

Co-Conveners: Duke University, Departments of History and German Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of History

Friday, 13 November 2020

2:00–3:30 pm | Online

LORRAINE DASTON

Director Emerita, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, and Professor, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago



Nineteenth Century Science Goes Global

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, international scientific collaborations of unprecedented scale, expense, and degree of organization were initiated in both the human and natural sciences. This is also the moment when the first international scientific congresses were organized and European colonial powers extended their transportation and communication networks as well as their political and economic domination to large parts of the globe, both essential preconditions for the international scientific co-operations. Despite two devastating World Wars and innumerable regional conflicts, the model of international governance of science has largely survived and indeed expanded. The contrast with the failure of other projects of international governance is striking, especially since science and scholarship remain fiercely competitive and are largely financed at the national level. How did scientific international governance emerge and remain relatively durable, despite the shocks of war, national rivalries, and scientific polemics?

LORRAINE DASTON is Director Emerita at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin and regular Visiting Professor in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. She has published widely on topics in the history of early modern and modern science, including probability and statistics, wonders, objectivity, observation, and scientific archives. Her most recent books include: *Histories of Scientific Observation* (with Elizabeth Lunbeck, 2011); and *Against Nature* (2019).

Moderator: STEFANI ENGELSTEIN | Duke University, Department of German Studies

For more information on the NCGS program and the Zoom access go to the NCGS website: <https://ncgsws.web.unc.edu/>

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