

ESHS

## European Society for the History of Science

Newsletter n° 6

### *ii. Conferences and other events*

#### Canada

**Third International Conference on the Nature and Ontology of Spacetime**  
Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

<http://www.spacetimesociety.org/conferences/2008/>

The purpose of the conference is to bring together physicists and philosophers and to provide a forum where different aspects of the nature and ontology of spacetime can be discussed.

The Third International Conference on the Nature and Ontology of Spacetime will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Minkowski's talk "Space and Time" given on September 21, 1908. While papers on any of the topics listed in the Conference Topics will be welcome, we especially wish to encourage submissions on the nature and legacy of Minkowski's contributions to the theory of relativity.

#### Invited Speakers:

Leo Corry (Cohn Institute for History and Philosophy of Science, Tel-Aviv University)

Peter Minkowski (Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Bern)

John D. Norton (Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh)

William G. Unruh (Department of Physics & Astronomy, University of British Columbia)

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** The Program Committee invites papers from physicists and philosophers on topics related to the nature and ontology of spacetime. Contributions from graduate students and postdocs are welcome. Contributed papers should be submitted in the form of extended abstracts of one to two pages by Friday, November 30, 2007. Submissions will be reviewed by the Program Committee and notification of acceptance will be given by Thursday, January 31, 2008. The extended abstracts, in English or French, should be emailed to a member of the Program Committee.

#### Program Committee:

Craig Callender (University of California, San Diego)

Dennis Dieks (Utrecht University)

Mauro Dorato (University of Rome Three)

John Earman (University of Pittsburgh)

Robert Geroch (University of Chicago)

Vesselin Petkov (Concordia University)

Steven Savitt (University of British Columbia)

For organizational and funding purposes it will be necessary to know the approximate number of people intending to come to the conference. That is why it will be appreciated if potential participants send an email with their name, affiliation, and a tentative title of their presentation by Monday, October 1, 2007. Graduate students are especially encouraged to do that since a limited number of bursaries (depending on funding) may be made available for those who wish to give a presentation at the conference. All emails should be sent to Vesselin Petkov (vpetkov@alcor.concordia.ca).

## Denmark

### **ICOHTEC 2007**

The International Committee for the History of Technology will host its 34th Symposium in Copenhagen, Denmark in 2007, August 14-18th. "Fashioning Technology: Design from Imagination to Practice". For more details, see: <http://www.icohtec2007.dk/>

## France

### **Workshop on Georg Stahl's chemistry Montpellier (France). July 8th to 15th, 2007**

We organize a workshop on the relation between the early 18th century chemists in Europe and Stahl, at the Twelfth Congress of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SIEDS) that will be held in Montpellier (France) from July 8th to 15th, 2007.

Historians of chemistry often introduce bonds between Stahl's Chemistry and the French 18th century Chemistry only through the deformed reception of Phlogistic doctrines in the second half of the century. This approach does not seem very satisfactory: first because it reduces stahlian Chemistry to a particular aspect, second and foremost, because it neglects the exchanges which seem to have existed between Stahl and the early French 18th century chemists. For example, there are similarities between Homberg's Sulphur principle and Phlogistic; or between stahlian Chemistry and Geoffroy's doctrine of affinities. We thus propose to the historians of Chemistry who work over these authors or this period to confront their points of view and to exchange their information in order to make clearer the part of Stahl in the History of Chemistry of this time when 18th century European chemical thought was forming.

If you are interested by this workshop, you may subscribe to <http://www.congreslumieres2007.org> <<http://www.congreslumieres2007.org/>>

## Germany

### **Call for Papers: The Entanglement of East and West in Technology and Natural Sciences in the 20th Century - Universitaet Passau 18-20 Jul 2008, deadline Sun 10 Jun 2007**

The workshop aims to bring together specialists from the different fields of disciplinary history (mathematics, physics, astronomy, astro/cosmo-nautics, chemistry, biology, statistics, mechanical engineering, electrotechnics, IT and so on). Of central interest are contributions on issues concerning both 'East' and 'West', or contextualising Soviet or socialist sciences in an international framework. Especially PhD students and post-docs are invited to propose a paper (in English or German). The deadline for submitting a proposal of max. 1 page

is June 10, 2007. A publication of the proceedings is planned.

contact: Stefan.Rohdewald@uni-passau.de

Dr. Stefan Rohdewald  
Lehrstuhl fuer Neuere und Neueste Geschichte Osteuropas und seiner Kulturen Prof. Dr.  
Thomas Wuensch  
Universitaet Passau Innstr. 25 94032  
Passau Germany [http://www.phil.uni-passau.de/geschichte\\_osteuroopa](http://www.phil.uni-passau.de/geschichte_osteuroopa)

#### **Wissen für alle!**

#### **Popularisierung der Wissenschaften zwischen Belehrung, Manipulation und Aufklärung.**

Ort: Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Boltzmannstr. 22, 14195 Berlin

Zeit: 06.06.2007, 19:00 Uhr

Berichte und Bilder aus der Wissenschaft sind heute medial allgegenwärtig. Kein Fernsehkanal, keine Zeitung kommt ohne sie aus. Ratgeber und Sachbücher dominieren den Buchmarkt. Die Popularisierung vor allem naturwissenschaftlicher Erkenntnissen und Entdeckungen prägt das Gesicht der sogenannten Wissensgesellschaft. Staatlicher Bildungsauftrag, wissenschaftliches Legitimationsbedürfnis und der Wunsch nach Teilhabe am Wissen von Seiten der Öffentlichkeit treffen hier aufeinander.

Das Phänomen ist jedoch nicht neu, sondern hat eine bereits 150jährige Geschichte, in der die Frage nach der Macht des Wissens und der Wissenschaft immer wieder neu gestellt wurde.

Das Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte lädt ein zu einem Gesprächsabend, der die Popularisierung der Wissenschaften in ihrer Geschichte und gegenwärtigen Praxis befragt.

Welche Interessen oder Hoffnungen verbinden sich mit dem Unternehmen, wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse einer breiten Öffentlichkeit zu vermitteln? Wer übernimmt diese Aufgabe?

