

# FORUM FOR HISTORY OF HUMAN SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Number 2

Fall, 1997

## Jack David Pressman

5 May 1957 - 23 June 1997

Jack D. Pressman, Associate Professor in the Department of the History of Health Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco, died on June 23, 1997.

Born May 5, 1957 in New York, he entered Cornell University as a graduate of the city's selective Stryvesant High School. At Cornell, he studied the history of biology with Will Provine, whom he credited with inspiring him to pursue graduate study in the history of science, receiving his B.A. with honors in Neurobiology and Behavior in 1978. Proceeding to the University of Chicago, where he earned an M.A. in the Intellectual Foundations of Neurology and Psychiatry in 1980, he went on to the University of Pennsylvania's Department of History and Sociology of Science, where he wrote his 1986 Ph.D. thesis under the supervision of Charles Rosenberg.

A book based on Pressman's Ph. D. thesis will be published by Cambridge University Press in 1997, entitled *Last Resort: Psychosurgery and the Limits of Medicine*. At the time of his death, he had nearly finished another book, under contract with Oxford University Press, *Maladjustment and the American Citizen*. Among his published articles were "The History of the Concept of Mental Illness in the West," in Kenneth Kiple, ed., *The Cambridge World History of Human Disease* (1992), "Human Understanding: Psychosomatic Medicine and the Mission of the Rockefeller Foundation," in George Weisz and Christopher Lawrence, eds., *Greater than the Parts: Holism in Biomedicine 1920-1950* (forthcoming), and "John J. Fulton and the Origins of Psychosurgery" in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (1988);<sup>1</sup> a revised version of the essay for



which he won the Richard H. Shryock Medal of the

American Association for the History of Medicine in 1985. And he wrote essays and short reviews for journals too numerous to list in toto, including the *American Historical Review*, *Isis*, *JAMA*, the *Journal of American History*, the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, *Reviews in American History*, and the *William and Mary Quarterly*.

Jack Pressman's professional life was stamped by the sorts of activities and awards that are the hallmarks of a successful career. He was

instrumental in the foundation of the History of Science Society's Forum for History of Human Science, and belonged to its Steering Committee in 1989-90. He was also prominent in the American Association of the History of Medicine; a member of its Executive Council in 1993-6, he also served it in a number of other significant organizational capacities. He won a series of honors and awards, of which a few were a Charlotte W. Newcombe dissertation fellowship, an NIMH postdoctoral fellowship in the Rutgers-Princeton Program in Mental Health Research, and, most recently, a research grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund—which has been converted into the basis of an AAHM prize named for him, to be conferred annually by the society on promising scholars of the history of twentieth-century medicine. And he took seriously the responsibilities as an educator of medical students that he assumed when he joined the faculty of UCSF in 1987; recognized as a successful teacher, he served the medical school on a

*continued on page five*

**Forum for the History of Human Science**

Founded 1988

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**Notes from Treasurer**

**David Valone**

**FHHS ANNUAL MEETING:** For all FHHS members who will be attending the HSS in San Diego, please make time to attend the annual FHHS "business" meeting. It is open to all members, and all who are available are encouraged to attend. It is an opportunity to get to know others in our group, and a chance to have your voice heard concerning the future of the Forum. Snacks and refreshments are always provided. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 8 November, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Look for the listing of the place on the program guide to the HSS meeting.

**DUES REMINDER:** This is to remind all members that annual dues of \$10 are now being collected (except from graduate students and those unemployed, who continue to have a one time \$10 membership fee). Please check your dues status by looking at your name on your mailing label. If you have paid your name on your mailing label. If you have not yet paid your dues, please use the enclosed coupon and send it along with your ten dollar check (made out to FHHS) to: David Valone, FHHS Treasurer, 151 Spring Street, Cheshire, CT 06410. Please use the enclosed form to notify us of changes of address, email, or other important information.

