

HPS

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WINTER 2009

NEWS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Our 50th celebration and “Integrated HPS”

Norwood Russell Hanson, who co-founded the History and Philosophy of Science Department at Indiana University in 1960, famously argued that history of science is blind without philosophy of science and philosophy of science is empty without history of science. But in the late 20th century, the two fields drifted apart, and Hanson’s sentiment was often merely honored in the breach. Now a new movement to reintegrate the fields is afoot. A new entity — Integrated HPS (aka “&HPS”) came into being in 2006, and with two faculty members on the organizing committee (Jutta Schickore and Bill Newman), IU is playing a key role. Integrated HPS aims to invigorate the existing community in history and philosophy of science, and to attract new scholars to the field. The primary venue for achieving these goals is a series of conferences.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Department of HPS will host the third Integrated History and Philosophy of Science Conference (“&HPS3”) in September of 2010. Michael Friedman, one of the most widely respected figures in history and philosophy of science today, and a former IU faculty member, will be a keynote speaker. Friedman’s scholarship,

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COMING IN 2010:

- Celebrate our 50th anniversary on Sept. 23–26, 2010!
- IUB hosts Integrated History & Philosophy of Science Conference.

CHAIR’S CORNER

A decade of successes

It has been a full decade since the last *Goodbody Gazette*, our former departmental newsletter, was published. In such a span of time, one can only expect that considerable change will have occurred, and that is in fact the case. Since 1998 we have been joined by a remarkably diverse and able group of faculty members, including Lisa Lloyd, Sander Gliboff, Jordi Cat, Colin Allen, Jutta Schickore, and Amit Hagar. This influx has helped to offset the departure of Fred Churchill (1997), Noretta Koertge (2000), Richard Sorrenson (2002), Michael Friedman (2004), and Michael Dickson (2004). Yet despite this sea-change in the composition of the faculty, the underlying structure of HPS at Indiana University remains much the same as it was before. Early science is still vigorously represented by Nico Bertoloni Meli and Bill Newman, and Jim Capshew continues to hold up the history of psychology. The department still consists of a balanced mix of historians and philosophers (four faculty members with doctorates in history of science, and five in philosophy), and if anything, there is a greater interaction between the two fields than ever before. In recognition of this fact, IU will host the third annual Integrated History and Philosophy of Science meeting in 2010, which will coincide with the 50th anniversary of our department. This exciting event will be accompanied by a celebration of HPS at Indiana University, with the participation of former faculty and alumni.

Perhaps the best way to convey the current climate of HPS at IU is to describe the research interests of the newer faculty. Lloyd and Gliboff, hired as replacements for Koertge and Churchill, work mainly

in the philosophy and history of biology. Lloyd’s most recent monograph book, *The Case of the Female Orgasm* (2005), is an influential study of the non-adaptational role of the orgasm in human females. Lloyd’s current research focuses on philosophical issues surrounding global warming and its assessment, a project for which she recently won an NSF Scholar’s Award. Gliboff, like Lloyd, works in the area of biology, but focuses more on its historical dimensions. His newly published book, *H.G. Bronn, Ernst Haeckel, and the Origins of German Darwinism* (2008), challenges previous interpretations of early German Darwinism, which tended to shoehorn German evolutionary thinkers into the Procrustean bed of *Naturphilosophie*. Gliboff is now at work on a second book that will carry his study of evolutionary thought in German-speaking lands into the twentieth century. He has received an NSF Scholar’s Award to carry out the research on this project next year.

Colin Allen and Jutta Schickore were both hired as part of IU’s ongoing life sciences initiative, and both scholars have broad interests in the history and philosophy of biology and related areas. Allen’s main area is cognitive ethology, the study of the behaviour and cognition of animals, and accordingly, he has a joint appointment between HPS and Cognitive Science. His most recent book, *Moral Machines: Teaching Robots Right and Wrong* (2008), coauthored with Wendell Wallach, is generating considerable attention as computational scientists grapple with the issue of teaching “intelligent” machines that interact with humans how to distinguish right from wrong. Allen’s research is cur-

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Chair's corner

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rently being funded by the NEH.

Schickore has also recently published an important book — *The Microscope and the Eye* (2007) — which traces the fascinating historical and philosophical dimensions of determining the artifactual and the erroneous in microscopy. Much of Schickore's work has focused on the issue of detecting and correcting error in the sciences. She spent last year as a funded member at the prestigious Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton working on a new book that will study the use of snake venom as an experimental object over several centuries.

Jordi Cat and Amit Hagar both work in the history and philosophy of physics. Cat is preparing an exciting book-length study of James Clerk Maxwell that will integrate the famous Scottish physicist's scientific work with his interests in art and culture more generally. Cat himself has broad ranging interests ranging from "fuzzy-set causality" to gestalt psychology. Hagar is the newest member of the department, having come to IU in 2006. He has done extensive work on the possible limits of quantum computing, partly by drawing comparisons with statistical mechanics. He is the third member of the department to receive an NSF Scholar's Award in the last two years, and will spend the upcoming year and a half in the research for his project on quantum computing.

