


The two-day workshop **“Down-to-Earth Chemistry: between the Country and the City (1740-1840)”** focuses on the historical links between chemistry and agriculture. It takes as its analytical starting point the ways in which agricultural chemistry and chemically based agricultural practices built on interrelations between the urban and the rural. Participants will pay close attention to the different sites of experimentation and material production both in the countryside and in the city – laboratories, manufactories, botanical and private gardens, model or demonstration farms, stately homes, workers institutes, and agricultural societies. They will examine site-specific chemical practices, the interactions between different sites, the formative effects of those interactions, and the circulation of materials, objects and chemical actors within these settings.

This approach will allow a number of questions to be raised. What were the site-bound differences and synergies? How did rural settings –and their relations to the city serve in the construction of chemical knowledge? How did productive sites influence written chemical knowledge? Participants will also pose questions about the circulation of materials, objects and people: How did educated urbanites engage with rural practices? What role did agricultural practitioners play in the production of academic knowledge? What happened along the blurred frontier between the city and the country where urban wastes accumulated and polluting manufactories were set up? How did the circulation of knowledge, experimental practices, and chemistry professionals interact with issues of governance and vested economic interests?



Down-to-Earth Chemistry: Between the Country and the City

27 Februar - 1 March 2014

Organization:

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Thursday, 27 February

14:30 Introduction

15:00 **Coffee break**

15:15-17:30 **Joppe van Driel, Twente University:**
Ashes to ashes: eighteenth-century waste fertilization and the rise of agricultural chemistry in Holland.
Emily Pawley, Dickinson College:
Accounting with the Fields: Chemistry and Value in Nutriment in American Agricultural Improvement, 1835-1860.

Chair: Francesca Bray, University of Edinburgh

19:30 **Dinner**

Friday, 28 February

9.00-10.30 **Elena Serrano, MPIWG Berlin:**
Women and chemistry in the Spanish 18th century countryside.
John Christie, Oxford University:
Chemistry, agriculture and the rural economy in 18th century Scotland.

Chair: John Perkins, Oxford University

10:30 **Coffee break**

11:00-12:30 **Frank James, Royal Institution, London:**
Humphry Davy and the British board of agriculture.
John Stewart, University of Oklahoma:
The readings and practices of the tenant and crofter class farmers in Scotland and England.

Chair: Ursula Klein, MPIWG Berlin

12:30 **Catered lunch at MPIWG**

13:30-15:00 **Peter Jones:** Mathieu de Dombasle and Sugar from Beet: Science, Technology, Agriculture and Politics, 1801-1822.
Samir Boumediene, MPIWG Berlin:
From the Andean Forests to the Madrid Royal Pharmacy: Prospecting and Controlling Peruvian bark during the 18th century.

Chair: Lissa Roberts, Twente University

15:00 **Coffee break**

15:30-17:30 **Matthew Eddy, University of Durham:**
The Radical Science? Chemistry, Education and Ideology in Britain, 1790-1820.
Rachel Dunn, University of Durham:
How John Dalton Used Visualization in Chemistry.
Robert Anderson, Cambridge University:
Creating Collections for Teaching Science in Workers' Institutes.

Chair: Ernst Homburg, Maastricht University

19:30 **Conference Dinner**

Saturday, 1 March

10:00-10:45: Final commentary
John Perkins, Oxford University:
Digitalization project.
Lissa Roberts, Twente University:

Looking forward to Florence.

10:45-12:00: General discussion

12:00 **Catered lunch at MPIWG**

13:00-14:30 Results and Prospects

