

ESHS

European Society for the History of Science

Newsletter n° 8

ii. Conferences and other events

Austria

Epistemic Vehicles in the Human Sciences. A Conference in Memory of Lydia Marinelli

Vienna, July 23-25, 2009

Organizer: Andreas Mayer (MPIWG) in cooperation with the Institut für Wissenschaft und Kunst in Vienna

Lydia Marinelli (1965-2008) was one of the finest and most inventive Austrian historians and curators of her generation. Although scholars will remember mostly her original and inspiring attempts to renew the historiography of psychoanalysis and her exhibitions, her work had also wider implications with regard to the ways knowledge is generated and transmitted in the human sciences. At a time when historiographical approaches were mostly discipline-bound and text-oriented, opening up the world of the book and of other media in relation to psychoanalysis involved a major reframing of the historical enterprise in this domain. Marinelli's analyses of the role of visual technologies and of the critical function of the archive and the museum in the transmission of psychoanalytic knowledge constitutes a challenge for traditional intellectual histories. This conference will honour her memory by investigating the dynamics of the major knowledge vehicles in the human sciences: books, journals and other print media, the role of the visual arts and technologies and the multiple ways museum objects can spur epistemic processes. Special attention should be given to those fleeting and recalcitrant objects that haunt especially the sciences dealing with mental phenomena. Studying the often paradoxical attempts to track the ephemeral can yield new ways to think about what seems most evident and familiar to us.

Participants: John C. Burnham, Jacqueline Carroy, James Chandler, Lorraine Daston, John Forrester, Baudouin Jurdant, Ruth Leys, Elizabeth Lunbeck, Andreas Mayer, Angela Mayer-Deutsch, Alexandre Métraux, Hans-Walter Schmidt-Hannisa, Hans-Jörg Rheinberger, Alison Winter, Barbara Wittmann.

Registration is necessary for this event. Further details on program and registration will be published on this site by the end of June.

Further material:

<http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/workshops/en/epistemic-vehicles.html>

France

IET 36th Annual History Weekend

Thursday 10th - Sunday 13th September 2009
MULHOUSE, Alsace, France

A conference on engineering history organised by the IET History of Technology TPN in collaboration with IET France and the Société d'Electricité, de l'Electronique et des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (SEE).

36th ANNUAL IET HISTORY WEEKEND MEETING

For the first time in the history of these Weekends the 36th event will be held outside the British Isles in 2009. The chosen location is Mulhouse, Alsace, France. Mulhouse is an especially suitable location as described below, having many museums and providing opportunities for interesting visits.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Members of the IET and all others interested in the history of engineering and technology are invited to submit papers for possible inclusion in the programme of events outlined below. Whilst the language of the event will be English, offers of papers in French will also be considered. Organisers are keen to receive offers of papers on railway and electrical (especially nuclear) power generation history, particularly related to France and Western Europe.

MULHOUSE

Mulhouse (pronounced Mul-ooze) is the industrial capital of Alsace. It borders both Germany and Switzerland, being about 25 minutes from Basel (Switzerland) and 30 minutes from Freiburg on the edge of the Black Forest (Germany). Located between the Vosges mountains and the Rhine. It sits at the southern end of Alsace near the start of the Jura mountain range. It is also near to the wine routes of the area.

Mulhouse Historical Associations

As an important and long standing industrial location Mulhouse is rich with museums of interest to IET members and those interested in the history of science, engineering and technology including among others:-

- French National Railway Museum,
- EDF 'Electropolis' (Museum of Electricity),
- Automobile Museum,
- Firefighters Museum,
- Museum of Printed Textiles (like Manchester, Mulhouse was a major cotton city)

As a location it therefore provides facilities for a number of interesting museum visits and the chance to attract talks on non-UK topics.

Travel to Mulhouse

The most economical method of travel to Mulhouse from the UK will be by budget airline Easyjet to Basel then onward to Mulhouse .

Alternatively UK members could travel by train (Eurostar) to Lille or Paris then onwards by TGV to Mulhouse.

Since the Conference location could be used as a springboard for a late summer holiday in the surrounding area e.g. Black Forest, some attendees may consider using their own car to get to Mulhouse.

Conference Accommodation

Unlike the traditional UK events the Mulhouse Weekend will be held in a hotel. A selection of hotels in various price ranges will be supplied so that attendees can make their own choice of accommodation. It is hoped to keep the costs below £300 per attendee.

REGISTRATION

Details of how to register for attendance will be published on the IET website and elsewhere as soon as details are finalised.

