

International Symposium Women and Gender Studies - Where Do We Stand?

September 14-17 2011

Ecole Normale Supérieure
45 rue d'Ulm
Paris – France

Website of the symposium

<https://sites.google.com/site/parissymposium2011/>

The symposium is organised by
the Commission on "Women in Science, Technology, and Medicine",
Division of History of Science and Technology
of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (DHST/IUHPS).

Welcome

Research on women in science has long been viewed as interchangeable with studies on gender and science, while covering a wide range of disciplinary fields such as natural, medical, and engineering sciences, as well as social and human sciences. The aim of this biennial Symposium is to compare the different methodological, historiographical, as well as sociopolitical perspectives that have been developed so far; to unravel creative tensions among the different perspectives; and to suggest innovative ways for better understanding science, technology, and medicine through the gender perspective.

During the symposium we expect that historians of science, technology, and medicine on the one hand, and scholars of gender in science and technology studies scholars will exchange ideas on key issues related to gender and women in science and technology. In addition, a special session will be dedicated to the legacy of Mme Curie for women in science per the declaration of 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry (IYC-2011) in honor of the 100th anniversary of Mme Curie's 2nd Nobel Prize in chemistry (1911).

More specifically we wish to focus on the following topics:

Theme 1 -Methodological, epistemological and historiographical issues in women and gender science studies (including micro-history, cultural history, and social history)

The focus here is on the different methods and historiographical approaches that have been used in research on "women in science" versus research on "gender and science". For example, what makes gender issues and women issues different in history of science? What methodologies could be transferred from history of science to gender studies? What methodologies could be transferred from gender studies to history of science? For example, this issue was raised as an emerging and divisive dichotomy by *Women, Gender, and Science*, (Osiris 12, 1997), while *Creative Couples in the Sciences* (Rutgers University Press, 1996) addressed such issues as methodologically complementary, rather than signaling an emerging divide between historians and other practitioners of science studies. We now seek to reassess where we stand now and how recent works, often collective, (e.g. *Gender and Genres: Lives of Women, 1700-2000*, Bologna, 2011) have advanced this argument. To sum up, we wish to reassess what science studies on women and gender have contributed to the history of science and what new issues have emerged in the last decade or so. Have women and gender science studies transformed the history of science? Does the history of science infuse gender studies with much needed lessons from the past? How do we best incorporate the development of a new understanding of science and technology with newer visions of gender as closely interrelated areas of activity?

Theme 2 - The changing concept of gender in science and technology studies

We also wish to explore new nuances and new applications of the concept of gender in studies of science, technology, and medicine as in *Never Mind the Gap! Gendering Science in Transgressive Encounters* (Uppsala, 2010) or *Gendered Innovations in Science and Engineering* (Stanford 2008). In France, the topic has been explored in *Sexe et genre. De la hiérarchie entre les sexes* (1991, reed. 2002) or *Le sexe des sciences. Les Femmes en plus* (1993). How do we understand, construct and/or reconstruct femininity and masculinity through our studies of science and technology? We thus welcome papers that reconceptualize the concept of gender, taking into account our recent knowledge from studies on the fe/male body in culture and medicine, as well as studies of gender in/of technology. (e.g. Special Issue of the Journal of

Technology Management & Innovation on "The Gender Dimension in Technology", vol. 5 (1) 2010)

Theme 3 – The role of new sources

As scholars of women in science have demonstrated, traditional histories of science with their focus on sources such as university archives, laboratory records, and professional accounts of science made women invisible in the history of the sciences. Here we wish to emphasize the importance of new, previously under-utilized or innovative sources in making women visible.. Such sources may include both public records such as archives of women's organizations and colleges, and private ones, such as diaries, oral histories, and auto/biographies.

Theme 4 – Interdisciplinary approaches on women scientists and gender studies respectively.

We also wish to encourage research on women and gender in science using an interdisciplinary approach. The Symposium will provide opportunities to exchange different experiences and contemplate diverse forms of collaborative work.

Theme 5 – The legacy of Mme Curie at the Centennial of her (2nd) Nobel Prize: Women's contributions to radiochemistry, nuclear chemistry, and cancer therapy.

This theme is part of ICY-2011, the International year of Chemistry declared in honor of the Centennial of Mme Curie's Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Organisation

The symposium is organised by the [Commission on "Women in Science, Technology, and Medicine"](#), Division of History of Science and Technology of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science ([DHST/IUHPS](#)).

