



DLMPST/IUHPST
Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology
of the **International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology**

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Intermediaries between the Two Cultures

Part of the European Research Report for the World Humanities Report (CIPSH/UNESCO)

The *Division for Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology* (DLMPST) is a member of the *Conseil International de Philosophie et des Science Humaines* (CIPSH) and is also represented (jointly with its sister Division, the *Division for History of Science and Technology*, DHST) in the *International Science Council* (ISC).

The fields covered by the Division's scope, logic and philosophy of science and technology, have a long tradition of being invested in the discourses and academic traditions of both the humanities and the sciences, including the natural, social, and bio-medical sciences. For centuries, **logic** was firmly established as a part of the core of philosophy; the nineteenth century saw the development of mathematical logic through the work of George Boole, Augustus De Morgan, Charles Sanders Pierce, Gottlob Frege, and Ernst Schröder. Mathematical logic became one of the tools of understanding the foundational disagreements in the *Grundlagenkrise* in the early twentieth century; during the course of the twentieth century, it transformed into a separate and independent subfield of mathematics, never losing touch with its foundational and philosophical traditions. In contrast, **philosophy of science and technology** is a genuinely philosophical enterprise, driven by philosophical concerns about scientific and technological practices and methods. But it is impossible to contribute deep reflections on methods and procedures without experience or intimate connection to them, and thus philosophers of science and technology tend to be close to the practitioners of science or technology: many philosophers have a research background in science or technology, many are regularly involved in the academic training of practitioners of science or technology, and all of them are in exchange with the science or technology they study.

As a consequence, the academics the Division represents quite naturally live on the border between Lord Snow's *Two Cultures* and regularly traverse it in their work as researchers and academic teachers. Hence, the Division is particularly worried about any developments that drive a wedge between the humanities and the sciences, from political decisions to put humanities and sciences in opposition with each other (e.g., Australia's recent decision to change the university fee structure in a way that disproportionately negatively affects the humanities) via rigid funding or institutional structures that make it hard to do boundary-crossing research to implicit or explicit decisions to exclude voices from other disciplines in academic discourse.

The past decades have shown that scientific and technological advances are changing our lives fundamentally, radically, and quickly. In order to protect society from unintended negative side effects of these substantive changes, it is crucial to engage scientists and humanities scholars in an open debate deliberating about the opportunities, dangers, limitations, and possibilities of modern science and technology.

In the past years, the Division has forcefully and vocally defended the view within the *International Science Council* that international committees that debate about development of science and adoption of technologies should include humanistically trained voices. Similarly, any debate about the future of the humanities cannot exclude experts on science and technologies that will have an essential and lasting effect on this future. As intermediaries between the Two Cultures, logicians and philosophers of science and technology can play a crucial role in these discussions.

Durham & Hamburg, 20 July 2020

Nancy Cartwright & Benedikt Löwe