**JHBS Appoints Burnham Editor**

The *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* has announced the appointment of John C. Burnham, professor of history and psychiatry at The Ohio State University as editor. The Journal is now published by John Wiley & Sons of New York. Barbara Ross, who edited JHBS for more than twenty years, becomes editor emerita, and the Journal will continue without change in policy, welcoming manuscripts on all aspects of the history of the behavioral and social sciences and book reviews. Subscription information is available from John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-0012. The editorial office address is John C. Burnham, Ph.D., Department of History, Ohio State University, 230 West 17th Street, Columbus, OH 43210-1367, (email: burnham.2@osu.edu).

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# FHHS Members Participating at the San Diego History of Science Society Meeting,

## 7-10 November

Forum members participating in the upcoming History of Science Society Meeting in San Diego include:

-Margaret Schabas, York University, who is a program chair of the meeting;

-Mitchell Ash, University of Iowa, who is presenting in a workshop, which is session # 28. "Scientists Under Hitler": Twenty Years of Scholarship on the History of Science under National Socialism," Friday, 7 November, 7:30 p.m.;

-James H. Capshew, Indiana University, is chairing #52. *The Scientist As Political Animal in 1960s America*, Saturday, 8 November, 3:30 p.m.;

-John Carson, Cornell University, "Intelligence and Its Discontents: The Culture of IQ in Interwar America," in #41. *History of the Behavioral Sciences* (chaired by Benjamin Harris, University of Wisconsin, Parkside), Saturday, 8 November, 1:30 p.m.;

-Stephen J. Cross, "The Evolution of a Scientific Humanist: Julian Huxley's Spiritual Aeneid," in #42. *Science and Humanism*, Saturday, 8 November, 1:30 p.m.;

-Henrika Kuklick, University of Pennsylvania, "Islands As Strategic Fieldwork Sites," in #7. *Place*

and the Environmental Sciences, Friday, 7 November, 9:00 a.m.;

-Katherine S. Milar, Earlham College, "Balancing Science and Service: Women in Applied Psychology," in #55. *From Wilderness to Reform: Women Scientists in the Field Sunday*, 9 November, 9:00 a.m.;

-Philip J. Pauly, Rutgers University, "Biology and Democracy: The Aims of the Founders of the Scripps Institution," in #45. *Science, Industry, and Social Vision: Perspectives on the Scripps Institution of Oceanography*, Saturday, 8 November, 3:30 p.m.;

-Theodore Porter, University of California, Los Angeles, "Romantic Positivism — The Attraction of Opposites," in #46. *Victorian "Sturm und Drang": German Romanticism and British Scientific Naturalism*, Saturday, 8 November, 3:30 p.m.;

-Warren Schmaus, Illinois Institute of Technology, "Representations in the Sens Lectures," in #34. *Durkheim's Recently Discovered Early Philosophy Lectures and the Emergence of Social Science, co-sponsored by the Forum for the History of the Human Sciences*, Warren Schmaus, chair, Saturday, 8 November, 9:00 a.m.

### Message from the Editor of *History of Psychology*

Most readers of the FHHS Newsletter will already have seen formal announcements of plans to launch a new scholarly journal, *History of Psychology*, to begin publication early in 1998. *History of Psychology* will be published by the American Psychological Association and sponsored by APA's Division (26) of the History of Psychology. I am pleased and proud to have been chosen to edit this journal and I hope that, under my editorship, *History of Psychology* will begin to evolve into the fine scholarly journal that the field deserves. As I strive to meet these goals, I seek the active support of all members of the Forum.

In particular, I hope that all Forum members will:

1 — Submit their own best work in history of psychology for publication in *History of Psychology*. The formal announcement of the journal outlines its "Editorial Policy," provides "Author Instructions," and

lists its mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address, etc. Please get in touch with me directly at one of the addresses below if you have yet to receive a copy of this announcement.

2 — Urge their teachers, colleagues, students, friends, and acquaintances to submit their best work in the field to *History of Psychology*. Like all other scientific and scholarly journals, *History of Psychology* expects that such word-of-mouth referrals will lead to some of its very best articles.

