

Communiqué

SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE D'HISTOIRE ET DE PHILOSOPHIE DES SCIENCES
CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

N° 76

Summer/Été 2010

Objectivity in Science: What is it? Why does it matter?

by Dani Hallet, MA Student, UBC

As recent controversies such as Climategate or the FDA panel of experts' advice to withdraw approval of Avastin for breast cancer make clear, people care about the objectivity of science. The topic of scientific objectivity has occupied STS scholars for a very long time. Yet, despite this convergence of interest, scholarly perspectives on scientific objectivity typically fail to engage a wider public audience. Moreover, such perspectives have come from across the spectrum of disciplines and have engendered a diverse body of research. Thus, objectivity in science is an ideal topic for bringing together diverse perspectives to "Situate Science" and connecting academic work with a broader public.

From June 17th to June 21st, 2010 over one hundred scholars from twenty-five institutions and a wide range of disciplines met at the University of British Columbia to discuss issues surrounding objectivity in the sciences. Objectivity in Science: What is it? Why does it matter? brought together scholars for a four-day conference that ranged widely, moving from, for example, the objectivity of clinical trials to historical conceptions of objectivity in Charcot and Freud. The conference began on a thought-provoking note with Ian Hacking's keynote address, "Let's Not Talk About Objectivity" in which he urged scholars and researchers to forgo talking about Objectivity (with a capital "O") in favour of "ground-level" questions that address concerns such as the political commitments of research-funding agencies and real-life negotiations between diverse knowledge communities. The talks that followed over the next three days seemed to heed Professor Hacking's advice and were almost exclusively concerned with "ground-level" questions on the actual practices and practitioners of science.

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OBJECTIVITY IN SCIENCE: WHAT IS IT? WHY DOES IT MATTER?

June 17- 20, 2010
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Communiqué

Newsletter of the
Société canadienne d'histoire et de philosophie des sciences/
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www.cshps.ca www.schps.ca

Please direct submissions and inquiries to Aryn Martin or Sofie Lachapelle, preferably by email (details below). Please note that submissions can be sent in either official language. The editors are grateful to York University for assistance in printing and mailing costs, and to the University of Guelph for providing the necessary software.

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CSHPS-SCHPS Executive:

President: Kathleen Okruhlik (UWO)
Past-President: Richard Arthur (McMaster)
First Vice-President: Lesley Cormack (SFU)
Second Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary: Frédéric Bouchard (Université de Montréal)
Secretary-Treasurer: Andrew Reynolds (CBU)

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT FOR CSHPS-SCHPS MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

SCHPS-CSHPS is offering electronic membership and renewal for 2010. The payment site can be reached through the CSHPS website and accepts major credit cards through PayPal. We also continue to accept payment by cheque. Members will receive renewal notices with this information in December or early January.

PAIEMENT ÉLECTRONIQUE DES
AHDÉSIONS POUR CSHPS-SCHPS
DISPONIBLE

SCHPS-CSHPS offre l'adhésion et le renouvellement électronique pour 2010. Le site de paiement est accessible par le site web de la SCHPS et accepte les cartes de crédit par le système PayPal. Nous continuons aussi d'accepter les paiements par chèque. Les membres recevront un avertissement avec cette information en décembre ou début janvier.

The Canadian Museum of Nature has Re-opened!

240 McLeod St, Ottawa, ON, Canada
<http://nature.ca/>



SCHPS-CSHPS
Annual General Meeting
Montréal, May 30, 2010

1. Approval of Agenda
Okruhlik/Allen Olley passed
2. Minutes of last meeting (see page 3)
Chakravartty/Curtis Forbes passed
3. President's Report (see page 4)
Frappier/Hamm passed
4. Treasurer's Report (see page 5)
Myrvold/McOuat passed
5. Secretary's Report (see page 6)
Arthur/Cormack passed
6. Communiqué Report (see page 6)
Doreen Fraser/Cormack passed
7. Nominating Committee's Report (see page 6)
Lightman/Hamm passed
8. Conference Program Committee Report (see page 7)
Chakravartty/Okruhlik passed
9. Hadden Book Prize Committee Report
 Prize winner: Jacob Stegenga for "Varieties of
 Evidential Experience" (photo page 8)
 Honourable mention to Kimberly Brumble for
 "How to Diagnose a Metaphoric Model in the
 Field"
10. Website Committee Report
Chakravartty/Cormack passed
11. Other business
12. Visit from CANFED representative

Annual General Meeting
Ottawa, May 2009
-minutes-

1. Approval of Agenda
Chakravartty/Hallet passed
2. Minutes of last meeting
Allan Olley/KO passed
- Report from SSHRC rep. M. Harris
 - Note on success rate
 - SSHRC coming up to decennial review
 - Removal of RTS from grant package
 - History committee split to reduce workload
 - Grants going online with electronic submissions
3. President's Report
 - Year of consolidation, but cluster work continues
 - Improvement in the nominations process implemented
 - Thanks to Program Committee and Local Arrangements
 - International Union funding application accepted
 - OCGS Ontario Graduate Scholarships ended scholarships for history of science
 - Letter of complaint sent, questions about whether further action, perhaps lobbying needed – appoint protest committee through website
 - Note on successfully raising the standards of CSHPS*AC/JS passed*
4. Treasurer's Report
 - Questions about new accounts
 - Questions about charitable status*OK/JB passed*
5. Secretary's Report
 Motion to thank
BL/JS passed

