

This workshop brings together historians of biomedicine, anthropology, linguistics and social science to discuss the lost narratives, unrecorded people, and invisible labour of the disciplines they study. As we know from classic work on ‘invisible technicians’, on colonial and post-colonial science, and on women in science, there are powerful epistemological and political motives for concealing certain people, professions and processes involved in the production of scientific knowledge. This is especially the case in the human sciences (broadly defined to include biology and biomedicine), in which fieldwork assistants, informants, translators, volunteers, curators and other interlocutors collect data and make it authentic, credibly social and recognizably human. The workshop seeks both to recover the invisible labour of such knowledge production, and to examine its social and epistemic ramifications.

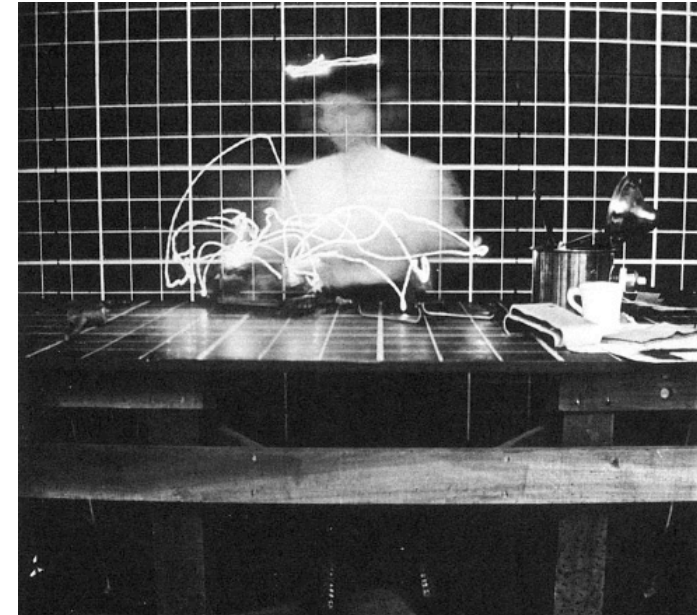
The workshop also aims to encourage reflection on our own scholarly practices and their histories. STS and the history of science are part of the constellation of human sciences up for discussion, and the trends of our own discipline are co-constitutive of the stories we want to recover. We will discuss how access to resources is shaped by our identities, by legal and ethical frameworks, and the activities of archivists and other brokers. We will also consider how our professional, institutional and political circumstances condition who we speak *of* and *for*.

Workshop organizers:

Judith Kaplan (jkaplan@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de)

Jenny Bangham (jbangham@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de)

‘Motion study’, c. 1913. Reprinted with the permission of the Frank & Lillian Gilbreth Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution



Venue:
Conference Room
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Boltzmannstraße 22
14195 Berlin, Germany

Department II (Prof. Lorraine Daston)
Max Planck Research Group Lipphardt

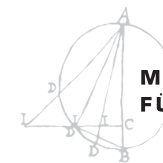
(IN)VISIBLE LABOUR

Knowledge production in the human sciences

June 11th – 12th, 2015



**MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSGESCHICHTE**



**MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT
FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSGESCHICHTE**

Thursday 11th June

10.30am–11am

Jenny Bangham and Judith Kaplan: Introduction

11am–1pm

Session 1: Citizen science/activist science (1)

Susan Lindee (University of Pennsylvania)

‘Skin in the game: Scientists and survivors at Hiroshima and Fukushima’

Sarah Blacker (MPIWG)

‘Citizen science and indigenous bio-monitoring in Canada: standards, metrics and conflicts’

Rosanna Dent (University of Pennsylvania)

‘Invisible infrastructures: Xavante strategies to enroll and manage *Warazú* researchers’

Commentary: Joanna Radin (Yale University)

1pm–2pm

Lunch

2pm–3.30pm

Session 2: Citizen science/activist science (2)

Elena Aronova (MPIWG)

‘Citizen Science and the monitoring of earthquakes in the Soviet Union’

Josh Berson (Hubbub: The Hub at the Wellcome Collection, London)

‘Self-trackers as co-investigators’

Commentary: Jenny Reardon (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Coffee

4pm–5.30pm

Session 3: Inscribing labour

Boris Jardine (University of Cambridge)

‘Amateur labour in the social sciences: how interwar Mass-Observation organized its workforce and presented its results to the public’

Whitney Laemmli (University of Pennsylvania)

‘An uneasy archive: Alan Lomax, labanotation, and the disappearing body’

Commentary: Jenny Bangham (MPIWG)

Friday 12th June

9.30am–11am

Session 4: Bureaucracies

Laura Stark (Vanderbilt University)

‘The life and figure of volunteers for medical experiment: Power, language, and bureaucracy at the NIH Clinical Center’

Christine von Oertzen (MPIWG)

‘Hidden helpers: Gender, skill, and the politics of workforce management for census compilation in late nineteenth-century Prussia’

Commentary: Caitlin Wylie (New Jersey Institute of Technology)

Coffee

11.30am–1pm

Session 5: Translation

Kathleen Vongsathorn (Lafayette University)

‘Translators as informers, mediators, and producers of knowledge: Reflections from medical history interviews in Uganda’

Myriam Klapi (MPIWG)

‘Personal experiences in the methods and procedures of field research with Deaf informants’

Commentary: Minakshi Menon (MPIWG)

1pm–2pm

Lunch

2pm–3.30pm

Session 6: Lives and archives

Mihai Surdu (Central European University)

‘Worked out objectivity: Roma categorization in censuses, surveys and genetic research’

Lara Keuck (MPIWG)

‘Re-searching historical medical documents about Alzheimer’s disease’

Commentary: Judith Kaplan (MPIWG)

Coffee

4pm–5pm

Session 7: Discussion

Discussants: Joeri Bruyninckx (Maastricht University), Iris Clever (UCLA), Samuël Coghe (MPIWG), Anna Echterhölter (HU), Donatella Germanese (MPIWG), Markus Krajewski (Universität Basel); Sally Kohlstedt (University of Minnesota), Ohad Parnes (MPIWG) and Helga Satzinger (UCL).