The extensive research being carried out by these post-1998 faculty members shows that IU remains a powerhouse in the field of HPS. Not that the *ancien régime* in the department has ceased to be productive! Ed Grant has published three new books since the last appearance of the *Goodbody Gazette*, including his most recent, *A History of Natural Philosophy* (2007), Noretta Koertge has brought out the *New Dictionary of Scientific Biography* (2008) as its general editor, and Fred Churchill continues to do active research in nineteenth-century German biology.

Things look very good, then, as we approach our 50th year. Applications to our strong graduate program are on the increase, and our undergraduate certificate remains popular. With a balanced faculty of influential senior scholars and energetic younger researchers and a solid pool of eager graduate students, we are reasserting the intellectual advantages of integrating history and philosophy of science at a time when HPS itself seems poised to make new inroads in the world of the academic disciplines.

As I step down from my four-and-a-half year stint as department chairperson, I look back in satisfaction at the progress that we have made, above all in research and new hirings. And it is with equal satisfaction that I look to the future, under the prospective leadership of our next chair, Nico Bertoloni Meli. As we near our quinquagesimal celebration you will be hearing more from us about the precise form that

the event will take. We hope very much that alumni of our program will view this as an opportunity to re-establish connections that may have faded over time and to let us know what you have been doing. We look to the future with great excitement as the community of History and Philosophy of Science continues to grow and develop at Indiana University.

—William R. Newman

Distinguished Lectures and Student Awards since 1998

Lectures

In addition to the lecturers in our normal colloquium series, the Department of History and Philosophy of Science invites two distinguished scholars per year for the following named lectures:

The annual Westfall Lecture, in honor of former HPS faculty member Richard S. Westfall, has brought the following speakers to campus in the last 10 years: Margaret Osler, Lorraine Daston, Peter Dear, John Heilbron, Mordechai Feingold, Rose-Mary Sargent, Daniel Garber, Edith Sylla, Roger Ariew, and Harold Cook.

The Coffa Lecture, also given annually, honors the memory of Alberto Coffa, a former HPS faculty member. Since 1998, the following Coffa lecturers have come to IU: Bas van Fraassen, David Hull, Don Howard, Ernan McMullin, Larry Sklar, Nancy Cartwright, John Earman, Michael Friedman, Helen Longino, Patrick Suppes, and Brian Skyrms.

Student awards

HPS also honors graduate students with internal awards. These include the following:

Westfall Travel Grant

The award, established by friends and family of Richard S. Westfall, is a \$1,000, one-year award that can also be given to two students at \$500 each. The award is used for research travel. Recipients in the last decade have included Mark Borrello, Nicole Howard, Melinda Fagan, Rebecca Willis, Matthew Dunn, Brian Hood, Karin Ekholm, Grant Goodrich, Nicholas Best, and Joel Klein.

Thoren Award

Established by friends and family of former IU professor Victor Thoren, the award is granted annually to an advanced graduate student in the amount of \$1,000. Recipients since 1998 include Elizabeth Green Musselman, H. Darrel Rutkin, Paul Pojman, James Mattingly, Scott Tanona, Mary Domski, Rasmus Winther, Narisara Murray, Matthew Adanson, Melinda Fagan, and Brian Hood.

Hanson Award

Named after HPS co-founder Norwood Russell Hanson, this honor is presented to one student each year. Students submit papers by April 15. From that selection, one is named to present his or her paper at the next year's HPS colloquium series. Recipients in the last decade include Judith Johns, Eric Winsberg, Nicole Howard, H. Darrel Rutkin, Scott Tanona, Kevin Grau, Rasmus Winther, Mary Domski, Zachary Jenkins, Melinda Fagan, and Evan Ragland.

Mikal Lynn Sousa Award

The award was established by an endowment from Alice Dreger and Aron Sousa and their generous friends and relations on the occasion of Aron and Alice's marriage and in memory of Aron's sister, Mikal Lynn Sousa. The \$600 award is granted to a graduate student in HPS; if no HPS student is eligible, the History Department nominates a candidate. A strong preference is for a woman. Recipients of the Sousa award since 1998 include Lynn Sargeant, Dana Ohren, Jane Wickersham, Nicole Howard, Narisara Murray, Mary Domski, Gwen Moore, Rebecca Willis, Melinda Fagan, Anna Mueller, and Karin Ekholm.

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FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Over the last decade the Department of History and Philosophy of Science has developed an impressive track record in the publication of faculty research. Not counting departed or retired faculty members, we have, collectively, released 15 books. Ten of these were monograph studies, in addition to several hundred articles. In order to give a sense of how faculty research has evolved, all books published since 1998 are listed below, with thumbnails of the most recent monographs.

