Social science leaves the laboratory to reclaim its place in the public sphere

The thirty-some contributions in these three volumes reflect the intellectual renewal of the École des hautes études en sciences sociales within the general context – dramatically changed since the mid-1990s – of idea production and dissemination. By showing how the new generation of researchers approaches social sciences, these articles seek to demonstrate both the kinship of their questionings and the multiformal nature of their answers, with a heightened vigilance with regard to an increasingly prevalent, naïve neo-naturalism. This overview is structured by three angles of research, namely the opposition between the researcher and the expert (and therefore the problem of criticism), interdisciplinarity or transdisciplinarity, and the relationship between the general and the universal.

Critiquing, since reflexive lucidity is the best remedy for the ingenuousness of expertise; Comparing, for there can be no conclusive findings if only a single case is studied; and Generalising, for going from specific cases to synthesis is the core of the scientific approach.

2012 • Collection “Cas de figure”
Translation rights sold for Arabic, Portuguese, Chinese, Turkish and Croatian languages

Qu’est-ce qu’un philosophe français ?
La vie sociale des concepts (1880-1980)
[what does being a French philosopher mean?: the social life of concepts, 1880-1980]
Jean-Louis Fabiani

The philosopher is one of the most remarkable figures of French intellectual life. Where does this social status, so specific to France, come from? In studying the genesis of concepts and systems as well as the social life of ideas from the early days of the Third Republic until the 1980s, the author, himself a socio-gist and philosopher, evokes the permanence and evolutions of this discipline’s discourses and practices. He approaches philosophy as a cultural object, shattering the existing narrative forms relative to the history of philosophy, and fully honours the contract he has set up for himself: to give lay-readers what they need to understand how French philosophy came about and developed.

2010 • Collection “Cas de figure”, 11 • 320 pages
ISBN 978-2-7132-2267-2 • €17
Translation rights sold for Russian, Turkish, Arabic languages
What can transcriptions of public speaking teach us about an author who is already a “classic” in the human and social sciences?

Public addresses, press conferences, lectures, accounts, dialogues, radio and television interviews: such are the little-known sciences? What can transcriptions of public speaking teach us about an author who is already a “classic” in the human and social sciences?

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In his last lecture delivered at the Collège de France on 4 April 1978, Raymond Aron looks at liberties, giving voice to the concernic that never left him, the mainspring of a life of thought and action. Seeking shared truth, or at least a common good, he examines the moral crisis of liberal democracies, creates a classification of freedoms, assesses their content and ponders the relationship between liberty and equality. As an observer of societies throughout history, Raymond Aron explores issues related to these freedoms and inequalities, as well as citizenship and power.

October 2013 • Collection: “Audiographie”, 8 • 64 pages ISBN 978-2-7132-2381-5 • €8
Translation rights sold for Italian language

Michel Foucault published only one work on literature, about the writer Raymond Roussel, in 1963. However, from 1950 to 1960, in addition to the considerable time he dedicated to teaching French literature abroad, Foucault did much work on literary corpora (especially of Sade, Artaud and Blanchot) and was close to the “Tel Quel” group. This work took an exclusively oral form. This book brings together, for the first time, several of these addresses, including radio programmes, teachings and lectures. The reader discovers a largely unknown facet of the philosopher, that of an assiduous reader of literature.

2013 • “Audiographie”, 7 • 224 pages • ISBN 978-2-7132-2386-0 • €9.80
Translation rights sold for English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese (Brazil), Korean, Croatian, Turkish languages

If one considers the fresco The Last Judgement in the Sistine Chapel from an anthropological perspective of resemblance, as developed by Saint Paul, radically new elements of interpretation appear. The fresco’s layout reveals an anthropological arrangement of Christian imagery, which is insufficiently studied in art history. Painted around the edges of the frescoes in the vault to which it belongs, the cycle of the Ancestors of Christ resists being incorporated into the eschatological design that terminates in The Last Judgement. Those tired old men and women will remind the modern spectator of the characters in Beckett’s theatre, and the relationship between the Ancestors of Christ and The Last Judgement provides a new vision of all of the frescoes in the chapel.

