

Philosophies of Technology (Intersections, Vol 11)

Gisela Engel

CALL FOR PAPERS

Intersections - Yearbook for Early Modern Studies (Brill: Leiden and Boston)

General Editor: Karl Enenkel

Intersections brings together new material on well considered themes within the wide area of Early Modern Studies. Contributions may come from any of the disciplines within the humanities: history, art history, literary history, book history, church history, social history, history of the humanities, of the theatre, of cultural life and institutions. The themes are carefully selected on the basis of a number of criteria, the most important of which are that they should address issues about which there is a lively and ongoing debate within the international community of scholars and that they should be of interest to a variety of disciplines.

Call for Papers for Volume 11:

Philosophies of Technology: Francis Bacon and his Contemporaries

Francis Bacon and the Baconian sciences contributed to European sciences and philosophy by successfully suggesting and propagating experiments and controlled observations as fundamental for empirical research. Historical studies have focussed on clockworks, vacuum pumps and automata, but there is a wealth of other technical models used and experimented with in the Leonardo- and Bacon- inspired philosophical communities that calls for a revision of an assumed clear-cut mechanistic paradigm. We invite articles in addition to those emerging from papers to be read and discussed on occasion of the International Conference "Philosophies of Technology: Francis Bacon and his Contemporaries" (Frankfurt am Main, July 7/8, 2006). Essay topics might include:

1. The impact of technical models for structuring knowledge production in natural philosophy, natural history and the philosophy of history

Technical innovations - actual or envisioned - call for and make possible new world views. They generate the urge for a revision of traditional assumptions and at the same time they offer explanations. How did technical

models serve as explanatory models for the world at large? What were the implications of using them in this way? What technical models (apart from clockworks, vacuum pumps and automata) were debated as explanatory models in Early Modern scientific discourse (thermo- or hydrodynamic models such as the oven, distillation apparatuses, mills, looms, paper producing machines, printing machines, mining technology)? What was the impact of technical innovations on the debate about nature, arts and techne? What was the role of technical innovations in magical theory and practice? And what is their impact on new concepts of history and progress?

2. Technical developments in the Renaissance and Early Modernity In particular, contributions are encouraged that contextualize the epistemological problems and raise the following questions: In which regions did the technical inventions occur and in what economic/ political sphere) Was there an exchange of innovations throughout different European regions? Which contacts can we observe between European regions and between regional centres and their peripheries? What were the effects of colonialism? How and why were technical innovations either supported or resisted and by whom?

Bacon advocated a scientific ideal inspired by cooperation in the service of the commonwealth, which, however, did not include "the public" as controlling the technical know how. Was this a Baconian idea or does it indicate the general limitations of his time in regard to restrictions regulating the access to and command of technical and scientific knowledge?

The volume is scheduled to appear in 2008.

Proposals, about 300 words, should be sent (preferably electronically) no later than May 30th 2006 to one of the following email addresses:

Claus Zittel, c.zittel@em.uni-frankfurt.de

Gisela Engel, G.Engel@em.uni-frankfurt.de

Nicole C. Karafyllis, karafyllis@em.uni-frankfurt.de

Romano Nanni, r.nanni@comune.vinci.fi.it

The authors of the proposals that have been accepted will be invited to write a paper before November 15th 2006. The final decision on the acceptance of any paper will be made by the editors following receipt of the complete text.

Reference:

CFP: Philosophies of Technology (Intersections, Vol 11). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 24, 2006 (accessed Apr 23, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/28190>>.