

CURRICULUM VITAE

Eric Schatzberg

School of History and Sociology
Georgia Institute of Technology
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FIELDS

History of Technology, History of Science, Science and Technology Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Critiques of technology; technology as a concept; airplane materials; technofascism

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSOR, Georgia Institute of Technology, School of History and Sociology, Atlanta, GA. 2017-present

CHAIR, Georgia Institute of Technology, School of History and Sociology, Atlanta, GA. 2017-2021

VISITING SCHOLAR, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany. January-July 2017.

PROFESSOR, University of Wisconsin, Department of the History of Science, Madison, WI. 2012-2017.

DIRECTOR, Robert F. & Jean E. Holtz Center for Science & Technology Studies, Madison, WI. 2012-2015.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, University of Wisconsin, Department of the History of Science, Madison, WI. 1999-2012; DEPARTMENT CHAIR, 2004-2007.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, University of Wisconsin, Department of the History of Science, Madison, WI. 1992-1999.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, Center for the History of Electrical Engineering, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. 1990-1992.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1983-1990

Ph.D. in History and Sociology of Science, August 1990. Dissertation: "Ideology and Technical Change: The Choice Of Materials in American Aircraft Design Between the World Wars." Dissertation advisor: Thomas P. Hughes. M.A. received December 1984.

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, 1974-1979

B.S. May 1979 in Engineering. Graduated with Distinction.

PUBLICATIONS

In Progress

"An Ethical Engineer Against the Auto Industry: James J. Ryan and U.S. Crash Safety Research in the 1950s," article accepted for *Technology and Culture* (forthcoming, 2026).

Print:

Eric Schatzberg, "La technologie en histoire des techniques," in *Histoire des techniques*, ed. Guillaume Carnino and Xavier Guchet (London: ISTE éditions, 2025), 95-111.

"Historiography: Why Should Historians Pay More Attention to Philosophy of Technology?" *Technology and Culture* 65, no. 3 (2024): 967–78 (refereed essay review of Shannon Vallor, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Technology*).

"Missing the Mark: A Response to Bray and Hahn." *History and Technology* 39, no. 3–4 (October 2, 2023): 304–15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07341512.2024.2328927>.

"Why Is There No Discipline of Technology in the Social Sciences," *Artefact: Techniques, histoire, et sciences humaines* 8 (2018): 193-213.

With Hallie Lieberman, "A Failure of Academic Quality Control: The Technology of Orgasm," *Journal of Positive Sexuality* 4, no. 2 (2018): 24-47.

Technology: Critical History of a Concept (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018).

"Why Airplanes Fly: The Strong Programme and the Theory of Lift," *Metascience* 22 (2013): 611–616 (essay review of David Bloor, *Enigma of the Aerofoil*).

"From Art to Applied Science," *Isis* 103, no. 3 (September 2012): 555-563.

With Carl Mitcham, "Defining Technology and the Engineering Sciences," Chapter I.1 in *Philosophy of Technology and Engineering Sciences*, Handbook of the Philosophy of Science, vol. 9, 27-64 (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2009).

"Technik Comes to America: Changing Meanings of *Technology* Before 1930," *Technology and Culture* 47 (July 2006): 486-512. Winner of the 2007 Usher Prize.

"The Cultural History of Aluminum as an Industrial Material," *Cahiers d'Histoire d'Aluminium* 35 (2005): 76-96 (updated and abridged version of my 2003 article in *Enterprise and Society*).

"On Attempting to Construct Alternative Narratives," essay review of John Law, *Aircraft Stories: Decentering the Object in Technoscience* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2002), in *Technology and Culture* 45 (April 2004): 406-12.

"Symbolic Culture and Technological Change: The Cultural History of Aluminum as an Industrial Material," *Enterprise and Society* 4 (2003): 226-271.

"Materials and the Development of Aircraft," in *Around Glare: A New Aircraft Material in Context*, ed. Coen Vermeeren (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic, 2002), 43-72.