The Commission on the History of Women in Science, Technology, and Medicine was founded in 1981 by the General Assembly of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science. The aim of the Commission is to promote communication among scholars working on women's history in science, technology and medicine and also to foster research on the relation of gender and science, technology, and medicine. One of the Commission's tasks is to hold meetings between Congresses of the IUHPS/DHST and to form symposia at subsequent International Congresses.

Programme Committee :

- Pnina Abir-Am (Brandeis University, USA)
- Dominique Fougeyrollas (CNRS-IRISSO, Université Paris Dauphine)
- Anne-Sophie Godfroy (University of Paris-Est-Créteil and [Institut d'Histoire et de Philosophie des Sciences et des Techniques](#))
- Annette Lykknes (Trondheim Norwegian University of Science and Technology)
- Maria Rentetzi (National Technical University of Athens)
- Annette Vogt (Max Planck Institute, Berlin)

Venue

The symposium will be held September 14-17 2011 at the **Ecole Normale Supérieure**, 45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris, France.

The room is **salle Henri Cartan**. A laptop and a videoprojector will be available for presentations. See the map at the end of this page.

The Ecole Normale Supérieure is located in the Latin Quarter in Paris. The ENS is at once a grande école, due to its selective recruitment process, and a research university. As a central actor in the training of French elites for more than two centuries, it has nourished the majority of the great intellectual movements of the 20th century and has considerably widened the scope of French scientific influence. The impressive achievements made possible through the training it dispenses, distinguish the École normale supérieure from all other French establishments of higher learning. Former students include all eight French winners of the Fields Medal, twelve Nobel Prize winners and half of the recipients the CNRS Gold Medal. The success of ENS alumni results from the quality of its research-based training, which includes individual tutorials and personalized attention for the full four years of study. This "training-by-research" model is the hallmark of the École normale supérieure. It is the best preparation for innovation and creativity.

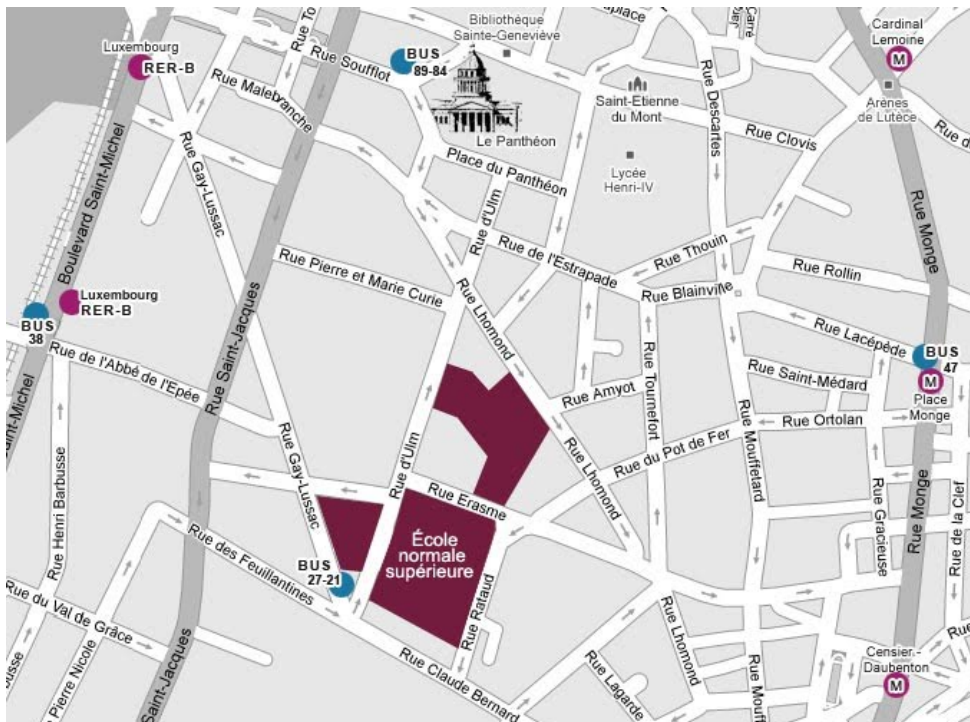
More on the ENS website www.ens.fr

There is one seminar room. Beamers and computers will be available.

