



## SHOT-ELECTIONS 2017

This year's ballot includes candidates for the Executive Council, Nominating Committee, and Editorial Committee. The Executive Council is SHOT's governing board and works with the Society's officers to plan and set policy. The Nominating Committee is responsible for selecting individuals to run for office and preparing the slate of candidates for each year's election. The Editorial Committee works with the editor of *Technology and Culture* in addressing questions relating to the operation of the journal. Members of the Council and the Nominating Committee serve for three years, while the members of the Editorial Committee serve for five years.

### CANDIDATES FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### **Angelina Callahan**

As the Naval Research Laboratory's acting historian, I have spent much time reflecting on long-term goals balancing participation in the broader historic community with research and other responsibilities inherent to my job. These intersections between making history relevant to contemporary actors and documenting history for future scholars reflect broader values I would bring to the SHOT EC.

I am grateful for the influence of Mark Finlay, John Krige, and Steve Usselman in my research. Building on the intellectual foundations they provided, my writing focuses on scientists and engineers who shape the form and function of U.S. national power through collaborative projects in the space sciences, in WWII radar R&D, and international meteorological data networks. These organizational histories reveal ways in which national security is multilateral in nature

—buttressed by complex transnational connections abroad.

I came to NRL as a PhD student in 2010, finding a new network of SHOT mentors and colleagues at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, American Institute of Physics, NASA, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, the National Science Foundation, and the Naval Academy. Interacting with this community, I have found that one of our most pressing tasks at hand is to work amongst ourselves and with historic actors *today* to identify procedures for capturing primary sources as artifacts, paper, oral history interviews, and especially electronic media. This demands that we as a community continue to address concerns surrounding privacy, transparency, classification restrictions, as well as the question of whose stories are overlooked.

With Jonathan Coopersmith at the helm, a growing number of us are working on an NSF-funded workshop addressing these themes and look forward to continuing the conversation with a geographically and intellectually broader audience at upcoming SHOT meetings. It is an honor to have been nominated to run for the SHOT Executive Council. Speaking, organizing, and commenting on SHOT panels have been formative experiences for me, as well as taking the EC minutes, participating in SMItinG, and co-chairing the Albatross SIG with Mike Neufeld. I remain eager to listen, to provide candid feedback, and to learn what I can contribute.

#### **Marie Hicks**

I am a historian of technology, gender, and modern Europe. My research focuses on how gender and sexuality change what we think we

know about technological progress and the global computer “revolution.” I began an appointment as an assistant professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August 2017, and prior to that I was an assistant professor at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. My first book, *Programmed Inequality: How Britain Discarded Women Technologists and Lost Its Edge in Computing* (MIT Press, 2017) investigates why the proportion of women declined as electronic computing matured. It shows how this labor situation had grave effects on the technological aspirations of that waning superpower, and what lessons this holds for other nations--particularly the United States.

I am currently Vice Chair (USA) for the Special Interest Group on Computers, Information, and Society and have been active in the SIGCIS since my first SHOT meeting in 2005. I have helped plan SIGCIS conferences, done public outreach for the SIGCIS in person and online, and in recent years have begun to help mentor younger scholars in the field. One of the major benefits of SHOT for me has been the plethora of helpful and friendly mentors who have made my career in academia possible. I try to “pay this forward” as best I can because I think this is one of the greatest strengths of SHOT—its approachable, welcoming, and friendly culture. I am also a longtime member of WITH, and EDITH, and have a strong commitment to ensuring that SHOT continues to diversify in terms of race, gender, sexuality, social class, nationality, and ability. As a historian of structural inequality, I try to deploy the insights of my research in all aspects of my work—including my service to the field. If elected, these would be the issues of greatest interest and concern to me.

