

Ken Alder

Curriculum Vitae 2024

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- Northwestern faculty teaching the history of science and technology in social context.
- [Author](#) of three award-winning histories organized around material artifacts, plus two novels.
- [Currently writing](#) a book of ten short autobiographies by artificial beings, from Mesopotamia to AI.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2003 - present	Professor of History and Milton H. Wilson Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern.
1994 - 2021	Founder/Director, Science in Human Culture Program, Northwestern (passim).
2014 - 2017	Chair of the History Department, Northwestern.
1999 - 2003	Harold and Virginia Anderson Outstanding Teaching Professor, Northwestern.
1997 - 2003	Associate Professor of History, Northwestern.
1991 - 1997	Assistant Professor of History, Northwestern.

EDUCATION

1991, Ph.D.	Harvard University. History of science.
1981, A.B.	Harvard University. Honors physics. Phi Beta Kappa; National Merit Scholar; Fulbright.

VISITING SCHOLAR

2021 - 2022	Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J.
2018 Fall	Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin.
2013 - 2014	Department of History, New York University.
2012 Spring	Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris.
2001 - 2002	American Bar Foundation, Chicago.
1999 - 2000	Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation, Ecole des Mines, Paris.

HONORS

Fellow, American Academy of Arts & Sciences, Cambridge, Mass., Elected 2012.
E. Le Roy Hall Award for Teaching Excellence, College of Arts & Sciences, Northwestern, 2010-11.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University, 2019-20, 1994-95
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, 2010-11.
National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholar's Award: Program in Science, Technology, and Society; and
Program in Law and Social Sciences, 2008-09.
National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholar's Award: Program in Science and Technology Studies, 1997-2000.
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship, Newberry Library, Chicago, 1997-98.
Henry M. Phillips Research Grant in Jurisprudence, American Philosophical Society, Summer 1997.

I. PUBLICATIONS

SCHOLARLY BOOKS

The Lie Detectors: The History of an American Obsession

New York: The Free Press, 2007. Paperback edition: Lincoln, Neb.: Bison Press, 2009.

Japanese edition: 嘘発見器よ永遠なれ. Tokyo, Hayakawa, 2008, with original preface.

The Measure of All Things: The Seven-Year Odyssey and Hidden Error that Transformed the World

New York: The Free Press, 2002; paperback, 2003.

London: Abacus/Time Warner Books, 2002; paperback, 2004.

- Foreign language editions:

French: Mesurer le monde, 1792-1799, l'incroyable histoire de l'invention du mètre. Paris: Flammarion, 2005. Pocketbook edition, 2008.

Italian: La misura di tutte le cose: L'avventurosa storia dell'invenzione de sistema metrico decimale. Milan: Rizzoli, 2002.

Dutch: De Maat van alle Dingen: De Zevenjarige zoektocht naar de Universele Meter. Amsterdam: Ambo/Anthos, 2003.

German: Das Mass der Welt: Die Suche nach dem Urmeter. Munich: Bertelsmann, 2003; paperback 2005.

Portuguese: A medida de todas as coisas: A odisséia de sete anos e o erro encoberto que transformaram o mundo. Rio de Janeiro: Objetiva, 2003.

Norwegian: Alle Tings Mål: Den Syv Ar Lange Odysseen Og Den Skjulte Feilen Som Forandret Verden. Oslo: Cappelen, 2003.

Spanish: La Medida de Todas las Cosas: La Odisea de Siete Años y el Error Oculto que Transformaron el Mundo. Madrid: Santillana, 2003.

Swedish: Världens Mått: Berättelsen om hur Metersystemet Förändrade Världen. Stockholm: Norstedts, 2003.

Chinese (simple characters): 万物之尺. Beijing: HuaWen, 2004.

Chinese (complex characters): 萬物的尺度. Taiwan: Owl/Cite Publishing, 2005; reprint, 2009.

Japanese: 万物の尺度を求めて. Tokyo: Hayakawa 2006.

Hebrew: מידה לפי הכול. Tel Aviv: Kinneret-Zmora, 2007.

- Prizes/Honors:

Co-winner of the Kagan Prize from The Historical Society for 2002-03

Winner of the Davis Prize from the History of Science Society for 2002; citation in *Isis* 95 (2004): 263.

Winner of the Dingle Prize from the British Society for the History of Science for 2001-02.

Shortlisted for The Longmann/History Today Prize, 2002.

Runner-up, best science book of year, 2004, *Buchjournal* [Germany], December 2004.

Winner of the 2005 Prix de la Traduction Pierre-François Caillé from the Société Française des Traducteurs, for the French translation by Martine Devillers-Argouac'h.

Cited as a "Notable Book" for 2002 by *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Discover Magazine*, *Book Sense*, *Library Journal*, *The Sunday Times* (London), *The Sunday Telegraph*, *Granta*, and *The Spectator*.

Engineering the Revolution: Arms and Enlightenment in France, 1763-1815

First edition: Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1997; paperback edition, 1999.

Second edition: Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.

- **Prizes/Honors:** Winner of the 1998 Dexter/Edelstein Prize of the Society for the History of Technology, citation in *Technology & Culture* 40 (1999): 623-24.

