

Science and Culture in Theory and History: Latin America, France, and the Anglophone World

Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, Cambridge

Saturday 2 July

- 9.30 Registration
- 10.00 Welcome and introduction
Keynote 1: Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra (University of Texas, Austin), ‘“The science of nothing and the science of the colonial”: A Genealogy of the Forgotten in Early-Modern and Modern Spanish America’
- 11.00 Coffee
- 11.30 **Roundtable 1: Science and culture in Anglophone studies**
Iwan Morus (University of Aberystwyth), David Trotter (University of Cambridge), Vike Plock (University of Exeter), Ros Ambler-Alderman (University of Southampton)
- 12.45 Lunch
- 1.30 **Keynote 2: Gabriela Nouzeilles** (University of Princeton), ‘Bone Rush and the Paleontological Imagination: John Bell Hatcher goes to Patagonia’
- 2.15 **Roundtable 2: Science and culture in Francophone studies**
Henry Dicks (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3), Ian James (University of Cambridge), Martin Crowley (University of Cambridge)
- 3.30 Coffee
- 4.00 **Keynote 3: Jimena Canales** (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), ‘Einstein and Bergson from a Latin American perspective’
- 4.45 **Roundtable 3: Science and culture in Latin American studies**
María del Pilar Blanco (University of Oxford), Joanna Page (University of Cambridge), Brais Outes-León (City University of New York)
- 6.00 Wine reception
- 7.30 Conference Dinner at Robinson College

Sunday 3 July

The discussion in each workshop will respond to points raised in individual papers but also provide an opportunity for all participants to reflect on some of the ideas presented in the first day of the symposium, within the context of Latin American culture. Some questions are provided below as prompts for discussion.

- 9.45 **Workshop 1: The history of science and culture in Latin America: new paradigms, new periodizations**
- 9.45 Mark Thurner (ILAS, University of London), ‘Museum worlds: Making the mirrors of history real’
- 10.00 Edward Chauca (College of Charleston), ‘Writing the archive: Mental health, fiction, and non-Western medicine’

10.15 Discussion

In what ways does the periodization of the relationship of science and culture in European history map successfully onto Latin American history, and where does it fail to account for regional difference? How might we construct a genealogy of thought on science and culture emerging from within Latin America? What work has been/is being done on the history and theory of the relationship between science and culture in Latin America?

11.00 Coffee

11.30 **Workshop 2: Theories of biopolitics, discipline and control in Latin America: moving beyond Foucault?**

11.30 Paul Merchant (University of Cambridge), 'Psychopower or biopower? Televisual thoughts on Pinochet's corpse'

11.45 Mara Polgovsky (University of Cambridge), 'The blinded webcam: Automated surveillance and the politics of the super-panopticon in contemporary Mexico'

12.00 Emily Baker (University of Cambridge), '"Hyper-industrial biopower" and the "becoming-anthropod of society": Reading Pola Oloixarac's *Las constelaciones oscuras* (2015) with Bernard Stiegler'

12.15 Discussion

How have recent thinkers working on science, technology and culture (e.g. Stiegler, Latour, Barad, Malabou, Serres, Braidotti, Hayles) furthered and/or challenged the philosophical projects of an older generation (particularly Foucault)? Thinking beyond the society of discipline or control, what kind of affordances, forms of liberation or constraint, or new perspectives on embodiment and meaning emerge from the work of science and technology in contemporary society? What political projects associated with Latin American societies or cultural discourses are enabled or disabled by recent insights in science and culture studies?

1.00 Lunch

1.45 **Workshop 3: The exploration of scientific ideas in Latin American art and literature (Part I)**

1.45 Antonio Córdoba (Manhattan College), 'Beyond Benjamin: Cult mechanically reproducible images in Bioy Casares' *The Invention of Morel*'

2.00 Viviane Carvalho Da Anunciação (University of Cambridge), 'Visual, holographic and virtual: Concrete poetry and scientific discourses'

2.15 Vanessa Badagliacca (Universidade Nova de Lisboa), 'Hydroponic environments in the artistic context: The case of Luis Benedit's Fitotrón'

2.30 Discussion

How have Latin American cultural texts advanced or contested scientific ideas and practices? How have Latin American theorists, artists and writers engaged with wider contemporary debates on science and culture staged in other parts of the world? How is this engagement marked in historical, cultural or geopolitical terms?

3.15 Coffee and close of symposium