

Ryan Dahn

American Institute of Physics
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EMPLOYMENT

- 2024– Senior Associate Editor, *Physics Today*, American Institute of Physics, College Park, MD
- 2020–24 Books Editor, *Physics Today*, American Institute of Physics, College Park, MD
- 2019–20 Fellow in Residence, Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Philadelphia

EDUCATION

- 2019 PhD. Committee on the Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science, with highest honors, University of Chicago
Dissertation: The Forgotten Founder of Quantum Mechanics: The Science and Politics of Physicist Pascual Jordan, 1902–1980
Adviser: Robert J. Richards
- 2013 MA. History, University of Chicago
- 2011 BA. History, with honors, Princeton University

PUBLICATIONS

Book manuscripts

(In preparation) *Nazi Entanglement: Pascual Jordan, Quantum Mechanics, and the Legacy of the Third Reich*

Peer-reviewed articles

- January 2023 “Nazis, Émigrés, and Abstract Mathematics,” *Physics Today* 76, no. 1: 44–50
- June 2022 “The Farm Hall Transcripts: The Smoking Gun That Wasn’t,” *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte* 45, no. 1–2: 202–18

March 2019 "Big Science, Nazified? Pascual Jordan, Adolf Meyer-Abich, and the Abortive Scientific Journal *Physis*," *Isis* 110, no. 1: 68–90

Book reviews

April 2023 Alexei Kojevnikov, *The Copenhagen Network: The Birth of Quantum Mechanics from a Postdoctoral Perspective* (Springer, 2020), *Physics Today* 76, no. 4: 49–50

March 2017 Jan Rüger and Nikolaus Wachsmann, eds., *Rewriting German History: New Perspectives on Modern Germany* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), H-Net Online

Popular articles (selected)

Apr 12, 2024 "[The high-profile contest to explain Einstein](#)," *Physics Today*

Mar 29, 2024 "[The many lives of an 11th-century astrolabe](#)," *Physics Today*

Aug 17, 2023 "[Why the fascination with Oppenheimer?](#)" *Physics Today*

Mar 10, 2023 "[Gravitation's attraction, 50 years later](#)," *Physics Today*

Jan 4, 2023 "[The uncertain art of reconstructing history](#)," *Physics Today*

May 19, 2022 "[The elusive truth of Farm Hall](#)," *Physics Today*

Aug 26, 2021 "[Analyzing Einstein's handwriting](#)," *Physics Today*

Jan 7, 2021 "[A tribute to educational TV](#)" (contribution about *Bill Nye the Science Guy*), *Physics Today*

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2020 Research Fellowship, Science History Institute, (September to December, declined)

2020 Finalist, Society of Fellows, Princeton University

2020 Travel Grant, Central European History Society (postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic)

2020 Scholar-in-Residence, Deutsches Museum, Munich (May to July, postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic)

2019–21 Teaching Fellow, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago (declined)

2018–19 Visiting Scholar, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania

- 2018–19 Fishbein Fellowship, Morris Fishbein Center for the History of Science and Medicine, University of Chicago
- 2016 Visiting Predoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (January to August)
- 2015–16 Graduate Research Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- 2012–18 Five-Year Graduate Fellowship, Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago (on reserve 2015–16)
- 2011 Horace H. Wilson '25 Senior Thesis Prize for Best Thesis in the Field of History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, History Department, Princeton University
- 2011 Travel Funding for Independent Senior Thesis Research, History Department, Princeton University
- 2010 Book Prize, German Department, Princeton University

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 “Nazis, Émigrés, and Abstract Mathematics: The Strange Story of Pascual Jordan’s Eponymous Algebra, 1933–1939,” Science History Institute, Philadelphia, November 8
- 2019 “The Forgotten Founder of Quantum Mechanics: The Science and Politics of Physicist Pascual Jordan,” Einstein Papers Project, California Institute of Technology, March 4
- 2017 “Denazification in Postwar German Physics: The Case of Pascual Jordan,” Physical Sciences Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Philadelphia, September 21
- 2017 “An Unlikely Collaboration: The Geopolitical Context of Pascual Jordan’s Eponymous Algebra,” Global Mathematics Symposium, 25th International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 23–29
- 2017 “Finding the Forgotten Founder of Quantum Mechanics; or how I became a Historian of Science,” Summer Science Program, University of Colorado, Boulder, July 6
- 2016 “Pascual Jordan, the Göttingen Eighteen, and the 1957 West German Elections,” University of Cambridge, History and Philosophy of Science

Reading Group,
June 10

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Panels organized

- 2018 “Usable Pasts: Historical Memory in Modern Science,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Seattle, November 1–4 (co-organized with Benjamin Wilson)
- 2017 “Marking the Other: Speech, Archetype and Deviance in Europe, 1900–1960,” German Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, October 5–8 (co-organized with Katya Motyl)

Papers presented

- 2021 “The Use and Abuse of (Nuclear) History: Farm Hall in Historical Memory,” American Physical Society March Meeting, March 15–19
- 2020 “Aryan Physics after Hitler,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, October 8–11 (postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- 2018 “Pascual Jordan, the Cold War, and Remembrance of Nazi Pasts,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Seattle, November 1–4
- 2017 “‘An Unbelievably Queer Duck’: The Physicist Pascual Jordan and his Stammer,” German Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, October 5–8
- 2016 “Biophysics in the Third Reich: The Curious Case of *Physis*,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 3–6
- 2016 “Pascual Jordan, the Göttingen Eighteen, and the 1957 West German Elections,” American Institute of Physics Early-Career Conference for Historians of the Physical Sciences, Annapolis, Maryland, April 6–10

DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- 2020 “Pascual Jordan, Quantum Mechanics, and the Legacy of the Third Reich,” Fellows Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, February 6
- 2017 “Denazification and Rehabilitation in West German Science: The Case of Physicist Pascual Jordan,” Transnational Approaches to Modern Europe Workshop, University of Chicago, November 8

- 2017 "The Denazification and Reinvention of the Physicist Pascual Jordan, 1945–1953," Fishbein Workshop in the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, University of Chicago, May 19
- 2017 "Pascual Jordan, Adolf Meyer-Abich, and the Abortive Scientific Journal *Physis*," Transnational Approaches to Modern Europe Workshop, University of Chicago, January 25
- 2016 "Pascual Jordan, the Göttingen Eighteen, and the 1957 West German Elections," Fishbein Workshop in the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, University of Chicago, May 20
- 2014 "The Nuclear Anthropocene: A West German Case Study," Fishbein Workshop in the History of the Human Sciences, University of Chicago, May 2

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Temple University, Instructor

History of Nazi Germany Spring 2020

Stevens Institute of Technology, Instructor

Computers and Society (2 sections) Fall 2019

University of Chicago, Instructor

Scientists and the Political Sphere in Six Germanys, 1871–Present (self-designed) Spring 2017

University of Chicago, Teaching assistant

Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization III: Modern Science Spring 2015

Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization III: History of Medicine I Winter 2015

Science, Culture, and Society in Western Civilization II Fall 2014

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

University of Chicago

Coordinator, History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science Workshop, 2017–18

Coordinator, History of the Human Sciences Workshop, 2017–18

Organizer, Nuclear Reactions Lecture Series (commemorating 75th anniversary of first artificial nuclear reactor), 2017

Departmental Representative, Social Sciences Graduate Activities Committee, 2013–15

LANGUAGES

German, fluent reading and speaking

Russian, first-year reading

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

History of Science Society; German Studies Association; Central European History Society;
American Physical Society

REFERENCES

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