

ESHS

## European Society for the History of Science

Newsletter n° 11

### *ii. Conferences and other events*

#### Austria

##### European Summer University 2010 - Vienna

July 19 - 23, 2010, Vienna University of Technology

The initiative of organizing a Summer University (SU) on the History and Epistemology in Mathematics Education belongs to the French Mathematics Education community of the IREMs (Institutes of Research on Mathematical Education), in the early 1980's. From those meetings emerged the organization of a SU on a European scale, as the European Summer University (ESU) on the History and Epistemology in Mathematics Education, starting in 1993. Since then, ESU was successfully organized in 1996, 1999, 2004 and 2007 in different places in Europe<sup>1</sup>. By now, it has been established into one of the main international activities of the HPM Group, which - from 2010 onwards - will be organized every four years, so that every two years there will take place at least one major international meeting of the Group; namely, ESU and the HPM Satellite Meeting of ICME.

For more information, see: <http://bacchus.univie.ac.at/summeruniversity/index.php?id=2>

#### Canada

##### Savage Thoughts: Interdisciplinarity and the Challenge of Claude Lévi-Strauss

Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas  
McGill University, Montréal  
24-26 September 2010

Keynote Guests:

Professor Marcel Hénaff, Department of Literature, University of California San Diego  
Professor Boris Wiseman, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Copenhagen

Claude Lévi-Strauss was one of the great interdisciplinary writers of the twentieth century whose influence has been felt far beyond his home discipline of anthropology. His inquiry illuminated the borderlands between primitive and non-primitive, self and other, myth and history, human and animal, art and nature, and the dichotomies that give structure to culture. At the same time his method troubled those borders and dichotomies, through the bricolage he adopted that illuminated connections amongst literature, art, psychology, music, religion, and law.

Our call for 'savage thoughts' seeks out new work influenced by this inquiry and these methods, and reflections on Levi-Strauss' legacy across the whole range of the humanities and beyond, including—

- 1) Recent interdisciplinary research in the reception, critique, and development, of Lévi-Strauss' work. How have these inquiries been transformed in recent years? Are the children of Lévi-Strauss as savage as he?
- 2) Consideration of Lévi-Strauss' larger intellectual influence, explicit or otherwise, right

across the humanities. Perhaps there is something savage at the heart of interdisciplinary thought itself—refusing to be tamed by the intellectual borders of a discipline, it forages at will. Where has Lévi-Strauss' method spawned such wildness and hybridity?

3) Looking beyond the academy to consider how Lévi-Strauss' ideas have embedded themselves in the culture, values, social organization, and framework of modern society. What is the public life and impact of these ideas? In what ways has our world been altered by his mode of apprehending it?

Conference organizers invite papers that address the borderlands between a wide range of disciplines including, but not limited to Anthropology, Architecture, Art History, Communications, Development Studies, Education, Film Studies, History, Human Geography, Law, Linguistics, Literature, Musicology, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Religious Studies, Semiotics, and Sociology. Proposals for single papers in English or French as well as for complete panels are welcome. In either instance, abstracts for 15-20 minute papers should be c.200 words, and accompanied by a brief (2-page) CV. Proposals for complete panels should also include a short explanation of the panel theme. Please send proposals as electronic files (in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format) to [savage.thoughts@mcgill.ca](mailto:savage.thoughts@mcgill.ca) no later than 30 March 2010.

Conference website: [www.mcgill.ca/iplai/savagethoughts/](http://www.mcgill.ca/iplai/savagethoughts/) Conference registration will open 15 April 2010.

(For more information on the conference and registration fees see the website.)

The Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas at McGill University is committed to understanding how the arts (literature, painting, film, theatre, music, industrial and artistic design, architecture) and new ideas come into being in a range of settings (schools, the law courts, markets, the Web, the book trade, state institutions) and in relation to social, cultural, and institutional practices. It also strives to understand how art and ideas are able to transform the private world of the individual, the greater world of public matters, and the interactivity between the two. <http://www.mcgill.ca/iplai/>

## Denmark

### **European Association of Museums for the History of Medical Sciences, 2010**

The 15th biannual conference of the European Association of Museums for the History of Medical Sciences (EAMHMS) will be held in Copenhagen 16 - 18 September 2010. This year's conference focuses on the challenge to museums posed by contemporary developments in medical science and technology. How do museums today handle the material and visual heritage of contemporary medical and health science and technology? How do curators wield the increasing amount and kinds of intangible scientific and digital objects? Which intellectual, conceptual, and practical questions does this challenge give rise to? We welcome submissions from a wide range of scholars and specialists with an interest in the topic. We are especially interested in presentations that involve the use of material and visual artefacts and we therefore encourage participants to bring illustrative and evocative (tangible or non-tangible) objects for demonstration. The conference begins Thursday 16 September at noon, and ends Saturday 18 September at 5pm.

Send 100-300 word proposals for presentations, demonstrations, discussion panels, etc. to Thomas Soderqvist, [ths@sund.ku.dk](mailto:ths@sund.ku.dk) before 22 March.

