Notes from the Chair

Like all of you, I wear many hats in my academic life. I am lucky to be chair of this organization, because its programs keep me in close touch with great old friends and also force me to keep up with newcomers and new work in our widening field. Another big hat I have been wearing recently is that of vice-president of Missouri Conference of AAUP, our state umbrella organization for the American Association of University Professors. Even those of you who are not members will probably remember that, for nearly a century, AAUP has represented the gold standard in academic freedom and shared governance in higher education.

What does this have to do with the Forum? As a historian of human science, and AAUP officer, I have twice testified before legislative hearings: the Missouri Senate Committee on Higher Education on 25 April 2007; and the Missouri House of Representatives Committee on Higher Education on 5 February 2008. Two years in a row, under the guise of “intellectual diversity” in one case and a “sunshine act” in another, my state’s legislature has considered anti-Darwinism bills, and they actually went much further than biology. As the witnesses in favor of these bills argued, the teaching of evolution by natural selection is harmful to our society, not only because it is bad science (“just a theory”) but also because it fosters attitudes that lead to late-term abortions, human cloning, genocide, the acceptance of homosexual marriage and parenthood ... you get the picture. The legislation would have forced the administrators of public universities and colleges to monitor their classrooms (actually only those courses that deal with biology, religion, politics, or society) to make sure that each course is “fair and balanced” and gives “equal representation” to all sides of an issue.

We were able to stop this legislation, and citizens of at least 28 other states have done the same during the past few years. It might have been interesting to see one of those laws pass, just to see whether the courts would block it or whether universities would indeed implement such thought police. Now I can really understand why Darwin shied from public attention.

I am a scholar of European history, so I have to thank fellow Forum members whose work on problems of science and society in North America have given me deep background on such issues. I did not become a historian of science to engage in political activity, but I am a citizen, a human being, and when necessary I will take the stand. As we approach Charles Darwin’s 200th birthday next February 12, I invite you to learn about the struggles for academic freedom still being waged. (Check out freeexchangeoncampus.org which has lots of information, including my testimony.) And if you find your state facing similar legislation, please contact me immediately.

David Robinson
**News of Members**

**Mitchell Ash** (Vienna) co-edited with Thomas Sturm Psychology’s Territories: Historical and Contemporary Studies from Different Disciplines (Mahwah, N. J.: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2007), available from Psychological Press, a division of Taylor & Francis.

**Hamilton Cravens** (Iowa State) held the Fulbright-Dow Distinguished Research Chair at the Roosevelt Studies Center in Middelburg, Netherlands, in the Spring of 2007. In 2006-07, he was Distinguished Scholar of the Arts & Humanities at the Center for Excellence in the Arts & Humanities at Iowa State University. His new book, The American Social and Behavioral Sciences: A History (Cambridge Univ. Pr.) will be forthcoming in Spring 2009.


**Richard Olson** (Harvey Mudd, Claremont), Science and Scientism in Nineteenth-Century Europe (Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Pr., 2008).

**Jefferson Pooley** (Muhlenberg) has been named Annenberg Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania for Spring 2009.

**Dorothy Ross** (Johns Hopkins, emerita) is working on debates about social ethics and nationalism in the United States.

**Floyd Rudmin** (Tromsø) since 1996 has been critiquing the field of acculturation psychology for faulty psychometrics and ignorance of their history. Both types of errors show up as ideological bias, resulting in a kind of alchemy. For example, data showing \(a=b > c=d\) become \(a>b = c>d\) and forty or more scholars writing in top journals (e.g. Psychological Bulletin, American Psychologist) agree to the magical transformation. This faulty research then advises governments on policies towards minorities.

**Michael Sokal** (Worcester Polytechnic Inst., emeritus) was visiting professor at the English-speaking University of Hong Kong in October 2007.

**David Valone** (Quinnipiac) is associate professor and chair of the History Department. With Benjamin B. Page he has co-edited Philanthropic Foundations and the Globalization of Scientific Medicine and Public Health (University Press of America, 2007); and with Jill Marie Bradbury Anglo-Irish Identities 1571-1845 (Bucknell Univ. Pr., forthcoming).


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**Forum for History of Human Science**  
an interest group within the History of Science Society  
affiliated with Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences  
Founded 1988  
http://www.fhhs.org
Call for Papers

Cheiron

The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences

41st Annual Meeting, Penn State University, June 25-28, 2009

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 5pm EST on January 12, 2009. 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 (sarah.igo@vanderbilt.edu). 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 Sarah Igo: sarah.igo@vanderbilt.edu

Kathy Milar, Executive Officer, kathym@earlham.edu

Cheiron website: http://www.cheiron.org

FHHS Awards for 2008

John C. Burnham Early Career Award

Perrin Selcer (University of Pennsylvania), “The View from Everywhere: Disciplining Diversity in post-WWII International Social Science”

The 2008 Burnham Award Committee is delighted to award this year’s prize to Perrin Selcer for his essay “The View from Everywhere: Disciplining Diversity in post-WWII International Social Science.” Focusing on the social scientists associated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), he examines these practitioners’ definitions of their role as scientists. The award committee was particularly impressed with how Selcer’s work goes beyond the often national scope of much research in the history of science. He details the history of those social scientists who did not tie up their professional project with national destiny, but rather with creating international networks. These internationalists fostered certain cultural values (such as empathy and subjectivity) and character traits of the scientist (such as partiality), which are not usually associated with the social sciences. Arguing that such movements represent more than just American hegemony or Western cultural imperialism, his analysis highlights the challenges involved as these social scientists attempted to craft a truly internationalist epistemology, “the view from everywhere.” Drawing on numerous archival sources, Selcer offers a fruitful way of reconceptualizing the geography and scope of the human sciences in the twentieth-century.

