

**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 6th, 5-7 p.m.

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

FRIDAY (June 7th) 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. 1st 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. 2nd 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. 3rd 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. 4th 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 8th) Wong Auditorium, MIT Room E51-115 (2 Amherst St, Cambridge)

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

- 9-10:30am 5th 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 6th 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 **David Mindell** (MIT), **Victor McElheny** (MIT), and Q&A from audience
- 3 p.m. END OF PROCEEDINGS