

Deborah R. Coen

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Academic Positions

BARNARD COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK
Professor of History, 2015-present
Associate Professor of History, 2013-2015
Assistant Professor of History, 2006-2012

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE
Junior Fellow, Harvard Society of Fellows, 2004-2006

Education

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Ph.D. 2004, History of Science

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
M.Phil. 1998, History and Philosophy of Science

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
A.B. *magna cum laude* 1997, Physics

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

Climate in Word and Image: Science and the Austrian Idea (book manuscript in progress)

The Earthquake Observers: Disaster Science from Lisbon to Richter (University of Chicago Press, Jan. 2013).

Reviewed in *Science*, *Nature*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Times Higher Education*, *Choice* ("highly recommended"), and many scholarly journals.

Vienna in the Age of Uncertainty: Science, Liberalism, and Private Life (University of Chicago Press, 2007; paperback 2011). Awards:

2008 Barbara Jelavich Book Prize from the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies

2008 Austrian Cultural Forum Book Prize

2007 Susan Abrams Prize from the University of Chicago Press

EDITED VOLUMES

Witness to Disaster: Earthquakes and Expertise in Comparative Perspective, Science in Context volume 25, issue 1 (2012). Guest editor, authored introduction and an article, "The Tongues of Seismology in Nineteenth-Century Switzerland."

Intimate Universality: Local and Global Themes in the History of Weather and Climate (Science History Publications, 2006). Co-edited with James R. Fleming and Vladimir Jankovic. Co-authored introduction and contributed a chapter, "Scaling Down: The 'Austrian' Climate between Empire and Republic."

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"The Multispecies Experimental Household," under revision for *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*.

"What's the Big Idea? The History of Ideas Confronts Climate Change," forthcoming in *The Journal for the History of Ideas*.

"The Fear of Nature and the Nature of Fear from Hobbes to the Hydrogen Bomb," in Katrina Forrester and Sophie Smith, eds., *Political Thought and the Environment*, forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

"Miss Fielde's Nests," in Wendy Doniger, Peter Galison, and Susan Neiman, eds., *Nature and Reason*, forthcoming from De Gruyter.

"The Common World: Histories of Science and Domestic Intimacy," *Modern Intellectual History* 11 (2014): 417-438.

"The Storyteller and the Seismograph," in Andreas Killen and Nitzan Lebovic, eds., *Catastrophe: A History and Theory of an Operative Concept* (De Gruyter, 2014).

"Rise, *Grubenhund*: On Provincializing Kuhn," *Modern Intellectual History* 9 (2012): 109-126.

"Fault Lines and Borderlands: Earthquake Observing in Imperial Austria," *The Nationalisation of Scientific Knowledge in the Late Habsburg Monarchy*, eds. Mitchell Ash and Jan Surman (Palgrave, 2012)

"Imperial Climatographies from Tyrol to Turkestan," *Osiris* 26 (2011), *Climate and Cultural Anxiety*, eds. James Fleming and Vladimir Jankovic, pp. 45-65

"Climate and Circulation in Imperial Austria," *Journal of Modern History* 82: 4 (December, 2010): 839-875

"The Storm Lab: Meteorology in the Nineteenth-Century Alps," *Science in Context* 9 (2009): 463-486

"Liberal Reason and the Culture of the *Sommerfrische*," *Austrian History Yearbook* 38 (2007): 145-159

"A Lens of Many Facets: Science Through a Family's Eyes," *Isis* 97 (2006): 395-419

“Living Precisely in Fin-de-siècle Vienna,” *Journal of the History of Biology* 39 (2006): 493-523

“Felix Exner and the Probabilistic Turn in Austrian Meteorology,” in *From Beaufort to Bjerknes and Beyond: Critical Perspectives on Observing, Analyzing, and Predicting the Weather and Climate*, eds. Stefan Emeis and Cornelia Lüdecke (Rauener Verlag, 2005), pp. 143-156

“Scientists’ Errors, Nature’s Fluctuations, and the Law of Radioactive Decay, 1899-1926.” *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences* 32:2 (2002): 179-205. German translation: “Die Fehler der Wissenschaft, die Schwankungen der Natur und das Gesetz des radioaktiven Zerfalls, 1899-1926,” in *Kernforschung in Österreich – Wandlungen eines interdisziplinären Forschungsfeldes 1900-1978*, eds. Silke Fengler and Carola Sachse (Vienna: Böhlau, 2011), pp. 271-308.