6. Communiqué Report

- Good year, more membership content
- Thanks to York for continued support
- Thanks to Kenton Kroker
- Move RA/KO to thank Kenton for his work as he steps down
- Asks for more material, especially comments and reports of the profession

AC/AO passed

7. Nominating Committee's Report

- 1st VP: Kathleen Okruhlik
GM/JS elected
- Secretary/Treasurer: Andrew Reynolds
GM/RA elected
- Program Committee: Ian Stewart, Frederic Bouchard, Marga Vicedo
GM/TA elected
- KO/JB *accepted*
- Nominating Committee: Joan Steigerwald, Anjan Chakravartty
RA/IS elected

8. Constitutional Amendments

- Five-year review
 - Minor language change
 - Question about position descriptions – not a constitutional issue
 - Revised date appended
- JS/GM passed*

9. Conference Program Committee Report

- Ian Stewart offers thanks to committee
- 78 submissions/60 accepted (58 delivered due to funding cuts)
- 5 panels joint CHA/CSA/CPA
- 36 graduate papers
- Collaboration with Canadian Museum of Civilization
- Questions about membership
- Institution of cut-off for papers by membership
- Clarify membership times Dec 1 to Dec 1 year
- Suggestion to overlap Committee to pass on experience

JS/KO passed

JS/RA move to thank PC

10. Hadden Book Prize Committee Report

Prize winners Dani Hallet and Roger Stanev

11. Other business

- Ian Stewart comment French translation of CSHPS website
- Ad hoc Working Group for Program Committee noted
- Deadlines early, in line with other societies
- Advisory Committee noted, invitation to members
- Question about who is on the Committee
- CSHPS contact with PSA for Montreal meeting in 2010
- CSHPS to work with CPA and others about reducing AV costs

AC/GM Motion to adjourn

2010 President's Report

Another successful year in the affairs of the CSHPS/ Société Canadienne d'Histoire et Philosophie des Sciences draws to a close. Our annual meeting at Congress has become more than a mere formality, and has established a reputation for excellence that still draws submissions from abroad. We have no paid staff, so this is all due to the efforts of volunteers. This year we owe thanks particularly to our programme committee, Frédéric Bouchard, Marga Vicedo and Ian Stewart, and our local co-ordinator, Justin Smith (who sends his apologies for his absence: he has had to high-tail it to Russia as they have opened a window for him to access manuscripts crucial to his research on Leibniz's relations with Peter the Great. Cameron Brown is deputizing on site, in case there are any snags), and our Secretary-Treasurer, Andrew Reynolds. For the day-to-day running of the Society we are also indebted to the fine efforts of our Second VP, Joan Steigerwald, who is finishing her term on the Executive this year, our First VP, Kathleen Okruhlik, our web co-ordinator, Alison Li, our Past President, Gordon McOuat, and the nominating committee, Anjan Chakravartty and Katey Anderson. For their very fine professional production of Communiqué we owe thanks to Sofie Lachapelle and Aryn Martin.

A main item of concern over the past few years has been a static membership quota. I am happy to report that membership is up, and rising. Andrew Reynolds will give you an update, but as of May 20th, it was 144 members. Andrew reports that this is a record high going back to 2002. Reasons for the rise are not clear. We initiated a poster campaign a couple of years ago, spearheaded by Joan Steigerwald, and there are still some of Sofie Lachapelle's beautifully designed posters left over, which we could use again in the future. We also distributed a membership appeal in the regular mailing of some other societies, reciprocating with a similar inclusion in one of our mailings for membership renewals. As Joan remarked in an e-mail to the executive, we would like to think these steps helped, although there was no immediate spike in memberships. We have also tried hard to make sure that all those presenting at the Annual Conference are paid-up members, as indeed they are required to be, as Frédéric reminded them. Perhaps a handful have not acquiesced this year.

One matter on which I should give a more thorough briefing than usual is the role that the CSHPS plays in the Canadian National Committee of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science, under whose auspices the international HST and LMPS conferences are held. The CSHPS President is constituted as the Canadian National Committee President, and represents historians and philosophers of math, medicine and technology, as well as CSHPS. The Federal government (the NRC) pays our annual dues for membership in the IUHPS; we present Canada at the IUHPS-DHST and DLMPS conferences. Ideally the member associations should all meet and discuss what we are going to do in these conferences, and report back to our members. But none of the member societies has the budget or time to convene a meeting of reps, and I have not been successful in even initiating an e-mail exchange. As a result, it is a frustrating exercise to fill in the Annual Performance Review Questionnaire. I have done 2 lengthy phone interviews with Ottawa to try to find a better way for them to evaluate how their bucks are being spent, so far to no avail. This year they sent us our scores, and we are narrowly getting a passing grade.