- **Major review essays:** C. C. Gillispie, *Technology & Culture* 39 (1998): 742-54; Myles Jackson, *Journal of Modern History* 71 (1999): 902-13; Donald MacKenzie, *London Review of Books* (12/11/97):18-19; Terry Shinn, *Social Studies of Science* 29 (1999): 135-44.

NOVELS

Himmelstein's Constant: A Novel of the Anti-Faust. Draft manuscript available on request, [2023].

The White Bus: A Novel. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987.

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

- "The Forensic Self: Expert Identification and the History of Script Culture in France," 2018 Hans Rausing Lecture, Uppsala University, Sweden; *Savlia småskrifter* 18 (2020): 1-48.
- "History of Science as Oxymoron: From Scientific Exceptionalism to Episcience," *Isis* 104 (2013): 88-101. Centenary edition, "Focus Section on the Future of the History of Science."
- "Scientific Conventions: International Assemblies and Universal Standards," pp. 19-40, in Mario Biagioli and Jessica Riskin, eds., *Nature Engaged: Science in Practice from the Renaissance to the Present* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012; paperback edition, 2015).
- "Thick Things: Introduction" and "America's Two Gadgets: Of Bombs and Polygraphs," *Isis* 98 (2007): 80-83, 124-37. Guest-editor, with an intro and essay for a Focus Section on the history of technology.
- "It's Not About France." In *Why France?*, pp. 189-210. Ed. Laura Lee Downs and Stéphane Gerson. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006. French translation: "La France n'y est pour rien," In *Pourquoi la France?* Paris: La Seuil, 2007.
- "History's Greatest Forger: Science, Fiction, and Fraud along the Seine." *Critical Inquiry* 30 (2004): 702-16. German translation: "Der Grösste Fälscher der Geschichte." *Sinn und Form* 57 (2005): 748-64.
- "A Social History of Untruth: Lie Detection and Trust in Twentieth-Century America." *Representations* 80 (2002): 1-33.
- "The History of Science, Or, an Oxymoronic Theory of Relativistic Objectivity." In *A Companion to Western Historical Thought*, pp. 297-318. Ed. Lloyd Kramer and Sarah Maza. London: Blackwell, 2002.
- "French Engineers Become Professionals, Or, How Meritocracy Made Knowledge Objective." In *The Sciences in Enlightened Europe*, pp. 94-125. Ed. William Clark, Jan Golinski, and Simon Schaffer. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.
- "To Tell the Truth: The Polygraph Exam and the Marketing of American Expertise." *Historical Reflections* 24 (1998): 487-525.
- "Stepson of the Enlightenment: The Duc Du Châtelet, The Colonel Who 'Caused' the French Revolution." *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 32 (1998): 1-18.
- "Making Things the Same: Technological Representation, Manufacturing Tolerance, and the End of the Old Régime in France." *Social Studies of Science* 28 (1998): 499-545.
- "Innovation and Amnesia: Engineering Rationality and the Fate of Interchangeable Parts Manufacturing in France." *Technology & Culture* 38 (1997): 273-311.
- "A Revolution to Measure: The Political Economy of the Metric System in France." In *Values of Precision*, pp. 39-71. Ed. M. Norton Wise. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995.

OTHER ARTICLES

- "Mètre," *Encyclopédie historique de la civilisation européenne*, ed. Daniel Roche. Paris: Editions Acte Sud, 2018.
- "The Golden Lasso: Wonder Woman and the Birth of the Lie Detector," *Cabinet: A Quarterly of Art and Culture* 33 (2009): 66-67.
- "Le mètre et le méridien," *Libération* (8/13/06): i-iii.
- "Der heisse Stuhl," *NZZ-Folio, Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, Zürich (8/06): 26-31.
- "Der Meter misst keinen Meter!" *NZZ-Folio, Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, Zürich (2/05): 22-25.

- "The Measure of the World." *The Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology*. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Libraries, 2004.
- "La démesure du mètre." *La Recherche* 13 (October-December, 2003): 16-21. Reprinted in *L'histoire des nombres*, pp. 167-77. Paris: Tallandier, 2007.
- "Europe's Rulers." *Times Educational Supplement* (11/8/02): 12-15.
- "Lecture: *La misura di tutte le cose*," in *Corriere della Sera* (8/21-9/2/02).
- "The Mismeasure of All Things." *American Heritage of Invention and Technology* (Fall 2002): 38-44.
- "Weights and Measures." In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History*. Ed. Joel Mokyr. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- "Interchangeable Gunlocks and Technological Memory" *Revue Scientifique et Technique de la Défense*, 2002. Ed. Dominique Pestre and Patrice Bret.
- "Les tours et détours du détecteur de mensonge." *La Recherche* 341 (4/01): 48-53. Spanish edition: "Las mentiras del detector de mentiras," *Mundo Científico* 224 (5/01): 58-63.
- "Michel Chasles, ou l'illusion envoûtante." *Les Cahiers de science et vie* 58 (Aug.-Sept. 2000): 4-11.
- "Les mathématiques de l'artilleur dans la grand Encyclopédie." *Les Cahiers de science et vie* 47 (Oct. 1998): 48-52.
- "Do Guns Have Politics? A Reply to Charles Gillispie." *Technology & Culture* 39 (1998): 742-54.
- "L'amnesie des armuriers français." *La Recherche* 308 (April 1998): 78-84.
- "The Metric of Revolution: A Social History of the Metric System." *Proceedings of the Western Society for French History* 21 (1994): 95-105.
- "The Perpetual Search for Perpetual Motion," *American Heritage of Invention and Technology* (Summer 1986): 58-63.

