History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine

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“Philip Clements provides an entirely fresh perspective on a highly renowned and much celebrated expedition by putting the practice of science back at the center of the 1963 climb. He clearly demonstrates how the extreme local circumstances on Mount Everest shaped the research programs of the six scientists who appealed to Cold War anxieties in their bid to summit Everest—a space akin to the moon, foreign war zones, or submarine environments.”

—Stewart Weaver, University of Rochester

On February 20, 1963, a team of nineteen Americans embarked on the first expedition that would combine high-altitude climbing with scientific research. The primary objective of the six scientists on the team—who procured funding by appealing to the military and political applications of their work—was to study how severe stress at high altitudes affected human behavior. The expedition would land the first American on the summit of Mount Everest nearly three years after a successful (though widely disputed) Chinese ascent. At the height of the Cold War, this struggle for the Himalaya turned Everest into both a contested political space and a remote, unpredictable laboratory.

The US expedition promised to resurrect American heroism, embodied in a show of physical strength and skill that, when combined with scientific expertise, would dominate international rivals on the frontiers of territorial exploration. It propelled mountaineers, scientists, and their test subjects 29,029 feet above sea level, the highest point of Chinese-occupied Tibet. There they faced hostile conditions that challenged and ultimately compromised standard research protocols, yielding results that were too exceptional to be generalized to other environments. With this book, Philip W. Clements offers a nuanced exploration of the impact of extremity on the production of scientific knowledge and the role of masculinity and nationalism in scientific inquiry.
“On both sides of the Atlantic, exhibitions, public demonstrations, and a salmagundi of museums made science available to all kinds of audiences. The essays in this enjoyable collection add mightily to our understanding of nineteenth-century science, and they remind us that a vibrant world of public engagement existed where science was performed and put on display.” —Steven Conn, Miami University

The nineteenth century witnessed a dramatic shift in the display and dissemination of natural knowledge across Britain and America, from private collections of miscellaneous artifacts and objects to public exhibitions and state-sponsored museums. The science museum as we know it—an institution of expert knowledge built to inform a lay public—was still very much in formation during this dynamic period. Science Museums in Transition provides a nuanced, comparative study of the diverse places and spaces in which science was displayed at a time when science and spectacle were still deeply intertwined; when leading naturalists, curators, and popular showmen were debating both how to display their knowledge and how and whether they should profit from scientific work; and when ideals of nationalism, class politics, and democracy were permeating the museum’s walls.

Contributors examine a constellation of people, spaces, display practices, experiences, and politics that worked not only to define the museum but also to shape public science and scientific knowledge. Taken together, the chapters in this volume span the Atlantic, exploring private and public museums, short and long-term exhibitions, and museums built for entertainment, education, and research, raising a host of important questions about expertise and about who speaks for nature and for history.
As this volume begins, John Tyndall was a PhD student living in Marburg. He was unknown, almost broke, and working himself to the brink of mental and physical exhaustion in his determination to forge a reputation in science. In the period covered by this volume, he completed his degree, published his first scientific papers, became a regular participant in the British Association meetings, established friendships with leading men of science in Berlin and London, was elected Fellow of the Royal Society, and applied for, but failed to obtain, various scientific positions. As the volume ends, he was preparing his first lecture to the Royal Institution of Great Britain, the catalyst for a profound transition in his life. Taken together, the 305 letters herein offer a behind-the-scenes view of nineteenth-century publishing processes, the practices and challenges of diamagnetic research, the application procedures for university positions, the use of patronage in establishing a scientific career, and the often anxious and weary-worn personality of Tyndall, the ambitious protagonist.
“A lively history of a mostly forgotten but ultimately fascinating scientific instrument. This compelling story of phytotrons and the dreams and disappointments of the technologist-biologists who built them brings new insights and much-needed diversity to the historiography of twentieth-century biology.”
—Helen Anne Curry, University of Cambridge

Promising an end to global hunger and political instability, huge climate-controlled laboratories known as phytotrons spread around the world to thirty countries after the Second World War. The United States built nearly a dozen, including the first at Caltech in 1949. Made possible by computers and other novel greenhouse technologies of the early Cold War, phytotrons enabled plant scientists to experiment on the environmental causes of growth and development of living organisms. Subsequently, they turned biologists into technologists who, in their pursuit of knowledge about plants, also set out to master the machines that controlled their environment.

