

Melinda Baldwin
Curriculum Vitae

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Current Position

2020-present **AIP Endowed Professor in History of Natural Sciences, Department of History**, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Previous Positions

2016-2020 **Senior Editor, *Physics Today***, American Institute of Physics, College Park, MD

2013-2016 **Lecturer, Department of the History of Science**, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2012-2013 **Sarton Visiting Scholar, American Academy of Arts & Sciences**, Cambridge, MA

2010-2012 **Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Humanities (Science and Technology Studies)**, York University, Toronto, Ontario

Education

2007-2010 **Ph.D., History**, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Dissertation title: “*Nature* and the making of a scientific community, 1869-1939”
Committee Members: Michael Gordin, Angela Creager, Anthony Grafton, Bernard Lightman

2005-2007 **M.A., History**, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Examination fields: Modern Science, The Scientific Revolution, Nineteenth-Century Europe

2004-2005 **M.Phil., History and Philosophy of Science**, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Supervisors: John Forrester, Lauren Kassel, Simon Schaffer
Dissertation title: “‘Hanged by a Microscope:’ The Founding of London’s Metropolitan Police Laboratory”

2000-2004 **Bachelor of Science**, Davidson College, Davidson, NC
Chemistry/History double major
Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, high honors in history

Book

Melinda Baldwin, *Making Nature: The History of a Scientific Journal* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015).

Research Articles

Melinda Baldwin, “The business of being an editor: Norman Lockyer, Macmillan and Company, and the editorship of *Nature*, 1869–1919,” *Centaurus* 62 no. 1 (2020): 111–124.

Melinda Baldwin, “Scientific Autonomy, Public Accountability, and the Rise of ‘Peer Review’ in the Cold War United States,” *Isis* 109 no. 3 (2018): 538–558.

Melinda Baldwin, “In referees we trust?” *Physics Today* 70 no. 2 (2017): 44–49.

Melinda Baldwin, “Credibility, peer review, and *Nature*, 1939–1990,” *Notes and Records: The Royal Society Journal of the History of Science* 69 no. 3 (2015): 337–352.

Melinda Baldwin, “‘Keeping in the race’: physics, publication speed and national publishing strategies in *Nature*, 1895–1939,” *British Journal for the History of Science* 47 no. 2 (2014): 257–279.

Melinda Baldwin, “Tyndall and Stokes: Correspondence, referee reports, and the physical sciences in Victorian Britain.” Article in Bernard Lightman and Michael Reidy, eds., *The Age of Scientific Naturalism: John Tyndall and His Contemporaries* (London: Pickering and Chatto, 2014), 171–186.

Melinda Baldwin, “The Successors to the X Club? Late Victorian naturalists and *Nature*, 1869–1900.” Article in Gowan Dawson and Bernard Lightman, eds., *Victorian Scientific Naturalism: Community, Identity, Continuity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014), 288–308.

Melinda Baldwin, “The shifting ground of *Nature*: Establishing an organ of scientific communication in Britain, 1869–1900,” *History of Science* 50 no. 2 (2012): 125–154.

Melinda Baldwin, “‘Where are your intelligent mothers to come from?’: Marriage and family in the scientific career of Dame Kathleen Lonsdale FRS (1903–1971),” *Notes and Records of the Royal Society* 63 no. 1 (2009): 81–94.

Merlyn D. Schuh and Melinda Baldwin, “ α -Helix Formation in Melittin and β -Lactoglobulin A Induced by Fluorinated Dialcohols,” *Journal of Physical Chemistry B* 110 no. 22 (2006): 10903–10909.

Edited Volumes

Janet Browne and Melinda Baldwin, eds., *The Correspondence of John Tyndall, Volume 2: 1843–1849* (London: Routledge, 2015). Republished by University of Pittsburgh Press.

Melinda Baldwin and Matthew Wale, eds., *The Correspondence of John Tyndall, Volume 19*. University of Pittsburgh Press; anticipated publication 2024.

Works in Progress

“In referees we trust? How the 1970s changed the conversation about science.” Book project.

“Format: Journals,” in *Information: A Historical Companion*, eds. Ann Blair, Paul Duguid, Anja Goeing, and Anthony Grafton. Princeton University Press; anticipated publication 2020.

Reviews & Professional Articles

Melinda Baldwin, “Peer review,” in *Carnegie Mellon Encyclopedia of the History of Science*, ed. Christopher Phillips. Digital, open-access encyclopedia hosted by Carnegie Mellon University. Available online at <https://lps.library.cmu.edu/ETHOS/article/id/29/>.

Melinda Baldwin, “Commentary: A Perspective from the History of Scientific Journals,” *History of Psychology* 21 no. 4 (2018): 363–368. Part of a special issue on the digital humanities.

Melinda Baldwin, “Victorian Bookshelf: Review of *Novel Science* by Adelene Buckland, *Steam-Powered Knowledge* by Aileen Fyfe, *The Starry Sky Within* by Anna Henschman, and *Visions of Science* by James Secord,” *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 45 no. 4 (2015): 610–620.