#### **Prakash Kumar**

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of History and Asian Studies at Pennsylvania State University. I have been associated with SHOT for the last 18 years - my association started in 1999 when I moved from India to the United States and joined the PhD program in the School of History, Technology, and Society at Georgia Institute of Technology. As a graduate student and then as a faculty, I have regularly attended meetings of SHOT, productively contributed to

its journal, and formed connections with SHOT’s intellectual communities. I was SHOT’s International Scholar in 2002-03, and over the last six years have served on the Melvin Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship Committee and the Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee.

My research and pedagogy aligns with SHOT’s effort at internationalization. In the two decades of my intellectual career I have advocated productively combining important theoretical questions in the historiography of technology with an array of theories and methods prevalent in the historiography of South Asia. My previous book on indigo in colonial India and the two book projects on agro-ecological histories in colonial and postcolonial India, which I am currently working on, contribute to this broader goal. One of these book projects investigates the evolving relationship between American technic and agricultural and rural projects of development in India, and another focuses on bioengineered crops and civil society resistance. I have also forged very active collaboration with fellow area study scholars in East Asia, Africa, and Latin America who work in the field of technological history. Just in the last two years, I organized two workshops focusing on STS in the nonwest (“Aid and Hunger” and “Decolonizing Science in Asia”); worked towards special volumes in journals including *Technology and Culture*; and participated in focused workshops that put technology at the core of nonwestern histories and consider technology’s entanglements with the west. I am honored to be nominated for election to the SHOT Executive Council. If elected, I will continue to advocate for a wider participation of area studies scholars, while promoting the central themes in the study of technology.

#### **Nina Lerman**

Long ago now, my questions about how humans sought to deploy 1980s AI, expert systems, and robotics led me out of the corporate workplace and on to graduate work. From the History and Sociology of Science department at University of Pennsylvania I soon found SHOT, and together SHOT and Penn taught me to think historically about technological change. Decades later, I am Associate Professor in a small college history department (Whitman College, Washington

state, USA), where I landed by way of two formative post-doctoral years: one teaching "Tech and Civ" world history at Auburn University, and then a post-doc year focused on gender analysis in the HST program at the University of Minnesota. My research questions have, all along, involved tangled categories of technological knowing and knowers, the ways values connected to work and workers shape and are shaped by ideas about technologies, the human embodiments of making systems run; I explore industrialization as a long, complex, "technosocial" transformation. Until I was hired as the "pre-20th-century Americanist" at Whitman I did not fully understand the degree to which most historians of the modern era were thinking fundamentally in national terms. More recently I spent two years helping to launch the new department "Artefacts, Action and Knowledge" at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin (MPIWG, 2013-15), and have been thinking again about why history of technology remains an intellectual home: one of the core rewards and challenges of SHOT over the years has been that consideration of topics like "waterpower" or "textiles" or "industrialization" intrinsically crosses if not outright challenges the naturalization of geopolitical boundaries as singular units of analysis.

During these same decades SHOT has been confronting these challenges of scholarly inquiry and national/global identity, in a sustained interrogation of scope and mission as we move from a few "international" meetings to exploring the implications of becoming an international society of scholars. It seems to me these will be core issues for the Society in the coming years, often practical ones with wide resonances: from our armchairs we can read and think across time and distance but how do we organize our face-to-face meetings and maintain our virtual infrastructures? How do we interweave the excitements (and habits) of annual meetings with the geographies and political economics of "convenient" or even feasible travel? What is a "member" if the old material reminder of a bound journal in the mail is gradually replaced to the point of needing to bring journal issues to class to remind my students that "volume" and "issue" have connotations, at least, of physicality?

As I imagine the coming years for Executive Council, I find this prospect both daunting and necessary: daunting, because I have some experience building conversation and community among scholars, inside SHOT, at MPIWG, at Whitman. Within SHOT, I have served on Robinson Prize, Nominating, Editorial, and multiple ad-hoc committees; I have helped foster SIGs WITH (women as scholars and gender analysis as method) and EDITH ("diversity" and all its various intersections) and learned much from Envirotech, TEMSIG, and more. At Whitman I've been Department Chair, Director of Race and Ethnic Studies, faculty director of a small campus museum. Conversation can be hard. I hope for SHOT that we can find ways to uphold and renew our longstanding commitment to encouraging and genuinely including everyone present in a meeting or on a listserv, drawing newcomers and old hands both to appear on our programs, attending to the work of scholars outside our own narrower fields of vision. The prospect is also necessary because, to paraphrase Lee Vinsel's blurb in this space last year, we have work to do and stories to tell.