3 — Volunteer to serve as referees for submitted manuscripts. Anyone interested in reviewing submissions to *History of Psychology* should get in touch with me, preferably VIA DIRECT E-MAIL at msokal@wpi.edu.

As soon as I get such messages I'll send out

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# Calls for Papers

## Cheiron

## APA Division 26

Cheiron, the International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, will hold its thirtieth annual meeting June 18-21, 1998, at the University of San Diego, San Diego, California. Program submissions (symposia, papers, and posters), which may deal with any aspect of the history of the behavioral and social sciences -- or with related historiographical or methodological issues -- must be postmarked by February 2, 1998. Travel awards are available to assist students who present papers or posters. Contact **Leila Zenderland**, Cheiron Program Chair, Department of American Studies, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, CA 92834.  
Phone: 714-278-3800. Fax: 714-278-5820.  
E-mail: lzenderland@fullerton.edu.

## News of the Membership

**Paul Croce**, Stetson University, has an article tentatively due out in the February 1998 issue of the *Journal of Religious History*: "Probabilistics Darwinism: Louis Agassiz vs. Asa Gray on Science, Religion, and Certainty."

**Kurt Danziger**, York University, has published *Naming the Mind: How Psychology Found Its Language*, Sage Publications (1997); cloth ISBN: 080397762X; paper ISBN: 0803977638.

**Donald Dewsbury**, University of Florida, has edited *Unification through Division: Histories of Divisions of the American Psychological Association*, American Psychological Association (1997) and "Commemorating Pavlov's work," *American Psychologist*, 52 (1997), 933-972; he has published "Edward Bradford Titchener: Comparative Psychologist?" *American Journal of Psychology*, 110 (1997), 449-456 and "On the evolution of divisions," *American Psychologist*, 52 (1997), 733-741.

**Gary Hatfield**, University of Pennsylvania, has published "The Workings of the Intellect: Mind and Psychology," in Patricia Easton (ed.), *Logic and the Workings of the Mind: The Logic of Ideas and Faculty*

## APA Division 26

Division 26 of the American Psychological Association will hold its next meeting in San Francisco, August 14-18, 1998. Proposals must be postmarked by November 21, 1997 (please note that this date is earlier than last year's submission deadline). Papers or symposia on the history of applications of psychology: clinical, industrial-organizational, sport, advertising, etc. and on the early development of psychology on the West Coast are of particular interest. Students are strongly encouraged to submit papers. There is a student paper award worth \$200. Contact **Wade Pickren**, Program Chair, Department of Psychology, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK 74701-0609. Phone: 405-924-0121. Fax: 405-920-7470. E-mail: wpickren@sosu.edu.

*Psychology in Early Modern Philosophy*, North American Kant Society Studies in Philosophy, vol. 5 (Atascadero, Calif.: Ridgeview Publishing Co., 1997).

**Hans Pols** is currently doing post-doctoral work in the Harvard University History of Science Department as a member of the Mind Brain Behavior Initiative.

**Peter J. Taylor**, Eugene Lang Professor of Social Change at Swarthmore College, has edited, with Saul E. Halton and Paul N. Edwards, *Changing Life: Genomes, Ecologies, Bodies, Commodities* as Volume 13 of the University of Minnesota Press Cultural Politics Series, cloth ISBN 0-8166-3012-7; paper ISBN 0-8166-3013-5. Contents include articles by Paul Edwards, **Peter Taylor** and Saul Halton ("Introduction: Changing Life in the New World Dis/Order"), Paul Edwards, Scott Gilbert, Herbert Gottweis, Rick Schroeder, Yrjö Haila, Saul Halton, Simon Cole, Rosaleen Love and **Peter Taylor** ("How do we know we have global environmental problems? Undifferentiated science-politics and its potential reconstruction" and "Afterword: Shifting positions for knowing and intervening in the cultural politics of the life sciences").

Jack David Pressman

# Eulogy

MEMENTO MORI

the prospect of death  
is reason enough  
to embrace life

The linden trees are blooming in

Bloomington, Indiana, home of Indiana University.

All the other trees — redbud, crabapple, dogwood — have long since shed their spectacular blooms earlier in the springtime. Only the linden waits to bloom at the start of summer.

