BSHS Annual Conference 2010 Full Listing of Academic Sessions

Please arrive early to ensure that you secure a seat as some sessions may be over-subscribed.

Friday 23 July 2010
Academic Sessions 1
9.00-11.00
Ecology and Natural History
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room
Chair: Sabine Clarke
Of Plants and Volcanoes: Studying the Natural World in Late Colonial Central America, c.1790-1800
Sophie Brockmann
Remaking Natural Knowledge: Recycling in the History of Science & Medicine
Simon Werrett
Science, the South Pole, and the Japanese Expedition of 1910-1912.
William R. Stevenson III

The Practice of Alchemy in Medieval and Early Modern Europe
Venue: Carnegie Room
Chair: Stephen Clucas
The Alchemists’s Dilemma: Distilling Practices from Texts
Jennifer Rampling
Trial and Error: Alchemy and Assay in the Middle Ages
Stephanie Seavers
Dissecting manuscripts: Alchemy, Medicine and the Historian
Anke Timmermann
Archaeological approaches to early modern chemistry: old materials, new questions
Marcos Martinón-Torres

We would like to thank the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) for sponsoring this session

Nutrition Science and its applications
Venue: Multimedia Room
Chair: Ida Stamhuis
Milk, the history of science, and material politics
Peter Atkins
Milk, Mortality and Moral Reform: Canadian Government Nutrition Policy, 1874-1919
Monika Pries-Klassen
Setting Nutritional Standards in late nineteenth-century Germany and the US
Elizabeth Neswald
World War II and nutrition cultures: professional and popular
David Smith

Visit to the Natural Philosophy Collection at Marischal College.
Please register for this visit at Registration.
Participants should meet at King’s Hall and Crombie Reception at 08.30.

Academic Sessions 2
11.30-1.00
The lessons of animal regeneration: New studies in late C19th and early C20th biology
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room
Chair: Duncan Wilson
The productivity of cut-and-paste: The Mexican axolotl, regeneration research and the importance of experimental practices
Christian Reiss
Historicizing or analysing organisms (or both)?: The Weismann-Morgan controversy over animal regeneration re-examined
Maurizio Esposito
Dominance subverted: Animal regeneration research in W. F. R. Weldon’s critique of Mendelism
Gregory Radick
Translating Technologies
Venue: Carnegie Room
Chair: James Sumner
  Reconstructing HMAS Warrego and the Transfer of Shipbuilding Knowledge
  Klaus Staubermann
  ‘Somebody fresh to go into the problem’: Metropolitan Vickers, the Air Ministry, and the axial gas turbine.
  Jakob Whitfield
  Failure in practice: bankers, blame and computing technology
  Ian Martin

Astronomy
Venue: Multimedia Room
Chair Michael Barany
  Exporting Greenwich: the Royal Observatory as a model for imperial observatories
  Rebekah Higgitt
  Automation and Informality in Modern Danish Astrometry
  Karin Tybjerg
  Funding radio astronomy in the Netherlands, 1945-1960
  Astrid Elbers

Machines and Metaphors
Venue: Taylor A 26
Chair: tbc
  From machine to mind: the xix century and the interdisciplinarity of the concept of automatism
  Margarida Medeiros
  Lewis Mumford, Franz Reuleaux, and the Archetypal Machine
  Richard C Gunn
  Hobson and the Machine
  Daniel Wilson

13.00-14.00
Delegates are invited to visit a display of manuscripts, rare books and artefacts from the University of Aberdeen Collections in the Old Senate Room

Jon Agar, British Journal for the History of Science editor will host a ‘meet the editor’ session in the Multimedia Room

Academic Sessions 3
2.00-4.00
Early modern astronomy in context
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room
Chair: Nicholas Jardine
  The construction of astronomical instruments (c. 1600)
  Arjen Dijkstra
  “Queen Reason” and the “Slave Senses” – Astronomy and Geometry in Thomas Digges’ Alae seu scalae mathematicae (1573)
  Katie Taylor
  Reading mechanics, writing astronomy: The incorporation of Galileo’s 1638 Two New Sciences into later seventeenth-century astronomical treatises
  Renée Raphael
  The Astronomer’s Role and the Natural Philosopher’s Role in the Sixteenth Century Reconsidered: the Case of William Gilbert
  Stephen Pumfrey