REVIEWS

- "Clearer Than Truth: *The Polygraph and the American Cold War*, by John Philipp Baesler," *American Historical Review* 125 (2020): 1051-52.
- "1001 Grams, a film by Bent Hamer," in H-France, October 2016, <http://h-france.net/fffh/maybe-missed/universal-measures-1001-grams/>
- "Science INC. On Mediating Stephen Hawking," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 10 Jan. 2015. <http://lareviewofbooks.org/review/science-inc-mediating-stephen-hawking>
- "The Truth Machine: *A Social History of the Lie Detector*, by Geoff Bunn," *Isis* 104 (2013): 170.
- "Un astronome des lumières: Jérôme Lalande, by Simone Dumont," *Isis* 100 (2009): 400-401.
- "Measuring the World, by Daniel Kehlman," *American Scientist* 95 (May-June, 2007): 273-74.
- "Pierre Simon Laplace, 1749-1827, *A Determined Scientist*, by Roger Hahn." *Times Higher Education Supplement* (4/7/06): 22-23.
- "Une histoire de la Méridienne, by Jean-Pierre Martin." *Isis* 92 (2001): 753-54.
- "French Engineers and Architects in the Age of Enlightenment, by Antoine Picon." *Technology and Culture* 41 (2000): 588-589.
- "Engineering Labour: *Technical Workers in Comparative Perspective*, edited by Peter Meiksins and Chris Smith." *Journal of Economic History* 58 (1998): 620-21.
- Review Essay: "*Labour, Science and Technology in France, 1500-1620*, by Henry Heller; *Vauban*, by Anne Blanchard; and *Constructing a Bridge: An Exploration of Engineering Culture... in France and America*, by Eda Kranakis." *Journal of Modern History* 70 (1998): 691-95.
- "The Closed World: *Computers and the Politics of Discourse in Cold War America*, by Paul N. Edwards." *Journal of American History* 84 (1997): 1130-31.
- "The World of the Paris Café: *Sociability among the French Working Class, 1789-1914*, by W. Scott Haine." *Labor History* 38 (1997): 376-77.
- "Science, Industry, and the Social Order in Post-Revolutionary France, by Robert Fox." *Technology and Culture* 38 (1996): 836-38.
- "Unlikely Contrivances: *Zipper* by Robert Freidel," *Science* 264 (13 May 1994): 994-96.

II. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

PLENARY ADDRESSES

- “College Convocation: The World’s Measure,” Ginnell College, Iowa, 14 March 2019.
- “Mesures révolutionnaires: Les origines du système métrique,” Académie des sciences (Paris), Colloque: “Changeons d’étalon,” 4 December 2018.
- “The Forensic Self: Proving Identity from the Counter-Reformation to the Dreyfus Affair,” Hans Rausing Lecture, Uppsala University, Sweden, 15 October 2018.
- “Everyone’s Autobiography of Gertrude Stein.” Distinguished Lecture in the History of the Human Sciences, History of Science Society Meeting, Chicago, 8 November 2014.
- “A Biography of Marie Curie by Her Bicycle.” Plenary lecture and panel organizer, Annual meeting of the History of Science Society, Boston, 21 November 2013.
- “Scientific Conventions: International Assemblies and Universal Standards.” George Sarton Memorial Lecture of the History of Science Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Chicago, 15 February 2009.
- “The Measure of All Things.” Colloquium of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, MD, 14 March 2008.
- “Mesurer le monde.” Public lecture, Conservatoire Nationale des Arts et Métiers, Paris, 7 April 2005.
- “The Measure of the World.” Dibner Library Lecture, National Museum of American History, 4 Nov. 2003. Published as The Measure of the World (Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution Libraries, 2003).