It is not a showy flower. Yellow-green in color, it blends in with the leaves. But it has a delightful, fresh fragrance. It is also the scholar's tree, having an association with libraries and places of study since medieval times, when it was planted at the first universities.

When I first learned of Jack Pressman's death on Monday, I went home, riding my bicycle, baking in the summer sunshine, smelling the linden trees as I made my way through campus, thinking about my friend Jack. I wondered: Why did you leave us? An unanswerable question.

In the days since Jack's death people who knew him and loved him came together to share the sad news. Many people who wanted to be here today could not make it. I cannot speak for them individually, but I can try to express some of the grief that we all feel collectively.

Jack entered my life in 1980 in Philadelphia, at Benjamin Franklin's university. It was an exciting time to be a graduate student in the Department of History and Sociology of Science. I didn't fully realize it at the time, but I discovered a true friend and kindred spirit in Jack. Intellectually, we formed a partnership to explore the history of the behavioral sciences. We had a wise faculty guide, Riki Kuklick, to lead us, and student compatriots to join us. The sense of community and shared culture in the department was unmatched anywhere. It was truly a golden age at Penn, and Jack and I flourished in it. The rest is literally history — a lot of

history.

Jack's work as a scholar is part of the public record, and will be duly noted and celebrated for its real achievements. But the loss we feel goes beyond the scholarly career cut short. In fact, the loss we feel goes beyond words. How to capture Jack's smile? How to convey the power and richness of his voice? How to evoke the quality of his mind?

We each have different memories of our time with Jack. All we can do right now is to share them freely with each other, to try to repair the rupture in the very fabric of our lives brought about by Jack's passing.

I will return to Bloomington where the linden trees remain in bloom. I will be remembering Jack, and thinking of the words of Albert Camus:

In the midst of winter  
I finally learned that there was in me  
an invincible summer.

Thank you, Jack, for teaching me the meaning of those words. Farewell. I will miss you.

*Delivered by James Capshaw  
at Home of Peace Cemetery,  
San Francisco, California, 26 June 1997*

## Obituary

*continued from page one*

number of committees, including its committee on admissions and its committee on curriculum and educational policy.

Jack Pressman is survived by his wife, Wendy Brown, and their two children, Abe and Zoe. In his honor, a fund is being established that will be used to assist graduate students at the Department of History and Sociology of Science of the University of Pennsylvania. Check contributions marked "Jack Pressman Fund" and made payable to "University of Pennsylvania Trustees" should be sent to: University of Pennsylvania, Attention: Jean-Marie Knealey, 3440 Market Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

*Henrika Kuklick*

## Jack David Pressman

# A Day with Jack

Jack Pressman and I first met when we were both graduate students at the University of Pennsylvania. He was instantly likable—very open, intelligent, funny, and warm. In the years since, he got a job in northern California and I in southern California; he attended meetings on the history of psychiatry, and I on the history of psychology. And while these differences may seem relatively small, they were just large enough to mean that years could go by without our seeing one another. I was therefore really pleased when I learned that Jack and I would once again be in the same place at the same time—we would both be doing research in London at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine in the spring of 1997. Since Jack would be traveling (as he usually did) with his family, I would also be able to spend time with his wife Wendy and his children, Abe and Zoe.

Jack arrived in London about a week before I did. By the time I got there, he was an old hand who had scouted out the best resources of the library and of the city of London, and was ready to show me around and introduce me to all his new friends. Since the Pressmans would be leaving in a few short days, we decided to spend all day on Friday, March 28th, together. And so it was that I got to spend a last day with Jack—at the London Zoo.

It was a lovely spring day. As we made our way through the city to the zoo, Jack and Wendy took turns entertaining Abe and Zoe and caring for me—making sure that I got the proper bus card, that I understood how the underground worked and how the city was laid out, that I knew where to eat and how much to spend and what to be sure not to miss. The day passed beautifully—a seamless blend of seeing the zoo animals and catching up on work and family and old friends and new experiences.

