and Roosevelt Rd. The Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, and Shedd Aquarium are all located just north of Soldier Field (the Bears will be playing out of town the conference weekend). The 146 bus will take you there along Michigan Ave. from the hotel.

- **Architecture Tour**: [http://www.architecture.org/tours](http://www.architecture.org/tours). Run by the Chicago Architecture Foundation, the boat tours along the Chicago River are an excellent and popular way to see some of the amazing buildings in the city—a museum of architecture since the great fire of 1871. It will still be running during the meeting. (If you make your own architecture walk, be sure to include Dearborn St. from Washington to Adams to see the monumental Picasso, Chagall, and Calder public works.)

### Eating

- **NafNaf Grill**: 309 W. Washington St. A Middle Eastern chain.
- **Native Foods**: 218 S. Clarke St. A national vegan chain.
- **Pastoral Artisan Cheese**: 53 E. Lake St. "Awesome" for lunch, great sandwiches: clever and fresh ingredients.
- **Caffe Bacci**: 20 N. Michigan Ave, 2 N. LaSalle St and 231 S. LaSalle St. Fresh Italian cafeteria-style food.
- **Wildberry Pancakes and Café**: 130 E. Randolph St. Good breakfast place.
- **Ceres Café**: 141 W. Jackson Blvd. A dangerous happy hour and American food spot.
- **Terzo Piano**: 159 E. Monroe St. On the roof of the new Modern Wing on the Art Institute, the food and location are equally spectacular. Mostly for lunch, but well worth the (not so big) splurge—a good place to celebrate a successful symposium!
- **tesori**: 65 E. Adams St. Classy and delicious Italian.

### Other Neighborhoods

#### Northwards; Lakeview and Boystown

- **Lakeview**: Other than the ebullient Boystown club and bar scene (3200-3600 N. Halsted St.), this neighborhood is a little more sedate and family oriented but has many great bars and restaurants, without downtown prices. The Chicago Diner (3411 N. Halsted St.) is a busy and famous vegetarian restaurant (with another location in Logan Square). A fun kosher restaurant is Milt’s Barbeque for the Perplexed (3411 Broadway). Also excellent is the long established Yoshi’s (3257 N. Halsted St.), which serves Japanese-meets-French food (including vegetarian options). For drinks try Minibar (3341 N. Halsted St.) or Elixir (3452 N. Halsted St.). Take the Red Line to Belmont.

- **Andersonville**: Another family and LGBT-friendly neighborhood, perhaps a little more youthful and edgy with lots of terrific places to eat in a very compact area: 5200-5600 N. Clarke St. All very good are Reza’s (5255 N. Clark St.) for Persian, Lalibela (5631 N. Ashland Ave.) for Ethiopian, Sunshine Cafe (5449 N. Clark St.) for homestyle Japanese, and Hamburger Mary’s (5400 N. Clark St.). Beer enthusiasts should check out Hopleaf (5148 N. Clark St.), and Acre (5308 N. Clark St.); while for something stronger there are martinis at Marty’s (1511 E. Monroe St.)
W. Balmoral Ave.). The area’s Swedish heritage explains the Swedish-American Museum (5211 N. Clark St.), and Swedish Bakery (5348 N. Clark St.); less explicable, but excellent, is Vincent (1475 W. Balmoral Ave.), which serves American Bistro as well as Indonesian-Dutch food. Finally, in the area is the legendary Big Chicks (5024 N. Sheridan Rd.), Chicago Reader’s best Gay Bar and best Lesbian Bar for 2014. Just two blocks east of Clark on Broadway are some of the city’s best Vietnamese restaurants, especially the delicious and inexpensive Tank Noodle (4953 N. Broadway St.) for Pho and Ba Le for banh mi sandwiches on crusty French baguettes (5014 N. Broadway St., a Michelin Bib Gourmand pick) as well as the legendary Green Mill Jazz Club (4802 N. Broadway St.). Take the Red Line to Argyle or Berwyn.

• **Little India**: A trip to Devon Ave. is worth it for authentic Indian food; you will be spoiled for choice. Unfortunately it is not conveniently reached by public transportation, and a bit of a way from downtown: but take a taxi to Devon Ave. and Western Ave. (6400 N and 2400 W).

**Westwards**

• **Bucktown/Wicker Park**: A buzzing neighborhood, with small galleries, bars, clubs, live music, and restaurants. The pole opposite some of the fun dive bars, is the super-trendy mixology haven Violet Hour speakeasy (1520 N. Damen Ave.) if you can find it—the line after 7pm will help. Eat at Handle Bar (2311 W. North Ave.) for vegetarian food, or Trenchermen (2039 W. North Ave.) for American food in an ex-Turkish bathhouse. Irazu (1865 N. Milwaukee Ave.) is vegetarian-friendly Costa Rican café. And try Antique Taco (1360 N. Milwaukee Ave.) for tacos amidst antiques! On the way out west is Green Zebra (1460 W. Chicago Ave.), primarily vegetarian, and one of the best restaurants of any kind in the city. For Wicker Park take the Blue Line to Damen.

• **Logan Square**: Reputedly the Williamsburg of the Midwest, a fun place to explore. Some interesting places to try are: D’Noche—Café con Leche before 4.30pm—(2710 N. Milwaukee Ave.) is a good Latin American restaurant. The wine bar Reno (2607 N. Milwaukee Ave.) serves all three meals (it’s famous for Montreal-style bagels). Michelin starred Longman & Eagle (2657 N. Kedzie Ave.) is a highly rated whiskey bar with rich and fancy pub food. Cafe Lula (2537 N. Kedzie Ave.) was one of the first places in Logan Square’s “renewal” and is everyone’s favorite for spectacular brunch as well as lunch and dinner. The Whistler (2421 N. Milwaukee Ave.) is a hole in the wall, a quiet and relaxed speakeasy, with amazing cocktails. To get there take the Blue Line.
Quality in Scholarship in the Age of the Impact Factor
Official Opening of the HSS Editorial Office at Utrecht, The Netherlands
By Noortje Jacobs, Didi van Trijp and Ruben Verwaal, Isis Editorial Assistants

On 10 September 2014, in the intimate and historic atmosphere of the Lutheran Church in Utrecht, scholars gathered to celebrate the official opening of the History of Science Society’s Editorial Office. Many historians of science, as well as people from outside the field, were present to witness this happy occasion. A special guest for the ceremony was the President of the History of Science Society, Angela Creager. In her opening address, she posed the question “How can we maintain quality in scholarship and scholarly journals in the age of the impact factor?” She was followed by various speakers who reflected on this central topic. The HSS’s new Editor, H. Floris Cohen, concluded the day by describing how he plans to maintain the journal’s high quality and standards. He chose to do so with a most remarkable metaphor. Two hours earlier, when the guests were just arriving at the church, they had been welcomed by the impressive sounds of an organ. During his closing remarks, Floris revealed that he had been the one playing the instrument, but not before he asked the audience what they had thought of the performance. This semi-trick question posed the prelude to an important point of reflection: would the audience have dared to be honest if they had known it was the Editor pressing the keys? Or with this knowledge, would they have hastily readjusted their opinion? If so, does that mean that quality judgments are no more than subjective expressions glossed over by taste? Or can we foster reasonable discussions that do not focus on the subject that is judging but on the object that is being judged? Floris adheres to the latter notion. He will ensure that all those seeking to contribute to Isis will have an equal chance and that they will receive fair and meticulous reviews. Although this may cost considerable time and effort—for which Isis very much relies on the members of HSS’s volunteer community—this is the only way to ensure quality in scholarship, especially in the age of the impact factor.

There were, of course, other contributors to the festivities. Paul Ziche, chair of Utrecht’s Descartes Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Science, which houses the editorial office, posed the question of whether Isis the journal, like the ancient Egyptian goddess, is a myth. Myths, after all, are created and require sustenance; they can also be altered and molded. Continuing on the etymology of the goddess Isis, Lex Heerma van Voss—the general director of the Dutch Huygens Institute ING, which has kindly supplied the HSS with one of its two book review editors, Eric Jorink—used pictures and illustrations to show the audience how this goddess of fertility and healing also came to stand for knowledge and wisdom. Isis, Heerma van Voss therefore concluded, is a perfect title for a journal dedicated to the history of science. Also, Keimpe Algra, head of the Utrecht University Humanities Faculty and a historian of
antique philosophy, used the title of the journal as a metaphor and noted that the journal Isis, like the goddess, is cosmopolitan in nature; even though Isis has Egyptian roots, she became an important figure throughout the Greco-Roman world. Hence, Algra concluded, Isis may have moved from America to Europe, but the journal’s high reputation will continue to be as clearly and widely perceived as that of the goddess. Vivat crescat gloriat! (May it live, grow, and flourish!)

These are certainly interesting times for academic journals. Isis serves not only the discipline, it also serves all academics, as well as society at large. This broad view, Angela Creager admitted, made the choice of a new Editor especially difficult. The HSS sought an Editor who would be dedicated to meticulous and high-quality scholarship, but who also dared to ask the big questions, such as whether or not Isis should be made completely and freely accessible. If so, who would pay for open access? The authors? The readers? The members of HSS? The ramifications of open access are significant.

Amsterdam Professor of Computational and Digital Humanities Rens Bod stressed that we as historians of science have a special responsibility to the entire academic community, including non-historians. This also means that we should aim to reach a broad public and not just the specialists in our respective sub-fields. Over the years, Bod warned, journals in the history of science have been specializing and professionalizing, attracting fewer and fewer readers. As historians of science who reflect on the ideas and practices of all those engaged in science, we have to make sure that these works continue to offer insights to everyone, including scientists. To reach this broad readership, Isis should motivate its authors to take a comparative approach across disciplinary and geographical boundaries. Quality also means relevance and accessibility.