#### **Patrick McCray**

I am a professor in the Department of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I am delighted to be nominated for a spot on SHOT's Executive Council. I have been a member of SHOT for more than two decades and I'm currently a contributing editor for *Technology and Culture*. I'm also chair of the Usher Prize committee and serving on the Da Vinci Prize Committee this year as well.

Since 1996, my research on the history of technology has focused predominantly on the modern United States from the 1950s to the present. One constant has been my focus on distinct technological communities and their interactions with other groups – the public, policy makers, and scientists. Another prevalent theme has been my interest in the development of new research tools, technologies, and collaborations for doing scientific research. For ten years, I led a research group affiliated with UCSB's NSF-funded Center for Nanotechnology in Society. My colleagues and I explored the larger historical context of emerging technologies and the technological communities

associated with their development. In addition, I have written widely on the history of technology for mainstream venues like *Slate*, *Aeon*, *The Chronicle Review* as well as my own Leaping Robot blog.

SHOT is a professional organization I strongly believe in and am proud to be part of. I see it having the potential to contribute expertise to critical discussions happening today involving topics such as innovation, artificial intelligence, robotics, and automation. I am keen to continue to help elevate the visibility of the history of technology in the eyes of the public and policy makers. My home institution has a long-standing public history program and I have worked with my UCSB colleagues to integrate the history of technology with public history. I am especially enthused about continuing to build intellectual bridges to colleagues working in the STS and history of science fields, as well as those working on histories of gender, labor, and the environment. Finally, but most critically for our community and our organization, I am committed to fostering a welcoming community for new scholars who wish to join SHOT's ranks and add to its diversity, be they graduate students or more established colleagues from other fields who see the value in being part of SHOT.

#### **Anto Mohsin**

I am honored to be asked to stand for election for SHOT's Executive Council. SHOT has been my intellectual home since I first attended a SHOT annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in 2007. This meeting occurred during my first semester as a graduate student in the Department of Science and Technology Studies (STS) at Cornell University. Since that time my interests in the history of technology and SHOT have been growing. I completed my graduate training at Cornell under the supervision of Ron Kline. My dissertation explored the sociopolitical history of Indonesia's electrification from the mid-1960s to the late 1990s when the country was ruled by the so-called "New Order" regime. My research has been published in *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*, *East Asian Science, Technology, and Society: An International Journal*, and *Arcadia*.

I'm now Assistant Professor in Residence in the Liberal Arts Program at Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q). To the best of my knowledge I think I'm the only SHOT member in the Middle East! But I hope that will change in the future as I try to advertise the society among colleagues and students in Education City in Doha and persuade new members to join. I'm also affiliated with Northwestern University's Science in Human Culture Program, an STS program at the university's home campus in Evanston, IL. Prior to joining NU-Q, I held a Henry Luce Postdoctoral Fellowship in Asian Environmental Studies at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Since 2012 I have been attending SHOT's annual meetings every other year. Two of the past SHOT meetings I have attended were held outside of North America: Copenhagen in 2012 and Singapore in 2016. SHOT's internationalization efforts (including recruiting more members from different regions) are laudable endeavors that I fully support. As are SHOT's recent exciting new initiatives such as SHOT Talks (I benefited immensely from these "Talks" since I couldn't attend the meetings) and Technology's Stories.