MULHOUSE PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Because of the increased scope for visits the proposal is to start the Weekend on a Thursday rather than the usual Friday ending on Sunday lunchtime as is traditional.

Thursday 10 September 2009

Arrival and registration in Conference hotel in Mulhouse

1st papers presentation session at Conference hotel followed by dinner.

Friday 11 September 2009

Plans for today include a visit to the construction site of the Rhine-Rhone TGV rail link, including a presentation on the project

2nd papers presentation session at Conference hotel followed by dinner.

Saturday 12 September 2009

Plans for Saturday include a guided tour of Cité du Train, the French National Railway Museum and the adjacent EDF Electropolis Museum of Electricity, both in Mulhouse

3rd papers presentation session at the Conference hotel followed by the Conference dinner.

Sunday 13 September 2009

Plans for Sunday may include the final papers presentation session at the Conference hotel and/or a guided tour of Mulhouse followed by a farewell lunch at a traditional restaurant.

GUIDANCE TO AUTHORS

Accepted papers will be published and copies lodged in the IET Library and made available electronically. Although the length of final published papers is, within reason, unrestricted authors must note that presentation time at the meeting is limited to 30 minutes maximum which must include an allowance for questions. More detailed guidance will be provided to authors whose abstracts are accepted.

ABSTRACTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Respondents to this Call for Papers are requested to submit an abstract, not exceeding 100 words, explaining the topic and scope of their proposed paper for consideration by the Programme Committee. Abstracts should be submitted by the end of April 2009, preferably by Email to amarvin@theiet.org alternatively written abstracts may be posted to:-

The Manager
History of Technology TPN
Archives Department
The IET
Savoy Place
London
WC2R 0BL
UK

Authors of accepted papers should note that copies of their final paper will be required before the Conference commences so that printed copies can be made available to attendees.

10th annual meeting: UNIVERSEUM Network Meeting

UNIVERSEUM Network Meeting

Universite' Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, 11-13 June 2009

In 2009, UNIVERSEUM will hold its 10th annual meeting at the Universite' Paul Sabatier in Toulouse, France.

UNIVERSEUM invites submissions of papers devoted to university heritage in its broad sense, tangible and intangible, namely the preservation, study, access and promotion of university collections, museums, archives, libraries, and buildings of historical and scientific significance.

Topics of interest will include (but are not restricted to):

- Enhancing and Promoting our Knowledge about European University Museums, Collections and Archives
- Preserving and Documenting Contemporary Science and Humanities in Universities
- European Projects to Study and Increase Access to University Heritage

Please send proposals of no more than 200 words to the email address below before 31 March 2009. Include a short biography highlighting main research interests (no more than 50 words).

Presentations are limited to 30 minutes, including 10 minutes for discussion.

Language: English

UNIVERSEUM vividly encourages the submission of abstracts from doctoral students.

Registrations, Abstract Submissions, Preliminary Programme & Practical Information:

<http://www.ups-tlse.fr/universeum09/>

Contact:

Catherine Gadon, Universite' Paul Sabatier
universeum09@adm.ups-tlse.fr

UNIVERSEUM website
www.universeum.it

Germany

Human Nature and Self-Design

International Conference by the Postgraduate Programme Bioethics at the Interdepartmental Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW) of the University of Tuebingen

Tuebingen, July 30th - August 1st, 2009

“What is the human being?” is considered to be the key question of anthropology. Throughout history anthropologists have interpreted this question in different ways and have often inferred moral conclusions from their answers. Such discussions about anthropological statements and their moral dimension gain new importance when we think about possibilities of self-design brought to us by modern biotechniques. Human traits, so far conceived as unchangeable, are now subject to individual design. For that reason, the traditional question about human nature and its moral inference has to be reconsidered in new ways.

To clarify some of the problems emerging in this context, the Postgraduate Programme "Bioethics - Self-Design of Human Beings by the Use of Biotechniques" (GRK 889/3 of the German Research Foundation, DFG) at the Interdepartmental Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW) of the University of Tuebingen hosts an international, anglophonic and interdisciplinary conference on „Human Nature and Self-Design“ from July 30th till August 1st, 2009. The conference includes a wide spectrum of aspects about human nature and its capabilities for self-design, starting with the discussion of anthropological facets and ending with the embedding of modern and future biotechniques in ethical analysis. The aim of the conference is to reconsider modern concepts of human nature as broadly as possible. A special focus lies on normative implications of anthropological debates.

Speakers include Josep Call, Jens Clausen, Jean-Jacques Hublin, Ferdinand Hucho, Peter Kramer, Hans-Peter Krüger, Gerald E. Loeb, Neil Roughley, Gregor Schiemann, Thomas Schramme, and Volker Sommer. Please find further information on programme, registration and accommodation under www.hnsd.uni-tuebingen.de/en. If you have any questions, feel free to contact hnsd@uni-tuebingen.de.