For more information: <http://www.museion.ku.dk/sker/eamhms.aspx>

## Estonia

### **24th International Baltic Conference on the History of Science**

8-9 October 2010, Tallinn University of Technology, Akadeemia tee 3 12618, Tallinn, Estonia

#### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Submission Deadline: 1 May 2010

Tallinn University of Technology are pleased to announce that the 24th International Baltic Conference on the History of Science will be held on 8 - 9 October 2010 at Tallinn University of Technology. Abstracts should concern one of the following fields in the Baltic and/or Nordic context:

- philosophy and methodology of science - history of medicine and museums - history of natural sciences and mathematics - history of technology and engineering - history of social sciences, humanities and education

The deadline for submitting abstracts (of approximately 500 words) is 1 May 2010. Abstracts should be sent as e-mail attachments in either .doc or .rtf format. Please indicate in which section you would prefer to present your paper. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt of your abstract within a week, please resubmit or contact the organizers. Decisions concerning the abstracts will be communicated by 30 June, 2010.

The programme of the conference will be announced in early September 2010. Accepted abstracts will be published before the start of the conference. Language of the abstracts and of the presentations is English. Reading time of the papers is 20 minutes (15 minutes + 5 minutes discussion).

The abstracts should be sent to Mr. Mait Talts, mait.talts@tseba.ttu.ee Conference registration fee is 40€, 25€ for graduate students. Details of payment will be announced in January 2010.

## France

### **First ESEH European Summer School in Environmental History: “Events, disasters, narratives and temporalities in environmental history”**

June 28- July 2. Musée national de Port Royal des Champs, Yvelines, France

This event is organized by Kindunos (G.Quenet) and sponsored by Sciences Po - Scientific humanities chair (Bruno Latour), NiCHE, the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) and the Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement Durable et de la Mer (MEEDDM) chargé des technologies vertes et des négociations sur le climat. The language of the summer school will be English. Doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, and more senior scholars are welcome to apply by email, to Gregory Quenet (gregory.quenet@free.fr) BY 30 MARCH 2010.

This first ESEH summer school is not focused only on risks and disasters but rather on how to inscribe them within the writing of environmental history. An integrated approach of events, disasters and longue durée is now essential.

The complete presentation is available at <http://www.histoire-environnementale.com/actualites.php>

Gregory Quenet  
University of Versailles Saint Quentin/Sciences Po  
47 boulevard Vauban  
78047 Guyancourt  
Phone: +33 1 39 25 57 09  
Fax: + 33 1 39 25 57 10

Email: [gregory.quenet@free.fr](mailto:gregory.quenet@free.fr)

Visit the website at <http://www.histoire-environnementale.com/actualites.php>

## **La cour et les sciences: Essor des politiques scientifiques dans les cours européennes aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles**

Château de Versailles, Février 2011

À l'occasion de l'exposition « Sciences et curiosités à la cour de Versailles » qui se tiendra au château de Versailles du 26 octobre 2010 au 27 février 2011, le Centre de recherche du château de Versailles (CRCV) projette la tenue d'un colloque sur La cour et les sciences. Pour les sciences et pour le royaume - devrions-nous dire. En effet, la cour, siège du pouvoir et lieu de concentration des capitaux, soutenait la recherche scientifique tandis que cette dernière devait servir les intérêts généraux du pays et la gloire de son souverain. En un temps qui ignorait encore la séparation entre les deux cultures, scientifique et technique d'un côté, humaniste et artistique de l'autre, on vit cependant s'affirmer une nouvelle idée de la science. Cette modernité, la plupart du temps, ne put exister sans le concours actif des princes. La cour, comme lieu d'expérimentation, d'innovations techniques, apparaît comme un des moteurs des évolutions de la recherche, permettant notamment des applications concrètes. L'implication des souverains européens, par leur éducation, par leurs rapports privilégiés avec les savants, fut souvent à l'origine du développement des connaissances scientifiques dans de nombreux domaines. Dans ce colloque, il s'agira donc essentiellement d'étudier les politiques scientifiques volontaristes ou non des états européens sous l'Ancien Régime en s'attachant particulièrement à la recherche « fondamentale » et à la recherche « utile » (amélioration de la santé, lutte contre la famine, progrès des techniques, des constructions et des bâtiments, etc.).

Volontairement comparatistes, les études devront englober l'ère géographique européenne - la France, l'Espagne, la Grande-Bretagne, les Provinces-Unies, l'Italie, le Saint-Empire, les pays scandinaves et la Russie - à travers trois axes :

I. Le financement des sciences et des scientifiques : politiques poursuivies et moyens mis en œuvre

Les institutions scientifiques

Le soutien aux savants (gratifications, pensions, souscriptions, charges)

Les recherches commanditées et les initiatives soutenues par le pouvoir

II. Les échanges et la concurrence, les mécanismes de la vie scientifique : la communauté scientifique face à la cour

La cour, la ville et la province

La circulation des savants à travers l'Europe (invitation, exil)

L'espionnage scientifique et industriel

III. La diffusion et la culture scientifique à la cour

L'enseignement des sciences aux princes

Bibliothèques scientifiques des princes,

Démonstrations devant la cour

Intérêts et pratiques scientifiques des princes et des courtisans

Dates : fin février 2011

Conseil scientifique : Michel Blay (directeur de recherches au CNRS), Serge Demidov (Académie des Sciences de Russie), Jean Dercourt (secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie des Sciences à l'Institut de France), Robert Halleux (secrétaire perpétuel de l'Académie internationale des Sciences), Franck James (Royal Institution), Eberhard Heinrich Knobloch (président de l'Académie internationale de l'histoire des Sciences), Enrique Leitao (Centro de História das Ciências, Université de Lisbonne).