Bullets and Bodies: Twentieth-century forensics in theory and practice
Venue: Carnegie Room
Chair: Graeme Gooday
  ‘Scientific Aids to Criminal Investigation’: The Achievement of Administrative Objectivity in Forensic Sciences
  Alison Adam
  Forensic Expertise, Lay Knowledge, and the Search for Identity in the Crippen Case
  Fraser Joyce
  Insurrection and Innovation: The Assassination of Lee Stack and the ‘Birth’ of Ballistics
  Nicholas Duvall
  Spaces and Traces: The making of the modern “Crime Scene”
  Ian Burney and Neil Pemberton
Beauty and Wonder  
Venue: Multimedia Room  
Chair: Ralph O’Connor
- Alexander Walker and Herbert Spencer: A Victorian Science of Beauty? 
- Antoinette Curtin: “Everything gives way to experiment”: empiricism and beauty through the history of the Wedgwood family 
- Chiara Ceci and Stefano Moriggi: Nebular Visions: Illustrating the Architecture of the Heavens 
- Jim Secord: The Fairy-Tales of Science

Curators and Collections  
Venue: Old Senate Room  
Chair: Neil Curtis
- Re-uniting the Parts: finding the links in the Aberdeen collections 
- Jenny Downes: Revealing the Hidden Collections: university museums in Scotland 
- Neil Curtis: Six centuries of medical teaching: the history of medicine archives at the University of Aberdeen 
- Siobhán Convery: Followed by round table where these presenters will be joined by John Reid and Nigel Trewin

Academic Sessions 4  
4.30-6.00  
Science on Stage and Screen  
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room  
Chair: Sally Horrocks
- Butlins and the Bomb: Uranium 235, Class and Nuclear Culture in Postwar Britain 
- Jeff Hughes: Lawrence Bragg, C.P. Snow and the ‘Two Cultures’ 
- Tim Boon

Technologies of Evolution Studies: contextualising contemporary techniques  
Venue: Carnegie Room  
Chair: Greg Radick
- How to make a dinosaur: The technologies of fossil preparation
- Caitlin Donahue Wylie: Shaping genetic notation: contexts and identities of the Rhesus blood groups, 1941-1951 
- Jenny Bangham: Darwin and the Tree of Life: The Roots of the Evolutionary Tree 
- Nils Petter Hellstrom

Rhetoric and Representation  
Venue: Multimedia Room  
Chair: Stephen Gaukroger
- Representative Practices in Art and Science, 1880-1914 
- Chiara Ambrosio: Eighteenth-century instruments as rhetorical devices 
- Florence Grant: Natural History in England, 1650-1720: Representation, Rhetoric, Poetics, Aesthetics 
- Alexander Wragg-Morley

Psychology  
Venue: Taylor A 26  
Chair t.b.c.
- The Illusion of Intelligence: Technology, Conjuring, and “Psychology” in Nineteenth-Century London 
- Sarah Kriger: Heads in hands: physiological psychological rhetoric and laboratory pedagogy in 1870's Britain. 
- Tom Quick: Musical Brainwashing: The Dangers of Music between Cold War Psychology and Reagan Era ‘Satanic Panic’ 
- James Kennaway
Saturday 24 July
Academic Sessions 5
9.00-11.00
John Tyndall and his Audiences
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room
Chair: Efiram Sera Shriar
John Tyndall: Lecturing, Authority and Correspondence in Victorian Public Science
Graeme Gooday and Jamie Stark
Working Wonder: Tyndall and the Making of Victorian Scientific Performances
Iwan Morus
John Tyndall and Theology: The Definition and Boundaries of Science
Ursula DeYoung
Following your example at a distance: The Carlylean balancing of John Tyndall and James Crichton-Browne
Mike Finn

