

Physical Science Forum

The HSS Physical Science Forum is a voluntary association of individuals interested in furthering scholarship in the history of the physical sciences as broadly understood, including but not limited to: physics; earth, space, and atmospheric science; astronomy; and materials science. It will help forge a more coherent community for those with a core specialty in these sub-fields with a particular emphasis on developing the connections linking these sub-fields and exploring their resonance with wider scholarship. The ultimate goals are: to foster generative dialogue and interaction within such a community for the sake of refining historiography and deepening historical insights; to maximize scholarly contributions to the history of science; and to integrate historians of physical science more closely with the history of science community. The Forum will accomplish these goals and benefit the HSS and the profession by sponsoring HSS sessions and workshops, joint sponsoring sessions with other HSS Forums and Caucuses, and organizing social events at HSS meetings.

Complementing the Forum will be a new Humanities and Social Sciences Net (H-Net) list, which will serve as a communication channel providing announcements, calls for papers, book reviews, and job postings in addition to promoting discussion about current research and the state of the field. H-Physical-Sciences will have editors and an advisory board.

Forum business will be decided by all members present and voting during an annual business meeting of the Forum at the History of Science Society meeting. At the first meeting two co-chairs will be elected. These and subsequent chairs will serve two-year terms. Chairs will facilitate and support H-Physical-Science, a responsibility that will include replacing or adding editors and advisory board members. The chairs will also carry out other activities as decided by the membership.

The issue of dues and fund-raising will be determined and periodically reassessed at the business meeting.

The effort to form HSS Physical Science Forum is being spearheaded by Catherine Westfall and Greg Good. The creator and first editor of the H-Physical-Sciences list is Joseph Martin. He has recruited Cathryn Carson, Debbie Cohen, Bruce Hunt, Amy Fisher and Patrick McCray to serve on the advisory board.