Les propositions de titres, les résumés de communication (environ 3 000 signes) et une courte bibliographie (environ 1 500 signes) sont à adresser à Mathieu da Vinha (mathieu.da-vinha@chateaubersailles.fr) avant le 30 avril 2010.

Schéma du colloque :

Deux jours et demi (jeudi, vendredi, samedi matin) avec 20 intervenants (hors présidents de séance) au maximum

Chaque grand thème comportera une intervention plénière de 40 minutes laquelle posera les enjeux et les perspectives transversales

Les autres interventions seront de 20 minutes accompagnées de 5 minutes de discussion

### Germany

#### **Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin: Colloquium Series: Technological Cultures**

A series of colloquia and discussions explore the potential of emerging approaches on "technology" and "technological cultures" to generate productive new methods and themes. Invited participants give informal presentations of their work as a point of entry into a broader debate. All events take place in the conference room of the MPIWG.

Lectures are announced and posted on the web at:

<http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/workshops/en/Technological-Cultures.html>

#### **HQ3 - Third International Conference on the History of Quantum Physics**

June 28 - July 2, 2010

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

Building upon the momentum generated by two previous conferences in Berlin (2007) and in Utrecht (2008), this meeting will bring together historians, philosophers, and scientists who work on the emergence and the development of quantum physics and related disciplines from the days of the old quantum theory until the present. The conference aims at combining a genuinely historical perspective with a broader understanding of the foundations and implications of quantum physics. The thematic horizon extends from the classical traditions that quantum physics is rooted in, through the genesis of quantum mechanics and quantum field theory, to the history of its appropriation in newly-emerging fields of research up to the present day.

For more information, see:

<http://quantum-history.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/news/workshops/hq3/index.html>

### Italy

#### **3rd Congress AISI Spring 2010, History of engineering Naples, Italy**

For information, go to:

[www.ordineingegnerinapoli.it/news/documenti/2010-aisi.pdf](http://www.ordineingegnerinapoli.it/news/documenti/2010-aisi.pdf)

#### **Call for Papers: Gendered Ways of Knowing? Trent, Italy**

Trento (Italy), Fondazione Bruno Kessler

December 1-4, 2010

The aim of this congress is to push the question about the epistemological function of the category gender further, in particular from the perspective of multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research. Since the "rupture épistémologique" of the late 18th century science has fabricated tools for sexualizing the objects of the world, while modern

anthropology and biology have contributed to the universalization of gender cosmologies and the ontologization of binary gender codes. While gender studies have challenged this binary construction, they have also had a share in the naturalization of gender by using it as an independent variable. In recent years, however, the critique of gender studies has contributed to a self-critical reflection about methodologies and presumptions underlying research activities in different fields (including gender studies themselves), questioning the notion of knowledge itself.

We invite proposals for papers to be sent by email to [gender2010@fbk.eu](mailto:gender2010@fbk.eu) by 30 April 2010.

Online registration for the conference opens on 1 May 2010, and is 50 Euros (30 Euros for students).

For further information please see the call for papers in the attachment and our homepage: <http://gender2010.fbk.eu>

### **Mexico**

#### **First International Congress on Instrumentation and Applied Sciences, Mexico**

The 1st. International Congress on Instrumentation and Applied Sciences is an international event for researchers, technologists, professionals and students who want to share, learn and experience with global experts and peers in beautiful Cancun, Mexico from October 26 to 29, 2010 at the Park Royal Cancun Caribe Grand Hotel.

Contact: Nora E. Reyes-Rocafuerte  
Email: [nora.reyes@ccadet.unam.mx](mailto:nora.reyes@ccadet.unam.mx)  
Visit the website at <http://somi.cinstrum.unam.mx/icias2010/>

### **Netherlands**

#### **Newton & The Netherlands 21-23 April 2010, Leiden, Museum Boerhaave**

The Dutch Republic proved to be remarkably receptive to Newton's ideas. Dutch scholars like Herman Boerhaave and Willem Jacob 's Gravesande played a crucial role in the dissemination of Newton's work, both in The Netherlands and in the rest of Europe. In the course of the eighteenth century, Newton's ideas (in different guises and interpretations) became a veritable hype in Dutch society.

So far, surprisingly little research has been performed to explain Newton's sudden success in the Netherlands. To address these and other topics focusing on what is vaguely described as 'newtonianism', a three-day conference is organized in Leiden by Museum Boerhaave, the Huygens Instituut (KNAW, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), Nadine Akkerman (Pallas Institute, Leiden University), and Pete Langman (Goldsmiths College).

