





# History of Women Philosophers and Scientists

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## Welcome

As director of the Center for the History of Women Philosophers and Scientists, I am especially proud to welcome scholars and students to one of the world's most unique research centers of that field at Paderborn University. Since 2006, many internationally renowned scholars have contributed to the spectrum of classes, conferences, academic events, and dissertation projects provided at our Center.

Explore the history of women philosophers and scientists in Paderborn, the historic, pagan city in the very heart of Germany.

**Ruth Hagengruber**  
founder and director

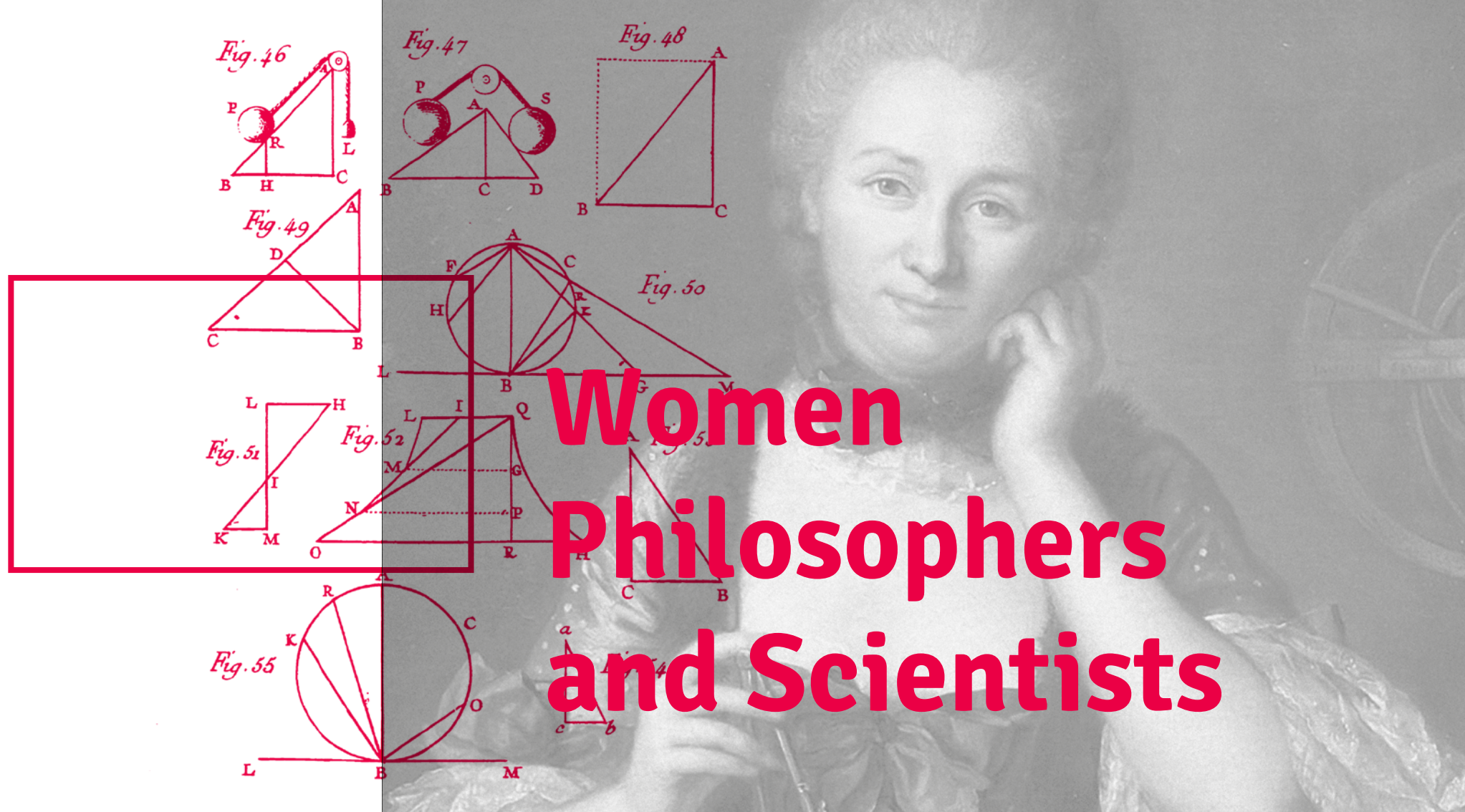
**Mary Ellen Waithe, author of the ground breaking four-volume HISTORY OF WOMEN PHILOSOPHERS, is the main advisor to the Center. She co-organizes the Libori Summer and Autumn School and develops the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CONCISE CONCEPTS BY WOMEN PHILOSOPHERS.**