Observation, Evidence and Reason in the Long Renaissance: The Arts Course Between the Reformation and the Early Enlightenment

This workshop attempts to answer some fundamental questions in the study of the intellectual history of early modern England.

Berlin, April 27-28, 2009
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Boltzmannstr. 22
14195 Berlin

organized by:
Dr. D. C. Andersson dandersson@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de
Dr. R. W. Serjeantson rws1001@cam.ac.uk

For general registration queries, please contact rheld@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Hungary

XXIII International Congress of History of Science and Technology Ideas and Instruments in Social Context

28 July - 2 August 2009
Budapest, Hungary

The Hungarian National IUHPS Committee is pleased to invite you to attend and take an active part in the XXIII International Congress of History of Science and Technology in Budapest between 28 July - 2 August, 2009.

Please visit the Congress web page:
<http://www.conferences.hu/ichs09/>, where you will find the Second Circular of the Congress, the lists of Regular Sessions and accepted Symposia, the Abstract Form, the Grant Application Form, the Registration Form etc. NB: The deadline for grant application and abstract submission has now passed.

Mathematics and Narrative: Bringing Mathematics back to the Cultural Mainstream

Summer course at the Central European University in Budapest, July 20-24, 2009

For several centuries now mathematics has been a primary tool of modern science and technology, twin pillars of the modern world. It is therefore startling to note the marginal place of higher mathematics within current mainstream thought and culture, and the widespread alienation from the field by both intellectuals and the broader public. Unlike philosophy, history, literary studies, and even the physical sciences, higher mathematics has become practically irrelevant to mainstream cultural discourse.

The course confronts this fundamental anomaly by noting that the marginalization of mathematics is of relatively recent origins, and is rooted in a particular historical narrative. This story has shaped both the practice of mathematics and its relationship to other fields of knowledge, placing it in direct opposition to the human world. In the course we will seek to question this seemingly self-evident opposition by exposing the deep and complex interconnections between the mathematical and narrative modes of thought. This will not only open up novel perspectives on the history and philosophy of mathematics, but, it is hoped, will help bridge the chasm that now separates mathematics from mainstream thought.

Course faculty:

Amir Alexander, History, UCLA; Apostolos Doxiadis, Writer, Athens; Karl Hall, History, Central European University; Ted Porter, History, UCLA; Arkady Plotnitsky, English, Purdue University; Joan L Richards, History, Brown University; Janos Tanacs, Philosophy, Budapest University of Technology and Economics.

Guest speakers:

Markus Asper, Classics, NYU; George Szpiro, Journalist, Zürich.

Target group is graduate students, faculty and researchers. No formal pre-requisites, but an understanding of the central issues of the cultural production of knowledge is highly desirable.

The language of instruction: English

Tuition fee: EUR 250. Financial aid is available.

Application deadline: March 16, 2009

Online application: <http://www.sun.ceu.hu/apply>

Attachments to be sent to: sun09-mathematics@ceu.hu

Italy

From Generation to Reproduction - Knowledge and Techniques from the Renaissance to the Present Day. 28.06.2009 - 05.07.2009

XI Summer School on the History of the Life Sciences

Directors: Janet Browne (Harvard), Bernardino Fantini (Geneva), Christiane Groeben (Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Naples), Nick Hopwood (Cambridge), Hans-Jörg Rheinberger (Berlin)

Funding: Wellcome Trust, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn

Ischia Summer School

This week-long summer school provides advanced training in history of the life sciences, a lively international field that offers a long-term perspective on some of the most significant ideas, practices and institutions in the world today. The event attracts expert faculty and well-qualified students for a combination of lectures, seminar discussion and student presentations in a historically rich and naturally beautiful setting. We aim to encourage exchange of ideas across disciplinary boundaries, national cultures and historical periods. English is the working language and readings are circulated in advance. We can accommodate up to 25 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and also accept established researchers seeking to enter a new field. The biennial school, which looks back on a distinguished tradition of association with the Stazione Zoologica, was revived in 2005 after a break of some two decades and again ran successfully in 2007. It is held in Villa Dohrn, the current Laboratory of Benthic Ecology and former summer house of the founder Anton Dohrn, situated above the port of the gorgeous island of Ischia and overlooking the Gulf of Naples.