But what constitutes quality, really? Leiden Professor of Scientometrics Paul Wouters advised Isis and the audience to simply not worry about the impact factor. It is clear to many in contemporary academics that there is too much reliance on such indicators. Instead, Wouters said, we should worry about what the notion of quality means and what it has meant in different times and contexts. Historians of science can play an important role here by exploring the historical contingency of the concept and by showing how contemporary standards are only of limited value.

PhD candidate Jeroen Bouterse gave the audience one clear example of quality and dedication in the age of the impact-factor. When it became clear that Isis would be coming to the Netherlands, Floris immediately decided to form a young Isis circle, consisting of students and doctoral candidates in the history of science. The group is called Horus, after the son of Isis. Last spring, Floris, along with the Isis book review editors Ad Maas and Eric Jorink, spent the day discussing the art of book reviewing. All thirteen Horus members had submitted a book review and collectively they went over each review to discuss the merits and pitfalls of good reviewing, because, as George Sarton once wrote, “learning cannot progress without appreciation or criticism.” Sarton was writing about the fundamental importance of good reviewing, but the same principle applies to Horus. As Bouterse explained to the audience, it was an inspiring experience for the students to have
three scholars take this much time and effort for an educational session outside of the set curricula. Horus will continue to meet in the years to come, covering different aspects of the academic journal.

A journal such as *Isis* is, of course, concerned with the letter and the word. However, Dirk van Delft, the Director of the Dutch science museum Boerhaave, reminded the audience of the importance of material science. Together with the Descartes Centre and the Huygens Institute, Boerhaave has made the transition of *Isis* to the Netherlands possible. The museum has generously provided us with one of our book review editors, Ad Maas. Van Delft hopes this will contribute to a synergy between the academic world and the world of the museum. Boerhaave aims to have a firm position in the history of science community and Van Delft is confident that *Isis* has an important contribution to make to the museum, as well.

Floris ended the festivities with some kind words of thanks, emphasizing the collaborative effort in bringing *Isis* to Utrecht. He thanked in particular an important trio who helped to make the move possible. These are of course Bert Theunissen and Wijnand Mijnhardt, the current and previous directors of the Descartes Centre, and Annemarieke Blankesteijn, the Centre’s managing director. From the beginning, the Descartes Centre has offered *Isis* a firm institutional basis. Finally, Floris reminded us that what is needed to become and remain a good historian is a combination of sufficient command and daring, of intuitive judgment enhanced by expertise. He underscored this sense of daring by quoting the late historian Lynn White, Jr.: “For an historian it is better to be wrong than to be timid.” It is this admonition that he and his colleagues will keep in mind as they work to maintain the quality that *Isis* has exhibited over the past 100 years.

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**D. Kim Foundation for the History of Science and Technology in East Asia**

The D. Kim Foundation for the History of Science and Technology in East Asia is pleased to offer several annual fellowship awards and grants for the year of 2015-2016 (starting from July 1, 2015). Established in 2008, the D. Kim Foundation is dedicated to furthering the study of the history of science and technology in modern (primarily 20th century on) East Asia.

The Foundation provides fellowships and grants to encourage and support graduate students and young scholars in the field. Comparative studies of East Asia and the West as well as studies in related fields (mathematics, medicine and public health) are also welcome. Fellowships and grants are not limited to students studying in US universities, and students and young scholars in non-US universities are encouraged to apply.

For more information, see [www.dkimfoundation.org](http://www.dkimfoundation.org)
Remarks for Official Opening of *Isis* in Utrecht

*By Angela Creager, HSS President*

Today I am here not as an expert on scholarly publications or digital humanities, but as the President of the History of Science Society. And as it happens, as Vice President I was on the search committee for the new Editor of the History of Science Society. So I am in a good position to comment on why the selection of Floris Cohen as Editor and the opening of our editorial office in Utrecht are exciting and sound developments for us.

First a few words about HSS’s new Editor: Floris Cohen is well known to historians of science for his books *The Scientific Revolution: A Historiographical Inquiry* (1994) and *How Modern Science Came Into the World* (2010). A shortened version in Dutch of the latter was awarded the Eureka Prize in 2007 for its success in bringing science and scholarship to a broad audience, a cause to which Cohen is strongly committed. He has a well-deserved reputation as a conscientious, responsible, and focused scholar, qualities he now brings to the editorship of *Isis*. All of Cohen’s work combines a dedication to meticulous scholarship with a focus on big historical questions, and in editing *Isis* he aims to achieve what he called “a judicious mix” of the two. Although his own work has dealt mainly with the period before 1700, as Editor he is serving the broader readership in his assurance that the distribution of topics addressed in the journal remains roughly proportional to the research interests of HSS members. That is, he would expect *Isis* to retain a substantial focus on 19th and 20th century science. Here he is helped by an excellent editorial board. Cohen will also oversee the continued publication of our yearly thematic serial *Osiris*,...
Remarks for Official Opening of *Isis* in Utrecht, cont.

whose editor Andrea Rusnock, has brought out a series of sparkling volumes that are keenly attuned to the best and most innovative history of science being written. In searching for a new Editor, the Committee on Publications was impressed by Cohen’s desire to be of service to the discipline and by his commitment to the highest standards of scholarship, to rigorously objective and fair peer-review procedures, and to judicious, fair, and informative book reviewing.

Cohen has inherited from our former Editor Bernie Lightman our field’s premier journal, with an incredibly low acceptance rate for articles (about 12% of submissions make it into print). *Isis* is known for its attention to cutting-edge historiography as well as for its commitment to producing the highest caliber scholarship in the field. It was, of course, a big step for our Society, which has been based for nearly a century in North America, to move such a vital part of our operations to Europe. But I am convinced it was both sound and forward-looking. From its founding in 1924, the History of Science Society has always been an international Society, and I was surprised when I analyzed our membership that fully one-third of our members live outside of the U.S. (and one-quarter outside the U.S. and Canada). To ascertain if the postage costs would go up for mailing books to reviewers from Utrecht, my colleague Bruce Hunt was surprised to discover from a survey of recent issues of *Isis* that close to half of our book reviewers are Europeans. So while the symbolism of moving our *Isis* office across the Atlantic is significant, in reality we are catching up to where the Society is, and where the field is going. With its thriving graduate program and close links with other key research institutions and museums in the Netherlands, the Descartes Center possesses a wealth of talent and institutional support as host of our editorial office. I am thrilled to be here today to celebrate the return of *Isis* to the Low Countries, after a century in the New World.

We will rely on Floris Cohen’s good judgment in these next few years, which may be critical ones for our longevity. Like other learned societies, HSS is faced with the uncertainty of how to sustain our tradition of scholarly excellence in the age of electronic publishing. The pressure for open access poses a particular challenge. Most people agree that open access—making the scholarly literature freely available on the Internet (to give Stephen Curry’s simple definition)—is a good idea. Yet the economic implications are complex and counter-intuitive. In effect, the model shifts the burden of publication costs from readers onto authors (or onto the funding bodies that support the authors). Is this sustainable in the humanities and social sciences, where public funding is not lavish?

Our own Society invests significant resources into making our journal the finest in the field. One estimate places the cost of publishing *Isis* for HSS at $16,000 per article.*1 University of Chicago Press offers gold open access as an option for authors; their article processing fee is set at $2,500. (This is in line with the fee from other publishers, both academic and commercial, such as Oxford and Springer.) That sum may sound princely to an author, yet it does not come close to covering the resources HSS puts into its refereeing, editing, and production. Moreover, our base of members, and thus our individual subscribers to *Isis*, has been eroding steadily for the past decade—in part because scholars can access our journal online through their libraries and thus do not have an incentive to retain their Society membership. Who will pay for publishing our excellent scholarly journal (and others like it) in the future? University of Chicago press offers us the option of benefiting from the growing institutional and bundle subscriptions to our journal, since individual subscribers are a shrinking source of revenues. This strategy for financial sustainability relies on taking advantage of our main intellectual property, *Isis* and *Osiris*. How do we then respond to the calls for greater open access? This is a conundrum we have not yet resolved.

These changes are gradual, and for now our budget remains on sound footing—in no small part due to the direct and in-kind support we now receive from the Descartes Center, the Huygens Institute.

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*1 Jay Malone communication to HSS Executive Committee, May 2014.
and Museum Boerhaave, as well as the University of Utrecht and the Ammodo Foundation. We are grateful for your generous support of our editorial office and the excellent Isis staff. That said, we are not complacent. With an eye to marking our centennial ten years hence, we have embarked on developing a strategic plan. We have identified six goals that are central to our Society’s mission; the second is to “foster a publishing environment that promotes top-quality history of science scholarship.” Even as we seek to disseminate our scholarship to more diverse audiences and in more diverse media, the core of our intellectual value is right here—the editing and publication of Isis and Osiris. Thank you for being our partners in this crucial part of our Society’s work and legacy. In particular, I want to express our gratitude to Wijnand Mijnhardt, Bert Theunissen, and Floris Cohen, for their vision and work in bringing the editorial office to the Netherlands.

We are also grateful for the other members of the publication team, especially Eric Jorink, Ad Maas, and Desiree Capel. You all have become vital friends and supporters of the HSS, and have quite literally brought us to a new place in our history. We look forward not only to reading the next five years of outstanding scholarship edited out of Utrecht, but also to our arrival en masse to convene our first annual meeting beyond the borders of North America, here in Utrecht in 2019! Congratulations and best wishes to our new Editorial Office.

ANNOUNCING
The Francis Bacon Award in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology

The California Institute of Technology and the Francis Bacon Foundation are pleased to request nominations for the Francis Bacon Award in the history of science, the history of technology, or historically-engaged philosophy of science.