SCHOLARLY TALKS— SELECTED, SINCE 2010

- “The Curve of Binding Technology,” Conference on the Past, Present, and Future of the History of Technology, MIT, Cambridge, [June 7-8, 2024].
- “Statecraft and the Forensic Self,” Workshop on Science and Liberalism, University of Chicago, 7-8 April 2023.
- “Lives of the Machines (Selections),” Seminar in the History of Science, Princeton, 4 April 2022.
- “The False Weight of Babylon,” Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, 23 March 2022.
- “The Lie Detector and the Forensic Self,” Osaka University, March 2016.
- “Capitalism and the Anthropocene,” Comment for Newberry Seminar of Capitalism, 9 October 2015.
- “The Blunderbuss and the Fortunate Slave,” Workshop on “Guns & History: Did Guns Make the Modern World?” History Department, Stanford University, 17 November 2015.
- “The Autobiographies of an Artifact: ‘Erewhon Loves Frankenstein,’” Plenary Lecture, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, 25 June 2015.
- “The Gun and the Slave,” Material Culture Workshop on “Translating Vitalities,” Seattle, 29 August 2014.
- “The Machine Memoirs: A History of Artificial Beings.” History of Science Department Colloquium, Harvard University, Cambridge, 25 March 2014.
- “The Measure of All Things.” Physics Department Colloquium, MIT, Cambridge, 20 March 2014.
- “Do Artifacts Still Have Politics? History and the History of Technology.” History of Science, Medicine, and Technology Colloquium Series, New York University, 5 December 2013.
- “Do Artifacts Still Have Politics?” HPOL Colloquium, Drexel University, Philadelphia, 3 December 2013.
- “Thick Things: Science and Technology as Performance,” Workshop on “Materialities, Texts, and Images,” Caltech/Huntington Library, Pasadena, 10-11 May 2013.
- “The Measure of the World: The Origin of the Metric System and Our Scientific Values.” Committee on the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Colorado-Boulder, 29 April 2013.
- “Episcience and the End of Scientific Exceptionalism,” Science and Technology Studies Program Seminar, Brown University, Providence, 3 April 2013.
- “How Social Psychology Has Transformed America—and Its Laws,” Colloquium of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission/Office of Civil Rights, Chicago Offices (with video conference to Milwaukee and Minneapolis offices), 16 January 2013.

- “Conventions scientifiques: Conférences internationales et normes techniques de la République des lettres à la science internationale,” Seminar talk for Les frontières mouvantes de la science : une histoire, XVIIIe-XXe siècle, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, 29 May 2012.
- “Lire les caractères: L’expertise en écriture et l’identité française, du Massacre de la Saint-Barthélemy à l’Affaire Dreyfus,” Seminar talk for Les frontières mouvantes de la science : une histoire, XVIIIe-XXe siècle, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, 22 May 2012.
- “The Lie Detectors: The History of an American Obsession,” Chicago Humanities Festival, 16 October 2011.
- “Measuring the World: A Historical Perspective on Scientific Values.” Joint Molecular Biosciences Graduate Student Association, UMDNJ-Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 26 April 2011.
- “The Forensic Self: Identity and Identification in France.” Seminar series in the History of Science and Technology, University of California at Berkeley, 10 May 2010.
- “Reading Characters: Identity and Identification in France.” Seminar series in the History Department, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 8 April 2010.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS—SELECTED, SINCE 2010

- “A Biography of Marie Curie by Her Bicycle,” Annual Conference of the French Historical Studies Society, Boston, 4-6 April 2013.
- “History of Science as Means: Mediating the Materialist and Political Histories of the French Revolution,” Roundtable on science and the French Revolution, Annual Conference of the French Historical Studies Society, Boston, 4-6 April 2013.

PUBLIC MEDIA APPEARANCES—SELECTED

Public engagements and radio/tv/film for *The Lie Detectors*, 2003-present:

- TV/film: Consultant and talking head for the PBS documentary “The Lie Detector,” directed by Rob Rapley, and aired as part of the award-winning series, “The American Experience,” 3 January 2023; accompanied by my interviews for WTTW-Chicago and WGN-Chicago. Also in 2009 a wide variety of talks/interviews on C-SPAN2 Book TV, “Lie Detectors,” and for Forenskik, Propellerfilm for RTE-Germany.
- Print interview: “Verbatim,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 17 January 2003, p. A12.
- Radio show interviews on multiple American NPR outlets, including NY-Leonarde Lopate, DC-Diane Rehm, Chicago-848, and National-Bob Edwards; plus foreign shows like BBC4 and BBC World Service.
- Podcast: “American Innovations,” Wondery.com, 11 March 2021.

Public engagements and radio/tv/film for *The Measure of All Things*, 2002-present:

- Consultant for the new Palais de Découverte, Paris, exhibits opening in 2025.
- TV/Film: Consultant for the multiple Emmy-award-winning film "[The Last Artifact](#),” produced by Montana State University, and funded by the National Institute of Science and Technology, 2018; Consultant for film, “The Last Artifact,” 2018-20, funded by National Institute of Science and Technology; CSPAN-2 “Book TV”; “Méchain and Arago in Mallorca,” La Periferica, Catalan Public Television, 2009; episode of “Mission X” series, Engstfeld Films on German SDF and French Arte.
- Radio shows on multiple outlets of NPR (US), CBC (Canada), BBC (UK), ABC (Australia), RTE (Ireland); Spanish national radio; Swedish public radio; Norwegian public radio; and RFI and Europe 1 (France) in French.
- Talks in book stores and corporate offices in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, Madison, Washington DC, Ann Arbor, Minneapolis, Denver, Toronto, London, Dublin, Madrid, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Göteborg (book fair), Oslo, and Paris.

III. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SCHOLARLY SOCIETIES

American Academy of Arts & Sciences (Cambridge, MA), elected fellow, class of 2012. Member: Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Committee, 2022-

History of Science Society (HSS):

Executive Council (elected office, three-year term), 2005-08.

Meetings and Programs Committee, 2013-17 (local arrangements host in 2013)

Nominations Committee, chair, 2010-11.

Publications Committee, 2008-10; chair, 2009-10.

Program Committee, Co-chair, 2007-08.

Society for the History of Technology (SHOT):

Executive Council (elected office, three-year term), 2004-2007.

