

A²HPS³ newsletter

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Letter from the President

After the success of the AAHPSSS conference in Katoomba last year, and the launch of the Newsletter in 2014, this year promises to be an exciting one for AAHPSSS. The committee has been working hard to continue the progress made last year, and has implemented some new initiatives. As most of you will be aware, the executive has decided to hold an AAHPSSS conference on 4-6 November this year in Melbourne. While it has not been common practice to hold conferences in successive years, we were able to secure some funding through the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne, and there has been considerable support for holding another conference to keep the momentum going. More details about the conference will appear on the AAHPSSS website in the coming weeks. A call for papers has gone out, with the deadline for submissions on September 30.

I would very much like to use the conference as an opportunity not only to bring together scholars in HPS and STS, but also to discuss any possibility for collaborative research projects and joint research funding opportunities across the region and to establish an HPS/STS postgraduate regional network. With this in mind, I would like to remind you that we have a maximum of 10 Langham bursaries available for eligible postgraduate students. We have also been approached by, or have made approaches to, representatives of a number of academic societies and associations such as the Australian Philosophical Association, Science and Technology Australia, the History of Economic Thought Society of Australia, and the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science and the Society on Social Implications of Technology about the possibility of collaboration, networking and participating in upcoming



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conferences. Such networks can only further strengthen our visibility and profile in the region.

Executive has had several discussions about the format of the Newsletter. In future, we will invite our Bursary winners to contribute a short article to the newsletter, based on their talks, as a means of highlighting the contributions from graduate students and encouraging their further participation within AAHPSSS. We also have plans to circulate the newsletter to all Honours and Postgrads working in HPS and STS across Australia and New Zealand, and the expansion of our mailing list remains one of our priorities. I would encourage those of you who have names and email addresses of students who qualify to contact me, so we can update our existing list.

In other developments, you will also note that Springer has kindly made available the top five Metascience articles (ranked according to most downloads) available for free. We are also happy to announce that we have added an activities page to the current AAHPSSS website: <http://aahpsss.org/2015/06/16/activities/>. This provides a public space to post news you may have about your research activities (publications, appointments and other scholarly activities) of interest to AAHPSSS members and affiliates.

I am happy to report that AAHPSSS is in a strong financial position and membership continues steadily as old members continue with the association and new members are signing up. If you are yet to re-subscribe, I urge you to do so. AAHPSSS members will be eligible for a reduced rate for the conference registration.

Finally, I would also like take this opportunity to call for nominations for the executive roles to be elected at the next AGM. Individuals may nominate themselves as well as others. According to our constitution, office bearers may not seek re-election to the same office that person has held for three successive terms within a two-and-a-half year period of the termination of the appointment to that office.

Given recent developments and new initiatives, there is every reason to continue to be optimistic about AAHPSSS's future, and the role it has yet to play in the life of HPS/STSM in Australasia.

Kristian Camilleri
AAHPSSS President

History and Philosophy of Science Program
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Asia-Pacific STS Network

Jerome Whittington,

Jerome, Convenor, Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network, writes that the Network is pleased to have passed an important milestone of 400 members as it prepares for its fourth Biennial Conference, to be held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Oct 1-4, 2015. Co-convenor Wen-Ling Hong, who is organizing the conference, has worked closely with the Taiwan STS Association to develop an exciting program with presentations from scholars representing 16 countries, including strong representation from Australia and New Zealand. Registration for participants and audience is ongoing; more information can be found at APSTSN.org. As always, the network welcomes membership from across the social sciences, theoretical disciplines and humanities.

Jerome can be contacted at

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University of Auckland

Ruth Barton

Ruth, an Honorary Research Fellow, Humanities at the University of Auckland, writes that she is revising her X Club book mss for publication, getting near the end of editing (with Michael Reidy) vol 3 of the John Tyndall Correspondence, writing 'Miracles: Debates about Laws of Nature and Divine Action in Victorian England' for the *Edinburgh Critical History of Nineteenth-Century Theology* (Edinburgh University Press). She is also returning to collaborative work with Elinor Harris on New Zealand science.

Alistair Kwan's collection of primary sources in the history of undergraduate science learning is approaching 200 items. From this collection he recently exhibited on techniques for imaging magnetic fields c. 1900. Alistair recently visited Adelaide to explore the University of Adelaide's extensive collections of student lecture and laboratory notes, laboratory reports and teaching apparatus. He would welcome tips about other such collections around Australia and New Zealand.

Elinor Harris, an Honorary Research Fellow in Humanities, and an independent Heritage Consultant, and Ruth are presenting their collaborative research on science in colonial New Zealand at the November conference on 'New Zealand's Scientific Heritage' in Wellington. They will present two papers, analysing the contributors to and the content of the *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute*, over the period 1869-1900.

