SCHEMA AND BIAS: A HISTORIAN’S REFLECTION ON DOUBLE BLIND EXPERIMENTS

Prof. Carlo Ginzburg (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa)

Thursday, October 27, 2011, 7.15 pm (19.15), at the Aula of the University of Zurich

Can double-blind experiments, used in medicine to test the effectiveness of a medicament, throw some light on the historian’s approach to evidence, objectivity and proof? The lecture will explore this tentative analogy through a few case studies, arguing that its implications suggest a new approach to some of the most debated aspects of Ludwik Fleck’s Genesis and Development of a Scientific Fact.

Carlo Ginzburg is a historian of Early Modern Europe and particularly of Italian Renaissance who has pioneered micro-history and historical anthropology. He is professor emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Professor of History of European Cultures at Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa. His current work is centered on methodological questions of historical research and explores possible interactions between the sciences and the humanities.

Introduction: Prof. Johannes Fehr (Director Ludwik Fleck Zentrum)

On 28 October 2011, from 10.15 to 12.00 am, a Day-After-Seminar will be held at Collegium Helveticum (Semper Sternwarte, Schmelzbergstr. 25, 8006 Zürich). The seminar will provide an opportunity to discuss with Carlo Ginzburg his delivered lecture. Please register at info@ludwikfleck.ethz.ch until 21 October 2011.

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