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An evolutionary investigation of wedge tool function, form, and technology

Author: Kornbacher, Kimberly D.

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**[http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/
docview/761381945?accountid=14709](http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/761381945?accountid=14709)**

Abstract: Wedge-based stone tools commonly referred to as axes, adzes, hatchets, and celts are known to occur in the archaeological record of northern South America from at least 7000 B.P. through historic times. The tools are widely

distributed across diverse regions and found in a range of archaeological contexts. Drawing functional parallels with ethnographic observations of Amazonian forest clearing, archaeologists have interpreted wedge tools as indicators of agriculture. Similar logic has led researchers to conclude that wedge tools originated in the Amazon Basin, thus interpreting their presence in highland or coastal sites as an indication of interregional trade or interaction. Despite their long history and ubiquity, and the frequency with which these tools are used to support conclusions about function and historical relatedness, few empirical studies have been conducted. Apart from the substantive implications, these examples of commonsense and ethnographic analogy usurping the explanatory role of theory are important because they illuminate specific aspects of archaeological practice that hinder our ability to build cumulative knowledge about the past. Given the objective of developing a scientific archaeology in which all work has entailments for other research, explanatory theory is vital. Since it encompasses unique historical processes and functional description in a single explanatory system, evolutionary theory has the potential to transform archaeology into a productive historical science. Within the overall framework of exploring and expanding upon the potential of evolutionary theory to explain archaeological phenomena, this research attends six objectives. 1. Assemble the information available about wedge tools locally (in northern South America) and explore the basis for functional and historical assumptions. 2. Review the history of functional studies and experimental research pertaining to ground

stone wedge tools globally; 3. Construct analytic units appropriate for evolutionary explanation; 4. Design and undertake experiments to increase our understanding of a) the variables that affect cost and performance of wedge tools, and b) the processes of wear formation on groundstone; 5. Analyze archaeological collections of wedge tools using theoretically-derived units to document morphological, technological, and functional variation over time and space. 6. Develop an experimental and analytical foundation upon which subsequent research can build.

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Ancient iron smelting technology and the settlement pattern in the Kiri Oya Basin in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka

Author: Solangaarachchi, Rose

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Abstract: The objective of this research is to examine the metallurgical and socio-political aspects of ancient iron smelting in the Kiri Oya Basin (KOB), Dry Zone of Sri Lanka. I used various archaeological methods, sub-disciplines of anthropology that included the study of historical sources and oral traditions. I concentrated on the settlement patterns from the 3rd century B.C. to the 10th century A.D., the period represented by the inscription evidence in the KOB. I directed the settlement pattern survey that identified 112 archaeological sites. There are four major categories: ancient iron smelting sites, village habitations/settlements, religious centers, and places interlinked with the hydraulic network. Using survey data, I investigated three major topics: how the iron smelting centers were distributed in settlements; how the ancient settlement pattern in Sri Lanka described in the ancient chronicles (Buddhist

monasteries, the surrounding settlement and the hydraulic irrigation network had an interconnected relationship) illustrating in the KOB settlements; and how we can trace political and religious legitimacy throughout the settlement. I directed excavation at four different sites to identify the chronological order in the KOB settlements, to describe the material culture and its relevant social strata, to date the period that the smelting activities went on, and to reveal the metallurgical characteristics. My archival research was the basis for my description of ancient iron smelting technology and its connection with the socio-political organization. The research results indicate that the iron smelting activities that were using an advanced bloomery process with magnetite ore were mainly conducted in the 4th century A.D., prior to King Kasyapa's reign in the 5th century A.D. This study enabled me to trace the authority of the centralized political system over the settlement, the inter-connectivity of Buddhist monasteries with the settlements and different social stratifications that existed over the landscape. The material culture of the KOB settlements highlighted three main periods of activity: 3rd century B.C. to 2nd century A.D.; 2nd century to 5th century A.D.; 7th century to 10th century A.D.

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Reading the Rhetoric of Universality: The Discursive Transformation of Race in 1930s Public Discourse

Author: Williamson, Kasi L.

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Abstract: This dissertation utilizes three case studies to explore changing conceptualizations of race at a turbulent moment in rhetorical history. In particular, this dissertation

traces evidence of conceptual change by analyzing the textual form and critical reception of James Truslow Adams' The Epic of America , Pearl S. Buck's The Good Earth , and Zora Neale Hurston's Mules and Men . This project argues that the discursive transformation from the ideology of scientific racism to a more egalitarian vision of universal humanity was facilitated by specific rhetorical processes, which have had ongoing, ambiguous consequences for contemporary public discourse.

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Powering a nation: The cultural landscape of the Tennessee Valley Authority

Author: Sivert, Laura Boyd

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Abstract: In the 1930s, the United States government embarked on several large-scale infrastructural water projects largely constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. In May of 1933, a new Act created the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to build a series of dams in the Tennessee River watershed that spanned seven states. From its inception, the TVA was controversial because it changed the influence that private business had over water rights, and paved the way for government regulation of electricity prices. This dissertation

situates the visual dissemination of the TVA dams project through an examination of the role of its publicity as a modernizing tool in mid 20 th - century America. Much scholarly work has explored the Tennessee Valley Authority from the perspective of its socio-economic effects and its contentious ecological ramifications, yet the Authority's rich visual culture has escaped prolonged scholarly engagement. This is surprising considering that the TVA was an explicitly visionary enterprise, time and again enlisting photographers to illustrate articles and books that would reach and teach citizens of the Tennessee Valley, the country, and other nations, about the modernizing goals of the project. The TVA promoted its projects via posters, documentary photographs and film, paintings, post cards, museum exhibitions, fair exhibitions, journals and newspaper articles. As the images shifted, so did the understanding and approval of the project, but the images needed to change frequently to keep up with public opinion. Public perception altered the way the TVA sought out a targeted audience in order to gain approval for a project that was constantly fighting legal battles in the Supreme Court (and more emotional battles in the impoverished and segregated rural south). The TVA blossomed during and after the Great Depression, but its endeavors in the fine arts and visual culture resonate beyond the immediate context of the New Deal. These activities point to a rethinking of the very concept of modernization. My research explores the confluence of these differing ideals and also their shifting focus—in all their richness and contradictions. Using the material cited

above, I aim to investigate how the TVA defined its politics and asserted its agenda through visual means.

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Orbital decay: Space junk and the environmental history of Earth's planetary borderlands

Author: Rand, Lisa Ruth

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Abstract: What is space junk, and who defines pollution in an environment seemingly devoid of nature as we know it? Beginning with the launch of Sputnik in 1957, spacefaring nations transformed the region between the upper atmosphere and the moon from a wilderness into a landscape. Like any terrestrial industry, the construction of a satellite infrastructure in orbit also yielded a system of byproducts—human-made waste colloquially known as “space junk.” Although remote and largely invisible to the majority of space technology users, the orbital environment nonetheless played a critical role in Cold War geopolitics. Contrary to current space policy literature that portrays space junk and awareness of space junk as recent phenomena, communities around the world were both aware and concerned about space junk from the very first moments of the Space Age. By tracing convergent changes in the orbital landscape and in the political landscape below during the Cold War, concurrent with the rise of mainstream environmentalism, this dissertation reveals the roots of an international understanding of the borderlands between Earth and outer space as a natural environment at risk. Focusing on highly mobile, unruly space junk artifacts illuminates the many ways that humankind mutually shaped and was shaped by the global ecosystem surrounding our planet during the Cold War. Situated at the intersection of the histories of science, technology, and the environment, this dissertation illustrates how space junk in orbit and falling to Earth brought geographically and politically disparate states into dangerous proximity during the Cold War. An international consciousness of outer space as a

fragile environment emerged early in the Space Age, and influenced the negotiation of new modes of international scientific and environmental governance in near-Earth space.