The Francis Bacon Prize

Offered biennially in the amount of $20,000, the Prize will be awarded to an outstanding scholar whose work continues to have a substantial impact on any of the three fields. The winner of the Bacon Prize will be invited to spend one term (3 months) at Caltech. Funds will be provided to compensate the winner’s home institution for the period of residence at Caltech, and the winner for costs of transportation and local housing. A biennial conference will bring together the best younger and established scholars in the area of the Bacon Visiting Professor’s specific interests.

Previous awardees are:
- Lisa Jardine (2012), Centre for Editing Lives and Letters, University College London
- Myles Jackson (2010), Gallatin School, New York University, history of science

Please send nominations by December 15th, 2014 to:
Fran Tise
Secretary to the Bacon Committee
M/C 101-40
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91125
Email: ftise@hss.caltech.edu

Please include:

1. A letter of nomination, one page maximum per nominee, which addresses the candidate’s qualifications and potential. Please include the nominee’s contact information.
2. A copy of the nominee’s curriculum vitae.
Putting some STE(A)M into STEM: Collaborations and Conversations about Socially Engaged History of Science

By Dawn M. Digrius, Senior Project Manager, STEM Collaboratives, Office of the Chancellor, The California State University

Recently, I was invited to take on two new positions. The first was a transcontinental move from New Jersey to California, to direct the recently funded STEM Collaboratives Project for the California State University (CSU), courtesy of the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. The second was to oversee the history side of a new initiative within the History of Science Society, the Joint Caucus for Socially Engaged Philosophers and Historians of Science (JCSEPHS). These new adventures were both the result of several years of research, promotion, and support of socially engaged activities. “What,” you may ask, “are socially engaged activities, and how do historians of science DO these sorts of things?” I hope that in the 2000 words that HSS Executive Director Jay Malone has allowed me to have, I can explain what I have done and inspire you to think about social engagement in the history of science.

But first, I need to provide a bit of background information. For those of you who are not familiar with my research agenda, over the past four years and until joining CSU, I was an Assistant Professor of History/History of Science at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. While there, I oversaw an international research project, Sin el agua no hay vida, which focused on history, archaeology, water resources management, and sustainable development in Latin America. Every year, I took a team of undergraduate and graduate students to Ecuador, to see first-hand global problems that have an impact on humans and nature. Even though they all were majoring in different subject areas, they had to work together as a team to provide a plan for implementation that would serve to contribute in some way to sustainable development: alleviate poverty, increase quality of life, or bring economic vitality back to a small community. They also had to learn how to deal with various stakeholders.

It was probably my own background that informed my research. I began my academic career as an archaeologist, working in Latin America on a project known as the Yalahau Regional Human Ecology Project (YRHEP). Overseen by Dr. Scott Fedick, University of California at Riverside, the YRHEP centered on human/environment interaction in Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula. As a paleoethnobotanist on that project (someone who works with the remains of plants recovered from the archaeological record), I not only examined plant remains, I also reconstructed ancient vegetational systems and tried to understand better the intentional domestication of plants for consumption and economic uses. Our team utilized individuals from a wide range of disciplines that contributed to our investigations of the past. Built into my academic experiences were both international study and trans-disciplinary teams.

Once at Stevens, I realized that there were great opportunities to work with colleagues in the Schaefer School of Engineering and Science. These folks, engineers mostly, knew about fluid mechanics and the structural integrity of concrete better than I, so our combined efforts afforded our students a unique opportunity to obtain a wide perspective on their research. I was asked to join the “new” multidisciplinary Senior Design Pilot (now no longer a pilot) and advised engineering and science students along with my colleagues in that field. Together, we supported the development of a revised water system for a rural village in Ecuador. Thus, my experiences as a junior faculty member reflected my graduate school and undergraduate fieldwork: they were international and included a diverse group of practitioners.

From 2010, and until I left Stevens in 2014, I made sure that both in and out of the classroom I stressed to my students the pressing need for practitioners of scientific and technological research, but also history, STS, and social science researchers to have a global vision. The reason: I believe that we should be training the next generation of STEM graduates to tackle the challenges that we face, such as climate change,
Putting some STE(A)M into STEM, cont.

water scarcity, cybersecurity, and the like. I did not discriminate either; I made sure to speak about my research and my commitment to educating a globally-minded citizenry to all of my students. Over those four years, my research teams included those specializing in civil engineering, public health, history, psychology, business, and environmental science. These students worked diligently to innovate in their areas of expertise in order to contribute to raising the quality of life for people living in rural, poverty stricken areas of Latin America.

Again, maybe it is due to my prior training in Anthropology, but my research has always had an applied dimension. Sustainable development, and its underpinnings, requires all stakeholders to participate in its creation, implementation, and management to be successful. The further along I went in my research and outreach to students, the more clear it became that one’s scholarship, if socially engaged, can do more than just get you tenure. It can make a difference. I see the role of the JCSEPHS as one that brings an applied focus to the classroom, but also contributes to the world in meaningful ways.

Now that my career has shifted focus, and I am no longer in the classroom, I see a new role for my applied vision of the history of science. STEM has long been plagued by a lack of diversity. In fact, many under-represented minorities (URMs) may begin their college careers as STEM majors, but do not persist to graduation in STEM, or they might not graduate at all. By engaging all students, but particularly URMs, I believe that we can produce more STEM graduates. But, I also believe that by introducing students to the foundational aspects of the JCSEPHS, and to the idea that they can contribute to a better world no matter what discipline they study, we create an atmosphere whereby STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) becomes the standard acronym.

It may sound “preachy,” but I do believe it will happen. I have seen the evolution of my students from self-centered, globally-anemic, and sheltered young people to globally-minded, socially-conscious individuals who see their education as a way to tackle global problems in intelligent and innovative ways. Dragging 10 students to Latin America to live in a small, poor, rural village with no running water or television for several weeks may seem crazy to some, but it afforded them opportunities to think deeply about life and how their skills can contribute to an increased quality of life for others. Engineers, in particular (and I am not picking on them) tend to see the world and their work as a project and a budget. Getting them to think more critically ABOUT engineering, and HOW their work impacts ALL stakeholders (not just the folks paying for the project) was something that developed through their experiences with my project. They grew as people. They saw the human side of engineering and scientific research. They had to talk to other students outside their discipline and collaborate.

I am grateful for the time I have had inside and outside the classroom with my students. I have learned so much from them and cherish the experiences I have shared with them. I am also grateful that my work has impacted the lives of so many people, inside and outside of academia, and has fostered an environment of collaborative learning that engages individuals to see the world in new ways. While no longer standing in a classroom every day, I feel that the reach of my new position is larger than anticipated. If you are interested, visit me in El Salvador this summer, where I will continue my research on sustainable development and inspire students to apply their classroom experiences to real-world situations.

I am excited to see where this journey will take me and am thankful that I was tagged to support the JCSEPHS from the history side of things. Join me in the conversation on social engagement and include such themes in your classrooms and in your scholarship.

Oliver Lodge, Psychical Research and German Physicists: Heinrich Hertz and Max Planck
By Andreas Sommer

Reprinted from the blog Forbidden Histories at http://forbiddenhistories.wordpress.com/2014/03/08/oliver-lodge-psychical-research-and-german-physicists-heinrich-hertz-and-max-planck/

Since its foundation in 1882, the Society for Psychical Research (SPR)—the first large organisation to scientifically investigate controversial phenomena associated with mesmerism and spiritualism—has boasted a considerable number of notable physical scientists among its members. They included, for example, the discoverer of thallium and president of the Royal Society, William Crookes, the pioneer in wireless telegraphy, president of the Physical Society and first principal of Birmingham University, Oliver Lodge, as well as Nobel Laureates such as J. J. Thomson, Marie Curie, Lord Rayleigh (John William Strutt), and, more recently, Brian Josephson.

International in character, the early SPR also counted a noted German physicist among its members: Heinrich Hertz, after whom the international unit of frequency in physics (hertz, Hz) was named. The first to broadcast and receive radio waves, Hertz became acquainted with Oliver Lodge through their mutual interests in wireless transmission technologies. In his obituary of Hertz, Lodge wrote in the Journal of the SPR in 1894:

During a visit to England in 1890 to receive a medal from the Royal Society, he betrayed an interest in psychical matters, and related to the writer some experiences which had convinced him that there was matter for investigation in these ‘occult’ regions.

Lodge proposed Hertz as a Corresponding Member of the SPR in April 1891. Hertz accepted, but died less than three years later.

Another acquaintance of Lodge’s, Max Planck (the Nobel Laureate commonly referred to as the founder of quantum physics), never joined the SPR but expressed sympathies for Lodge’s unorthodox investigations in telepathy and mediumship. I found a letter from Planck to Lodge in the SPR archives at Cambridge University Library (SPR. MS35/1752), which I translate with the kind permission of the Society. Confirming receipt of Phantom Walls, Lodge’s latest opus on spiritualism, Planck wrote on 19 December 1929:

You gave me great joy by kindly sending me your book “Phantom Walls”, and I hardly need to assert that I will gratefully keep this valuable gift in honour. Not only will it be a cherished souvenir of that eventful and interesting day which I got to spend in London two weeks ago, but by reading it I also promise myself many a new valuable stimulation in addition to the plenty which I have previously received from your writings.

– The thing that for me has always made the standpoint represented by you plausible and likeable is your unshakeable faith in the existence of a real outer world independent of us, in which we humans play only a relatively humble and minor role, and your rejection of the positivist viewpoint, which seeks to do away with all questions associated with this real outer world by declaring them meaningless. Rather, we must be content that much will remain mysterious to us, no matter how much we advance in knowledge. But we always have the consolation that we steadily approach the truth, even if we can never fully attain it.

