Notes from the Chair

A really great meeting!

The History of Science Society (HSS) met 1-4 November, 2007, in Arlington, Virginia, just a few metro stops from the center of the nation's capital, and the program was rich with history of human sciences. From our (the Forum's) point of view, there were two high points, both on Saturday the 3rd: The Forum for the History of Human Science Distinguished Lecture by John C. Burnham and the History of Science Society Distinguished Lecture by Theodore M. Porter. As usual in the recent past of HSS, many regular sessions could well have been sponsored by FHHS, though we did not formally sponsor a session (more on that below).

What a sweep, and what food for thought! I barely had time to process John's lecture, and I was then thrown into the intricacies of Ted's, just a few hours later. The title of John's talk, "How Boundaries Dissolve in Writing Disciplinary Histories: The Exemplary, Agonizing Case of Accident Proneness (Unfallneigung)," made his approach clear: he gave us insight, not only into the discovery of accident proneness as a psychological (even actuarial) problem, but also into how historians who study this and many other problems ought to think more carefully about disciplines, especially about disciplinary approaches in researching and writing history. John did not simply play the old saw, "be interdisciplinary"; that would be too facile. Instead, he explained how researching this topic taught him that certain disciplines encompass certain problems at certain times, problems which become the purview of other disciplines (or multiple disciplines) at different times. Indeed, there are times, such as the technological society of the late 20th century, when interdisciplinary approaches in science were often very fruitful, but during the mid to late 19th century, the sciences, especially human sciences, became very productive by establishing their disciplinary boundaries. Accident proneness emerged as a scientific problem in the early 20th century—between those clearer historical epochs—thus it is an "exemplary, agonizing case" for Burnham.

As usual (no, as always) John spoke directly to the historians: he criticized and challenged us; he helped understand our own work better. We have honored him by naming our annual Early Career Award after him; there is also an annual Burnham Endowed Lecture at Ohio State, connected with the Medical Heritage Center where he still works. No matter how many honors may be established, the Burnham magic is still works. No matter how many honors may be established, the Burnham magic is most wondrous when he comments on your session, edits your manuscript, or gives you a challenging talk such as we heard at HSS.

In his HSS lecture, to a packed ballroom of hundreds of listeners, Ted Porter told us "How Science Became Technical." There were plenty of overlap between the two talks, as Ted unpacked and historicized terms that even historians of science take too much for granted—discipline, science, technical, and others. The chronological sweep was even wider than in Burnham's talk, but perhaps because I was still pondering the earlier one, it seemed that Ted's cautions and challenges to the audience of historians went along similar lines. I will stop there: Ted's work will likely appear in Isis, and you all can judge for yourselves.

Although human sciences certainly claimed the peaks and a handsome percentage of the HSS sessions in Arlington, we still need to determine a clear process (to post on our website) for submission of session proposals for our endorsement and selection as "Session Sponsored by FHHS" in the program of the annual meeting of HSS. The officers are zeroing in on a solid plan for your approval at next year's FHHS business meeting.

David K. Robinson
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: jscarson@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

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

Payments:
104.60 for Cedant (95.40) and mailing of prize certificates (9.20)
37.25 for mailing of Burnham and article prize submissions
329.00 for fall 2006 newsletter
168.37 for spring 2007 newsletter
138.34 for fall 2007 newsletter
Total payments: $777.46

Income: $525.00

We began with $1,020.11 in January 2007. Our current balance is $963.90.

Submitted by Nadine Weidman
FHHS Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary
March 18, 2008

News of Members

Would normally go here, but members have been keeping their cards close to their chests. Given the balances in the column above and the Forum’s annual awards noted on page 5, please take a moment to fill out the Dues insert and address an envelope to the Treasurer. While doing so, please verify that your address is correct on the mailing label. With each issue, more than a dozen Newsletters are returned to the Editor as undeliverable, due to address changes. And while you are at it, let us know of your recent accomplishments. This will help us all keep in touch with the latest work in the history of the human sciences.
Keynote address
Gerald Grob, Morbidity and mortality in 20th century America: The enigma of explanation

Featured events
Conversation with Ray Fancher: A Pioneering Personology in the History of Psychology