Introduction to the theme

Since World War II 'artificial insemination', 'the pill', 'replication', 'in vitro fertilization', 'embryo transfer' and 'cloning' have made news and become household words across the globe. Reproductive biology continues to produce profound innovation and face intense public debate. This summer school goes behind the headlines to take a longer and broader view. Within a pluralistic framework that highlights key historiographical resources and questions, rather than particular answers, we focus on knowledge and techniques from the Renaissance to the present day.

For further information:

http://www.szn.it/SZNWeb/cmd/ShowArchiveItem?TYPE_ID=EVENTI&ITEM_ID=20835&LANGUAGE_ID=2

Netherlands

Network of Health of the European Social Science History Association Conference (ESSHC), at Ghent, Belgium, 13 - 16 April 2010. Call for Papers

Proposals are invited for panels or individual papers of any subject dealing with the social history of health. While individual papers are welcome, panels consisting of three or - preferably - four contributors and one chair and discussant (who can be the same person) have a higher chance of being accepted. We particularly encourage panels organised around a central theme with papers covering different perspectives on this theme, especially those with comparative approach, bringing together contributions on different regions and / or time periods. Panel participants should come from different institutes and preferably from different countries. We reserve the right to re-arrange panels and contributors as appears necessary in view of the incoming applications.

Suggestions are particularly encouraged on the topics listed below. But proposals on other topics are very welcome as well.

1. Global Health - Possible sub-themes: travels of disease; the ecological imperialism revisited; globalisation; plague, cholera, Aids, SARS .
2. Temporary health issues: the emergence and disappearance of perceived

medical topics.

3. Occupational Health - including injuries, insurance, long-term health hazards .
4. Health as Commodity - Themes: developments of the market for medication, health foods and other health products; interaction between physicians, scientists and businessmen
5. Health in numbers - presenting ways of interpreting historical health data, either as case studies or from a theoretical point of view.
6. Nutrition as Health Factor - how has it interacted with cultural, economic and ideological aspects?
7. Health and warfare - how has health interacted with the - historically common - situation of warfare (war injuries, blockades, bacteriological warfare.)?
8. Health and normality - how have common conceptions changed about healthy, normal, sub-normal or pathological conditions?
9. Health in non-Western societies - addressing themes of health and medicine in societies outside of Europe and non-indigenous North America and Australia.
10. History of health as interdisciplinary project - room for overlap and cooperation with medicine, biology, economics, political science .

Panel chairs can also act as discussants. Discussants have an important role in stimulating discussions, which should take up a substantial part of the panel time. They can identify central issues of the papers, point of similarities and differences, raise individual or general questions or otherwise broaden the perspective on the overall themes of the panels

The deadline is May 1, 2009.

Visit <http://www.iisg.nl/esshc> for:

- a.. General information on the biannual conferences
- b.. The organising institution
- c.. Registration (including paper proposal procedures)

For questions, suggestions etc., please write to:
Enrique Perdiguero-Gil: quique@umh.es
and/or
Iris Borowy: iris.borowy@uni-rostock.de

Spain

Convivencia: Representations, Knowledge, and Identities (500-1600 AD)

organized by:
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)
Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science (MPG)

May 28-30, 2009, Madrid, Spain

For more Information:

<http://xserve05.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/convivencia/home.html>

5th European Spring School of History of Science and Popularization: international workshop "Radioactivity in the Public Sphere"

Maó (Menorca), 21-23 May 2009

Institut Menorquí d'Estudis (IME)

Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica (SCHCT)

European Society for the History of Science (ESHS)

Centre d'Història de la Ciència (CEHIC), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Radioactivity and nuclear energy have featured extensively in media since early 20th century, and therefore constitute an excellent terrain to study the interaction between science and its publics. Being initially portrayed as a medical and technological wonder, the destructive power released in Hiroshima and Nagasaki reinforced fears about the damaging effects of radioactivity. This double-faced nature, which mirrors the dual character of being a heavily promoted and much contested science, makes radioactivity a most interesting vehicle to explore discipline building strategies through the media, popular appropriations and risk management strategies.

The fifth edition of the European Spring School will focus on two major issues: the historical evolution of public perception of radioactivity, and the role of media in shaping public perception of radioactivity's benefits and dangers. A variety of actors would be considered in this discussion, including scientists, the state and the media.

Scientific Coordinator: Néstor Herran.