Heinrich Hertz (1857-1894)  Max Planck (1858-1947)
ON A COOL spring morning in Cambridge, Massachusetts, I met with Steven Shapin over a cup of coffee to discuss his distinguished career in the history of science. Shapin, the Franklin L. Ford Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University, belongs to an early cohort of historians of science who entered the field prior to its professional elaboration throughout the late 20th century—before it developed anything like its current clear career structure, independent training programs, and its well-defined canon. “I was taught by people, some of whom were essentially amateurs,” he explained. “They were certainly admirable and able, but only one or two people who taught me had had training in the history of science; the rest had drifted in from other fields.”

From the time of Shapin’s early years as a graduate trainee, among the greatest transformations in the history of science, intellectual changes aside, has been the field’s professionalization. “The professionalization of the field,” Shapin told me, “has made it such that people know what the field is and they know what they’re getting into.” What brought Shapin into the history of science, then, was a burning interest in certain questions about science and knowledge—questions combined, of course, with a dose of serendipity, or as he put it, “a set of happy accidents.”

As much as the history of science has evolved as an independent discipline, I can’t help but dwell on a basic similarity between Shapin’s path into the field and my own: even today, not many students spend their high school years hoping to be a “historian of science.” Most historians of science, whether seasoned or aspiring, stumbled into the field in one way or another.

STUMBLING OFTEN MAKES for vivid stories of professional development—a reflection of the simple fact that circuitous paths tend to be more interesting than linear ones. My own path is one that took shape in a small town with an enormous historical legacy.

On August 9, 1945, a four-engine heavy bomber carried the atomic bomb dubbed “Fat Man” into Japanese airspace. The bomb’s destination, Nagasaki, is permanently embedded within public memory; it is, however, the bomb’s point of origin, the plutonium production plant at Hanford, Washington, in the Northwest of the U.S. that is permanently embedded within mine. I grew up at this node of the Manhattan Project, among the scattered testaments of the city’s nuclear legacy.

While the nuclear reactors at Hanford were entombed and decommissioned well before my birth, their legacy remained all around me, integrated into the city’s local identity and preserved in its urban design, economic character, and natural environment. I encountered this legacy not only in the city’s national research laboratories and its eccentric street and shop names (e.g., “Proton Lane” and “Atomic Ale Brewpub”) but also, and more unnervingly, in its ongoing nuclear cleanup effort, the largest in U.S. history. In short, I grew up in a town where the production of scientific knowledge interfaced with cultural identities, social processes, and human lives in very real and tangible ways. Inherently in my upbringing, and now deliberately in my academic pursuits, I grapple with the ethical and social contours of scientific knowledge.

The more I delved into my city’s history, the more I found my interests resisting conventional disciplinary boundaries. I soon became as interested in the scientific challenges behind manufacturing the plutonium bomb as I was in the ethical questions around the decision to deploy such a bomb. It was by way of these questions—questions spanning scientific, historical, and ethical domains—that I arrived in the history of science. Since few questions are totally foreign to the history and philosophy of science and since interdisciplinarity is built into the field’s very core, I, like many others, turned to the field as a way of engaging with science in all of its richness and complexity.

Continued on Page 16
It is the practice of the historian of science to point out the contexts and contingencies of scientific knowledge. Science, we continuously remind others, is more than a catalogue of natural facts; it is a human activity, situated in and textured by its historical moment.

As I reflect on my own intellectual trajectory, I have come to appreciate how the work of the historian can be just as situated as the work of the scientist. Certainly historians should not confine themselves to studying the past solely through the narrow prisms of their own lived experiences—the past is thick, layered, and varied. Some of these layers of history will manifest differently in the eyes of different people. Inevitably, my background has guided—and will continue to guide—the questions I ask and the answers I give as a historian. My atomic origins have no half-life.

Raised in Richland, Washington, Andrew Lea graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University in May 2014 with a degree in History and Science and a minor in the Studies of Mind, Brain, and Behavior. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, Andrew was awarded the Sophia Freund Prize for graduating as the highest ranked undergraduate in his class. His undergraduate thesis explored the mainstreaming of sex reassignment surgery in the United States through the 20th century. This research received top university honors, including the Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize for outstanding scholarly research, the Robert and Maurine Rothschild Prize for the best thesis in the field of the history of science, and the Patricia King Fellowship for its creativity and intellectual promise.

As the editor-in-chief of Synthesis, the only undergraduate journal of the history of science nationally, Andrew co-sponsored an exhibition at the Harvard Museum of Natural History organized around the question of how art and artistic production can rework and reimagine the established conventions of natural history as represented by the museum. Outside of the history of science, he has served as a patient advocate at the Boston Medical Center, a supervisor at various Cambridge homeless shelters, and a senior editor of the Harvard College Global Health Review. This fall, Andrew will begin graduate work in the history of science and medicine at the University of Oxford with the support of a Rhodes Scholarship. In this personal essay, Andrew explores the history that preceded his intellectual interests in the ethical and social dimensions of scientific knowledge.
**Nima Bassiri** has begun a new appointment as Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Humanities and Harper-Schmidt Fellow in the Society of Fellows at the University of Chicago.

**Barbara Becker**’s (University of California, Irvine) book *Unravelling Starlight: William and Margaret Huggins and the Rise of the New Astronomy* has been selected to receive the 2015 Donald E. Osterbrock Book Prize of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society. The Donald E. Osterbrock Book Prize is awarded biennially to the author(s) of a book judged to advance the field of the history of astronomy or to bring history of astronomy to light. For more information see http://had.aas.org/osterbrock/.

In addition, on 29 August 2014, Becker participated in a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first observation of a nebular spectrum by English amateur astronomer, William Huggins. The celebration was held at Guilford Technical Community College in Jamestown, North Carolina, and she gave an illustrated talk on the historic observation and the changes it stimulated in astronomical theory and practice. Following her talk, audience members viewed many of the nebulae that were among Huggins’s first targets. The crowd included many families who saw firsthand how science and history can work together to enrich and amplify the public’s appreciation of the disciplines.

**Luis Campos** (University of New Mexico), newly elected to HSS’s nominating committee, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure in the History Department at New Mexico.

**Stephen Case** successfully defended his dissertation, “Making Stars Physical: John Herschel’s Stellar Astronomy, 1816-1871,” in the History and Philosophy of Science program at the University of Notre Dame in July. He has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry & Geosciences at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, where he also works as the director of the Strickler Planetarium.


**Matthew Daniel Eddy** (Durham University) co-edited (with Seymour Mauskopf, Duke University and William R. Newman, Indiana University) the 2014 *Osiris* volume “Chemical Knowledge in the Early Modern World.” He also has been awarded a fellowship at Durham University’s Institute for Advanced Study for the spring of 2016.

Together with four colleagues, **Monica H. Green** (Arizona State University) has a brief comment forthcoming in *Lancet Infectious Diseases*. The comment responds to a piece by geneticists published in the journal earlier this year that made major claims about the paths of spread of the three plague pandemics. Green et al. argue that historical claims based on genetic data should take historical sources and professional historiography as seriously as the nucleotides. The citation is: Monica H Green, Lori Jones, Lester K. Little, Uli Schamiloglu, and George D. Sussman, “*Yersinia pestis* and the Three Plague Pandemics,” *Lancet Infectious Diseases* 14 (October 2014), 918.

University of Michigan History of Medicine Professor **Joel Howell**’s class lecture “U.S. Government Human Radiation Experiments during the Cold War” was featured on C-SPAN. This class was from a course titled “History of Medicine in the Western World from the 18th Century to the Present.” You can view the lecture at http://www.c-span.org/video/?318318-1/us-government-human-radiation-experiments

**Taming the Unknown: A History of Algebra from Antiquity to the Early Twentieth Century** by **Victor J. Katz** (University of the District of Columbia) and **Karen Hunger Parshall** (University of Virginia) was published by Princeton University Press in June 2014.
John Krige (Georgia Tech) is a Visiting Fellow at the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia. He will be resident at Green College, UBC, for the fall semester.

As of 1 July 2014, Bruce Lewenstein (Cornell University) is serving as chair of Cornell’s Department of Science & Technology Studies.

Pamela O. Long (Independent Scholar) has received a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation “genius grant.” The foundation recognizes her as “an independent historian of science and technology who is rewriting the history of science, demonstrating how technologies and crafts are deeply enmeshed in the broader cultural fabric. Through meticulous analysis of textual, visual, antiquarian, and archival materials from across Europe, Long investigates how literacy, language, authorship, trade secrecy, and patronage regulated the interactions of scholars, artisans, architects, and engineers of the early modern period.” See more at: http://www.macfound.org/fellows/919/#sthash.JI0FWmp9.dpuf.


Richard Oosterhoff, a recent Notre Dame PhD, has accepted a postdoctoral position on a 4.5 year project at the University of Cambridge, starting October 2014. He is one of three fellows on the interdisciplinary project “Genius before Romanticism,” led by Dr. Alexander Marr, which will look at the language, concepts, and practices labeled “ingenious” in the early modern world. The project brings together diverse paths across European cultural history, including history of science, art, religion, and popular culture.

Peter Pesic’s (St. John’s College) new book, Music and the Making of Modern Science, was just published by MIT Press in July 2014. It is also available in an innovative iBook available from Apple; if read on an iPad, the sound examples can be heard and seen at a touch.

J. David Pleins’ (Santa Clara University) book In Praise of Darwin: George Romanes and the Evolution of a Darwinian Believer was published by Bloomsbury Academic Press in 2014.

Robert Proctor (Stanford University) has won the Rachel Carson Prize from the Society for Social Studies of Science for his book, Golden Holocaust: Origins of the Cigarette Catastrophe and the Case for Abolition, in which he outlines the surprising extent to which historians of science and medicine have testified for the defense in tobacco litigation. In July of this year, Proctor himself was a key witness in Robinson vs RJ Reynolds, a Pensacola, Florida trial that resulted in a $23.6 billion verdict for survivors of the afflicted smoker, one of the largest awards ever for a single plaintiff.