Collection: “L’histoire et ses représentations”, 9
328 pages • Illustrations • ISBN 978-2-7132-2383-9 • €36
Translation rights sold for Italian language

This book analyses a set of representations on more than 7,000 vases produced in Athens from 600 to 500 BC. In addition to their links to satyr plays, the author examines representations of hybrid bodies, the unbridled sexuality of satyrs, their relationship with animality, as well as the social forms of their activities, including the use of wine, dance and music, the war against the giants, satyrs’ place in the Dionysian city and their relation with gods other than Dionysus. These representations use imagination and humour in treating wide swaths of Athenian culture, which is why these satyrs should be seen.

2013 • Collection: “L’histoire et ses représentations”, 8
325 pages • Illustrations • ISBN 978-2-7132-2384-6 • €35
Recently published

Après la Grande Guerre
Comment les Amérindiens des États-Unis sont devenus patriotes (1917-1947)
[after the First World War: how Native Americans in the United States became patriots (1917-1947)]
Thomas Grillot

How did World War I change the fate of Native American tribes in the United States? What place did veterans have on reservations, and what was the weight of their war experiences in their life paths? Thomas Grillot reveals the central role of the First World War in the struggle for Native American civil rights. From one generation to the next, the memory of trench warfare, referenced in petitions, speeches, draft legislation and rituals (e.g. the return of long-forbidden dances), depicts a half-century of forgotten Native American history. Native Americans’ relationship with the American state and society was forever changed. Where history meets anthropology, this book brings together two histories separated until now: that of World War I and that of the Plains Indians and other Native American groups.

April 2014 • Collection: “En temps & lieux”, 52 • 264 pages
ISBN 978-2-7132-2424-9 • €24

De paroles et de gestes
Construction marranes en terre d’Inquisition
[speech and acts: constructing Marrano identity in the land of the Inquisition]
Natalia Muchnik

How, when confronted with stigmatisation, does one constitute an identity? Focusing on the case of the Marranos in 16th- to 18th-century Spain, Natalia Muchnik shows how individuals acquire meaning in a social unit knit together by shared memories and practices. Most Marranos were the descendants of Jews who had converted to Christianity in the 15th century. Accused by the Inquisition of secretly adhering to Judaism, they developed a group identity. Like a kaleidoscope, this work presents multiple points of view on ways of belonging.

March 2014 • Collection: “En temps & lieux”, 50 • 288 pages
ISBN 978-2-7132-2420-1 • €20

Français ? • La nation en débat entre colonies et métropole (xvii-xixe siècles)
[French? The nation under debate between colonies and mainland France (16th–19th centuries)]
Cécile Vidal (ed.)

During colonialism, Frenchness became a problematic identity, subject to discussions, contention and negotiations. When and how did nationhood come to be a major political issue? Was the nation to be blended into the empire? How were the colonised populations and territories supposed to be integrated? What, if any, was the importance of being recognised as French? Retracing the genealogy of exclusionary practices and their contestations, this book shows that the French empire, characterised by colonial domination and a slave system, was, well before the French Revolution, an early locus for the debate on national identity, which has continued to this day. From the beginnings of French colonial expansion in the 16th century to the abolition of slavery in the mid-19th century, the authors explore the diversity of specific significations of Frenchness for all stakeholders, and in so doing, reincorporate the colonial margins into French national history.

May 2014 • Collection: “En temps & lieux”, 51 • 272 pages
ISBN 978-2-7132-2450-8 • €20

L’unité du droit • [the unity of law]
Rainer Maria Kiesow

The unity of law has always been an obsession for society in general and legal experts in particular. Indeed, at first glance, it guarantees equality before the law. Since Roman law, however, this all-encompassing conception of a single legal system that produces identical judgements through judges has turned out to be a great illusion. Indeed, the innumerable interpretations of laws reflect the infinite facets of life. Through eleven walks with thinkers including Nietzsche, Kafka, Daloiz, Diderot and Changeux, Rainer Maria Kiesow offers a panorama of the ins and outs of this fabricated unity of law, a lasting utopia on the national, European and world levels.

