



SHOT's committee on Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI)  
SHOT Newsletter 1 - January 2023

## President's Message

Dear SHOT community,

Happy new year! I'm grateful to Arwen Mohun for her leadership over the last two years and honored to take up the presidency. Thank you for your trust.

I have just returned from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where I attended a conference on [Technology and Material Culture in African History](#) organized by Frank Edward and Emanuel Lukio Mchome from the University of Dar es Salaam and Emily Brownell from Edinburgh University, with considerable support from SHOT, Eindhoven and the Foundation for the History of Technology (including the indomitable Jan Korsten), and Darmstadt. The event was extraordinary in all respects. We'll feature a longer write up in a forthcoming newsletter!

Meanwhile, I wanted to alert you all to the **next SHOT event of 2023: a virtual meeting to discuss the past and forthcoming work of SHOT's committee on Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI)**. Below, you'll find a one-pager summarizing REDI's work thus far. We hope you will join us for a conversation on what we've done, what we can do better, and what we should focus on over the next year.

The meeting will be on **Wednesday, 1 February, 9-10 Pacific Time**. Please register [here](#) to receive a zoom link.

Brief time conversion: this will be at 12 noon on the US East Coast, 18h in Central European Time, 20h East African Time, and 2 am on Thursday 2 February Korean Standard Time. We'll do our best to plan virtual events at a variety of times, so that all can reasonably attend at least a few events!

This meeting represents the first of a series of virtual "heartbeat" meetings funded by a pandemic grant from the American Historical Association for 2023. Others will include a series on career diversity (i.e., careers beyond academia) and a transhemispheric graduate seminar in early September. Please stay tuned for those announcements!

Wishing you all a peaceful and productive 2023,

Gabrielle Hecht  
SHOT President

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**Committee on Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion – SHOT  
2021-2022 Report**

The REDI committee emerged from discussions among EDITH and other SHOT members about racial justice. Although actions began in 2021, the committee was officially constituted in January 2022, with an original membership consisting of Hyungsub Choi, Tiffany Nichols, L. Ruth Rand, Tiago Saraiva, and Bess Williamson, chaired by Gabrielle Hecht. In Fall 2022 the committee continued with Rand, Saraiva, Williamson, and Hecht. In 2023, the committee will continue with Hecht, Rand, and Saraiva, who will be joined by new members Jason Ludwig and Charnell Long.

Activities:

- REDI assembled 2 sessions for the 2021 SHOT conference, one on Community Engaged Research, the other on Systemic and Epistemic Racism in the History of Technology. A written version of this latter panel opens the October 2022 issue of T&C, and consists of a dialogue among Chandra Bhimull, Gabrielle Hecht, Edward Jones-Imhotep, Chakanetsa Mavhunga, Lisa Nakamura, and Asif Siddiqi.
- REDI created & awarded a Race and Technologies Prize, as well as travel grants for young scholars. We expect to continue this in 2023.
- In 2022, REDI supported Bess Williamson in (a) organizing a presidential plenary session on new work in Disability Histories of Technology and (b) creating a disability access plan for annual SHOT meetings.
- We launched the first phase of our fundraising efforts to support these and other activities. We already have some generous donations from past presidents, EDITH, and one particularly generous but anonymous donor. There will be a general membership fundraising call in 2023.
- We're partnering with the Institute for the History of Science & Technology at the Univ. of Toronto to support a graduate student there to develop a race & technology bibliography that coheres and builds on the crowd-sourced bibliography launched by EDITH members (currently on SHOT website). In process.
- We're partnering with Drexel University on transhemispheric graduate seminar in the history of technology, focusing on scholars from the Global South. September 4-8 2023, spearheaded by Tiago Saraiva, Amy Slaton, and other colleagues.

Questions of racial equity, diversity, and inclusion are by no means limited to the US academy, even if different places have distinct concerns. Beyond place-specific issues, racial and other power dynamics obtain on a global scale. SHOT's REDI efforts therefore overlap with its renewed efforts to connect and support a global community of historians of technology. Beyond the transhemispheric graduate seminar, these efforts include support of a conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Jan 4-8 2023 with a view to establishing an Africa-based network for historians of technology, and plans to hold the 2024 annual meeting in Santiago de Chile, in collaboration with ICOHTEC and Chilean colleagues.

We welcome comments and suggestions from the SHOT community as we continue to develop these plans.

**Society For The History Of Technology**

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