Émilie Du Châtelet (1706–1749)  
was a central figure of the European  
Enlightenment.

The history of women philosophers stretches back as far as the history of philosophy itself. Valuable writings from female philosophers starting in antiquity, and a continuous tradition from the Renaissance until today, are proof of women's essential contribution to philosophy.

Names such as Aspasia, Hypatia, Elisabeth of Bohemia, Émilie Du Châtelet, Edith Stein, and Gerda Walther are part of women whose philosophical thoughts have influenced the history of philosophy up to the present day. The Center emphasizes this long-lasting and rich tradition of women philosophers to be properly integrated in both the educational system, as well as the academic world.



# Women Philosophers and Scientists

## IV

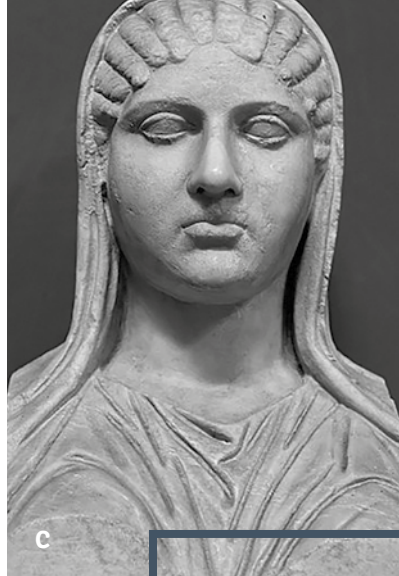


# VI

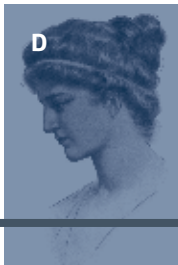
## Women Philosophers and Scientists



A



C



D



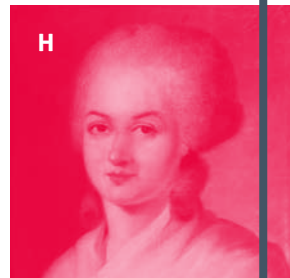
E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L

- H Olympe de Gouges, 1748–1793
- I Constance Caroline Woodhill Naden, 1858–1889
- J Simone Adolphine Weil, 1909–1943
- K Hildegard von Bingen, 1098–1179
- L Margaret Cavendish, 1623–1673

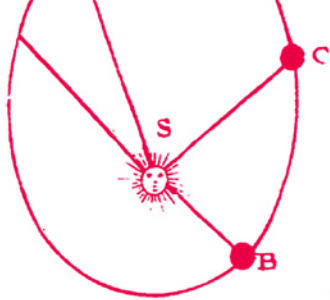
- A Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1860–1935
- B Marie le Jars de Gournay, 1565–1645
- C Aspasia, 470 BC–420 BC
- D Hypatia, 355–415
- E Christine de Pizan, 1364–1429
- F Mary Wollstonecraft, 1759–1797
- G Elisabeth of Bohemia/Herford, 1618–1680