Welches Bild von Wissenschaftlichkeit entsteht auf diesem Weg und welche Rolle kommt dabei den Geisteswissenschaften zu?

Es diskutieren mit Ihnen: Prof. Dr. Andreas W. Daum, Historiker an der University at Buffalo (SUNY) Jürgen Kaube, Redakteur für Wissenschaft und Bildung im Feuilleton der Frankfurter Allgemeinen Zeitung Prof. Dr. Jürgen Renn, Direktor am Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte

Organisation: Safia Azzouni, Milena Wazeck Information: [sazzouni\(at\)mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:sazzouni(at)mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de)

#### **On the history of quantum physics**

Berlin, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, July 2-6, 2007

This conference will be the first in a new series of conferences devoted to the history of quantum physics, to be organized by member institutions of the recently established international project on the history and foundations of quantum physics. The organizing committee invites proposals for papers that address the history of quantum physics from various standpoints, including but not limited to: the conceptual and theoretical development of quantum physics, its experimental practice, and its institutional, philosophical and cultural context.

Organizers: Christoph Lehner, Jürgen Renn, Michel Janssen, Robert Rynasiewicz

**From Invention to Innovation: Cultural Traditions of Technical Development in China.**  
Berlin: Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, July 8 - 15, 2007

The workshop will examine and explore concepts and modalities of practical knowledge transmission in the Chinese historical and cultural context. By examining both cross-cultural and China-specific issues of how knowledge is transmitted (orally, visually, textually and materially) and when it is transmitted (a question of openness and secrecy), we aim to provide new insights into the characteristics that foster or hinder innovation capacity, in the short and long term.

Organizer: Dagmar Schäfer, MPIWG

**Marc Bloch und die Krisen des Wissens - Marc Bloch et les crises du savoir**

Donnerstag, 4. Oktober - Samstag, 6. Oktober 2007

Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte u.a. □ Boltzmannstraße 22, 14195 Berlin-Dahlem (U3 - Nähe U-Bhf. Thielplatz) □ Colloque international

Organisation: Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin (Hans-Jörg Rheinberger), Centre Marc Bloch de Berlin, in Kooperation mit dem Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent de Paris (Peter Schöttler). Konferenzsprachen: deutsch und französisch. Um Anmeldung wird gebeten. Kontakt: □ peter.schoettler@t-online.de , □ radeck@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

## Greece

### **NETWORKING IN SCIENCE: THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

Ermoupolis of Syros, Greece

July 6-9, 2007

The Commission "Women in Science" of the International Union for History and Philosophy of Science/Division of History of Science is organizing a conference to honor the 25th anniversary of the Commission's establishment. The venue is the Ermoupolis Seminars in Syros, a Cycladic island in Greece. The Ermoupolis Seminars constitute an important institution in Greece. For the last 23 years they have been organized by the National Hellenic Research Foundation <<http://www.eie.gr/>><http://www.eie.gr/> in collaboration to the Scientific Foundation of Cyclades. The seminars take place at the historical building of the Town Hall of Cyclades and the Industrial Museum of Ermoupolis, the capital of Syros. The commission's meeting is held from the 6th to the 9th of July, 2007.

The conference explores the importance of networking in science from a gender perspective. It is indubitable that networks play an important role in the development of science. Exchange of knowledge and expertise between scientists of several countries and universities stand on the top of their agenda. Parallel to this runs the importance of belonging to the "right" networks for the development of one's own scientific career. Historically participation in professional organisations and other scientific networks have been long ago recognized as the most essential part in the advancement of science. However, given the marginal position of women in science it is interesting to explore the role of gender in networking in science. In its 1999 Communication "Women and science" the European Commission recognised that networks of women scientists have a key role to play. The conference aims to a sociological and historical understanding of the role of scientific networks to women's professional careers and the role of gender to the establishment and maintaining of scientific networks.

## Italy

### **Giacomo Ciamician, genius of chemistry and prophet of solar energy Bologna, 16th to the 18th of September 2007**

Dear Colleagues,

On the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of **Giacomo Ciamician**, we are delighted to announce the Hystorical-Scientific conference: Giacomo Ciamician, genius of chemistry and prophet of solar energy, that will be held from the 16th to the 18th of September 2007 at the Department of Chemistry "G. Ciamician", University of Bologna, Italy.

The conference is organized in thematic sessions with the aim of presenting the historical figure and the scientific activity of Giacomo Ciamician. Each session will include plenary lectures and free scientific contributions (ca. 20 minutes) on current research topics that have their roots in the studies of G. Ciamician. At the end of this message you can find the first circular of the conference with a list of the invited speakers and the tentative titles of their lectures. General information on registration, abstract submission and participation fees will be given in the second circular.

Best Regards,  
The scientific and organizing committee

For further information, please contact:  
Margherita Venturi  
Chemistry department "G. Ciamician"  
Via Selmi n. 2 - 40126 Bologna  
Phone: +390512099543; Fax: +390512099456  
E-mail: margherita.venturi@unibo.it

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2007, 5.00-8.00 pm.  
Welcome reception with a chamber music interlude, and visit to the museum of the Department

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2007  
Introduction and Academic Authority greetings.

#### *Historical Session*

Marco Taddia (University of Bologna):  
Luigi Cerruti (University of Torino):  
*between the 19th and 20th centuries*  
Daniela Taccone (University of Bologna):  
Attestations  
Giorgio Nebbia:  
Yeghis Keheyan:

*The active Ciamician's life*  
*A progressive science: the Italian Chemistry*

*Giacomo Ciamician as public man*

*Ciamician's scholars*  
*The Armenian origins of Ciamician*

#### *Organic Chemistry Session*

Diego Savoia (University of Bologna):  
Gianluca Nasini (CNR-Politecnico of Milano):  
Angelo Albini (University of Pavia):  
Scientific Contributions

*Ciamician and the pyrrole chemistry*  
*Ciamician and the natural compounds*  
*The birth of the green chemistry idea*

Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2007

*Photochemistry Session*

Anthony M. Trozzolo (University of Notre Dame): *Origins of modern photochemistry in Italy: a lot of Bologna*

Vincenzo Balzani (University of Bologna): *Photochemistry from Ciamician to nowadays*

Devens Gust (Arizona State University): *A biomimetic approach to solar energy conversion*

Nicola Armaroli (ISOF-CNR, Bologna): *Luminescent materials and the future of illumination*  
Scientific Contributions

*Multi-thematic Session*

Giorgio Orlandi (University of Bologna): *A modern reading of Ciamician's physical-chemistry interests*

Goffredo Rosini (University of Bologna): *Ciamician and the chemistry of plants*

Ferruccio Trifirò (University of Bologna): *From Ciamician's intuition to the biomasses exploitation*

Scientific Contributions

**NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION: □HISTORICAL APPRAISAL AND PRESENT PROBLEMS:** Florence (Italy) October 3-5, 2007.