- "Culture and Technology in the City: Opposition to Mechanized Street Transportation in Late-Nineteenth Century America," in *Technologies of Power: Essays in Honor of Thomas Parke Hughes and Agatha Chipley Hughes* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001), 57-94.
- "Wooden Airplanes in World War II: National Comparisons and Symbolic Culture," in *Atmospheric Flight in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Alex Roland and Peter Galison (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2000), 183-205.
- Wings of Wood, Wings of Metal: Culture and Technical Choice in American Airplane Materials, 1914-1945* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999).
- "Ideology and Technical Choice: The Decline of the Wooden Airplane in the United States, 1920-1945," *Technology and Culture* 35 (1994): 34-69. Winner of the 1997 Usher Prize.
- "The Mechanization of Urban Transit in the United States: Electricity and its Competitors," in *Technological Competitiveness: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives on the Electrical, Electronics and Computer Industries*, ed. William Aspray (Piscataway: IEEE Press, 1993), 225-42.
- "The Airplane in the University: Industry-University Relations in Aeronautical Engineering on the West Coast Between the World Wars," in Lawrence P. Grayson and Joseph M. Biedenbach, eds., *Proceedings of the 1988 Annual Conference of the American Society for Engineering Education* (Washington, D.C.: ASEE, 1988), vol. 4, pp. 1705-1715.

Online:

- "Kranzberg's First Law," in *Technology's Stories*, open access digital magazine of the Society for the History of Technology, December 2018, <http://www.technologystories.org/first-and-second-laws/>.
- "Counterfactual History and the History of Technology," essay for *Technology's Stories*, open access digital magazine of the Society for the History of Technology, August 2014, <http://www.technologystories.org/counterfactual-history-and-the-history-of-technology/>.
- "Rethinking Technology," my academic blog, <https://rethinktechnology.wordpress.com>.

Selected Reviews:

- Review of *Applied Science: Knowledge, Modernity, and Britain's Public Realm*, by Robert Bud. *Technology and Culture* 66, no. 2 (2025): 605-607. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/tech.2025.a956892>.
- David F. Channell. *The Rise of Engineering Science: How Technology Became Scientific* Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2019. *Isis* 111 (2020): 857-858.
- "Where Do Models of Innovation Come From? Benoit Godin, *Models of Innovation*." *Technology and Culture* 61, no. 1 (2020): 337-40.
- Ruth Oldenziel and Karin Zachmann, eds., *Cold War Kitchen: Americanization, Technology, and Europeans Users* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009), in *Isis* 101 (2010): 454-55.
- Kelly Moore, *Disrupting Science: Social Movements, American Scientists, and the Politics of the Military, 1945-1975* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008), in *International Review of Modern Sociology* 36 (2010): 75-77.
- Gregory H. Davis, *Means without End: A Critical Survey of the Ideological Genealogy of Technology without Limits, from Apollonian Techne to Postmodern Technoculture* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), in *Technology and Culture* 49 (2008): 781-82.

- Emily Thompson, *The Soundscape of Modernity: Architectural Acoustics and the Culture of Listening in America, 1900-1933* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2002), in *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences* 35 (2004), 173-74.
- F. Robert van der Linden, *Airlines & Air Mail: The Post Office and the Birth of the Commercial Aviation Industry* (University Press of Kentucky, 2002), in *Enterprise and Society* 5 (2004): 151-53.
- Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins, *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1999), in *Technology and Culture* 43 (Jan. 2002): 218-21.
- Charles Bazerman, *The Languages of Edison's Light* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1998), in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 34 (Spring 2001): 659-61.
- Henry Petroski, *Invention by Design: How Engineers Get from Thought to Thing* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1996), in *Technology and Culture* 40 (January 1999).
- Ian Inkster, *Science and Technology in History: An Approach to Industrial Development* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1991), in *Isis* 86 (1995): 91-92.
- Henry Cord Meyer, *Airshipmen, Businessmen and Politics 1890-1940* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991), in *Isis* 84 (1993): 185-86.
- Wayne Biddle, *Barons of the Sky: From Early Flight to Strategic Warfare* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1991) in *Technology and Culture* 33 (1992): 838-39.
- Ron Westrum, *Technologies and Society: The Shaping of People and Things* (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, 1991) in *Technology and Culture* 33 (1992): 391-93.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

