Seminar (HYBRID) with Professor Gregory Radick, University of Leeds

19 March 2026 | 16:00–18:00 Deutsches Museum, Munich

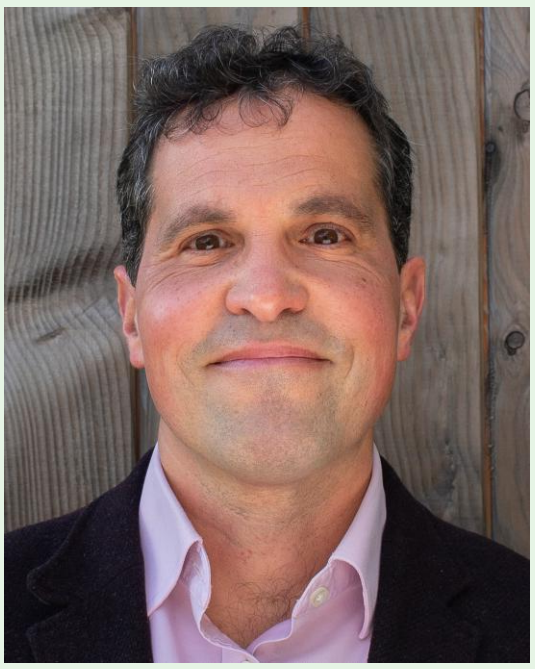
Joint seminar with the LMU Chair of History of Science

Hosted by the Chair of Philosophy and History of Science

Technical University of Munich

Gregory Radick

Professor of History and Philosophy of Science- University of Leeds



Gregory Radick *is Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Leeds. He is the author of Disputed Inheritance: The Battle over Mendel and the Future of Biology (2023) and a former President of the British Society for the History of Science and of the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology. In 2025, he received the J. B. S. Haldane Lecture Award from the Genetics Society.*

The Organization of Scientific Knowledge

In the sciences, bodies of knowledge worthy of the name are not merely aggregations. They are organized, with some phenomena and practices treated as exemplary, primary, central and others as exceptional, secondary, peripheral. My book Disputed Inheritance: The Battle over Mendel and the Future of Biology (2023) concerns the organization of scientific knowledge about biological inheritance, in particular the Mendelian organization which took shape after the 1900 "rediscovery" of Mendel and which persists to this day. Drawing on perspectives from the history of science, the philosophy of science and the sciences themselves, I argue that this organization – and the genetic determinism it engenders – was not inevitable, and furthermore that a better history of how and why biology went Mendelian holds the key to developing an alternative, anti-deterministic organization. In this lecture I want to position this work within a long-run HPS tradition, stretching back at least to the Toulmin-Kuhn era and forward to a future where, I will suggest, the engineering or re-engineering of scientific concepts is part of HPS core business. Along the way I'll touch on the role of idealizations in science and the consequences of one idealization rather than other potential ones coming to serve as a conceptual pivot.

For further information and to sign up for these seminar, please email oksana.bondar@tum.de