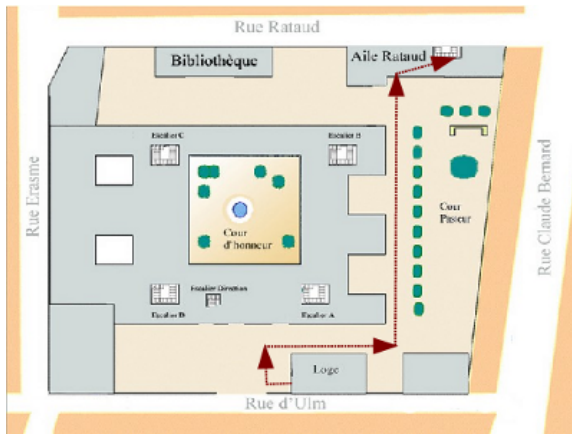
The building is located 45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris.

Méto/RER station: Luxembourg. Exit: "Rue de l'Abbé de l'Épée"

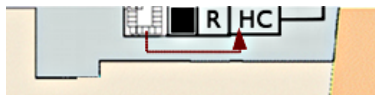
Bus station "Feuillantines" (bus n°21 and 27).



To reach salle Henri Cartan, use the main entrance 45 rue d'Ulm, and walk to the Rataud building. Then take the stairs on your right. Another option is to use the main door, cross the courtyard toward the library and turn right to the Rataud building.



Then take the stairs, go down to the 2nd basement, then go left, salle Henri Cartan is located after Salle R :



Programme

Venue: Salle Henri Cartan at Ecole Normale Supérieure, 45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris.

Wednesday September 14

14:30–15:00

Opening address by **Pr. Claude Debru** (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France) and **Dr. Annette Vogt**, President of the Commission on "Women in Science, Technology, and Medicine" of the DHST/IUHPS (Max Planck Institut, Berlin, Germany)

15:00–17:00

Session "The Centennial of Mme Curie's Nobel Prize for Chemistry: (2011, 1911) Where Science, Gender, Politics, and Public Memory Meet"

Chair: Eric Brian (EHESS, Paris, France)

– Robert Marc Friedman (University of Oslo, Norway)

The Politics of Excellence: Who championed Mme Curie's Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911 and why?

– Joy Harvey (Independent scholar, USA)

Evoking Marie by Celebrating Clémence? Paul Langevin and the 1930 Centennial of "almost a man of genius"

– Prina G. Abir-Am (WSRC–Brandeis University, USA)

Diversifying the Commemorative Practices for Mme Curie: Toward a Globalization of the Public Memory of Women Scientists?

17:00–17:30 Coffee break

17:30–19:00

Interview with distinguished women scientists:

– [Hélène Langevin](#)

– [Claudine Hermann](#)

The interview is followed by a guided tour to Marie Curie's places at [Ecole de Physique et Chimie Industrielles de la Ville de Paris](#) by Prof. Michel Lagües. The ESPCI is located one block from the ENS, 10 rue Vauquelin.

Free dinner

Thursday September 15

09:00–11:00

Session "The Impact of New Archival Projects: U.S. Archives for Women in Science and Engineering in the Late 20th and Early 21st centuries"

Chair: Annette Vogt (Max Planck Institut, Berlin, Germany)

– Margaret Rossiter (Marie Underhill Noll Professor of the History of Science, Cornell University, USA),

– Troy Eller (Archivist, Society of Women Engineers Archives, Wayne State University, USA),

– Tanya Zanish-Belcher (Curator, Archives of Women in Science and Engineering, Iowa State University, USA)

– Jessica Sedgwick (Project Archivist, Archives for Women in Medicine, Harvard Medical School, USA)

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–13:00

New Sources: correspondance

Chair: Geneviève Fraisse (CNRS, France)

– Philipa Hardman (Darwin Correspondence Project, Cambridge University, United Kingdom)

"Your observations and experiments are by far the best which have ever been made. "The hidden world of women and science in Charles Darwin's private correspondence.