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**+decay%3A+Space+junk+and+the+environmental+history+of
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**Committee member: Benson, Etienne; Cowan, Ruth S.;
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Department: History and Sociology of Science

University location: United States -- Pennsylvania

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Spectacular Flesh: American Religious Pluralism and the Cultural Politics of Bodily Display

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Abstract: This project examines American religious diversity and pluralism in twentieth-century United States. Much of the research on religious pluralism in the U.S. highlights diversity in belief and practice while de-emphasizing the role of the human body, race, and ethnicity. I utilize William R. Hutchison's definition of pluralism as toleration, inclusion, and participation to better understand contemporary post-racial pluralism as a particular way of making meaningful diversity through participation. My dissertation argues that "New Religious Pluralism" in the U.S. (the diverse religious milieu created by post-1965 immigration) must be understood in terms of the concepts of race and ethnicity that developed alongside twentieth-century scientific and neoliberal discourses of individual freedom. Using ethnographic and historical methods, I examine displays of

human bodies at public exhibitions that promote tolerance from 1893 to the present. World's Fairs, Holocaust Museums, and Body Worlds exhibitions are all investigated in order to trace the larger development of a racialized religious tolerance in twentieth-century America. I argue that the discourse of religious freedom and tolerance in American culture relies as much on a particular diversity of human bodies as it does a diversity of religious beliefs and practices, and that participatory pluralism is cultivated in public spaces where Americans encounter human bodies on display and learn techniques to interpret those bodies.

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Subject: Religion; Political science; Ethnic studies; Judaic studies

Classification: 0318: Religion; 0615: Political science; 0631: Ethnic studies; 0751: Judaic studies

Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology Social sciences American religious pluralism Body Worlds Diversity Holocaust Museums Pluralism World's Fair

Title: Spectacular Flesh: American Religious Pluralism and the Cultural Politics of Bodily Display

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Document 7 of 33

Beyond reductionism and emergence: A study of the epistemic practices in gene expression research

Author: Racine, Valerie

Publication info: Arizona State University, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10240130.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1841289541?accountid=14709>

Abstract: A central task for historians and philosophers of science is to characterize and analyze the epistemic practices in a given science. The epistemic practice of a science includes its explanatory goals as well as the methods used to achieve these goals. This dissertation addresses the epistemic practices in gene expression research spanning the mid-twentieth century to the twenty-first century. The critical evaluation of the standard

historical narratives of the molecular life sciences clarifies certain philosophical problems with respect to reduction, emergence, and representation, and offers new ways with which to think about the development of scientific research and the nature of scientific change. The first chapter revisits some of the key experiments that contributed to the development of the repression model of genetic regulation in the lac operon and concludes that the early research on gene expression and genetic regulation depict an iterative and integrative process, which was neither reductionist nor holist. In doing so, it challenges a common application of a conceptual framework in the history of biology and offers an alternative framework. The second chapter argues that the concept of emergence in the history and philosophy of biology is too ambiguous to account for the current research in post-genomic molecular biology and it is often erroneously used to argue against some reductionist theses. The third chapter investigates the use of network representations of gene expression in developmental evolution research and takes up some of the conceptual and methodological problems it has generated. The concluding comments present potential avenues for future research arising from each substantial chapter. In sum, this dissertation argues that the epistemic practices of gene expression research are an iterative and integrative process, which produces theoretical representations of the complex interactions in gene expression as networks. Moreover, conceptualizing these interactions as networks constrains empirical research strategies by the limited number of ways in which gene expression can be controlled

through general rules of network interactions. Making these strategies explicit helps to clarify how they can explain the dynamic and adaptive features of genomes.

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**mic+practices+in+gene+expression+research&rft.issn=
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Subject: Philosophy of Science; Science history

**Classification: 0402: Philosophy of Science; 0585: Science
history**

**Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology Social
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**Title: Beyond reductionism and emergence: A study of the
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Microbial communities in soil ecosystems under different land uses

Author: Li, Xiufen

**Publication info: Oklahoma State University, ProQuest
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<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1841888357?accountid=14709>

Abstract: Microorganisms are key players in nutrient cycling and ecosystem functions. Studies were conducted to evaluate the effect of management practices on richness, diversity and structure of microbial communities in different ecosystems at two experimental locations. At location 1, soils were collected from a century-long experiment with manure (Manure) or fertilizer treatments (NPK) under continuous winter wheat cultivation. At location 2, soils were sampled from three ecosystems, including native (Native), conservation reserve program (CRP), and a wheat field (Wheat). Based on evaluation of 60,797 16S rRNA and 42,931 nif H gene sequences, richness and diversity of microbial communities was enhanced by Manure but reduced by NPK, with the impact more prominent at the genus and species than phylum to family levels. The community abundance was predominantly influenced by

carbon availability while the richness and diversity of a community was governed by pH. A total of 25 or 16 microbial phyla were detected in soils at each of the two locations. Acidobacteria and Proteobacteria were the most abundant phyla detected at location 1; while Firmicutes, Actinobacteria and Chloroflexi were the most predominant phyla detected at location 2. Abundance ratios of selected phyla may be of ecological significance and functions to indicate nutritional status, stress resistance, and metabolic capacity of a community. Of microbes habituating in a community, diazotrophs were especially competitive and thrived in soils receiving limited fertilization. Following century-long cultivation of winter wheat, Cyanobacteria comprised 2.6% of the microbial community in Check (without fertilization), whereas they were 0.19% and 0.05% in Manure and NPK, respectively. The observations were further supported by data obtained at location 2, where the abundance of Cyanobacteria in Native was 3.75%, in CRP was 0.01%, and in Wheat was 1.95%. The detected diazotrophic communities were constituted by distinct proportion of nif H clusters I and III. The predominance of Cluster I diazotrophs (100%) and Actinobacteria (60.1%) in CRP indicated that these microbial groups might be key players in ecosystem restoration. With the increasing demand and cost on energy and food, understanding the effect of management practices on microbial richness and diversity, indicators to ecosystem restoration, and means to promote proliferation of beneficial microbes are important for developing management strategies for sustainable agricultural production.

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Subject: Philosophy of Science; Microbiology; Soil sciences

Classification: 0402: Philosophy of Science; 0410: Microbiology; 0481: Soil sciences

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Department: Plant and Soil Sciences

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Development of a dynamic coupled hydro-geomechanical code and its application to induced seismicity

Author: Miah, Md Mamun

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docview/1841916267?accountid=14709](http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1841916267?accountid=14709)**

Abstract: This research describes the importance of a hydro-geomechanical coupling in the geologic sub-surface environment from fluid injection at geothermal plants, large-scale geological CO₂ sequestration for climate mitigation, enhanced oil recovery, and hydraulic fracturing during wells construction in the oil and gas industries. A sequential computational code is developed to capture the multiphysics interaction behavior by linking a flow simulation code TOUGH2 and a geomechanics modeling code PyLith. Numerical formulation of each code is discussed to demonstrate their modeling capabilities. The computational framework involves sequential coupling, and solution of two sub-problems- fluid flow through fractured and porous media and reservoir geomechanics. For each time step of flow calculation, pressure field is passed to the geomechanics code to compute effective stress field and fault slips. A simplified permeability model is implemented in the code that accounts for the permeability of porous and saturated rocks subject to confining stresses. The accuracy of the TOUGH-PyLith coupled simulator is tested by simulating Terzaghi's 1D consolidation problem. The modeling capability of coupled poroelasticity is validated by

benchmarking it against Mandel's problem. The code is used to simulate both quasi-static and dynamic earthquake nucleation and slip distribution on a fault from the combined effect of far field tectonic loading and fluid injection by using an appropriate fault constitutive friction model. Results from the quasi-static induced earthquake simulations show a delayed response in earthquake nucleation. This is attributed to the increased total stress in the domain and not accounting for pressure on the fault. However, this issue is resolved in the final chapter in simulating a single event earthquake dynamic rupture. Simulation results show that fluid pressure has a positive effect on slip nucleation and subsequent crack propagation. This is confirmed by running a sensitivity analysis that shows an increase in injection well distance results in delayed slip nucleation and rupture propagation on the fault.