*Engineering the Environment* tells the forgotten story of a research program that revealed the shape of the environment, the limits of growth and development, and the limits of human control over complex technological systems. As support and funding for basic science dwindled, phytotrons declined and ultimately disappeared—until the British built the Ecotron to study the impact of climate change on biological communities. By revisiting this history of phytotrons, David Munns reminds us of the vital role they can play in helping researchers unravel the complexities of natural ecosystems in the Anthropocene.
“This volume makes an original contribution to the rising scholarship of the anthropological difference in early modern thinking and its intersection with philosophy, medicine, and other fields. This is serious, innovative, and rewarding international scholarship. It adds historical depth to the constantly growing and highly important global study of human-animal relations.”
—Markus Wild, University of Basel

From the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, new anatomical investigations of the brain and the nervous system, together with a renewed interest in comparative anatomy, allowed doctors and philosophers to ground their theories on sense perception, the emergence of human intelligence, and the soul-body relationship in modern science. They investigated the anatomical structures and the physiological processes underlying the rise, differentiation, and articulation of human cognitive activities, and looked for the “anatomical roots” of the specificity of human intelligence when compared to other forms of animal sensibility.

Focusing on medical and philosophical debates on human intelligence and animal perception in the early modern age, the chapters in this volume provide fresh insights into the influence of medical discourse on the rise of modern philosophical anthropology. Distinguished historians of philosophy and medicine consider sixteenth-century zoological, psychological, and embryological discourses on man; the impact of mechanism and comparative anatomy on philosophical conceptions of body and soul; and the key status of sensibility in the medical and philosophical enlightenment.
Praise for the first edition:

“Salmon’s book is written in a clear and elementary style. It has many of the earmarks of a text useful for beginners and advanced students alike.”
— British Journal for the Philosophy of Science

“This is an excellent little book. One might disagree with some of its contentions; some will disagree with the whole foundational approach. But Professor Salmon has given us a book of exceptional clarity and conciseness.”
— Isis

After its publication in 1967, The Foundations of Scientific Inference taught a generation of students and researchers about the problem of induction, the interpretation of probability, and confirmation theory. Fifty years later, Wesley C. Salmon’s book remains one of the clearest introductions to these fundamental problems in the philosophy of science. With this work, Salmon presented a coherent vision of the nature of scientific reasoning, explored the philosophical underpinnings of scientific investigation, and introduced readers to key movements in epistemology and to leading philosophers of the twentieth century, developing his own distinctive views on topics that are still of central importance today.

This anniversary edition features an introduction by Christopher Hitchcock, which examines the book’s origins, influences, and major themes, its impact and enduring effects, and the disputes it raised, and revisits Salmon’s ideas for a new audience of philosophers, historians, scientists, and students.
“Nicholas Rescher offers a lucid and illuminating general introduction to the theory of reporting. I highly recommend this book for its distinctive and organized philosophical clarification of some central features about the nature of reporting.”
—Paul K. Moser, Loyola University Chicago

“In this book, Rescher, one of the preeminent figures in twentieth-century philosophy, turns his attention to intelligence analysis in espionage and statecraft. The result is a characteristically clear and clear-headed discussion that will appeal to both amateur and professional philosophers alike.”
—Joseph Shieber, author of *Testimony: A Philosophical Introduction*

