

# Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent (1949–)



Bernadette Vincent was born on July 7, 1949, in Béziers, France and attended the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Fontenay-aux-Roses (1968–1971). She is married to Olivier Bensaude and has three children, Emmanuelle, David, and Judith Bensaude. She received her degree in philosophy from the Paris I Sorbonne in 1970, Agrégation de philosophie in 1971, and Ph.D. from the Paris I-Sorbonne in 1981. Her academic positions have included teacher of philosophy (1972–1982), Mission at the Cité des sciences et de l'Industrie Paris (1982–1986), assistant professor, Université Paris X, France (1989–1994), and Researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Centre d'Histoire des Sciences et des Techniques, Paris (1995–1997). In 1997 she was promoted to Professor of History and Philosophy of Science and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Université Paris X. From 1999–2004 she was Chair of the doctoral program "History of Philosophy, History of Science." Currently she is director of the Centre d'Histoire et de Philosophie des Sciences and chair of the 72 Section of the Conseil National des Universités, France.

Her main research field is the history and philosophy of chemistry and materials science. More recently she has devoted her research to ethical and societal issues raised by science and technology. She is a member of the Ethics Committee of the CNRS, Member of the French Academy of Technologies, and Senior Fellow of the Dibner Institute.

Bensaude-Vincent has been a visiting professor at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid (1994), University of Bielefeld (1996), University of Geneva (1998), University of Vienna (1997 and 1999), Pontificala Universidad de Sao Paulo (2003), Universidad de Valencia, Spain (2004), and an invited researcher at the Max Planck Institute fur Wissenschaftsgeschichte (2001). She has been a principal investigator in the International Research Program on "Science and its Publics" of the Cité des Sciences et de l'industrie (CSI) (1989–1993), team leader in the European Science Foundation Program on "Evolution of Chemistry 1789–1939" (1993–1997), and principal investigator in a four year program "History of Recent Science and Technology on the Web," sponsored by the Sloan Foundation and the Dibner Fund (MIT).

Bensaude-Vincent has published ten books and more than 80 articles and essays on the history and philosophy of science. Among the most notable publications are: *Lavoisier, Mémoires d'une Révolution* (1993); *Eloge du Mixte. Matériaux Nouveaux et Philosophie Ancienne*, (1998); *Science et Opinion. Histoire d'un Divorce* (2003); *Se libérer de la matière. Fantasmes autour des nouvelles technologies* (2004); and *Faut-il Avoir Peur de la Chimie?* (2005).

Bensaude-Vincent was awarded the Prix Jean Rostand for the book *Histoire de la Chimie* (with Isabelle Stengers) in 1994. She received the Dexter Award in 1997.

Bensaude-Vincent believes continued scholarly work in the history of science is "vital for regulating the advancements of science" and "understanding scientific research as a multi-dimensional endeavor embedded in a cultural context and with societal and cultural impacts."

## Sources

Autobiographical information provided by Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent. Her home page is at:  
[http://dibinst.mit.edu/hrst/hrs/materials/public/bbv\\_homepage/bbv\\_home.htm](http://dibinst.mit.edu/hrst/hrs/materials/public/bbv_homepage/bbv_home.htm)

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