May 2014 • Collection: “Cas de figure”, 31 • 260 pages
ISBN 978-2-7132-2425-6 • €14
Catastrophes et environnement
Haiti, séisme du 12 janvier 2010
[catastrophes and the environment: the earthquake in Haiti on 12 January 2010]
Laennec Hurson (ed.)

The scope of the catastrophe in Haiti on 12 January 2010 raised issues about the very foundations of Haitian society. Three years later, 400,000 people were still living in tents throughout the capital city. What conditions made such ravages possible? The authors – legal experts, agronomists, psychologists and anthropologists – let us fully enter the magnitude of the calamity at every level of daily life, from dealing with the dead immediately after the earthquake to the psychological traumas of individuals and society, from the lack of regional policies to exploring the capital. A perfect illustration of the gap between sociopolitical individuals and society, from the lack of regional policies to exploring the capital. Perfect illustration of the gap between sociopolitical struggles and the environment, the case of Haiti, beyond its borders, calls for a renewed environmental approach to disaster management.

June 2014 • Collection: "Cas de figure", 32 • 272 pages
ISBN 978-2-7132-2492-6 • €15

Autumn 2014

La frontière épaisse
Aux origines des politiques soviétiques (1920-1940)
[at the origins of Soviet policies: the impenetrable border]
Sabine Dullin

Looking at the creation of the USSR, a new state in the interwar period, from the edges of its territory, Sabine Dullin examines the many facets of borders: places of confrontation and cooperation where individuals, administrations and ideologies interact. She offers a rereading of the major reorientations in Soviet history through the policies implemented at the country’s farthest reaches, from revolutionary rhetoric to the commonplace alternations between border guards and smugglers, from bureaucratic hassles to the most violent police operations. Within twenty years, the border closed, becoming impenetrable. Extreme distrust of a neighbour at once close and foreign prevailed. The border, by turns institution, experience and feeling, can reveal the nature of a political regime and a society.

» The border as institution, experience and feeling
» Enables an understanding of the different values separating Russia from Europe, which are tearing apart Ukraine today

Release date: 23 October 2014 • Collection: "En temps et lieux", 55
ISBN 978-2-7132-2456-0 • €24 (provisional price)

La dernière catastrophe ?
Liévin 1974: la désindustrialisation en question
[Liévin, 1974: the last disaster? deindustrialisation at issue]
Marion Fontaine

In Liévin, on 27 December 1974, the most serious post-war mining disaster in France occurred, killing 42 people. The accident took place in the mid-1970s when the country was coming out of the famous Trente Glorieuses (the thirty-year post-war boom) and entering the equally infamous "crisis". The event carried the fading memory of the social movements emerging from May 1968 at the same time as it gave rise to demonstrations and intensified new forms of protest. The aim here is to identify this turning point, to explore the deindustrialisation process through the prism of social and political history and, above all, to delve further into that moment when the worker’s myth and the working class itself lost prominence.

» An original key to understanding social invisibility
» Commemorating the disaster of the autumn of 2014
» On the process of deindustrialisation

Release date: 28 November 2014 • Collection: "Cas de figure", 36
ISBN 978-2-7132-2458-4 • €16 (provisional price)

L’empreinte du poing
La boxe, le gymnase et leurs hommes
[fist marks: boxing, gyms and men]
Jérôme Beauchez

How can we understand boxers’ dedication to punching one another? By taking us behind the scenes at a gym, the author, who became a member of a boxing group, paints a close-up portrait of such men in their daily lives. Beyond facing their adversaries in the ring, Carlo, Mourad, Boris and Mohand all strive to withstand the social violence disrupting their life paths. From training sessions to public fights, from hand-to-hand combat to discussions and other everyday happenings, the author shows every aspect of the lives of the pugilists, who are from immigrant backgrounds and live in working-class neighbourhoods. The ethnography of a sport, this book raises a much broader issue, namely that of bodies shaped by the experience of domination.