Organizing Committee: Àlvar Martínez-Vidal, Néstor Herran, Josep Miquel Vidal, Jaume Sastre, Yoko Tochigi, Sara Lugo.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 21 May 2009

Morning

11:00 Participants welcome

Evening session

16:00-16:30 Opening address

Néstor Herran (CEHIC, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

16:30-17:30 "Marie Curie and the public image of radioactivity"

Xavier Roqué (Centre d'Història de la Ciència, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

17:30-18:00 Discussion

Friday 22 May 2009

Morning session

9:00-10:30 "Radioactivity and government civil defence advice to the public, 1945-68"

Melissa Smith (Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Manchester)

10:30-11:00 Discussion

11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 "Radioactivity as Social and Public Problem: Governing Radioactivity Risks"
Soraya Boudia (Institut de Recherches Interdisciplinaires sur les Sciences et la Technologie, Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg)

13:00-13:30 Discussion

Evening session

16:00-17:30 "Nuclear medical technologies on the screen: using Spanish official newsreel (NO-DO) as a source for the history of the public image of radioactivity in Franco Spain"
Alfredo Menéndez-Navarro (Departamento de A. P. e Historia de la Ciencia, Universidad de Granada)

17:30-18:00 Discussion

Saturday 23 May 2009

Morning session

10:00-11:30 Round table: "The public image of radioactivity in historical perspective"
Chairman: Bruno Strasser (Department of History, Yale University)

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-13:00 General discussion

The School sessions and discussion will be conducted in English

Place: Institut Menorquí d'Estudis (Camí des Castell, Maó, Menorca)

REGISTRATION

Registration Pack 1: 300 euros
(includes conference fees, lodging in individual room and lunches)

Registration Pack 2: 200 euros
(includes conference fees, lodging in shared room and lunches)

Registration Pack 3: 100 euros
(includes conference fees and lunches)

DISCOUNT

Early registrants (before March 20th, 2009) receive a 50 euros discount on conference fees.

DEADLINES

March 20th, 2009: deadline for registration with discount

April, 20th, 2009: deadline for registration

May, 21-23, 2009: Spring School

PAYMENT PROCEDURE

The organisation strongly recommends payment by means of bank transfer to the bank account 2100 0963 67 0200031280, IBAN: ES30 2100 0963 6702 0003 1280 (Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona, Office 0963, carrer del Carme 44, 08001 Barcelona).

Payment by credit card or cheque is also possible. Ask the organisation for the special form.

[<http://schct.iec.cat/school/registrationschool.doc>]REGISTRATION FORM

Registration forms can be downloaded from the of the 5th European Spring School webpage at the SCHCT website: [<http://schct.iec.cat/school/spring09.htm>

For further information please contact:

Institut d'Estudis Catalans
Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica
Carrer del Carme 47 - 08001 Barcelona
[<mailto:schct@iec.cat>]schct@iec.cat
Tel. +34 93 324 85 81
Fax: +34 93 270 11 89

[<http://www.ime.cat/>]<http://schct.iec.cat>

[<http://schct.iec.cat/school/spring07.htm#programa>]previous schools

United Kingdom

The Long View: 400 Years of the Telescope

On 16-17 July the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich will be holding a two-day international conference in celebration of the anniversary of the announcement of the telescope and the International Year of Astronomy 2009.

Further details can be found at

<http://www.nmm.ac.uk/researchers/conferences-and-seminars/thelongview>

The Long View: 400 Years of the Telescope, 16-17 July 2009

In the autumn of 1608 a spectacle-maker named Hans Lipperhey presented a new invention to the States-General of the Dutch Republic for their consideration. Initially described as an instrument 'by means of which all things at a very great distance can be seen as if they were nearby', the device was given the name telescope three years later. By then the new instrument was being made throughout Europe and its use by Galileo and his contemporaries was raising challenging questions about the nature of the universe. Since then, the telescope has had a profound impact on all our lives, as an everyday aid to vision and an iconic tool of science.

In celebration of that anniversary and of the International Year of Astronomy 2009, this conference will explore the broad history of the telescope over its first four centuries. The instrument's use in astronomy is a central theme, but speakers will also reveal other aspects of the social, cultural and artistic legacy of the first instrument to extend one of the human senses.

Venue

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Programme

Thursday 16 July

09.15-09.45 Registration and coffee

09.45-10.00 Welcome and introduction

10.00-11.00 Professor Eileen Reeves, Princeton University
Real fakes: pre-telescopic devices on the English stage

11.00-11.30 Coffee

11.30-12.00 Dr Marvin Bolt, Adler Planetarium, Chicago
Towards a more diplomatic understanding: the techniques, materials, and politics of early 17th-century telescopes

12.00-12.30 Dr Frédérique Aït-Touati, University of Oxford
Kepler's technologies: optical fiction and telescopic observation

12.30-13.00 Discussion

13.00-14.00 Lunch, Orangery of the Queen's House

14.00-14.30 Dr Jennifer Downes, University of Aberdeen
Hevelius's Selenographia: using telescopes to explore and map the Moon in the 17th century