At SHOT meetings, I have presented a paper, organized a panel, and chaired a roundtable. I have enjoyed meeting fellow graduate students, junior and senior scholars, and SHOT officers at the various venues held by diverse SHOT special interest groups. I have attended a breakfast or lunch of the Jovians, Envirotech, and SHOT Asia Network, and participated in a workshop organized by the Prometheans. I'm most involved with the SHOT Asia Network SIG and have been helping Tae-Ho Kim taking care of the SIG's Facebook page since 2013.

In addition to being a SHOT member, I'm also a member of the Society of Social Studies of Science (4S), the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), and the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS). Being a member of other professional societies and having attended their annual conferences gave new perspectives and insights into how other societies conduct their meetings and attract and keep their members. It is this experience and knowledge that I hope to contribute if elected to the Executive Council.

Also, if elected, I will work to support SHOT's programs, contribute some ideas to ensure the financial and intellectual health of the society (e.g. graduated dues structure to recruit new and retain existing members), and help raise SHOT's visibility internationally (especially establishing SHOT's presence in the Middle East).

### **CANDIDATES FOR THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE**

#### **Martin Collins**

I am pleased to be nominated to be elected (?!) to serve on the editorial board. Some relevant self-incriminations. I recently concluded tenure as the editor of the journal *History and Technology* and continue on as the editor of a book series on museums and material culture, *Artefacts: Studies in the History of Science and Technology*. I have in press with Johns Hopkins a book on corporations, communications satellites, and globalization in the 1980s and 1990s.

As a long-time SHOT member, I am attached to the notion that the Society will benefit from increased efforts to assess its relations with other humanities fields as to methods and explanatory goals—so as to know better its own intellectual positioning. Too, in our post-postmodern turn as stories/narration attract more of our effort, we might think more carefully about the work they do and don't do. Such stuff looms over my daytime world as a curator at the Smithsonian Institution. I am generally well-behaved in group social settings, bathe regularly, and like ice cream...and will draw on all of the above to advance collegially our collective, sometimes rowdy vision.

#### **Benjamin Gross**

I am Associate Vice President for Collections at the Linda Hall Library—the world's foremost independent research library devoted to engineering, science, technology, and their histories. My research focuses on the consumer electronics industry, with a particular emphasis on the internal dynamics of corporate R&D. My upcoming book, slated for publication in the spring of 2018, examines the creation of the first liquid crystal displays at the Radio Corporation of America (RCA). Between 2011 and 2015, I was a postdoctoral fellow at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, where I contributed to a variety of

projects exploring the history of materials science. During that time, I also served as curator of the Sarnoff Collection at The College of New Jersey, a set of 6,000 artifacts related to RCA and the development of telecommunications during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

It is an honor to be considered for membership on SHOT's Editorial Committee. Participation in SHOT has been a central part of my professional development since graduate school. I have been a member of the Robinson Prize Committee and maintained ties with numerous special interest groups, including the Jovians, Mercurians, Prometheans, SIGCIS, and TEMSIG. These connections, as well as my experience working on public history and social media initiatives, leave me well-positioned to broaden *Technology and Culture's* readership through the creation of new online platforms for scholarly engagement.

### **CANDIDATES FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

#### **David C. Brock**

Since the start of 2016, I've served as the Director of the Center for Software History at the Computer History Museum. Before that, from the late 1990s, I was primarily affiliated with the Chemical Heritage Foundation as a member of staff, consultant, and Senior Research Fellow. Before even that, I studied the history of science and technology at Princeton where I earned a MA, the sociology of scientific knowledge at the University of Edinburgh where I earned a MSc, and the philosophy of science at Brown University where I earned a BA. I identify as an historian of technology, now primarily of computing and electronics, with an especial interest in oral history. I've enjoyed working on a variety of public history efforts ranging from exhibitions to television shows. I've co-authored several studies with Christophe Lécuyer, including our Ferguson-prize-winning *Makers of the Microchip* (MIT Press, 2010). I recently co-authored *Moore's Law: The Life of Gordon Moore, Silicon Valley's Quiet Revolutionary* (Basic Books, 2015).