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Subject: Geophysics; Philosophy of Science; Civil engineering

Classification: 0373: Geophysics; 0402: Philosophy of Science; 0543: Civil engineering

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Committee member: Al-ostaz, Ahmed; Holt, Robert; Najjar, Yacoub

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Department: Civil Engineering

University location: United States -- Mississippi

Degree: Ph.D.

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Water Management and Settlement Patterns in South India from c. eleventh century to sixteenth century A.D.

Author: Kalra, Kanika

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<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1841918962?accountid=14709>

Abstract: This study examines the relationship between water infrastructure, agricultural intensification, and political complexity in the Raichur region of southern India (or the Deccan) from the 11th – 16th centuries AD. In this period, regional polities expanded their territorial control and competed for strategically and economically valuable areas, such as the Raichur frontier. Using archaeological data, inscriptions, and other historical evidence, this inquiry demonstrates that the spread of state society into the frontier zone of Raichur did not by itself necessitate monumental investments in agricultural intensification. However, when these frontier zones were contested for economic and strategic reasons, local elites came to amass greater allegiance and control over resources that allowed them to construct and maintain hydraulic infrastructure. The use of archaeological data dismantles neat divisions of periodization and dynastic divides that often mark the study of early medieval and early modern South Asia, hitherto largely based on written materials. Instead, it elucidates how regional powers depended on the capacity of local elites to control and extract critical resources such as agricultural surplus from frontier areas through their control over water resources. The primary data for this dissertation were collected through a systematic surface survey at three places in the Raichur district: Gabbur, Maliabad, and Kalmala. Each of these places presents a different narrative of historical development from the eleventh to the sixteenth century. The combination of archaeological survey with study of epigraphic data and satellite imagery helped overcome issues of chronology and visibility in an ever-

changing landscape, to reveal a narrative of uncertainty and contestation that remains invisible in court chronicles as well as inscriptions. The spatial distributions of different water technologies, when juxtaposed against epigraphic data, demonstrate the varying courses of agricultural intensification and political processes in the region. A landscape approach to archaeological remains allows this study to reveal the long life cycles and after-lives of reservoirs constructed in the Raichur frontier, and to explore how they affected and were affected by the regional politics of southern India.

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Classification: 0324: Archaeology; 0578: History; 0638: South Asian Studies

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**Committee member: Min, Li; Papadopoulos, John K.;
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University/institution: University of California, Los Angeles

Department: Archaeology 0082

University location: United States -- California

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Visual Insight in Geometry

Author: Fletcher, Logan

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<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1842253841?accountid=14709>

Abstract: According to a traditional rationalist proposal, it is possible to attain knowledge of certain necessary truths by means of insight—an epistemic mental act that combines the 'presentational' character of perception with the a priori status usually reserved for discursive reasoning. In this dissertation, I defend the insight proposal in relation to a specific subject matter: elementary Euclidean plane geometry, as set out in Book I of Euclid's Elements. In particular, I argue that visualizations and visual experiences of diagrams allow human subjects to grasp truths of

geometry by means of visual insight. In the first two chapters, I provide an initial defense of the geometrical insight proposal, drawing on a novel interpretation of Plato's Meno to motivate the view and to reply to some objections. In the remaining three chapters, I provide an account of the psychological underpinnings of geometrical insight, a task that requires considering the psychology of visual imagery alongside the details of Euclid's geometrical system. One important challenge is to explain how basic features of human visual representations can serve to ground our intuitive grasp of Euclid's postulates and other initial assumptions. A second challenge is to explain how we are able to grasp general theorems by considering diagrams that depict only special cases. I argue that both of these challenges can be met by an account that regards geometrical insight as based in visual experiences involving the combined deployment of two varieties of 'dynamic' visual imagery: one that allows the subject to visually rehearse spatial transformations of a figure's parts, and another that allows the subject to entertain alternative ways of structurally integrating the figure as a whole. It is the interplay between these two forms of dynamic imagery that enables a visual experience of a diagram, suitably animated in visual imagination, to justify belief in the propositions of Euclid's geometry. The upshot is a novel dynamic imagery account that explains how intuitive knowledge of elementary Euclidean plane geometry can be understood as grounded in visual insight.

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Subject: Epistemology; Philosophy; Cognitive psychology

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Title: Visual Insight in Geometry

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Committee member: Friedel, Robert; Levinson, Jerrold; Lyon, Aidan; Pacuit, Eric

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Department: Philosophy

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Document 12 of 33

Biological and chemical investigation of Panamanian plants for potential utility against metabolic syndrome

Author: Vasquez, Yelkaira

Publication info: The University of Mississippi, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10160617.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1842419319?accountid=14709>

Abstract: Metabolic syndrome (MetS) affects approximately 25% of the adult population of the world and represents a public health concern with high socioeconomic impact worldwide. Latin American populations exhibit a high prevalence of MetS, similar or even higher than developed countries. This complex and progressive disorder can develop over many years as a cluster of conditions characterized by a constellation of metabolic abnormalities. Specific guidelines have not yet been established for the treatment of MetS per se. The increased prevalence of MetS has been associated with a greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and cardiovascular disease (CVD). In fact, new anti-diabetic drugs that do not display undesirable side effects, such as hepatotoxicity, edema and weight gain, are in great demand. For these reasons, the overall goal of this study was centered on four molecular targets: peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPARs), liver X receptors (LXRs), nuclear factor- κ B (NF- κ B), and inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) which are key regulators of various processes leading to metabolic disorder and inflammation. As a part of inflammatory pathway, activation of NF- κ B leads to insulin resistance and by blocking this pathway, insulin resistance and the resultant T2DM can be prevented. In contrast, activators of PPAR α and PPAR γ are effective in lowering blood lipids and sugar and have been considered useful in the treatment of

obesity and diabetes. Like the PPARs, LXR suppresses production of inflammatory mediators in a manner reciprocal to its regulation of lipid metabolism. In order to explore natural products working through these specific pathways this dissertation was focused on Panamanian flora as a primary source. A total of 75 plant species belonging to 71 genera and 41 families were screened for their effects on the selected targets through cellular assays. Due to a lack of literature available on the biological activity towards MetS and lack of the phytochemical characterization, two plants (*Talisia nervosa* and *Odontadenia puncticulosa*) were selected for bioassay-guided fractionation through PPAR α and PPAR γ activation assay. The current study relied on Panamanian flora as a source of new therapeutic agents directed toward the mitigation of metabolic abnormalities.

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Subject: Pharmacology; Pharmacy sciences

Classification: 0419: Pharmacology; 0572: Pharmacy sciences

**Identifier / keyword: Health and environmental sciences
Inducible nitric oxide synthase Liver x receptors Metabolic syndrome Nuclear factor-kb Panamanian flora Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors**

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Advisor: Khan, Ikhlas A.