SHORTER ESSAYS AND REVIEWS

“Dancing on a Crowded Planet,” review of *On the Nature of Things*, choreographed by Karole Armitage in collaboration with Paul Ehrlich, www.publicbooks.org, 1 May 2015.

“Historical Futurology,” review of Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway, *The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future*, www.publicbooks.org, 1 November 2014 .

Review of Adam Kozuchowski, *The Afterlife of Austria-Hungary: The Image of the Habsburg Monarchy in Interwar Europe*, to appear in *Central European History*, June 2015.

Review of Geoffrey Parker, *Global Crisis: War, Climate Change, and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century*, in *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2014: 148-153.

“Teaching History to STEM Students,” *History of Science Society Newsletter*, spring 2014.

Review of Jan Plamper and Benjamin Lazier, eds., *Fear: Across the Disciplines* (U. Pittsburgh, 2012), *Isis* 105 (March, 2014): 204-5.

Review of Sally Weintrobe, ed., *Engaging with Climate Change: Psychoanalytic and Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (Routledge, 2012), in *Contemporary Psychoanalysis* 49 (2013): 636-641.

Review of Jan Surman, “Habsburg Universities 1848-1918: Biography of Space,” for *Science Studies Dissertation Reviews*: <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/author/deborah-coen>, February, 2013.

“Forum: The ‘German Question’ in the History of Science and the ‘Science Question’ in German History” (one of six participants), *German History* 29 (2011): 628-639

Review of Laura Dassow Walls, *The Passage to Cosmos: Alexander von Humboldt and the Shaping of America* and Walter Lack, *Alexander von Humboldt and the Botanical Exploration of the Americas*. *British Journal of the History of Science* 43: 2 (2010): 302-3.

Review of Claire G. Jones, *Femininity, Mathematics and Science, 1880-1914*, *Gender and History* 22: 2 (2010): 483-4.

"Weatherwiser?" Review essay, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 40 (2010): 125-135.

"Can Science Glean Wisdom from Disasters?" for the *Wisdom Research Network*, University of Chicago, <http://wisdomresearch.org/forums/t/310.aspx#>

Review of Elizabeth R. Neswald, *Thermodynamik als kultureller Kampfplatz: Zur Faszinationsgeschichte der Entropie, 1850-1915* and Helge S. Kragh, *Entropic Creation: Religious Contexts of Thermodynamics and Cosmology*, *British Journal for the History of Science* 42 (2009): 467-468.

Review of Maria Rentetzi, *Trafficking Materials and Gendered Experimental Practices: Radium Research in Early 20th Century Vienna* and Brigitte Strohmaier and Robert Rosner, *Marietta Blau: Stars of Disintegration: Biography of a Pioneer of Particle Physics*, *Austrian History Yearbook* 41 (2010): 281-283.

Review of Anthony Alofsin, *When Buildings Speak: Architecture as Language in the Habsburg Empire and its Aftermath, 1867-1933*, *Journal of Modern History* 81 (2009): 997-999

Review of Daniel M. Vyleta, *Crime, Jews and News: Vienna 1895-1914*, *European History Quarterly* 40 (2010): 184-5

"The Greening of German History: A Review Essay," *Isis* 99 (2008): 142-148

Review of Wilhelm Füßl, *Oskar von Miller, 1855-1934: Eine Biographie*, *Isis* 97 (2006): 768-9

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Framing Environmental Uncertainty for a Multinational Nineteenth-Century Public," paper for session on "Uncertainty in Lay/Expert Discussions of Environmental Issues," American Society for Environmental History, March 2015.

"Scientific Authority at the Edges of Empire," session commentator, American Historical Association, January 2015.

"Climates of Empire: Science and the Spatial Imagination in Imperial Austria," interdisciplinary conference on Historicizing Climate Change, Princeton, May 2014.

"Historians, Climate Change, and the Problem of Scale," part of the opening panel at the conference in honor of the 75th anniversary of the *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Philadelphia, May 2014.

Panel on "History in an Expanding University," Columbia First-Year Ph.D. student spring symposium, April 2014.