Member: HSS, SHOT, American Historical Association.

PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Grant reviews:

- Guggenheim Foundation, History of science, field-wide reviewer, three years.
- Philadelphia Consortium for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, field-wide reviewer, 2022.
- Institute for Advanced Studies, 2018-
- National Endowment for the Humanities, Public Scholars, field-wide reviewer, 2019.
- ACLS, Review committee for graduate dissertation fellowship, 2015.
- Dibner Fellowships, Review committee for Huntington Library fellowships, 2008-2011.
- National Science Foundation, Review committee for Science, Technology, and Society Program, 2002.
- National Humanities Center (North Carolina), History of science, field-wide reviewer, 2017-18.
- Peer review for individual grants/fellowship: National Science Foundation; Institute for Advanced Studies-Princeton; Humboldt (Germany); MacArthur Foundation; Newberry Library/NEH, etc.

Journal editor, peer reviewer:

- *Technology & Culture* (SHOT), Advisory editor, 1997-2010; peer reviewed dozens of articles, then and since.
- *Isis* (HSS), Advisory editor, 1999-2004; peer reviewed dozens of articles, then and since.
- *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, Consulting editor, 2004-19.
- Peer review for journals: *British Journal for the History of Science...*, *Business History Review...*, *Eighteenth-Century Studies...*, *French Historical Studies...*, *Global History...*, *History of Science...*, *Journal of Economic History...*, *Journal of Modern History...*, *History of Psychology...*, *Science in Context...*, *Science Technology and Human Values...*, *Social Studies of Science...*, etc.

Scholarly book reviews:

Peer review of book manuscripts for MIT Press, Princeton University Press, University of California Press, University of Chicago Press.

Tenure and promotion cases:

Assessed candidates for tenure and promotion at public and private universities in the U.S. and abroad.

Institutional Review:

- MIT, Visiting Committee for the Social Sciences Division: History, STS, Anthropology Depts., 2017-20.
- Harvard University, Visiting Committee for the History of Science Department, 2011 and 2016.
- Wesleyan University, Visiting Committee (chair) for the Science in Society Program, 2011.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Chair of the History Department, 2014-2017. Administrative responsibility for Northwestern's History Department, comprising 40+ tenure-line faculty, 10+ visiting faculty and postdocs, 90+ graduate students, 300+ undergraduate majors/minors, 3500 annual undergraduate course enrollments, and five staff members. During my three-year term I oversaw the hiring of 6 new tenure-line faculty; the tenuring and promotion of 5 faculty; a Program Review of the Department (our first in 15 years); supervised the faculty directors of the undergraduate and graduate programs; managed the department budget; and renewed the departmental staff (with 4 new hires).

Other significant Department roles:

- Search Committee (chair): history of science, 2011-12 and 2000-01.
- Search Committee (member): early America, 2009-10; Britain, 2006-07; early modern Europe, 2005-06.
- Professional Development Officer, 2005-06, 2012-13. Guided graduate students entering the job market.
- Graduate Fellowship Committee, Europeanist member, 1991-92, 1993-94, 2002-03, 2003-04.
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, 1998-99.

MAJOR UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Science in Human Culture Program, Director, 1994-2014 and 2018-2021.

As inaugural director of SHC, I established an interdisciplinary science studies program which invites scholars and students from multiple departments to study science, technology, and medicine in context. See www.shc.northwestern.edu/. The program includes:

- Includes some 20+ faculty from History, Sociology, English, Anthropology, Performance Studies, Com Studies, and various departments in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.
- An undergraduate program for 50+ adjunct majors and minors.
- A graduate science studies "cluster" program for some 20+ Ph.D. students from various departments.
- A post-doctoral fellowship program which admits two concurrent scholars for two-year terms.
- A Klopsteg speaker series, which each year invites a dozen scholars in science studies.
- Periodic conferences, including a triennial Midwest-STC conference; plus other thematic gatherings.

Kaplan Humanities Scholars Program, Director, 2006-08.

As inaugural director, I established an integrated humanities program for 48 first-year undergraduates in the Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences. I set the program's pedagogical mission and coordinated the teaching of faculty from multiple disciplines. See www.kaplanscholars.northwestern.edu/

OTHER NORTHWESTERN SERVICE

- Program Review Council, 2022-[2025]
- Faculty Advisory Council, Buffett Institute for Global Studies, 2014-17.
- Executive Council, Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, 2006-08, 2014-17, 2019-20.
- Tenure Committee for Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, elected three-year term: 2009-10, 2011-13.

- College-wide senior faculty search (chair), Biomedicine and humanities, 2007-08.
- College-wide faculty search (member), Environmental social sciences, 2012-13.
- Faculty Appeals Committee, 2019-21. University wide committee that hears appeals of promotion cases.
- Copyright Committee, 2001-06, 2019-present. Played key role in drafting the university's copyright policy.

IV. TEACHING ACTIVITIES

TEACHING HONORS

- E. Le Roy Hall Award for Teaching Excellence, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, 2010-11.
- Harold and Virginia Anderson Outstanding Teaching Professor, Northwestern University, 1999-2003.
- Excellence in Teaching Award, Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Association, Northwestern, 1997.
- Hewlett Grant: "Technology: History, Society, and Economy." Co-winner with Joel Mokyr, 1993-94.

