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For immediate release March 23, 2009

University of Pittsburgh Awarded Major Grant from the Mellon Foundation for a Publishing Initiative in the History of Science

PITTSBURGH—The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded a five-year, \$750,000 grant to the University of Pittsburgh for a book publishing initiative in the history of science to be pursued by the University of Pittsburgh Press in a close partnership with Pitt's Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Department of History's World History Center.

The grant will support publication of innovative work in the history of science. In addition to producing books, the Press and its partners will cooperate in a number of activities in support of this program, including guest lectures, conferences, fellowships, and a book prize.

The University developed this joint initiative in response to an invitation from the Mellon Foundation. Mellon's universities and their presses initiative provides support for projects that encourage the deepening of links between university presses and their parent institutions, as well as the promotion of important new scholarship.

James V. Maher, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, commented that "Pitt's long-standing strength in the history and philosophy of science, and the more recent launching of the world history program, reflect our ongoing commitment to scholarship that is both historically and globally informed. The University Press, the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, and the World History Center have together developed an outstanding proposal for a collaboration that will bring these fields together in truly creative ways."

In seeking this grant, the Press and its partners made the case that the study of the history of science is invigorated by engagement with other fields of inquiry and that the humanities offer crucial insights to understanding science.

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science, is a renowned academic program at Pittsburgh focused on the conceptual and methodological foundations of

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science, and emphasizes the connections between the history and the philosophy of science. According to Professor James Lennox, "This exciting initiative will allow us to explore a number of new avenues of research related to the historical development of the global reach of science and the impact on science of cross-cultural interactions."

The History Department established the World History Center to foster research that emphasizes broad historical patterns that cut across national or even civilizational boundaries, identifies transcultural influences, and challenges Western-centric conceptualizations of history. "This initiative provides a wonderful opportunity to explore the global connections in scientific thinking and practice from the medieval era to recent times" said Patrick Manning, the Center's Director.

"We consider this area of scholarship to be rich in possibilities," says Cynthia Miller, Director of the University of Pittsburgh Press, "In building a history of science program, we envision an active collaboration between the faculty from these departments and Press staff that will encourage the cross-fertilization of ideas and research, as well as producing books."

According to Peter Kracht, Editorial Director of the Press, "This cooperative arrangement opens up wonderful opportunities for the Press to publish work in the history of science that complements our philosophy list, and that cuts across traditional disciplinary boundaries in exciting ways."

The grant will provide resources for the Press to build a publishing program in the history of science, increasing its output of new books from the present level of approximately 50 titles per year to more than 70. The Department of History and Philosophy of Science will be able to establish a lecture series and a new fellowship program, as well as a prize for outstanding new scholarship. The World History Center will create a post-doctoral fellowship and host a series of conferences on science in global history.

The University of Pittsburgh, founded in 1787, is one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in the United States and has developed into one the nation's most respected research universities, with a wide variety of high-quality programs in the arts and sciences and in professional fields.

The University of Pittsburgh Press is a scholarly publisher with distinguished lists in several academic fields and in poetry and short fiction, as well as books about Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania for general readers, scholars, and students.

Pitt's Department of History and Philosophy of Science is widely recognized as one of the strongest such academic programs in the world. It is closely affiliated with the Center for

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Philosophy of Science, a renowned intellectual haven for eminent visiting scholars who come to Pittsburgh to conduct research alongside Pitt faculty.

The new World History Center reflects an emerging strength of the University and is an extension of its long-standing commitment to emphasize the interplay of international and thematic approaches to the study of history. The Center is also formally affiliated with the Global Studies Program and University Center for International Studies.

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