

Dominic Berry (University of Edinburgh)

Scientific practice in archives and objects

This lecture will introduce you to some of the most excellent question generating and answering sites in the philosophy of science in practice, namely archives (private, public, old, new, digital, organised, and otherwise), and objects (as found in museums, labs, websites, store rooms and - in more than one important case - the bin). Confronted with archives and objects, philosophy and history are of course best pursued in tandem, and this lecture will necessarily adopt an integrated HPS perspective. You will be given the opportunity to consider how different philosophical (or historical) assumptions might lead you to make use of archives and objects differently, alerting you to how subsequent disagreements about interpretation and argument might arise. Beyond this though, the novel opportunities afforded by thinking through archives and objects, and the variety of ways in which they might be used to address PSP questions, will be showcased.