» Life stories and the reasons why boxers step into the ring
» An author who has personally gone through the stages of boxing training
» On the idea of social revenge

Release date: 14 November 2014 • Collection: "Cas de figure", 35
ISBN 978-2-7132-2460-7 • €16 (provisional price)
Looking very closely at real experiences of marital strategies, sexual tourism, prostitution, transnational relationships and more unusual situations, the authors show the fluid line separating mercantile and non-commercial sexuality. Their ethnographic perspective reveals to what extent the boundaries between conscious strategies and unconscious motivations in people’s behaviours, interests, feelings, calculations and affects are tenuous. The power struggles that determine the structure of sexual exchanges, in particular through racial, generational, class and/or sexual-orientation factors, are intricately interlocked.

- Very close observations about the diverse situations related to sexual transactions
- Against the stigma of prostitution
- Against the distinction between “commercial” sexuality and “ordinary” sexuality

Release date: 14 November 2014 • Collection: “Cas de figure”, 34
ISBN 978-2-7132-2459-1 • €17 (provisional price)

Les intermittences du temps
Lire Alphonse Dupront
[the interminence of time: reading Alphonse Dupront]
Sylvio Hermann De Franceschi

Alphonse Dupront (1905-1990) was a great historian of the Crusades and their myths; his work continues to surprise. This intellectual biography, the first dedicated to him, retraces his career and contextualises his ideas, conveying how he came to develop such a singular approach and body of writing. In constant dialogue with contemporaries such as Lucien Febvre, Marc Bloch and Fernand Braudel, Alphonse Dupront stood out fundamentally from them through his refusal to discontinue event-oriented history and his recognition that historians’ subjectivity brings validity to their analyses. Reproducing a whole series of forgotten comparisons, this intellectual and archaeological essay is a brilliant introduction to an original body of work and to a generation of thinkers affected by the consequences of both world wars.

- The first intellectual biography dedicated to Alphonse Dupront
- The portrait of a whole generation of intellectuals during the interwar period
- Subjectivity and historicity: the existentialist crossroads

Release date: 9 October 2014 • Collection: “En temps et lieux”, 53
ISBN 978-2-7132-2454-6 • €26

Les maîtres des funérailles
Ce que danser veut dire
[the funeral masters: what dancing means]
Franck Beuvier

At funerals in western Cameroon, traditional dance associations present songs, dances and performances that sometimes include eccentric or even protesting behaviour. These events, led by young Bamileke men who are excluded from the chieftdom, constitute a complete social phenomenon and explore the contemporary history of the country. The artistic performances shed light on little-known historical situations – integration into colonial society, the founding of urban chieftdoms, the arrival of entertainment quality labels, and the main features of government cultural policies and political construction in the years after independence. They also underscore just how much modern values and the legacy of the past are deeply interwoven.

- The role of associations in a nation-state, in Africa and beyond
- A new perspective on the impact of colonisation
- How artistic performances reveal the history of a country

Release date: 28 November 2014 • Collection: “En temps & lieux”, 56
ISBN 978-2-7132-2457-7 • €26 (provisional price)
Indianité et Créolité à l’île Maurice
[Indianness and Creoleness in Mauritius]
Catherine SERVAN-SCHREIBER (eds.)

This anthology retraces Nathan Wachtel’s research path from Andean studies to Marrano studies and highlights his interest in combining methods and problematics from history and anthropology. By continually moving back and forth between archives and fieldwork, he closely blends ethnographic research and an analysis of historical documents to produce – in keeping with the spirit of Annales – a complete history, and to explain and understand the past while recognising its poignant vestiges in the present. The field of historical anthropology unfolds within this indefinite movement between the past and the present, events and structures, individual destinies and collective constraints.