**Committee member: Khan, Shabana I.; Walker, Larry A.;
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University/institution: The University of Mississippi

Department: Pharmacognosy

University location: United States -- Mississippi

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Privileged nature: Ornithologists, hunters, sportsmen and the dawn of environmental conservation in Spain, 1850 to 1935

Author: Hanley, Patrick

Publication info: The University of Arizona, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10160698.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1842423246?accountid=14709>

Abstract: This dissertation argues the foundation of Spain's first national park, the Parque Nacional de la Montaña de Covadonga, was the culmination of a four-century-long

historical development in which Spaniards redefined the manner in which they conceived of and interacted with nature. The establishment of the Parque Nacional de la Montaña de Covadonga resulted from two different historical processes, the formation of empirical science in Spain and the pursuit of noble hunting, which converged in the late nineteenth-century in the form of species protection and the environmental conscience it reflected. This environmental conscience permeated discourses on Spanish reinvigoration including those of nobleman, sportsman, and politician Pedro José Pidal y Bernaldo de Quirós whose own articulation of this environmental consciousness materialized in the form of the Parque Nacional de la Montaña de Covadonga which legislatively meshed species and landscape protection for the first time in Spain in 1916.

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Subject: European history; European Studies; Environmental Studies

Classification: 0335: European history; 0440: European Studies; 0477: Environmental Studies

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Advisor: Ortiz, David, Jr.

Committee member: Crane, Susan; Milliman, Paul; Tabili, Laura; Weiner, Douglas

University/institution: The University of Arizona

Department: History

University location: United States -- Arizona

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

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Calculating Futures: Calculating Futures: Debt, Markets, and the Science of Prices in Colonial Egypt, 1882-1912

Author: Primel, Casey

Publication info: Columbia University, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10161881.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1842739600?accountid=14709>

Abstract: This dissertation explores the social and material arrangements in which the cotton market emerged as an object of social scientific inquiry and liberal government in Egypt during the first three decades of the British

occupation (1882–1912). This new figuration of the cotton market did not emerge as the natural unfolding of a universal modernity, economic rationality or the inherent logic of capital. Instead, as this study demonstrates, it was a much more earthly affair. In the wake of financial and ecological crises, the colonial elite allied themselves with economists to embed new technologies of calculation into the Egyptian countryside. In the process, they reconfigured what a market was.

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ts%2C+and+the+Science+of+Prices+in+Colonial+Egypt%2C+
1882-1912&rft.issn=&rft_id=info:doi/**

**Subject: Middle Eastern history; Economic history; Science
history**

**Classification: 0333: Middle Eastern history; 0509: Economic
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**Title: Calculating Futures: Calculating Futures: Debt,
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Advisor: Mitchell, Timothy

University/institution: Columbia University

Department: Middle East, South Asian and African Studies

University location: United States -- New York

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Re-Categorizing Great Britain's Medieval Architecture: A Lesson in Nineteenth-Century Visual Taxonomy

Author: Long, Courtney Skipton

Publication info: University of Pittsburgh, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10289954.

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Abstract: This dissertation explores the intersections of architectural history and natural science in the first half of the nineteenth century in Great Britain. Examining a set of seven British architectural historians between 1800 and 1850, an alternate approach to our contemporary understanding of Nineteenth Century architectural history writing is offered through an analysis of visual representations showing change over time. Each chapter confronts shifting notions about the developmental progress of biological and architectural species presented by some of the renowned theorists of natural science and architectural history from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The theories about change over time from Carl Linnaeus, Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, Charles Lyell, and Charles Darwin, to name a few, are offered in order to contextualize pictorial

arrangements of visual knowledge showing change over time in architectural histories of medieval British ecclesiastical buildings. The visual examples from works by Thomas Warton, James Storer, John Britton, Thomas Rickman, Robert Willis, Edmund Sharpe, and John Ruskin present their own narrative of progress and change over time as each new author arranged a different set of building examples for illustration that, when examined together, highlight the synchronic and diachronic relationships between space and time, text and image, and art and science. Nineteenth-century notions about vision, objectivity, and Truth to Nature are included in order to situate these often-overlooked images in the context of contemporary art historical thinking. Since its mid-nineteenth century formation as an academic discipline, the teaching of art history has been influenced by the history of science and scientific research. The correlation between natural science and architectural history, however, has been largely ignored. What is missing from recent British architectural historiographies is an investigation of theoretical and artistic production pertaining to ideas of change over time in the nineteenth century. This dissertation situates medieval British ecclesiastical architectural history within the broader framework of natural history through an analysis of nineteenth-century taxonomic systems. Examining pictures and diagrams, the following chapters investigate how natural historians and architectural historians present, in pictorial form, evolutionary descent, the typical in species, and their synchronic relations among different types and forms.

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Century+Visual+Taxonomy&#amp;rft.issn=&#amp;rft_id=info:doi/

Subject: Art history; Philosophy of Science; Architecture

Classification: 0377: Art history; 0402: Philosophy of Science; 0729: Architecture

**Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology
Communication and the arts Architecture, Gothic
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Advisor: Armstrong, Christopher Drew

University/institution: University of Pittsburgh

University location: United States -- Pennsylvania

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Explanation in contexts of causal complexity

Author: Ross, Lauren N.

Publication info: University of Pittsburgh, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10183744.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1844395879?accountid=14709>

Abstract: My dissertation examines common types of causal complexity in the biological sciences, the challenges they pose for explanation, and how scientists overcome these challenges. I provide a novel distinction between two types of causal complexity and I analyze explanatory patterns that arise in these contexts. My analysis reveals how explanation in the biological sciences is more diverse than mainstream accounts suggest, which view most or all explanations in this domain as mechanistic. I examine explanations that appeal to causal pathways, dynamical models, and monocausal factors and I show how these explanations are guided by considerations that have been overlooked in the extant literature. My project explores connections between these explanatory patterns and other topics of interest in philosophy and general philosophy of science, including: reduction, multiple realizability, causal selection, and the role of pragmatics in explanation.

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Subject: Philosophy of Science

Classification: 0402: Philosophy of Science

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Document 17 of 33

**Communicating who knows what in sustainability science:
Investigating the role of epistemology in science
communication and engagement**

Author: Suldovsky, Brianne Marie

**Publication info: The University of Maine, ProQuest
Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10294844.**

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docview/1844966989?accountid=14709](http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1844966989?accountid=14709)**

Abstract: The complex socio-ecological problems we face today often require that researchers collaborate with individuals and organizations outside of their own disciplines and, oftentimes, outside of academia entirely. This sustainability science model encourages university researchers to engage in participatory models of engagement, where nonscientific publics and scientists working outside of academe are invited to co-produce knowledge and, through collaboration, arrive at solutions for

sustainability. Despite the popularity of participatory models of engagement in sustainability science, very little research has examined sustainability science researchers' perceptions of epistemic authority in conjunction with their engagement behavior. This kind of work is important given that the epistemic privileging of science can function as a significant barrier to the creation of meaningful solutions, particularly when it comes to persuading diverse groups of people to buy-in to one particular solution over another in complex sustainability-related contexts. I combine science communication theory with the concepts of epistemic authority and expertise to explore stakeholder engagement within a large sustainability science research effort. In chapter one, I explore the potential underlying factors, including epistemic assumptions, that drive model use, specifically addressing the continued use of the diffusion model (i.e. public deficit) in science communication research and practice. In chapter two, I qualitatively explore the extent to which sustainability science researchers afford science epistemic authority and assess their use of different models of science communication within their stakeholder engagement efforts. The results of chapter two challenge the assumption that sustainability science creates an egalitarian epistemic environment and the presumed connection between sustainability science and participatory models of engagement. In chapter three, I quantitatively examine the relationship between NEST researchers' perceptions of stakeholder expertise and their science communication behavior. Results of this chapter three indicate a positive relationship between how

sustainability science researchers perceive the expertise level of their stakeholder partners and the manner in which they engage those partners. Taken together, this work adds to the growing body of literature in science communication that explores how different models of science communication emerge and demonstrates the value of studying the relationship between epistemic assumptions and science communication practice.

