



2024

ICOHTEC AND SHOT
AWARDS
ANNUAL MEETING

VIÑA DEL MAR (CHILE)
9-14 JULY

CONTENTS

- International Committee for the History of Technology 2
- ICOHTEC Prize Committees 2024..... 2
- 2024 ICOHTEC Prizes 3
- Society for the History of Technology 6
- SHOT 2024 Award and Fellowship Committees 7
- 2024 SHOT Awards and Fellowships 9
- Awards Special Interest Groups 20

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY

President	Stefan Poser
Vice-president	Yoel Bergman
Secretary-General	Nelson Arellano
Treasurer	Viktor Pál
Journal Editor-in-Chief	Peeter Müürsepp
Newsletter Editor	Saara Matala
Webmaster	Sławomir Łotysz

ICOHTEC was founded in Paris in 1968 when bitterness divided the nations in the Eastern and Western worlds. The intent was to provide a forum of scholars for the history of technology from both sides of the iron curtain. Symposia have been held almost every year, and the proceedings of many meetings have been published.

ICON, the bi-annual journal of ICOHTEC founded in 1995, publishes essays, research articles, research briefs, review essays and book reviews on all aspects and periods of technological history by members and non-members. It devotes special attention to the discussion of contemporary problems of technology in their socio-economic and cultural settings.

Website: <https://www.icohtec.org/>

ICOHTEC 2024 PRIZE COMMITTEES

Turriano ICOHTEC Prize

Darina Martykánová (Chair)
Irina Gouzévitch
Klaus Staubermann
Matti La Mela
Jacopo Pessina

Maurice Daumas Prize

Antoni Roca-Rosell (Chair)
Guillermo Guajardo Soto
Bertrand Guillaume
Eike-Christian Heine
Laurent Heyberger
Sarah Qidwai
Thomas Schuetz
Liliia Zemnukhova

2024 ICOHTEC AWARDS

ICOHTEC Honorary Membership

ICOHTEC awards honorary memberships to Hans-Joachim Braun (Hamburg, Germany) and James Williams (Punta Gorda, Florida). This is to dignify their academic career and to thank both past presidents of ICOHTEC for their absolute outstanding contributions to the development of our society.

Hans-Joachim Braun received his doctorate in 1971 from Bochum University, where he was a research assistant. He completed his habilitation in 1979. From 1982 until his retirement in 2008, Braun held the chair for modern social, economic and technological history at the Helmut Schmidt University in Hamburg. He researched and taught at Stanford University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was a visiting scholar at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

Braun's research interests include technical innovations, technology transfer, failed innovations, and the relationship between technology and music in the 20th century. His most important contributions are dedicated to creativity: he compared technical and artistic creativity. Braun analyzed invention and construction processes in technology and composition processes in music, and he studied the scientific and technological development of football tactics.

He is the author of numerous books and articles and is known for his books in English as: *The German Economy in the Twentieth Century* (1990), *I Sing the Body Electric: Music and Technology in the 20th Century* (ed. 2001), and *Creativity: Technology and Music*, ed. with Susan Schmidt Horning (2016).

Braun served and continues to serve as a member of the Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences, as member of the editorial board of ICOHTEC's journal ICON, as officer of the Society for the History of Technology, SHOT, as Secretary General and President of the International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC, as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of Georg-Agricola-Gesellschaft.

James Williams received a doctorate in Public History and the history of technology from U.C. Santa Barbara in 1984. He taught at two community colleges in California from 1971 to 2008 and at Stetson University (Florida) from 2014-2015. He was executive director of the California History Center & Foundation from 1978 to 2002 and worked during these years as a public historian in cultural resources management, historic preservation, and litigation support. A long-time member of ICOHTEC, he served on the board in the 1990s, as vice president from 2001-2008, as president from 2008-2011, and as editor of ICON from 2011-2015. He was co-founder and co-chair of Envirotech from 2000-2004, served as Treasurer of the Society for the History of Technology from 1992-2000, on the Board of Directors of the National Council

on Public History from 1988-1991, and as president and later executive secretary of the California Council for the Promotion of History from 1982 to 1994.

Dr. Williams's primary field of interest is the historical relationship between people, technology, and the environment. He published *Energy and the Making of Modern California* (1997) as well as numerous articles. His "Understanding the Place of Humans in Nature" in *Illusory Boundary: Environment and Technology in History* (2010) has been widely cited.