Posters
Emily Abbenante, Filling in the gaps: An intellectual and socio-cultural view of phrenology
Ryan Barnhart, Does When Prophecy Falls describe accurate prediction or deliberate planning?
David Devonis, Milgram, the Gedo Effect, and the undergraduate history of psychology course
Kenneth Feigenbaum, M s. Koch and Dr. Koch
Jonathan H age, The Journal of Social Issues, the psychology of prejudice, and the making of scientific anti-racism in post-WWII America
Janet Martin-Nielsen, Doubting data: Methodological concerns in Chomskyan linguistics
John Rickards, The end of the chain: James to Lashley to Chomsky
Floyd Rudmin, The history and ideology of resilience research
Stephen Underwood, F. A. M ass: Psychological testing proponent and would-be popularizer
Heather Wolfram, “My only hope lies in a cure by means of hypnosis” Hypnosis and homosexuality in late Nineteenth-century central Europe
Jacy Young, Examining Donald T. Campbell’s self-identification as a sociobiologist: The contingency of time and topic

Papers
Jennifer Bazar, From humours to morals: Treatment at the Temporal Lunatic Asylum in Toronto
Katrina Bell, From DaCosta’s heart to shell shock to PTSD: A brief historical account of war neuroses
Adriana Silvia Benzaquén, “Follow a child from its birth...”: John Locke’s children and the origins of the sciences of childhood
Stephen Berger, The significance of Children of Bondage in John Dollard’s development
Kersten Jacobson Biehn, “Monkeys, babies, idiots” and “primitives”: Nature-nurture debates and philanthropic foundation support for anthropology, 1901-1941
Amanda Brian, The child as revelation: Scientific networks and baby biographies in imperial Germany
Adrian Brock, The cultural limitations of psychology as evidenced by its geographical dispersion
Dennis R. Bryson, The SSRC Committee on Social Adjustment: A case study on the vicissitudes of technocratic modernism
David Clark, Edgar Arthur Singer, Jr.
Kurt Danziger, Long past, short history: The case of memory
Marla Eby, Through a Lens Darkly, or a Window Into the Soul? The Professional Psychologist in Film
Cathy Faye, The “Crusade for Realism”: Floyd H. Allport’s event-structure theory
Larry Friedman, Why we hate: Universalist, particularist, and blended explanations
Sebastian Gil-Riaño, Otto Klineberg, race, and UNESCO’s interventionist ethos
Jason Goertzen, An historical investigation into the development of Essays in Critical Realism: Implications for a broader understanding of early 20th century philosophy of psychology
Benjamin Harris, The Snake Pit: Misogyny, Propaganda or Anti-Fascist Mass Entertainment?
Christopher Hookway & Benjamin Harris, Psychiatry in Fiction: A View from the Left
John P. Jackson & Andrew Winston, The last repatriationist: The career of Earnst Sevier Cox
Ann Johnson, “She’s a nun, a psychologist and a feminist”: The volatile career of Sr. Annette Walters
Elizabeth Johnston, Modern manners: Two Columbia trained women psychologists negotiate sex roles in 1950s America
Russell Kosits, “...the difficulties with Mr. Scripture...”: Internal correspondence at Yale dealing with the firing of Edward Wheeler Scripture, 1902-1905
Robert Kugelmann, Out of the ghetto: Integrating Catholics into mainstream psychology in the United States after World War II
Cornelia Lambert, “Living Machines”: Dance education at Robert Owen’s New Lanark School, 1816-1828
Barbara Lusk, David Krech and the social and ethical implications of psychoneurobiochemedication
Christine Mangano, From Hyde Park to “Paradise”: Race relations research by Chicago sociologists at the University of Hawaii, 1920-1944
José María Gondra, The Institute of Human Relations of Yale University and the Spanish Civil War: Dollard and Miller’s study of fear under battle conditions
Lawrence Nichols, The formation of a sociologist of science: Robert K. Merton’s Harvard Decade, 1931-1939
Agnès Pazziani, Charlotte Bühler and adolescent love
Michael Pettit, The con man as model organism: The commercial origins of Erving Goffman’s dramaturgical self
Wade Pickren, Resistance/liberation: Indigenous psychologies in the decolonization era
Jefferson Pooley, The way humans behave: Bernard Berelson and the post-war social sciences
Chanda Pundir, Psychology in India: Beyond the Western imagination
Anne Christina Rose, The child as scientific object: Reconstructing nineteenth-century “scienza dell’infanzia” and “science des enfants”
Gabriel Ruiz & Natividad Sanchez, Of animals and men: Contrasting approaches to the study of experimental neurosis in America (1930-1950)
Ed Slavishak, The discouraging uphill struggle: Roswell Hill Johnson's career in eugenics
Anne Sealey, The strange case of the Freudian case history: Long case histories in the development of psychoanalysis
Mark Solovey, McCarthyism and the behavioral sciences reconsidered
Larry Stern, The search for memory-transfer at Berkeley: Controversial science and the “Cheshire Cat Affect”
Cecilia Taiana, Ontologies at war: The disappearance, incarceration and exile of psychologists/psychoanalysts during the last Argentinean dictatorship (1976-1983)
Miki Takasuna, Who taught whom? Japanese doctoral students in psychology and their American mentors: Effects on women’s education before WWII
Thomas Teo & Laura Ball, The origins of the classical twin method, historical revisionism by omission, and scientific racism
Elizabeth Valentine, Communication networks amongst a group of early British women psychologists
David Valone, From Dixie Cups to Depo-Provera? Population control and eugenics on the left, revisited
Kelli Vaughn-Blount, Psychologist-historians: Historying women and benevolent sexism
Mirga Vicedo, The nurture of the child’s tie to its mother: The construction of love for mother as a biological instinct in postwar America
Jessica Wang, Law versus social science in U.S. public policy: The National Labor Relations Board in the 1930s
Fredric Weizmann, Individual differences, genetics and race
Anton Yasnitsky & Michel Ferrari, Several misconceptions in the history of Vygotskian psychology in 1930s