Announcement: [www.newton.lu](http://www.newton.lu)

### **United Kingdom**

#### **Call For Papers: The Stimulated Body and the Arts - The Nervous System and Nervousness in the History of Aesthetics, Durham, UK, 17-18 Feb 2011**

International Interdisciplinary Conference

Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease  
Durham University, UK Venue: Hatfield College, Durham, UK

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 July 2010

This conference will discuss the history of the relationship between aesthetics and medical understandings of the body. Today's vogue for neurological accounts of artistic emotions has a long pedigree. Since G.S. Rousseau's pioneering work underlined the importance of models of the nervous system in eighteenth-century aesthetics, the examination of physiological explanations in aesthetics has become a highly productive field of interdisciplinary research. Drawing on this background, the conference aims to illuminate the influence that different medical models of physiology and the nervous system have had on theories of aesthetic experience.

The second focus of the conference will be the supposed ability of excessive reading, music and so on to 'over-stimulate' nerves and cause nervousness, mental and physical illness, homosexuality and even death. It will consider questions regarding the effects of various theories of neuropathology and psychopathology on the concept of pathological culture.

Abstracts for 20-minute papers (maximum 250 words) should be submitted electronically to the organizers by 31 July 2010 at the following address:  
James.kennaway@durham.ac.uk

**CFP: Scratching the Surface: The History of Skin, its Diseases and their Treatment**  
29 – 30 October 2010

An international conference hosted by the History of Medicine Unit, University of Birmingham, and sponsored by the Wellcome Trust and the Society for the Social History of Medicine

Skin and skin disease is a central focus of many sub-fields in the history of medicine, including the history of venereal disease, cancer, leprosy, TB and industrial medicine. This conference seeks to address the subject of skin, its diseases and their treatment broadly since 1700. In the process, it aims to bring together individuals working in very different sub-fields in medical and cultural history over the past three centuries. It further aims to promote discussion of the subject in the context of the history of specialization more generally, as well as the history of senses, sight, smell and touch being central to understandings of skin disease and the way in which such diseases are experienced by practitioners, patients and the public historically. The history of skin ailments also invites exploration of the historical relationship between professional medicine and wider cultural endeavors such as aesthetics, probing realms where health and beauty converge. The conference might similarly offer an opportunity to examine how medical understandings of the skin may have influenced or been influenced by the politics of race.

The organizers wish to invite proposals for 20-30 minute papers on any aspect of the history of skin and its diseases since 1700. Abstracts should be between 200-300 words in length and will be received until 30 April 2010. A program, featuring a keynote address by Professor Philip Wilson (Penn State, USA), will be advertised in June 2010.

**The Royal Society and 20th Century Science**  
22nd and 23rd April 2010 - Royal Society, London

This two-day conference will bring together leading scientists and historians of science to examine the development of the Royal Society during the 20th century and the Society's impact on science in the UK and beyond. It will help to establish a framework for analysing the significance of the Society in recent decades, and papers will be published in a special edition of Notes and Records of the Royal Society later in the year. Registration is now open, and a draft programme and registration form are available to download

from <http://bit.ly/cQXkbX>. Please contact Dr Felicity Henderson (felicity [dot] henderson [at] royalsociety [dot] org) with any queries about the event.

### **William James and the Transatlantic Conversation**

Rothermere American Institute  
University of Oxford, 23-25 September 2010

This international conference brings together a number of high-profile scholars to appraise the work and influence of American psychologist and philosopher William James (1842-1910) upon the centenary of his death. In his own time, James engaged in a number of international conversations in science, philosophy, religion and literature, not least through his 1901-2 Gifford Lectures in Edinburgh and his Hibbert Lectures in Oxford in 1909. Given the historical vantage of a full century, 2010 marks an appropriate year for an international gathering of scholars from a range of disciplines to assess James's work, to take stock of his multi-disciplinary reception across the twentieth century and around the globe, and to evaluate his legacy as a resource for the various disciplines in the twenty-first century.

International speakers include: David Hollinger (California), David Lamberth (Harvard), Leslie Butler (Dartmouth), Eddie Glaude Jr (Princeton), Richard H. King (Nottingham), Martin Halliwell (Leicester), Eric James (Cambridge), Joel Rasmussen (Oxford), Jaime Nubiola (Navarre) and Sami Pihlstrom (Helsinki).

The conference poster and registration form are available at <http://www.rai.ox.ac.uk/images/stories/Posterimage.JPG> and <http://www.rai.ox.ac.uk/index.php/academic-programme/conferences>

Conference rates: £50 (full), £40 (postgraduate). Includes wine reception, lunches, refreshments and a gala conference dinner on Friday 24 September. Discounted accommodation available at Mansfield College, Oxford. See registration form: <http://www.rai.ox.ac.uk/index.php/academic-programme/conferences>

**POSTGRADUATE BURSARIES:** The British Association for American Studies is very pleased to sponsor 5 postgraduate bursaries for this conference. You are advised to book early to be eligible for one of these bursaries. The £40 postgraduate rate will be refunded at the conference to the first 5 postgraduates to book.

This conference is a collaboration between the Centre for American Studies, University of Leicester and the Centre for Theology and Modern European Thought, University of Oxford.