Throughout the day, Jack told me about his life. He spoke enthusiastically about his many ongoing projects and all his plans for the future—how he wanted to write a popular account of the influence of Adolf Meyer on American psychiatry, and how he was also interested in studying the

history of laboratory and clinical practices within hospitals. He talked proudly and lovingly about the work being done by his students in San Francisco and Berkeley. Most of all, he talked about his kids—how terrific they were, and how much he was learning from them, and how different they seemed from one another. He told many stories illustrating his son's acute sensitivity and insight and his daughter's courage and natural agility. As for his wife, no words were needed, for Jack and Wendy were so obviously a team who cherished one another as well as their children. Above all, one fact stood out—Jack was very happy. In fact, I believe he was happier than I had ever seen him. He had just completed his book manuscript. He was eagerly looking forward to an upcoming sabbatical. He had earned tenure in a wonderful institution in a city he loved. He had a strong marriage and a beautiful son and daughter. And he was still the open, intellectually engaged, and warmhearted person that he had always been.

I last saw Jack a few days later, for although he was busy packing to return to the U.S., he rushed back to the library to pass on to me his London guidebooks—one final thoughtful gesture.

Jack Pressman will always remain for me as he was that spring day—a vibrant scholar and committed family man who was full of kindness, of ideas, of dreams, of love, of life. I will miss him dearly.

*Lella Zenderland*

## Jack

I met Jack at the History of Science Society meeting in Pittsburgh — was it 1986? Sarah Tracy introduced us, knowing that we would hit it off.

Memories of first impressions come floating back — the intensity of flashing green eyes, wry wit, and daunting mental energy as we talked about our respective dissertations, his on psychosurgery, mine on James and anarchism. Not an obvious match of interests, perhaps, but somehow we recognized each other as sympatico. We talked for hours. We were intellectual cousins or in-laws or some such, since his advisor (Rosenberg) and mine (Rosenkrantz) were as inseparable (by phone) as people at two different institutions could be. I thought of Jack and

Jim Capshew and myself as a trio or cohort of sorts — all nearly the same age, all getting our Ph.D.'s within a few years of each other, and all trying to do history of psychology/psychiatry in a discipline where those were marginal subfields. It made for instant bonding, at least for me, since Harvard was a lonelier place to do history of social/behavioral sciences than Penn at that stage.

When I remember Jack, it's only partly for his intellectual work, though that was outstanding. It's only partly as one of the founding members of the FHHS — one of a handful of us who banded together in the late '80s to try to make a place for ourselves and our academic interests within the HSS. Most of the memories that tumble out are the humble stuff of old friends who will not be forgotten soon. I remember sharing years of big and little angst over the wealth of things academicians can think to worry about.... I remember his initial loneliness on the West Coast but his eventual happy seduction by the charms of the Bay area. ... I remember his traumatic discovery some years ago that he was allergic to chocolate. ... And in recent years, I remember all the Abe and Zoe stories. How he loved his family and delighted in everything about his children. Abe the little soulful intellectual; Zoe the bold and imperturbable little jockeyette. I cherish a computer drawing Jack gave me at the last HSS meetings, done by Abe at age 6 — some sort of dinosaur whose name I can't even pronounce. Incredible colors and precise detail, including a blow-up of a section of skin so that he could show even closer detail of scales. Such children, such a proud and adoring father.

Mostly I remember a great soul who was taken from his family and from us much too soon. How can a life so promising and so full be snuffed out so unceremoniously, so entirely without warning? It is impossible to absorb. Two weeks before his death he called, rejoicing in having finished the copy-edited version of his book manuscript. Two weeks later there was silence ... forever. The book will come out. I will hold it in my hand and be proud for Jack. But I will wish I could pick up the phone and call him to congratulate him. And I will wish he could have seen his wife and children and friends grow old, together.