Organized by: □□- Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany □□- University of Florence, Italy, Department of Physics □□- University of Rome-3, Italy □□- Machiavelli Center for Cold War Studies, Italy □□- INES International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility □□- IPB International Peace Bureau □□□□Dual-use has always been an intrinsic feature of nuclear technology. □□During World War Two, both Germany and Japan tried to develop the bomb. Many States in the past decades (within or outside the NPT) have developed military nuclear programs, often in a secret way. In fact, the main responsibility of this "horizontal" proliferation belongs to the official nuclear powers, who developed these armaments during the early 20 years of the nuclear age. Without doubt, "vertical" proliferation, the uncontrolled growth of nuclear arsenals and of the whole system of nuclear armaments during the Cold War, noncompliance of the commitments of complete nuclear disarmament imposed by the NPT and successive undertakings, are matchless blames of the main nuclear powers. Detailed reconstructions of the paths followed by these States already exist, although several important aspects still remain to be clarified. □□On the other hand, a more careful study of the efforts made by other countries, in spite of the international safeguards system, can offer a different, and in some aspects more interesting approach, in order to shed light on the concrete and deep mechanisms of proliferation and of the dual-use of nuclear technology, even in their political implications. Such efforts have in some cases allowed States to build the bomb (Israel, South Africa, India, Pakistan, North Korea), in other cases have been stopped just at the threshold of materially building the bomb, and otherwise have led a considerable number of - in some cases "unsuspected" - countries (44 in a recent opinion of the IAEA) to acquire the know-how to do so, in some significant cases to reach a condition of latent, or stand-by proliferation. □□The Second World War marked a turning point in both science and technology development: the birth of "Big Science" was mainly (but not only) due to the effort for the construction of the US atomic bomb, which strongly pushed towards large scale research. After the war the new organizational level of scientific and technical research spread in many scientific and technical fields, and in other countries, in and outside military research. □□Nuclear technologies spread all over the world, in the first place, with the international cooperation programs, widely promoted after 1955 in the context of the "Atoms for peace" campaign. The intrinsic dual-use of these technologies was the concrete basis for the proliferation of nuclear armaments, but on the other hand it left

a persistent uncertainty about the real nuclear proliferation capabilities of the States that have developed civil nuclear programs, despite the aims of politicians or scientists who led these programs (some of them wittingly trying to get the bomb, others explicitly interested only in their country's energetic or scientific development). In this respect, a huge space is still left for investigating and clarifying the true nature of these programs, with direct effect to present times (such as, for instance, the nuclear programs of Brazil, Argentina, Iran, or North Korea). One of the aims of this Conference is intended to promote and coordinate a more exhaustive analysis of the twilight zone that has characterized the civil nuclear programs developed in many countries. A crucial (and topical) aspect is given by the standards, and mechanisms, of safeguards on the carrying out of the civil nuclear programs, which acquires an increasing and dramatic relevance at present. Consistent and reliable results in this field can be reached only with the contribution and collaboration of specialists from many disciplines - such as history of science, politics, sociology, economics, and so on - conjugated with the experience of those people and Agencies who concretely work to apply verifications and safeguards. The main tasks of the Conference are: ( To understand the concrete mechanisms of nuclear proliferation; ( To deepen the links between the political and technical aspects; ( To reach a deeper historical perspective of the whole problem; ( To prepare a framework for further research in this field; ( To build a bridge with the perspectives of nuclear disarmament. The Conference will be held in Florence and will have a three-days duration. Further information will be sent to every interested person, or institution. For further information and contacts, please contact: Matteo Gerlini: [florence2007@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:florence2007@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de) Organisations and Program Committee is integrated by Angelo Baracca (University of Florence) Reiner Braun (INES) Cristiano Franceschini (IPB Italia) Marilena Gala (University of Rome) Matteo Gerlini (University of Florence) Leopoldo Nuti (University of Rome) Albert Presas i Puig (MPI, Berlin) Juergen Renn, (MPI, Berlin)

## Netherlands

### **'The Material Vehicles of the Circulation of Knowledge' Centre for History of Science, Ghent University, 10-11 May 2007**

'The Material Vehicles of the Circulation of Natural Knowledge in the Low Countries' is a workshop that will be held at the Centre for History of Science, Ghent University, 10-11 May 2007. In this workshop, the first of a series of workshops on 'circulating knowledge in early modern science' organized under the auspices of a five-year international scientific research network of the Flemish Research Foundation, we shall look at the material culture of science from the point of view of the circulation of knowledge.

More substantial information on the workshop's central theme, and the program and location of the workshop can be found on the conference website [www.circulatingknowledge.ugent.be/events](http://www.circulatingknowledge.ugent.be/events). Invited speakers include Harold Cook, Victor Navarro-Brotons, Fokko Jan Dijksterhuis, Maria Luz Lopez, Pamela Smith, Claudia Swan, Steven Vanden Broecke, Brigitte Van Tiggelen.

Attendance is open to all without charge. However, there is a limit on places available and anyone wishing to attend must register with Arlette Wille ([Arlette.Wille@UGent.be](mailto:Arlette.Wille@UGent.be)) by 1 May 2007. For all other enquires in connection to this workshop, please contact Sven Dupre ([Sven.Dupre@UGent.be](mailto:Sven.Dupre@UGent.be)).