Gregory Radick (University of Leeds) has been elected President of the British Society for the History of Science (2014-16). He has also been appointed Director of the Leeds Humanities Research Institute.

Lynnette R. Regouby (University of Wisconsin) has been named as an American Philosophical Society (APS) post-doctoral curatorial fellow. She will conduct research in the collections of the APS and work with Museum staff in conceptualizing, developing, and implementing upcoming exhibitions.

Marc Rothenberg, former Treasurer of the HSS, will retire on 31 October from the National Science Foundation.

Karen Sayer (Leeds Trinity University) has been awarded the Museum of English Rural Life, Gwyn
E. Jones Fellowship 2014-15 for the project “Rural Boundaries: The Control of Rats and Mice in British Agriculture c. 1800-2001.”


Geert Somsen (Maastricht University) will be the Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellow in Columbia University’s History Department for the academic years of 2014-15 and 2015-16. He was awarded this fellowship (by the EU) for his project “Science and World Order.’ Uses of Science in Plans for International Government, 1899-1950.” He will work in close cooperation with the Center for International History, and the new Center for Science and Society, at Columbia. The project includes a third year which will be spent at his home university, in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

James Strick, Associate Professor of STS and of Earth & Environment at Franklin and Marshall College, has a new book in press with Harvard University Press, for Spring 2015 publication. *Wilhelm Reich, Biologist* is a close historical study of Reich’s microbiological “bion experiments” from 1934–1939. Reich’s laboratory notebooks were consulted during the research; the Reich Archive is at the Countway Library of Medicine in Boston.

The 2014 Cheiron Young Scholar Award has been awarded to Courtney Thompson, PhD candidate in History of Science and Medicine at Yale University, for her paper, “‘An Unfit Subject for the Gallows’: Phrenology, Insanity, and Criminal Responsibility in America, 1830-1850.”

Emanuela Appetiti and Alain Touwaide (both at the Smithsonian Institution) attended the conference of the International Society for the History of Medicine and organized a panel on the theme “The Silk Road and Materia Medica.” They were awarded the Golden Fleece of the History of Medicine Prize for their contributions to the history of medicine. (Photo credit: Vasileios Tritakis)

Virginia Trimble (University of California, Irvine) gave talks on the history of (1) the structure of the Milky Way (for the Blaauw Centenary Symposium, Groningen NL, in April); (2) the quest for black holes in spectroscopic binaries (IAU Symp 308, Tallinn Estonia, in June); (3) the use of interferometry in mapping galaxies (IAU Symp 309, Vienna); (4) the impact of WWI on chemistry, physics, and astronomy; and (5) discovery of the elements, real and imaginary, by astronomical methods (American Chemical Society fall meeting, San Francisco, August).


Catherine Westfall (Michigan State University) was named a 2014-2015 Samuel von Pufendorf Visiting Research Fellow in June 2014 in recognition of her research accomplishments. As part of the award, Westfall will spend most of her time from January to June 2015 at Lund University. There, she will contribute to a research project titled “Exploring Challenges for New
In Memoriam

**Barbara G. Rosenkrantz**
1923 - 2014  
Professor of the History of Science, Emerita  

Barbara Rosenkrantz started her teaching career at Harvard as a lecturer in the History of Science Department in 1971. Professor Rosenkrantz was chair of the History of Science Department at Harvard from 1984-1989, and continued to teach at Harvard until her retirement in 1993. Following her retirement, Professor Rosenkrantz traveled widely for both pleasure and intellectual growth, and continued to lecture and participate in academic endeavors.

Professor Rosenkrantz’s scholarly contributions were vast, beginning with her groundbreaking book *Public Health and the State* first published in 1972. This work was among the first serious investigation of the ideas that animated public health professionals in the 19th and 20th centuries and effectively defined the now-burgeoning field of public health history. Professor Rosenkrantz’s work emphasized the role of the evolving idea of the state in protecting and preventing disease among populations. This focus distinguished public health from medical history that emphasized the development of therapeutic techniques and treatment modalities among individual patients.

Throughout her career Professor Rosenkrantz identified the questions of individual and public responsibility for illness, the changing notions of worthiness as criteria for establishing public and private services, and shifting definitions of individual susceptibility as explanations for illness. Recent concerns about HIV record keeping, surveillance practices in light of the outbreaks of SARS, and, in the U.S., anthrax, demonstrate that the questions Rosenkrantz raised about the limits of public health are still very much in the forefront of modern-day concerns.

* Reprinted from the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University: [http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~hsdept/bios/rosenkrantz.html](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~hsdept/bios/rosenkrantz.html)

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**Member News, cont.**

Big Science: The Realization of ESS and MAX IV in Lund,” give a public lecture, lead graduate seminars, and mentor graduate students.

### 2014 ACLS Fellows

We are pleased to announce the 2014 cohort of the American Council of Learned Societies fellowship recipients who are members of the History of Science Society.

**Deborah R. Coen** / ACLS Fellowship  
Associate Professor, History, Barnard College  
“Dynamic Empire: Climate and Circulation in Late Imperial Austria”

**Bradley Matthys Moore** / ACLS Public Fellows Program  
Appointed as Research and Partnerships Manager, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House

**William R. Newman** / ACLS Fellowship  
Professor, History and Philosophy of Science, Indiana University, Bloomington  
“The Alchemy of Isaac Newton - A New Appraisal”

**Christy Spackman** / Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship  
Doctoral Candidate, Food Studies, New York University  
“Transforming Taste: Aesthetics in Medicine and Food”

Our congratulations to these scholars!
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Kluge Center Announces Call for Applications for Chair in Astrobiology

The John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress is now accepting applications for the Baruch S. Blumberg NASA/Library of Congress Chair in Astrobiology. The application deadline is 1 December 2014.

The Astrobiology Chair is a distinguished senior research position in residence at the Library of Congress for a period of up to twelve months. Using research facilities and services at the Library of Congress, the scholar engages in research at the intersection of the science of astrobiology and its humanistic and societal implications. The appointment ensures that astrobiology’s role in culture and society receives considered treatment each year in Washington, D.C. A stipend during the term of appointment supports the scholar.

The Chair is open to scholars and leading thinkers in the fields of philosophy, history, religion, astrobiology, astronomy, planetary science, the history of science, paleontology, Earth and atmospheric sciences, geological sciences, ethics, or other related fields. The Chair may undertake research on a range of societal issues related to how life begins and evolves, or examine the religious, ethical, legal, cultural and other concerns arising from scientific research on the origin, evolution, and nature of life in the universe.

Apply for the Baruch S. Blumberg NASA/Library of Congress Chair in Astrobiology by visiting: http://www.loc.gov/kluge/fellowships/NASA-astrobiology.html. For more information, email scholarly@loc.gov.

The John W. Kluge Center was established at the Library of Congress in 2000 to foster a mutually enriching relationship between the world of ideas and the world of action, between scholars and political leaders. The Center attracts outstanding scholarly figures to Washington, D.C., facilitates their access to the Library’s remarkable collections, and helps scholars engage in conversation with policymakers and the public. Learn more at: http://www.loc.gov/kluge.

Columbia—CHF Scholars

Columbia University and the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) are pleased to announce the beginning of a collaboration to train the next generation of scholars in the history of science. This partnership aims to foster advanced scholarship in interdisciplinary work between the natural sciences and humanistic inquiry and research. Outstanding young scholars—the Columbia-CHF Scholars—who hold a PhD in history, history of science, or cognate disciplines, in combination with a background in laboratory science research or artistic workshop experience, will pursue their own research while gaining experience in teaching.

The Columbia-CHF Scholars will co-teach the course, “Craft and Science in the Early Modern World,” in the Department of History, Columbia University, which combines seminar-style discussion with work in a laboratory. This course is one component of a research and pedagogical initiative—the Making and Knowing Project—established by Pamela H. Smith, Seth Low Professor of History, to explore making practices, texts, and materiality in early modern science. The Scholars will also teach part-time in Columbia’s signature Core Curriculum. In addition, as members of the postdoctoral Research Group on Matter, Materials, and Culture within CHF’s Institute for Research, the Scholars will focus on materiality, the laboratory, and culture, sharing their work through outreach opportunities available through CHF’s museum and public events.

Bringing the CHF together with Columbia University will have benefits for joint work among the sciences, the humanities, and social sciences, and will provide opportunities to combine laboratory and humanistic research, as well as to explore digital dimensions of research on early modern history of science that can be shared beyond the two institutions.

Columbia-CHF is especially pleased to announce the appointment of the Columbia-CHF Scholars for 2014-17, selected after an extensive international search:
History of Science Society Newsletter

News from the Profession, cont.

- Jenny Boulboullé whose 2012 PhD (Maastricht), “In Touch With Life—Investigating Epistemic Practices in the Life Sciences from a Hands-On Perspective,” combined a range of methods to investigate hands-on notions in relation to knowledge making. Dr. Boulboullé comes to the Project from her position as Research policy advisor to the executive board of the Free University Amsterdam, after postdoctoral work on the Art History Foresight Committee, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam.

- Donna Bilak, presently finishing a year as the Edelstein Postdoctoral Fellow at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, is conducting an interdisciplinary research project on Michael Maier’s Atalanta Fugiens. Dr. Bilak received her PhD in 2013, from Bard Graduate Center, New York, with a dissertation on the American Puritan alchemist, John Allin. Dr. Bilak is also a practicing jeweler.

- Joel Klein completed a PhD (2014) on Daniel Sennert under Professor William Newman at the University of Indiana, after a B.S. in chemistry and a stint as a research chemist. Dr. Klein is completing a year of research as an Edelstein Fellow at the Chemical Heritage Foundation.