Professor Martin Halliwell  
Centre for American Studies & School of English  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester. LE1 7RH.  
United Kingdom  
Email: [mrh17@le.ac.uk](mailto:mrh17@le.ac.uk)  
Visit the website at <http://www.rai.ox.ac.uk/index.php/academic-programme/conferences>

### **"Human Heredity in the Twentieth Century" (A Cultural History of Heredity V)**

2-4 September 2010  
Centre for Medical History and the ESRC Research Centre for Genomics in Society,  
University of Exeter, UK, in collaboration with the Max-Planck-Institute for the History of  
Science, Berlin, Germany



#### Organisers:

Staffan Müller-Wille (Exeter), Bernd Gausemeier (Berlin), Edmund Ramsden (Exeter)

The Centre for Medical History and the ESRC Research Centre for Genomics in Society (EGenS) at the University of Exeter is inviting individual scholars to propose papers for a forthcoming workshop “Human Heredity in the Twentieth Century”. This workshop, scheduled for 2-4 September 2010, is part of a series that reflects a long term cooperative research project between the Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) in Berlin and the University of Exeter. The project deals with the agricultural, technical, juridical, medical, and scientific practices through which the knowledge of biological inheritance was developed, embedded, and transferred in successive periods. The overall aim is to arrive at a better understanding of the genesis of present conceptions of human heredity.

Previous workshops in the series took place in Berlin in May 2001, January 2003, and January 2005, and in Exeter in December 2006. They dealt with the *longue durée* of historical processes, tracing the first emergence of the notion of heredity in the eighteenth century, through to the flourishing of concepts and methods in the nineteenth century, and, finally, turning to “the century of the gene” (Evelyn Fox Keller).

With the fifth international workshop, the project is turning its attention specifically to the post war era, up until the 1970s, when the advent of new molecular techniques paved the way to the age of genomics. World War II is often referred to by scientists and historians as a watershed in the history of heredity research. While many of the significant developments of this era originated in the discipline of genetics and its laboratory-based research practices, fields such as medicine, anthropology, and psychology have also developed and maintained their own ways to control and to analyze human heredity. The conference aims to produce a comprehensive picture of these various practices and ideas and the political and social frameworks in which they developed. Participants are encouraged to reflect on the major breaks, shifts, and continuities in this history, especially with respect to the question how the sciences of human heredity have affected modern society and thought. We aim to address these issues from three interrelated perspectives:

#### Concepts:

Analyzing concepts allows us to identify basic changes in the understanding of human heredity, as well as differences and interrelations between similar notions employed in various fields. Race, for example, is a concept that has persisted in discourses of human heredity throughout the 20th century, but also one that has acquired very different meanings. The distinction between endogenous and exogenous, genetic and environmental factors has similarly been subject to continuous debate. In the realm of medicine, notions such as susceptibility and resistance as well as basic nosological and etiological assumptions have changed significantly in interdependence with the concepts developed in genetics. More specific elements of genetic terminology, such as linkage, balanced polymorphism, heterosis, cytoplasmic inheritance, or mutation point to the transfer of concepts developed in experimental genetics to the human realm. Finally, scholars are invited to explore how ideas about genetic variation and continuity were received in ‘humanist’ disciplines such as geography, history, linguistics or social anthropology.

#### Methods:

Some of the methods that have shaped modern knowledge about human heredity require further attention - epidemiological survey techniques have been a major source of medical ideas about the susceptibility to diseases; twin research has proven similarly fundamental to human genetics. There are numerous anthropological, medical and psychological methods which have developed in close conjunction with the study of human heredity, e.g. intelligence testing or anthropometric measurement techniques. In the post-WWII era, laboratory based techniques were exported into clinical settings and field research, thus changing the landscape of human genetics and generating interdisciplinary connections.

#### Institutions:

The long-term investigation of institutions allows us to contrast the impact of new approaches and political contexts on the one hand and assess the persistence of structures and habits on the other. The foundations of medical genetics were laid in the framework of clinics and asylums, which combined research with diagnostic practices and genetic counseling. Systematic research in human genetics was primarily initiated by eugenic associations and developed widely in connection with novel techniques of population control. In the post-WWII period, research in human heredity became increasingly prompted by international programs and organizations transgressing boundaries between nations and local populations. In this context, it seems that human heredity has become reshaped by two divergent trends: a globalization and an individualization of research and its applications.

Scholars who wish to contribute to the workshop are requested to send a proposal of 500-1000 words to the following address:

Staffan Müller-Wille  
e-mail: S.E.W.Mueller-Wille@exeter.ac.uk  
ESRC Research Centre for Genomics in Society  
Byrne House  
St. German's Road  
Exeter  
Devon EX4PJ  
UK

Submission deadline is 30 April 2010.

We hope to respond to all proposals by early May 2010. Travel and accommodation costs of speakers will be covered.

Email: s.e.w.mueller-wille@exeter.ac.uk

Visit the website

at [http://centres.exeter.ac.uk/medhist/conferences/human\\_heredity/index.shtml](http://centres.exeter.ac.uk/medhist/conferences/human_heredity/index.shtml)

#### USA

#### **WHEATS 2010: Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology & Science**

October 8-10, 2010

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE), Madison, Wisconsin, USA

#### Call for Papers

The Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is pleased to be hosting WHEATS in Fall 2010. Now in its seventh year, the Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science (WHEATS) brings together graduate students studying the history of the environment, agriculture, science, or technology. WHEATS is open to submissions from any discipline with interests in these fields. Papers - generally 25-30 pages - are circulated in advance to all participants, and at the workshop papers receive feedback from participants and senior scholars through a roundtable discussion. This format is well suited for works in progress, and the workshop will have sessions on professional development as well as opportunities to meet and engage members of the broader CHE community. Due to logistical constraints, papers must be in English.