**Inventing Europe: Technology and the Making of Europe, 1850 to the Present**  
Rotterdam, 07.06.2007-10.06.2007

The European Science Foundation (ESF) and the Foundation for the History of Technology in the Netherlands are jointly organizing the Launch Conference of the ESF EUROCORES Programme Inventing Europe in conjunction with the Third Plenary Conference of the Tensions of Europe Network (ToE). Rotterdam, 07.06.2007-10.06.2007., Rotterdam, 7 - 10 June 2007.

## **Portugal**

### **Food, court cultures and the world since 1850**

The ESSHC (<http://www.iisg.nl/esshc/>) convenes researchers who tackle historical questions by using the methods of the social sciences. The ESSHC 2008 takes place in Lisbon (Portugal), from Wednesday February 27th up to and including Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. Contact: [danielle.devooght@vub.ac.be](mailto:danielle.devooght@vub.ac.be)  
URL: [http://www.vub.ac.be/FOST/fost\\_in\\_english](http://www.vub.ac.be/FOST/fost_in_english)

## **Spain**

### **4th European Spring School of History of Science and Popularization: □Science, Publicity and Propaganda**

Maó (Menorca), 17-19 May 2007 □ Institut Menorquí d'Estudis (Camí des Castell, Maó)

Science is the most effective instrument of persuasion of contemporary society, specially in developed countries. In a world characterized by the social division of work, everyone is at the same time expert and lay depending on the subject. By means of science, people can be persuaded to change their attitudes and their ways of behaving.

Publicity and propaganda induce changes on peoples' sets of values and standards of behaviour by using communication techniques coming from social psychology. Determinant factors of these strategies are age, gender, race, social class, national identity, and other characteristic features of potential publics.

Historically publicity and propaganda's borderline has not been always well delimited. Moreover, there has been a wide range of coincidences, similarities and intersections.

Objectives of the fourth edition of the European Spring School are to analyse:

- \* intersections and delimitations between publicity, propaganda and techno science (including biomedicine).
- \* promotion of consumption by means of a scientific discourses.
- \* scientific rhetoric as an instrument for the legitimation of power.

For postgraduate students, the participation in the School is an option recognised with 2 ECTS of the unit 'Science and its publics' in the framework of the Master "History of

Science, History and Society” (<http://www.uab.es/cehic>), organised by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and the Universitat de Barcelona. An evaluation is required.

Organizing Committee: Josep Miquel Vidal, Antoni Roca-Rosell, Àlvar Martínez-Vidal, Enrique Perdiguer, Matiana González, Núria Pérez, Emma Sallent.

For further details, see: <http://schct.iec.cat/school/spring07.htm>

### **Academia Europaea: The Dialogue of Three Cultures and our European Heritage**

"The Dialogue of Three Cultures and our European Heritage"  
(Toledo Crucible of the Culture and the Dawn of the Renaissance)

Toledo (Spain), September 2-5, 2007

Full details at <<http://www.acadeuro.org>>  
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: 31 MAY 2007

What is the European Union of 2006? What is it about the Europe of now that has enabled longstanding enmities to be subdued and replaced with collaboration and a communal perspective?

Is what we have created in the Europe of 2006 new? Or can we find patterns in long past developments in Europe that resonate in the situation of the Europe of today?

In our continents turbulent sea of history, can we find islands of calm, where dialogue, tolerance and a shared vision effectively overcame the significant and violent cultural divides of the time, and so left us with a lasting collective heritage? Do the perspectives of the past carry any relevant messages for the re-emergent cultural intolerances of today?

The theme of the 2007 conference “The Dialogue of Three Cultures and our European Heritage” and the location in Toledo, are absolutely central to all of these issues. Some may argue, that what we consider as our present day ‘common European culture and heritage’, has an origin earlier than the flowering of the Italian renaissance: that the renaissance had roots in an earlier era of dialogue, tolerance and cultural development that was prevalent in parts of the Al Andalus of the Iberia of the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth centuries. Moreover, it may be no exaggeration to see Toledo as the crucible of the culture and the dawn of renaissance in Europe at that time.

Toledo and the work of the ‘School of Translators’, played a monumentally significant part in the creation of our European scientific heritage. Toledo as a centre of tolerance, was a magnet for leading European scholars of the time, who were able to work without the constraints of the political and cultural divisions of the day, and who were thus able to focus on the pursuit and transfer of knowledge of the significant advances made in the sciences, arts and humanities, medicine, culture, and technology of the wider Islamic world, diffusing these innovations out into a wider European culture.

Our conference in 2007, will seek to expose the most relevant scientific and cultural developments and perspectives of that period in history to a modern dialogue of cultures.

The main conference sessions will cover:

Sunday 2nd September - Music and Musical cultures

Monday 3rd September - History & History of Science

- Mathematics and Art

Tuesday 4th September - Medicine, Pharmacology and practices

- Astronomy

Wednesday 5th September - 'Land and water sciences' & engineering - Literature

In addition, the following additional session will explore in more detail:

A. On 5th September a workshop on literature of the period and region

Speakers include: B. McGuire (Roskilde, Denmark)

Doris Abouseief (SOAS, London)

J. Ma González (CSIC, Madrid)

A. Sousa Ribeiro (Coimbra, Portugal)

P. Ferré (Algarve, Portugal)

C. Torres (Portugal)

A. Marques de Almeida (Lisbon, Portugal)

J. Tolan (Université de Nantes)

Historical context

Toledo and Islamic scientific influence in Europe

The Beginning in the Middle Ages, men seeking knowledge would travel to Spain to obtain Muslim science. This may be surprising since we tend to think of the Muslim world as being separated from Europe. But, there were many linkage between these two societies, one being trade and the other, more significantly education. Adelard of Bath, an Englishman in the 12th century, was the first major populariser of Muslim science in the West. He spent a long time in Muslim Spain learning both about Greek mathematics and science as well as Muslim contributions to science. In particular he introduced Euclid and aspects of astronomy to Western Europe. "As well as more technical treatises, he wrote *Natural Questions* - the selections here are from its preface and part of the body - which expresses his fundamental belief that God should not be invoked to explain what human knowledge can." Adelard of Bath: The Impact of Muslim Science. Preface to His Very Difficult *Natural Questions*, [Dodi Ve-Nechdi] c.1137 from *Medieval Sourcebook*  
[ <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/adelardbath1.html>]