- "Postwar Critiques of Technology: A Typology," Society for the History of Technology annual meeting, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, October 11, 2025.
- Session organizer, "Critiques of Technology Since World War II," Society for the History of Technology annual meeting, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, October 11, 2025.
- "From Research to Social Change: Dissident Experts and Auto Safety," Society for the History of Technology annual meeting, New Orleans, November 12, 2022.
- "Technology versus the Humanities: Critiquing the Critics," invited lecture, Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan, February 16, 2021 (remote).
- "History of Science and Technology," presentation to a workshop, "Models and Concepts of Research in a Global Perspective," Forum Internationale Wissenschaft (FIW), University of Bonn, November 29, 2018.
- Panelist, "Kranzberg's Laws at 60," Society for the History of Technology annual meeting, St. Louis, October 11, 2018.
- "Response," presentation to a panel in my book, *Technology: Critical History of a Concept*, Society for the History of Technology annual meeting, St. Louis, October 12, 2018.
- "Critiquing the Critiques: Public Discourse about the Technology during the Long 1960s," paper presented to the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Philadelphia, October 27, 2017
- "Technology: Fixing a Broken Concept," paper presented to the King's College Centre for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine research seminar series, London, March 15, 2017.
- "The Concept of Technology: A Critical History," paper presented to the Max Planck Institute for History of Science Department III seminar series, Berlin, February 14, 2017.

- "In the Shadow of Science: The Concept of Technology in the Early Cold War," paper presented to Ideologies and Imaginaries of Innovation, Joint Workshop of the CASTI Research Network and Science Democracy Network, Munich Center for Technology in Society, Munich, May 20, 2016.
- "Craftsmen and Scholars: Implications for the History of Concepts," paper presented to a workshop on How Can Conceptual Approaches Contribute to Science and Technology Studies?, sponsored by CASTI (Conceptual Approaches to Science, Technology, and Innovation), Berlin, June 16, 2015.
- "Why There Is No Discipline of Technology in Anglo-American Scholarship," invited paper for a workshop on La Technologie entre l'Europe et les États-Unis aux XIXe et XXe siècles: rencontre et ignorance, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociales, Paris, June 5, 2015.
- "Craftsmen versus Scholars," paper presented to a seminar on Les savoirs opératoires de la matière de la Renaissance à l'industrialisation, Centre Alexandre Koyré, June 3, 2015.
- "Alternative Paths as Counterfactual History," paper presented to the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Dearborn, Nov. 7, 2014.
- "Far From a Keyword: The Marginal Status of the English-Language Concept of *Technology* in the Nineteenth Century," invited paper for workshop on Epistemologies of Techniques and Technology, Department of Anthropology, University College London, October 25-26, 2013.
- "German Roots of the Science-Technology Debate," paper presented to the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Cleveland, Nov. 4, 2011.
- Session organizer, "Beyond the Science-Technology Relationship," annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Cleveland, Nov. 4, 2011.
- "Lost in Translation:^[SEP] German Theory and the American Concept of ^[SEP] Technology between the World Wars," invited lecture in the University of Minnesota colloquium series in History of Science and Technology, Oct. 28, 2011.
- "Muddled Meanings in Translation: The Concept of Technology in American Social Thought in the 1930s," paper presented in the Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies Brown Bag series, Jan. 21, 2010.
- "From Art to Applied Science: The Discourse of Science and Industry in the Nineteenth Century," annual meeting of the History of Science Society, Phoenix, AZ, Nov. 20, 2009.
- "The Role of Continental Concepts of Technology in American Social Thought, From Talcott Parsons through Herbert Marcuse," paper presented to the XXIII International Congress of the History of Science and Technology, Budapest, Hungary, July 29, 2009.
- Session organizer, "Ideas of Technology Across Time and Space: Changing Concepts and Ideologies," XXIII International Congress of the History of Science and Technology, Budapest, Hungary, July 29, 2009,
- "Redrawing Conceptual Boundaries: Art, Science and Technology from the Enlightenment to Veblen," Stanford Seminar on Science, Technology and Society, Stanford University, Jan. 16, 2009.
- "How *Technology* Lost Its *Logos*: The Discourse of Science and Arts in the Nineteenth Century," Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Del., Feb. 7, 2008
- "How *Technology* Lost Its *Logos*," Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dec. 4, 2007