Midwest Junto 2015

The next meeting of the Midwest Junto for the History of Science will take place on 17-19 April 2015 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. See the Junto’s new website at http://midwestjunto.wordpress.com/ for more information.

Sokol Books on Fulham

We would like to update HSS members on the new shop Sokol Books Ltd has opened on Fulham Road in London. The address is 239A FULHAM ROAD, LONDON, SW3 5HY. Sokol Books has just released a new catalogue, which is accessible at – http://www.sokol.co.uk.

The Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) History Project

By Kate MacCord, Jane Maienschein, Wes Anderson, Marci Baranski, Florian Huber, Valerie Racine, and Jonathan LaTourelle

The MBL History Project has entered its second season of collecting and digitally archiving materials from the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Led by Jane Maienschein, the director of the Center for Biology and Society at Arizona State University (ASU), and supported by funding from the National Science Foundation, the project seeks to bring to public attention the history of the Marine Biological Laboratory. The MBL has been home to many award-winning scientists and has incubated excellent scientific work since it opened in 1888. This project documents that history for the public by digitizing the MBL's archives, adding interviews and new documents, and creating visually rich and interpretive digital exhibits that put the history and science of the institution into context for the public.

The MBL History Project is run through a collaboration between ASU’s Center for Biology and Society and the MBL, with the support of the National Science Foundation. Over the past two years, researchers have digitized thousands of objects from the MBL archives and members of the Woods Hole community. Dozens of interviews with MBL scientists and long-term Woods Hole community members have been filmed to document the ever-changing history of this institution and the people who have been a part of building it. All of these documents and interviews are stored in the HPS Repository (http://hpsrepository.asu.edu/) and made available under creative commons license on the MBL History website (http://history.archives.mbl.edu/). The interviews are also hosted on the MBL History Project’s YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNAiaXcCLyIHgmwcRUwj9oA).
2014 marks the second season of data collection for the project, and graduate researchers from ASU are joined in their laboratory in the MBL’s famous Lillie building by an international group of graduate researchers and scholars, including Michael Dietrich from Dartmouth. The core team of the MBL History Project for the summer of 2014 consisted of: Jane Maienschein, Project Director (ASU); Kate MacCord, Project Coordinator (ASU); and graduate student researchers: Wes Anderson (ASU), Marci Baranski (ASU), Florian Huber (University of Vienna), Jonathan LaTourelle (ASU), and Valerie Racine (ASU). The graduate researchers are busily working on several important projects:

- Wes Anderson is gathering information from the MBL’s annual reports to compile a list of all the investigators who have worked at the MBL. This work has unearthed information on the research presence of Stephen Jay Gould, as well as Nobel Prize winners Thomas Hunt Morgan, George Wald, H. Keffer Hartline, Sydney Brenner, Albert Szent-Györgi, and Eric Kandel (among many others), and complements a list of all MBL course participants that was created by the MBL History Project in 2013. Computational tools reveal interesting patterns that raise new historical questions.

- Marci Baranski is developing a history of research at the Ecosystems Center. Founded in 1975, the Ecosystems Center was the first year-round research program at the MBL. Using annual reports, NSF grants, scientific publications, and oral histories, Baranski is tracing several research projects from their inception to the present day. These projects include the development of terrestrial carbon and nitrogen models by Center researchers, the use of stable isotopes in ecosystem research, and the three major Long Term Ecological Research projects. Baranski’s work serves as the inaugural entry of the MBL History Project into the rich history of ecosystems and biodiversity work that has occurred at the MBL. In future years, this locus of interest will be expanded to include data and exhibits on the biodiversity of the MBL’s Marine Resources Center and long history of collecting experimental organisms. We expect this expanded research area will grant insights into how the biodiversity of the area surrounding Woods Hole has changed, and how researchers’ organismal needs have varied over the years.

- Florian Huber is digitizing the Viktor Hamburger correspondence. Viktor Hamburger (1900–2001) was a German-born experimental embryologist whose work and mentorship led to a Nobel Prize for Rita Levi-Montalcini and Stanley Cohen for the discovery of nerve growth factor. Beginning in 1933, Hamburger was a regular investigator at the MBL, where he taught and directed the embryology course for many years. After his death in 2001, Hamburger’s scientific papers were donated by his daughter to the MBL archives, including 140 folders of scientific and private correspondences with leading biologists of the 20th century, such as Johannes Holtfreter, Frank R. Lillie, Jane Oppenheimer, Rita Levi-Montalcini, Florence Moog, Hans Spemann, and Paul Weiss. Huber’s Hamburger project opens many avenues for exploring the history of embryology and cell biology, as well as regenerative biology.

- Jonathan LaTourelle is engaged in the history of physiological (photochemical and neurological) and ethological theories of vision at the Marine Biological Laboratory: from Hecht and Hartline to Hanlon. He is also developing a history of molecular theories of memory at the MBL as well as actively researching the contemporary history of the study of neurological regeneration. Oral histories are central to the MBL History Project, and LaTourelle has interviewed many current and former MBL investigators and teachers, including: John Dowling, Steven Treistman, John Lisman, and Roger Hanlon. Over the next few years, the focus within the MBL History Project on neurobiology will expand to cover the research conducted within the Eugene Bell Center for Regenerative Biology and Tissue Engineering as well as the Grass Lab
• Valerie Racine is digitizing parts of the John Philip Trinkaus correspondence. John Philip Trinkaus (1918-2003) was an embryologist at Yale University who spent most of his summers at the MBL, studying the mechanism of gastrulation in Fundulus heteroclitus, a species of teleost fish. Racine is also preparing an online digital exhibit of Trinkaus’s life and work on Fundulus epiboly. This exhibit will emphasize Trinkaus’s remarkable ability to delineate a general research problem in embryology, leading to a long career of fruitful research on a simple model organism. Trinkaus’ archival materials at the MBL contain over 50 folders of correspondence with leading biologists of the 20th century, including: James Weston, Cheryl Tickle, and Michael Abercrombie. The efforts of Huber and Racine to digitize the correspondence of famous MBL-affiliated embryologists will continue to expand over the next several years to include the archives of Johannes Holtfreter, John Saunders, Shinya Inoue, and many more, incorporating biodiversity materials and data harvested from the MBL and local specimen collectors in order to grasp both the changing biota of the Woods Hole region as well as the histories of the scientists’ connections with different organisms, and increasing the number and types of digital exhibits. The digital archives also benefit from the computational tools being developed by Julia Damerow and Erick Peirson in Manfred Laubichler’s lab at Arizona State University. These tools allow analysis and representation of the data in new ways that reveal patterns calling for further research. We also have benefited from the support of MBL leaders and from working with the MBL archivist Diane Rielinger and librarian Matt Person and other MBL library staff.

All of the digitized materials and exhibits will be made available to the public through the MBL History Project website (http://history.archives.mbl.edu/) and the MBL History Project YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNAAxXcCLyIHgmwcRwvj9oA). The MBL History Project will continue to accumulate materials that record the rich history of biology at the MBL, and store them in the open-access HPS Repository (http://hpsrepository.asu.edu/), where they are readily available for all researchers and members of the public. The future plans of the MBL History Project include expanding the digital correspondence projects to include the letters of Johannes Holtfreter, John Saunders, Shinya Inoue, and many more, incorporating biodiversity materials and data harvested from the MBL and local specimen collectors in order to grasp both the changing biota of the Woods Hole region as well as the histories of the scientists’ connections with different organisms, and increasing the number and types of digital exhibits. The digital archives also benefit from the computational tools being developed by Julia Damerow and Erick Peirson in Manfred Laubichler’s lab at Arizona State University. These tools allow analysis and representation of the data in new ways that reveal patterns calling for further research. We also have benefited from the support of MBL leaders and from working with the MBL archivist Diane Rielinger and librarian Matt Person and other MBL library staff.

### Notre Dame Opens Search for Assistant Professor

The University of Notre Dame Department of History invites applications for a tenure-track position in the history of science at the assistant professor level. Geographical and chronological specialty is open, but applicants must be prepared to offer survey courses on the history of science. A successful candidate will also be expected to contribute to the graduate program in the History and Philosophy of Science. Review of applications will begin on 15 October 2014.

Candidates should send a letter of application, C.V., and three letters of recommendation to history@nd.edu. Digital dossiers are preferred but we will accept applications on paper sent to Professor Patrick Griffin, Chair, Department of History, 219 O’Shaughnessy Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556. The University of Notre Dame is an affirmative action employer with a strong commitment to fostering a culturally diverse atmosphere for faculty, staff, and students. Women, minorities, and those attracted to a university with a Catholic identity are encouraged to apply. Information about Notre Dame is available at http://www.nd.edu, and about the department at http://history.nd.edu.

A project funded by the National Strategic Reference Framework, Greece, 2012-2015

Implemented by the History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Program National Hellenic Research Foundation and University of Athens

Website: http://nares.hpdst.gr

The NARSES project will examine the multiplicity of relations between science and religion in South-
Eastern Europe and the East Mediterranean. The focus will be on the social formations influenced by the Orthodox Christian world, from the 4th century AD to the 20th, with an emphasis on Christianity and the relevant sources in Greek language. NARSES’ principal aim is to track the changes, renegotiations, and reconceptualizations of nature and God, as well as that of their relation, while mapping the development of secular learning and demonstrative knowing in conjunction with established or emerging traditions of faith and worship. The sociocultural space within which the research will take place is defined by the social formations of the Byzantine Empire and its successor, the Ottoman Empire, and the National States in Southeastern Europe engendered by the latter’s collapse. The main religions that have influenced this area are Christianity (Greek Orthodox, Armenian, and other Eastern Christian Churches), Islam, and Judaism. In this space, the state was highly involved with religion, both in terms of what role religious ideology played in the establishment and in the safeguarding of a viable coherence between the different levels of narratives, and in terms of how religious practices correspond to subject-positions or inter-subjective enclaves inhabited by individuals acting within a given society.

