

SHOT 2022 Open Panel Submission by David Burel & Valerie Adams

Imagining Technological Transformations

This panel seeks contributors to examine the futurism surrounding technologies imagined as profoundly transformative in their use, adoption, and application in society. Building on the idea of social-technical imaginaries, this panel explores imagined futures by technologists, boosters, and engineers who advocated for social changes that would come with the widespread adoption of a particular technological device or arrangement. The paper looks to identify ways of studying and finding meaning in often utopian futurist discourses by technical experts, enthusiasts, and technology boosters, especially when those visions of the future fell short of actual realization. This panel especially welcomes papers that might consider radical prognostications of social-technical transformation, futurism in the Interwar and Cold War eras globally, papers that speak to technological enthusiasm rooted in national cultures, and prognostications about technological transformations that failed to be realized.

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