

# ← Forum for History of Human Science

## NEWSLETTER

No. 2 -- Fall 1989

The Forum for History of Human Science (FHHS) is a new organization that has been formed to promote scholarship in the history of the social and behavioral sciences. "Human science" is broadly defined, and encompasses anthropology, economics, geography, history, linguistics, political science, psychiatry, psychology, sociology, and statistics, as well as aspects of the biological and physical sciences, medicine, education, law, and philosophy. The primary aim of the organization is to foster research and education in the history of human science and to encourage communication among scholars, scientists, and others working in the area.

### FHHS Sessions and Business Meeting--Gainesville, FL, Oct. 26-29, 1989

Coinciding with the History of Science Society annual meeting in Gainesville, Florida, <sup>FHHS</sup> will hold an organizational meeting on Friday night, Oct. 27, between 9:00 and 10:00 PM (note the time change from the HSS Newsletter). Unfortunately, the present chair of FHHS, Jim Capshew, will be unable to attend. The agenda will include:

- discussion and vote on the proposed charter (see page 3 of the newsletter).
- election of a new at-large member for the steering committee
- proposals for possible sessions to organize for the 1990 HSS meeting in Seattle
- discussion of the possibility of a special issue in *Osiris* devoted to the history of human science.

FHHS will be also cosponsoring two sessions at the conference:

**Friday, Oct. 27, 9:00-11:30 AM: Persuading Publics: Creating "Knowledge" in the Human Sciences**  
Organizers: John Carson and Andrea Rusnock, Princeton University  
Chair: Ian Hacking, University of Toronto

Theodore Porter, University of Virginia: "Ultimate Quantification: Law, Bureaucracy, and the Value of Human Life"; Andrea Rusnock: "When Counting Counts: The Reception of Quantitative Arguments in Eighteenth-Century England and France"; John Carson: "Army Alpha, Army Brass, and the Search for Army Intelligence"; Robert J. Richards, University of Chicago: "The Structure of Narrative Explanation in History and in Science." Comment: Lorraine Daston, Brandeis University.

**Saturday, Oct. 28, 1:30-3:15 PM: Subjectivity and Pluralism in the Human Sciences at the Turn of the Century**

Organizer: Elazar Barkan, California Institute of Technology  
Chair: John Brooks, Indiana University University of Chicago

David Leary, University of Richmond: "The Psychologist's Dilemma: To Subject the Self to Science -- or Science to the Self?"; Henrika Kuklick, University of Pennsylvania: "Mind or Minds: Disciplinary Differentiation in American Social Science"; Elazar Barkan, "Primitives' Rationality: The Challenge of Pluralism." Comment: Robert Richards, University of Chicago.

### Membership

Membership in FHHS is open to interested individuals; dues are \$10 a year. Please make checks payable to the Forum for History of Human Science and direct them and any inquiries to Laurel Furumoto, FHHS Corresponding Secretary, Department of Psychology, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181; telephone (617) 235-0320, ext. 3020 (messages ext. 3019).

telephoned  
Tim,  
we made  
some minor  
copyediting  
suggestions.  
Good job!  
H.

## News from the Steering Committee

Four members of the FHHS Steering Committee met at an annual Cheiron meeting in Kingston, Ontario this past June to discuss the state of the organization. The main decision reached was that FHHS should wait at least another year before seeking formal affiliation with the History of Science Society, in order to concentrate more fully on issues of content. At the same time, it was deemed important to settle on a definitive structure for FHHS, both for administrative purposes and to facilitate affiliation when that becomes an issue. In the meanwhile, FHHS will focus on encouraging discussion among its members through a variety of means, including the newsletter, sessions at HSS meetings, and a proposal to sponsor a conference and/or publish a special issue of *Osiris* on the history of human science. Tim Alborn, who put together the first FHHS Newsletter last spring, has been officially named <sup>appointed E</sup> editor of the <sup>Newsletter</sup> publication to continue indefinitely.

### New addresses

Three members of the Steering Committee have moved over the summer or are planning imminent moves. Elazar Barkan will be an instructor at Caltech, where his wife is now teaching in the history department; John Brooks is now back at the University of Chicago with a new mailing address, after spending the summer in Boston; and Jim Capshew will be moving to Indiana University in November. ~~They may now be reached at the following addresses:~~ <sup>after</sup> ~~The following are FHHS~~ <sup>James</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> their new addresses!