"The Multispecies Experimental Household," invited paper for the Ruth Schwarz Cowan Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, May 2013.

"Science and Technology on the Brink," invited paper for the Remarque Institute Seminar, Kandersteg, Switzerland, April 2013.

"Intellectual Responsibilities: History and Allied Disciplines," invited paper for the *History in Action* workshop, Columbia, February 2013.

"Climatography as Imperial Genre," History of Science Society, San Diego, November 2012.

"Writing the History of Disaster Science." Invited paper for "Political Thought and the Environment," Cambridge University, May 2012.

"Disaster Science: Earthquake Observers in the Long Nineteenth Century." Invited paper for "Operative Catastrophes," Columbia University, March 2012.

Commentator for session: "Trying Experiences: Empirical Claims, Practical Experiments, and the Authentication of Knowledge in Modern China." History of Science Society, Cleveland, November 2011.

"The Tongues of Seismology in the Nineteenth Century." American Historical Association, Boston, January 2011. Organized session: "Lingua Scientia: Scientific Languages and the Politics of Translation."

"Seismology Between Natural History and Geophysics." Invited paper for "Earth Science, Global Science," York University, October, 2010.

"Mountain Science and the Technological Sublime." Council on European Studies, Montreal, April 2010.

"Science and Non-Empire: The Habsburg Case." Invited paper for "Colonialisms and Imperialisms," Columbia University, March 2010.

"'Did You Feel It?' Earthquake Spotters in the Nineteenth-Century Alps." History of Science Society, Phoenix, November, 2009. Organized session: "Digging Through Narratives in the Earth Sciences."

"Local Borders, Global Change: Climatology Between Tyrol and Turkestan." Invited paper for "Climate and Cultural Anxiety," Colby College, April 2009."

"The Social Discovery of Global Warming," History of Science Society, Pittsburgh, November 2008. Special session in honor of Spencer Weart.

“Eddies in the Currents of Empire: Mountain Climates in Imperial Austria.” Invited paper for “Laboratory of Nature: The Mountain as Object and Instrument of Science,” Villa Garabald, Switzerland, June, 2007.

“As Colorless as Waves of Air: The Climatography of Austria-Hungary.” Invited paper for “Internationalizing the History of Eastern Europe,” Harvard University, May, 2007.

“Citizens of the Most Probable State: Vienna, 1908.” Invited paper for “Cultural Alchemy of the Exact Sciences: Revisiting the Forman Thesis,” University of British Columbia, March, 2007.

“Beyond Public and Private: Science and Liberalism in Imperial Austria,” History of Science Society, Austin, Texas, November 2004. Co-organized session: “All in the Family: Science and the Domestic Sphere.”

“Scaling Down: Austrian Climatology Between Empire and Republic.” International Commission for the History of Meteorology, Polling, Germany, July 2004.

“Into the Open: The Exners at Brunnwinkl.” Invited paper for “Sigmund Exner: Physiologie, Psychologie, Ästhetik und empirische Kulturforschung um 1900,” Vienna Circle Institute, Vienna, April, 2004.

“Towards a Universe of Forms.” Invited paper for “Muster/Pattern,” Max Planck Institute for History of Science, Berlin, December 2003.

“Mapping the ‘Austrian’ Climate Between Empire and Republic,” History of Science Society, Cambridge, Mass., November 2003. Organized session: “Local and Global Perspectives in Meteorology.”

“The Przibram Brothers and the Border Regions of Biology.” Invited paper for “Viennese Roots of Theoretical Biology: The Vivarium Centenary,” Konrad Lorenz Institute, Altenberg, Austria, September, 2002.

“Family History and the History of Science,” History of Science Society, Denver, November 2001. Organized session: “The Exners: Science in a Viennese Bildungsbürger Family.”

“Schrödinger’s Crooked Path to *What is Life?*” History of Science Society, Vancouver, B.C., November 2000.

“Fluctuation Phenomena in Vienna.” Invited paper for “Hauptsache und Nebendinge/Pure Science and its Impurities,” Max Planck Institute for History of Science, Berlin, July 2000.