At last year's meeting we discussed the decision of the Ontario Graduate Scholarships selection board to remove

discipline 112, History and Philosophy of Science, from the list of Humanities programmes. A campaign to reinstate the discipline was initiated and coordinated by Bernie Lightman (York U). Unfortunately we were not successful in getting them to reverse their decision.

R. T. W. Arthur
President

2010 Treasurer's Report

Financial Statement May 2009-May 2010

Opening Balance	15,356.85
<i>Credits</i>	
Membership Dues	5222.01
SSHRC travel grant	2685.00
CFHSS	3883.30
(Congress reimburse. \$2633.30;	
Aid Interdisc. Sess. \$250;	
EFK KeyNote \$1000)	
Can.Mus.Civ. (Drake co-sponsor)	500.00
Sub Total	12,290.31
Total	27,647.16
<i>Debits</i>	
Travel reimbursement	1810.78
Office supplies and printing	0.00
CFHSS Dues	744.54
Poster printing etc.	244.00
Drake Lecturer	2222.18
President travel & Dinner for Drake lect.	70.00
Bank service charges	120.81
PayPal service charges	156.10
Domain Name Registration	27.20
CPA joint reception 2009 Congress	809.46
Total Debits	6,205.07
Net	21,442.09 *

5-Year Running Balance

May 5, 2005	22,995.87
May 5, 2006	24,081.94

May 5, 2007	17,201.33
May 5, 2008	15,875.57
May 5, 2009	15,356.85

* Actual bank balance = \$22,415.96.

It appears that of the “extra” \$973.87 in our account, all but \$99.65 can be accounted for by unspent travel funds. The additional funds accumulated prior to the transfer of \$12,770 on 10 September 2009 to open a new TD bank account in Sydney, Nova Scotia (home of the new Secretary-Treasurer).

Andrew Reynolds
Secretary-Treasurer

2010 Secretary's Report

Membership

Membership is up from last year, in fact we've posted our best numbers in 8 years.

<i>Membership category</i>	<i>Number</i>
Regular	54
Student	57
Retired/Partial employed	8
Regular + Affiliated CSHPM	7
Student/Retired + CSHPM	2
CSHPM Affiliated	18
Honorary	1
Total	147

Figures from 2009 – 120; 2008 – 139; 2007 – 103; 2006 – 68; 2005 – 98; 2004 – 117; 2003 – 121; 2002 – 114

Grants

We have received a travel grant from SSHRC in the amount of \$2685.00 to cover the cost of travel to the Congress and \$1000 from Can Fed to help pay the cost of the Drake Lecturer, Evelyn Fox Keller.

Electronic registration

Electronic membership through PayPal proves, I believe, to be very useful; the charges are \$1.03 on

memberships of \$25 and \$1.46 on regular memberships of \$40. A slightly expanded form on the electronic membership option has been added to improve collection of institutional addresses (rather than credit card billing address) so as to reduce shipping costs of *Communiqué* to those working at universities and institutions in Ontario. Thanks are due to Alison Li for continued help with managing and improving the system.

Respectfully,
Andrew Reynolds
Secretary-Treasurer

Addendum: As of August 2010, membership stands at 154.

2010 Communiqué Annual Report

The Spring (#75) issue marked the end of our first year together as co-editors of *Communiqué*.

This year, we continued with the goal to use *Communiqué* to improve communication among CSHPS-SCHPS members throughout the year. To this end, we continued to post the newsletter on the association's website (with Alison Li's help) and encouraged member-generated content. We also tried to reach out more broadly to science studies scholars by attempting, at times, to include material of more relevance to them. We plan on continuing with these goals in the next year.

We would like to once again thank York University's Division of Natural Science for their support with printing and distribution of *Communiqué*.

Respectfully,
Sofie Lachapelle
Aryn Martin
Communiqué editors

2010 Nominating Committee Report

We have sought and obtained the agreement of the following members of the society to stand for election to the following positions at this Annual General Meeting.

President:
Kathleen Okruhlik (University of Western Ontario)

1st Vice President:
Lesley Cormack (Simon Fraser University)

2nd Vice President:
Frédéric Bouchard (Université de Montréal)

Program Committee:
Marga Vicedo (University of Toronto), Chair
Mélanie Frappier (University of King's College)
David Pantalony (Canada Science and Technology Museum, and University of Ottawa)
Local Arrangements Coordinator:
Steven Turner (University of New Brunswick)
Richard Arthur (McMaster University) will assume the office of Past President.

The following members will continue in the offices they currently occupy, as per the terms of their previous election.

