



Notes from the Chair

I have been pretty active in the work of the Forum for a decade or so, but after barely a year as chair I have learned some important things. Most importantly, I am very happy to say, the Forum consists of an impressive set of people who are dedicated to a better understanding of the history of the scientific study of human behavior and the human dilemma. I knew this before, of course, but as chair I am even more deeply impressed, because I receive help from veteran scholars, whose work I use and admire. We put out calls for our competitions, and the work rolls in; it is especially gratifying to see submissions from young scholars and from others whose work is new to us.

As chair, I have learned that there are wrinkles in every organization, no matter how carefully it lays out its activities. We face at least two issues at present: the structure of our Burnham Early Career Award and the planning for Forum-sponsored sessions at HSS. Both issues involve how we dove-tail with other organizations.

Starting this year, three groups are offering essentially the same early-career award: Cheiron, the European Society for History of Human Science, and FHHS. Since submissions to early-career competitions have been few in recent years and the memberships of these groups overlap, we may need to re-think our process. At the business meeting I will begin to gather your ideas, so please let me know if you see a way to improve this program.

This year we failed to have a Forum-sponsored session at HSS; such sessions were an original motivation for us to form our interest group within the larger organization. This is not the first time this has happened, but as chair I feel the responsibility and I am beginning to understand how carefully such things must be orchestrated with the program process of HSS. Let's see if we can do it next year. If we do not assert our right to sponsor a session at the HSS, we are likely to lose it, so the officers of the Forum are committed to vetting sessions for the 2008 meeting.

It should be a matter of organization, not substance. Given the increasing interdisciplinary of universities and grant structures, the history of science continues to grow (witness the number of history of science positions on H-Net this year), and interest in the human sciences is growing with it. (See the article in this newsletter, which highlights sessions that we might well have sponsored.)

continued on page 2

Forum for the History of the Human Sciences at the **History of Science Society**

annual meeting,

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Marriott "Crystal Gateway" Hotel

Arlington, Virginia, just across the Potomac from Washington D.C.

FHHS proudly announces its

Third Annual Distinguished Lecture in the History of the Human Sciences

"How Boundaries Dissolve in Writing Disciplinary Histories: The Exemplary, Agonizing Case of Accident Proneness (Unfallneigung)"

by

Professor John C. Burnham

Ohio State University, emeritus

A founding member of FHHS in the 1980s and past editor of the *JHBS*, Professor Burnham also endowed the Forum's annual early career award that bears his name. A historian of psychiatric medicine, throughout his career Burnham has studied the reception of science in American popular culture and, vice versa, in the power of popular culture to shape science. This lecture will include material from his recent work on the historiography of the human sciences

The Forum's annual business meeting will begin promptly at noon. Professor Burnham's lecture is scheduled for 12:30 to 1:15pm. Check the conference program for the exact location.

History of Science Society Distinguished Lecture

"How Science Became Technical"

by

Theodore M. Porter

University of California at Los Angeles

FHHS is pleased to announce that our own Representative One, Ted Porter, will deliver the History of Science Society Distinguished Lecture at the 2007 conference in Washington D.C./Arlington. The address will occur on Saturday, November 3, at 6:30pm, to be followed by a reception and the annual awards banquet.

Theodore Porter is Professor of History at UCLA and is a member of that University's Center for the Cultural History of Science. He has authored several books on the history of statistics, including *Trust in Numbers: The Pursuit of Objectivity in Science and Public Life* (1995), *The Rise of Statistical Thinking* (1986), and most recently *Karl Pearson: The Scientific Life in a Statistical Age* (2004). With Dorothy Ross he co-edited *The Modern Social Sciences* (Vol. 7 of *The Cambridge History of Science*, 2003).

See back cover for a conference-goer's guide to the HSS.