I've made the SHOT annual meeting my primary meeting for the past 20 years or so, and recently could be of service to the Society by co-organizing and hosting, through the Center for Software History, the SIGCIS meeting "Command

Lines” in March 2017. I look forward to the opportunity to continue to expand my service to SHOT by serving on its Nominating Committee. Since I was nominated to put my hat into this ring by the Nominating Committee, which includes several people who know me well, this gives me some confidence that I could serve well.

#### **Nina Wormbs**

I am associate professor in history of science and technology at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, where I served as Division chair from 2010-2016. If elected to serve on the nominating committee I would work towards the continued internationalization of SHOT, which I regard as my home and first intellectual community. After more than twenty years I still believe that we as a community have so much more to contribute to a wider audience than we are credited for. By this I do not just mean wider in a service perspective, i. e. collaborating with people and being part of processes outside the academy in problematizing or historicizing contemporary issues, serving as technology critics or using our humanist grounded skills to evaluate and assess. I also mean that we should strive to influence other disciplines which would profit from our long thinking about technology. Moreover, we should engage even more with scholars in parts of the world that have not yet discovered our work.

To reach further is, however, not a one-way street, but a process of mutual learning, if done

well. In the context of staffing our internal institutions, groups and committees I believe that diversity is enriching and will further vitalize the society. SHOT has always prided itself of being welcoming and open and as such is prepared to continue such a process in an academic climate that needs dedication and devotion.

I have very positive experiences of truly international research and administrative collaboration through the network Tensions of Europe. Tensions (or ToE) gathers historians of technology and adjacent disciplines from all over Europe – not just North and West but also South and East – and others who take interest in Europe. Since 2013 I have been a member of ToEs management committee and I have served as its chair the last two years. I believe that there are low hanging fruits when it comes to SHOT and ToE collaborations, but it is only one example. Our recent SHOT meeting in Singapore is another.

Many of the pressing research issues demand what Arne Kaijser has called cosmopolitan scholarship, which builds on international collaboration. However, I think this idea can also be transferred to the running of our society. I would thus argue that we should continue to also look for people on the fringes of our community, draw them tighter to us, and learn from their experience. If they in turn circulate some of what we believe we have arrived at, even better.

## 2017 SHOT BALLOT

*Please note: Voting is open for SHOT Members only. Therefore we ask you to fill in your membership number and name. This information is only used to check whether you are allowed to vote.*

### **ONLINE BALLOT**

[Vote online, go to the ONLINE BALLOT on the SHOT website.](#)

### **PAPER BALLOT**

Use the Paper Ballot (see next page), complete it and send it to the SHOT Secretary's office via regular mail before **20 November 2017**.

*Jan Korsten, SHOT Secretary  
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TU/e - IPO building 2.31 Department of History  
PO Box 513  
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the Netherlands*

Alternatively you can e-mail a scan of the completed Paper Ballot before **20 November 2017** to: [SHOT.secretariaat@tue.nl](mailto:SHOT.secretariaat@tue.nl)

*Voting is open for SHOT Members only. Please put your membership number and name below. This information is only used to check whether you are allowed to vote.*

SHOT Membership No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BALLOT**

### **Executive Council**

Three-year term

Vote for 3 out of 6 candidates

\_\_\_\_\_ Angelina Callahan

\_\_\_\_\_ Marie Hicks

\_\_\_\_\_ Prakash Kumar

\_\_\_\_\_ Nina Lerman

\_\_\_\_\_ Patrick McCray

\_\_\_\_\_ Anton Mohsin

### **Nominating Committee**

Five-year term

Vote for 1 out of 2 candidates

\_\_\_\_\_ David C. Brock

\_\_\_\_\_ Nina Wormbs

### **Editorial Committee**

Five-year term

Vote for 1 out of 2 candidates

\_\_\_\_\_ Martin Collins

\_\_\_\_\_ Benjamin Gross