Elazar Barkan  
1300 Meadowbrook Rd.  
Altadena, CA 91001

John Brooks  
Fishbein Center for the History  
of Science and Medicine  
University of Chicago  
1126 E. 59th St.  
Chicago, IL 60637

Jim Capshew  
Dept. History and Philosophy  
of Science  
Goodbody Hall 130  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN 47405

### Possible conference/ special issue

Although planning for such an event or events is still in the very early stages, some headway has been made. Jim Capshew has received an expression of interest from the editor of *Osiris* to publish a special issue devoted to <sup>topics</sup> ~~issues~~ in the history of human science. Toward that end, Tim Alborn has made inquiries into the possibility of holding a conference on the history of human science at Harvard University, to be cosponsored by FHHS, the Bern Dibner Consortium, and the Harvard History of Science Department. Informal talks with people at both the Dibner Consortium and Harvard have been promising, but we are still waiting to hear anything final. Even if either the *Osiris* issue, the conference, or both do materialize, that leaves many loose ends involving the content and date of the conference. We would also need to iron out the connections between the conference and the publication of a special issue. These issues, and any others that members can think of, can all be discussed at the organizational meeting in Gainesville.

### Message from the chairman <sup>space</sup>

If the history of human science is to flourish, its practitioners must have jobs. The health of any academic field is dependent upon the recognition and support it receives from the university in the form of employment opportunities. Without such opportunities, the entire structure of scholarly research, publication, and communication would collapse.

Since my first participant-observations nearly a decade ago, I have been encouraged that scholars in our heterogeneous field have won academic positions with what appears to be increasing frequency. In the last three years alone, at least eight individuals have achieved tenure, and several others have gained tenure-track or comparable appointments. The departmental affiliations include history, psychology, history of medicine, American studies, history of science, and science and technology studies, and others, reflecting the protean nature of our enterprise. Although each personnel decision represents a complex and unique action, taken together they provide the most heartening sign of the vitality of the history of human science.

James  
Jim Capshew

## Message from the editor

Although the primary function of the newsletter will continue to be to inform members of FHHS about activities with which the Forum is connected, I also wish to emphasize its potential for improving intellectual exchange among members. This latter potential can be realized only to the extent that members take advantage of the newsletter as a forum for communicating knowledge. This can come in a variety of forms, including the type of bibliographic "scouting report" which was included in the first issue, letters to the editor indicating interesting developments in different subdisciplines, or reports on work in progress. Because the history of human science is so heterogeneous, merely calling ourselves a Forum means little unless we actively use that forum for talking and listening to each other. This newsletter is one very available, and possibly important, means of doing so.

All communications to the newsletter should be sent to Tim Alborn, Department of the History of Science, Science Center 235, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138. I can be reached by phone at (617) 666-4007.

## Proposed Charter

The History of Science Society has recently adopted bylaws for Interest Groups and FHHS will take steps to achieve this status in the belief that historians of science, who have traditionally emphasized the natural sciences, and historians of human sciences share many scholarly concerns, and that such affiliation will be mutually beneficial. Jim Capshew, the chairman of FHHS, has drafted a proposed charter to facilitate affiliation. This will be discussed at the business meeting in Gainesville, to be followed by any proposed amendments and a vote.

### CHARTER

#### Forum for History of Human Science

##### I. Name

This society is called the Forum for History of Human Science, abbreviated as FHHS (hereafter referred to as the Forum).

##### II. Purpose

The Forum was established to promote research, education, and scholarship in the history of human science; to provide a forum for discussion; and to foster interest in the history of human science among scholars, scientists, students, and the public.

##### III. Membership

Any individual may become a member of the Forum. The acceptance by the Treasurer of annual dues shall constitute formal recognition of membership. The amount of annual dues shall be assessed at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

(continued on next page)

#### IV. Officers

The officers shall be a Chair, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer elected from and by the membership of the Forum.

#### V. Steering Committee

There shall be a Steering Committee consisting of the officers and three additional representatives elected from and by the membership of the Forum.

#### VI. Elections

The officers shall be elected for terms of two calendar years; in each year one Steering Committee representative shall be elected for a term of three calendar years. Elections shall be held at the annual meeting. Prior to the annual meeting the Steering Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates; nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

#### VII. Administration

The Steering Committee shall be responsible for the management and supervision of the affairs of the Forum. In order to conduct official business, a quorum of four is necessary. Official business may also be conducted by mail vote. The Chair may appoint committees as necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of the Forum. The Chair may appoint members to serve as liaisons to other organizations for the purpose of exchanging information.

#### VIII. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Forum shall ordinarily be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the History of Science Society; or at such other times and places as determined by the Steering Committee. The Chair or a designated representative shall preside over the annual meeting.

#### IX. Official Organ

The official organ of the Forum shall be the FHHS Newsletter. It shall be managed by an Editor under the supervision of the Steering Committee, and sent to the membership of the Forum without charge.

#### X. Modification of Charter.

Amendments to this charter shall be adopted by vote of five members of the Steering Committee, shall be published in the FHHS Newsletter prior to the annual meeting, and shall be submitted to the approval of a majority of the members present at the next annual meeting.

#### XI. Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets of the Forum shall be conveyed to the History of Science Society, or failing its existence, to an organization dedicated to objects similar to those of the Forum and the History of Science Society, so long as whichever organization is selected shall be exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or under such successor provision of the Code that may be in effect at that time.