cecire crash courses for the desperate 3 | history of science

get acquainted with

history of science

in one week

six things to read, in this order:

- Latour, Bruno, and Steve Woolgar. Laboratory Life: The Construction of Scientific Facts. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, 1986. Introduction.
- 2. Shapin, Steven, and Simon Schaffer. Leviathan and the Air-Pump: Hobbes, Boyle, and the Experimental Life. 1985; Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011. Introduction.
- 3. Haraway, Donna Jeanne. Primate Visions: Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science. New York: Routledge, 1989. "Teddy Bear Patriarchy."
- 4. Daston, Lorraine, and Peter Galison. "The Image of Objectivity." Representations, no. 40 (October 1, 1992): 81-128. doi:10.2307/2928741.
- 5. Secord, James A. "Knowledge in Transit." Isis 95, no. 4 (December 1, 2004): 654-72. doi:10.1086/430657.
- 6. Mirowski, Philip. Science-Mart: Privatizing American Science. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2011. Introduction.

Questions to ask yourself (really write down some answers):

- 1. Which sciences and scientists, if any, are privileged focuses of study?
- 2. Who/what scholarly sources are cited frequently-books, people, presses, and journals?
- 3. What theoretical models do these authors find useful? What are the gaps in your theoretical training that you need to fill in order to read this work better?
- 4. What kinds of moves do you notice these authors making? Do these moves change over time?

cecire crash courses for the desperate 3 | history of science

Then:

Skim the table of contents of some recent issues (within the last two years) of the following journals. Try to spot familiar names (but it's okay if you don't). Pick out a few articles that seem to speak to your interests. Read them, and follow up on any of their citations that seem relevant to your interests.

- Tsis
- History of Science

At this point you'll have read about ten chapters or articles in the field of history of science, a tiny percentage of what's out there. Are you an expert now? No. But you're on your way.

Make yourself a new history of science reading list based on:

- what seems important to you in what you've read so far
- what speaks to your research interests (periods, scientific subfields, theoretical questions)
- the gaps in your training that you feel need filling

This guide will help you get oriented within the field. It will not make you an expert; it will just prevent you from looking like a total ignoramus right away. More is more.