

Scott A. Walter

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Research Activities and Interests

My research focuses on the history and philosophy of the physical and mathematical sciences and technologies from 1800 to 2000. Founder and editor of the Henri Poincaré Papers website, I led a team of scholars that edited Poincaré's correspondence with physicists, chemists, and engineers (Birkhäuser, 2007), and with astronomers and geodesists (Birkhäuser, 2016). I am a member of the Atlantic Center for Philosophy (CAPHI), and pursue research projects in four areas: (1) statistical astronomy, stellar dynamics and cosmology in the early twentieth century; (2) wireless communication sciences from 1900 to 1930; (3) foundations of Henri Poincaré's geometric conventionalism; (4) critical edition of Poincaré's research notebooks.

Positions

- 2015+ **Professor**, Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Nantes
- 2013–2015 **Adjunct Professor of Scientific Humanities**, SciencesPo Paris, Franco-German Campus, Nancy
- 2012–2015 **Associate Professor**, Department of philosophy, University of Lorraine
- 2001–2011 **Associate Professor**, Department of philosophy, University Nancy 2
- 1999–2001 **Assistant Professor**, Department of philosophy, University Nancy 2
- 1998–1999 **CNRS-Max Planck Gesellschaft postdoctoral fellow**, Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin
- 1992–1995 **MESR predoctoral fellow**, REHSEIS, CNRS, Paris
- 1992–1993 **Adjunct Professor of Computer Science**, Schiller International University, Paris
- 1989 **R&D project director**, Kis, Grenoble
- 1985–1988 **Staff research scientist**, Computer Science Department GM Research Laboratories, Warren Technical Center

Select Honors

- 2016 Resident scholar, Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology, National Museum of American History, Washington, DC, one month
- 2013 Resident scholar, Dibner Library, two months
- 2011–2012 Research sabbatical, Univ. Nancy 2 (fall semester)
- 2008 Visiting fellow, Erwin Schrödinger International Institute for Mathematics and Physics, Vienna, two weeks
- 2007–2009 CNRS research fellow, affiliated with the Henri-Poincaré Archives (UMR 7117)
- 2004–2005 Research sabbatical, Univ. Nancy 2 (fall semester)

Principal Investigator

- 2010–2014 **PI**, Electronic edition of mathematical manuscripts (eManMath), Maison des sciences de l'homme Lorraine
- 2007–2011 **PI**, Sources of 20th-century mathematical knowledge (SSM20), ANR, project ANR-06-CORP-0027
- 2008–2011 **PI**, Henri Poincaré Correspondence Project, Maison des Sciences de l'homme Lorraine
- 2000–2003 **PI**, Henri Poincaré Correspondence Project, Lorraine Region

Postdoctoral Supervision

- 2010–2011 Olivier Bruneau, history of mathematics
- 2010–2011 Amirouche Moktefi, history of mathematics, history of modern logic
- 2007–2009 Martina Schiavon, history of 19th-century geodesy
- 2006–2008 Ralph Krömer, history of mathematics

Doctoral supervision

- 2021+ Corentin Fève, The neo-Kantian reception of relativity theory, University of Nantes, ELICC doctoral program
- 2019+ Nadia Tronche, The discovery of Trojan asteroids: astrodynamics and cosmogony in the 20th century, University of Nantes, ELICC doctoral program

Master's Thesis Supervision

Current

- 2021–2022 Fanny Aici, Les recherches sur les ondes gravitationnelles en France (Master 2)
- 2021–2022 Matthieu Boutier, Les contributions d'Henri Poincaré au calcul des probabilités (Master 2)

Past

- 2020–2021 Thomas Marcou, L'édition critique de la deuxième partie du Mémoire sur les courbes définies par une équation différentielle d'Henri Poincaré (Master 1)
- 2018–2019 Éloïse Boisseau, La machine de Turing : une approche philosophique (Master 1)
- 2017–2018 Nadia Tronche, Les astéroïdes troyens: un concept mathématique devenu un objectif spatial (Master 2)

Editorial Activities

- 2015–2018 Editorial board, *Cahiers François Viète*
- 2012+ Editorial board, *Histoires de géométries*, Presses universitaires de Nancy
- 2011+ Scientific board, Max Planck Research Library for the History and Development of Knowledge
- 2009+ Editorial board, *Documents for the History of Mathematics*, Universitätsverlag Göttingen
- 2003–2005 Book review editor, *Historia Mathematica*
- 2002+ Founder and editor, *Henri Poincaré Papers*
- 2000–2015 Editorial board, *Philosophia Scientiæ*

1999+ Manuscript reviewer for American Journal of Physics, Archive for History of Exact Science, Chirality, Erkenntnis, Foundations of Physics, International Studies in the Philosophy of Science, Isis, Philosophia Scientiæ, Physics Essays, Revue d'histoire des mathématiques, Revue d'histoire des sciences, Science in Context, Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics, Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, and Zentralblatt MATH