POST-DOCTORAL SUPERVISION

Since 1992 I have been involved in the selection and supervision of some 30 postdoctoral fellows for Northwestern's Science in Human Culture Program. The following list includes the fellows' postdoc years at Northwestern, their Ph.D.-granting institution and discipline, their current position, and the manuscript or book they wrote based on their postdoctoral work. An asterisk* indicates a scholar who I officially mentored.

- 2023-[2025], Ben Lindquist* (History, Princeton), current postdoc. Dissertation: "Conversational Computing: Speech Synthesis from Assistive Technology to Artificial Intelligence, 1930-1980."
- 2019-21, Sarah Carson* (History, Princeton), currently Visiting Assistant Professor, History, Dartmouth. Dissertation: "Ungovernable Winds: Weather Science in South Asia, 1864-1945."
- 2019-20, Madeleine Pape (Sociology, UW-Madison), currently postdoctoral fellow, Université de Lausanne. Dissertation: "Inclusion and Exclusion: Institutional Reproductions of Sex and Gender."
- 2017-19, Diana Kurkovsky West (Art History, Princeton), currently research associate, Earth System Science, University of Alabama, Huntsville. Project: "CyberSovietica: Planning for Big Data in the Soviet Union."
- 2017-19, Onur Özgöde (Sociology, Columbia), currently postdoctoral fellow, STS Program, Harvard. Book ms: "Fractals of Governance: Governing Systemic Risk at the Limits of Neoliberalism, 1922-2010."
- 2018, Michael Barany* (History, Princeton), currently Assistant Professor, STS Department, University of Edinburgh; NSF-funded postdoctoral research at Northwestern on "Global Mathematics," September-November 2018.
- 2015-17, Fredrik Meiton* (History, NYU), currently Associate Professor of Global History, University of New Hampshire. *Electrical Palestine: Jewish and Arab Technopolitics Under British Rule* (California, 2019), winner of the Hourani "best book" prize and the Owen "best book on political economy" prize from the Middle East Studies Association.
- 2015-17, Stephanie Graeter (Anthropology, UC-Davis), currently Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Arizona. Book manuscript under consideration at Duke: "Mineral Incorporations: Embodied Ecologies and Neoextractivist Politics in Peru."
- 2013-15, Daniel Stoltz* (Near Eastern Studies, Princeton), currently Kemal H. Karpat Associate Professor, History Dept., University of Wisconsin-Madison. *The Lighthouse and the Observatory: Islam, Science, and Empire in Late Ottoman Egypt* (Cambridge, 2018).

- 2012-13, Lukas Rieppel* (History of Science, Harvard), currently Associate Professor, History Dept., Brown University. *Assembling the Dinosaur: Science, Museums, and American Capitalism, 1870-1930* (Harvard, 2019).
- 2010-12, Tania Munz* (History, Princeton), currently CEO/President, Forest History Society. *The Dancing Bees: Karl von Frisch and the Discovery of the Honeybee Dance Language* (Chicago, 2016); winner of the 2017 Davis Prize, History of Science Society.
- 2010-12, Tom Waidzun (Sociology, UCSD), currently Associate Professor, Sociology Dept., Temple University, Pennsylvania. *The Straight Line: How the Fringe Science of Ex-Gay Therapy Reoriented Sexuality* (Minnesota, 2015).
- 2009-10, Dániel Margócsy* (History of Science, Harvard), currently Professor, History and Philosophy of Science Dept., Cambridge University. *Commercial Visions: Science, Trade and Visual Culture in the Dutch Golden Age* (Chicago, 2014).
- 2008-10, Lindsay Smith* (Anthropology, Harvard), currently Assistant Professor, School for the Future of Innovation, Arizona State University-Tempe. Book ms: "Subversive Genes: Re(con)stituting Identity, Family and Human Rights in Argentina."
- 2007-09, Anthony Hazard* (History, Temple), currently Associate Professor, Program in Ethnic Studies/History, Santa Clara University. *Postwar Anti-racism: The United States, UNESCO, and "Race," 1945-1968* (Palgrave, 2012).
- 2006-08, Laura Stark* (Sociology, Princeton), currently Associate Professor, Center for Medicine, Health, and Society/History, Vanderbilt University. *Behind Closed Doors: IRBs and the Making of Ethical Research* (Chicago, 2011).
- 2005-07, Sokhieng Au* (History, Berkeley), currently Lecturer, Global Health Studies, Northwestern University. *Mixed Medicines: Health and Culture in Colonial Cambodia* (Chicago, 2011).
- 2004-06, Patrick Singy* (Historical and Conceptual Foundations of Science, Chicago), currently Adjunct faculty, History, Union College. *L'usage de Sexe: Lettres au Docteur Tissot* (BHMS, 2014).
- 2004-05, Pauline Kusiak* (Science and Technology Studies, Cornell), currently policy analyst for U.S. government on sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2002-04, John Tresch* (History of Science, Cambridge), currently Mellon Professor, Warburg Institute, University of London. *The Romantic Machine: Technology and Metamorphosis in Paris, 1820-1851* (Chicago, 2012); winner of 2013 Pfizer Prize from the History of Science Society.
- 2002-04, Shobita Parthasarathy* (Science and Technology Studies, Cornell), currently Professor, School of Public Policy, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. *Building Genetic Medicine: Breast Cancer, Technology, and the Comparative Politics of Health Care* (MIT, 2007).
- 2000-02, Sander Gliboff* (History of Science and Technology, Johns Hopkins), currently Associate Professor, History and Philosophy of Science Dept., Indiana University-Bloomington. *H. G. Bronn, Ernst Haeckel, and the Origins of German Darwinism: A Study in Translation and Transformation* (MIT, 2008).
- 1999-00, David Hoyt (History, UCLA), currently independent scholar.
- 1998-99, Florence Hsia* (History, Chicago), currently Professor, History Dept., University of Wisconsin-Madison. *Sojourners in a Strange Land: Jesuits and their Scientific Missions in Late Imperial China* (Chicago, 2009).
- 1997-98, Francesca Bordogna (Historical and Conceptual Foundations of Science, Chicago), currently Associate Professor, Liberal Studies, Notre Dame. *William James at the Margins: Philosophy, Science, and the Geography of Knowledge* (Chicago, 2008).
- 1996-97, Jeffrey Sklansky* (History, Columbia), currently Professor, History, University of Illinois-Chicago. *The Soul's Economy: Market Society and Selfhood in American Thought, 1820-1920* (North Carolina, 2002).
- 1995-96, Jessica Riskin* (History, Berkeley), currently Frances and Charles Field Professor of History, Stanford University. *Science in the Age of Sensibility: The Sentimental Empiricists of the French*