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i/**

Subject: Philosophy; Communication

Classification: 0422: Philosophy; 0459: Communication

**Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology
Communication and the arts Expertise Science
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Science**

**Title: Communicating who knows what in sustainability
science: Investigating the role of epistemology in science
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Advisor: Lindenfeld, Laura

University/institution: The University of Maine

University location: United States -- Maine

Degree: Ph.D.

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The vicissitudes of late imperial China's accommodation of Arabo-Persian knowledge of the natural world, 16th-18th centuries

Author: Weil, Dror

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Abstract: This dissertation charts the movement of knowledge of the natural world from the Islamicate world to China, and its subsequent transformations by local Chinese scholars. It argues that the study of Arabo-Persian texts constituted an important channel of knowledge transmission, connecting China to Western scholarly traditions. At this dissertation's core stands a movement of Chinese Muslim literati that emerged in the late-sixteenth century and promoted the study of Arabo-Persian texts. By importing methods of philological investigation from the Islamicate world, the movement sought to highlight knowledge of the subtleties and operations of the natural world embedded in Arabo-Persian texts. This study investigates the effects that China's socio-political

environment had in shaping the forms of accommodation of Arabo-Persian knowledge. It discusses the utilitarian policies of the Yuan and early Ming dynasties that facilitated an early wave of transmission of specialized knowledge in fields such as astronomy, astrology and medicine to China, yet restricted the accommodation of Arabo-Persian philosophies of nature; advances the claim that the socio-political circumstances during the late-fifteenth century, characterized by the erosion of traditional Confucian ideology's authority and the popularization of knowledge, provided suitable conditions for the accommodation of foreign knowledge and paved the way for the rise of a scholarly movement interested in the study of Arabic and Persian texts; surveys the rise of Islamic literature in translation and the genre of Chinese expositions on Islamic themes that emerged in the mid-17th century, resulting from pressures from the non-Muslim learned community and the efforts of Islamic scholars to widen their audience; and finally, it suggests that adverse socio-political conditions for Islamic scholarship emerged during the 18th century, and led to its breakdown. Through an analysis of the Persian and Arabic texts that circulated in China during the 16th to 18th centuries, this dissertation demonstrates the variety, richness, and unique features of the collection. Further, it discusses the effects of translation and printing on the accommodation of Arabo-Persian knowledge of the natural world in China.

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Document 19 of 33

The Primum Mobile in the Thomistic Aristotelianism of Charles De Koninck: On Natural Philosophy as Architectonic

Author: Brungardt, John G.

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Abstract: This dissertation argues that natural philosophy is a qualified form of wisdom. It thereby provides an avenue towards the reintegration of the scientific specialties into a sapiential view of the cosmic whole. I draw inspiration from Charles De Koninck, who provides the key principles to support this thesis. The dissertation's main contention is that there are perennial conclusions warranted by Aristotelian physics, and these ground the discipline's claim to being a type of wisdom. One such conclusion is the existence and general nature of the first mobile or fundamental cosmic body, which Aristotle mistakenly identified with the outermost celestial sphere. The tentative, modern scientific replacement is "physical space," dialectically studied by modern cosmology via the fundamental spacetime conditions for local motion and the "expansion" of space. Therefore, two contributions are made by this dissertation. First, it defends the sapiential or "architectonic" role of natural philosophy. The centerpiece for this case is the disentanglement of those features of the ancient theory about the first mobile now surpassed by modern science from those features discovered by natural philosophy. This opens a theoretical space for cooperative

work by modern science to discover the specific nature of this fundamental body. Second, by following such a course, the dissertation provides a much-needed exegesis of De Koninck's interpretation of Aristotelian natural philosophy.

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Subject: Philosophy of Science; Philosophy

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Cartesian Mind and Its Concept of Space: A Contribution to the Project of Jacob Klein

Author: Romiti, Andrew Joseph

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Abstract: Building upon the arguments of Jacob Klein and Edmund Husserl that we can only understand the meaning of modern science by investigating its historical development, this dissertation aims to uncover the nature and conceptual presuppositions of Descartes's concept of space. In analyzing this concept, the dissertation extends Klein's analysis of Descartes's contribution to the development of modern symbolic mathematics to Descartes's equally important role in developing the conceptual underpinnings of modern mathematical physics by showing that Descartes's concept of space, which spans and unites the mathematical and physical domains, is an expansion of the symbolic concept of number. The analysis of Descartes's concept of space depends upon connecting the following aspects of Descartes's writings: the account of mind and mathematical cognition in the Rules for the Direction of the Mind, the

conceptual structure of the mathematical objects and the mathematical understanding of space in the Geometry, and the physical understanding of space in the Principles of Philosophy. The dissertation ultimately concludes that Descartes's concept of space allows the distinctive conceptual structure of modern mathematics to be applied to the physical world, whereby that concept provides a conceptual framework within which mathematical physics can exist.

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Hume's practical conciliation of science and skepticism

Author: Sasser, Nathan I.

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docview/1845028186?accountid=14709](http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1845028186?accountid=14709)**

Abstract: This dissertation addresses the question of whether David Hume is an epistemic skeptic about core beliefs—beliefs that are practically indispensable for life and science. On the one hand, Hume claims to be a skeptic, but on the other hand, he carries on with ordinary life and with a constructive program of research. The relationship of his science and skepticism remains a central and contested question in the literature I offer a practical conciliation of Hume's science and skepticism. On my reading, Hume really is an epistemic skeptic about core beliefs. However, he thinks that we are practically permitted—even required—to ignore the skeptical arguments against these beliefs and retain them, in spite of the fact that they are

epistemologically unjustified. This is his rationale for carrying on as he does with common life and science. In order to establish that Hume is an epistemic skeptic, I first develop an account of Humean epistemic justification. I argue that he uses the term “philosophy” to refer to an epistemologically normative method of inquiry and belief-formation that governs all of the special sciences. For Hume, a belief is philosophically (that is, epistemologically) justified if and only if it is (a) produced by a propensity which is permanent, irresistible, and universal, and (b) the belief is undefeated. Hume’s real skeptical challenges are defeater arguments from reason—an undermining defeater against the deliverances of reason and a rebutting defeater against belief in body. The Title Principle, which I interpret as a practical, rather than epistemic, norm, entitles us to ignore the rational defeaters of these core beliefs. But the limited practical authority of philosophy does not open up the floodgates of epistemic irresponsibility. We are only practically justified in ignoring reason under the relatively rare circumstances specified in the Title Principle. Despite its liabilities, philosophy is still a safer and more agreeable method of inquiry than superstition. Hume’s overall goal is not to destroy philosophy but to put it in its proper place—subordinated to human interests, integrated into a well-rounded life.