FHHS Officers

Chair

David Robinson
Department of History
Truman State University
Kirksville, MO 63501
E-mail: drobinso@truman.edu

Vice-Chair

John Carson
Department of History
University of Michigan
1029 Tisch Hall
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003
Email: jcarson@umich.edu

Treasurer - Corresponding Secretary

Nadine Weidman
Dept. of the History of Science
371 Science Center
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138
E-mail: weidman@fas.harvard.edu

Recording Secretary & Website editor

Ellen Herman
Department of History
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1288
Email: eherman@uoregon.edu

Representative One

Theodore Porter
UCLA History/Statistics
Box 951473
6265 Bunche
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1473
E-mail: tporter@history.ucla.edu

Representative Two

Laura Stark
Program in Science in Human Culture
Department of Sociology
Northwestern University
1810 Chicago Avenue
Northwestern University,
Evanston, IL 60208
E-mail: laura-stark@northwestern.edu

Representative Three

Jill Morawski
Department of Psychology
Wesleyan University
Middletown, CT 06459
Email: jmorawski@wesleyan.edu

News of Members

Howard Brick (Washington Univ., St. Louis), *Transcending Capitalism: Visions of a New Society in Modern American Thought* (Cornell University Press, 2006). He is currently working on two book projects: a social, political, and intellectual history concerning the combined development of modernization theory and criticisms of it in the U. S. from the age of imperialism to the dawn of globalization; and a history of the radical Left in the U. S. since 1945.

Michael Carhart (Old Dominion), *The Science of Culture in Enlightenment Germany* (Harvard University Press, 2007). Also "Historia Literaria and Cultural History from Mylaeus to Eichhorn" in *Momigliano and Antiquarianism: Foundations of the Modern Cultural Sciences*, ed. Peter N. Miller (University of Toronto Press, 2007), 184-206. He won an NEH Summer Stipend (2007) to begin work on a new book on "The Caucasians: Central Asia in the European Imagination."

John Carson (Michigan), *The Measure of Merit: Talents, Intelligence, and Inequality in the French and American Republics, 1750-1940* (Princeton University Press, 2007).

Hamilton Cravens (Iowa State) is 2007 Distinguished Professor at the Center for Excellence in the Arts & Humanities at Iowa State University. Last spring he was Distinguished Fulbright-Dow Chair, Roosevelt Study Center at Middlebury in the Netherlands. He has recently authored "The Historical Context of G. Stanley Hall's *Adolescence* (1904)," *History of Psychology* 9 (2006): 172-185; and "Innovations and Inventions" in *The Industrial Revolution in America: Communications*, ed. K. and L. C. Hillstrom (Santa Barbara, 2007), 29-56; and is currently working on Changing Concepts of Race in America since Reconstruction.

Ben Harris (New Hampshire) just presented a paper on "Arthur Laurents' *Snake Pit*: Populist Entertainment for Post-WWII America" at the American Studies Association 2007 Meeting in Philadelphia this October. Disputing Leslie Fishbein's classic article "... The Sexist Nature of Sanity," Harris emphasized the populist and anti-fascist qualities of the popular 1948 Hollywood film *Snake Pit*.

Donna C. Mehos (Eindhoven Technical Univ.), *Science and Culture for Members Only: The Amsterdam Zoo Artis in the Nineteenth Century* (Amsterdam University Press, 2006).

Mark Solovey (Toronto) is assistant professor in the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology since Fall 2006, where he teaches courses in the history of psychology and

Notes from Chair, cont'd

The HSS Annual Meeting is perhaps the principal venue in which we can advance our corner of the profession, so we need to seize our opportunity.

Please begin to confer **now** about what you might want to do for the next HSS. FHHS can officially sponsor one session each year. (In the past we sometimes sponsored several sessions, but HSS now limits us.) Forum sponsorship is not a shoe-in for a session proposal, but it can help. The next issue of the FHHS Newsletter will arrive in March, shortly before the 2008 HSS proposal deadline, and it will feature a reminder of that deadline and a description of the vetting process that the Forum will use to sponsor our session. Please make plans now, and keep the Forum officers informed.