Conference Announcement
Perspectives from the Periphery
International Conference on the History of Sociology and the Social Sciences
Umeå University, Sweden
August 21-28, 2008

Research Committee on the History of Sociology of the International Sociological Association announces its quadrennial interim conference to be held on the European periphery in northern Sweden. Conference themes include Geographical peripheries (history of sociology and the social sciences in Sweden and other small or non-western countries; glocal and/or postcolonial perspectives), Social peripheries (women as forgotten pioneers and newcomers on the academic scene, social scientific couples, class and ethnic perspectives, power relations), Institutional peripheries (extra-academic social research; state investigations and non-governmental organisations; disciplinary boundaries and academic hierarchies), Temporal peripheries (1968 — forty years later; long-term historical perspectives; cultural historical perspectives).

Keynote speakers:
Saïd A. Arjomand (SUNY - Stony Brook)
Raewyn Connell (Sydney)
Johan Heilbron (CSE - Paris and Rotterdam)
Eileen Yeo (Strathclyde)

Organizers
Prof. Hedvig Ekerwald (Sociology, Uppsala).
Dr. Per Wisselgren (Research, Centre for Advanced Study, Umeå).
Prof. Björn Wittrock (Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala)

http://www.periphery08.se

Conference Announcement
ESHHS
The European Society for the History of the Human Sciences
27th Annual Meeting
Bari, Italy
July 2-5, 2008

The deadline for session and paper proposals has just passed, March 15, 2008. Papers, posters, and symposia will be presented on topics in the history of psychology, psychiatry, physiology, medicine, philosophy, anthropology, and sociology. Additionally, historical instruments of applied psychology will be on display for the duration of the conference. The official language of the conference is English.

Program Committee
Maria Sinatra
Jaap Bos
Nathalie Richard

Sponsoring institutions
Department of Psychology
Seminar for the History of Science
A. Marzi Laboratory for the History of Applied Psychology
Faculty of Letters and Philosophy, all at the University of Bari.
Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the University of Foggia.

Current executive board of ESHHS:
President, Ruud Abma (Utrecht)
Treasurer, Jaap Bos (Utrecht)
Secretary, Uljana Feest (Technical Univ., Berlin)

http://psychology.dur.ac.uk/eshhs/
Howard Hsueh-Hao Chiang

Howard Hsueh-Hao Chiang of Princeton University for his engaging submission, “Effecting Science, Affecting M edicine: Homosexuality, the Kinsey Reports, and the Contested Boundaries of Psychopathology in the United States, 1948-1965.” “Effecting Science, Affecting M edicine” adds texture and complexity to the story of the American Psychiatric Association’s famous decision in 1973 to de-pathologize homosexuality. Without rejecting the standard argument that the change in classification must be seen as a triumph of the gay rights movement, Chiang persuasively argues that shifts internal to medicine were also an important part of the story. In particular he notes that a number of mental health professionals—especially within clinical psychology—had begun during the 1950s and 1960s to worry about, and some to become completely skeptical of, claims that homosexuality was a pathological condition. A key factor preparing the way for this shift, Chiang argues, was Alfred Kinsey’s 1948 bombshell, Sexual Behavior in the Human Male, which revealed levels of homosexual practice theretofore scarcely imagined within the mainstream medical community. Chiang uncovers a number of psychologists and even psychiatrists who, he demonstrates, found in the Kinsey report a direct challenge to their understandings of homosexuality, and who slowly changed their minds, coming to see homosexual sex as just another variant in human behavior.

