



Scientists and Social Commitment Conference

Historical perspectives on the philosophical, religious and political ideas and activity of scientists

A conference organized jointly by the Science Museum and the British Society for the History of Science

Science Museum, London, UK

15 - 17 September 2006

Provisional Programme (last updated 30 August 2006)

Please note that, while we will do our best to maintain the programme as presented here, presentation details may change. Details will be updated periodically. For the latest updates, please see the conference pages on our website at www.bsbs.org.uk/bsbs/conferences/other_bsbs_meetings/scientists_and_social_commitment/index.html

FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

<p>14.00-15.30</p>	<p>Session 1A Celebrating Science</p> <p>Celebrating Faraday, Commodifying Electricity: Frank A.J.L. James, Royal Institution, London, UK.</p> <p>The legacy of the 2nd ICHS and the BAAS centennial for a “scientific Bloomsbury”: Explaining the synergy of transdisciplinary science, rebellious politics, and avant-garde sex circa 1931 and beyond: Pnina G. Abir-Am, Scientific Legacies/NSF, USA, Brandeis University.</p> <p>The annual meetings of a number of scientific societies in Britain the mid nineteenth century, including the BAAS: Louise Miskell, University of Wales, Swansea.</p>	<p>Session 1B Technopolitics and rebellion</p> <p>“Gross Defects” and “Beneficial” Radiation: American Scientists Confront Nuclear Weapons, 1950–1963: Paul Rubinson, University of Texas, USA.</p> <p>Researchers in Turmoil: Political dissent and protest in the Italian scientific community during the 1960s: Mauro Capocci; Simone Turchetti; Simone Vecchi, Universities of Rome, Manchester, and Trieste, Italy & UK.</p> <p>The Janus Face of Postwar British Technocracy: Conservative Aeronautical Engineers and the techno-Nationalist Critique of Britain: Waqar Zaidi, Imperial College, London, UK.</p>
<p>15.30-16.00</p>	<p><i>Coffee</i></p>	
<p>16.00-18.00</p>	<p>Session 2A Science and the worldview</p> <p>The role of Marxist philosophy in Léon Rosenfeld’s defence of complementarity in the 1950s : Anja Skaar Jacobsen, Roskilde University, Denmark.</p> <p>David Bohm’s Quantum Mechanics in the Context of Dialectical Materialism and Cold</p>	<p>Session 2B Action and ideology in medicine</p> <p>Actions not Words: Thorvald Madsen and Medical Internationalism, 1907-1939: Anne Hardy, Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, London, UK.</p> <p>Ideologies Young and Old: Comparative</p>

	<p>War: Christian Forstner, University of Vienna, Austria.</p> <p>Joseph Needham, the mechanist/vitalist debate, and the origins of biochemistry 1922-1942: Rony Armon, Bar Ilan University, Israel.</p> <p>JBS Haldane's 1933/1934 Marxist solution to the mind-body problem: Andy Hammond, London, UK.</p>	<p>Thoughts on Walter Russell Brain's Early Pacifism and Later Professional Philosophy: Stephen Casper, Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, London, UK.</p> <p>From post-operative disease to psycho-social aggression: the clinical and philosophical trajectory of Henri Laborit (1914-1995) : Séverine Baverey Massat-Bourra, IRIST, Strasbourg, France.</p> <p>Spinning the scientific web: The role of Jacques Loeb (1859-1924) in the shaping of medicine as an interdisciplinary life science: Heiner Fangerau, University of Düsseldorf, Germany.</p>
18.00	<i>Drinks Reception..</i>	

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

09.00-10.30	<p>Session 3A Swimming against the tide: scientific conservation</p> <p>The Great Extermination: Science and politics for Australia's post-war development boom: Libby Robin, Australian National University, Australia.</p> <p>Science, conservation and apartheid: South Africa's National Parks c.1948 –c.1960: Jane Carruthers, University of South Africa, South Africa..</p> <p>Does "Gaia" have a politics? Social commitment and the science of the Earth as a living system: Eileen Crist, Virginia Tech, USA.</p>	<p>Session 3B Literary Politics and Science</p> <p>Educate or degenerate: E. Ray Lankester, H. G. Wells and the history of the world: Richard Barnett, Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, London, UK.</p> <p>George Orwell and the Radical Scientific Left in Britain, 1945-1950: Ralph J. Desmarais, Imperial College, London, UK</p> <p>Patrick Geddes: Think Global, Act Local: Chris Renwick, University of Leeds, UK.</p>
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee</i>	
11.00-13.00	<p>Session 4A Medical reform and the politics of race</p> <p>WEB DuBois and Abraham Flexner: Race in the modern medical profession: Douglas M. Haynes, University of California, USA.</p> <p>The Politics of Race, Religion, and Empire in the Career of Dame Mary Scharlieb: Maneesha Lal, Binghamton University, USA.</p> <p>Racial Difference and the Politics of the Free Dispensary: Christopher Crenner, University of Kansas School of Medicine, USA.</p>	<p>Session 4B Russian mutations</p> <p>Dual loyalties: Science versus politics in interwar genetics: Nikolai Krementsov, University of Toronto, Canada.</p> <p>Beyond Marxism and Capitalism: Soviet Sociobiology and Efroimson's genetics of individual freedom and social justice: Yvonne Howell, University of Richmond, USA.</p> <p>Experts: Toward a History of the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in the USSR: Marina Yu. Sorokina, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia.</p> <p>Political commitment and political action -</p>