The key event for Medieval Europe came in 1085 when the great Muslim city of Toledo fell to Christian military forces. Toledo housed one of the largest libraries in the world at this time. And, this library was filled with thousands of books including Muslim translations of classic Greek philosophers. After the fall of Toledo, this city became the focus of a massive translation effort where teams of translators translated the Arabic texts into Latin. Often, this was not a one-step process. Jewish intellectuals frequently served as the translators--translating Arabic into Hebrew for themselves and then into Spanish for the Christians. But, because most of Europe spoke Latin, the works were then translated into Latin (often by priests or monks). One translator, Gerard of Cremona (1114-87) worked for forty years in Spain translating, with a team, over 70 books from Arabic originals including the works of Archimedes, Galen, Hippocrates, and Aristotle (McClellan & Dorn, 1999). In addition to Toledo, Arab work was found and translated in southern Italy and Sicily (reconquered by Norman knights in the 11th century). By 1200, Europe had recovered most of ancient science as well as appropriating several centuries of scientific, medical, and philosophical work done by Muslim scholars.

Full details and registration form at <<http://www.acadeuro.org>>

**Conference: Big Science, Science and Structures in Authoritarian and Post-Authoritarian Contexts, CSIC, Madrid, Spain, September 6-8, 2007**

Organized by

- Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona)
- Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

This year is the celebration of the Centenary of the foundation of the Junta de Ampliación de Estudios (Spanish Board of Broadening of Studies, JAE in the Spanish acronym). This was the first Spanish governmental foundation for the promotion of science. It was dissolved in 1939, at the begin of the Franco era, and replaced by the current Spanish High Council for Scientific Research (CSIC in the Spanish acronym).

As part of the centenary celebrations of the JAE, the conference “Big Science, Science and Structures in Authoritarian and Post-Authoritarian Contexts,” proposes to analyse the role of science in the 20th century, both in its international context and in the Spanish context. It will take place at the CSIC headquarters in Madrid, Spain, from September 6-8, 2007.

Around what is commonly known as Big Science, the conference will analyse the role of science during the 20th century and should allow participants to consider, in a comparative way, a series of issues which make up a large part of current international debate.

Thematically the conference will be divided into three sections:

- 1) Value, structures in Authoritarian and Post-authoritarian contexts
- 2) Big Science and Big State
- 3) Science on the Periphery

The issues to be discussed include (but are not limited to):

- (i) - Science in Countries on the Periphery
- (ii) - Science and Social and Economic Development
- (iii) - Science and the Military
- (iv) - Social Elites and Scientific Elites
- (v) - Continuities, Discontinuities and Ruptures in Scientific Models
- (vi) - Science and State Ideology
- (vii) - Science in Dictatorships and Democracies

With the aim of achieving an integrated view, the conference aims to consider these issues from different perspectives: those of the history of science and technology, economic, social and political history, sociology, etc.

The conference is a joint activity of the Spanish High Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin).

Albert Presas i Puig: [presasipuig@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:presasipuig@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de)

Organisations and Programm Committee is integrated by:

- Antonio Lafuente (CSIC)
- Antoni Malet (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
- Albert Presas i Puig (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)
- Luis Sanz (CSIC)

## **Who is making Science? Scientists as makers of technical-scientific structures and administrators of science policy.**

Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Spain) 15-17 November, 2007.

The study of the technical-scientific complexes that characterise scientific activity today has become an integral part of the history of contemporary science and technology. The particularity of scientific action and of science itself since World War II demonstrated the need to consider contemporary science and technology as a result of large technical-scientific complexes, difficult to reduce to the existence or action of a single factor, whatever it may be (scientific, technical, economic, political, etc.). After World War II, recognition of the contributions of science and the efficacy of organised government action lent credence to the view that government-sanctioned and financed application of the methods, understanding, and special talents of scientists and engineers could solve many otherwise intractable problems (energy, military, aerospace, etc.). Most previous investigations of Cold War - Government - Science relations have focused primarily on academic science and state-financed extra-academic institutions, which has always been but one component of the modern scientific community.

One of the first authors to study the technical-scientific complexes was Thomas Hughes, who at the end of the 1970s and throughout the 1980s oriented the study of technology toward its reticular structures. Hughes defines his unit of analysis, the System, as something comprised of elements that relate with each other. According to him, these elements can be individuals (scientists, engineers, politicians, business people, etc.), laboratories, companies, artefacts, political organisations, financial entities, legal systems, the media, etc.

Moreover, Hugh G. J. Aitken, with his *Syntony and Spark. The Origins of Radio* (New York, London: Wiley, 1976), appears as one of the pioneers in the systematic analysis of the elements of a technological system, highlighting the need for individuals capable of acting in different subsystems, facilitating the necessary exchange of information. These individuals would share values, speak the same language and act as translators between the different elements of the system. Thus, Aitken demonstrates that the exchange of information needs the presence of individuals who act as interfaces. The success of the system depends, therefore, on the mediation and translating abilities of these individuals, who, by their nature, do not correspond with any classical, homogeneous profile. With their vision and their technical and managerial abilities, these actors generate a network of relationships around themselves in which technology, business management, political action, economics, etc., become fused.