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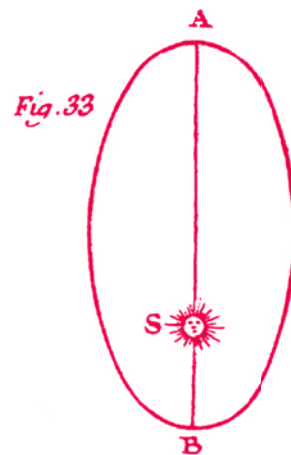
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**There may be  
meta physicians whose  
knowledge is greater  
than mine. I haven't met  
them yet!**

Émilie Du Châtelet  
1706–1749



# History of the Center

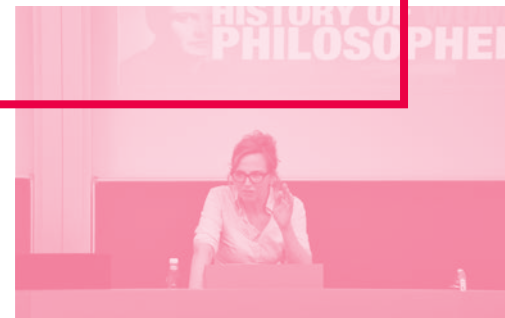


# 1987

Mary Ellen Waithe ed.  
**A History of Women  
Philosophers**

# 1990

Ruth Hagengruber:  
classes and publications  
on women philosophers  
and scientists



Opening ceremony (f.r.t.l.): **Svenja Schulze** Minister of Innovation, Science and Research NRW, **Ruth Hagengruber** Director HWPS, **Saffet Babür** Yeditepe Istanbul, **Simone Probst** Chancellor Paderborn University, **Klaus Mainzer** Munich Center for Technology in Society, **Mary Ellen Waithe** Senior Advisor HWPS, **Barry Smith** Editor of The Monist



1998

textbook covering  
2600 years of Women  
Philosophers

2006

start of the teaching and  
research area **History  
of Women Philosophers  
and Scientists** at  
Paderborn University

2010

**compulsory curriculum  
in the philosophy  
department via texts of  
women philosophers**

2011

Ruth Hagengruber ed.  
**Emilie Du Châtelet  
between Leibniz and  
Newton**

2012

first lecture cycle on  
the History of Women  
Philosophers

2015

**first Joint Erasmus+  
Masters Program on the  
History of Philosophy/  
History of Women Philo-  
sophers and Scientists  
(Paderborn/Istanbul)**

Karen Green & Ruth  
Hagengruber eds.  
**The Monist** – The History  
of Women's Ideas

2016

launch of the Center for  
the **History of Women  
Philosophers and  
Scientists** funded by the  
**Ministry of Innovation,  
Science and Research  
(NRW)**

2017

first **International Libori  
Summer School**

XII

History of the  
Center



The Center for the History of Women Philosophers and Scientists (HWPS) offers an international setup with various events and courses.

Visit us for one of our international conferences and academic events or discover the history of women philosophers in a continuously growing spectrum of English seminars within the curriculum. Be invited to take advantage of the semester's broad program of academic events such as master classes, workshops, summer and autumn schools held by leading experts during Paderborn's festive season.

# Coming to Paderborn

XIV

Coming to  
Paderborn



**“ If anyone is so dull as to imagine  
masculinity or femininity in God  
such a person shows in plain light  
that he is just as bad a philosopher  
as he is a theologian. ”**

Marie le Jars de Gournay  
1565–1645



# The Center: The Place to Be

Our center consists of and welcomes individuals from different scientific and cultural backgrounds who want to work in a unique atmosphere and strive to collectively create their own lighthouse of scientific excellence. We are establishing an extensive digitalized bibliographical databank which provides a powerful tool facilitating the investigation into up-to-date literature. On top of that, our scientists have first-hand access to digitalized manuscripts.