“Color and *Kultur*: Physics and the Arts and Crafts Movement in Vienna,” History of Science Society, Pittsburgh, November 1999. Co-organized session: “Off Color: The Science, Art, and Politics of Seeing Beyond Black and White.”

INVITED TALKS

“Local Disturbances: Habsburg Supranationalism and the Making of a Global Climate Science,” Department of History of Science, Harvard University, March 2015.

“Local Disturbances: Habsburg Supranationalism and the Making of a Global Climate Science,” Department of History and Sociology of Science Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, March 2015.

“He who will not attend to these things as being too paltry and minute...”: Towards a Nineteenth-Century History of Scaling,” NYU Intellectual History Workshop, November 2014.

“Dynamic Empire: Climate and Circulation in Imperial Austria,” New York Public Library’s Cullman Center, October 2014.

“The Humanities in an Age of Ecological Catastrophe,” Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University, dialogue with Timothy Morton, November, 2014.

“Becoming Earthlings: Citizen-Observers in Nineteenth-Century Geoscience,” Caltech lecture series on “Exploration,” May 2014.

“Family History and the History of Science,” Centre Alexandre Koyré, Paris, April 2013.

“Climate and Empire: The Human Scale of Global Science,” Yale Department of History, February, 2013.

“The Tribe, the Crowd, and the Scientist.” Keynote address for graduate-student conference: “Histories of the Family,” Northwestern University, June 2012.

Seminar on the history of science for postdoctoral fellows in environmental studies, The Earth Institute, Columbia University, November, 2011.

“Earthquakes and Enlightenment in Austria and California before World War One,” Botstiber Lecture Series, Rutgers University, September, 2011.

“La famille Exner,” Centre d’études et de recherches sur l’espace germanophone, Université Paris 3, June, 2011.

“Disaster Science: Earthquake Observers in Late Imperial Austria,” Colloquium in History of Science and Medicine, Yale University, March, 2011.

“Faultlines and Borderlands: Earthquake Science in Late Imperial Austria,” History Department, University of British Columbia, February, 2011.

“Citizens of the Most Probable State: The Science and Politics of Uncertainty in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna,” New York Academy of Sciences, April, 2009.

“The Laboratory of Nature and Culture: Climatology in a Continental Empire,” Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, October, 2008.

“Science and Private Life,” Center for History of Science, University of Chicago, March, 2006.

“Taking Nature’s Pulse,” Department of Physics and Astronomy, Swarthmore College, April 2002.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

“Gender: A Dialogue Between the Sciences and Humanities,” Barnard, April 2015, co-sponsored by the Columbia Center for Science and Society and the Barnard Center for Research on Women.

“Neuroscience and History,” Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia, 2013-14. Co-organized (with Stefanos Geroulanos) a reading and discussion group fostering interdisciplinary conversation about the promises and challenges of contemporary neuroscience.

Center for International History, Columbia, 2011-13. Organized a series of events on global dimensions of the history of science and environmental history, including conferences on “Translation and the Sciences,” “Historicizing Hazard,” and “Late Imperial Epistemologies.”

“Witness to Disaster: Comparative Histories of Earthquake Science and Response,” Barnard College, October 29-30, 2009.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

“Becoming Earthlings: Citizen Observers in Nineteenth-Century Geoscience,” Lyceum Society of the New York Academy of Sciences, October, 2014.

Panel on “Crowdsourcing Science” for “Science in the Streets: Public Engagement Then and Now,” History of Science Society annual meeting, Boston, November 2013.

Panel on “Climate Change and Global Governance,” Hertog Global Strategy Initiative, Columbia University, June 2013.

Panel on “Natural Disasters: An Interdisciplinary Look at Response, Observation, and Action,” Barnard College, February 2013.

“Fair for Knowledge: Clouds,” April 16, 2011, sponsored by the French government “to encourage an informal, social, and open mode of learning.” Discussed research with diners over brunch at a Soho restaurant.

“Franz Xaver von Messerschmidt.” Discussed the eighteenth-century Austrian sculptor in a film for the 2010 Neue Galerie-Louvre exhibit.