Secretary-Treasurer:
Andrew Reynolds (Cape Breton University)

Nominating Committee:
Katharine Anderson (York University)
Anjan Chakravartty (University of Toronto)

Communiqué Editors:
Sofie Lachapelle (University of Guelph)
Aryn Martin (York University)

Website/Listserv Manager: Alison Li

Advisory Board 2007-2010:
Keynyn Brysse (Princeton University)
Karyn Freedman (University of Guelph)
Elaine Landry (University of California, Davis)
Margaret Shabas (University of British Columbia)
Jean-Louis Trudel (University of Ottawa)

Advisory Board 2008- 2011:
John Beatty (University of British Columbia)
Eric Desjardins (University of British Columbia)
Yvon Gauthier (Université de Montréal)

Ian Stewart (University of King's College)
Richard Zach (University of Calgary)

*Respectfully submitted,
Katey Anderson
Anjan Chakravartty*

CSHPS/SCHPS nominating committee, 2010

2010 Program committee report/ rapport du comité de programme

We have had a very healthy number of submissions this year. Below you will find the breakdown of submissions for individual papers and panels. (Blind referring of abstracts was used)

Nous avons reçu un nombre plus que satisfaisant de soumissions cette année. Ci-dessous, vous trouverez le détail des soumissions pour les communications individuelles ainsi que pour les tables-rondes (tout le processus s'est fait par évaluation à l'aveugle)

	Submissions	Accepted	Rejected
Individual	98	82	16
Panel	3	2	1

At the Concordia meeting, we had 78 presentations (i.e. 4 cancellations) and 2 panels (including a joint panel with CHA and CSTHA). Our Drake Lecture given by Evelyn Fox Keller was very popular with over 120 people in attendance.

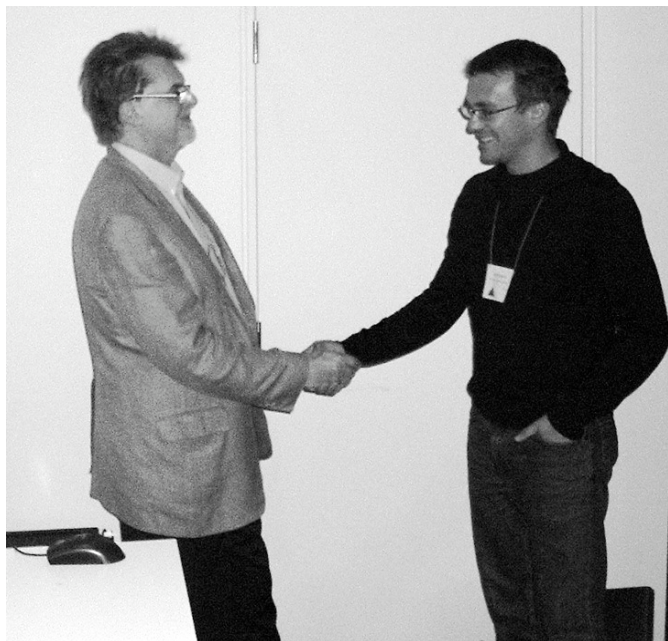
Lors du congrès nous avons eu 78 communications individuelles (et donc 4 annulations) ainsi que 2 tables-rondes (dont une table-ronde conjointe avec l'ACH et la AHSTC). La conférence Drake présentée par Evelyn Fox Keller fut un immense succès avec un auditoire de plus de 120 personnes.

I wish to thank the other members of the program committee, Marga Vicedo and Ian Stewart, for all of their hard work in evaluating the submissions and building the program.

Je tiens à remercier les autres membres du comité de programme, Marga Vicedo et Ian Stewart, pour tout leur

temps et tous leurs efforts dans le processus d'évaluation des soumissions.

Frédéric Bouchard
Member of the Program Committee, 2010



CSHPS President Richard Arthur presenting the Haddon Book Prize to Jacob Stegenga for his paper "Varieties of Evidential Experience"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Awards, Bursaries, Fellowships

Annals of Science best paper prize 2010

Submissions are being accepted for the Annals of Science best paper prize 2010. This prize is now awarded annually to the author of an original, unpublished essay in the history of science or technology, which is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.

The prize, which is supported by Taylor & Francis, is intended for those who are currently doctoral students, or have been awarded their doctorate within the past four years. Essays should be submitted to the Editor in a form acceptable for publication in Annals of Science (see the Journal's webpage for a style guide, www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/tascauth.asp).

[co.uk/journals/authors/tascauth.asp](http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/tascauth.asp)).

The winning essay will be published in the Journal, and the author will be awarded US\$500 and a free subscription to Annals of Science!

Papers should be submitted by 30th September 2010, with the winner being notified by 31st December 2010. The Editor's decision is final.

For more information please go to:

http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/pdf/competitions/tasc_2010.pdf

Philosophy & Technology Best Paper Prizes

Every year, Philosophy & Technology offers up to two prizes, worth € 500 each (€ 250 in cash and € 250 in books published by Springer), awarded to the authors of unpublished research papers that make an outstanding contribution to the field of philosophy and technology broadly conceived. The winning papers are published in Philosophy & Technology. All shortlisted authors are invited to submit their papers for publication in the journal.

The papers are judged in November each year, using the criteria of clarity of presentation, novelty of contents, and potential impact. All nominations received are assessed by the Editorial Board.

Nominations must be submitted by email to the editorial assistant, Mrs Penny Driscoll (p.j.driscoll2@herts.ac.uk). Each nomination must include the paper (formatted according to the standards of the journal), one letter of support explaining (in no more than 1000 words) how it meets the criteria listed above, and a brief cv of the author(s). Please indicate in the subject of the email: "Submission for Philosophy & Technology Best Paper Prize".

Authors are welcome to nominate their own papers. Submissions for Best Paper Prizes are always welcome. The 1st of November is the closing date for each year competition.

