

## GHC – Mai 2021 Information – mise à jour

### 1. Pays-Bas

#### A noter aussi que la soutenance de thèse de Jorrit Smit,

*Utility Spots. Science Policy, Knowledge Transfer and the Politics of Proximity (Université de Leyde, 6 mai 15h)*

annoncée en anglais dans notre dernier message, se déroulera finalement en néerlandais.

Nous espérons que Jorrit Smit publiera rapidement son texte, qui est en anglais. Voir

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/wetenschappers/livestream-promotie>

### 2. Angleterre

La SHAC nous informe des séminaires, conférences ou symposia suivants :

Oxford Seminar in the History of Chemistry

Convenors: Judith Rainhorn and John Christie

SHAC and Maison Française d'Oxford

#### 2.1. Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 3:30-4:45

##### The role of chemists in the development of First World War respirators

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMscuGopz0iHtPYL\\_oc0dVzj1O0opKg\\_m7](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMscuGopz0iHtPYL_oc0dVzj1O0opKg_m7)

**Shelley Castle** (Centre of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology, Oxford/Sommerville College)

Chemical weapons are one of the most well-known weapons of the First World War, immortalised in the poetry of the time and many publications. But, to date, little has been said about the complexities of how this weapon was fought with the creation of the respirator and the role that chemists played. Nor has it fully explored the limitations of this process and the tactical implications of the respirator. The details, successes and limitations of this risky, experimental and innovative process will be shared with you as part of this paper.

#### 2.2. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 4-5:15

##### The Politics of Chemistry: Science and Power in Twentieth-Century

Spain <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuceusrD4uHte0CJA2jZyhdFrgrRY1nZTQ>

**Agustí Nieto-Galan** - Institut d'Història de la Ciència, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
As a result of the book *The Politics of Chemistry* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), the paper approaches the community of Spanish chemists in the twentieth century, and the way in which they shaped cosmopolitan, republican, totalitarian, autarchic, technocratic and liberal values. Spanish chemists took their side in every regime in which they lived, even in war, for instance, their reaction to the cruelties of the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) being particularly heart-breaking. Beyond the constraints of a specific national context, I will provide a broader reflection on the way in which chemists 'co-constructed' different political regimes and became powerful ideological agents throughout the century. Often under the banner of a rhetoric of neutrality, they created strong links with industrial and military projects, and became involved in national rivalries and international endeavours, which deserve a more careful examination.

#### 2.3. Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 4-5:15

## **Restricted Priority: Debating the Invention of Agent Orange in the Aftermath of War**

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtfuqvjjrHNPNsCAVx0g1JPINnYOqhGuu>

**Alison McManus** (Princeton University)

During the Second World War, researchers on both sides of the Atlantic developed novel chemical herbicides from synthetic plant growth hormones, especially the chlorinated phenoxyacetic acids. To some, these compounds had clear military significance as tactical defoliants and agents of crop destruction. Both the United States and the British governments investigated these compounds to that end. Although neither nation used these herbicides during the Second World War itself, both nations did so later: the British during the Malay wars of decolonization and the Americans during the Vietnam War. Nevertheless, the secrecy regimes that surrounded these herbicides were highly porous and inconsistent, varying substantially by institution and national context. This paper examines these uneven disclosures and traces their impact on postwar priority disputes, which played out in the international scientific literature as well as American courtrooms. It argues that censorship and classification, though billed as wartime necessities, did not merely exist to preserve national security. Even as government workers prepared these herbicides for military use, censors relied on classification regimes to constitute and deny scientific priority.

### **2.4. Barks, Berries and Bitter Pills – Thursday 6 May 2021**

This virtual symposium marks the 200th anniversary of quinine (now 201st!) and other plant-based medicines. The programme includes talks, conversations and demonstrations ranging from ethnopharmacology to cannabis flowers, to writing a popular book on quinine, and virtual tours of the Apothecaries' botanical collections. Full programme and to register: <https://www.apothecaries.org/events/event/barks-pills/>

### **Applied Arts of Alchemy: 19, 20, 21 May – a multi-day virtual symposium**

Hosted by The Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry at the Science History Institute. This virtual symposium will explore alchemy's practical and applied uses and their lasting impact on chemistry, technology, medicine, experimentation, and the marketplace. For more details: <https://www.sciencehistory.org/conferences/the-applied-arts-of-alchemy>

### **2.5. Call for Abstracts**

#### **Diplomatic Studies of Science: The Interplay of Science, Technology and International Affairs After the Second World War, 8 and 9 November 2021**

The Gordon Cain Conference 2021 focuses on the fascinating interplay of science, technology and international affairs after the Second World War. By doing so, it marks the emergence of diplomatic studies of science as a field at the intersection of science and technology studies, history of science, diplomatic history, and international politics. Contributions are invited that explore the ways science and diplomacy have been coproduced throughout the second half of the 20th century to the present.

<https://www.sciencehistory.org/gordon-cain-conference>

### **2.6. Tom Wedgwood 250 Meeting**

And don't forget SHAC's joint meeting with the Royal Photographic Society on Tom Wedgwood takes place on 14-15 May. The full programme and registration details can be found at <https://rps.org/wedgwood250>

### **3. WPHC Conference 2021. 20 mai**

Voir nos précédentes informations.

"As you may know, the 13 ICHC has been moved to 2023 (Vilnius, Lithuania) due to the pandemics. Instead, next May 20th, 2021 we will organize the webinar **Heritage and History of Chemistry: WPHC Online Event, 20 May 2021** (please, find below the full program)

Anyone, member of the Working Party for the History of Chemistry or not, is welcome to attend the webinar. You can register any time before the event (free) by following the link, and you will immediately receive the automatic confirmation with the meeting link:

**Registration (free) for the webinar:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_vk2r052ZSpmKR4jq7LRGXw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vk2r052ZSpmKR4jq7LRGXw)

Every talk will last 10 minutes, with a further 5 minutes for questions and comments by the public attending the webinar. You are welcome to send your questions and comments by using the chat function of the platform. The webinar will be recorded and later posted on the Working Party website, therefore registration implies your agreement with this."