Enlightenment (Chicago, 2002); winner of the J. Russell Major Prize for the best book in French history from the American Historical Association.

1994-95, Ayval [Ramati] Leshem* (History, UCLA), currently independent scholar. *Newton on Mathematics and Spiritual Purity* (Kluwer, 2003).

1993-94, Sharon Ghamari-Tabrizi* (History of Consciousness, UC Santa Cruz), currently independent scholar. *The Worlds of Herman Kahn: The Intuitive Science of Thermonuclear War* (Harvard, 2005).

1992-93, Mi Gyung Kim* (History, UCLA), currently Professor, History Dept., North Carolina State University-Charlotte. *Affinity, That Elusive Dream: A Genealogy of the Chemical Revolution* (MIT, 2003).

GRADUATE TRAINING

Graduate training fields:

In 30 years of graduate training I have directed dozens of major and minor field exams in the history of science, technology, and medicine, covering these diverse periods and geographies:

- History of science: Europe and America in the early modern and modern periods: including such topics as: Enlightenment science, 20th-century physics, science and law, science and politics, historical epistemology.
- History of technology: Europe and America in the early modern and modern periods, including such topics as: engineering sciences, standardization, comparative Industrial Revolutions, 20th-century American technology, theories of technological change, and political economy.
- French history: especially the era of the Enlightenment and French Revolution.
- American history: especially the history of law, public institutions, and material culture in the 20th century.

Dissertation advising:

Students for whom I served as either principal dissertation advisor or unofficial co-advisor:

Kevin Baker (Ph.D 2019, History). Currently postdoctoral fellow in Computer Science and History of Science, UC-Berkeley. Field: post-WWII computer science in global context. Dissertation: "World Processors: Scarcity Environmentalism, Global Politics and the Birth of Sustainability."

Aileen Robinson (Ph.D. 2016, Theater Studies; advisor Tracy Davis). Currently Assistant Professor in Performance and Theater Studies, Stanford University. Field: Victorian Magic and Science. Dissertation: "Technological Wonder: The Theatrical Fashioning of Scientific Knowledge, 1780-1905."

Adam Plaiss (Ph.D. 2015, History). Field: American technology. Dissertation: "The Rise of Technological Citizenship: Infrastructure in Progressive Era America."

Genevieve Carlton (Ph.D. 2011, History; advisor Ed Muir). Formerly tenured Associate Professor of History, University of Louisville. Currently professional writer. Field: Early modern Italian maps. Book based on diss.: *Worldly Consumers: The Demand for Maps in Renaissance Italy* (Chicago, 2015).

Meghan Roberts (Ph.D. 2011, History; advisor Sarah Maza). Currently Associate Professor, Department of History, Bowdoin College. Field: French Enlightenment and science. Book based on dissertation: *Living Proof: Intellectual Families and Knowledge Making in Enlightenment France* (Chicago, 2017).

Elise Lipkowitz (Ph.D. 2009, History). Currently Science Policy Analyst, NSF Board of Overseers; formerly AAAS Fellow, and Michigan Society of Fellows, 2009-13. Field: Eighteenth-century Atlantic science. Dissertation: "The Sciences Are Never at War?: The Scientific Republic of Letters in the Era of the French Revolution, 1789-1815," under contract at University of Chicago Press.

Guy Ortolano (Ph.D. 2005, History; advisor T. W. Heyck). Currently Professor of History, New York University. Field: Modern British culture and science. Book based on dissertation: *The Two-Cultures Controversy: Science, Literature, and Cultural Politics in Postwar Britain* (Cambridge, 2009).