From this perspective, the study of science in the 20th century, and especially since World War II, displays as a characteristic phenomenon the action of these individuals, who act as a fundamental link between science, the administration and, in some cases, the security policies of their respective countries. As consultants and advisers to governments and industries and as definers, in turn, of disciplines and scientific spheres, the actions of these individuals allowed them to play a fundamental role as generators of technical-scientific systems. But, despite this, the study of these scientists, who, as technocratic visionaries, acted as managers and administrators of scientific policy, has not been considered significantly. Only recently have works appeared in which, while not devoting themselves to it, special attention is paid to this aspect. Examples are:

Allan A. Needell, *Science, Cold War and the American State: Lloyd V. Berkner and the Balance of Professional Ideals*, (Amsterdam: Routledge 2000), □□Mary Jo Nye, *Blackett: Physics, War, and Politics in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 2004), □□Michael Eckert, *The Dawn of Fluid Dynamics: A Discipline Between Science and Technology*, (Weinheim: Wiley-VCH, 2006), □□and □□Dieter Hoffmann, U.

Schmidt-Rohr (Hrsg.), Wolfgang Gentner: Festschrift zum 100. Geburtstag (Springer-Verlag Heidelberg, 2006).

Main questions of the workshop:

Based on the study of the biography and actions of different scientists and in a international comparison, the questions that structure the present workshop are:

- What kind of discourse do these actors generate in order to establish themselves in different areas of action: scientific, technical, science policy?
- How do these actors generate the network of relationships in which science, technology, politics, industrial policy, economics, etc., become fused and which lead up to the generation of a research complex as the the CERN, KfZ, etc.?
- What role do is (self-) attributed to them in this function?
- What are the social and cultural dimensions of their actions?
- What are the meaning-generating forms of their actions?

## **Sri Lanka**

### **Health, Environment and Well-being: The Role of the Human Sciences**

The theme of this interdisciplinary conference is the contribution to human well-being that may be made by the human sciences through their engagement with issues concerning health and both the natural and built environment.

The human sciences, for the purpose of this conference, are to be understood in a broad way. Submissions of conference presentations will be welcome from people working in any of the following (and related) disciplines:- Archaeology, Architecture, Art Studies, Buddhist Studies, Economics and Business Studies, Education, Environmental Studies, Geography, Health Studies, History, Law, Literature, Medical Ethics, Music, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Psychology, Social Anthropology, and Sociology.

Sub-themes of the conference will include the following:- Health and the Arts, Health and Religion, Health Education, The Concept of Mental Health, Issues in Medical Ethics, The Relevance of the History of Medicine, Issues in Environmental Ethics, Religion and the Environment, Landscape and Gardens, Architecture and Environment, Heritage and Environment, Environmental Education, Food Culture, Issues in Business Ethics, Indigenous Knowledge and Disaster Management.

Further information may be found at  
<<http://www.dur.ac.uk/project.srilanka/ruhunaconference/>>

## **Sweden**

**Gender and Animal Studies Conference, Uppsala  
Uppsala University, Sweden  
27 Aug 2007**

The gender and animal studies conference aims at scientists and Ph.D. students active in the field of human-animal studies. The conference is intended for discussions regarding human-animal studies and to facilitate research cooperation among its participants. Subfields include all issues related to the study of gender and animals studies such as: Representation of animals in science, visual culture, popular culture, art, literature and

media, postcolonial, and class studies; Animals in politics and law; Speciesism; Human-animal boundary work; Human-animal geographies; Animals and philosophy; Animals in culture, religion and history; Animals in human institutions such as agriculture, research and leisure industries, Human-animal interaction, Animals in discourses of science. Scholars from the natural sciences and medicine are encouraged to participate.

#### Plenary Speakers

Marlene Zuk, University of California Riverside, USA

Patricia Adair Gowaty, University of Georgia, USA

Nina Lykke, Linköping University, Sweden

Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and be sent in by e-mail to:

[mans.andersson@gender.uu.se](mailto:mans.andersson@gender.uu.se)

Deadline for submission of abstracts is May 15, 2007

For further information visit: <http://www.gender.uu.se/node25>

### **United Kingdom**

#### **Science and religion: Historical and contemporary perspectives, July 07**

This international and interdisciplinary conference will celebrate the work of John Hedley Brooke will take place at Lancaster University, 23-26 July 2007.

Registration is now open and a provisional conference programme is available. Early registration is recommended as numbers are limited, and the cost of registration will increase after May 1st. To encourage research students to attend, we are offering free registration to the first ten students (undergraduate or postgraduate) who register - on a purely first come, first served basis.

For full information and to register online, please follow the link below:

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/history/news/science&religion.htm>

With best wishes from the organising committee,

Thomas Dixon

Stephen Pumfrey

Geoffrey Cantor

#### **Events at the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, Durham University**

Please note the following two events organised by the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, Durham University, for the next term.

\* June 11, 2007: CHMD Seminar: Stephanie Eichberg (CHMD, Durham University): 'From Animal Brains to the Human Mind: Contesting the Species' Boundaries in Nineteenth-Century (Neuro-)Science', Queen's Campus, Wolfson Research Institute, Seminar Room, 5.15 p.m.

\* June 22, 2007 Forth CHMD Workshop: 'Representations of Early Modern Anatomy and the Human Body', Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease, School for Health. Wolfson Research Institute, University of Durham, Queen's Campus Stockton. Please contact Sebastian Pranghofer

(sebastian.pranghofer@durham.ac.uk) for further details.

**Medicine in the Balkans: ideas and practice to 1945**  
**Call for abstracts: Symposium**

Thursday 24 January and Friday 25 January 2008  
Venue: Central London

The chief objectives of this inaugural symposium are to explore the cultural and intellectual foundations of Balkan medical practices in the context of diverse national identities and heritage of the region; to discuss and develop approaches to history of medicine in the Balkans that are sensitive to the past but also speak to current issues. Topics will include:

Balkan perspectives on medical science - history, influences, transmission and diffusion of medical knowledge; Balkan medicine in practice - therapeutic traditions including folk medicine, professionalization and allopathic treatment; Healers and patients - language of illness, the oral tradition, gender in medicine, self-medication, medicalisation and doctor-patient relationships; Medicine in a national context - changing relationships between society and medical developments, emergence of professional health services; Medicine and religion - influences of diverse religious environments; Modern medical theory and practice - public health, social welfare and hygiene, medicine and eugenics.

If you are interested in giving a paper on any of these themes, please send an abstract of up to 300 words to the address below by 31 May 2007.

Please provide full contact details (including an email address, if you have one).