November 2014 • Collection: “Hautes Études” (with Gallimard/Seuil)
ISBN 978-2-02-109810-5 • €29 • Foreign rights: Seuil

Le Pari-de-Pascal
Étude littéraire d’une série d’énonciations
[Pascal’s Wager: literary analysis of a series of enunciations]
Alain CANTILLON

How does a piece of writing really come into existence over the course of time? How were the illegible jottings in an unfinished manuscript transformed into a text deemed a literary masterpiece? How did the Pensées unfold over time? Through what channels did they reach the present day? How have this development and journey shaped the text and given it its full force? Examining concrete examples of textual idealisation procedures, Alain Cantillon reveals the continuous and very tightly intertwined enunciations (versions and commentaries) that have ceaselessly, and necessarily unsuccessfully, endeavoured to reproduce the authentic text. Such work has continued to place this series of enunciations in the topicality of social and political life.

September 2014 • Collection: “Contexte” (with Vrin)

Des vases pour les Athéniens
[Vases for Athenians (6th-4th century BC)]

In recent decades, the foreign customers for pottery from the Kerameikos have been a focus of ceramological and iconographic studies. Mètis examines the painted vases produced at the Kerameikos and used by Athenians at different moments of their lives, whether for daily use or social and religious rites. The collected materials come exclusively from Athens, from old or recent excavations and from various contexts: shrines, necropolises, dwellings and civic spaces. This collection constitutes the starting point for constructing a new “city of images” in accordance with the visual culture shared by the potter, painter and customer. Their direct relationship sheds light on the creative process itself; at the intersection of the client’s taste and requirements, and the craftsman’s skills and imagination.

November 2014 • Collection: “Mètis”
ISBN 978-2-7132-2462-1 • €40
Other titles: http://editions.ehess.fr/collections/metis/
La distinction des savoirs
[distinguishing types of knowledge]
Bernard WALLISER (ed.)

Expert and ordinary knowledge are compared through an exploration of the often blurry and permeable line separating them. Expert knowledge is created in academic settings and lays claim to the qualities of coherence and truth. Common or ordinary knowledge is produced by the media, the professions and the general public and exhibits properties conditioned by its everyday use. The first type of knowledge influences the second through a process of popularisation; the second inspires the first through a process of specialisation. These processes, illustrated through ten cases, cannot converge.

February 2015 • Collection: “Enquête”

Trésor, mémoire, merveilles
Les objets des églises au Moyen Âge
[treasures, memory and marvels: ecclesiastical objects from the Middle Age]
Philippe CORDEZ

Ecclesiastical objects have not always been considered works of art or objects of sacred art. While they feature in exhibitions as *ars sacra*, in reality this notion dates back only to the 19th and 20th centuries and the development of museums. As manifestations of a Christian view of the world during the Middle Ages, they became historical and museum objects in the contemporary era. How did this shift occur and under what circumstances? How have mediaeval ecclesiastical objects themselves contributed to determine later scientific and museological practices? While offering a history of the notion of “treasure” in Western Christianity and presenting the memorial aspect of ecclesiastical objects in the Middle Ages, this study provides readers with a veritable archaeology of current museographical practices.

February 2015 • Collection: “L’histoire et ses representations”, 10

Les usages de la coutume.
Traditions et résistances populaires en Angleterre XVIIe-XIXe siècles
[uses of customs: traditions and popular resistance in 17th-to-19th-century England]
E.P. THOMPSON
Translated from English by Jean Boutier and Arundhati Virmani

February 2015 • Collection: “Hautes Études”

Quel âge post-séculier?
Religions, sciences et démocraties
[what post-secular age?: religions, sciences and democracies]
Joan STAVO-DEBAUGE, Philippe GONZALES & Roberto FREGA (eds.)

In recent years, the place of religion in liberal democracies has been the subject of debate among intellectuals. While some have spoken of a secular age and others of a “post-secular society”, the very process of the secularisation of the public sphere has at times been questioned. More specifically, the relationships among religions, sciences and democracies have been examined. By deliberately using the plural form of these terms to indicate that different forms of religion, several kinds of sciences and various conceptions of democracy exist, the contributions brought together in this volume probe these relationships and this plurality. Readers will discover the French translations of several texts by John Dewey on anti-naturalism and religion, contributions by contemporary pragmatists, and studies on the public role of faith and on challenges to the epistemic authority of science in the United States, Europe and North Africa.

February 2015 • Collection: “Raisons pratiques”, 24