James Braund (Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Cultures, Languages and Linguistics) has a special interest in the German scientific connection with New Zealand and the Pacific. He is currently completing a project on the natural history fieldwork of Cook's naturalists Johann Reinhold Forster and George Forster in Dusky Sound, New Zealand, in March-May 1773. Other active projects include: the scientific discussion of the moa in the nineteenth century; the German correspondents of pioneer New Zealand botanist and ecologist Leonard Cockayne; and the scientific and administrative career of New Zealand botanist and museum director Thomas Cheeseman.

Jeremiah Rankin, a PhD student in History/Humanities, is employed as research assistant on the John Tyndall Correspondence Project. He has completed the first draft and is now revising his PhD thesis on the representation of scientific authority in the popular science writing and lecturing of John Tyndall and G. H. Lewes.

Ruth kindly provides some details of others in the city of Auckland who are engaged in history of science research.

Simon Thode (MA Auckland, 2007, on ideas of extinction in nineteenth-century natural history; PhD Johns Hopkins, 2013, on the intersection of the state and observational field sciences in the early western United States) has spent the last two years working at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, in science and innovation policy. While preparing to return to the US, he is working to publish from his PhD dissertation, on the connection between military reconnaissance and early

US scientific practices.

Brian Gill of the Auckland Museum researches the history of natural history and its collecting. To help raise the profile of natural history museums, he wrote a book of museum-related stories, many of which deal with aspects of the 19th century history of Auckland Museum: *The Owl that Fell from the Sky. Stories of a Museum Curator*. Wellington, Awa Press, 2012 (ISBN 978-1-877551-13-0). He is currently working on a sequel volume that will contain stories on the same theme. Brian's recent publications include 'Charles Francis Adams: diary of a young American taxidermist visiting New Zealand, 1884-1887', *Archives of Natural History* 4, 1 (2014): 1-16, and (with J. M. A. Froggatt) 'The Indian herpetological collections of Charles McCann', *Records of the Auckland Museum* 49 (2014): 29-37.

Griffith University, Brisbane

Richard Yeo

Richard, recently retired from a Personal Chair at Griffith and now an Adjunct Professor there, writes that in February and March 2016, he will be a Dibner Research Fellow in the History of Science and Technology at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California. His project will be 'The ethos of long-term inquiry', focusing on the early modern period. He is also completing a contribution to a volume in *The Works of John Locke* published by Clarendon Press, Oxford. This volume, edited by John Milton (King's College, London), is devoted to Locke's literary and historical writings.

Richard recently published *Notebooks, English Virtuosi, and Early Modern Science* (University of Chicago Press, 2014).

University of Ghent

Charles Wolffe

Charles writes that he continues to be in charge of the lecture series on methodology in history and philosophy of science at Ghent University (Sarton Centre for the History of Science). He was invited as a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Lisbon and Turin this year, in addition to giving a regular course on Theories in the History of Science at Ghent University. At Lisbon he taught a mini-course on the history and philosophy of the life sciences, from Descartes to Canguilhem. At Turin Charles taught a full course on History of Scientific Thought. Recently he was part of a Turin workshop on 'historicizing the philosophy:science relationship': <http://www.filosofia.unito.it/fmod/events/HPS-seminar-2015/> in April he was invited to participate in a conference in Rome (Roma Tre) on Matter Theories and Materialism; in May he was invited to be a keynote speaker at an international conference in Brussels (ULB) on Life and Modern Philosophy; in June he is participating in ISECS in Rotterdam, in panels on vitalism, and animal economies ; in July he will be running a panel at ISHPSSB in Montreal on 'philosophy of biology before biology' (on 18th-century roots of biology).

Charles's forthcoming edited volumes include *Exploring the Early Modern Underground: Freethinkers, Heretics, Spies*, coedited (with Sophie Bisset & Marie-Claude Felton). Paris, Honoré Champion (ISECS series); *Philosophy of Biology Before Biology*, coedited with Cécilia Bognon-Küss (under review).

Forthcoming papers include « Boundary crossings. The Blurring of the Human/Animal Divide as Naturalization of the Soul in Early Modern Philosophy », in Stefanie Buchenau and Roberto Lo Presti, dir., *From Animal to Man? Human and Animal Minds in Early Modern Philosophy and Medicine*, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015; "The discreet charm of 18th-century vitalism and its avatars," in Paolo Pecere, ed., *Il libro della natura*, vol. 1: *Scienze e filosofia da Copernico a Darwin*, Rome: Carocci, 2015; "Brain Theory Between Utopia and Dystopia: Neuronormativity Meets the Social Brain." In *Alleys of Your Mind: Augmented Intelligence and Its Traumas*, ed. Matteo Pasquinelli (Leuphana University Lüneburg: Meson Press, 2015); "Diderot and materialist theories of the self" *Journal of Society and Politics* 9(1) (2015); "Tres medici, duo athei? The physician as atheist and the medicalization of the soul," in *Know Thyself. Early Modern Medicine and Natural Philosophy*, eds. P. Distelzweig, B Goldberg, E Ragland. Springer, 2015.