Everything we know about what goes on in the world comes to us through reports, information transmitted through human communication. We rely on reports, which can take any number of forms, to convey useful information, and we derive knowledge from that information. It’s no surprise, then, that reporting has many philosophical dimensions. Because it plays such a major role in knowledge management, as Nicholas Rescher argues, the epistemology of reporting not only deserves our attention but also sheds important light on how we understand the theory of knowledge. This book offers a clear, accessible introduction to the theory of reporting, with a special emphasis on national security, particularly military and diplomatic reporting, drawing on examples from historical accounts of espionage and statecraft from the Second World War. Rescher explores the various issues and problems related to the production and reception of reports—including reporter expertise and trustworthiness, transmission modalities, confidentiality, cognitive importance, and the interpretation, evaluation, and utilization of reports—providing readers with a distinctive and well-organized philosophical clarification of some central features of the theory of reporting.
“Drawing on the US experience, this impressive collection of case studies from across the globe capably examines debates surrounding energy security, economic development, climate change, and local participation in shale gas decision making.”
—Erika Weinthal, Duke University

The Shale Dilemma brings together experts working at the forefront of shale gas issues on four continents to explain how countries reach their decisions on shale development. Using a common analytical framework, the authors identify both local factors and transnational patterns in the decision-making process. Eight case studies reveal the trade-offs each country makes as it decides whether to pursue, delay, or block development. Those outcomes in turn reflect the nature of a country’s political process and the power of interest groups on both sides of the issue. The contributors also ask whether the economic arguments made by the shale industry and its government supporters have overshadowed the concerns of local communities for information on the effects of shale operations, and for tax policies and regulations to ensure broad-based economic development and environmental protection.

As an informative and even-handed account, The Shale Dilemma recommends practical steps to help countries reach better, more transparent, and more far-sighted decisions.
“In this compact, readable, and well-researched environmental history of Standard Oil operations in Cleveland and Whiting, Indiana, WLasiuk shows that refineries and ecosystems mix no better than oil and water. This is an important book for anyone concerned with environmental justice—and injustice—in America.”
—J. R. McNeill, Georgetown University

The Standard Oil Company emerged out of obscurity in the 1860s to capture 90 percent of the petroleum refining industry in the United States during the Gilded Age. John D. Rockefeller, the company’s founder, organized the company around an almost religious dedication to principles of efficiency. Economic success masked the dark side of efficiency as Standard Oil dumped oil waste into public waterways, filled the urban atmosphere with acrid smoke, and created a consumer safety crisis by selling kerosene below congressional standards. Local governments, guided by a desire to favor the interests of business, deployed elaborate engineering solutions to tackle petroleum pollution at taxpayer expense rather than heed public calls to abate waste streams at their source. Only when refinery pollutants threatened the health of the Great Lakes in the twentieth century did the federal government respond to a nascent environmental movement. Organized around the four classical elements at the core of Standard Oil’s success (earth, air, fire, and water), Refining Nature provides an ecological context for the rise of one of the most important corporations in American history.
“Bradley Snow takes us through a harrowing history of humanity’s relationship with one of the most poisonous metals ever to see wide use in the modern age. Tracing the dramatic story of one small Northern Rocky Mountain smelter town, Snow reveals how the things we often dismissively term ‘raw materials’ sometimes control us more than we control them.”
—Timothy James LeCain, Montana State University

The Coeur d’Alenes, a twenty-five-by-ten-mile portion of the Idaho Panhandle, is home to one of the most productive mining districts in world history. Historically the globe’s richest silver district and also one of the nation’s biggest lead and zinc producers, the Coeur d’Alenes’ legacy also includes environmental pollution on an epic scale. For decades local waters were fouled with tailings from the mining district’s more than one hundred mines and mills and the air surrounding Kellogg, Idaho, was laced with lead and other toxic heavy metals issuing from the Bunker Hill Company’s smelter. The same industrial processes that damaged the environment and harmed human health, however, also provided economic sustenance to thousands of local residents and a string of proud, working-class communities. Living with Lead endeavors to untangle the costs and benefits of a century of mining, milling, and smelting in a small western city and the region that surrounds it.
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