Turriano ICOHTEC Prize

For outstanding PhD manuscripts and books in the History of Technology. The Turriano ICOHTEC Prize is an Early Career Prize for Books on the history of technology, sponsored by the Juanelo Turriano Foundation. ICOHTEC is interested in the history of technological development as well as its relationship to science, society, economy, culture, and the environment. There is no limitation as to theoretical or methodological approaches.

The prize is shared by two scholars this year:

Francesco d'Amaro (University "Autónoma" of Madrid, Spain)

For: *Antipatriotas del agua. Conflictos y grupos de interés en el franquismo* (Comares, Granada 2022).

And

Jacob Ward (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)

For: *Visions of a Digital Nation. Market and Monopoly in British Telecommunications* (The MIT Press, 2024).

Maurice Daumas Prize

For outstanding articles in the History of Technology. The Maurice Daumas Prize for articles aims to encourage innovative scholarship in the history of technology. It is sponsored by the Université de Technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard (UTBM), France. Maurice Daumas was among the founders of ICOHTEC, organized the first symposium in 1968, and was the first Secretary General of the organization.

The prize is awarded to:

Adewumi Damilola Adebayo, *York University Toronto, Canada*,

For: "Electricity, Agency and Class in Lagos Colony, c.1860s-1914," *Past & Present*, no. 262 (February 2024), p.168-206.

Honorable mention:

Marcos Camolezi, *Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, France*

For: "Si nous avions à construire un oiseau...: finalisme et dessin chez Étienne C hmichen, 1884-1955", in: Jérôme Baudry, Val rie N gre (dir.) *Dessiner la technique, Pens e et discours visuels (XVIe-XXe si cles)* (Paris, Presses des Mines, collection Histoire, sciences, techniques et soci t s, 2024), p. 197-227.

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY

President	Gabrielle Hecht
Vice President	Deborah Douglas
Secretary	Jan Korsten
Treasurer	Amy Bix
Editor-in-Chief	Ruth Oldenziel

The Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) was formed in 1958 to encourage the study of the development of technology and its relations with society and culture. As an interdisciplinary organization, SHOT is dedicated not only to the history of technological devices and processes, but also to the relationships of technology with politics, economics, labor, social change, business, the environment, public policy, science, and the arts and humanities.

In addition to professional historians and museum curators, SHOT members include practicing scientists and engineers, anthropologists, librarians, political scientists, and economists. SHOT meets annually and also jointly sponsors smaller conferences focused on more specialized topics of common interest with other scholarly societies and organizations.

Technology and Culture, a quarterly journal, is published by the Johns Hopkins University Press for the Society for the History of Technology. In addition, SHOT publishes e-newsletter, and, with Johns Hopkins University Press the book series, *Historical Perspectives on Technology, Society, and Culture*. For further information about the Society visit our website:

<http://www.historyoftechnology.org>.

SHOT 2024 AWARD AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES

Leonardo da Vinci Medal

Arwen Mohun, Chair
Lino Camprubí
Peter S. Collopy
Maria-Paula Diogo
Mats Fridlund
Gabrielle Hecht
Xiaochang Li
Nina Lerman
David Lucsko
Allison Marsh
Teasel Muir-Harmony
Thomas S. Mullaney
Timothy H. Stoneman

AHA Fellowship in the History of Space Technology

Representatives from the AHA, HSS, and SHOT comprise the review committee. Teasel Muir-Harmony represents SHOT in the AHA-HSS-SHOT committee.

Sidney M. Edelstein Prize

Maria-Paula Diogo, Chair
David C. Brock
Edna Suarez-Diaz

Sally Hacker Prize

Thomas S. Mullaney, Chair
Sulfikar Amir
Mara Mills

Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship

Peter S. Collopy, Chair
Mary X. Mitchell
Michelle Spektor

Abbott Payson Usher Prize

Lino Camprubi, Chair
Christopher Jones
Emmanuel Lukio Mchome

Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship

Mats Fridlund, Chair
Corinna Schlombs
Tasha Rijke-Epstein

Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize

Xiachang Li, Chair
Zehra Hashmi
Jeff Schramm

Eugene S. Ferguson Prize

Allison Marsh, Chair
Dolly Jørgensen
Henry Lowood

Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize (2024)

David Lucsko, Chair
Anna Åberg
Javiera Barandiaran
Amy Bix
Alex Magoun
Allison Marsh
Eden Medina
Alex Meyer
Mara Mills
Jamie Pietruska
Jose Ragas
Sonja Schmid
Ellan Spero

Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize (2023)