For further information, please contact the editorial assistant, Penny Driscoll (p.j.driscoll2@herts.ac.uk).

Job Announcements

Department of Women's Studies University of Victoria

Assistant Professor in Health and Wellbeing

The Department of Women's Studies at the University of Victoria invites applications for an entry-level tenure-track position at the assistant professor level, commencing July 1, 2011. Preference will be given to a specialization in health and wellbeing from an integrative feminist perspective (the discipline is open).

The successful candidate will have a Ph.D. or equivalent, a record of feminist scholarship, a demonstrable commitment to teaching in an interdisciplinary, undergraduate and M.A. Women's Studies program. Further, as a member of a small department, the candidate will be expected to share in administrative duties both at the departmental and university level. The department is strongly committed to both excellence and equity and to increasing the diversity of approaches and perspectives in teaching and research. Thus, diversity and equity issues will be a factor in the selection process.

Applications must include: a complete CV; the name and address (including email, fax, and telephone numbers) of at least three referees whom the department may contact; copies of selected relevant publications; and summaries of teaching evaluations. Please send applications (paper only, no email submissions) to:

Dr. Annalee Lepp

Chair, Department of Women's Studies

University of Victoria

Box 3045 STN CSC

Victoria BC V8W 3P4

E-Mail: alepp@uvic.ca

Web: <http://web.uvic.ca/women/>

Fax: 250-721-7210 Phone: 250-721-7378

Closing date for application is September 15, 2010.

The University of Victoria is an equity employer and encourages applications from women, persons with disabilities, visible minorities, Aboriginal Peoples, people of all sexual orientations and genders, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of the University.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, in accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Wolfe Chair in Scientific and Technological Literacy

The University of Waterloo invites applications for the inaugural Wolfe Chair in Scientific and Technological Literacy. This newly endowed chair in the Department of Philosophy, secured through a national competition, is designed to take an institutional, national and international role in the promotion of scientific and technology literacy. The Department is seeking an established scholar with a record of highly-regarded research and teaching in a relevant field, including Philosophy of Science, Public Understanding of Science, History of Science, or Science, Technology and Society.

The mandate of the Wolfe Chair is to conduct research, teach, and perform public outreach regarding the intellectual foundations, nature and methods of scientific and technological innovation. The Chair will engage in research that advances understanding of key scientific and technological concepts and examines the relationships among science, technology, and broader factors (e.g., social, ethical, political, or economic). The Chair will also have development and leadership roles in the teaching of scientific and technological literacy, both within the University and as public education. The position includes funding for research-oriented and public-outreach events.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadian and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Waterloo encourages applications from all qualified individuals, including women, members of visible minorities, native peoples and persons with disabilities. Candidates should send a letter of application and curriculum vitae, including the names of four academic references, to Professor Tim Kenyon, Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Waterloo, Waterloo ON, N2L 3G1. References will be contacted only with the consent of the candidate. Review of applications will begin October 15, 2010, and will continue until the position is filled.

More information at: <http://philosophy.uwaterloo.ca/wolfechair.html>

Alexander von Humboldt Foundation - Transatlantic Cooperation in the Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, and Economics

Through the TransCoop Programme, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation supports transatlantic research cooperation between German, American and/or Canadian scholars in the humanities, social sciences, economics, and law. Joint research initiatives can receive up to 55,000 EUR over a three-year period. Prerequisite is that the American and/or Canadian partners raise matching funds equalling at least the amount granted by TransCoop. [Note that SSHRC funds can be used to provide the requisite matching funds.]

Funds can be used to finance short-term research visits lasting up to three months, to organise conferences and workshops, for material and equipment and printing costs, as well as for a limited amount of research assistance. Up to 15 p.c. of the TransCoop funds granted can be earmarked for the German partner institution and used as an administrative lump-sum.

Deadlines: April 30 and October 30

Program Information:

http://www.humboldt-foundation.de/pls/web/docs/F27670/programme_information.pdf

The **Department of the History of Science, Harvard University**, seeks to appoint an outstanding scholar working in any area of the history of science, technology, or medicine who will play an active role in shaping the field. The position is open as to rank. The Department is especially interested in candidates with exceptional promise as scholars, teachers and mentors, who are able to offer courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. We welcome applications that will strengthen the diversity of the department. The appointee will have significant intellectual and administrative responsibilities in building initiatives that complement and expand on existing strengths.

Applications should include a c.v., an outline of present scholarly projects and future plans, a statement of teaching experience and approach, and three letters of recommendation.

Please address application materials to hsdept@fas.harvard.edu or:

Search Committee
c/o Marcus Dahmen,
Department of the History of Science,
Harvard University,
Science Center 371,
1 Oxford Street,
Cambridge, MA
02138, U.S.A.

Harvard is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer, and welcomes applications from women and members of minority groups.

Application deadline is 12 November 2010.

Conferences & Calls for Papers

The University of Colorado at Boulder presents the 26th **Boulder Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science**

Theme: "Field Science"

Oct 22-24, 2010

Special Keynote Speakers

Naomi Oreskes, University of California (San Diego)
and Peter Ward, University of Washington (Seattle)

Papers should be of suitable length for a thirty-minute presentation. This is an open call for papers; both faculty and graduate students are encouraged to submit. Graduate students whose submissions are accepted for presentation will receive \$100.00 towards their travel expenses.