- **Colin Allen (1)**

Moral Machines: Teaching Robots Right from Wrong (with Wendell Wallach), (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009)

- **Domenico Bertoloni Meli (2)**

Thinking with Objects: The Transformation of Mechanics in the Seventeenth Century (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006)

- **James Capshew (3)**

Psychologists on the March: Science, Practice, and Professional Identity in America, 1929-1969 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)

- **Sander Gliboff (4)**

H.G. Bronn, Ernst Haeckel, and the Origins of German Darwinism: A Study in Translation and Transformation (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 2008)

- **Elisabeth Lloyd (5)**

Science, Politics, and Evolution (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008)

The Case of the Female Orgasm: Bias in the Science of Evolution (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006)

- **William R. Newman (6)**

The Artificial and The Natural: An Evolving Polarity (with Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent) (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2007)

Atoms and Alchemy: Chymistry and the Experimental Origins of the Scientific Revolution (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006)

George Starkey: Alchemical Laboratory Notebooks and Correspondence (with Lawrence M. Principe) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press 2004)

Promethean Ambitions: Alchemy and the Quest to Perfect Nature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004)

Alchemy Tried in the Fire: Starkey, Boyle, and the Fate of Helmontian Chymistry (with Lawrence M. Principe), (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002)

Secrets of Nature: Astrology and Alchemy in Early Modern Europe (with Anthony Grafton), (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001)

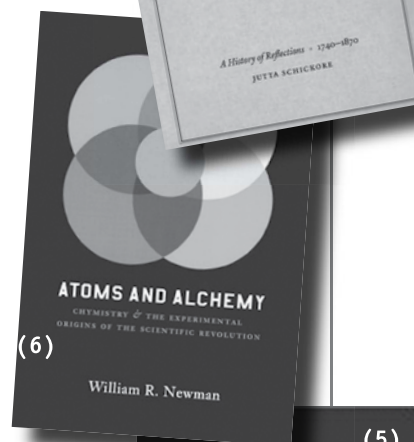
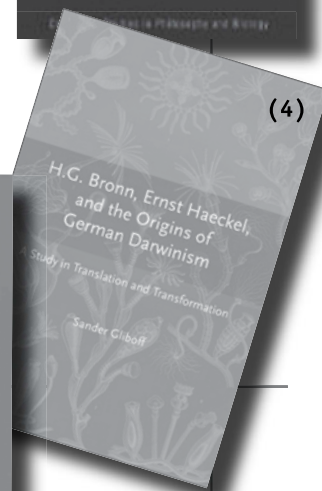
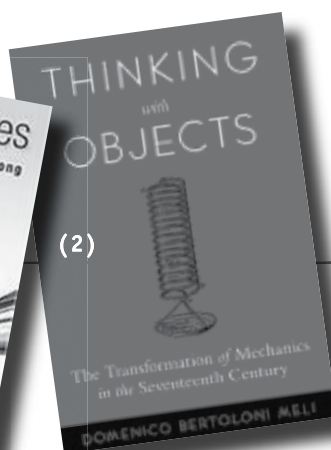
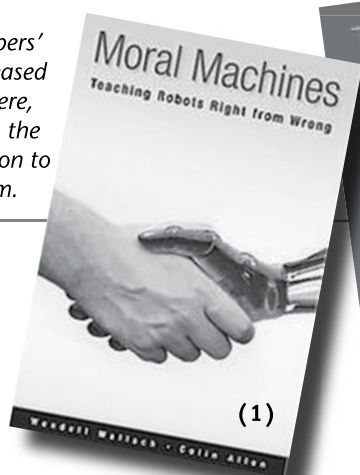
Late Medieval and Early Modern Corpuscular Matter Theories (with Christoph Lüthy and John E. Murdoch) (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2001)

- **Jutta Schickore (7)**

The Microscope and the Eye: A History of Reflections, 1740-1870 (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007)

Revisiting Discovery and Justification: Historical and Philosophical Perspectives on the Context Distinction (with Friedrich Steinle) (Dordrecht: Springer, 2006)

Our faculty members' most recently released books, pictured here, tackle topics from the Scientific Revolution to the female orgasm.



50 years!

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ranging from the philosophy of space-time to the study of Immanuel Kant and his pervasive influence both in philosophical and historical treatments of science, will provide an ideal entry point for discussion.

The conference is conceived to be largely an "open call" in order to stimulate the greatest diversity in both topics and scholars. In addition to the full complement of "&HPS3" talks, we are planning to organize a session and round-table discussion on the history of HPS at Bloomington with alumni and former members of the department. We believe that such a session devoted to the career of integrated HPS at IU will be a highly valuable addition to the conference agenda. Apart from emphasizing the central role of IU in the field, it will provide for the participants at "&HPS3" an incentive to reflect on the intellectual and institutional history of HPS and to continue the conversation about how to strengthen integrated HPS as a scholarly endeavor. The conference is currently scheduled to be held Sept. 23-26, 2010. Expect to hear more from us as the planning for "&HPS3" unfolds!



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INDIANA UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

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History & Philosophy of Science Alumni: What's new?

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