As regards to his editorial activity more broadly, Charles is the Founding Editor of the series in History, Philosophy and Theory of the Life Sciences at Springer (2012-); approximately fifteen titles published, see <http://www.springer.com/series/8916>.

Charles can be reached at the Sarton school <http://www.sarton.ugent.be>. For more of his publications consult his academia.edu page: <https://ugent.academia.edu/CharlesWolfe>

University of Sydney

Dean Rickles

Dean recently participated in two conferences, both centred on his project New Agendas for Time, at the Centre for Time:

- "Time: Arrows, Experience, Emergence", in honour of Paul Davies, 12-13 June. For details visit <https://newagendasstudyoftime.wordpress.com/events/time-arrows-experience-emergence/>.
- "Time, Identity and Future" in Iceland, 6-8 July. For details visit <https://newagendasstudyoftime.wordpress.com/events/time-identity-and-future/>.

His recent publications include

- "Paul Weiss and the Genesis of Canonical Quantization" (with Alexander Blum). *European Journal of Physics H* (forthcoming).
- "Spaces". For P. Humpheys (ed), *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Science*. Oxford University Press. (forthcoming).
- "Dual Theories: 'Same But Different' or 'Different But Same'?" *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* (forthcoming).
- "A Participatory Future of Humanity". To appear in A. Aguirre, B. Foster, and Z. Merali (eds.), *How Should we Steer the Future of Humanity?* Springer.

He also adds that his two PhD students, Sara Langston and Sophie Ritson, have some new publications:

- Sara Langston: Enhancing astronauts: the ethical, legal and social implications. In *Commercial Space Exploration, Ethics, Policy and Governance*, Edited by Jai Galliot, [Emerging Technologies, Ethics and International Affairs](#), Ashgate 2015.
- Sara Langston, Sarah Jane Pell. [What is in a name? Perceived identity, classification, philosophy, and implied duty of the 'astronaut'](#). *Acta Astronautica Volume 115*, October–November 2015, Pages 185–194.
- Sophie Ritson and Kristian Camilleri. [Contested Boundaries: The String Theory Debates and Ideologies of Science](#). *Perspectives on Science*, Summer 2015, Vol. 23, No. 2, Pages 192-227.

Forthcoming Conferences

Call for papers

Australasian Association for the History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Science

November 4-6, 2015

University of Melbourne

Abstract Submission Deadline: Monday, 30th September, 2015

Professor Evelleen Richards will present the Dyason Lecture at the conference on 'Darwin and the Making of Sexual Selection'.

Submissions for papers are invited from scholars working in any area related to the history, philosophy, and social studies of science, medicine or technology. Titles of papers together with abstracts of up to 250 words should be sent to conference@aahpsss.org by the 30th September 2015. Suggestions for symposia and offers to organize sessions are also welcome with proposals to be sent to a member of the executive.

- Kristian Camilleri (kcam@unimelb.edu.au)
- Nicola Marks (nicolam@uow.edu.au)
- Luciano Boschiero (l.boschiero@campion.edu.au)

Postgraduate students are encouraged to submit proposals and invited to apply for an Ian Langham Bursary of A\$150 (there are ten available). Please see our website <http://aahpsss.org/> for more detail and send all proposals to: conference@aahpsss.org by the 30th September 2015.

More information about registration, location, transport and accommodation will be distributed in the next newsletter, via the mailing list, and will appear in due course on the AAHPSSS website: <http://aahpsss.org/>.

National Committee for the History and Philosophy of Science (NCHPS)

There is a possibility that the NCHPS will hold a conference in Melbourne at the same time. Details will be posted on the AAHPSSS website as soon as they become available.

Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network

Disasters, Controversy and Public Engagement, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Oct1st-4th, 2015.

Over the past several years, the Asia-Pacific has experienced disasters on various scales and severity, often compounded by technological system failures, such as the 311 earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan, the Sewel ferry disaster in Korea, and the propene explosion in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. In addition, recent scandals regarding food safety in Taiwan and China have created a sense of urgency. These disasters and threats have brought major controversies over how to ensure a safe future in a risk society, and they have also drawn people from different sectors to participate in the discussion. Most importantly, the public has become even more critical in shaping the climate of civil and policy making opinions. Confronting these disasters, how do we mobilize and empower the public to engage in the improvement of a technological society in order to increase our resilience in the face of giant disasters?