More specifically, the project aims to:

1. collect, critically examine, and catalogue the texts where the conceptualizations of God intersect with the conceptualizations of nature (religious texts on nature, and scientific texts evincing theological concerns);
2. collect, critically examine, and catalogue the canonical texts concerning the limits of knowledge and the status of sciences and arts;
3. map the debates and the controversies in which different conceptions of God and nature are employed, reconstructing their histories and their interactions with narratives and practices of the era;
4. map the different religious groups active in debates and controversies on nature and God in each period;
5. map the different institutions responsible, in each period, for the production, circulation, and negotiation of knowledge about nature and God.

Traditions of faith and worship will not be regarded merely as part of an external context, implying a set of boundary conditions under which sciences and arts may flourish or fall into decay. Instead of such an approach, we will treat religions as dynamical entities sensitive to influences stemming from other fields of social experience, and especially those pertaining to the production and circulation of knowledge. From this angle, a whole range of possibilities lurking in the relation between sciences and religions, in different conjunctures, comes to
the fore, from overlapping or complementarity to open conflict. As John Hedley Brooke and Ronald Numbers have recently put it, “historically, according to time and place, the relationship has been constructed in all of these ways, which is why the sound bites we so often hear should be resisted” (2011: 2). Following this thread, emphasis will be placed on these multiple possibilities, as well as on cases where secular knowing had significant impact on religious beliefs, on modifying theological discourse, or even on setting new standards for the assessment of theological arguments.

Social context itself will also not be considered as essentially external, already described by previous historiographical representations, detailed or not. The NARSES project aims to go beyond the state of the art in relevant scholarship in both methodological and interpretational levels and, as such, move beyond contextual rough lines. Situating the sciences in their relation with religions within a specific social context will also require a renegotiation of the historical entity itself. Thus, as with the concepts of science and religion themselves, the sociopolitical and cultural spaces that this research will situate itself in are to be treated as heuristic axes of analysis, not historiographical posits.

In order to accomplish the above objectives, particular emphasis is to be given to public theological debates in periods of crisis. It is precisely in these instances that traditional conceptualizations of God or nature were being relativized, reshaped, or re-interpreted, and it is in these periods that the problem of knowledge acquires a dimension of actuality in close connection with the question of what forms of worship should be considered proper. The examples of Iconomachy and the controversy over Byzantine pietism are illustrative in this regard.

The explicit recognition, from the outset, that an additional objective to be achieved is the enrichment of our historical understanding of social formations emerging in a specified geographical and temporal scope, has as a consequence that the project is not confined to a history of debated ideas. Mapping the controversies is not to focus only on mapping conflicting ideological contents, forms, and strategies of enunciation. The reconceptualization of God and nature is to be examined through the practices and narratives emerging within political, religious, or educational institutions. Thus, the basic analytical category of the project will be the active human subject participating in social movements. Such exemplars are to be religious communities, groupings branded as heretic, movements permeating, traversing, opposing, and more generally affecting official professional-intellectual strata, and forms of collective action that promote or obviate re-formations.

Achieving the objectives of the NARSES project is key to understanding the relationship between sciences and the societies of Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. This geographical area comprises newly integrated countries in the European Union. Science is a main constituent of European civilization and the relationship between societies and sciences plays a major role in the European integration.

An important goal of NARSES is its expected impact beyond the implementation of the project. Indeed, a NARSES database, conferences, and publications are expected to constitute a solid foundation in order to develop the interdisciplinary research on the historical relations between religions and sciences to the whole of Eastern Europe, including Ukraine and Russia. It will also open the field for interdisciplinary comparative studies on science and religions between West and East, facilitating the dialogue between societies with different cultural histories and roots.

Join the Graduate and Early Career Caucus to Advance Your Career in Chicago!

Roommate Finder
Mentorship

Make a meaningful connection to your career though professional mentorship. Let GECC help you connect. [http://hssgecc.wordpress.com/hss-2014-annual-meeting/]

CV Review

Get your CV reviewed by a professional in the field. Get advice, avoid fatal flaws and polish your CV ahead of the job hunt. [http://hssgecc.wordpress.com/hss-2014-annual-meeting/hss-2014-cv-review-sign-up-now/]

GECC and PSA mixer at HSS 2014—Thursday, 8:45 p.m.

Join the PSA and GECC for an early careerists mixer following the opening night reception. The event will be at a location TBD from 8:45 p.m. onward. Appetizers will be provided.

GECC and HSS At Work—Friday, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

HSS At Work features History of Science careerists in fields outside the academic track. Come share a drink and conversation with them and the Graduate and Early Career Caucus on Friday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at a location TBD.

GECC Business Meeting and Negotiation Workshop—Saturday, noon

Negotiation and participation are the themes of the combined Graduate and Early Career Caucus (GECC) Business Meeting and Negotiation Workshop featuring a member of the Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (HERC). Attending the business meeting gives you a chance to grow GECC and participate in the coming year’s events. Following brief business, participants will enjoy the workshop, “Everything You Wanted to Know about Negotiating a Job Offer, But Were Afraid to Ask.” This workshop will be led by a representative of (HERC) who is also an expert on self-promotion and negotiation, specifically as they relate to race and gender in STEM and higher education fields.

For all of these events, check the GECC Twitter, Facebook, and Blog for more up-to-date information.
[https://twitter.com/HSSGECC](https://twitter.com/HSSGECC)
[https://www.facebook.com/hssgecc](https://www.facebook.com/hssgecc)

2014 Elizabeth Paris Lecture: Peter Galison at the Chicago Humanities Festival

Harvard University historian of science and Festival favorite Peter Galison will deliver the 2014 Elizabeth Paris Endowment for Socially Engaged History and Philosophy of Science Lecture on 9 November. [Please note that at press time, this event was sold out.]

Building on his groundbreaking work in Einstein’s Clocks, Poincaré’s Maps, which charts the cultural implications of the quest for “pure time,” his most recent endeavor is his collaboration with renowned visual artist William Kentridge. Using their installation “The Refusal of Time” as a springboard, Galison revisits his work’s key issues, from the social history of nuclear power to the historical meanings of time.

This inaugural public event, sponsored by the HSS, honors the memory of Elizabeth Paris, and is presented in partnership with the Chicago Humanities Festival. The Elizabeth Paris Endowment for Socially Engaged History and Philosophy of Science honors the life and interests of Elizabeth Paris (1968–2009), a historian and philosopher of science and HSS member. The Endowment aims to provide for a regular public event that will bring to a wider audience an understanding of the value of the history and philosophy of science. For more information on Elizabeth, the Endowment, and how to give, please click this link: [http://hssonline.org/about-elizabeth-paris/](http://hssonline.org/about-elizabeth-paris/).

American Philosophical Society 2014-15 Grant and Fellowship Competitions

APS Research Programs

Information and application instructions for all of the Society’s programs can be accessed at our website, [http://www.amphilsoc.org](http://www.amphilsoc.org). Click on the “Grants” tab at the top of the homepage.
Franklin Research Grants

This program of small grants to scholars is intended to support the cost of research leading to publication in all areas of knowledge. The Franklin program is particularly designed to help meet the cost of travel to libraries and archives for research purposes; the purchase of microfilm, photocopies or equivalent research materials; the costs associated with fieldwork; or laboratory research expenses.

Applicants are expected to have a doctorate or to have published work of doctoral character and quality. PhD candidates are not eligible to apply, but the Society is especially interested in supporting the work of young scholars who have recently received the doctorate. Awards range from $1,000 to $6,000. Deadlines: October 1, December 1; notification in January and March.

Library Resident Research Fellowships

The Library Resident Research fellowships support research in the Society’s collections.

Applicants must demonstrate a need to work in the Society’s collections for a minimum of one month and a maximum of three months. Applicants in any relevant field of scholarship may apply. Candidates whose normal place of residence is farther away than a 75-mile radius of Philadelphia will be given some preference. Applicants do not need to hold the doctorate, although PhD candidates must have passed their preliminary examinations. Stipend is $2,500 per month. Deadline: March 1; notification in May.

John Austin Society’s 50th Anniversary

In the 2014-2015 academic year the John Austin Society for the History of Medicine and Science at Queen’s University, Kingston, will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Speakers include Neil Hobbs (“In Praise of Eponyms. A League of Medical Nations”), Paul Manley (“Gastric Ulcers and Cancer-Stress, Napoleon and Helicobacter Organisms”), Robert Kisilevsky (“The Amyloid Story. Some Steps Forward and Some Steps Back”), and Greg Baran (“‘A Journey through Hell.’ The Firsthand Account of Kingston Physician Dr. Cumberland through the Trenches of World War I”). For further information please see: http://post.queensu.ca/~forsdyke/john_austin_society.htm

Seeking Podcast Hosts

“New Books in Medicine” (http://newbooksinmedicine.com) is currently seeking hosts interested in conducting interviews with authors of new books on medicine and the history of medicine. Hosting the channel is a good way to bring the work of scholars of medicine to the attention of large audiences. Interested parties should write Marshall Poe at marshallpoe@gmail.com.

“New Books in Medicine” is part of the New Books Network, a non-profit consortium of 100 author-interview podcasts focused on serious non-fiction and academic books.