Sally Bragg  
Affiliation and Programmes Administrator  
Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL  
210 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE

Email s.bragg@ucl.ac.uk  
Tel: 00 44 (0)20 7679 8103  
Fax: 00 44 (0)20 7679 8194

For queries regarding the programme, please contact:

Mr Christos Papadopoulos, [ucgachp@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ucgachp@ucl.ac.uk)  
Dr Marius Turda, [mturda@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:mturda@brookes.ac.uk)

## **Ukraine**

### **Otto L Struve Memorial Conference** Kharkov, Ukraine

On May 21-23, 2007, the Astronomical Institute of the V. N. Karazin National University (Kharkov Observatory), and the Ukrainian Astronomical Association will co-host a Scientific-Memorial Conference dedicated to Otto L. Struve, famous in the United States as one of America's leading 20th century astrophysicists, was born in Kharkov in 1897. The son of Kharkov University Observatory director Ludwig Struve, grandson of Pulkovo director Otto W. Struve, and great-grandson

of Pulkovo Observatory founder Wilhelm Struve, Otto Struve himself studied astronomy in Kharkov before being caught up in the whirlwind of the 1917 Russian revolutions and the ensuing civil war. An officer in General Anton Denikin's Volunteer Army, Struve escaped Russia together with the remnants of Denikin's army when the anti-Bolshevik movement collapsed. After months in a Turkish refugee camp, in 1921 Struve made his way to Yerkes Observatory, thereby beginning a long and distinguished career in the U.S.

Although well-known in the U.S., Struve was virtually a non-person in the Soviet Union. Too famous on the international scene to be ignored completely, references to Struve in Soviet literature were short and always glossed over his Kharkov roots and anti-Bolshevik past.

The May conference in Kharkov marks an important event in the restoration of Struve's legacy in his home town. It will include the unveiling of a memorial plaque and the opening of a new history museum at the Kharkov Observatory, where a number of documents from the personal papers of Wilhelm Struve and Otto W. Struve will be on display for the first time. (A significant portion of the Wilhelm and Otto V. Struve papers are archived in Kharkov.) The conference is expected to attract astronomers and historians from Ukraine, Russia, Europe, and the U.S.

For further details and registration information, contact Organizing Committee chair Marat Balyshev in Kharkov (balyshev@yahoo.com, +38 050 566-4988 mob. phone) or Robert McCutcheon in the Office of Environment, Science, and Technology at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow (McCutcheonRA@state.gov, +7 [495] 728-5156).

## USA

### **Call for Papers: Scientific Icons Area, 2008 Film & History Conference "Film & Science: Fictions, Documentaries, and Beyond"**

October 30-November 2, 2008  
Chicago, Illinois  
www.filmandhistory.org  
First-Round Deadline: November 1, 2007

Beginning with The Story of Louis Pasteur in the late 1930s, a small but steady stream of films--documentaries, dramas, and occasional comedies--have focused on the great scientists of the past. Newton, Darwin, and Einstein have all had their turns on screen, as have J. Robert Oppenheimer (Day One, Fat Man and Little Boy, and the award-winning The Day After Trinity), Dian Fossey (Gorillas in the Mist), James Watson and Francis Crick (The Race for the Double Helix), Marie and Pierre Curie (Madame Curie), and many others. These films have, for better or worse, a key role in shaping the public understanding of how science works.

This area welcomes all papers that deal with films and television programs depicting real scientists whose work was important enough or influential enough to give them iconic status at the time the film was made. The list of scientists in the preceding paragraph is meant

to be suggestive, but by no means exhaustive. "Scientist" is meant, for the purposes of this area, to include medical researchers (as in Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet or And the Band Played On) but to exclude engineers and inventors (as in The Story of Alexander Graham Bell and Young Thomas Edison).

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

Depictions of historic scientists in specific films or television programs  
Depictions of a particular scientist in multiple films and/or television programs  
Real scientists, fictionalized (Edward Teller/Dr. Strangelove, T. H. Huxley/Professor Challenger)  
Historic scientists on the A&E network's Biography  
Historic scientists in classroom films  
Use of dramatic conventions in telling "real" stories about scientists  
Real scientists in non-US film and television  
Documentaries about historic scientists  
Historic scientists as supporting players (e.g. Lord Kelvin in the 2005 Around the World in Eighty Days)  
Patterns: Who gets films made about them? Who gets overlooked?

Please send your 200-word proposal (email is fine) by November 1, 2007 to:

A. Bowdoin Van Riper  
Social and International Studies Department  
Southern Polytechnic State University  
1100 South Marietta Parkway  
Marietta, GA 30060  
Email: bvanriper@bellsouth.net

Panel proposals for up to four presenters are also welcome, but each presenter must submit his or her own paper proposal. Deadline for first-round proposals: November 1, 2007.

This area, comprising multiple panels, is a part of the 2008 biennial Film & History Conference, sponsored by The Center for the Study of Film and History. Speakers will include founder John O'Connor and editor Peter C. Rollins (in a ceremony to celebrate the transfer to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh); Wheeler Winston Dixon, author of Visions of the Apocalypse, Disaster and Memory, and Lost in the Fifties: Recovering Phantom Hollywood; and Emmy award-winning writer and producer John Rubin. For updates and registration information about the upcoming meeting, see the Film & History website (<http://www.filmandhistory.org>).

**SICU2 : An International Workshop on Historic Scientific Instrument Collections in the University  
21-24 June 2007 in Oxford, Mississippi**

Sponsored by The Scientific Instrument Commission and The University of Mississippi, with funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation.

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In June 2004, an international conference on Scientific Instrument Collections in

Universities (SICU) was held at Dartmouth College. The SICU conference brought to light significant collections and began organizing a group of scholars with common interests in formalizing university and college collections. However, much remains to be done to address the unique challenges faced by those who deal with these collections and to increase awareness among those who may not recognize the importance of their collections.