Nuclear Science and the Cold War
Venue: Carnegie Room
Chair: Jeff Hughes
Niels Bohr’s Philosophical Background: a Thematic Proposal
Roberto Angeloni
Joseph Rotblat and the Manhattan Project
Martin Underwood
The atomic cloister: secrecy and the shaping of technical identity, 1940-60
Sean F. Johnston
Dad’s Radioactive Army: Scientists, Engineers (and Philosophers) as Volunteers after Chernobyl
Jon Agar

Artifacts: Material culture, music and sound
Venue: Multimedia Room
Chair: Tim Boon
Music Technology and Physical Effort
Katy Price
Bellowphones and Blowed Strings: The Auxeto-Instruments of Horace Short and Charles Algernon Parsons
Aleks Kolkowski

Stockhausen meets King Tubby: The stepped filter and its influence as a musical instrument on two different styles of music
Sean Williams
The Oramics Machine and Daphne Oram: Relationships between Instrument and Aesthetic
Mick Grierson

Biological and Biomedical Sciences
Venue: Taylor A 26
Chair: Daniele Cozzoli
“A Cell is Not an Animal”: Crossing Species Barriers during the 1960s.
Duncan Wilson
Historiographical considerations on the introduction of protein sequencing into Spanish biomedical research (1968-1998).
Miguel Garcia-Sancho

OEC Welcome (9.30)
Venue: Taylor A 31
followed by ‘Grants from the OEC’, Sabine Clarke

Academic Sessions 6
11.30-1.00
Medieval
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room
Chair: Anna Marie Roos
Like Stirrups and Sugar: Polydore Vergil and the Problem of Unknown Inventors
Shana Worthen
Evidence In Medieval Natural History: Constructing natural knowledge in the De animalibus of Albertus Magnus
Gwyndaf Garbutt
Human bodies in Ottoman medical texts and images
Rainer Brömer
Chemistry
Venue: Carnegie Room
Chair: Matthew Eddy
- Pasteurising the brewery: applied science, internal history and trade defence
  James Sumner
- Chemical Atomism: Underdetermination Revisited
  Hasok Chang
- The Relevance of Experimentation in Joseph Priestly’s Studies on the Two Electrical Fluids
  Elisa Cristina Oliosi

Geology and Earth Science
Venue: Taylor A 26
Chair: Leucha Veneer
- An amalgam of contrasting theories behind the obtention of an accurate method of mineral analyses in the 18th Century
  Andréa Bortolotto
- Aesthetics of architecture and geology in Britain during the first half of the nineteenth century
  Allison Ksiazkiewicz
- How the Stomach Ruled William Buckland’s Geology
  David Allan Feller

Nineteenth century
Venue: Carnegie Room
Chair: Iwan Morus
- Great expectations in Modern Times - Prefaces, intentions and fallacies in science textbooks of the 19th century
  George N Vlahakis
- Onwards facing backwards - Images of science in speeches and writings of 19th century Greek scientists
  Konstantinos Tampakis
- Savage Numbers: Counting and the Evolution of Civilisation, 1863–1892
  Michael Barany

Museums and Popular Science
Venue: Taylor A26
Chair: Victoria Carroll
- “Visitors Welcome” – Teylers Museum around 1800
  Martin Weiss
- Palaeontology in Parts: Serializing Science in the Penny Cyclopædia 1833–43
  Gowan Dawson
- OEC: Making the Perfect War Horse: Exploring Object Centred Events
  Elizabeth Hallam and Anna Maerker

OEC
Venue: Multimedia Room
- Engaging Audiences at Aberdeen Museums
  Jenny Brown

Academic Sessions 7
2.00-3.30
Bacon
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room
Chair: Koen Vermeir
- Rereading Francis Bacon’s Novum Organum
  Ian G. Stewart
- Francis Bacon and mechanical arts: the early Stuart patent system
  Cesare Pastorino
- Imagination in Bacon’s Experimental Science
  Doina-Cristina Rusu
Academic Sessions 8
4.15-6.15