**XVIII**

The Center:  
The Place to Be



# Research Areas

**Women in the  
European  
Enlightenment  
Émilie Du Châtelet**

**Women in Early  
Phenomenology**

**Women  
Philosophers  
in the Digital  
Humanities**

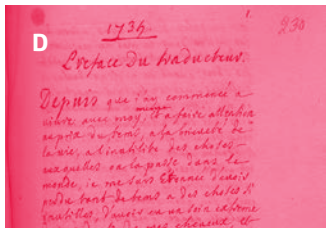
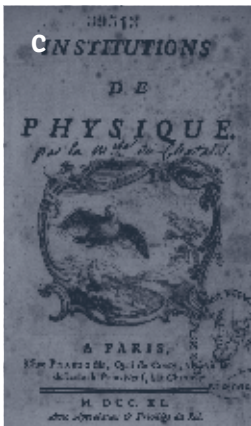
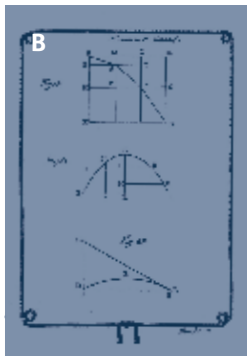
**XX**

Research  
Areas



# Women in the European Enlightenment Émilie Du Châtelet

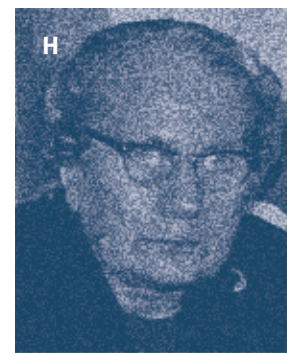
Women played a pivotal role in spreading the ideas of the European Enlightenment. The French mathematician, physicist, and philosopher Émilie Du Châtelet was its outstanding representative. The project gathers writings by and literature on women philosophers and mathematicians from the 18th century. The Center edits Du Châtelet's manuscripts held at the Russian National Library, St. Petersburg.



- A** Émilie Du Châtelet, 1706–1749
- B** Du Châtelet, Geometrical figures, Institutions de physique, Paris 1740
- C** Du Châtelet, Institutions de physique, Paris 1740
- D** Preface to Du Châtelet's translation of Mandeville's Fable of the Bees, Russian National Library, St. Petersburg
- E** Maria Gaetana Agnesi, 1718–1799

# Women in Early Phenomenology

Women phenomenologists like Hedwig Conrad-Martius, Edith Stein, and Gerda Walther were key members of the early phenomenological movement, and played significant roles in each of the Göttingen, Munich, and Freiburg Phenomenological Circles. The project gathers writings by and literature on women phenomenologists and digitizes manuscripts held at the Bavarian State Library, Munich.



- F** Hedwig Conrad-Martius, 1888–1966
- G** Edith Stein, 1891–1942
- H** Gerda Walther, 1897–1977

# Women Philosophers in the Digital Humanities

The Center collects and synthesizes the Emerging Knowledge® of the webspace. We understand ourselves as a platform where the history of women philosophers is prepared for the demands of the digital era.



“

**In this century, as we know, the  
rule of women dominates. They now  
receive the benefits they have been  
deprived of for so long.**

Tommaso Campanella  
1568–1639

”



Philosophical analysis is no longer confined to texts. In our didactic mediation of philosophical discourses, we put a strong emphasis on film and sound material. Students experience the digital change in the online teaching project Philosophy Goes MOOC. Since 2014, the interdisciplinary project Philosophy in the Media presents women philosophers' thoughts via student performances.

# Media

[facebook.com/women.philosophers/](https://facebook.com/women.philosophers/)  
[twitter.com/CenterHWPS](https://twitter.com/CenterHWPS)

### Imprint and Contact

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[www.historyofwomenphilosophers.org](http://www.historyofwomenphilosophers.org)

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goldmarie design

### Funded by



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Kultur und Wissenschaft  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



[www.historyofwomenphilosophers.org](http://www.historyofwomenphilosophers.org)