

Call for Papers

Workshop Gender Studies of Science: *Using and Producing Science Beyond the Academy*

**Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Berlin, Germany**

June 18-19, 2010

For more than a generation, gender historians of science have concentrated on women's access to scientific institutions. In these accounts, women's scholarly contributions within formal scientific frameworks have been the main focus of research. This observation is especially true of historical accounts covering the modern era in Europe.

Questions of gendered exclusion and access to scientific institutions remain highly important. That said, we feel strongly that the intersections of gender in science should also be considered in contexts other than accredited institutions, state-sponsored universities, and research institutes. To complement research to date and suggest future directions of scholarship, our workshop will focus on the creation, transfer, and appropriation of scientific knowledge well beyond university seminars and research laboratories.

An example from the history of technology helps to clarify our proposed approach. Gender historians of technology have significantly broadened the notion of technology to include not only technology's production, but also the ways in which technology is shaped by acts of use and consumption. Their studies show how the production of technologies clash and mold with unforeseen demands and needs. In the best of their accounts, distinctions between the realms of production and consumption are challenged, crossed, and in some instances erased altogether. A colorful cast of technology mediators, translators, innovators, and activists are

shown to be critical to the emergence of new technologies. Often these individuals and groups are outside the masculine norm of the technological enterprise.

Transferring this approach to the history of science and scholarship will open new avenues of research. Within the history of science, artificial boundaries between science and society prevail, an observation especially true of the modern period in Europe. Our workshop on the use and production of science beyond the academy seeks to recast the field of gender in science in light of the insights put forward by colleagues working on the gendered history of technology. Shifting the focus from the narrow confines of academic access and achievement will help us to expand our thinking about science itself.

We invite all historians, especially historians of science, technology, and medicine, to apply. Proposals may range from 1500 to 2000. Possible topics may include: scientific knowledge transfer and mediation (translating, teaching, movie making, popular book writing); knowledge appropriation and accumulation (for example, within family and kinship networks, or through social networks and political activism); strategies of recognition; practices, images, and representation of science outside the academy; science as commodity; the conduct of science in colonial frameworks; and theories and practices of science beyond Europe.

Proposals (one page, double spaced) should be submitted to Dr. Christine von Oertzen (coertzen@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de) no later than **December 15, 2009**.

Papers will be pre-circulated prior to the workshop. The deadline for paper submission will be May 3, 2010.

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