Deadline for submissions is September 1, 2010

Please send submissions to:

Carol Cleland

Department of Philosophy, Campus Box 232

University of Colorado at Boulder

Boulder, CO 80309-0232

or email: rchps@colorado.edu

Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC 2010)

The Canadian Science Policy Centre invites proposals for presentations at the upcoming Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC 2010) in Montreal, QC, from October 20-22, 2010.

CSPC is an annual event, specifically designed as a multi-sector forum for fostering science policy discourse in Canada. Those who attend, organize, and fund CSPC come from diverse sectors of the Canadian science policy community - from government and industry officials to business people, scientists, and academics - and the hope is that panel presentations will be similarly inclusive of Canada's diverse interests in national, provincial, and municipal science policy. Thus, we will consider submissions from Canadian science policy stakeholders of quite diverse backgrounds.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words will be accepted until **August 29, 2010** (note extended deadline). Please note that all proposals must be submitted under one of the five conference themes:

- Increasing the Productivity of Canada's Economy using Science and Technology
- Global Perspectives on Science and Technology
- Creating and Retaining Scientific Talent in Canada
- A Glance at BioScience in Canada
- Major Issues in Canadian Science Policy

Fifteen minutes will be allotted for each presentation, and each panel will be followed by a discussion period. If you would like to present, please visit www.sciencepolicy.ca/abstracts to submit an abstract.

Early bird registration for CSPC 2010 is now open.

For more information on science policy in Canada visit www.sciencepolicy.ca

Thank you,

CSPC Team

info@sciencepolicy.ca

Envisioning Science: Imaging the Body

Visual perception might seem to be a strictly natural process, and yet it has a history. Scholars from a range of disciplines now study visuality, moving beyond biological understandings of vision to examine historically and culturally specific ways of seeing the world. Our goal for the conference is to encourage the investigation of "how we see, how we are able, allowed, or made to see, and how we see this seeing or the unseen therein." Visuality emphasizes practices of looking as well as concealing, noting how they are informed by conceptions of gender, status, and power. Diverse research has revealed complex

'scopic' regimes or ways of seeing in ancient, medieval, and early modern times, but many recent publications feature modern visuality and consider the scientific modes of looking produced by microscopy, ultrasound and MRI in particular. Much of this research demonstrates how ways of seeing and the technologies that facilitate them become embedded in cultural life, creating new identities, social institutions, ethical questions, or ways of relating. Inspired by this research, the conference "Envisioning Science: Imaging the Body," to be held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton on September 10th and 11th 2010, addresses issues of seeing, looking, and imaging in relation to scientific and medical practices, both past and present.

The keynote speaker will be Lisa Cartwright (University of California-Sand Diego). Professor Cartwright will speak on the evening of Friday September 10th and there will be paper sessions on Saturday September 11th. Other confirmed speakers include Alex Choby (University of Alberta), Lianne McTavish (University of Alberta), Letitia Meynell (Dalhousie), Cameron Murray (York University), artist Marilene Oliver, and Steven Turner (University of New Brunswick). Principal support for the Workshop has been provided by the SSHRC funded 'Cluster Grant' on "Situating Science: Science in Human Context."

For more information, please contact Alex Choby (cho-by@ualberta.ca).

HOPOS: The Journal of the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science, seeks to publish the highest-quality scholarship concerning the history of philosophical discussions about science. The first issue will be published Spring 2011.

For submission guidelines and further information, go to <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/toc/hopos/current>.

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. 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, cover-

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

The journal aims to:

- * provide an outlet for interdisciplinary work
- * increase the already unusually high level of participation of scholars from Europe and elsewhere in the history of the philosophy of science
- * raise the level of work in the history of philosophy of science 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.

Each issue will contain a minimum of four articles (with a flexible length requirement) and 10 to 15 (1500 word) book reviews. Every year we will publish an extensive review of the recent scholarship in a growing area of our field, such as that being done on the history of the Vienna Circle, the history of Logical Empiricism in America, or the history of the emergence of modern philosophical arguments concerning scientific methodology in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Articles are blind reviewed by two or three referees.

The journal does not limit submissions to members of the International Society for the History of the Philosophy of Science. Scholars from all related disciplines are encouraged to submit to the journal.

Call for Abstracts for ISHPSSB Off-Year Workshop: Integrating Complexity: Environment and History

This is the final Call for Abstracts for an interdisciplinary conference from October 7-10, 2010, at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada. Integrating Complexity: Environment and History will consist of two linked workshops exploring a set of challenges to scientific understanding that span many fields of the natural and human sciences, and that have broad implications for research choices, for social policy, and for how we understand ourselves and the world. The two workshop themes are "Organism-Environment Interaction: Past, Present and Future" and "Methodology in the Historical Sciences."

This is an Off-Year Workshop for the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology, and is sponsored by the Rotman Institute of Science and Values.

