

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 from 1800 to 2000. Founder and editor of the Henri Poincaré Papers website, I led collaborations in the edition of 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), where I pursue projects in the history of celestial mechanics, astrophysics, relativity and quantum mechanics in the early 20th century.

Positions

- 2015+ **Professor**, Faculty of Science and Technology, Nantes University
- 2013–2015 **Lecturer in Scientific Humanities**, SciencesPo Paris, Franco-German Campus, Nancy
- 1999–2015 **Assistant to Associate Professor**, Department of philosophy, University Nancy 2/University of Lorraine
- 1998–1999 **CNRS-Max Planck Gesellschaft postdoctoral fellow**, Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin
- 1992–1995 **MESR predoctoral fellow**, REHSEIS, CNRS, Paris
- 1992–1993 **Lecturer in 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 Fellowships and Invitations

- 2022 Invited Professor, Graduate Program in Philosophy of Science, Université nationale autonome du Mexique (UNAM)
- 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 Ralf Krömer, history of mathematics

Doctoral supervision

- 2022+ Philippe Katz, Henri Poincaré and the limits to Newton’s law, 1906–1907, Nantes University, ECLIS doctoral program
- 2021+ Corentin Fève, The neo-Kantian reception of relativity theory, Nantes University, ECLIS doctoral program

Master’s Thesis Supervision

Current

- 2025–2026 Alexis Lambert, Questions à propos de l’intelligence artificielle dans l’oeuvre de R. Ruyer et de D. Dennett
- 2024–2026 Ambroise Evano, Une comparaison épistémologique entre les conventions de Henri Poincaré et les principes constitutifs de Moritz Schlick

Past

- 2023–2025 Marie-Caroline Decuiserie, L’évolution des espèces entre Charles Darwin et George Howard Darwin (Master 2)
- 2022–2023 Philippe Katz, Une édition critique du cours d’Henri Poincaré sur les limites de la loi de Newton (Master 2)
- 2021–2022 Fanny Aici, Les recherches sur les ondes gravitationnelles en Europe (Master 2)
- 2021–2022 Matthieu Boutier, Les contributions d’Henri Poincaré au calcul des probabilités (Master 2)
- 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)
- 2016–2017 Alice Pastor, La contribution des travaux de Vera Rubin dans la découverte de la matière noire (Master 2)
- 2013–2014 Manon Lagarde, Kahneman et la prise de décision: d’une théorie économique vers une mise en perspective philosophique (Master 2)

Reviewing

- 2022+ Reviewer, Mathematical Reviews (MathSciNet)
- 2015–2017 Reviewer, Zentralblatt MATH

- 1999+ Referee for *Advances in Mathematical Physics*, *American Journal of Physics*, *Archive for History of Exact Science*, *Chirality*, *Erkenntnis*, *European Physical Journal H*, *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*, and *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*
- 2016+ Grant agencies, International: Canada, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Insight Grants in philosophy; Israel, Israel Science Foundation; Italy, Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca; Spain, Ikerbasque Foundation for Science; National: HCERES, evaluation of CNRS units 7219 (SPHERE, Paris) and 8560 (Centre Alexandre Koyré, Paris); ANR, program on culture, creation, and patrimony (CE27)
- 2000+ Manuscript advisor for physics, Springer Verlag
- 2015+ Ad hoc external review: tenure and promotion evaluation (France, Israel, Spain)

Editorial

- 2015–2018 Editorial board, *Cahiers François Viète*
- 2012–2023 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*

Academic Committees, National and International

- 2025 French National Delegation, IUHPST/DHST (International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology/Division of History of Science and Technology)
- 2024–2028 Secretary, CNFHPST, French National Committee on History and Philosophy of Science and Technology
- 2021–2028 Member (appointed: 2021–2023, elected: 2024–2028), French National University Council, section 72: epistemology, history of science and technology
- 2021 French National Delegation, IUHPST/DHST (International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology/Division of History of Science and Technology)
- 2018–2019 Scientific committee, French National Research Agency, program on the digital revolution in knowledge and culture (CE38)
- 2012 Scientific committee presided by Cédric Villani, Henri Poincaré Centennial 1912–2012
- 2008 Scientific committee, Beyond Einstein congress, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, 21–26 September, 2008
- 2005 Scientific committee, Einstein: Chief Engineer of the Universe, exhibition organized by the Max-Planck-Institute for History of Science at the Kronprinzenpalais, Berlin, May–October, 2005

Academic Service

- 2020+ Member, Atlantic Center for Philosophy (CAPHI, UR 7463)
- 2025–2028 Council member, research network ELIT: Elaborating Interdisciplinarity with SSH

- 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 (CCRRDT), Loire Region
- 2015–2016 Deputy director, François-Viète Center, Nantes
- 2013–2014 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

Media and Outreach

- 2025 Interview on the history of experiments in quantum physics for the centennial of the discovery of quantum mechanics, *Science & Vie* Hors série n°318: “Quantique: les nouvelles promesses,” février 2025
- 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.
- 2007-03-27 Interview on the notion of time, aired on a French TV newsmagazine, France 3
- 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.
- 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 nationale de philosophie, University of Paris 8
- 1985 B.S. and M.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Stanford University

Professional Affiliations

International Astronomical Union
European Astronomical Society
French Society for Astronomy & Astrophysics
French Society for the History of Science and Technology
European Society for the History of Science
History of Science Society

Publications

Publications page <http://scottwalter.free.fr/papers/8pubsen.html>

Google Scholar <https://scholar.google.fr/citations?user=4HdKOOEAAAAJ>

HAL https://nantes-universite.hal.science/CAPHI/search/index/?q=*&authIdPerson_i=6058

isidore https://isidore.science/a/walter_scott

ResearchGate https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Scott_Walter3

ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7492-9790>

zbMATH <https://zbmath.org/authors/?s=0&q=ai%3Awalter.scott>

Academia.edu <https://un-nantes.academia.edu/ScottAWalter>

PhilPapers <https://philpapers.org/s/scott%20a.%20walter>

MathSciNet <https://mathscinet.ams.org/mathscinet/MRAuthorID/620614>

Web of Science Researcher Id: A-8750-2008