"Effecting Science, Affecting M edicine" does a fine job of revealing and documenting this growing challenge during the 1950s and 1960s within the mental health community to the pathologization of homosexuality, and of explicating the scientific and medical ideas underlying the initial categorization as well as the challenges to it. Well documented and richly footnoted, Chiang’s submission is a worthy recipient of the 2007 Burnham Award.

Howard Chiang is a Ph.D. candidate in the Program in History of Science at Princeton University.

2007 Burnham Award Committee:
John Carson (chair), Paul Lerner, and Deborah Weinstein

Citation

2007 Burnham Award

The 2007 Burnham Award Committee is pleased to award this year’s prize to Howard Hsueh-Hao Chiang of Princeton University for his engaging submission, “Effecting Science, Affecting Medicine: Homosexuality, the Kinsey Reports, and the Contested Boundaries of Psychopathology in the United States, 1948-1965.” “Effecting Science, Affecting Medicine” adds texture and complexity to the story of the American Psychiatric Association’s famous decision in 1973 to de-pathologize homosexuality. Without rejecting the standard argument that the change in classification must be seen as a triumph of the gay rights movement, Chiang persuasively argues that shifts internal to medicine were also an important part of the story. In particular he notes that a number of mental health professionals—especially within clinical psychology—had begun during the 1950s and 1960s to worry about, and some to become completely skeptical of, claims that homosexuality was a pathological condition. A key factor preparing the way for this shift, Chiang argues, was Alfred Kinsey’s 1948 bombshell, Sexual Behavior in the Human Male, which revealed levels of homosexual practice theretofore scarcely imagined within the mainstream medical community. Chiang uncovers a number of psychologists and even psychiatrists who, he demonstrates, found in the Kinsey report a direct challenge to their understandings of homosexuality, and who slowly changed their minds, coming to see homosexual sex as just another variant in human behavior. “Effecting Science, Affecting Medicine” does a fine job of revealing and documenting this growing challenge during the 1950s and 1960s within the mental health community to the pathologization of homosexuality, and of explicating the scientific and medical ideas underlying the initial categorization as well as the challenges to it. Well documented and richly footnoted, Chiang’s submission is a worthy recipient of the 2007 Burnham Award.

Howard Chiang is a Ph.D. candidate in the Program in History of Science at Princeton University.

2007 Burnham Award Committee:
John Carson (chair), Paul Lerner, and Deborah Weinstein
The meeting was called to order at noon by David Robinson, FHHS Chair.

Nadine Weidman presented the Treasurer’s Report. See p. 2 of this Newsletter for the most recent financial report.

Old business dealt with three main issues:

1. How to regularize FHHS sponsorship of an HSS session. Members offered several suggestions, and the officers agreed to come up with a solid, published plan for approval at next business meeting.

2. Whether our Burnham Early Career Award would continue to be viable, now that both the European Society for History of Human Science (ESH H S) and Cheiron also offer the same kind of award. We agreed to try to keep it going as is, soliciting submissions as best we can, but to think about what alternatives we might pursue if the “supply of papers” fails to meet the demand for three identical award programs.

3. How to modernize submissions to all our awards. We will request electronic submissions for awards, as much as possible, but will continue to allow paper submissions by post, at least for the time being.

Elections were held, with virtually no changes. John Carson was re-elected Vice-Chair, Nadine Weidman as Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary, Ellen Herman as Recording Secretary (all to two-year terms), and Jill Morawski as Representative Three (a three-year term). We also re-elected Elizabeth Lunbeck and Theodore Porter to three-year terms as FHHS Representatives to the editorial board of JHBS (with Ben Harris as alternate, in case one of the others wishes to rotate off).

Prizes were announced. The 2007 FHHS Article Award went to Jeff Pooley (Muhlenberg College, PA). His citation was read by Mitchell Ash, who chaired that prize committee, consisting also of Dana Simmons and Mark Solovey. The 2007 FHHS/JHBS John C. Burnham Early Career Award went to Howard Hseuh-Hao Chiang (graduate student at Princeton). John Carson read the citation, having chaired the prize committee that also included Paul Lerner and Debbie Weinstein. The Forum formally thanked our committees for their work. The full citations for these and earlier prizes can be accessed on our website, www.fhhs.org

Announcements included reminders to continue supporting History of Psychology and Journal of the History of the Behavioral Science (JHBS) with our manuscript submissions, our work as reviewers, etc. Cheiron will meet 26-29 June 2008 at Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada. The European Society for the History of the Human Sciences (ESH H S) will meet 2-5 July 2008 in Bari, Italy.

The business meeting was adjourned at 12:40, after which we heard John Burnham deliver the FHHS Distinguished Lecture.

— David Robinson, standing in for the Recording Secretary