**Measurement Reading Group**

**Rationale.**

A group of scholars have put together a reading group devoted to the concept and theory of measurement. We will be reading materials that either have helped affirm the epistemological legitimacy of measuring in the history of thought or give insightful accounts and critiques of particular mechanisms of measurement in the history of science and technology.

The group will meet four times throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. The meetings are open to fellow scholars and graduate students who can commit to regular attendance (at least two meetings). Information on how to get the readings, along with a list of references on measurement theory, will be provided to registered participants. The primary working language at the meetings is English.

If interested, please sign up at this site:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2EML0YB0Hc2jP8FR_HpgoW3DSlpML0GZDlnTiXl4ekGnehg/viewform>

*Note: The organization of the reading group was partly inspired by the feature topic publication project of the journal* Ex-position *scheduled for June 2022: “Measurement by Default.” However, the participants are not obligated to contribute to the project.*

**Discussion Leaders**

* Hannes Bergthaller 貝格泰

Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, National Chung Hsing University

* Chun-yen Chen 陳春燕

Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, National Taiwan University

* Manuel Herrero-Puertas 曼紐爾

Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, National Taiwan University

* [Guest Speaker] Jonathon Hricko 嚴偉哲

Education Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences, National Yang-Ming University

* Li-hsin Hsu 許立欣

Dept. of English, National Chengchi University

* Alexander Lash 賴煦

Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, National Taiwan University

* Pei-chen Liao 廖培真

Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature, National Cheng Kung University

* Sharin Schroeder 施欣文

Dept. of English, National Taipei University of Technology

* Ya-feng Wu 吳雅鳳

Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, National Taiwan University

* Shu-chuan Yan 顏淑娟

Dept. of Western Languages and Literature, National University of Kaohsiung

**Schedule**

**Venue:** Conference Room of Dept. of Foreign Languages & Literatures, 1st Floor, Gallery of NTU History, National Taiwan University (臺大校史館一樓，外文系會議室)

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| **Schedule** | **Topic** | **Readings** | **Discussion Leader** |
| **Meeting 1**  **Nov. 7, 2020 (Saturday)**  **1:30-5:00 p.m.** | Measurement in Philosophy of Science | René Descartes, *Discourse on Method* | Alexander Lash |
|  | Measurement in Philosophy of Science | Hermann von Helmholtz, *Counting and Measuring* | Hannes Bergthaller |
|  | Measurement in Sociology of Science | Bruno Latour, *Science in Action: How to Follow Scientists and Engineers through Society*  🡪 Introduction  🡪 Ch. 6, “Centres of Calculation | Hannes Bergthaller |
| **Meeting 2**  **Jan. 22, 2021 (Friday)**  **1:30-5:00 p.m.** | Precision: Episteme and Practice | Hasok Chang, Inventing Temperature: Measurement and Scientific Progress  🡪 Ch. 2, “Spirit, Air, and Quicksilver” – “Narrative: The Search for the ‘Real’ Scale of Temperature”  🡪 Ch. 5, “Measurement, Justification, and Scientific Progress” | **[Guest Speaker]** Jonathon Hricko |
|  | Precision: Episteme and Practice | Ken Alder, “A Revolution to Measure: The Political Economy of the Metric System in France” (in M. Norton Wise, ed., *The Values of Precision*) | Chun-yen Chen |
|  | Precision: Episteme and Practice | M. Norton Wise, “Precision: Agent of Unity and Product of Agreement, Part II—The Age of Steam and Telegraphy” (in M. Norton Wise, ed., *The Values of Precision*) | Shu-chuan Yan |
| **Meeting 3**  **Apr. 17, 2021 (Saturday)**  **1:30-5:00 p.m.** | Precision: Episteme and Practice | Kathryn M. Olesko, “The Meaning of Precision: The Exact Sensibility in Early Nineteenth-Century Germany” (in M. Norton Wise, ed., *The Values of Precision*) | Li-hsin Hsu |
|  | Precision: Episteme and Practice | Theodore M. Porter, “Precision and Trust: Early Victorian Insurance and the Politics of Calculation” (in M. Norton Wise, ed., *The Values of Precision*) | Sharin Schroeder |
|  | Measuring Time | Joel Faflak, ed., *Marking Time: Romanticism and Evolution*  🡪 Introduction (by Joel Faflak)  🡪 Ch. 1 (by Gillian Beer), “Plants, Analogy, and Perfection: Loose and Strict Analogies” | Ya-feng Wu |
| **Meeting 4**  **July 16, 2021 (Friday)**  **1:30-5:00 p.m.** | Measuring Time | (reading to be confirmed)  Peter Galison, Einstein’s Clocks, Poincaré’s Maps: Empires of Time  🡪 Ch. 3, “The Electric Worldmap”  OR  Adrian Mackenzie, “The Technicity of Time: From 1.00 oscillations/sec to 9,192,631,770 Hz”  OR  Mary Ann Doane, *The Emergence of Cinematic Time: Modernity, Contingency, the Archive*  🡪 Ch. 2, “Temporality, Storage, Legibility: Freud, Marey, and the Cinema” | Chun-yen Chen |
|  | Measuring Risk and Happiness | Frank H. Knight, *Risk, Uncertain and Profit*  🡪 Ch. 7, “The Meaning of Risk and Uncertainty” | Pei-chen Liao |
|  | Measuring Risk and Happiness | Jean Baudrillard, *The Consumer Society: Myths and Structures*  🡪 Ch. 4, “The Social Logic of Consumption” | Manuel Herrero-Puertas |