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University location: United States -- South Carolina

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The Context of Alkmeonid Inscriptions and Monuments: A Catalogue of Material and Literary Evidence for the Alkmeonidai

Author: Pearson, Cameron Glaser

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Abstract: Scattered in our ancient historical sources—Herodotus, Thucydides, the Athenaion Politeia—is the story of the Alkmeonidai; a wealthy, powerful, politically active, and frequently exiled Athenian family, in the sixth and fifth centuries BCE. They also are mentioned in many literary works, such as Pindar, Aristophanes, Andocides, Isocrates, and Plutarch with more information provided by the ancient commentaries on these texts. But as is often the case, what we learn from written sources is incomplete and sometimes contradictory. However, the Alkmeonidai left many other traces of themselves, in dedications, public inscriptions, the temple at Delphi, and their names are also found on vases and voting tokens. In this dissertation I aim first and foremost to compile all the material evidence. My catalogue entries include full bibliography, and in many cases, I have reexamined the inscriptions or objects and the original reports on them, in order to present new editions of the material. My ultimate aim is to be able to assess the actual significance of the material evidence, and to evaluate the ways in which the Alkmeonidai exercised political power, in particular through the instrument of religious dedications, by making use of the disciplines of epigraphic, archeological, prosopographic, and literary scholarship.

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Subject: Classical studies; Archaeology; Ancient history

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Document 23 of 33

Nominally rational: Systematic nomenclature and the structure of organic chemistry, 1889-1940

Author: Hepler-Smith, Evan

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docview/1845309595?accountid=14709](http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1845309595?accountid=14709)**

Abstract: This dissertation addresses the emergence of an approach to naming chemical compounds that became a pivotal instrument for the representation of chemicals, the development of the information technologies of chemistry, and the national and international organization of chemists. At the turn of the twentieth century, tens of thousands of synthetic compounds were transforming chemistry and commerce. European and American chemists sought to impose order on their field and its objects of inquiry by making rules for naming these chemicals—or rather, rules for converting chemical diagrams into names. Chapters 1 and 2 recount the foundations of this approach to chemical nomenclature and its first articulation at the 1892 Congress for the Reform of Nomenclature in Geneva. The Alsatian chemist Charles Friedel convened this congress to advance the interests of the French within European chemistry and of Friedel's faction within Parisian science; congress delegates designed rules of nomenclature specifically and exclusively for use in chemical indexes. But names would not stay where they were put. Chapters 3 and 4 reconstruct how

chemists throughout Europe and America adopted and adapted Geneva names in laboratories, classrooms, and patent offices, while index-makers avoided them. Instead, chemical editors created their own nomenclature schemes not only for but through the work of compilation. As Chapter 5 shows, these chemical reference works became a vital part of the political and intellectual landscape of chemistry. Indeed, during World War I, Entente chemists singled out the authoritative German reference literature as the Teutonic trick behind that nation's dominance of chemical science and industry. Chapter 6 addresses how, after the war's end, reformers who sought to situate science within a new international order took up nomenclature less as a problem of organizing chemicals than as an opportunity to organize chemists. They resolved fundamental conflicts over both how chemicals should be named and who should get to decide by vesting authority in a cadre of technical experts. Nomenclature debates receded to irrelevance for the vast majority of chemists, even as systematic names gave form to the epistemic shifts and transformations of the material world effected by twentieth-century chemistry.

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Subject: Modern history; Science history

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Advisor: Gordin, Michael D.

**Committee member: Creager, Angela N. H.; Nord, Philip G.;
Reinhardt, Carsten**

University/institution: Princeton University

Department: History of Science

University location: United States -- New Jersey

Degree: Ph.D.

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Document 24 of 33

The new science: Herodotus' historical inquiry and presocratic philosophy

Author: Kingsley, K. Scarlett

Publication info: Princeton University, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10167591.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1845311454?accountid=14709>

Abstract: This dissertation aims to destabilize the assumption that early Greek historiography, as exemplified by its first extant practitioner, Herodotus, is a discipline impervious to the concerns of contemporaneous philosophical research. Juxtaposing the Histories with the fragmentary remains of sixth and fifth-century philosophers will suggest that the traditional division of generic boundaries needs to be reassessed in the fifth century BCE. Building on the work of Schwartz, Nestle, and more recently, Thomas, I endeavor to reinscribe philosophy into the narrative of the rise of historiography and to demonstrate the extent to which philosophical knowledge shapes specific narrative features of the Histories . By illustrating the dynamic incorporation and manipulation of broader philosophical themes, motifs, and language, I develop a new way of reading Herodotus' historiē . In Chapter One, I trace the scholarly tradition on Herodotus' engagement with Presocratic philosophy, focusing in particular on the late nineteenth-century German thinkers who pioneered this method of reading the Histories , a background against which I then outline my own hermeneutic strategy. In chapters Two and Three, I turn to the Histories and suggest that Herodotus' narratorial persona adopts and transforms the advances in epistemology introduced by Presocratic philosophers; the narrator's obligation to truth is set in stark contrast to the historical actors in the narrative, who operate on the basis of the advantage calculus, a motivation evocative of contemporary sophistic thought. Chapters Four and Five examine the Histories in the context of the inquiry

into physis prominent in the philosophical fragments; here I demonstrate that Herodotus favors a universal rather than a geographically specific philosophy of physis , a feature of the text that has implications for the aetiology of the Hellenic defeat of the Persians. In the final chapter, I show that Herodotus' fascination with tyranny and imperialism is constructed in the context of the highly contested philosophical debate on cultural relativism. This reading of philosophy and historiography side-by-side challenges their generic separation in the fifth century, and instead mandates an interdisciplinary methodology that contributes to contextualizing the history of philosophy as much as it does the history of historiography.

Links:

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Subject: Classical studies; Classical Studies; History

Classification: 0294: Classical studies; 0434: Classical Studies; 0578: History

**Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics
Social sciences Herodotus Historical inquiry Intellectual history Presocratic philosophy**

Title: The new science: Herodotus' historical inquiry and presocratic philosophy

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Committee member: Luraghi, Nino; Wildberg, Christian

University/institution: Princeton University

Department: Classics

University location: United States -- New Jersey

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Document 25 of 33

Making Evolutionists and Creationists: The Causes and Consequences of Evolution Education in Tennessee, 2009-2012

Author: Kohut, Michael Robert

Publication info: Vanderbilt University, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10295578.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1845870671?accountid=14709>

Abstract: None available.

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.aulast=Kohut&rft.aufirst=Michael&rft.date=2016-01-01&rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=&rft.isbn=9781369386011&rft.btitle=&rft.title=Making+Evolutionists+and+Creationists%3A+The+Causes+and+Consequences+of+Evolution+Education+in+Tennessee%2C+2009-2012&rft.issn=&rft_id=info:doi/

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Subject: Religion; Cultural anthropology; Science education

Classification: 0318: Religion; 0326: Cultural anthropology; 0714: Science education

Identifier / keyword: Philosophy, religion and theology Social sciences Education Anthropology of Christianity Creationism Education policy Evolution Science education standards Tennessee

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Advisor: Ross, Norbert

University/institution: Vanderbilt University

University location: United States -- Tennessee

Degree: Ph.D.

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Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 10295578

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Document 26 of 33

Nature's Spectacles: Ornament, Performance, and Natural History in the Long Eighteenth Century

Author: Quigley, Killian Colm

Publication info: Vanderbilt University, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10295650.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1845881490?accountid=14709>

Abstract: None available.

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Subject: Art history; Science history; British and Irish literature

Classification: 0377: Art history; 0585: Science history; 0593: British and Irish literature

**Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics
Social sciences Communication and the arts British literature
Eighteenth century Environmental humanities Irish literature
Natural history Rococo**

Title: Nature's Spectacles: Ornament, Performance, and Natural History in the Long Eighteenth Century

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Advisor: Lamb, Jonathan

University/institution: Vanderbilt University

University location: United States -- Tennessee

Degree: Ph.D.