Academic Leadership

- 2020+ Member, Atlantic Center for Philosophy (CAPHI, EA 7463)
- 2017–2022 Steering committee, Research coordination network: Developing an Integrative Approach to Computational and Digital History and Philosophy of Science, National Science Foundation
- 2017–2018 Council member, doctoral school Societies, temporalities, territories, Université Bretagne Loire
- 2016–2018 Director, François-Viète Center for Epistemology and History of Science and Technology, Nantes-Brest
- 2016–2017 Council member, doctoral school 496, Societies, cultures, exchange, Nantes-Angers-Le Mans
- 2016–2018 Commission for Humanities (SHS) of the Regional Consultative Committee for Research and Technological Development (CCRRTD), Loire Region
- 2015–2016 Deputy director, François-Viète Center, Nantes
- 2013+ Co-chair, Digital-HPS
- 2012+ Steering committee, Digital-HPS
- 2012–2015 Executive council (alternate), Doctoral school Stanislas, University of Lorraine
- 2009–2015 Director of graduate studies in philosophy and history of science, University of Lorraine
- 2009–2012 Executive council (alternate), Doctoral school “Language, Time, Society”, University Nancy 2
- 2007–2014 Executive council, UFR Connaissance de l'homme, University of Nancy 2
- 2004+ Scientific council, Archives Jules Vuillemin
- 2000–2015 Executive council, Henri Poincaré Archives (CNRS), Nancy
- 2000–2015 Co-director of the research group “Archives, Corpora, Scientific Institutions and Societies” with 11 full-time-equivalent members, Henri-Poincaré Archives (CNRS, UMR 7117)
- 2000–2002 Director, Department of philosophy, University Nancy 2

Academic Committees, National and International

- 2021–2025 Member (appointed, alternate), French National University Council, section 72: epistemology, history of science and technology
- 2021 Member, French National Delegation, IUHPST/DHST (International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology/Division of History of Science and Technology)
- 2021 External expert, French National Research Agency, program on culture, creation, and patrimony (CE27)
- 2018-2019 Expert, Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Insight Grants in philosophy

- 2018–2019 Member, French National Research Agency, program on the digital revolution in knowledge and culture (CE38)
- 2018+ Expert, Israel Science Foundation
- 2018 Expert, French National University Council, section 72: epistemology, history of science
- 2017–2018 Expert, French High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES). Evaluation of CNRS units 7219 (SPHERE, Paris) and 8560 (Centre Alexandre Koyré, Paris)
- 2016+ Expert, Ikerbasque Foundation for Science
- 2012+ Expert, Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca
- 2012 Member, Henri Poincaré Centennial 1912–2012, Scientific committee presided by Cédric Villani
- 2008 Member, Beyond Einstein congress, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, 21-26 September, 2008
- 2005 Einstein: Chief Engineer of the Universe, exhibition organized by the Max-Planck-Institute for History of Science at the Kronprinzenpalais, Berlin, May-October, 2005

Media and Outreach

- 2016-05-09 Interview on the history of light, published on the website Culture Sciences
- 2011-04-17 Interview on the history and philosophy of robotics, aired on a TV newsmagazine, France 3
- 2007-08-15 The Spell of the Poincaré Conjecture. Documentary film (110 min) produced by NHK Tokyo, directed by M. Kasuga
- 2005-11-14 It's All Relative, Professor Poincaré. Documentary film (26 min) directed by Philippe Thomine. Scientific advisory board member. Streaming video.
- 2002-06-09 Le monde est-il mathématique? 52-minute documentary by Philippe Thomine. N° 4 in the series "Sciences et philosophie." Aired on les Amphis de France 5. Consultant, in collaboration with G. Heinzmann. Streaming video.
- 2007-03-27 Interview on the notion of time, aired on a French TV newsmagazine, France 3
- 1997 Whitney Museum, New York, exhibition consultant for "Making Mischief: Dada invades New York"

Diplomas

- 2008 Habilitation in Letters and Humanities, University of Nancy 2
- 1996 Ph.D. in Epistemology and History of the Exact Sciences, University of Paris 7 Denis Diderot
- 1992 D.E.A. in Epistemology and History of the Exact Sciences, University of Paris 7 Denis Diderot
- 1990 Licence de philosophie, University of Paris 8
- 1985 B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University

Professional Affiliations

- French Society for the History of Science and Technology
- French Society for Astronomy & Astrophysics

European Society for the History of Science
History of Science Society
Society for History of Technology

Publications

Publications page <http://scottwalter.free.fr/papers/8pubsen.html>
Google Scholar <https://scholar.google.fr/citations?user=4HdK00EAAAAJ>
HAL https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/search/index/q/%2A/contributorId_i/117385/sort/producedDate_tdate+desc/
isidore https://isidore.science/a/walter_scott
ResearchGate https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Scott_Walter3
ORCID <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-7492-9790>
zbMATH <https://zbmath.org/authors/?s=0&q=ai%3Awalter.scott>
Web of Science <http://www.researcherid.com/rid/A-8750-2008>
Academia.edu <https://univ-nantes.academia.edu/ScottWalter>
Microsoft Academic <https://academic.microsoft.com/profile/3684j5ie-f446-4g76-eg79-i1562824f0h3/swalter62/publication/search?q=Scott%20Walter&qe=%2540%2540%2540USER.PUBLICATIONS%253D3684f5ea-b446-4c76-ac79-e1562824b0d3&f=&orderBy=1>
PhilPapers <https://philpapers.org/s/scott%20a.%20walter>
MathSciNet <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet/search/publications.html?pg1=INDI&s1=620614>