“Weather and the Imagination,” New York, January, 2008. Organized and moderated a roundtable for the Philoctetes Center for the Multidisciplinary Study of the Imagination.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Guggenheim Fellowship, 2017

NYPL-ACLS Fellowship, Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, 2014-15

NSF Science, Technology, and Society Grant #0848583, 2009-2013 (\$126,905)

Defining Wisdom Grant from the University of Chicago, 2008-2010 (\$99,827)

Mellon-Barnard Translation Studies grant, summer 2010 (\$2,389)

Mellon-Barnard Environmental Science Minigrant, 2007 (\$5,000)
 Fel Grant, Harvard University, 2003
 Merit Fellowship, Harvard University, 2002
 Center for European Studies Krupp Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2001-2
 German-American Student Exchange (DAAD) Research Fellowship, 2001-2
 National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship, 1998-2001
 Harvard Center for European Studies Summer Language Training Grant, 1999
 Radcliffe Traveling Fellowship for Graduating Seniors, 1997
 Trinity College, Cambridge Overseas Student Award, 1997

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

BARNARD COLLEGE/COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. Undergraduate and graduate courses on the history of science and technology, modern European history, and women's studies.

VIENNA CIRCLE INSTITUTE. Assistant lecturer at two-week summer school on "Chance and Necessity" for graduate students in history and philosophy of science. July 2005

HARVARD COLLEGE. Teaching fellow for several courses in history of science, 1999-2002

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES: Mari Webel (history of public health, Columbia), Natasha Wheatley (intellectual history and Austrian history, Columbia), Isabel Gabel (intellectual history, Columbia), Shehab Ismail (history of science, Columbia), James Bergman (history of science, Harvard), Antoine Lentacker (history of medicine and Austrian history, Yale), Ana Keilson (intellectual history, Columbia, in progress), Adrien Zakar (intellectual history, Columbia, in progress), Zachary Levine (history of science, Columbia, in progress), Emily Sekine (anthropology of science, The New School).

ORAL EXAMINATION FIELDS: history of modern science, central European history, German history, gender and science, science and empire.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Barnard College, Faculty Committee on Internationalization, 2011-2013

Barnard College, Middle States Review Committee, 2010

Barnard College, Committee on Programs and Academic Standing, October 2007-June 2010

Barnard College, Search Committee, U.S. women's and gender history, member, 2011-13

Columbia Center for Science & Society, Curriculum Director and Steering Committee member, 2014-present.

Columbia University, Presidential Committee on Society & Neuroscience, since 2014

Columbia University, Committee on Global Thought, since 2015

Columbia University, History Department, tenure review committee for Marwa Elshakry, 2013-14

Columbia University, Center for International History, acting director, 2011-13

Columbia University, Center for International History, commentator for graduate student conferences, 2010 and 2011

Columbia University, European Institute, member of advisory board since June 2007

Columbia University, Harriman Institute, member of faculty advisory board since 2012

Columbia University, History of Science, field coordinator for curriculum planning and graduate admissions, 2012-13

Columbia University, Search Committee, German Studies, member, 2011-12

Columbia University, Search Committee, Polish history, member, 2011
Columbia University, Search Committees in Russian/Soviet/East-Central European history, member 2007-2010
Columbia University, Carl Boyer undergraduate prize committee (history of science), 2007-2012
History of Science Society, Annual Meeting 2014, Program Co-chair
History of Science Society Council, member 2010-2012
History of Science Society, Committee on Honors and Prizes, member 2010-2012, chair 2011-12
History of Science Society Nominating Committee, member, 2010
Center for Austrian Studies Book Prize, committee member, 2014
University of Chicago Press, Susan Abrams Book Prize Committee, chair, 2009
Modern Intellectual History editorial board, member since 2011 (appointed to second term)
Isis Editorial Advisory Board, member 2007-2010, 2015-2018
Austrian Science Fund, proposal referee for multiple grants
Manuscript referee of books and articles for University of Chicago Press, Yale University Press, Bloomsbury Books, Pickering and Chatto, *Isis*, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, *British Journal for the History of Science*, *Quarterly Review of Biology*, *Austrian History Yearbook*, *Social Studies of Science*, *Weather, Climate, and Society*, *Climate Change*, *Journal of Art Historiography*, *Water History*, *Modern Intellectual History*, *Science as Culture*, *Science in Context*, *Environmental History*, *Engineering Studies*, *New German Critique*

LANGUAGES

Proficient in German and French. Reading knowledge of Czech.