The conference will hold an interactive STS FAIR session, to encourage networking between scholars, social activists, policy makers, government agents, industrial managers, designers and representatives from communities, NGOs, NPOs, and more. This fair is intended to nurture STS networking and research that integrates social practices and academic advances.

For more details on the conference, keynote speakers, panels and how to register visit <http://apstsn.tw-sts.org/>.

Metascience

As many readers of this newsletter would know, between 2009 and 2014 [Metascience](#) was co-edited by Stathis Psillos and Theodore Arabatzis. Since January of this year, we have been facing the daunting task of stepping into the considerably large shoes they have vacated. Stathis and Theodore, building on the excellent work by their long list of eminent predecessors, continued to enhance the journal's reputation. In the past five years they introduced new initiatives, such as book symposia on classics in the history, philosophy and sociology of science; especially on significant anniversaries of important past books which deserve re-appraisal in light of more recent writings. They also oversaw the transition to a fast and efficient online publication process, making new reviews available to readers within one month, on average, of their acceptance. As a result, over 24 000 *Metascience* articles were downloaded in 2014 alone. The print version of the journal continues to be issued thrice-yearly, now with the reviews organised thematically.

We would like to thank Stathis and Theodore, as well as their Editorial Assistant, Vassilis Sakellariou, for their contribution to *Metascience*. Vassilis will be succeeded by David Lambie who is already demonstrating outstanding organisational skills. We would also like to thank the publication team at Springer that has guided us expertly through the transition of co-editors and continues to provide an excellent platform for the journal's content. We hope to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors and work productively with Springer to maintain the journal's reputation and quality.

We are also very mindful of the journal's beginnings as an initiative of AAHPSSS in 1984. In the first edition of *Metascience* in that year, the past president of AAHPSSS, Lyndsay A. Farrall introduced the journal with a reminder to readers of the "broad spectrum of scholarship" covered in the various departments of history and philosophy of science that had sprouted in Australia and New Zealand in the second half of the twentieth century. *Metascience* was intended to serve the needs of that broad spectrum "by reviewing developments in the various areas of academic endeavour concerned with the study of science and by encouraging critical assessment of these developments through informed discussion and debate" (Vol.1/2, 1984). Since then the spectrum has gotten wider and more diverse, as can be seen in the variety of themes covered in the reviews. That diversity, we argue, makes a journal like *Metascience* even more relevant as it attempts to bring together scholars working in various specialised topics and breaks down the traditional barriers between scholars of history, philosophy and sociology of science (the 'metascientific community', as Farrell put it). The widening breadth of the spectrum to which Farrell referred is evident also in the global reach of the journal. As our predecessors proudly stated two years ago in this very newsletter, *Metascience* has grown to be "a truly international journal" (AAHPSSS Newsletter, No. 51, p. 7), attracting reviewers from around the world.

The depth and breadth of the journal's coverage is evident in the crop of reviews now available [online](#) and in the [July Issue for 2015](#). They include a symposium by Marshal Abrams, Frederick Eberhardt and Michael Strevens on Strevens' *Tychomancy: Inferring Probability from Causal Structure* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard Uni Press, 2014); an essay review by Katharine Anderson of Bernard Lightman and Michael S. Reidy's *The Age of Scientific Naturalism: Tyndall and His Contemporaries* (London: Pickering & Chatto,

2014);and Ian James Kidd's review of a classic, Paul Feyerabend's *Against Method*, on the fortieth anniversary of its publication.

We would like to encourage all scholars interested in reviewing for [Metascience](#) to contact us. If there is a book that you would like to review or see reviewed in the journal, please feel free to write to us with your suggestion (brad.wray@oswego.edu; l.boschiero@campion.edu.au). Also, if you are the author of a new book, please do not hesitate to alert us to your publication.

Luciano Boschiero, Campion College, Sydney

K. Brad Wray, State University of New York, Oswego.

July 2015

Become an AAHPSSS Member Now

Membership of the Association is \$40 for ordinary membership and \$20 for concessional membership.

Funds may be transferred electronically to the Association's bank account:

- Account Number: 041 336 133
- Account Name: AAHPSSS
- Payee Reference: Your name

OR

- Visit the [AAHPSS website](#) and follow instructions for PAYPAL

To confirm your registration, also advise the Treasurer, Luciano Boschiero, by email (l.boschiero@campion.edu.au).

AAHPSSS membership entitles you to the following:

- bi-annual newsletter containing reports and information about developments in the field, including AAHPSSS activities, departmental news, jobs and fellowships, new book publications, as well as archived articles from old newsletters and Metascience;
- discount on AAHPSSS conference registration;
- subscription to the AAHPSSS mailing list;
- discount on Taylor & Francis journals *Annals of Science, History and Technology*, and *Science as Culture*;
- free access to *Metascience*, an international reviews journal for the history, philosophy and social studies of science