Gender
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room
Chair: David Smith
Women in Genetics 1900 – 1930: New Scientific Workers in a New Discipline
Ida Stamhuis
Works’ Chemist required . . Woman graduate preferred’: gender and scientific employment in Britain during World War II
Sally Horrocks
Electricity, food production, and domestic spatiality in mid-twentieth century Britain
Emily Hankin
Are mothers naturally devoted?: Animal models and the construction of maternal instinct in the French Third Republic
Marion Thomas

Darwin and Evolution
Venue: Carnegie Room
Chair: Fern Elsdon-Baker
Charles Darwin really was the naturalist on HMS Beagle
John van Wyhe
Wallace, spiritualism, and anthropology at the BAAS: A new interpretation
Juan Manuel Rodriguez Caso
Gavin de Beer and the notion of mosaic evolution
Silvia Caianiello
The evolutionary archive
Katrina Dean

Early Modern
Venue: Multimedia Room
Chair: Jennifer Rampling
Vampires and the powers of imagination: a study of the first medical tracts on vampirism (1659-1755)
Koen Vermeir
Poisonous Vapours: The "Sadducismus Triumphatus" and Joseph Glanvill’s science of witchcraft
Julie Davies

A Speculum of Chymical Practice: Isaac Newton, Martin Lister (1639-1712), and the Making of Telescopic Mirrors
Anna Marie Roos
Systems of Belief and Knowledge in the Early Modern Science
B. Thaliath

OEC: Songs of Science
Venue: Zeste
A partial, prejudiced and ignorant history of science in song
Melanie Keene
Mathematicians in love and three-foot rules: WJM Rankine’s Songs and Fables
Ben Marsden
A Function of the Time: the postprandial proceedings of the Cavendish Society
Jeff Hughes
Sunday 25 July
Academic Sessions 9
9.00-11.00
Eighteenth-century
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room
Chair: Hasok Chang
Apologetics in Eighteenth-Century Europe: Beyond the Great Divide
José Alberto Silva
D’Alembert and Euler and mid-eighteenth century rational mechanics: What mechanics does not tell us about the world
Stephen Gaukroger
18th Century Crossroads: Chemistry and Medicine, Theory & Practice
Silvia Waisse, Ana M. Alfonso-Golfarb & Marcia H. M. Ferraz
Dissecting the Soul: William Cullen and Medical Theory during the Scottish Enlightenment
Jeff Wolf

Visual
Venue: Carnegie Room
Chair: Alexander Wragge-Morley
Linnaeus and the visual representation of nature
Isabelle Charmantier
Pictures and Pedagogy: the role of diagrams in Feynman’s early lectures, 1949-50
Ari Gross
The image as instrument. Moving images in Albert Michotte’s Psychological Laboratory.
Sigrid Leyssen

New Perspectives on the Great Exhibition and Crystal Palace
Venue: Multimedia Room
Chair: Frank James
Championing Science and the Great Exhibition of 1851
Geoffrey Cantor
1851: Struggling To Describe The Indescribable
Nick Fisher
Ethnology At The Crystal Palace: Robert Gordon Latham, Visual Enskilment, And Local Sites Of Learning
Efram Sera-Shriar
Exhibiting The Visual: Photography And The Crystal Palace
Geoffrey Belknap

Academic Sessions 10
11.30-1.00
Crossing boundaries: the practices of marine natural history in the eighteenth century
Venue: Catherine Gavin Room
Chair: Anna Maerker
The zoophyte problem, or, the chemical animal in natural history
Susannah Gibson
Continents from animalcules
Alistair Sponsel
Classifying imperfection, or, how to observe marine plants
Anne Secord

Instruments on Display
Venue: Carnegie Room
Chair: Becky Higgitt
Power Relationships in Basic Measurement
Jane Wess
People, weather, objects: New stories from the stores
Vicky Carroll
“Matter and light- From lightning to X-rays: Removing the air” Teaching proposal for the exploration of a historical scientific instrument collection
Flora Paparou

Science and Industry since World War II
Venue: Multimedia Room
Chair t.b.c.
European oil prospecting in the early Cold War
Leucha Veneer
The Discovery of the Early Antihistaminic drugs
Daniele Cozzoli
The making of an entrepreneurial science: biotechnology in Britain, 1975-1995
Soraya de Chadarevian