To continue where the first SICU conference left off, the University of Mississippi will host the SICU2 workshop in June 2007. The aim of this workshop is to solidify the foundation for finding, describing, organizing, preserving, and utilizing the vast resource of instrument collections available in academic institutions worldwide. We seek an interdisciplinary gathering of people who care for university collections, as well as historians, scientists, educators, curators, archivists, and others who are interested in helping the SICU community achieve :

1. increased access to more collections by getting scientists and educators more involved in efforts to expand scholarly research using historical instruments.
2. improved security and preservation of more collections by expanding efforts to build a practical resource for stewardship of historical instruments.
3. increased use and appreciation of more collections by developing and sharing creative ways of exhibiting, reproducing, studying, and recognizing historical instruments.

During the SICU2 Workshop, an expanded exhibition of "The Millington Barnard Collection of Natural Philosophy Demonstration Apparatus" will be on display at the University Museum, and both Barnard Observatory (1859 replica of the Pulkovo Observatory) and Kennon Observatory (with the largest Grubb telescope in the U. S.) will be open for tours. If there is sufficient interest, a post-workshop excursion may be planned to attractions in the Mississippi Delta and Memphis.

The University of Mississippi is in Oxford, longtime home of William Faulkner and 70 miles southeast of Memphis, Tennessee. Lodging will be available at The Inn at Ole Miss. Transportation between Memphis International Airport and Oxford will be provided. For those who may wish to extend their stay, North Mississippi, the Delta, and the Memphis areas provide many literary, cultural and historical attractions.

The formal call for papers will be distributed in October. A limited number of travel grants will be available to graduate students, junior scholars, and international participants; applications for these will be available in October.

The Workshop web site ( <http://www.olemiss.edu/~sicu2web/> ) has more details. Feel free to contact us ( [sicu2@olemiss.edu](mailto:sicu2@olemiss.edu) ) if you are interested in participating in the workshop, to ensure that you receive future announcements.

### **Call for Papers: "Making Science Global: Reconsidering the Social and Intellectual Implications of the International Polar and Geophysical Years"**

October 31-November 1, 2007

The program committee of "Making Science Global: Reconsidering the Social and Intellectual Implications of the International Polar and Geophysical Years" invites papers for a possible two-day conference at the Smithsonian Institution on October 31-November 1, 2007, examining the impetus for (and the impact upon) science, society, and culture of the International Polar Years (IPYs) of 1882-83 and 1932-33, and the International Geophysical Year of 1957-58, as well as how this perspective might be useful for planners of the current IPY in 2007-2008. We intend to explore the origins of these efforts, their political dimensions, and their consequences. Themes might include the place of the poles in human imagination, discipline formation, cultural nationalism, politics, and trans-

nationality prior to and after 1882; the emergence of the modern geosciences in the first half of the twentieth century; the uses of new technologies to explore the poles; and changing assessments of the nature of human cultures in high latitudes. Papers addressing the International Geophysical Year might examine its role in the Cold War and the extent to which multi-disciplinarity and multi-national cooperation and competition shaped the geosciences and contributed to environmental awareness.

Pending funding, the conference will be held in Washington, D.C., immediately prior to the History of Science Society meeting in 2007. International scholars and graduate students seeking exposure to the history of the geosciences are particularly welcome. We hope that the papers will merit publication. Proposals for papers should include a title and abstract, as well as curriculum vita. DEADLINE: December 31, 2007. Please send these electronically to David DeVorkin devorkind@si.edu, Roger Launius launiusR@si.edu, and James Fleming jfleming@colby.edu

## Wales

### **CHILDREN, DISABILITY & COMMUNITY CARE FROM 1850 TO THE PRESENT DAY** □ 24TH - 25TH OCTOBER 2007, SKETTY HALL SWANSEA

A multi-disciplinary conference sponsored by the Society for the Social History of Medicine. Community care has become an increasingly important topic for social policy and historical research. While recent work has stressed the diversity of experience, the variety of different groups involved, the long antecedents of the policy and its contested meanings, there is arguably still too much emphasis on the closure of long-stay mental health and learning disability facilities. This conference seeks to:

- I. Locate services for children within debates about institutional and community care (framed by the adult experience) over a much longer time-frame.
- II. Extend analysis to a range of physical and sensory disabilities alongside, and in comparison to, provision for children with mental health problems and/or learning difficulties.
- III. Contrast evolving institutional and community-based services for children with disabilities with statutory and voluntary sector provision for children in care because of family breakdown and/or childhood delinquency.
- IV. Re-examine and integrate the now extensive literature on infanticide, child abuse and "mercy" killings, in relation to childhood disability issues.
- V. Evaluate midwifery and obstetric services, including the development of pre-natal screening and special care for premature babies.
- VI. Assess the role the medical profession played in the diagnosis of childhood disability and the control of specialist services. Here special attention will be paid to the relationship between knowledge and practice.
- VII. Develop an understanding of the relationship between knowledge and practice for nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists.
- VIII. Emphasise the role community-based services play in leading people into, as well as out of, residential care.
- IX. Draw together ideas about children in need to link efforts to maximise the opportunities available to children disadvantaged by poverty and/or disability, through an evaluation of the SureStart scheme.
- X. Acknowledge the contribution of the voluntary sector and self-help initiatives.
- XI. Involve researchers and practitioners from a range of disciplines.
- XII. Develop an international dimension to this research by inviting participants from abroad.

For further details:

<http://www.centres.ex.ac.uk/medhist/conferences/children/index.shtml>

## ESHS Membership Form

Please fill out the form below and send to the ESHS secretary at the following address: leonardo.gariboldi@unimi.it

FAMILY NAME, (or name of the institution for institutional members) :

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FIRST NAME(S):

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TITLE:

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INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION:

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MAILING ADDRESS:

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Office Telephone: Country code: \_\_\_ City code: \_\_\_\_ Number:

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Home Telephone: : Country code\_\_\_ City code: \_\_\_\_ Number:

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E-Mail Address(es)

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AREAS OF RESEARCH:

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ADDITIONAL AREAS OF INTEREST:

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MODE OF PAYMENT of THE MEMBERSHIP FEES (transfer to the Swiss account / cheque in Sterling / transfer to the German account) :