The new deadline is August 1, 2010. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please send a one-page abstract to iceh@uwo.ca for consideration. (If you are interested in attending and contributing as a session chair or informal discussion leader rather than giving a talk please let us know!) See the conference website at <http://www.iceh.uwo.ca/> for full submission information and conference details.

14th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science

Nancy, France, 19-26 July, 2011

Website: <http://www.clmps2011.org/>

The 14th CLMPS is organized under the patronage of the French Republic Presidency, the UNESCO, and the French National Commission for the UNESCO. We are pleased to announce that the 14th Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science website is now open for registrations and submissions.

The deadline for submission has changed, it is now 31 December 2010. The important dates are:
Submission deadline: 31 December 2010
Notification of acceptance: 31 March 2011
Early registration deadline: 30 April 2011

You can either submit an abstract of a contributed paper or a proposal for a contributed symposium (of 3 up to 6 speakers).

We would be glad if you filled the registration form until 30 September 2010 by giving a provisional title of your contribution and the subsection to which it belongs, even if your final abstract is submitted after that date. This does not commit you to anything, but would help the organizers to acquire an early idea of what to expect.

The Congress will feature more than 50 invited speakers, several plenary symposia and lectures, as well as a general program for a wider audience. For the first time in its

history, the Congress presents a special topic of interest that will be the focus of a series of lectures and symposia: “Logic and Science Facing the New Technologies”

The four main sections of the Congress will be:

- A. Logic
- B. General Philosophy of Science
- C. Methodological and Philosophical Issues of Particular Sciences
- D. Methodological and Philosophical Issues in Technology

Please note the option to receive by e-mail further information by signing up for the Congress newsletter at: <http://www.clmps2011.org/en/newsletter.html>

Gerhard Heinzmann (Chair Organizing Committee)
Peter Schroeder-Heister (Chair General Programme Committee)

CFA: Objectivity and the Object of Science

Dates: 10/05/2010

Tilburg Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science
5 October 2010

Science is arguably among our most successful and sophisticated epistemic endeavors. But how objective is it? Aren't scientists and their methods susceptible to all forms of bias? Traditionally, answers to this question have focused on the social construction of scientific knowledge. On the level of individual research, however, other questions might be more pressing: How objective are statistical inference tools? Can evidence-based medicine keep its promise to replace subjective assessments by hard facts? Is it possible to design and conduct a social science experiment that is not contaminated by the experimenter's research agenda? How does the concept of objectivity vary over different scientific disciplines? Contributions that address these and similar research questions on the objectivity of scientific research are encouraged.

We invite submissions of extended abstracts of about 1000 words by 1 July 2010. Decisions will be made by 1 August 2010.

Passings

Gina Feldberg
1956-2010

Gina Feldberg was a valued colleague and friend to many in CSHPS. She was the Director of the York University Centre for Health Studies (1992-2001) and founding academic Director of the National Network on Environments and Women's Health, one of Health Canada's five Centres of Excellence. Gina brought her incisive gaze to the history of infectious disease, food and health, women's health, and health policy. Her book *Disease and Class: Tuberculosis and Modern North American Society* (1995) compared the differing approaches of Canadian and American authorities to TB control. It was awarded the Jason Hannah medal from the Royal Society of Canada for the best book in the history of medicine. More recently, Gina co-edited *Women, Health and Nation: American and Canadian Perspectives* (with M. L. Taylor, Kathryn McPherson, and Alison Li) in 2003. A devoted teacher and mentor, Gina won a faculty-wide award for outstanding teaching (1990).

At the time of her death, Gina was working on the history of salads. With characteristic verve and insight, she questioned why lettuce is so highly valued as a health food when it is of such marginal nutritional value. As a colleague, I will treasure the memory of her integrity, generosity, humor, political acuity, and talent in bringing people together. This spring, in what was to become the final exchange I was to have with her, at a time when even reading email was becoming a challenge for her, she graciously connected me with one of her graduate students, reminding us of “the luck” we have in knowing others with whom to discuss ideas.

Gina Feldberg passed away July 10, 2010 after a courageous four-year battle against multiple myeloma. She leaves her husband Rob Vipond and daughter Susanna. She will be remembered with great fondness and esteem by her students, colleagues and friends. We are all richer for having had “the luck” of knowing her. A memorial is planned for the fall. --- *Alison Li*

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Objectivity Conference, by Dani Hallet

The second day of talks concluded with Naomi Oreskes' engaging keynote address on how an elite circle of Cold War scientists promoted a campaign of doubt about global-warming as well as about the lethal effects of tobacco-smoke. Her talk raised unsettling questions about the nature of knowledge claims in a world where epistemic authority may be purchased simply by choosing a trustworthy name for a nonprofit agency. The issues raised by Professor Oreskes were nicely complemented later that evening during a public panel discussion at the Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre campus. Alison Wylie of the University of Washington brought together a diverse panel of archaeologists, anthropologists, and members of native communities from around North America to discuss the topic of "Constructive Engagement: Aboriginal and Scientific Communities in Collaboration." The discussion revolved around the ways in which members of scientific communities and North American aboriginal communities have benefited and can continue to benefit from working with one another on projects in which the aboriginal communities are partners in the knowledge produced.

