

**The Cultural Alchemy of the Exact Sciences:
Revisiting the Forman Thesis
A Conference at the University of British Columbia**

FRIDAY, 23 MARCH 2007

Opening Session (1)

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Karl Hufbauer – University of Washington
Opening Remarks (Chair)

John L. Heilbron – University of California, Berkeley
Cold War Culture, History of Science, and Postmodernity: Engagement of an Intellectual in a Hostile Academic Environment

Paul Forman – National Museum of American History
Weimar Culture, Causality, and Modernity

Science Meets Culture in Europe (2)

10:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Deborah Coen – Barnard College, Columbia University
Citizens of the Most Probable State: Vienna, 1908

Richard Staley – University of Wisconsin, Madison
The Fin de Siècle Thesis

David Aubin – Université Pierre-et-Marie-Curie (Paris 6)
War Cultures in Postwar French Mathematics: A Critique of the Bourbaki and Forman Theses

Robert Brain – University of British Columbia – *Comment*

Lunch, 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Quantum Mechanics and the Forman Thesis (3)

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Suman Seth – Cornell University
Mystik and Technik: Arnold Sommerfeld and the Older Quantum Theory

David C. Cassidy – Hofstra University
Heisenberg, Weimar Culture, and the Forman Thesis

S. S. Schweber – Harvard University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Causality in the Quantum Formalism: 1926 and Thereafter

Dieter Hoffmann – Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte – *Comment*

The Popular and Philosophical Environment for German Science (4)

4:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Arne Schirmacher – Deutsches Museum
From 'Kosmos' to 'Koralle': The Culture of Science Reading in Weimar Germany

Michael Stöltzner – University of Wuppertal
Physics in a Philosophical Environment: The Causality Debates of the Interwar Years and their Preconditions

Cathryn Carson – University of California, Berkeley
Modern and Antimodern Science: The Heisenberg-Heidegger Exchange

Alan Richardson – University of British Columbia – *Comment*

SATURDAY, 24 MARCH 2007

Historical Methodology (5)

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Norton Wise – UCLA
Forman Reformed, Again

Alexei Kojevnikov – University of British Columbia
Philosophical Rhetoric and Professional Anxieties in Early Quantum Mechanics, 1925-27

Terry Shinn – CNRS and University of Paris IV
Differentiationist, Anti-differentiationist and Transversalist Perspectives in STS: Alternatives Methodologies for the Study of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

Mitchell Ash – University of Vienna – *Comment*

Science and Cultural Politics in Germany (6)

11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Stefan Wolff – Deutsches Museum
Wien and the Right Wing Fraction in German Physics A Connection of Politics and Science?

Mark Walker – Union College
The Forman Thesis under Hitler

Richard H. Beyler – Portland State University
Hostile Environmental Intellectuals: German Critiques of Technoscience in Continuity and Change After Two World Wars

Helmuth Trischler – Deutsches Museum – *Comment*

Lunch, 1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Life Sciences and the Forman Thesis (7)

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cay-Rüdiger Prüll – University of Freiburg
Pathology and Politics in Weimar Germany

Cornelius Borck – McGill University
Mind and Brain in Weimar Culture

Kirill Rossianov – S.I.Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology
Elie Metchnikov, the Invention of Immunity, and the Russian Reaction to Organicism

Jonathan Harwood – University of Manchester – *Comment*

Quantum Physics and New Challenges (8)

4:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Olival Freire – Universidade Federal da Bahia
The Quest for a Causal Quantum Mechanics

Anja Skaar Jacobsen – Niels Bohr Archive
Bohr, Rosenfeld, and the Copenhagen Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics

Kenji Ito – Graduate University for Advanced Studies (Sokendai)
Talking about Culture is Crude: The Politics of 'Nuclear' and Physics in Postwar Japan

Cathryn Carson – University of California, Berkeley – *Comment*

SUNDAY, 25 MARCH 2007

Beyond Germany: Comparison Cases (9)

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Karl Hall – Central European University

Fragmented Science: Weimar Germany and Soviet Russia in the Formation of Michael Polanyi's Philosophy

Masakatsu Yamazaki – Tokyo Institute of Technology

Intellectual Environment and the Pursuit of Science in Post-WWII Japan: A Comparison with the Weimar Republic

Michael Eckert – Deutsches Museum

Scientific Culture Shock: American-German Encounters in Fluid Dynamics after World War I and II

David Kaiser – Massachusetts Institute of Technology – *Comment*

General Discussion (10)

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

John L. Heilbron – University of California, Berkeley

Moderator