		Klaus Fuchs: Dieter Hoffmann, Max Planck Institute, Berlin, Germany.
13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00-15.30	<p>Session 5A Boris Hessen and 1931</p> <p>Philosophical roots of Boris Hessen: A criticism against the myth of Hessen's externalism: Pablo Huerga Melcón, University of Oviedo, Spain.</p> <p>Nikolai Bukharin, Boris Hessen and the essential tension of the history of science: Chris Chilvers, Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen.</p> <p>The influence of marxism on science studies: from the 1931 history of science congress until now: Dr Helena Sheehan, Dublin City University, Republic of Ireland.</p>	<p>Session 5B French movements</p> <p>La Pensée (« Revue du rationalisme moderne ») : Political and epistemological crisis: Isabelle Gouarné, University of Paris IV, France.</p> <p>The Cahiers rationalistes : a new moral for society? Yannick Bezin, University of Paris X, Nanterre, France.</p> <p>Jacques Solomon: A French physicist of the thirties committed to Marxism: Martha Cecilia Bustamante, REHSEIS, University of Paris VII, France.</p>
15.30-16.00	<i>Coffee</i>	
16.00-18.00	<p>Session 6A Keynote Addresses</p> <p>Science and Religion: Pietro Corsi, University of Oxford.</p> <p>Science and Politics: Everett Mendelsohn, Harvard University.</p>	
20.00-	<i>Conference Dinner, Royal Society of Medicine</i>	

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

09.00-10.30	<p>Session 7A Victorian Educationalism</p> <p>What's Science Education Good For, Anyway? Maxwell and Huxley on the Social Purpose of Teaching Laboratories: Matt Stanley, Iowa State University, USA.</p> <p>Training 'Useful' Herschels: Emily Winterburn, Royal Observatory, Greenwich, UK.</p> <p>Sir Robert Kane (1809-1890): an almost forgotten scientist in Victorian Ireland: Clara Cullen. University College, Dublin, Republic of Ireland.</p>	<p>Session 7B Attempts to institutionalize the 'social' history of science 1945-1955.</p> <p>Scientists in History: the preparation of the Unesco "Scientific and Cultural History of Mankind": Heloisa Maria Bertol Domingues, Patrick Petitjean, REHSEIS, University of Paris VII, France.</p> <p>Unesco and the History of Science and Its Social Relations : Vidar Enebakk, University of Oslo, Norway.</p> <p>The Tribulations of Jean Pelseener: Anna-K Mayer, University of Florida, USA.</p> <p>Race without racism?: Ernst Mayr, UNESCO and typological thinking: Brigid Hains, University of Melbourne, Australia.</p>
10.30-11.00	<i>Coffee</i>	
11.00-13.00	<p>Session 8A Science journalism and social commitment</p>	<p>Session 8B Feminism, science and dictatorship in Portugal and Brazil</p>

	<p>Paul Rotha, Ritchie Calder and 'Bernalist' science documentary: Tim Boon, Science Museum, London, UK.</p> <p>Science journalism for scientists in 20th century France: Girolamo Ramunni, CNAM, Musée des Arts et Métiers, Paris, France.</p> <p>JG Crowther, Kuhn and systems of mediation: Jenny Grigstock, City University, London, UK.</p> <p>The social function of science journalism: Kristian Hvidtfelt Nielsen, University of Aarhus, Denmark.</p>	<p>Portugal and the 3rd International History of Science Congress - 1934: Maria de Fátima Nunes, Universidade de Évora Morada, Portugal.</p> <p>The Unsuccessful Rise of the Theoretical Physics under the Salazar's Dictatorship: Guido Beck in Portugal at the beginning of the 1940's: Antonio A. P. Videira, Universidade, do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.</p> <p>The «renascence scientific movement» in Portugal under Salazar regime and their members' political and social commitment Augusto J. S. Fitas, Universidade de Évora Morada, Portugal.</p> <p>The History of a Feminine Scientific Field in Brazil: Ms M.F.Lopes and Oliveira e Silva, Universidade Federal de Vicosa, Brazil.</p>
13.00-14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00-15.30	<p>Session 9A Internationalism and identity</p> <p>Western loyalty and the universality of science: Lloyd Berkner and ICSU in the 1950s: Rip Bulkeley, Exeter College, University of Oxford, UK.</p> <p>Committing to Internationalism: Mediating Activities of Dutch Scientists between 1900 and 1950: Geert Somsen, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands.</p> <p>Political Commitment and Professional Identity: American Social Science in the Cold War: Joy Rohde, University of Pennsylvania, USA.</p>	<p>Session 9B Creationism and Patronage in the Construction of Science</p> <p>A Comparative Analysis of the Definition of "Science" within Past and Present Debates over Science and Creationism: Julie Homchick, University of Washington, Seattle, USA.</p> <p>Francesco Redi: a scientist at Medicean Court: Mario Tanga, University of Pisa</p>