The third day of the conference saw the final keynote address given by Peter Galison of Harvard University, in which he elaborated on the much-discussed and much-referenced book that he had co-written with Lorraine Daston in 2007, *Objectivity*. No other text hovered so ubiquitously in the air throughout the duration of the conference and Professor Galison took the opportunity to elaborate on some of the ideas in the final chapter of the book, arguing that a new kind of objectivity (or disregard for traditional forms of objectivity) found in the practices of theoretical physicists signals the emergence of a new kind of physics. Later that evening, a second public panel discussion was held at the SFU, organized by Jonathan Tsou of Iowa State University, this time to discuss the politics and science surrounding the issue of harm reduction campaigns in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. The panel, "Harm Reduction: Politics and Science," sought to bring scholarly voices into the on-going local debates about harm reduction as a policy for dealing with drug addiction and other risky behaviours.

Objectivity in Science was sponsored by the SSHRC-funded Situating Science Knowledge Cluster Grant, the University of British Columbia, and Simon Fraser University. For further information on the conference program and abstracts, please visit objectivity2010.ca



MUSÉE DES SCIENCES ET DE LA TECHNOLOGIE DU CANADA

À LA RECHERCHE DE LA
voiture canadienne

ÉTÉ 2010

Qu'est-ce qui fait qu'une voiture est canadienne? En quoi l'identité nationale d'une voiture s'inscrit-elle dans sa conception, sa fabrication, sa commercialisation? Comment reflète-t-elle les préférences des Canadiens? L'exposition présente des automobiles uniques de la collection du Musée des sciences et de la technologie du Canada ainsi que des souvenirs et du matériel promotionnel. Votez pour la voiture la plus canadienne, alors que les enfants s'amuse à construire des voitures dans la zone thématique d'assemblage.

“A Stupid Natural Problem!”

by Cameron Michael Murray,
PhD Student, York University

In August of 2008, I embarked on my first field research. Armed with ethics approval, discount slacks, participant consent forms, and a stack of textbooks on constructionist ethnography, I headed to a genomics research facility located at the University of Calgary. I was going to study a group of bioinformaticians building a four-dimensional (both space and time) model of the human body.

The genomics research facility provided me with a surprising level of access. I was given my own desk, computer, and phone, as well as access to the facility at night. As an added bonus, I was told that I could consume all of the coffee and tootsie rolls my heart desired! All of this served to provide me with a sense of comfort I had not expected. I was happy about this. As a researcher interested in the everyday procedures that technoscientists use to construct, organize and understand their work and experiences, I thought it was my job to feel comfortable in my surroundings.

This comfort level carried over into my interactions with informants. Without any complaints, all of the employees working at the facility signed their consent forms. I found myself conversing, joking and eating lunch with these men and women. Most of my informants were open-minded and easy to talk to. This was refreshing, especially since I was coming to them from the murky interdisciplinary terrain of science and technology studies. With settled nerves, I thought to myself, “What were you worried about? Ethnographic research is so casual, so carefree.”

One day, I was spending time with Devon, a bioinformatician who occupied the desk directly to my left. Devon was doing experimental research at the genomics research facility. He was trying to come up with efficient methods of modeling the interactions between every cell, and cell type, in the human body. The details that Devon had to consider were staggering. He had to account for such things as the elasticity of the skin, the health of the body, and whether the interior of the body was more sticky in certain spots than in others. Devon’s problem was that, though his computer could model a cluster of one hun-

dred cells quite well, when he increased the number of cells to one thousand his computer would crash. At that level of performance there would be no chance of the computer dealing with the millions of cell clusters contained within the human body. Suffice it to say, Devon was frustrated by this problem.

On this particular day, Devon was discussing his computer troubles with another programmer, Alex. When they had concluded their chat, I jokingly asked Devon if he was having fun. Devon turned to me and said, “Fun? No! It is a stupid natural problem!” Initially, this comment angered me. My first impulse, luckily one I was able to hold back, was to dive into a fiery rant about how problematic Devon’s claim was, to reveal how troubling it was to hear a researcher blame nature for the failings of modern computers.

Later on, it occurred to me that the problem wasn’t Devon’s comment, but my own approach to research. The problem was that I became too comfortable, too friendly, too willing to provide a joke instead of asking a serious question. As a result of my increased level of comfort, I let my guard down. I was about to react to Devon as though he were an old friend, engaged with me in a casual, inconsequential conversation. I became judgmental, when I should have been focused on respectfully detailing an important moment in the life of my informant.

Though nothing more than a brief, fleeting moment in my academic career, this incident has left a mark on my research practices. The experience taught me something no textbook could teach. The experience taught me the value of learning to traverse, in an appropriate manner, the different contexts within which I find myself.

As I enter my second year of doctoral work, I find myself fascinated by the different masks I wear. There is Classroom Cam, Conference Cam, Cam the T.A., Pub Cam, Cam the Ethnographer, among others. Each of these characters navigates quite distinct social terrain. At the same time, I am a student full of contradictions. At my core there is an angry, dismissive, narrow-minded fool existing alongside a confident, calm, open-minded friend and colleague. The capacity to recognize and manage these contradictions has been, for me, a valuable side effect of scholarship, one I had not anticipated.

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