UW-Madison will provide housing, food, and some funding to help defray travel costs. Potential participants should submit a one-page abstract (200 words) and short curriculum vitae by April 15, 2010. All submissions will be acknowledged by e-mail. Applicants should

note their year of graduate study or Ph.D. completion date. Accepted papers will be due August 31, 2010.

For further information contact: Amrys Williams  
aowilliams@wisc.edu

or visit website:  
<http://envhist.wisc.edu/wheats>

send submissions to:  
Kellen Backer  
kbacker@wisc.edu

### **Announcements**

#### **The Science Studies Network**

ESHS members are invited to join the on-line Science Studies Network, recently set up for anyone interested in the history and philosophy of science, science and technology studies, medical history and ethics, etc.

The group website includes a tagcloud application, in which members can be linked to researchers with similar interests by clicking on relevant keywords presented in a 'cloud'. There are also links to podcasts and discussions on STS themes. Recent podcasts explore issues such as:

- “Art and Science”
- “Scientists’ Perspectives on STS”
- “Democratizing Science”
- “Media Technologies & Science”
- “How to do Interdisciplinary STS”
- “A Discussion with Nancy Cartwright”
- “Directions in History of Science”
- “Research, Policy, & Ethical Issues in Science”
- “Cultural Studies of Science”

You can also access the podcasts by visiting the Science Studies Network Homepage:  
<<http://depts.washington.edu/ssnet/>>

To join the on-line network group, follow this link:  
<<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5901838860>>

Simon Werrett  
Department of History  
University of Washington

#### **New Journal: *Almagest*: An International Interdisciplinary Journal**

The new journal "Almagest" considers the history of science both as a history of ideas and as an activity that takes place in institutional and social context. In discussing the history of scientific ideas, the journal addresses the philosophical assumptions underpinning the ideas as well as the scientific developments themselves; it also addresses the influence of the historical context on these ideas.

Several historians of science believe nowadays that a proper understanding of scientific accomplishments requires a deep appreciation of their situation in time and place. As a result, historians have increasingly shifted the emphasis from universal validity to the local

particularity of the most important developments of science. And yet, despite some pioneering efforts from the 1930s through the 1950s and important developments in historiography of science since then, a cross-culturally comparative perspective (for example, on why modern science emerged in a specific region and time) is still in its infancy. Acknowledging this lacuna, and recognizing the potential applications of such an approach, the journal aspires to publish history of science papers which will contribute to a better understanding of some of the major issues concerning contemporary cultural conflicts, multiculturalism and globalisation.

One of the defining features of the journal's approach to the history of science is the belief that the history of scientific ideas, of research priorities, of conceptualizations of nature, and of the various external factors that are associated with scientific discoveries are deeply related to History, generally construed, and to cultural and socio-economic parameters. Following this approach, the journal invites papers on the history of scientific ideas in specific regions or related to a specific cultural context (for example, papers on science and religion). It also invites papers on the relations of scientific ideas to the material civilization, in particular to scientific instruments.

Among the goals of the journal is to devote a substantial part to the promotion of teaching of history of science, by advocating its utilization in science courses of all levels of education (from elementary school to university) and in programmes for the preparation of science teachers. It is a firm belief of our editorial board that historians of science can contribute substantially to the scientific education of both students and the general public, especially at a time when debates over "intelligent design" are raising major questions not only over what counts as science but also on what ought to be available to students in their school curricula. The journal, therefore, invites papers on the utilization of history of science in science education.

Last but not least, *Amagest* is edited by the network of history of science of Southeastern Europe, and therefore it aims to constitute a forum for the historians of science in Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean. *Amagest* will promote their research and make it known to the international community of historians of science.

For more information, see: <http://www.hpdst.gr/publications/almagest>

### **HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science**

At long last HOPOS has its own journal. Published by the University of Chicago Press, the first issue is scheduled to appear Spring 2011 in both print and electronic formats.

The editors invite submission of article-length manuscripts to be published in HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science.

We seek to publish highest-quality scholarship concerning the history of philosophical discussions about science. The history of philosophy of science is broadly construed to include topics in the history of related disciplines, in all time periods and all geographical areas, using diverse methodologies. The journal aims to:

- \* provide an outlet for interdisciplinary work
- \* increase the already unusually high level of participation of international scholars in the history of the philosophy of science
- \* raise the level of work in the history of philosophy of science by publishing scholarship that helps to explain the links among philosophy, science, and mathematics, along with the social, economic, and political context, which is indispensable for a genuine understanding of the history of philosophy.

HOPOS scholarship is firmly concerned with situating philosophical understandings of science within the broader historical and philosophical settings in which they were developed, and against the backdrop of mainstream issues in philosophical thought,

covering epistemological, methodological, metaphysical, and moral issues relevant to the growth of our knowledge of the world and human nature.

The journal does not limit submissions to HOPOS members. Scholars from all related disciplines are encouraged to submit to the journal. The length of articles is flexible, and all articles published in HOPOS are peer reviewed.