14.30-15.00 Alexi Baker, University of Oxford
The telescope's tale: popular ownership of the instrument and its symbolism in early 18th-century London

15.00-15.30 Discussion

15.30-16.00 Tea

16.00-17.00 Professor Timon Screech, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
Telescopes and metaphors of seeing in early modern Japan

17.00-18.30 Reception in the Queen's House, National Maritime Museum

Friday 17 July

09.30-10.00 Registration and coffee

10.00-11.00 Professor Patrick Parrinder, University of Reading
Beyond the telescope: the hypertelescopic imagination from Kepler to the 20th century

11.00-11.30 Coffee

11.30-12.00 Nicky Reeves, University of Cambridge
Disciplining materials and bodies: Nevil Maskelyne and the construction of the zenith sector

12.00-12.30 Dr John McAleer, National Maritime Museum
Observatories, their telescopes and scientific 'views' of empire at the Cape of Good Hope, 1820-40

12.30-13.00 Discussion

13.00-14.00 Lunch, Orangery of the Queen's House

14.00-14.30 Dr Jon Agar, University College London
The place of the Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope reassessed

14.30-15.00 Dr Richard Dunn, National Maritime Museum
Politics, progress and the pastoral: telescopes in modern film

15.00-15.30 Discussion

15.30-16.00 Tea

16.00-16.30 Professor Isobel Hook, University of Oxford
The world's biggest optical telescopes, present and future

16.30-17.15 Discussion and close

Registration information

Dates

Thursday 16 July 09.15-17.00, followed by Evening reception 17.00-18.30

Friday 17 July 09.30-17.15

Locations

The Leopold Muller Lecture Theatre and Queen's House,
National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF

Registration

Registration will take place each day from 09.15 on Thursday and 09.30 on Friday

Registration fee

Full fee: £100.00

Concessions: £50.00 (NMM Members and students*)

Photocopy of student identification should be sent with booking form.

Early registration is advised. VAT is included in the fee.

NB. Fee includes all refreshments and conference materials.

Please complete the booking form and send with payment to the address below.

Payment

Payment must be received in pounds sterling. Cheques should be made payable to 'National Maritime Museum/CONF'. Payment may be made by Mastercard or Visa.

Cancellation

A refund of fees (less 20% administration charge) will be given, provided that notice of cancellation is received in writing on or before 1 July 2009. After this date no refunds will be given. Substitutions may be made at any time but please advise conference staff as soon as possible.

Enquiries

Mrs Janet Norton, Research Administrator

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 9NF

Tel: 020 8312 6716

Fax: 020 8312 6592

E-mail: research@nmm.ac.uk

Website: www.nmm.ac.uk/conferences

Call for Submissions - Shortness - Tate Modern - 20 June 2009

Shortness - a very short conference and a very long dinner

Deadline Friday 20 March 2009

This event will bring together practitioners and theoreticians of the humanities, arts and sciences to extol or berate, to discuss, explore and explain shortness in all its spatial and temporal manifestations.

Topics that Shortness aims to cover include: aphorisms, txt msgs, short attention spans, nanophilology, music samples, ephemeral relationships, short narratives, punch lines, orgasms and other short-lived entities and phenomena (insects and fashion).

The conference itself will only last a few hours and will be followed by a very long dinner. Guests will be entertained by short dinner speeches and the whole event will be supplemented by short films and various interventions.

This call invites submissions for presentations or performances of up to 7 minutes to take place during the long dinner. Please note that we cannot cover any expenses incurred nor can we accommodate installations.

Speakers include DJ Spooky, Sadie Plant, Tom Shakespeare, Clare Wigfall and Steven Connor amongst others. The Compère for the dinner will be Nicholas Parsons.

Please send an abstract of no more than 200 words to the organisers and include a short bio of no more than 100 words.

Contact:

[wmailto:short.at.tate@googlemail.com]short.at.tate@googlemail.com

Shortness is organised by Irini Marinaki, Konstantinos Stefanis, Ricarda Vidal and Tate Modern Public Programmes in collaboration with The London Consortium and the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies, School of Advanced Study (University of London).

Darwin in the Field: Collecting, Observation and Experiment

A multi-disciplinary conference, University of Cambridge

Dates: Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th July 2009

This conference will focus on Charles Darwin's (1809 - 1882) practical work in the field and examine the geological, zoological and anthropological data, observations and experiments upon which he built his subsequent theorizing. It will take place at the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences in Cambridge as part of the programme of events to mark Darwin's 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. Associated events include a major new HLF-funded exhibition and original research on Darwin's work as a geologist based on the rocks and minerals that he collected on the Voyage of the *Beagle* (1831 - 1836) now held in the collections of the Sedgwick.