Melinda Baldwin, “Researchers Writing for the Public: Review of *Science for All* by Peter J. Bowler,” *Science* 326 no. 5958 (4 December 2009): 1347–1348.

Melinda Baldwin, “Constructivism and Mass-Observation in Britain: Review of *Scientific Moderns* by Boris Jardine,” *Dissertation Reviews* (24 May 2012). Available at <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/1327>.

Melinda Baldwin, “Blogging, Tweeting, and Other Digital Activities: A Beginner’s Guide to the Internet for Early-Career Scholars,” *Newsletter of the History of Science Society* (July 2012). Available at <http://hsonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/July2012Newsletter.pdf>.

Selected Online Articles

Melinda Baldwin, “Tom Lehrer’s memorable ‘Revue’ Session,” *Physics Today* (20 September 2018): <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.4.20180920a/full/>

Melinda Baldwin, “Feynman the joker,” *Physics Today* (11 May 2018): <https://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.6.4.20180511a/full/>

Melinda Baldwin, “What it took to be a NASA computer,” *Physics Today* (24 January 2017): <http://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/10.1063/PT.5.9084/full/>

Melinda Baldwin, “High dilution, homeopathy, and the purpose of the scientific journal,” *Remedia: The History of Medicine* (24 April 2015): <http://remedianetwork.net/2015/04/24/high-dilution-homeopathy-and-the-purpose-of-the-scientific-journal/>.

Melinda Baldwin, “The history of ‘scientist,’” *The Renaissance Mathematicus* (10 July 2014): <http://thonyc.wordpress.com/2014/07/10/the-history-of-scientist/>.

Selected Online Articles (continued)

Melinda Baldwin, “Did Isaac Newton need peer review?” *Zocalo Public Square* (29 April 2014): <http://www.zocalopublicsquare.org/2014/04/29/did-isaac-newton-need-peer-review/ideas/nexus/>.

Melinda Baldwin, “Can Contributors Change Journals?” *AmericanScience* (13 December 2013): <http://americanscience.blogspot.com/2013/12/can-contributors-change-journals.html>.

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2015 History of Science 194v: “Brave New Worlds: Imagining the Futures of Science,” Harvard University
Semester-long seminar exploring the history of science fiction as it relates to the history of science, with particular emphasis on how science fiction reflected and shaped changing social attitudes towards science.
- Fall 2013 & Spring 2015 History of Science 122v: “Science in the Cold War,” Harvard University
Semester-long lecture course on the history of science on both sides of the Berlin Wall during the Cold War, including a corresponding graduate-level course.
- Fall 2014– Fall 2015 History of Science 98: “Junior Tutorial,” Harvard University
Semester-long course aimed at guiding juniors towards producing a research paper based on original primary-source research. As the director of the junior tutorial program, responsible for supervising all students, leading group plenaries on historical methods, and coordinating and supporting teaching assistants.
- Fall 2014 History of Science 129v: “Ether, Atoms, Particles and Politics,” Harvard University
Semester-long course on the history of the physical sciences, placing particular emphasis on the relationship between science and society.
- Spring 2014 History of Science 124v: “Radioactive Culture,” Harvard University
Semester-long seminar exploring the cultural and political history of radioactivity.
- 2010-2011 Humanities 1910: “Science and the Humanities,” York University
Two-term introductory course in the history of science and its relationship to other areas of knowledge.
- Fall 2008 History 292: Science in the Modern World, Princeton University (TA)
Semester-long course on the history of modern science. As teaching assistant, responsible for organizing and leading small group discussions, grading essays and final exams, and lecturing when the professor was absent.

Conferences, Seminars, and Conference Sessions Organized

Coordinator, “Roundtable: Book Publishing—From Dissertation to Manuscript, from Contract to Reviews,” History of Science Society Conference, Toronto, ON (11 November 2017)

Conferences, Seminars, and Conference Sessions Organized (continued)

Coordinator, “Professionalization” Seminar Series for Graduate Students, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (2014–2016)

Session Organizer, “Appraising assessment: Defining excellence, competence, and normalcy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries,” History of Science Society Conference, Chicago, IL (4 November 2014)

Session Organizer, “Correspondence in Modern Science,” History of Science Society Conference, Boston, MA (22 November 2013)

Session Organizer, “Transcribing Tyndall: Scientific Correspondence and Victorian Culture,” Midwest Conference on British Studies, Toronto, ON (12 October 2012)

Coordinator, Science and Technology Studies Seminar Series, York University, Toronto, ON (2011–2012)

Session Organizer and Chair, “Scientific Periodicals in Great Britain, 1785-1914,” History of Science Society Conference, Cleveland, OH (4 November 2011)

Coordinator, Revisiting Evolutionary Naturalism Workshop, Toronto, ON (6-7 May 2011)

Conference Organizer, Princeton-Harvard-MIT Joint Workshop in the History of the Physical Sciences, Princeton, NJ (18 May 2008)

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

“In referees we trust? Methods and standards of grant peer review in the 20th century,” American Physical Society Meeting, Baltimore, MD (14 March 2016). Session sponsored by the Forum for the History of Physics.

