

Departmental Seminar: Histories of Knowledge

Instructors: Prof. Lauren Kassell & Prof. Nicolas Guilhot
Spring Semester 2022

Seminar description

The history of science and the history of the social sciences have been traditionally kept distinct. The former is a well-established field, with its literature, its institutions, and its principled divisions. The former has been a fragmented and uneven development, mostly written by representatives of the disciplines under scrutiny. Of late, however, historians have increasingly questioned this separation, often under the banner of the history of knowledge (or knowledges). By exploring the history of knowledge broadly conceived, this seminar will address the principles of periodization and classification that have structured our understanding of science. It will examine hybrid scientific or epistemic practices that fall somewhere between the natural and the social sciences, such as medicine, psychology, epidemiology or astrology, as well as the construction of distinctions between science, pseudo-science and charlatanism. It will attend to how the construction of information, archives and data inflect the histories we write. It will also address the boundary work that goes into maintaining a distinction between “nature” and “society” at a time when their imbrication seems to require an overhaul of our cognitive, social and political models.

1. Introductory Session: What is the History of Knowledge?

- Lorraine Daston, “The History of Science and the History of Knowledge.” *KNOW: A Journal of the Formation of Knowledge* 1, no. 1 (2017): 131–54.
- Simone Lässig, “The History of Knowledge and the Expansion of the Historical Research Agenda.” *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 59 (2016): 29–58.

Further reading

- Peter Burke, *What is the History of Knowledge?* Cambridge: Polity Press, 2015.
- Johan Östling, Erling Sandmo, David Larsson Heidenblad, Anna Nilsson Hammar, and Kari H. Nordberg. “The History of Knowledge and the Circulation of Knowledge: An Introduction.” In *Circulation of Knowledge: Explorations in the History of Knowledge*, edited by Östling et al., 9–33. Lund: Nordic Academy Press, 2018.
- Jürgen Renn, ‘From the History of Science to the History of Knowledge—and Back’, *Centaurus* 2015 <https://doi.org/10.1111/1600-0498.12075>
- John Pickstone, *Ways of Knowing: A New History of Science, Technology and Medicine* (Chicago, 2000)

- *Journal for the History of Knowledge*, <https://historyofknowledge.net/>

2. The case: history, casuistry, observations

- Edmund Leites, “Introduction,” in E. Leites, ed. *Conscience and Casuistry in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)
- John Forrester, “If p, then what? Thinking in cases.” *History of the Human Sciences* 9, no. 3 (1996): 1–25.

Further reading

- Carlo Ginzburg, *Nevertheless. Machiavelli, Pascal* (New York: Verso 2022)
- Carlo Ginzburg, “Il caso, I casi,” video conference <http://www.dipafilo.unimi.it/ecm/home/aggiornamenti-e-archivi/tutte-le-notizie/content/carlo-ginzburg-%E2%80%99Cil-caso-i-casi-a-partire-da-nondimanco-machiavelli-pascal.0000.UNIMIDIRE-79548>
- Howard Becker, *What about Mozart? What about Murder? Reasoning from Cases* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2013)
- Albert R. Jonsen, Stephen Toulmin, *The Abuse of Casuistry: A History of Moral Reasoning* (University of California Press, 1988), Prologue.
- Gianna Pomata, “Observation Rising: Birth of an Epistemic Genre, 1500–1650.” In *Histories of Scientific Observation*, edited by Lorraine Daston and Elizabeth Lunbeck, 45–80. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2011.
- Jean-Claude Passeron and Jacques Revel, *Penser par cas* (Paris: EHESS, 2005)
- Chis Millard and Felicity Callard (eds.), Thinking in, with, across, and beyond cases with John Forrester, special issue, *History of the Human Sciences*, 33, 3-4 (2020): <https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/hhs/33/3-4>.
- L.S. Jacyna, *Lost Words: Narratives of Language and the Brain, 1825-1926* (Princeton: Princeton University Press (2000)), Ch. 1.

3. Disciplines

- Johann Heilbron “A Regime of Disciplines: Toward a Historical Sociology of Disciplinary Knowledge” in Charles Camic and Hans Joas, eds. *The Dialogical Turn : New Roles for Sociology in the Postdisciplinary Age* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014), pp. 23-42.
- Mario Biagioli, “From Book Censorship to Peer Review,” *Emergences* 12:1 (2002), pp. 11-45.

Further reading

- Andrew Abbott, *Chaos of the Disciplines* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2001)
- Alex Csiszar, *The Scientific Journal: Authorship and the Politics of Knowledge in the Nineteenth Century*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.
- Stefan Collini, "'Discipline History' and 'Intellectual History': Reflections on the Historiography of the Social Sciences in Britain and in France," *Revue de synthèse* 109 (1988), 387-399.

4. Information: Producing, Classifying, Retrieving

- Ann Blair, Paul Duguid, Anja Goeing, and Anthony Grafton, eds. *Information: A Historical Companion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2021.

Further reading

- Philip Mirowski and Edward Nik-Khah, *The Knowledge We Have Lost in Information: The History of Information in Modern Economics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).
- Simon Schaffer, "Newton on the Beach: The Information Order of *Principia Mathematica*," *History of Science* 47, no. 3 (2009): 243-276
- Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things: An Archeology of the Human Sciences* (Routledge 2002), Preface.
- Dennis Duncan, *Index, A History of the* (Allen Lane, 2021), Introduction, ch. 7.
- Ann M. Blair, *Too Much to Know: Managing Scholarly Information before the Modern Age* (Yale University Press, 2010).
- Leah DeVun, *The Shape of Sex: Nonbinary Gender from Genesis to the Renaissance* (Columbia University Press, 2021), Ch. 2.