David Munns, Chair
Amy Bix
Jip van Besouw
Susan Schmidt Horning
Pete Soppelsa
Marco Storni
Daniel Williford
Aro Velmet

Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize

Timothy H. Stoneman, Chair
Gerardo Con Diaz
Alexander Magoun

**Dibner Award for Excellence
in Museum Exhibits**

Priscilla Chua, Chair
Douglas Lantry
Helmuth Trischler

Martha Trescott Prize

Nina Lerman, Chair
Laura Ettinger
Aileen Fyfe

Race and Histories of Technologies Prize

Gabrielle Hecht, Chair
Charnell Chasten Long
Kelcey Gibbons
Jason Ludwig
L. Ruth Rand
Sonja D. Schmid

2024 SHOT AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Leonardo da Vinci Medal

The highest recognition from the Society for the History of Technology is the Leonardo da Vinci Medal, presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the history of technology, through research, teaching, publication, and other activities.

Recipient of SHOT's 2024 Da Vinci Medal:

Stuart W. Leslie, *Johns Hopkins University*

Dr. Stuart (Bill) Leslie is awarded SHOT's 2024 Leonardo da Vinci Medal in recognition of his scholarly contributions to the history of technology, his service to SHOT, and his dedication and influence as an educator.

Over the course of his career, Bill's intellectual curiosity has drawn him to a range of topics in the history of nineteenth and twentieth-century American technology. The result has been a series of influential and prize-winning publications. His 1979 T&C article on "Charles F. Kettering and the Copper-Cooled Engine" won SHOT's 1980 Usher Prize. His 2001 HSPS article on "Blue Collar Science: Bringing the Transistor to Life in the Lehigh Valley" won SHOT's 2002 IEEE Life Members' Prize. He has also won the Allan Nevins Prize from the Economic History Association; the Thomas Newcomen Award from the Business History Society, and the Derek Price/Rod Webster Prize from the History of Science Society. His 1983 book *Boss Kettering: Wizard of General Motors* (Columbia University Press) is an early landmark in bringing together the history of technology and business history. His 1993 book *The Cold War and American Science: The Military-Industrial-Academic Complex at MIT and Stanford* (Columbia University Press) represents superb, influential research on the history of higher education, military, and corporate development as shaped by Cold War politics.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Bill has, more recently, focused much-needed attention on connections between the history of technology, architecture, and design, publishing wide-ranging articles on laboratory and hospital design; Cold War suburbia; Expo '58; Eero Saarinen's corporate campuses for GM, IBM, and AT&T; Southern California aerospace modernism; the Griffith Observatory; Pakistan and India nuclear structures; and more.

In Bill's career, scholarly research has been complimented by his dedication and skill as a teacher. Johns Hopkins University awarded Bill the George Owen Distinguished Teaching Award (twice) plus the President's Cup Distinguished Teaching Award. His classes on the history of the automobile and the history of Las Vegas were especially creative, influential courses. He fostered undergraduate research with class projects that immersed students in the JHU archives and special collections, as well as leading groups of students to Las Vegas and around Baltimore.

Bill is also an outstanding mentor who has advised more than 20 graduate students formally and many more informally during his career at Johns Hopkins University. The student-advisor relationship sets the tone for the graduate school experience. Bill's students know, through his words and actions, that he is always in their corner. His mentorship style is based on respect for his students as researchers and human beings. A generous collaborator, Bill has frequently invited his students to co-author scholarly publications on subjects of mutual interest. He is encouraging of his students' professional ambitions, including those that extend beyond the academy. Appreciative of the power of history in diverse settings, Bill has supported numerous students in building careers in museums and cultural heritage sites.

Amidst all his other activities, Bill has found time to serve SHOT. Very early in his career, he served as the Program Chair for the 1982 annual meeting. His most significant service was as SHOT Secretary from 2000 through 2004. Many of us remember the charm, humor, and competence with which he handled all the secretary's duties of organizing and running annual meetings, putting out a quarterly newsletter, handling all member correspondence, and much more. Bill also served two terms on the SHOT Executive Council, 1993-96 and 2016-2019, where his long experience with SHOT offered an invaluable contribution.

For all these reasons and many more, Bill Leslie is the worthy recipient of SHOT's da Vinci Medal.

Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship

This award is in memory of the co-founder of the Society, and honors Melvin Kranzberg's many contributions to developing the history of technology as a field of scholarly endeavor and SHOT as a professional organization. The \$4000 award is given to a doctoral student engaged in the preparation of a dissertation on the history of technology, broadly defined and may be used in any way chosen by the winner to advance the research and writing of that dissertation.