Although the *Beagle* Expedition was Darwin's major and perhaps most widely known period of fieldwork activity, we hope this conference will explore and illuminate how and where he acquired practical skills prior to the Voyage (such as his fieldtrip to Wales with Sedgwick and his

scientific education in general). The smaller projects that he subsequently undertook in later years including plant and animal breeding, barnacles and earthworms could also be examined.

We are also interested in exploring how Darwin collected and documented objects and what selection criteria he used prior to their inclusion in his theories and publications. Darwin's collections are still very much alive and subsequent scientists have utilised them for different means. Finally, we are interested in exploring how they relate to present day science.

We invite papers from historians, museologists and scientists on the following themes in Darwin's life and work:

- * collecting practices
- * experimental/ identification practices in geology, palaeontology, zoology and chemistry
- * systems of naming and classification
- * work aboard the Beagle
- * theorizing using collected specimens
- * field notebooks and drawings
- * early scientific education and teachers in scientific practice
- * anthropological investigations
- * experiments at Down House
- * use of Darwin's collections and/or specimen theorizing in historical or contemporary scientific practice

If you are interested in presenting a paper, please submit a title and an abstract of no more than 500 words to Lyall Anderson (land07@esc.cam.ac.uk <<mailto:land07@esc.cam.ac.uk>>) by 20 March 2009.

United States

WHEATS 2009: Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology & Science

Call for Papers
WHEATS 2009:
Workshop for th

MSU will provide housing, food, and some funding to help defray travel costs. Potential participants should submit a one-page abstract and short curriculum vitae by April 15, 2009. 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 28, 2009. For further information, contact Jim Giesen at JGiesen@history.msstate.edu or Mark Hersey at MHersey@history.msstate.edu or visit the conference website:

<http://www.msstate.edu/dept/history/WHEATS/Home.html>

Please send submissions to: MHersey@history.msstate.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>>

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Book Review: *Scienze e Religioni: Il ruolo delle scienze naturali. Ipotesi di studio e prospettive*. Edited by Raffaele Pisano and Rafael Pascual (Trento: Editrice UNI Service, 2008). ISBN 9788861780521.

The ESHS was among the patrons of a workshop on “*ScienceS-ReligionS. The Role Played by Natural Sciences. Hypothesis of Study and Perspectives*” held in Latina (Italy) on February 28th, 2007. Historians, scientists, scholars, and graduate students were invited to attend a one-day workshop characterized by a multi-disciplinary approach to the discussion of the relationship between religious beliefs and modern science. Participants were asked to consider, from their respective perspectives and points of view, the interrelation between

sciences and religions both in its historical development and in today's main themes of discussion.

From the synopsis:

«In this book the reader will find the contributions of researchers and professors of sciences, history of sciences and philosophy of science. It includes very interesting and remarkable reflections around the problem of the relation science-religions, researched and produced with passion. Among them, obviously the relationship science-faith or science-theology. All of them move from structured thoughts upon problematic with regards to evolutionism and others topics by means of historical, mathematical and logical, dimensions. Each contribution has been freely expressed, according to the researchers' personal and professional convictions without interposing limits or obstacles to the dialogue and the general understanding.»

In the wide variety of themes, recalled by the main title of the workshop, the participants actually focussed mainly on three subjects: historical cases on the relationship between a given religion and science; religious aspects in today's discussions on evolutionism; and epistemological aspects on a pacific vs adversarial interaction.

In his essay on "*Historicity of Sciences and Religions: Tracks of an awareness*," Bordoni underlines the necessity that both science and religions recognise their respective historically evolving nature as a prerequisite for a fruitful dialogue. Bordoni considers as paradigmatic examples of an own development accepted by a religion the two different (priestly and yahwist) narrations of the creation in the *Bereshit* (as a first example of Judaism and Christianity as revelation-based religions evolving in time), and the two different descriptions of God (the self-sufficient God and the Demiurge) in Plato's cosmological *Timaios* (as different and coexisting non-revelation-based theological considerations on God, the second one compatible with a natural philosophy). Science is a cultural product developed in time, whose defining boundaries also evolved. As an example, Bordoni considers the case of the development of late XIX-century electromagnetism and its attempts to explain mental or spiritual phenomena. The *Dharma* (law, way) characterises a different multifaceted religious scenario. From the religious phenomena, called on the whole "Hinduism", which often refer to themselves as *Sanatana Dharma* (the "eternal law" or "eternal way"), to the several Buddhist school, eternity and historical development characterises the religious beliefs of many Asiatic cultures. The possible relationships between a *Dharma* religion and science are considered in Cerruti's essay on "*Zen Buddhism and Scientific Practice: A Sustainable Approach to the Dialogue Between Religion and Science*", which culminates in the author's opinion that the ethic principle of causality is the aspect in Buddhism which most resembles the homonym scientific principle.