Letter from Ghent: HOPOS2014

By Gary Hardcastle (HOPOS President), Bloomsburg University

What is now the International Society for the History of the Philosophy of Science—HOPOS, in short—began in conversations. The conversations begat conference sessions (at meetings of societies like the HSS, among others), and the conference sessions begat a conference, held in Roanoke, Virginia, in the summer of 1996 and sponsored by “The History of Philosophy of Science Working Group,” soon renamed HOPOS. HOPOS has met biennially ever since, in the summer and on the campus of an idle (and therefore idyllic) college campus. And although HOPOS has grown and launched a journal of its own, conversation remains at its core. That was evident this past July 3–5, when, on the comfortable and very welcoming campus of Universiteit Gent in Belgium—sacred ground for HSS members—over one hundred and forty scholars met for HOPOS2014, the 10th biennial HOPOS meeting.

The opening reception set not only the perfect tone for an academic meeting, but a high standard...
NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION, cont.

for all future HOPOS receptions. The Local Organizing Committee, a collection of Ghent-based faculty and graduate students twenty strong and chaired by Maarten van Dyck, received the arriving members of HOPOS, or HOPOI, in the truly glorious Pacificatiezaal of Ghent’s Stadhuis, site of the 1576 Pacification of Ghent. As HOPOI gathered, pacification—in the form of a flurry of greetings, an official welcome from the Office of the Mayor, wine, and Belgian beer—issued forth.

The next three days saw the delivery of nearly 130 papers over twelve blocks of four or five concurrent sessions, fifty-six sessions in all. Morning and afternoon coffee breaks, combined with a generous community lunch in the conference facility (included with registration), fueled participants not just through the sessions but through two plenary keynote sessions, the first a fascinating exploration of Figura in natural philosophy by Washington University’s Dennis Des Chene, and the second a provocative and enlightening discussion of philosophies of the normal from Christini Chimisso of the Open University. The coffee breaks and lunch, and much more besides, were in turn enabled by generous support from the Universiteit Gent, the University of Chicago Press, Springer, and Brill, all HOPOS2014 sponsors secured by Maarten van Dyck and the local organizing committee. A significant portion of the students, independent scholars, and younger scholars in attendance benefitted as well from travel support provided by HOPOS and by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), the latter via an NSF travel grant administered by the HSS on behalf of a consortium of eight academic societies, HOPOS among them.

HOPOS2014 drew scholars from near and far, and from all career levels. Approximately 25% of HOPOS2014 participants were students. 58% were affiliated with North American institutions, while only slightly more—59%—located their institutional homes elsewhere: Europe, Asia, Israel, South America, and Russia were all represented by at least one participant. 28% of those participating were women, a figure HOPOS takes especial note of in a time when attention in academia has rightly turned to women’s and minorities’ access (or lack thereof) to scholarly communities, and to the visibility of accomplished women and minorities within those communities.

The grandeur and good cheer that marked the opening reception of HOPOS2014 was exceeded only by the banquet at its close. Amidst outstanding food and an apparently unending parade of wines and beers, HOPOI gathered at SalonsCarlos Quinto less to end the meeting than
NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION, CONT.

to continue conversations, some dating back to 1996. And those conversations will continue in Minneapolis in June of 2016, at the next meeting of HOPOS.

Dissertation Abstracts

You can view the latest batch of recent doctoral dissertations harvested from the issues 75-04 A and B of Dissertation Abstracts pertaining to the history of Science and Medicine at the following URL: http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/histmed/dissertations

ProQuest has altered how they put out their individual issues. No longer do they correlate to one month, so the dating is more random. Our thanks to Jonathan Erlen for preparing this list.

Instructive Myths in the History of Science

In May of 2014, an international group of historians, philosophers, and educators descended on the campus of Washington & Lee University, in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley (U.S.), to take part in a conference on popular misconceptions in the history of science. “Newton’s Apple and other Historical Myths about Science” was organized in order to prepare a collection of essays aimed at a general audience, particularly teachers. Organized by Kostas Kampourakis (University of Geneva), Ronald L. Numbers (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and Nicolaas Rupke (Washington & Lee University), the conference examined more than two dozen “myth bustings” and generated insightful discussions, with topics ranging from details of specific historical episodes, to the impact of modern scientific myths, to questions of how one designates a narrative as a myth in the history of science.

The conference began on the morning of May 9 with a welcome from Daniel Wubah, Provost of Washington & Lee University, followed by two solid days of history of science myth busting. For each of the 26 myths, the author gave a brief exposition of the popular story and the flaws and falsehoods contained therein, followed by a brief commentary from another participant. A short question-and-answer session, often quite lively, ensued. The tales under discussion ranged from the early modern period to the 20th century and included specific episodes, as well as general views of the operation of science and its broader social relations. A list of the myths that were discussed is provided below.

The collegial and vigorous discussions were complemented by frequent breaks for coffee, food, conversation, making new acquaintances, and simply wandering around the campus of Washington & Lee, which may have been the real star of the conference.

The plenary lecture, “Myths about Science and its History,” was delivered by John L. Heilbron (University of California-Berkeley) at the Lee Chapel on the evening of May 9 and was attended by several dozen Washington & Lee students and faculty in addition to the conference participants. In his thoughtful, challenging, and entertaining address, Professor Heilbron warned against labeling any mistaken claim as a myth but rather to consider only those “errors” that have maintained an enduring and significant cultural relevance. He also described truly interesting myths as those that contain an element of truth “usefully exaggerated.” He then highlighted three examples:

- The “counter-myth” that science and religion are not in a state of constant warfare
- Theories of Everything in physics
- That there is or was a history of science

The plenary lecture can be viewed in its entirety at http://new.livestream.com/wlu/historical-myths-john-heilbron, and readers are encouraged to take the time to view it.

Acknowledgment for the conference and its success go to the organizers mentioned above, and we eagerly anticipate the book’s appearance. Gratitude is due especially to the hosts at Washington & Lee: Nicolaas Rupke and Carolyn Wingrove, who were so generous with their time and energy.

A List of the Myths:

- That no science was done between Greek antiquity and the Scientific Revolution
NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION, CONT.

- That before Columbus geographers and other educated people thought that Earth was flat
- That the apple fell and Newton invented the law of gravity, thus removing God from the cosmos
- That Wöhler’s synthesis of urea in 1828 destroyed vitalism and by implication a spirit-based understanding of life
- That William Paley raised scientific questions about biological origins that were eventually answered by Charles Darwin
- That geologists were divided into opposing camps of catastrophists and uniformitarians
- That Lamarckian evolution relied largely on use and disuse and that Darwin rejected Lamarckian mechanisms
- That Darwin fully developed his theory in 1839 and kept it secret for 20 years
- That Wallace’s and Darwin’s explanations of evolution were virtually the same
- That Darwinian natural selection, perhaps complemented by Lamarckian influences, was the only scientific explanation for the origin of organic diversity on Earth
- That sexual selection (Darwin, 1871) received such a frosty reception from Wallace and others that it was virtually forgotten
- That Louis Pasteur disproved spontaneous generation
- That Gregor Mendel was a pioneer of genetics, being ahead of his time
- That “Social Darwinism” had a profound influence on social thought and policy, especially in America
- That the Michelson-Morley experiment paved the way for the special theory of relativity
- That the Millikan oil-drop experiment was simple and straightforward
- That the Modern Synthesis consists of random genetic mutation plus natural selection
- That melanism in peppered moths is not a genuine example of evolution by natural selection
- That Linus Pauling’s discovery of the molecular basis of sickle cell anemia revolutionized medical practice
- That the Soviet launch of Sputnik caused the revamping of American science education
- That religion has typically impeded the progress of science
- That the “scientific method” accurately reflects what scientists actually do
- That science has been largely a solitary enterprise
- That a clear line of demarcation has separated science from pseudoscience
Mathematics Through the Ages
New Releases from the History of Mathematics Series

Books in this series offer compelling historical perspectives on the individuals and communities that have profoundly influenced mathematics development. Each book constitutes a valuable addition to an historical or mathematical book collection.

The War of Guns and Mathematics
Mathematical Practices and Communities in France and Its Western Allies around World War I
David Aubin, Sorbonne Universités, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Institut de Mathématiques de Jussieu-Paris Rive Gauche, France, and Catherine Goldstein, CNRS, Institut de Mathématiques de Jussieu-Paris Rive Gauche, France, Editors

For a long time, World War I has been shortchanged by the historiography of science. Until recently, World War II was usually considered as the defining event for the formation of the modern relationship between science and society. In this context, the effects of the First World War, by contrast, were often limited to the massive deaths of promising young scientists.

By focusing on a few key places (Paris, Cambridge, Rome, Chicago, and others), the present book gathers studies representing a broad spectrum of positions adopted by mathematicians about the conflict, from militant pacifism to military, scientific, or ideological mobilization. The use of mathematics for war is thoroughly examined.

This book suggests a new vision of the long-term influence of World War I on mathematicians and mathematics. Continuities and discontinuities in the structure and organization of the mathematical sciences are discussed, as well as their images in various milieux. Topics of research and the values with which they were defended are scrutinized. This book, in particular, proposes a more in-depth evaluation of the issue of modernity and modernization in mathematics.

The issue of scientific international relations after the war is revisited by a close look at the situation in a few Allied countries (France, Britain, Italy, and the USA). The historiography has emphasized the place of Germany as the leading mathematical country before WWI and the absurdity of its postwar ostracism by the Allies. The studies presented here help explain how dramatically different prewar situations, prolonged interaction during the war, and new international postwar organizations led to attempts at redrafting models for mathematical developments.

Pearls from a Lost City
The Lvov School of Mathematics
Roman Duda, University of Wroclaw, Poland
Translated by Daniel Davies

The fame of the Polish school at Lvov rests with the diverse and fundamental contributions of Polish mathematicians working there during the interwar years, figures such as Banach, Steinhaus, Ulam, and others. This chronicle of the Lvov school will appeal to anyone seeking a cultural and institutional overview of key aspects of twentieth-century Polish mathematics not described anywhere else in the extant English-language literature.


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