2008 Burnham Prize Committee:
Michael Pettit (chair), Hans Pols, Nadine Weidman

Laura Stark, “Morality in Science: How Research is Evaluated in the Age of Human Subjects Regulation” (Princeton University, 2006).

Stark’s dissertation is an ambitious historical and ethnographic study of the development of ethical standards in contemporary American psychological and medical research. Using a novel mix of archival sources, interviews, and participant observation, Stark shows how human subjects panels have operated less on the basis of a set of deductive rules, than by relying on a collection of locally negotiated, case-based practices. Her combination of historical and sociological methods allows her to effectively historicize both scientific practice and ethical judgment, revealing that the human sciences have served not only as a tool of public policy, but also as a resource for identifying moral ends in contemporary society.

2008 FHHS Dissertation Award Committee:
Greg Eghigian (chair), Jamie Cohen-Cole, David Valone

Upcoming Awards Competitions

In 2009 FHHS will offer the John C. Burnham Early Career Award and the Article Award. Deadlines for both are likely to be June 15, 2009 (subject to change). A formal announcement will appear in the Spring issue of this Newsletter.

Also of interest is the Pressman-Burroughs Wellcome Career Development Award ($1,000 to support a projected book on 20th-century medical science, deadline December 31, 2008). For details, see http://www.histmed.org/pressman_award.htm
Although by rule FHHS officially sponsors only one session, this year's HSS meeting sports a surfeit of papers on human science with contributions from many friendly names.

Beginning Friday morning, Laura Stark chairs a session (Friday, 9-11:45am, Fox Chapel) on methods, ethics, and identity in mid-20th century psychology, with Jill Morawski (Wesleyan) addressing coercion in experimental psychology, Mark Solovey (Toronto) on Harry Alpert's vision of social science, Rebecca Lemov (Harvard) on the science of subjectivity, and Michael Pettit (York) on bisexual rats. Sarah Igo (Vanderbilt) will comment.

Friday afternoon (Fri., 3:30-5:30pm, 17th-floor Sky Room) James Capshew (Indiana) presides over papers by Christopher Green (York), Janet Martin-Nielsen (Toronto), and Alexandra Rutherford (York) on early Chicago psychology, Chomskian linguistics, and 20th-century sites of behavior modification.

Saturday morning offers a choice of two sessions. Uljana Feest (TU-Berlin) has organized a session (Sat., 9-11:45am, parlor D) on the supposed early 20th-century European “crisis” in psychology with papers by Thomas Sturm and Annette Müller (Barcelona) on Bühler and Popper, Gary Hatfield (Penn) on Köhler and Koffka, Feest on Husserl, and John Carson (Michigan) on cries of “crisis” across the border in France. Francesca Bordogna (Northwestern) comments. Session-hopping is made easy, as just next door (Sat., 9-11:45am, parlors E & F) John Jackson (Colorado) chairs and comments on a session exploring the human sciences and empire with papers by Cornelia Lambert and Kathleen Sheppard (both of Oklahoma) on Robert Owen and women archaeologists, plus two talks on the Pacific: American agriculture in the Philippines by Theresa Ventura (Columbia); and Chinese-Hawaiian race crossing in the 1920s and 1930s by Christine Manganaro (Minnesota).

The conference next moves down to the Mezzanine for the FHHS annual meeting and Distinguished Lecture (Sat., noon-1:15pm, Lawrence Welk Room). The meeting will feature reports on improving relations with the HSS (the evolution of rules for the sponsorship of sessions), the digitization of the Forum (website, email lists), prize announcements, and election of officers (Chair, Representative One, International Representative). Anyone willing to assume Newsletter or webmaster duties is encouraged to speak up! Henrika Kuklick's (Penn) Distinguished Lecture will begin at 12:30pm.

With everyone assembled and no human science on the docket until 3:30, a post-meeting/Lecture lunch might be appropriate. Do be certain to get the tab to the table by 3:00 and the bill divided up in time to make it to FHHS’s one officially-sponsored session (Sat., 3:30-5:30pm, Fox Chapel). Former FHHS Chair Hamilton Cravens (Iowa State) will preside over and comment on papers addressing a century of scientific research on children. Kathleen Jones (independent) will discuss child suicide in the 19th century, Ellen Herman (Oregon) the category of “at risk,” and Marga Vicedo (Toronto) children’s emotions in London, Baltimore, and Uganda. Booked opposite is a session (Sat., 3:30-5:30, parlors E & F) on evolutionary gender traits with Nadine Weidman (Harvard) speaking on 1960s portrayals of gender and animal aggression.