

# Contents

<b>Introduction: Observation Observed</b>	1
<i>Lorraine Daston and Elizabeth Lunbeck</i>	

## PART 1 Framing the History of Scientific Observation, 500–1800

*Over the course of centuries, observation as both word and practice wandered from rustic and monastic settings to learned publications, eventually becoming the cornerstone of all empirical sciences.*

<b>Introduction</b>	11
<b>1 Observation in the Margins, 500–1500</b>	15
<i>Katharine Park</i>	
<b>2 Observation Rising: Birth of an Epistemic Genre, 1500–1650</b>	45
<i>Gianna Pomata</i>	
<b>3 The Empire of Observation, 1600–1800</b>	81
<i>Lorraine Daston</i>	

## PART 2 Observing and Believing: Evidence

*Observations are part of scientific proof and persuasion. Who observes what and how all enter into the assessment of credibility.*

<b>Introduction</b>	115
<b>4 The Color of Blood: Between Sensory Experience and Epistemic Significance</b>	117
<i>Domenico Bertoloni Meli</i>	
<b>5 Seeing Is Believing: Professor Vagner’s Wonderful World</b>	135
<i>Michael D. Gordin</i>	
<b>6 A Visual History of Jean Perrin’s Brownian Motion Curves</b>	156
<i>Charlotte Bigg</i>	

### PART 3 Observing in New Ways: Techniques

*Ingenious inquirers invent strategies, instruments, and regimens to make invisible, inaccessible, or intractable phenomena observable.*

<b>Introduction</b>	181
7 <b>Frogs on the Mantelpiece: The Practice of Observation in Daily Life</b> <i>Mary Terrall</i>	185
8 <b>Sorting Things Out: The Economist as an Armchair Observer</b> <i>Harro Maas</i>	206
9 <b>“A Number of Scenes in a Badly Cut Film”: Observation in the Age of Strobe</b> <i>Jimena Canales</i>	230
10 <b>Empathy as a Psychoanalytic Mode of Observation: Between Sentiment and Science</b> <i>Elizabeth Lunbeck</i>	255

### PART 4 Observing New Things: Objects

*Observation defines its objects by how it studies them. Choosing how to observe in some cases dictates what is observed.*

<b>Introduction</b>	277
11 <b>Reforming Vision: The Engineer Le Play Learns to Observe Society Sagely</b> <i>Theodore M. Porter</i>	281
12 <b>Seeking Parts, Looking for Wholes</b> <i>Mary S. Morgan</i>	303
13 <b>Seeing the Blush: Feeling Emotions</b> <i>Otniel E. Dror</i>	326
14 <b>Visualizing Radiation: The Photographs of Henri Becquerel</b> <i>Kelley Wilder</i>	349

### PART 5 Observing Together: Communities

*Scientific observation is almost always collective, carried out by inquirers dispersed in space and time. Communities are required to organize, motivate, and coordinate individual observers.*

<b>Introduction</b>	369
15 <b>The Geography of Observation: Distance and Visibility in Eighteenth-Century Botanical Travel</b> <i>Daniela Bleichmar</i>	373

16	<b>The World on a Page: Making a General Observation in the Eighteenth Century</b>	396
	<i>J. Andrew Mendelsohn</i>	
17	<b>Coming to Attention: A Commonwealth of Observers during the Napoleonic Wars</b>	421
	<i>Anne Secord</i>	
	<b>List of Contributors</b>	445
	<b>Index</b>	449
	<i>Color gallery appears after page 184</i>	