David Robinson

International Representative

Hans Pols
Unit for History and Philosophy of Science
Carslaw F07
University of Sydney
Sydney NSW 2006 Australia
E-mail: hpols@science.usyd.edu.au

Newsletter Editor

Michael Carhart
History Department
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529-0091
Email: mcarhart@odu.edu

FHHS Awards for 2007

Article Award

The winner of the Article Prize for 2007 is Jeff Pooley, author of "Fifteen Pages that Shook the Field: *Personal Influence*, Edward Shils and the Remembered History of Mass Communication Research," which appeared in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, volume 608 (2006), pp. 130-156.

This article is a real pleasure to read. Pooley traces the history of an "invented tradition": the disciplinary origins of mass communication research. The subject of this story is a brief summary of the communication research field composed by Paul Lazarsfeld and Edward Shils in 1955. In the text entitled *Personal Influence*, Lazarsfeld and Shils proposed a clean and simple disciplinary history, which, as Pooley shows, still influences the field today. Before the Second World War, researchers assumed that propaganda was "powerful"; after 1945, they recognized that media in fact have only "limited" effects. In sketching the origins and long life of the "powerful-to-limited-effects" model, Pooley brings together a history of postwar American social theory, corporate media, government-sponsored social scientific research, Cold War liberalism, academic maneuvering and disciplinary institutionalization. Pooley does not attempt to fit all of this tale's many facets into an "origins" story as simple as the one he has set out to document. Instead, with grace and sensitivity he allows the tensions inherent in his narrative to come through. For example, he shows how Lazarsfeld used the same experimental results to many very different ends: to aid governments and corporations to improve their communications strategies, to reassure a postwar public of the benign effects of mass media, and to advance his own interests in the game of academic influence. Pooley's result is ironic: precisely by

John C. Burnham Early Career Award

The 2007 John C. Burnham Early Career Award has been awarded to Mr. Howard Hsueh-Hao Chiang (*Ph. D. candidate, Princeton University*), for his submission "Effecting Science, Affecting Medicine: Homosexuality, the Kinsey Reports, and the Contested Boundaries of Psychopathology in the United States, 1948-1965."

Holding bachelors degrees from the University of Southern California and a master's degree from Columbia, Chiang's research focuses on the history and material epistemology of the modern life sciences and biomedicine, with an emphasis on the global dynamics of gender and sexuality. His dissertation explores the changing meanings of sex, gender, and sexuality in modern East Asia by historicizing the practical and conceptual dimensions of sex-alteration in 20th-century China. He is a member of the program committee for the Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine, and he maintains his own web site at <http://www.howardhchiang.com>.

A full citation of the Award was not available at press time but will be published in the Spring issue of this *Newsletter*.

2007 Burnham Award Committee:

John Carson (chair), Paul Lerner, Debbie Weinstein

showing the limitations of mass communication's effectiveness, these social scientists maximized their own position as experts in interpreting and manipulating such limited effects. Historians love ironies.

2007 Article Award Committee:

Mitchell Ash (chair), Dana Simmons, Mark Solovey

Call for Papers

Cheiron

The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences

40th Annual Meeting, Ryerson University, Toronto, June 26-29, 2008

Papers, posters, symposia, or workshops may deal with any aspect of the history of the behavioral and social sciences or with related historiographical and methodological issues. All submissions must conform to the length limitations listed below (references, tables, etc. may be appended). To facilitate blind review, please include a cover sheet indicating: a) title; b) the author's name and affiliation; c) the author's address and phone number; and d) audio/visual needs.

Deadline: All submissions must be received by **January 11, 2008**. Authors are strongly encouraged to send submissions electronically as attachments (.doc or .rtf), although three printed copies of a submission may be sent by post to the address below.