– Milada Sekyrkova (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic)

Family Background of Professor T. G. Masaryk (In the Light of Correspondence and Recollections of His Daughter Alice and Wife Charlotte)

– Adela Junova Mackova (Prague, Czech Republic)

New archival documents of Vlasta Kálalová Di-Lotti, Czechoslovak Physician in Baghdad 1925–1932

13:00–15:00 Free lunch

15:00–17:00

History of Women in Genetics

Chair: Pnina G. Abir-Am (WSRC–Brandeis University, USA)

– Marsha Richmond (Department of History, Wayne State University, USA)

Women's Work in Genetics, 1900–1940

– Annette Vogt (Max Planck Institut, Berlin, Germany)

Women geneticists in Berlin between 1900 and 1945

– Ida Stamhuis (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam/Aarhus University)

The Baur Institute for Genetics in Berlin: Gender Division of Tasks and Research Practices

– Nurit Kirsh (Israël)

Women Scientists in Israel – An Historical Outlook

17:00–17:30 Coffee break

17:30–19:00

Session "Power, Politics and Women's Activism in Engineering & Technology: Lessons for Feminist Historians"

Chair: Ruth Schwartz Cowan (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA)

– Ruby Heap (University of Ottawa, Canada)

The increased mobilization of women engineers after 1970 in the context of the resurgence and rapid growth of the women's movement

– Anabel Paulos (University of Ottawa, Canada)

The activism of Canadian women engineers after 1970 and the development of transnational feminism in Canada

– Crystal Sissons (Independent Scholar, Ottawa, Canada)

Three pioneering Feminist Canadian woman engineers: Elsie Gregory MacGill, Dormer Ellis and Ursula Franklin

– Daryl Hafter (Professor Emerita, Eastern Michigan University, USA)

The Morality of Women's Work in France

Dinner at "La Table des Anges", 66 rue des Martyrs, 75009 Paris. See

<http://www.latabledesanges.fr/accus/> for directions.

Friday September 16

09:00–11:00

Multimodal approaches to biographies of women in science

Chair: Maria Rentetzi (National Technical University of Athens, Greece)

– Hana Havlujova (Charles University Prague, Czech Republic)

What prize did they pay for fulfilment of their dreams? Two cases of Czech women Egyptologists compared

– Brenda Winnewisser (Ohio State University, USA)

Extending the data base: The biographies of Hertha Sponer and Hedwig Kohn

– Shachar Ben Meir (The Open University of Israel)

Rosalind Franklin and DNA – Counterfactual History

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–13:00

Women and Gender in Colonial Science

Chair: Dominique Fougereyrollas (IRISSO, CNRS & Université Paris Dauphine, France)

– Aparajita Dhar (University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India)

Negotiating Child Birth and the Struggle for Control over Women's Bodies: a Case Study of Colonial Bengal

– Ana Martins (Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical, Lisbon, Portugal)

Woman faces of the Portuguese colonial research: the Junta das Missões Geográficas e de Investigações Coloniais (National Board for Geographic Missions and Colonial Research) – 1936–1951

– Tinni Goswami Bhattacharya (The Asiatic Society of Kolkata, West Bengal, India)

Femininity and Imperialism – Women and Raj in Colonial Bengal

13:00–15:00 Free lunch

15:00–17:00

Methodological & Historiographical Challenges

Chair: Ida Stamhuis (Free University Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

– Georgina Montgomery (Lyman Briggs College and Michigan State University, USA)

Talk on Donna Haraway's seminal work 'Primate Visions' (1989)

– Martina Schlünder (Justus-Liebig-University, Giessen, Germany)

Femaleness as Regular Pathology: Menstrual Calendars as Instruments for Reining in the Unruly 'Female Nature'.

– Grace Sirju-Charan (University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad)

"Plus ça Change, Plus C'est la Même Chose" (Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr): From Women to Gender and Power to Performance – the Impact on Science and Technology

17:00–17:30 Coffee break

17:30–19:00

Round Table: Burning Issues in the History of Women and Gender in Science

Moderators: Anne-Sophie Godfroy and Maria Rentetzi

With the participation of Margaret Rossiter, Ruth Schwartz Cowan and Mineke Bosch

Dinner at "[Chez Léna & Mimile](#)", 32 rue Tournefort, 75005 Paris. (Very close to the ENS)

Saturday September 17

09:00–11:00

New Sources : manuscripts, diaries, poetry

Chair: *tbd*

– Teresa Criado Vega (University of Cordoba, Spain)

Hispanic Recipes—books of Female Literature from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance

– Elena Serrano (CEHIC, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)

When Ladies Became Chemists: The role of the 'Junta de damas' in late Eighteen–Century Spain

– Palmira Fontes da Costa (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal)

Women, Poetry and Science: An Historiographical Perspective

– Barbara Mohr (Museum of Natural History, Berlin, Germany), Annette Vogt (Max Planck Institut, Berlin, Germany) and Sarah Löwe

The importance of women for Natural History Museums in Germany through the 1920s

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

11:30–13:00

Meeting of the Commission

13:00

End of the conference

Programme >

Instructions for presenters

Laptop and videoprojector are available in the room.

