

Scientiae Presidential Newsletter

January 2021

Friends and Colleagues,

Scientiae is an organisation that thrives on personal contact. Since we first met in Vancouver in 2012, for ten years our annual conference has served as a hub for stimulating, cross-disciplinary conversation and intellectual debate conducted in a spirit of conviviality. The organisation's great success can be measured in terms of the papers and books that have been written and enriched following the conversations, collaborations and academic partnerships that have been forged. In any other year, the Executive Committee would be hard at work by this point on the logistics of the summer's conference. With the first draft of the programme in place and acceptances e-mailed out, their attention would now be directed to crucial matters such as the appropriate cookie to offer after a session on alchemy (Jaffa cakes?), the number of vol-au-vents to follow a keynote on speculative music and the kabbalah (3?), and precisely how many litres of wine must be available after an end-of-the-day 4-paper session on Leibniz.

But alas. With the world still in the grips of the pandemic and no early end in sight, once again it will be impossible for us to meet in person this June in Amsterdam as we'd hoped.

We may not be able to enjoy the hospitality of Amsterdam and the University in person this summer, but we are keen to bring the community together again to renew scholarly connections and to foster dialogues and collaborations. Accordingly, our organising team led by Djoeke van Netten, Karen Hollewand and Stefano Gulizia have turned their attention to creating a top-notch virtual conference, now **scheduled for 9 to 12 June**. Many of the speakers who had planned on attending last year have confirmed that they'll be presenting and engaged this year—and we have a call out for new paper and panel proposals. The deadline for these is **15 February**. We should have a preliminary programme out shortly after that.

Do make sure you block off some time to attend and participate.

Executive Members have been busy through the autumn. Over the course of the summer, Stefano organised virtual workshops entitled “Gender and Medical Epistemology” and “The Deep Time of Earth: Environmental Experiments with History.” In the autumn, Cassie Gorman organised a third in the series with a session entitled, “Creative Forms of Natural Philosophy.” All three sessions epitomised the *Scientiae* mission, getting back behind modern ideas of knowing to their pre-disciplinary antecedents. If you were unable to attend, video recordings of each session are available on the website at: <http://scientiae.co.uk/online-events/> We are planning more workshops for the coming months and will post details as they are finalised.

The *Scientiae Studies* book series is **proceeding** apace. The first two volumes should be available within months. Hosted by the University of Amsterdam Press, *Scientiae Studies* publishes innovative and interdisciplinary monographs, studies and edited volumes that seek to examine the construction, sources and meaning of knowledge and its circulation in the period before the fixing of academic disciplines. For more information about the series or to propose a new title, see: <https://www.aup.nl/en/series/scientiae-studies>

Finally, in the spirit of productive collaborations, **we'd like to hear from you**. We're keen to put together a new section of our website highlighting research that has been construed, sharpened or otherwise informed by discussions that have taken place at *Scientiae*. If you have work like this,

we'd like to hear about it. Send a few sentences to pertransibunt@gmail.com describing your work and how it has been informed by connections forged through *Scientiae*.

Best,

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President, *Scientiae*

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