5. Positivism

Guest speaker: Guillaume Lancereau

- Johannes Feichtinger, Franz L. Fillafer, Jan Surman, eds. *The Worlds of Positivism: A Global Intellectual History, 1770–1930* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), Introduction.
- Isabel DiVanna, "Reading Comte across the Atlantic: Intellectual Exchanges between France and Brazil and the Question of Slavery," *History of European Ideas* 38, no. 3, September 2012, 452-466.

Further reading

- George Steinmetz, ed. *The Politics of Method in the Human Sciences: Positivism and Its Epistemological Others* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005).
- Banu Turnaoğlu, "The positivist universalism and republicanism of the Young Turks," *Modern Intellectual History*, 14(3), 777-805.
- Porfirio Díaz, "Positivism and 'The Scientists': A Reconsideration of the Myth," *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research*, 18:2, 135-150.
- Matthew Wilson, 2015 "On the Material and Immaterial Architecture of Organised Positivism in Britain," *Architectural Histories*, 3(1): 15, pp. 1–21.

6. Data

- Theodore M. Porter, *Genetics in the Madhouse: The Unknown History of Human Heredity* (Princeton University Press, 2018), Introduction and Aftermath.
- Joanna Radin, "'Digital Natives': How Medical and Indigenous Histories Matter for Big Data." *Osiris* 32, no. 1 (2017): 43–64.

Further reading

- Jo Guldi and David Armitage. *The History Manifesto*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Lynn Hunt, *Writing History in the Global Era* (Norton: New York, 2014)
- Lisa Gitelman and Virginia Jackson, 'Introduction' to Lisa Gitelman, ed., *'Raw Data' is an Oxymoron* (MIT, 2013).
- Lorraine Daston, ed. *Science in the Archives: Pasts, Presents, Futures*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2017.

7. Archives

- Markus Friedrich, *The Birth of the Archive: A History of Knowledge* (University of Michigan Press, 2018), Introduction and Epilogue.
- Ann Laura Stoler, *Along the Archival Grain* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009), Ch. 1.

Further reading

- Arlette Farge, *The Allure of the Archives* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015).
- Lorraine Daston, ed. *Science in the Archives: Pasts, Presents, Futures*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2017.
- Elizabeth Yale, "The History of Archives: The State of the Discipline." *Book History* 18 (2015): 332–59.
- Carolyn Stedman, *Dust: The Archive and Cultural History* (Rutgers University Press, 2002).

- Daniel Marshall, Kevin P. Murphy, Zeb Tororici, eds., 'Queering Archives: Historical Unravellings', Special Issue of *Radical History Review*, 120 (2014). See also 122 (2015).

8. Paper technologies

- Anke te Heesen, "The Notebook: A Paper Technology," in Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, eds. *Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy* (Cambridge: MIT Press / Karlsruhe: ZKM, 2005): 582-589.
- Carla Bittel, Elaine Leong, and Christine von Oertzen, eds. *Working with Paper: Gendered Practices in the History of Knowledge*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press, 2019, Introduction and, if time, Afterward.
- Lisa Gitelman, *Paper Knowledge: Toward a Media History of Documents*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014, Ch. 4.

Further reading

- Volker Hess, 'A Paper Machine of Clinical Research in the Early Twentieth Century', *Isis* 109 (2018), 473–93.
- Hess, Volker and J. Andrew Mendelsohn, 'Case and Series: Medical Knowledge and Paper Technologies, 1600–1900', *History of Science*, 48 (2010), 287–314.
- Lauren Kassell, 'Paper Technologies, Digital Technologies: Working with Early Modern Medical Records', *The Edinburgh Companion to the Critical Medical Humanities*, ed. Anne Whitehead, Angela Woods, Sarah Atkinson, Jane Macnaughton and Jennifer Richards (Edinburgh, 2016), 120–135.
- Andrew W. M. Smith, *Paper Trails: The Social Life of Archives and Collections*. Access it free from <https://ucldigitalpress.co.uk/BOOC/3>

9. Fragmented voices (1)

- Saidiya Hartman "Venus in Two Acts," *Small Axe* Number 26 (Volume 12, Number 2), June 2008, pp. 1-14
- Marisa J. Fuentes, *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016), Introduction

Further reading

- Brian Connolly and Marisa Fuentes, eds., 'From Archives of Slavery to Liberated Futures?', *History of the Present*, 6 (2016), 105-16: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.5406/historypresent.6.2.0105.pdf>.
- Carlo Ginzburg, Ginzburg, C. (2014). "Our Words, and Theirs: A Reflection on the Historian's Craft, Today," *Cromohs - Cyber Review of Modern Historiography*, 18, 97-114

10. Fragmented voices (2)

- Sigmund Freud, *The Schreber Case* (London: Penguin, 2003)
- Camille Robcis, *Disalienation: Politics, Philosophy, and Radical Psychiatry in Postwar France* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2021), Introduction, Epilogue

Further reading:

- Daniel Paul Schreber, *Memoirs of My Nervous Illness* (New York: The New York Review of Books, 2000).
- Henri Z'vi Lothane, *In Defense of Schreber: Soul Murder and Psychiatry* (Hillsdale, NJ/London: The Analytic Press, 1992)
- Carol Berkenkotter, *Patient Tales: Case Histories and the Uses of Narrative in Psychiatry* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2008), chap. 1.
https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=viUXvyXRKawC&pg=PA1&source=gb_toc_r&cad=3#v=onepage&q&f=false