If you have slides, send them by email to paris.symposium2011@gmail.com or bring them on a USB key.

If possible, instal your presentation on the laptop during the break before the session.

Presentations last 15–20 minutes plus time for discussion right after the paper or at the end on the session.

Practical Information >

Lunch and Dinner

Lunch

Lunch can be taken in small restaurants in the rue Mouffetard.
A sandwich and a drink cost 5–10 €, a cheap restaurant costs 10–15 €, a better one costs 15–25€ or more depending on the drinks.

Some recommendations:

- Greek Restaurant "La Crète" 85 rue Mouffetard with a fixed price menu at 8€ (€)
- Italian restaurant "Pasta e Fagioli", 82 rue Claude Bernard (€€)
- French bistro "Le Mauzac", 7 rue de l'Abbé de l'Épée (€€€)
- French bistro "Le Vin Sobre", 25 rue des Feuillantines (€€€)
- French Restaurant Léna & Mimile, 32 rue Tournefort, with a "plat du jour" at 9,90€ for lunch (€€€)
- Greek restaurant "Mavromatis", 42 rue Daubenton, very gastronomic but expensive (€€€€)

Dinner

Two joint dinners are proposed, please register during the symposium if you are interested:

- La Table des Anges on Thursday at 8 pm. The restaurant is located 66 rue des Martyrs, 75009 Paris, near Montmartre. The fixed price menu all-included is 40 € (3-courses, coffee and drinks).
- Chez Léna & Mimile on Friday at 7:30 pm. Very close to the ENS, 32 rue Tournefort. The fixed price menu all-included is 50 € (2-courses, coffee and drinks).

Paris offers lots of good restaurants and lots of tourists traps. Keep in mind that it is often more expensive for dinner than for lunch.

In some places it is better to book in advance. Food is served between 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm. Some restaurants have a late dinner at 22:00.

If you are a "foodie" you can check two very useful and reliable websites:

<http://parisbymouth.com/> in English. Contributing advisors are the authors of numerous papers and guides about food.

www.lefooding.com mostly in French, with English abstracts.

Practical Information >

Transportation

From the airport to your place:

- Taxis: very expensive and not always very efficient when they feel people do not know Paris. The cost would be at least 50 to 100 € one way.
- Airport Shuttle: a very good solution. You book online in English and you cannot have bad surprises about the price. If you have suitcases, it is door to door, which is comfortable. It slower than taxis but very reliable. There are different companies, "Supershuttle" has a good reputation. 1 person 1 way is around 24 € depending on the itinerary. If you are 2 persons or more to go to the same place, it is less.
- Public transportation. RER line B stops at Charles de Gaulle Airport. The cost for 1 person 1 way is 8 €. Line B is direct to the Latin Quarter. If the itinerary to your place is direct and if you have no big suitcases, it is the best solution. If the itinerary is complex and you do not know Paris or you have heavy luggage, prefer the shuttle.

From your hotel to the conference venue:

Many hotels are in a walking distance. If you use public transportation, the Ecole Normale Supérieure is located 45 rue d'Ulm close to the following bus and RER stations:

– Bus n°21 and 27, stop at "Feuillantines".

– RER line B, stop at "Luxembourg". Use exit: "Rue de l'Abbé de l'Épée" (line B is direct from Charles-de-Gaulle Airport and Gare du Nord)

A map is available [here](#).

Check the public transportation website for itineraries:

http://www.ratp.fr/en/ratp/c_21879/tourists/

You can buy single tickets (http://www.ratp.fr/en/ratp/c_21895/ticket-t/) or a 1, 2, 3 or 5 days pass (http://www.ratp.fr/en/ratp/c_22088/parisvisite-presentation/).

List of Participants

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