*Deborah Coon*

## Symposium, Memorial Service at University of Pennsylvania 14-15 November

A small symposium will be presented in honor of Jack Pressman on Friday, November 14, at 4:00 p.m., at the University of Pennsylvania Department of History and Sociology of Science, First Floor Room C, 3440 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA. Gerald Grob will speak on "Psychiatry's Holy Grail: The Search for the Mechanism and Mental Disorders." Grob's talk will be discussed by a panel of commentators: Janet Tigue, Nancy Tomes, and Sarah W. Tracy. An informal reception will follow the symposium.

The following day a memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m. at Furness Library on the Penn campus. Please contact Sarah Tracy at 302-456-0335 or [swtracy@udel.edu](mailto:swtracy@udel.edu) for further information.

## Message from the Editor of *History of Psychology*

*continued from page three*

forms for prospective referees to complete and return...  
4 — Consult *History of Psychology's* website, at <http://www.wpi.edu/~histpsy>. This site will provide regularly updated information about forthcoming issues, subscription rates, and a roster of the journal's Consulting Editors.

5 — Subscribe to *History of Psychology*. Forum members who are members of APA Division 26 will receive the journal. The APA plans to offer a reduced-rate subscription to members of the Forum (and other organizations) that will provide *both* a subscription to *History of Psychology* and membership in Division 26.

6 — Urge libraries of their home institutions to subscribe to *History of Psychology*. A journal's long-term impact depends on the size of its institutional subscription list, and the APA Publications Office has already begun to distribute widely advertised material to attract library subscriptions. *History of Psychology's* ISSN is 1093-4510. For further information, contact Michael M. Sokal, Professor of History, Department of Humanities & Arts, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA 01609. Phone: (508) 831-5712. Fax: (508) 831-5932. E-mail: [msokal@wpi.edu](mailto:msokal@wpi.edu). Website: <http://www.wpi.edu/~histpsy>.

# Research Position at Groningen

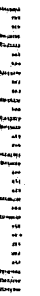
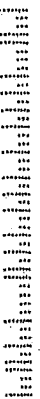
The University of Groningen, the Netherlands, section Theory and History of Psychology, offers a four-year research position to a student of non-Dutch nationality for writing a thesis on the history of psychology. More specifically, the thesis should deal with a topic related to the increasing emphasis on precision and/or standardization in the history of (some part of) psychology. After taxes and health insurance, the fellow will receive an income of about Dfl.2100,- (about 1100 dollars) a month. The university will help to look for an apartment for a reasonable rent (about Dfl 500 a month). The fellowship is open to applicants with a Master's degree in psychology or in a related field with demonstrable knowledge of psychology. The fellow will be working in the section Theory and History of Psychology at the Department of Psychology. He or she will be supervised by Trudy Dehue or Douwe Draaisma and possibly a second supervisor in the Netherlands or abroad, who will be chosen after the dissertation topic has been specified. The fellow

will be expected to finish the four-year educational program of the international school for science and technology studies 'Science and Technology in Contemporary Culture' which organizes summer- and winterschools (of 2 weeks per year, max) in the Netherlands with internationally renowned teachers (in the past Bruno Latour, Karin Knorr, Donna Haraway have taught at the school). Considerations of applications will begin from June 1 and finish at November 1 1997. Applicants are requested to send a letter of interest, a c.v. and 10-15 pages of writing samples in English, preferably in the domain of the dissertation's topic to: dr T. Dehue, section Theory and History of Psychology, University of Groningen, Grote Kruisstraat 2/1, 9712 TS Groningen, the Netherlands. For questions contact T. Dehue, tel. +31 50 3636354 (secr. 6366) or email <G.C.G.Dehue@ppsw.rug.nl>.

## Reminders and Thanks

Members attending the History of Science Society Meeting in San Diego should consider writing summaries of sessions for the next issue of the *Newsletter*; also, they should attend the FHHS Business Meeting, Saturday, 8 November, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

The Editor wishes to thank David Valone and all other contributors for their assistance with this issue.

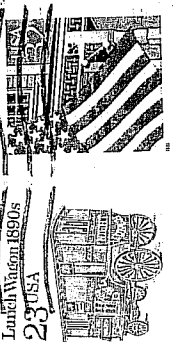


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