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Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 10295650

ProQuest document ID: 1845881490

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Mexican Icarus: Modernity, national identity, and aviation development in Mexico, 1928-1958

Author: Soland, Peter B.

Publication info: The University of Arizona, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10242588.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1845891369?accountid=14709>

Abstract: In the decades following the Revolution, government officials and industrialists attempted to strike a balance between preserving a unique national identity and asserting Mexico's place in global affairs as a competitive, modern nation. Veneration of the aviators' bravery and technological mastery cut across political and cultural boundaries, setting standards for the model citizen of a modern world. The symbolic figure of the pilot proved an adept vessel for disseminating the values championed by the country's ruling party. Aviators validated the technological determinism that underpinned the government's development philosophy to domestic audiences, while projecting an image of strength abroad. This study explores the spectacle of aviation in cultural events including film, airshows, goodwill flights, and state-sponsored funerals, connecting the history of aviation to often-conflicting discourses of Revolutionary nationalism and modern cosmopolitanism that were espoused by both national and regional elites.

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ation+development+in+Mexico%2C+1928-
1958&rft.issn=&rft_id=info:doi/**

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p;rft.atitle=&rft.au=Soland%2C+Peter+B.&rft.aulast
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t.isbn=9781369410853&rft.btitle=&rft.title=Mexica
n+Icarus%3A+Modernity%2C+national+identity%2C+and+avi
ation+development+in+Mexico%2C+1928-
1958&rft.issn=&rft_id=info:doi/**

**Subject: Latin American history; Latin American Studies;
History**

**Classification: 0336: Latin American history; 0550: Latin
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Identifier / keyword: Social sciences Aviation History of technology and culture Latin American history Mexican history Mexican revolution Mexico

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Advisor: Beezley, William

**Committee member: Barickman, Bert; Jenkins, Jennifer;
Pieper-Mooney, Jadwiga**

University/institution: The University of Arizona

Department: History

University location: United States -- Arizona

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

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Document 28 of 33

Novel objects: Museums and scientific knowledge in nineteenth-century American literature

Author: Gochberg, Reed Abigail

Publication info: Boston University, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10191060.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1846101700?accountid=14709>

Abstract: This dissertation explores how museums generated debates about the relationship between scientific knowledge and literary aesthetics in nineteenth-century America. Henry David Thoreau, William Wells Brown, Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, and Edith Wharton were among the authors who reckoned with museums' principles of inclusion and valuation, systems of classification and organization, and use of preserved objects to generate new knowledge. While literary scholars have tended to write about museum exhibits in relation to art and mass culture, this dissertation instead analyzes how scientific museums—and their implications for literature—contributed to popular constructions of scientific and technological change. Drawing on canonical literary texts, museum guidebooks, images, and the popular press, I show that museums shaped an emergent self-consciousness about the relationship between literary and scientific knowledge during an increasingly empirical, information-driven age. To capture the diversity of literary and popular representations of museums during the nineteenth century, each chapter of this dissertation is structured around a single museum. Chapter One shows how Brown and Nathaniel Hawthorne draw analogies between museum collecting, preservation, and literary authorship in their accounts of visits to the British Museum. Moving from history to innovation and from a British to an American national institution, Chapter Two

examines how Ralph Waldo Emerson's writings on originality and Whitman's Civil War writings define the literary and political stakes of technological novelty in relation to the U.S. Patent Office gallery's collection of patent models. Chapter Three shows how specimen collecting on behalf of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University informed discussions of empirical methods and shifting belief systems in Thoreau's Walden and William James's pragmatism. And Chapter Four takes up accounts of the dinosaurs at the American Museum of Natural History in Mark Twain's short fiction and Wharton's The Age of Innocence , both of which invoke the process of assembling fragmentary fossils to emphasize scientific fallibility and uncertainty. Taken together, these case studies demonstrate how writers used museums to contemplate the challenge of preserving knowledge and accounting for new discoveries during an era marked by technological change, proliferating information, and shifting paradigms for understanding the world.

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01 &rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=&rft.t.isbn=9781369412451 &rft.btitle=&rft.title=Novel+objects%3A+Museums+and+scientific+knowledge+in+nineteenth-century+American+literature&rft.issn=&rft_id=info:doi/

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01 &rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=&rft.t.isbn=9781369412451 &rft.btitle=&rft.title=Novel+objects%3A+Museums+and+scientific+knowledge+in+nineteenth-century+American+literature&rft.issn=&rft_id=info:doi/

Subject: American literature; Museum studies

Classification: 0591: American literature; 0730: Museum studies

**Identifier / keyword: Language, literature and linguistics
Communication and the arts Literary aesthetics Museums
Nineteenth-century America Scientific knowledge Scientific
museums**

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School code: 0017

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Advisor: Lee, Maurice

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Hunting; Korobkin, Laura; Rezek, Joseph**

University/institution: Boston University

Department: English GRS

University location: United States -- Massachusetts

Degree: Ph.D.

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Language: English

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Document 29 of 33

Radiant Exposure: The Art and Spectacle of the X-rayed Body in American Visual Culture

Author: Tirak, Lita Marie

Publication info: The College of William and Mary, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10168213.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1846140533?accountid=14709>

Abstract: Radiant Exposure analyzes how American painting, photography, cinema, and graphic design creatively visualized X-rays to represent the body under forms of invasive scrutiny. I will historicize a variety of works produced between 1895 and the present, which consist of actual X-ray photographs and artistic simulations of their visual effects. Visual culture scholars and art historians have identified the X-ray as an important development in modern experience, perception, and the visual arts, but they have situated the X-ray's aesthetic bearing in the first thirty years after Wilhelm Röntgen's discovery of the X-ray. I argue that since their invention, X-rays have persisted in the realm of the corporeal spectacle, as a source of aesthetic captivation and a method of social control. My goals are to generate a new language for articulating the rich significance and specific influence of X-rays in American consciousness, through formal and historical analyses of visual culture that draw from X-rays' technological effects or appropriate them in different ways. More broadly, this project reveals how the subjectivity of American identity has projected onto the anonymous irradiated body in the visual arts, whether idealized or pathologized, made culturally visible or cloaked in invisibility. As Americans have become more transparent under modern surveillance, the X-rayed body in art and

visual culture has become entangled with ideas about identity and power.

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http://RT4RF9QN2Y.search.serialssolutions.com?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info:ofi/enc:UTF-8&rft_id=info:sid/ProQuest+Dissertations+%26+Theses+Global&rft_val_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:dissertation&rft.genre=dissertations+%26+theses&rft.jtitle=&rft.atitle=&rft.au=Tirak%2C+Lita+Marie&rft.aulas t=Tirak&rft.aufirst=Lita&rft.date=2016-01-01&rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=&rft.t.isbn=9781369225020&rft.btitle=&rft.title=Radiant+Exposure%3A+The+Art+and+Spectacle+of+the+X-rayed+Body+in+American+Visual+Culture&rft.issn=&rft_id=info:doi/

rayed+Body+in+American+Visual+Culture&rfp;rfp_id=info:doi/

Subject: American studies; American history; Art history

Classification: 0323: American studies; 0337: American history; 0377: Art history

Identifier / keyword: Social sciences Communication and the arts Body Phantasmagoria Spectacle Technology Visuality X-ray

Title: Radiant Exposure: The Art and Spectacle of the X-rayed Body in American Visual Culture

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School code: 0261

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ISBN: 9781369225020

Advisor: Braddock, Alan C.