Please see the HOPOS journal home page at

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/hopos/current> <<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/hopos/current>> for further information

and for author instructions.

## Eloge: Fernand Hallyn (1945-2009)

On 11 July 2009 Fernand Hallyn passed away after a five-year long fight against cancer. With his death we lost a unique intellectual mentor and personal friend. As far as Hallyn's intellectual stature and debt goes, however, we appear to have lost two persons instead of one. In his work he mixed literary theory and history of literature, on the one hand, and history of science and intellectual thought, on the other, in innovative and unsurpassed ways.

Born in Bruges (Belgium) shortly after World War II, on 20 September 1945, Hallyn studied Romance philology in the 1960s at the *Rijksuniversiteit Gent* as the State University in the city of Ghent was then called (now Ghent University). After obtaining his *licenciaat* degree in 1967 Hallyn chose for a career as a teacher of French at the *Rijksnormaalschool* in Kortrijk. This career was short, but the love of teaching and his belief in the importance of teaching stayed with him for the rest of life. His later investments in the development of a university curriculum for the education of teachers of French as well as his conviction that the history of science had an important role to play in the teaching of the sciences testify to this love.

In 1970 Hallyn returned to Ghent University. In 1974 he was awarded a doctoral degree for his dissertation on metaphor in French Baroque poetry under the supervision of Roger Dragonetti, who in those very same years was appointed as Professor of Romance Langue and Litterature of the Middle Ages at the University of Geneva. The author of *Dante pèlerin de la Sainte Face* and *Un fantôme dans le kiosque* on Mallarmé was a permanent inspiration to him. In Hallyn's recent publications on dissimulation in literature and on the 'silvae' he still quoted Dragonetti's book on forgeries in the novel of the Middle Ages and his article on Quintilian. Hallyn's dissertation, *Formes métaphoriques dans la poésie lyrique de l'âge baroque en France*, was published in 1975 with Droz in Geneva. Ghent University had the good fortune of seeing Hallyn converted to a faculty position, and finally to a full professorship in 1987. During all those years he taught courses on the history of French Literature at Ghent University, and from 1976, also at the *Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen* (now University of Antwerp).

Meanwhile, he published widely on the topic of his dissertation, French literature and the metaphor in particular. He cast his net ever wider including literary theory (*Paradigmes dans les études littéraires*, Ghent, 1979), trying to get rid of what he called impressionistic and freewheeling literary critique, but also focusing on art history (with a paper on Hans Holbein's *The Ambassadors* which derived from his life-long interest in anamorphoses and *mise en abyme* in 1980) and on the history of science with a first publication on Kepler's *Somnium* in the *Bibliothèque d'Humanisme et Renaissance*, one of the many leading journals to which editorial boards he would be elected in later years, also in 1980. A number of these articles were collected in *Le sens des formes* (Geneva, Droz, 1994). All the while, his original interests in the study of French literature stayed with him until the end of his life. His article on the prologue of Gargantua, on the irony in *Le Songe* of Du Bellay, on the anthropomorphic landscape painted by Arcimboldo or the metaphor of the 'Book of Nature' in the work of Nicholas of Cusa are eloquent examples of Hallyn's method. By connecting his expertise on literary history to the newest discoveries in linguistics, psychoanalysis and philosophy, Hallyn tried to renew the interpretation of canonical texts and artworks. During the last months of his life he worked on a paper on Arcimboldo for a conference to be held in Paris, during a prestigious exhibition, and on a book on the use and meaning of metaphors, especially the 'pillars of Hercules', in which he wanted to discuss the analyses of Hans Blumenberg, so formative of his own work.

Hallyn developed his paper on Kepler's *Somnium* in to the final chapter of *La structure poétique du monde* (Paris, Seuil, 1987). This is perhaps Hallyn's most important work, and arguably, his most influential, especially in the Anglophone world. As Hallyn's only work, originally written in French, that was translated in English (*The Poetic Structure of the*

*World*, New York, Zone Books, 1990) it was widely read and primarily shaped the reception of Hallyn's work in the United States. Shortly thereafter, in 1992 Hallyn was invited to come to Princeton University as the Whitney J. Oates Fellow of the Humanities. Going beyond the history of ideas (which he identified with the work of Alexandre Koyré) and Michel Foucault's archeology of knowledge, in this book, Hallyn wished to develop a 'poetics' of science applied to the cases of two giants of the Scientific Revolution, Copernicus and Kepler. With this 'poetics' he hoped to grasp the evasive process by which hypotheses in science are established, and to this end, he concentrated on the study of the use of metaphor and analogy, but also of other tropes which could not be subsumed within the category of metaphors. In *The Poetic Structure of the World* he described 'mathematical aspects of the Copernican proposition in terms of *metaphor*, its optical implications in terms of *metonymy*, and its physical innovations in terms of *synecdoche*.' (p. 29). Since both Copernicus and Kepler considered the world the work of a divine poet, Hallyn reached back through the poetics of Copernicus and Kepler to the 'poetic structure of the world'. He did not conceive of the relation between literature and science as one between external and internal, or one of cause and effect. Hallyn's point of departure in the history of science was its discursive dimension, the texts, and he was interested in intertextuality, that is, in the discovery of the 'intertextual presuppositions' which, for example, Renaissance art and Copernican astronomy shared. His ultimate aim (here and elsewhere) was to show that science belonged to the Renaissance.