“*Nature* and the making of modern science,” Invited lecture, Oxford College of Emory University Lecture Series, Atlanta, GA (14 September 2015)

“Scientific Knowledge, Publishing, and Peer Review: A Historian’s Perspective,” Invited talk, Religion Newswriters’ Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA (27 August 2015). Session sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

“Golden Fleece or Golden Goose? A Historical Perspective on NSF Grant Attacks,” Invited talk, American Association for the Advancement of Science Forum on Science and Technology Policy, Washington, DC (1 May 2015)

“Credibility, peer review, and *Nature*, 1939-1990,” Royal Society “Publish or Perish?” Conference on Scientific Periodicals from 1665 to the Present, London, UK (20 March 2015)

“Useful or merely excellent? Evaluating proposals at the National Science Foundation, 1951-1976,” History of Science Society Conference, Chicago, IL (7 November 2014)

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks (continued)

“Stokes and Tyndall: Correspondence, Referee Reports, and the Physical Sciences in Victorian Britain,” History of Science Society Conference, Boston, MA (22 November 2013)

“Credibility, Peer Review, and the Laissez-faire Era of *Nature*, 1939-1966,” Harvard University Conference on What is a Scientific Author?, Cambridge, MA (10 May 2013)

“‘A journal really has to have an opinion’: *Nature*’s editors and the role of the scientific journal, 1966-1990,” Invited talk, Harvard History of Science Department Incubator Series, Cambridge, MA (7 February 2013)

“‘A journal really has to have an opinion’: Scientific controversies in *Nature* and the role of the scientific journal,” History of Science Society Conference, San Diego, CA (17 November 2012)

“How to Communicate Science in Victorian Britain: The contrasting cases of Tyndall and Stokes,” Midwest Conference on British Studies, Toronto, Ontario (12 October 2012)

“Tyndall and Stokes: Peer review, the *Philosophical Transactions*, and the physical sciences in Victorian Britain,” Michael P. Malone Memorial Conference, Big Sky, MT (20 June 2012)

“‘Keeping in the Race’: Ernest Rutherford, Scientific Internationalism, and *Nature*, 1895–1914,” History of Science Society Conference, Cleveland, OH (4 November 2011)

“*Nature* and scientific publishing in Britain, 1869–1900,” Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing Conference on the Book in Art and Science, Washington, DC (15 July 2011)

“Late Victorian evolutionary naturalists and *Nature*,” Revisiting Evolutionary Naturalism Workshop, York University, Toronto, Canada (7 May 2011)

“‘I wish I were wise enough to understand more of it’: *Nature*’s audience, 1869-1880,” Harvard Graduate Student Conference in Book History, Cambridge, MA (6 May 2010)

“Communication, Community, and the Scientific Journal,” Princeton-Harvard-MIT Joint Workshop in the History of the Physical Sciences, Princeton, NJ (24 April 2010)

“Late Victorian Naturalists and *Nature*, 1869–1895,” Joint Atlantic Seminar in the History of Biology, Cambridge, MA (27 March 2010)

“*Nature*’s contributors and the changing of the scientific guard, 1869–1900,” History of Science Society Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (9 November 2008)

“‘Where are your intelligent mothers?’: Marriage and family in the scientific career of Dame Kathleen Lonsdale,” History of Science Society Conference, Washington, DC (3 November 2007)

“‘Buried in the Provinces’: Laurent, Gerhardt, Dumas and the Geography of Reform in Nineteenth-Century French Chemistry,” Princeton-Harvard-MIT Joint Workshop in the History of the Physical Sciences, Cambridge, MA (28 April 2007)

Honors & Awards

- 2016 Oscar Handlin Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (Resigned)
- 2014, 2015, & 2016 Awards for Teaching Excellence, Derek Bok Center, Harvard College
- 2009–2010 Porter Ogden Jacobus Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2008 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (Science, Technology and Society Program)
- 2005–2006 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies
- 2004–2005 W. Thomas Smith Scholarship for International Postgraduate Study

Professional Activities

- 2019–present Member-at-Large, American Physical Society Forum on the History of Physics Executive Committee
- 2017–present Member, History of Science Society Committee on Advocacy
- 2010–2016 Senior Transcription Editor, John Tyndall Correspondence Project
Responsible for final-stage proofreading of transcribed letters for the Tyndall Project, a multi-university collaborative effort to transcribe and publish the complete correspondence of John Tyndall (1820-1893).
- Spring 2009 Contributor, National Science Foundation “Course, Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement” grant project (Principal Investigator: Dr. Michael Clough, Iowa State University)
Responsible for writing articles on topics in the history of the physical sciences for use in college science classrooms.
- 2009–Present Referee, *Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London*
- 2012–Present Referee, *History of Science*
- 2013–Present Referee, *Isis*
- 2015–Present Referee, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part C: Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences*

Professional Memberships

- American Historical Association
- American Physical Society
- History of Science Society
- Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP)