Short Biography

Lorraine Daston was educated at Harvard (A.B. 1973) and Cambridge (Dipl. 1974) Universities, and received a Ph.D. in the History of Science from Harvard (1979). Since 1995 she has been Director at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and Honorary Professor in Berlin; since 2005 she has been Visiting Professor in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. At the Max Planck Institute she has organized research projects on the history of demonstration and proof, the varieties of scientific experience, the moral authority of nature, and the common languages of art and science. Edited volumes resulting from these projects include Biographies of Scientific Objects (2000) and Things that Talk (2004). She has published widely in the history of statistics and probability theory, early modern natural knowledge, scientific objectivity, and the cognitive passions. Her books include Classical Probability in the Enlightenment (1988) and (with Katharine Park), Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750 (1998), both of which of which were awarded the Pfizer Prize of the History of Science Society, as well as Eine kurze Geschichte der wissenschaftlichen Aufmerksamkeit (2000), and Wunder, Beweis, Tatsache: Zur einer Geschichte der Rationalität (2001). Objectivity, co-authored with Peter Galison, appeared in 2007. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and the Leopoldina Academy.

October 2009