



ESHHS, CHEIRON & SHP: Three Societies Meeting

ESHHS—the European Society for the History of the Human Sciences
CHEIRON—the International Society for the History of the Social and Behavioral Sciences
& SHP—the Society for the History of Psychology (APA division 26)

invite submissions for papers, posters and symposia for their first “Three Societies Meeting” to take place in Paris, France from July 1st–July 5th, 2025, hosted by the American University of Paris.

We invite proposals for oral presentations, posters, sessions, round tables and workshops that deal with any aspect of the history of the human, behavioral and social sciences or with related historiographic and methodological issues. This year’s featured theme will be **Environments, Milieux and Places in the History of the Human, Behavioral and Social Sciences** and we particularly encourage submissions related to any particular aspect of this theme. With 2025 the bicentennial of J.-M. Charcot’s birth, submissions related to Charcot’s work and *milieux* would also be of topical interest.

Guidelines for submission

Submissions should include the following: **name**, **email** and **institutional affiliation** of all authors. Please indicate clearly on the top of the page the **submission type**: oral presentation, poster, session, round table or workshop.

- Proposals for oral presentations should contain a 500–600 word abstract in English plus a short bibliography. If the presentation itself will be given in a language other than English, please indicate this in your proposal.
- Proposals for **posters** should contain a 300 word abstract in English and a short bibliography.
- Proposals for a **session**, **workshop** or **round-table** should contain a 500–600 word rationale of the event, plus a short bibliography, as well as a short abstract for each individual contribution to the event.

Please send your proposal as attachment in MSWord (.doc/.docx) via the link that will soon be posted on the societies’ websites: eshhs.eu, cheironsoc.org, historyofpsych.org.

If you have inquiries, please feel free to contact the conference hosts, Zed Gao and Sharman Levinson, at our conference email [<cerberus.paris@gmail.com>](mailto:cerberus.paris@gmail.com).

Deadline for submissions is February 25th, 2025

Environments, *Milieux* and Places in the History of the Human, Behavioral and Social Sciences

Global concern for the environment features prominently in public discourse, political controversy, as well as in academic research. This can raise questions about the popularization of the English term “environment” and its appropriation by other languages, as well as the comparative disappearance of related concepts from many national, cultural and linguistic contexts. This year’s conference theme is an invitation to interrogate the meanings, uses and possible heuristic value of this ubiquitous, powerful yet polysemic term “environment” and to provide a space for the exploration of its related concepts within and across disciplines and periods.

Although planetary concern for “the environment” is recent, scholarly interest in particular environments, *milieux*, and local climates has a long history in the human and natural sciences (Robic 1992; Feuerhahn 2023). Furthermore, philosophical, medical, legal and religious ideas on Nature go back to antiquity. Foundational binaries in Western scholarship such as Organism/Milieu, Nature/Nurture, Mind/Body, Nature/Culture, Human/Animal, Life and the Inanimate, have been borrowed or transformed, questioned or challenged, in different times and places across the history of the human, behavioral and social sciences. Notably, environment, nature and milieu are not just around us, but may be *inside* us, as is the case with “human nature,” psychological “inner worlds,” and physiology’s “internal milieu” (Bernard 1865).

We welcome work from the history of the human, behavioral and social sciences that can help contextualize specific local, institutional and political settings that have given shape to particular epistemologically and historically situated understandings of environments and their related concepts. Intellectual history, social or political history, as well as critical historiography and other approaches, are welcome.

On the one hand, social, political or economic thought has participated in shaping the theories, practices and meanings of medical, natural history or religious thought on “nature” and its organization. On the other hand, social, political and economic theories of nature have borrowed or transformed those stemming from natural history, medicine and biology. This may impact the way human, behavioral and social scientists think about, for example, social or cultural environments, interpersonal or family environments, work environments or institutional environments. But beyond these disciplinary circulations, historicizing environments also means differentiating earlier concepts or terms, and those from other languages, used to designate our surroundings (Feuerhahn 2017, 2023) and our exchanges with them; notably, in honor of our Paris venue, the notion of *milieu*, its origins and its receptions, could usefully be revisited.

In addition to historical work per se, Bruno Latour’s (1995) *Politiques de la Nature* and Philippe Descola’s (2013) *Beyond Nature and Culture* have examined current political and cultural implications of past understandings and taxonomies. Feminist philosopher Lorraine Code’s (2006) model of ecological thinking—“a model of knowing that is at once situated in and in relation to multiple aspects of the human and other-than-human world, interwoven with moral-social-political epistemological issues, and committed to exposing the effects of power-knowledge intersections, be they benign, malign, or ‘in-between/in-among’”—suggests that practices of historiography can themselves be conceived as ecologically situated, in relation to academic institutions, networks and geopolitical environments.

The *spatial turn* (Livingstone 1995, 2003) that originated in history of geography is a trend that has brought increasing attention to “place,” and can help provide a focus on local meanings of environment and/or milieu, and specify their circulations and appropriations. The spatial turn has also called attention to places where knowledge has traditionally been produced and/or validated (Ophir & Shapin 1991), such as laboratories, fields, clinics and schools, and highlighted the effects these have had on subjects, participants, patients and students. Today’s virtual environments have become powerful platforms for discourse and

change, that may invite historians to rethink categories of “place” and consider new geographies of knowledge production and diffusion.

The different and complementary approaches suggested in the theme of this call for papers are far from exclusive, as ESHHS–CHEIRON–SHP 2025 wishes to showcase a diverse range of contributions that address specific understandings or uses of environments, *milieux* or places and their historiography. The conference is also open to contributions from outside the scope of this year’s highlighted theme.

- Code, L. (2006) *Ecological Thinking: The Politics of Epistemic Location*. Oxford University Press.
- Bernard, C. (1865) *Introduction à l’Etude de la Médecine Expérimentale*. Paris, J.B. Baillière et fils.
- Descola, P. (2013) *Beyond Nature and Culture*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
- Feuerhahn, W. (2017). “Les catégories de l’entendement écologique : milieu, Umwelt, environnement, nature...” In *Humanités environnementales*, edited by G. Blanc, Élise Demeulenaere, and W. Feuerhahn, 19–41. Éditions de la Sorbonne.
- Feuerhahn, W. (2023) “Avant l’environnement. Catégories et Controverses,” *Mil neuf cent Revue d’Histoire Intellectuelle*. 31–50.
- Latour, B. (1999) *Politiques de la Nature, Comment faire entrer les sciences en démocratie*. Paris, La Découverte.
- Livingstone, D. N. (1995) “The Spaces of Knowledge: Contributions towards a Historical Geography of Science.” *Environment and Planning D. Society and Space*. 13–42.
- Livingstone, D. N. (2003) *Putting Science in its Place. Geographies of Scientific Knowledge*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
- Ophir, A. and S. Shapin. (1991) “The Place of Knowledge: A Methodological Survey.” *Science in Context* 4 (1): 3–22
- Robic, M.-C. (1992) *Du milieu à l’environnement : pratiques et représentations du rapport homme-nature depuis la Renaissance*. Paris, Economica.