Papers: Submit a completed paper (7-8 double-spaced pages plus a short abstract), or a 700-800 word abstract plus short bibliography. Papers should be original, i.e., not previously presented at other conferences.

Posters: Submit a 300-400 word abstract.

Symposia: Submit a 250-300 word abstract describing the symposium as a whole, and a 500-700 word abstract plus short bibliography from each of the participants. A cover letter should include the names and institutional affiliations of each of the participants, which should not be revealed in the abstracts.

Workshops: Contact the program chair (farreras@hood.edu).

Student Travel Awards: Available to help defray travel expenses of students who present papers and posters. Please indicate if you are a student and wish to be considered for an award.

Send your program submissions to Ingrid Farreras: farreras@hood.edu. Electronic submissions are preferred, but postal submissions are acceptable also: Ingrid Farreras, Department of Psychology, Hood College, 401 Rosemont Ave., Frederick, MD 21701.

Ingrid Farreras, Program Chair, farreras@hood.edu
Wade Pickren, Local Host, wpickren@psych.ryerson.ca

Andrew S. Winston, Executive Officer, awinston@uoguelph.ca
Cheiron website: <http://people.stu.ca/~cheiron>

HHS at HSS

A Conference-goer's Guide

Although the Forum does not officially sponsor a session at the History of Science Society meeting this year, there is still plenty of activity in the history of the human sciences. A human scientist's itinerary might look something like this.

Early on November 2, one has a choice between **Peder Anker's** (Oslo) talk on "Science as a Vacation: A History of Ecology in Norway" (*session #F11, Friday 9:00-11:45am*), and a panel discussion on Scientific Biography: Constructing the Human Element in the Production of Science (*F13, Friday 9:00-11:45am*). This latter features **James Capshew** (Indiana) on the fashioning of Kinsey as sex researcher and **Michael Sokal** (Worcester Polytechnic) on psychological interpretations of scientists' careers in biographical dictionaries.

Friday afternoon features a wonderful variety of sessions on the history of medicine, geography, fieldwork, and collecting. But for those exclusively focused on the human sciences and who wish to see the nation's capital, this might be a good time to play hooky from the conference. (*shhhh*)

Saturday at noon our main event takes place, with **John Burnham's** distinguished lecture in the history of the human sciences. Officially this is session *#S15, Saturday 12:30-1:15pm*, but please arrive a few minutes before noon for the FHHS annual meeting, just before Professor Burnham's lecture.

Also on Saturday at noon, **Mike Sokal** appears again, double-booked against Burnham as he participates a panel discussion on Margaret Rossiter's *Women Scientists in America (S14, Saturday 12:00-1:15pm)*.

Following the Third Annual Distinguished Lecture, historians of psychology will want to see the session on 20th-Century Psychology and Neurology, while statisticians may appreciate a session on actuarial statistics in "Science of Life Insurance, Science of Society" (both *Saturday 1:30-3:10pm, ##S25 and S27*).

The statistical mode continues in the late afternoon (*S38, Saturday 3:30-5:30pm*) with a session on "Social Science and the Crises of American Liberalism, 1900-1950," chaired by **John Carson** (Michigan) and comment by **Ted Porter** (UCLA). **Thomas Stapleford** (Notre Dame) will discuss labor statistics, **Jessica Wang** (British Columbia) social surveys, and **Andrew Jewett** (NYU) "consensus liberalism."

From there **Ted Porter** dashes to his Distinguished Lecture for the History of Science Society "How Science Became Technical" (*Saturday, 6:30-7:30pm*). The conference dinner follows (*Saturday 8-10pm*).

Don't stay out too late, though, because on Sunday morning (*Su6, 9:00-11:45am*) former FHHS Chairman **Ham Cravens** (Iowa State) chairs a session on "Origins of the Human Sciences" with **Michael Carhart** (Old Dominion), **Kevin Donnelly** (Brandeis), **Samual Talcott** (DePaul), and **Chris Renwick** (Leeds).