
Citation for published version (APA):

Document status and date:
Published: 21/12/2017

DOI:
10.1086/695795

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

- A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
- The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
- The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

Link to publication

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the “Taverne” license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:
www.umlib.nl/taverne-license

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at:
repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl
providing details and we will investigate your claim.

Download date: 16 Sep. 2023
level did most of the teaching and (thus) often found it difficult to conduct research; that “academic freedom” was often enough undermined; that most Berlin students enrolled for reasons of professional training and that many disciplines were oriented toward practical purposes; that the increasing specialization of the disciplines meant that they were increasingly unrelated to one another; and so on.

_Berlin, the Mother of All Research Universities, 1860–1918_, should be read or consulted by all historians of science and by historians of higher education, in Germany and beyond.

David Cahan

_David Cahan is Charles Bessey Professor of History at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He is the author, most recently, of Helmholtz: A Life in Science (Chicago, forthcoming)._
ingly enfolded with the nation-state (through national research funding, for example) and science being
to national feats. This era saw such manifestations as the Volta Temple (for fascist Italy’s hero), French
patiotic Pasteur memorials (in the reconquered city of Strasbourg), and Philipp Lenard’s infamous “Deutsche Physik.” Still, scientific internationalism never died completely, and Fox sees it reemerging in H. G. Wells’s “World Brain” campaigns, in UNESCO, and, recently, in the Otlet and Lafontaine–like project of Google Books (covered in the epilogue).

Most of what Fox tells us is not new. But the book’s main contribution lies not in its originality but,
rather, in its synthesis of what were previously largely unconnected case studies (covered in an equally
useful bibliographic essay). The weaving together has also brought new features to light, however, chief
among them the interwar resurgence of nationalism and the strong parallels between developments in the
United States, Britain, Germany, and France, as well as Austria, Spain, Italy, and Japan—a major enrich-
ment of the story. What emerges is the impression that “internationalism” was largely restricted to “the
civilized world” and that the international order of science neatly mapped onto that of empire—German
scientists in 1925 took it as an insult that they were addressed in the same way as their colleagues from
Siam. Here, it seems to me, lie avenues for further investigation.

Perhaps one small shortcoming of Fox’s synthesis is that it associates scientific internationalism exclu-

sively with progressive (liberal or socialist) attitudes, while some of its advocacy was in fact quite conservative
and maintaining peace often meant resisting change. Moreover, some fascist regimes advanced their own
internationalisms—the Nazis even stole Otlet and Lafontaine’s archives to establish a new system of scien-
tific cooperation under the auspices of the Propaganda Ministry, as Madeleine Herren has recently shown.
But this too is a developing story, which new research will further expand. It only underscores the impor-
tance of Fox’s accomplishment: to show the signifi-
cance of science for questions of national identity and
international relations. For this alone Science without Frontiers deserves a wide readership that extends well
beyond the history of science.

Geert Somsen

Geert Somsen teaches history of science at Maastricht University and writes about scientific universalism
and international politics during the first half of the twentieth century. Between 2014 and 2016 he was Marie
Curie Fellow at Columbia University and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

Marc Raboy. Marconi: The Man Who Networked the World. viii + 863 pp., illus., bibl., index. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016. £25 (cloth).

Marc Raboy has written an exhaustive, and at time exhausting, account of the life of Guglielmo Marconi
that should stand as the definitive biography for some time to come. Raboy has searched out a wide array
of sources, many of them not used before, to provide a very full account of Marconi’s personal, political, and
business relationships, though at times the details can overwhelm the reader. Raboy also does a good job of
filling in the larger historical context for his narrative of Marconi’s life, especially on the intricate subject of
international relations that influenced the development of radio. As he tells the reader at the outset, however,
he is not writing a history of the science and technology of wireless. Instead, he uses Marconi’s life to reflect
upon what it tells us about the development of our globally connected, wireless world.

Raboy’s portrait of Marconi is that of a perpetual outsider who “mastered the exercise of power by asso-
ciation” (p. 7). His mixed parentage—an Italian father and an Irish mother—made him an outsider with
inside connections whether in Britain or Italy. While Marconi effectively deployed the mythology of the
inventive genius overcoming great odds, he relied extensively on class privilege and personal connections
for his success. Throughout his career Marconi aligned himself and his companies with political power. But