**Committee member: Brown, Chandos M.; Burns, Sarah;
Knight, Arthur; Webster, Susan V.**

University/institution: The College of William and Mary

Department: American Studies

University location: United States -- Virginia

Degree: Ph.D.

Source type: Dissertations & Theses

Language: English

Document type: Dissertation/Thesis

Dissertation/thesis number: 10168213

ProQuest document ID: 1846140533

Document URL:

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Document 30 of 33

Assessing the impact of historical story telling on student learning of natural selection

Author: Fulford, Janice Marie

Publication info: Western Michigan University, ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2016. 10297209.

<http://pitt.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/1846142100?accountid=14709>

Abstract: Research suggests that because of its historical nature, the learning of evolutionary biology is problematic compared to that of other science disciplines. While explanations used in historical sciences often employ historical narratives, which are distinct from narratives in other contexts, such as stories, the two types of narratives have structural similarities that suggest the potential role of stories based in the history of science for the teaching of evolutionary biology. Stephen Klassen, a prominent science educator, has studied how stories from the history of physics can promote the learning of and attitudes towards science. Klassen's pioneering work identifies structural components of stories (narrative elements) that give them explanatory power. To test Klassen's approach empirically, the present study employed an intervention (The Mystery Phenomenon (MP)) with reference to the history of research

on industrial melanism (IM). The episode was chosen for study because it incorporates past scientists' theories and investigations on IM as a strategy to mitigate misconceptions. The efficacy of the unit was studied by means of a mixed-method approach that compared the learning outcomes and experiences of participants using two versions of the MP (one that employs a story that incorporates Klassen's structural components and another that did not). To determine if the story approach impacted the learning of science content goals, participants in both groups took the Concept Inventory of Natural Selection (CINS) as a pre and post-test. A subset of participants also took part in semi-structured interviews to further clarify the analysis of the CINS results and also to assess the impact of Klassen's structural components and student attitudes. The study's results demonstrates that the story version of the MP lesson yielded significant learning gains, and that some of the misconceptions explicitly discussed in the MP lesson displayed significant decreases. In addition, participants expressed positive attitudes to this lesson's format as a mystery in reference to it as a teaching strategy. Finally, by employing two versions of the MP lesson, this study provides a systemic way for empirically testing the efficacy of stories.

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Data epistemologies / surveillance and uncertainty

Author: Hong, Sun ha

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Abstract: Data Epistemologies studies the changing ways in which ‘knowledge’ is defined, promised, problematised, legitimated vis-à-vis the advent of digital, ‘big’ data surveillance technologies in early twenty-first century America. As part of the period’s fascination with ‘new’ media and ‘big’ data, such technologies intersect ambitious claims to better knowledge with a problematisation of uncertainty. This entanglement, I argue, results in contextual reconfigurations of what ‘counts’ as knowledge and who (or what) is granted authority to produce it – whether it involves proving that indiscriminate domestic surveillance prevents terrorist attacks, to arguing that machinic sensors can know us better than we can ever know ourselves. The present work focuses on two empirical cases. The first is the ‘Snowden Affair’ (2013-Present): the public controversy unleashed through the leakage of vast quantities of secret material on the electronic surveillance practices of the U.S. government. The second is the ‘Quantified Self’ (2007-Present), a name which describes both an international community of experimenters and the wider industry built up around the use of data-driven surveillance technology for self-tracking every possible aspect of the individual ‘self’. By triangulating media coverage, connoisseur communities, advertising discourse and leaked material, I examine how surveillance technologies were presented for public debate and speculation. This dissertation is thus a critical diagnosis of the contemporary faith in ‘raw’ data, sensing machines and algorithmic decision-making, and of their public promotion as the next great leap towards objective knowledge. Surveillance is not only a means of totalitarian

control or a technology for objective knowledge, but a collective fantasy that seeks to mobilise public support for new epistemic systems. Surveillance, as part of a broader enthusiasm for 'data-driven' societies, extends the old modern project whereby the human subject – its habits, its affects, its actions – become the ingredient, the raw material, the object, the target, for the production of truths and judgments about them by things other than themselves.

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Digitizing the Novel, 1987-2010

Author: Reina, Bradley Joseph

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Abstract: The novel is digital, it was digital, and it will be digital. Most authors have written on word processors and most publishers have made books with some form of desktop publishing software since the early 1990s. The first novels for digital display were written and published in the late 1980s. From a literary perspective, the question is whether such digital-born literature translates into palpable changes in the novel form, why, and how. Previous theories of the meeting of digital technology and literature have all too often presented a predetermined fate for this pairing—an essentialist vision of literature, technology, or both. I begin by showing this process at work in the creation of Michael Joyce's *afternoon, a story* (1987), the most well-known hypertext fiction. Joyce's work is often understood as evidence that hypertext and digital technologies were inherently suited to experimental practice. I show, instead, that hypertext technology was initially reader and user

friendly, and that the experimentalism of afternoon should be credited to Joyce's literary goals. Print books also became digitally born in the 1990s, with all major American publishers shifting to digital typesetting (or desktop publishing). This largely unnoticed shift shows a technology developing according to the particular state of the publishing industry during this period, and the fading influence of high postmodern literary style. I show how three authors—Mark Z. Danielewski, Jennifer Egan, and Junot Díaz—turn digital technology toward more narrative means during this period, augmenting textual meaning with an enhanced typographical paratext. Last, I look at a digital book within a book, the Primer from Neal Stephenson's *The Diamond Age* or, *A Young Lady's Illustrated Primer* (1995), to show how this digital book remediates the social and contextual aspects of the early British novel. The Primer shows how clearly digital fiction has been defined as highly experimental, and how this constricts how we think about digital fiction and what it can be. Digitizing the novel has not meant something stable or predefined, but is a moving target, shifting to account for context, public, and literary moment.

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Seeing the structure of objects

Author: Green, Edwin James, Jr.

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Abstract: This dissertation is about our visual perception of objects and their geometrical properties. I offer an account of visual shape perception, and then apply this account in developing a theory of how vision secures reference to objects. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the issues to be addressed. Chapters 2 and 3 concern our perception of shape. Specifically, chapter 2 argues that shape perception is layered : We perceive objects as having multiple shape properties, and these properties have varying degrees of abstraction. This picture contrasts sharply with certain views of shape representation in the philosophical and psychological literature, which I label metric views . Metric views claim, roughly, that vision only explicitly represents certain metric properties of objects, such as location, length, distance, and angle. Chapter 3 argues that visual shape perception is mereologically structured : Roughly, we perceive an object's decomposition into parts, the intrinsic shapes of its parts, and the locations of the joints between parts. I argue that this forms the basis of a type of perceptual constancy — structure constancy . Moreover, I argue that this approach embodies a radical departure from views on which the visual experience of spatial properties is wholly viewer-centered. Chapters 4 and 5 concern object perception. Chapter 4 considers the problem of how a visual representation secures reference to an external object. I argue that the two leading approaches to this problem

(which I call the pure causal view and the location-based view) face serious difficulties. I then argue that part-based visual shape representation plays a crucial role in the mechanism of visual reference-fixing. Chapter 5 addresses the question of what counts as an object for visual perception. More specifically, what types of things does vision pick out and track over time? On one recently popular view, visual processes of selection and tracking are specifically tuned to a class of entities called Spelke-objects . I argue that this view is problematic, primarily because it places excessively strong constraints on the geometry and topology of visual objects. I then defend a different account on which visual objects are (roughly) those things that satisfy traditional perceptual organization criteria.

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