It is essential to stress that Hallyn never neglected the study of the original texts. He was not fascinated by literary theory and philosophy for the only purpose of producing some pages on literary theory. Hallyn's writings consist mostly of interpretative commentaries on the works of major thinkers of past ages. He considered the study of the early modern texts for the meanings they acquired in the period of their production crucial to understand our own era. Therefore, he favoured the close reading of early modern texts. He edited and translated Galileo's *Sidereus Nuncius*, published in 1610 (*Galilée: Le messager des étoiles*, Paris, Seuil, 1992) and he organised a conference on Descartes' lost manuscript *Olympica* (of which the proceedings were published as *Les Olympiques de Descartes*, Geneva, Droz, 1995). Hallyn's introduction to his translation of *Sidereus Nuncius* was complimentary to his earlier studies of Copernicus and Kepler. He closely studied Galileo's use of metaphors in the text of *Sidereus Nuncius*, and he developed the more general thesis that the analogy was 'le complément conceptuel de la lunette' (p. 96). Hallyn continued to return to the central texts of Galileo, Kepler and Descartes. A number of his papers, including his study of Kepler, 'La troisième loi de Kepler et la psychologie de la découverte' published in this journal in 1993, were brought together in *Les structures rhétoriques de la science* (Paris, Seuil, 2004). Hallyn's aims were not limited to the study of the rhetoric of science in the sense of an analysis of ways of persuasion in scientific communication, but he envisaged the study of science in its making or the formation of representations, that is a 'poetics' of science, which in this book he also called 'une rhétorique profonde'. From his poetical study of Kepler to his rhetorical analysis of Sadi Carnot he emphasized that he aimed at the understanding of how scientists arrived at the formulation of problems, a highly important aspect of scientific creativity which escaped even the most recent approaches in logic and psychology. In his recent work Hallyn applied his methods and insights, which he had successfully elaborated for texts of the early modern period, to the thermodynamics of James Clerk Maxwell and others in the nineteenth century.

From the mid-1990s Hallyn became increasingly concerned with the establishment of a stronger institutional basis for the history of science at the local, national and international levels. Besides his service, in his role as Professor of French Literature, as Chair of the Department of French at Ghent University, and member and president of the Commission for Languages and Literature of the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research (FWO), he found time to serve the history of science profession in Belgium as member and president of the National Committee for Logic, Philosophy and History of Science and to serve on the first advisory board of the Dutch (and later Belgian-Dutch) journal for history of science *Gewina* (now *Studium*). He enthusiastically supported the establishment of the European Society for

History of Science and served on its first scientific board from 2003. In 2005 he also was elected to corresponding membership of the International Academy of History of Science.

In those same years Hallyn, generous with his time and his ideas, also supervised numerous doctoral dissertations on topics in early modern history of science and beyond - on Buffon and on Gemma Frisius' annotations to Copernicus' *De Revolutionibus*; on Galileo, Montaigne, Calvin and Racine - reflecting the remarkably wide scope of his interests and expertise. In 2003, together with the university historian Hilde De Ridder-Symoens and his students he also established a Centre for History of Science at Ghent University providing the history of science with the institutional basis, which it never had in the birth town of George Sarton.

While we were packing to leave together to the International Summer School on the 'Impact of the Humanities on European Science', organized by William Shea at the *Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti* in June 2004, the shocking news came that Fernand was diagnosed with cancer. He did not make it to Venice that year, but fortunately his illness was not the end of his intellectual life. In the following years he heroically fought against cancer. Although he was obliged to spend increasingly more time at the hospital for therapy, admirably, he found the intellectual energy not only to deliver papers at conferences (when he was permitted to travel) and to publish numerous articles, but also to publish no fewer than two books. In 2006 *Descartes: dissimulation et ironie* (Geneva, Droz) appeared, in which he connected the prudent writings of Balthasar Gracian to the hermeneutics of Cartesian philosophy, distinguishing two types of irony: a figure that not only allowed to express dangerous heterodoxies or compromising thoughts, but also provided the text with a sense the author ignored. In 2008 his well-received intellectual biography of the mathematician Gemma Frisius, professor at Leuven University, was published, with the title *Gemma Frisius, arpenteur de la terre et du ciel* (Paris, Honoré Champion). Hallyn succeeded in finding coherence in Gemma Frisius's work by portraying him as a cosmographer, connecting his interests in geography with those in Copernican astronomy. The papers elsewhere in this volume, delivered at a conference at Ghent University and the University of Leuven which Hallyn initiated and inspired, document his interest in the history of cosmography in the final years of his life. We dedicate the volume to his memory.

In spite of his illness Hallyn was relentless in his efforts to entrust his ideas to paper and to publish his books on Descartes and Gemma Frisius. At the age of 63, with still two years to go to his retirement, he expressed as his only desire that he would still be able to teach for two years - testimony to the importance he attributed to teaching. Alas, it was differently decided.

Sven Dupré - Alexander Roose (Ghent University)



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