The dialogue on religion and science between two people of very different religious background is analysed by Giannetto in his "*The Relationship between Religion and Science: Einstein and Tagore*". Giannetto compares the discussed cosmic religion envisaged in some writings of Albert Einstein and the religion of love and man as posted by Rabindranath Tagore. It is a noteworthy fact that both Einstein's and Tagore's religious background was that of religious minorities (resp. Judaism and Brahmoism). Giannetto reconnects Einstein and Tagore's ideas to the XX-century developments of physics, in particular the relativity theory and quantum mechanics, envisaging a possible new relationship between science and religion.

A more classical study is that on the debate between rational and revelation-based knowledge as represented by the conflict between science and Catholicism in French Enlightenment, analysed by Capecchi in his essay "*Relationship between Religion and Science in French Enlightenment: Comparison with Today's Situation*". Capecchi expands

his analysis in applying his considerations also to the present-day debate between Laicism and Catholicism in Italy.

Two scientists and a philosopher face the problem of the religious aspects in today's discussions on evolutionism, in particular the religious-born Intelligent Design. Fondi, a palaeontologist, faces macroevolution in his essay "*Macroevolution as a Network of Synchronic Connections*". Fondi distinguishes between evolution, as testified by palaeontological documentation, and evolutionism, as a paradigm based on the idea of modifications due to ordinary causality. Evolutionary jumps suggest Fondi to advance a new more adequate paradigm alternative to evolutionism, called "holistic", "organicistic", or "systemic". ~~Fantappiè in Fels~~ ~~u~~ ~~e~~ ~~t~~ ~~d~~ ~~g~~

Verolini recalls evolutionism as the main problem in relation to some theological implications in his essay “*Science-Religion: What Kind of Solution Do We Expect?*” Verolini turns the problem in suggesting the use of an evolutionistic paradigm in philosophy and theology, via the strict, unavoidable connections binding a theology to a cosmology and an anthropology. It is no more evolutionist models that have to be weighed by theology, but the other way round.

Dorato’s essay on “*Short Considerations on the Inevitability of the Faith-Reason Conflict*” analyses the conflict between science and religion from a theoretical point of view. The author, a philosopher of science, advances four possible solutions to the conflict: to live with a contradiction; to accept science only when it does not conflict with religion; consider God as the starter of the universe; or consider science a kind of faith. Dorato develops the fourth solutions explaining the differences between a religion based on faith and science.

Finally, Pisano’s essay on “*Can We Formalise the Relationship Sciences-Religions?*” concludes the Proceedings with a work in progress on a possible dialogue between sciences and religions. In the author’s opinion this possibility should rely on a logical-mathematical formalisation of any kind of relationship between sciences and religions. The logical analysis should single out the sentences with no cognitive value. A possible dialogue should then be semantically more restricted than it happens today.

The Proceedings appeared in 2008 and are, at the moment, published only in Italian. An English translation is desirable for a wider diffusion.

The themes considered during the workshop deserve to be further analysed in greater detail. General considerations on the relationship between science and religion should be deepened with respect to ancient and non-Western cultures. Religions, other than Christianity, ought to be much more considered, particularly in a multi-cultural society. Problems once solved with respect to a given religion might rise again, now supported by the religions of the people coming from a different cultural background. For instance, new challenges have to be faced in the case of Islamic creationism, which poses problems, which are nearly similar to those encountered in those regions of the Western world where a consistent population of fundamentalist evangelicals live. Not only evolutionism, but also medical practices and new technologies are somewhere the target of attacks based on religious grounds. From the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ refusal of blood transfusions to some new-age unhealthy dietetic habits, the list of problems known in the Western countries should be enriched with analogous religion-originated problems diffused in countries with other cultural and religious backgrounds. At the same time, science cannot avoid a dialogue with ethical, moral and religious instances, which are beyond the very scopes of science itself.

Leonardo Gariboldi

For more information:

<http://www.uni-service.it/atti-scienze-e-religioni.html>
www.historyofscience.it

ESHS Membership Form

Please fill out the form below and send to the ESHS secretary at the following address: leonardo.gariboldi@unimi.it

FAMILY NAME, (or name of the institution for institutional members) :

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