- Christopher Tassava (Ph.D. 2003, History). Currently Adjunct Professor and Director of Grants, Carleton College, Minnesota. Field: Twentieth-century American technology. Dissertation: “Launching a Thousand Ships: Entrepreneurs, War Workers, and the State in American Shipbuilding, 1940-1945.”
- Dario Gaggio (Ph.D. 1999, History). Currently Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Field: European social history and technology. Book based on dissertation: *In Gold We Trust: Social Capital and Economic Change in the Italian Jewelry Towns* (Princeton, 2007).

Partial list of former graduate students with whom I worked with closely at Northwestern. In addition to the students listed below, I have served on the dissertation committees and/or field exams of other Ph.D. candidates in the history of science/technology and in French and American history.

- Colin Bos (Ph.D. 2023; advisor Helen Tilley). Currently Chabreja postdoc, Northwestern. Dissertation: “Conservators of the World: Relics, Archaeology, and the State in Southwestern Nigeria.”
- Jessica Biddlestone (Ph.D. 2019; advisor Sarah Maza). Currently Academic Advisor, University of Chicago. Field: modern colonial France. Dissertation: “The Conquest of Antiquity: Archaeology and Empire in French North Africa.”
- Alvita Akiboh (Ph.D. 2019; advisor Daniel Immerwahr). Currently Assistant Professor of History, Yale. Field: 19th- and 20th-century American imperial history. Book: *Imperial Material: National Symbols in the U.S. Colonial Empire* (Chicago, 2023).
- Michael Falcone (Ph.D. 2019; advisor Daniel Immerwahr). Currently postdoctoral fellow at Harvard program on global studies. Field: 20th-century US and comparative empires and technology. Dissertation: “Global Power and the Rise and Fall of American State Technology, 1940-1970.”
- Alexandra Neame (Ph.D. 2019, Political Science; advisor Mary Dietz). Currently Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science, Reed College. Field: Political theory and science studies. Dissertation: “Truth in the Milieu of Politics: Knowledge, Authority and Democratic Freedom.”
- Jaimie Morse (Ph.D. 2018, Sociology; advisor Steven Epstein). Currently Assistant Professor of Sociology, UC Santa Cruz. Field: Sociology of science/medicine. Dissertation: “Technologies of Bearing Witness: The Politics of Knowledge Production, Commemoration, and Memory Formation in the Context of Mass Atrocities.”
- Blake Smith (Ph.D. 2017 History; advisor Sarah Maza). Formerly Harper-Schmidt Fellow, University of Chicago. Field: French Enlightenment and colonialism. Dissertation: “Myths of Asian Stasis: French Trade with South Asia and Enlightenment Political Economy, 1750-1800.”
- Ignacio Siles (Ph.D. 2013, Media, Technology and Society; advisor Pablo Boczkowski). Currently Professor of Communication Studies, University of Costa Rica. Book based on dissertation: *Networked Selves: The Trajectories of Blogging in the United States and France* (Peter Lang, 2017).
- Teri Chettiar (Ph.D. 2013 History; advisor Alex Owen). Currently Associate Professor of History, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Field: Modern British history and psychology. Book manuscript in press: *The Psychiatric Family: How Private Life Became Political in Welfare-State Britain* (Chicago, 2020).
- Bernard Geoghegan (Ph.D. 2012, School of Communication; advisor Sam Weber). Currently Reader in the History and Theory of Digital Media, King’s College, London. Field: history of information science. Book: *Code: From Information Theory to French Theory* (Duke, 2023).
- Darcy Hughes Heuring (Ph.D. 2011; advisor Alex Owen). Currently Associate Director, Masters of Arts Program in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago. Field: Modern British and colonial medicine. Dissertation: “Colonial Health and the Responsibilities of Empire: Great Britain, American Philanthropy, and the Problem of ‘Improvement’ in the Early Twentieth-Century British West Indies.”
- Michael Guenther (Ph.D. 2008; advisor T. H. Breen). Currently Associate Professor of History, Grinnell College. Dissertation: “Enlightened Pursuits: Science and Civic Culture in Anglo-America, 1730-1760.”

Dana Jean Simmons (Ph.D. 2004, History, University of Chicago; advisor Jan Goldstein). Currently Associate Professor of History, University of California-Riverside. Field: modern European political economy and science. Book: *The Vital Minimum: Needs, Nature and Inequality in Modern France* (Chicago, 2014).

Karl Appuhn (Ph.D. 1999; advisor Ed Muir). Currently Associate Professor of History, New York University. Field: Early modern European environmental. Book: *A Forest on the Sea: Environmental Expertise in Renaissance Venice* (Johns Hopkins, 2009); winner of Herbert Baxter Adams Prize from AHA, Weyerhaeuser Prize for best book in conservation history, and the Delmas Prize for best book in Venetian studies.

Leah Ceccarelli (Ph.D. 1994, Rhetoric/School of Speech; advisor Jack Leff). Currently Professor, Department of Speech, University of Washington, Seattle. Field: Rhetoric of science. Book: *Shaping Science with Rhetoric: The Cases of Dobzhansky, Schrödinger, and Wilson* (Chicago Press, 2001).