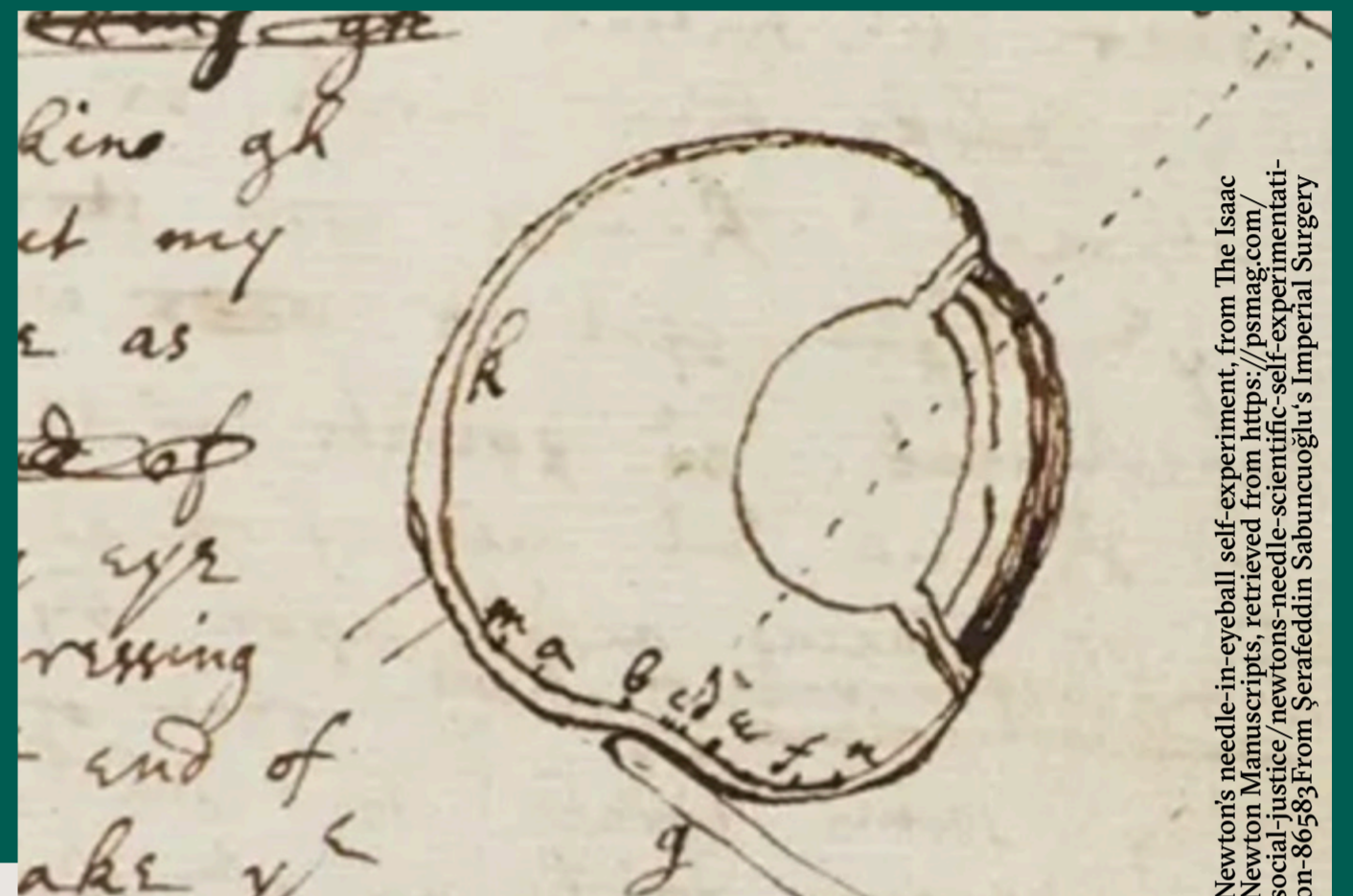


MAX PLANCK RESEARCH GROUP  
EXPERIENCE IN THE PREMODERN SCIENCES OF SOUL & BODY

# Premodern Experience and a Modified Historical Epistemology

## A READING GROUP



Newton's needle-in-eye experiment, from The Isaac Newton Manuscripts, retrieved from <https://psmag.com/social-justice/newtons-needle-scientific-self-experimentation-86583>; From Şerafeddin Sabuncuoğlu's Imperial Surgery

This reading group explores the theme of premodern experience by making use of and adapting the approach of historical epistemology (HE). We will discuss how different primary and secondary sources have treated the epistemic status of experience and the roles of experience in gaining scientific knowledge, applying scientific knowledge, building a scientific system, or becoming a scientist, and why they have done so. In so doing, we will discuss how the tools of HE can help us shed light on the roles of experience for scientific knowledge and how, in turn, these primary sources help shape a modified HE for the history of premodern science and beyond.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1 • 12:00 – 13:30**

with Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Rheinberger

“Experience as a Category of Analysis in Historical Epistemology”

**FRIDAY, APRIL 22 • 12:00 – 13:30**

“The Senses in Science and the Sciences of the Senses I: Taste, Tasting, and Having Taste”

**FRIDAY, MAY 13 • 12:00 – 13:30**

“The Senses in Science and the Sciences of the Senses II: Loss or Lack of Sense and Sensations”

**FRIDAY, MAY 27 • 12:00 – 13:30**

“Scientific Experience and the Scientific Expert I: The Scientist”

**FRIDAY, JUNE 10 • 12:00 – 13:30**

“Scientific Experience and the Scientific Expert II: The ‘Layperson,’ ‘Common Person,’ ‘Public,’ ‘Non-Elite,’ ‘Non-Scientist’”

**FRIDAY, JULY 8 • 12:00 – 13:30**

“Nerves: a Preparation for, and Companion, to the New Working Group: ‘Knowing Nerves: From Animal Spirits to Neural Nets.’”

The reading group is organized by Hannah Erlwein, Katja Krause, Julia Reed, and Tracy Wietecha. If you would like to join, please contact Tracy Wietecha ([twietecha@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:twietecha@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de)).