

# Latsis- Symposium 2011



May 26–28, 2011

A Conference  
to Commemorate  
the 50th  
Anniversary of  
Ludwik Fleck's  
Death

## OPENING LECTURE

Thursday, May 26  
18.30–20.00

Bruno Latour

## SESSIONS 1+2

Friday, May 27  
9.00–18.00

Peter Chen  
Roger Cooter  
Petra Gehring  
Wilhelm Gruissem  
Philip Kitcher  
Mordechai Kremnitzer  
Robert N. Proctor  
Nikolas Rose

## SESSION 3

Saturday, May 28  
9.00–12.30

Andrew Abbott  
Michael D. Gordin  
Marianne Sommer

## VENUE

ETH Zürich  
Main Building  
Semper-Aula  
G 60  
Rämistrasse 101



## REGISTRATION

The organisers kindly ask to register attendance, no conference fee will be collected: [scienceanddemocracy@ethz.ch](mailto:scienceanddemocracy@ethz.ch)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.ludwikfleck.ethz.ch](http://www.ludwikfleck.ethz.ch)  
[www.zgwf.ethz.ch](http://www.zgwf.ethz.ch)



FONDATION LATSIS  
Internationale

# Latsis-Symposium 2011: **SCIENCE & DEMOCRACY**

## A Symposium to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Ludwik Fleck's Death

May 26 - 28, 2011, ETH Main Building (Semper Aula), Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zurich

organised by the Ludwik Fleck Zentrum at Collegium Helveticum and the Competence Center «History of Knowledge», University of Zurich and ETH Zürich and sponsored by the Latsis Foundation,

### Schedule:

#### Thursday, May 26th

#### Opening Event

18:30

#### Welcome:

**Roland Siegwart**

ETH Vice President Research and Corporate Relations

**Dusan Sidjanski**

Latsis Fondation

**Gerd Folkers**

Collegium Helveticum

#### Introduction:

**Michael Hagner**

19:00

#### Opening Lecture

(Chair: **Johannes Fehr**)

**Bruno Latour**: Learning our Political Epistemology from Fleck

20:00

*Apéro*

#### Friday, May 27th

#### Session 1 «SCIENCE AND THE CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY»

(Chair: **Matthias Mahlmann**)

09:30

**Philip Kitcher**: Can We Sustain Democracy, and the Planet, too?

10:15

**Mordechai Kremnitzer**: Law, Democracy and the Sciences of Mankind

11:00

*Coffee Break*

11:30

**Roger Cooter**: Forfeit Democracy: Folding the Humanities into the Natural Sciences

12:15–14:00

*Lunch Break*

**Session 2** «THE USES OF SCIENCE»  
(Chair: **Ilana Löwy**)

- 14:00 **Nikolas Rose**: Truth and Power in the Contemporary Sciences of Life: Biopolitics, Democracy and Subjectivity  
14:45 **Petra Gehring**: Dubious Expertise: Bioethics and Bioethicists  
15:30 *Coffee Break*  
16:00 **Robert Proctor**: Golden Holocaust: The Corruption of Scholarship by Big Tobacco  
16:45 Panel Discussion by **Michael Hagner** (Chair) with **Peter Chen** and **Wilhelm Gruissem**: Science in Democratic and Non-Democratic Countries.

**Saturday, May 28th**

**Session 3** «IS SCIENCE A MODEL FOR DEMOCRACY?»  
(Chair: **Gerd Folkers**)

- 09:30 **Andrew Abbott**: Knowledge between Elitism and Democracy  
10:15 **Marianne Sommer**: The Biology of Democracy in Scientific Humanism  
11:00 *Coffee Break*  
11:30 **Michael Gordin**: Demarcation in a Democracy: Lysenko and Velikovsky in Cold War America  
12:15–12:45 Final Discussion

LIST OF SPEAKERS

**Andrew Abbott**, Sociologist, University of Chicago

**Peter Chen**, Chemist, ETH Zürich

**Roger Cooter**, Historian of Medicine, University College, London

**Petra Gehring**, Philosopher, Technical University, Darmstadt

**Michael Gordin**, Historian of Science, Princeton University

**Wilhelm Gruissem**, Biologist, ETH Zürich

**Philip Kitcher**, Philosopher, Columbia University

**Mordechai Kremnitzer**, Jurist, Israel Democracy Institute and Hebrew University, Jerusalem

**Bruno Latour**, Sociologist, École des Sciences Politiques, Paris

**Robert Proctor**, Historian of Science, Stanford University

**Nikolas Rose**, Sociologist, The London School of Economics, London

**Marianne Sommer**, Historian of Science, University of Zürich