- Session organizer, "SHOT and the Science-Technology Relationship: Responding to Paul Forman's Critique," annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Washington, DC, Oct. 20, 2007.
- "*Technik* Comes to America: American Social Scientists and the Concept of *Technology* before World War II," paper presented to the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Atlanta, Oct. 18, 2003.
- "Undermining Technology from Within: Cold War Research on Automobile Safety," lecture presented at a workshop, "Science as Politics in Mid-20th-Century America," University of Wisconsin-Madison, Sep. 19, 2003.
- "The Dialectic of Enthusiasm and Fear: American Automobile Crash Injury Research in the 1950s," paper presented to the annual meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, Milwaukee, Nov. 8, 2002.
- "From Knowledge to Object: The Contested Meanings of Technology," paper presented to the History of Technology Seminar at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociale, Paris, Dec. 5, 2001.
- "Dissidents Experts and the Postwar Critique of Technology," talk presented to South Kensington Institute for the History of Technology, London, Nov. 26, 2001.
- "Materials and the Development of Aircraft: Wood, Aluminium, Composites," keynote address for an international conference, "Glare: The New Material for Aircraft," Delft, 25 Sep. 25, 2001.
- "From Knowledge to Object: The Origins of *Technology* as Keyword," paper presented to "Wrestling with Nature: From Omens to Science," Madison, Wisconsin, April 28, 2001
- "Carson, Nader, and Dissident Experts: The Critique of Technology in Postwar America," paper presented to the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Munich, Germany, August 18, 2000.
- "Nationalism, Resource Endowments, and Technical Choice: Wooden Airplanes in the United States, Canada and Great Britain during WWII," paper for the Dibner Institute Conference on the Evolution of Atmospheric Flight in the Twentieth Century, Cambridge, Massachusetts, April 4, 1997.
- "Symbols in the Shaping of Technology," paper presented to the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Charlottesville, Virginia, October 20, 1995. (I also organized the session in which this paper was presented, "New Directions in the Cultural History of Technology.")
- "Shaping Technical Change through Ideology: Canadian Nationalism vs. American Faith in Progress," paper presented to Machinations: Technology and Culture in North America, a conference organized by the Centre for American Studies, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, April 7, 1995.
- "Symbols and Ideologies in the Shaping of Technology," paper presented to the Hagley Research Seminar, Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, December 8, 1994.
- "Culture, Politics and Urban Transportation: American Opposition to Electric Streetcars in the Late Nineteenth Century," paper presented to the annual conference of the Society for the History of Technology, Uppsala, Sweden, August 18, 1992.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Visiting Fellowship, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Jan. 2017-July 2017
University Housing's Honored Instructors' Award, April 29, 2009

Vilas Associates fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2008-2010.
Abbott Payson Usher Prize of the Society for the History of Technology, 2007, for the best article in *Technology and Culture* published during the preceding three years.
Resident Fellowship, Institute for Research on the Humanities, University of Wisconsin-Madison, fall 2007.
National Science Foundation grant, "Ideas of 'Technology' From Applied Science to the Cold War," 2007-2008.
University of Wisconsin Faculty Development Grant (for course development), spring 2002.
National Science Foundation grant, "Social Critics and Dissident Experts: Postwar Critiques of Technology," 2000-2002.
Abbott Payson Usher Prize of the Society for the History of Technology, 1997, for the best article in *Technology and Culture* published during the preceding three years.
National Science Foundation grant, "The Symbolic Shaping of Technology," 1996-1997.
Lilly Teaching Fellowship, 1995-1996.
National Science Foundation grant, "Ideologies and Technical Choice," 1994-1995.
AHA Aerospace History Fellowship, 1988-89.
Rovensky Fellowship in Business and Economic History, 1988-89.
Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize of the Society for the History of Technology, 1988.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 2017-present
School of History and Sociology. I teach courses in the history of technology.
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, 1992-2017
Department of the History of Science. I taught graduate and undergraduate courses in the history of modern science and technology.
RUTGERS-THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY, 1990-1992
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History. I taught a senior-level research seminar for history majors in the history of technology.
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1989-1990
Lecturer, Department of History and Sociology of Science, College of General Studies.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee, Society for the History of Technology, 2018-2020, 2009-2012.
Editorial board, *History and Technology*, 2008-present.
Advisory board (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat), *NTM - Zeitschrift für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, Technik und Medizin*, 2007-2018.
Grant review panel member, Kluge Fellowship, Library of Congress, 2008.
Executive Council, Society for the History of Technology, 2003-2005.
Usher Prize Committee, Society for the History of Technology, 2002-2004.
Nominations Committee, Society for the History of Technology, 1995-1998 (chair 1996-97).
Robinson Prize Committee, Society for the History of Technology, 1992-1994 (chair 1994).
Grant proposal reviewer: National Science Foundation, American Philosophical Society.

Article referee for *NTM, Enterprise and Society, American Sociological Review, Technology and Culture, Journal of American History, Isis, Canadian Journal of History, IEEE Spectrum, and Science, Technology and Human Values.*

Professional Society Memberships: Society for History of Technology, International Committee for the History of Technology.

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