

Symposium on The History of Technology: Past, Present, and Future  
June 7-8, 2024  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
<Organized by the Program in Science, Technology, and Society (STS)>

## SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

**THURSDAY, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 p.m.**

■ *Reception and Tour of MIT Museum (314 Main St., Cambridge)*

**FRIDAY (June 7<sup>th</sup>) Wong Auditorium, MIT Room E51-115 (2 Amherst St., Cambridge)**

{8:30 a.m. - Light Breakfast}

9 a.m. WELCOME -- **Deborah Fitzgerald** (MIT) / **Merritt Roe Smith** (MIT)

9:30 -11 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Session – **Merritt Roe Smith** (MIT), chair  
**Ruth Schwartz Cowan** (University of Pennsylvania)  
*Does the History of Technology have a Paradigm?*  
**Daniel J. Kevles** (Yale University)  
*Federal Agencies and the Technologies of Detection, Oversight, and Regulation*  
**Alex Roland** (Duke University)  
*A SHOT Dilemma*

11-11:30 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

11:30-1 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Session -- **Rosalind Williams** (MIT), chair  
**Edmund Russell** (Carnegie Mellon University)  
*Processes First. Things Second or Third*  
**Ken Alder** (Northwestern University)  
*Accelerationism: A Short, Longue Durée History of Technological Change*  
**Colleen Dunlavy** (University of Wisconsin)  
*A View from the Periphery and an Inspiring Glance Backward*

1-2 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

2-3:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Session -- **Debbie Douglas** (MIT Museum), chair  
**Jamie Pietruska** (Rutgers University-New Brunswick)  
*Infrastructure and Catastrophe in Histories of Envirotech*  
**David Lucsko** (Auburn University)  
*How Things Work and Why It Matters – or, Why Poring over Automotive Wiring Diagrams from the 1970s Isn't Actually a Colossal Waste of Time*  
**Steven Usselman** (Georgia Tech)  
*Comments on Technology and Culture*

- 3:30-4:30 p.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Session -- **Michael Fischer** (MIT), chair  
**Gregory Clancey** (National University of Singapore)  
*The History of Technology in an Age of Mass Extinction*  
**Peter C. Perdue** (Yale University)  
*Chinese Environmental History: Past, Present, and Future*
- 4:30-5 p.m. COFFEE BREAK
- 5-6 p.m. GENERAL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION FROM AUDIENCE
- 6 p.m. END OF AFTERNOON SESSION

## **SATURDAY (June 8<sup>th</sup>) Wong Auditorium, MIT Room E51-115 (2 Amherst St, Cambridge)**

{8:30 a.m. - Light Breakfast}

- 9-10:30am 5<sup>th</sup> Session -- **Chakanetsa Mavhunga** (MIT), chair  
**Greg Galer** (Association for Preservation Technology International)  
*Historic Preservation and the History of Technology*  
**Rebecca Perry** (Lux Machina Consulting)  
*Imagined Spaces, Virtual Workplaces: Film Production Hits the Wall*
- 10:30-12noon 6<sup>th</sup> Session -- **Eden Medina** (MIT), chair  
**Timothy Wolters** (Iowa State University)  
*Continuity and Change Across Four Eras: The Past, Present, and Future of the History of Technology*  
**Dave Unger** (independent public historian)  
*Tools for Imagining a Better World: Social Technology, Organizational Dark Matter, and Reading for Difference*
- 12-1:30 LUNCH BREAK
- 1:30 p.m. WRAP-UP DISCUSSION -- **Roe Smith**, chair  
with **Victor McElheny** (MIT), **David Mindell** (MIT), and Q&A from audience
- 3 p.m. END OF PROCEEDINGS