Recipient of the 2024 Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship:

Yakup Emre Karaşahan, *University of Delaware*

For "Prophets of a Righteous Civilization: Re-imagining Technology with an Islamic Mindset, 1870-1950."

The committee is pleased to award the 2024 Melvin Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship to Yakup Emre Karaşahan.

Karaşahan is a graduate student in University of Delaware's Hagley Program in the History of Capitalism, Technology, and Culture working on a dissertation entitled "Prophets of a Righteous Civilization: Re-Imagining Technology with an Islamic Mindset, 1870-1950."

Karaşahan proposes a non-schematic, granular approach to technology and religion. Rather than conceiving of technology and religion as abstract categories, he focuses on how Ottoman Islamic scholars thought about specific technologies such as photography and the bicycle, how they used them to think about religion, and how they imagined both modern and future societies shaped by new technologies and yet firmly religious and Islamic rather than secular. Karaşahan will use the Kranzberg Fellowship to examine handwritten texts by religious scholars held by libraries and archives across Turkey.

Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History of Technology honors the contribution of Brooke Hindle to the work of the Society for the History of Technology. The Fellowship, made possible thanks to the great generosity of his family, is for \$10,000 and may be used for any purpose connected with research or writing in the history of technology for a period of not less than four months during the year following the award

The recipient of the 2024 Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship will be announced at a forthcoming date.

AHA Fellowship in the History of Space Technology

The Fellowships in Aerospace History are offered annually by the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) to support significant scholarly research projects in aerospace history. These fellowships grant the opportunity to engage in significant and sustained advanced research in all aspects of the history of aerospace from the earliest human interest in flight to the present, including cultural and intellectual history, economic history, history of law and public policy, and the history of science, engineering, and management. NASA provides funds to the American Historical Association and to the History of Science Society to allow both associations to award fellowships.

Recipient of the 2024-25 AHA Fellowship in the History of Space Technology:

Breanna Lohman, *University of Toronto*

For: "The Ends of the World: An Environmental History of the SAGE Air Defense System and the American National Security Regime."

Sidney M. Edelstein Prize

Established in 1968 through the generosity of the late Dr. Sidney Edelstein, a noted expert on the history of dyes, founder of a successful specialty chemical manufacturing firm, and 1988 recipient of SHOT's Leonardo da Vinci Award, the Edelstein Prize is awarded by SHOT to the author of an outstanding scholarly book in the history of technology published during any of the three years preceding the award. The prize, donated by Ruth Edelstein Barish and her family in memory of Sidney Edelstein and his commitment to excellence in scholarship in the history of technology, consists of \$3500 and a plaque.

Recipient of the 2024 Sidney M. Edelstein Prize:

Francesca Bray, Barbara Hahn, John Bosco Lourdusamy, and Tiago Saraiva

For: *Moving Crops and the Scales of History* (Yale University Press (2023).

Taking “cropsapes” (the assemblages of crops, places, technologies, and cultures) as a lens to explore and redefine the writing of history, this collective book is both refreshing and erudite. The authors embrace the Annales longue durée and the more recent local histories, and they use and display a broad variety of sources and secondary literature, opting for either less known historians, or for classics (like Bloch and Braudel). Despite the book’s title, they pay as much attention to movement and travels, as to “roots”, places, and settling. By including plants as diverse as dates, tobacco, rice, oranges, tulips, and many others, they offer ways to decenter the history of technology from Western modernizing narratives (temporally and geographically) and to expand the methods and categories used by historians of technology.

The book is exceptionally well researched and also provocative. Despite being written by four authors - over a long period of more than one decade -, it is a truly collaborative book, an eight-hands written experiment --that probably could not be written any other way.

Sally Hacker Prize

The Sally Hacker Prize was established in 1999 to honor exceptional scholarship that reaches beyond the academy toward a broad audience. Any book published in the three years preceding the year of the award is eligible. The prize consists of an award of \$2,000.

Recipient of the 2024 Sally Hacker Prize:

David Nemer, University of Virginia

For: *Technology of the Oppressed: Inequity and the Digital Mundane in Favelas of Brazil* (The MIT Press, (2022).

The citation for this prize will be available soon on the prize webpage of the SHOT website.

Abbott Payson Usher Prize

The Abbott Payson Usher Prize was established in 1961 to honor the scholarly contributions of the late Dr. Usher and to encourage the publication of original research of the highest standard. It is awarded annually to the author of the best scholarly work published during the preceding three years under the auspices of the Society for the History of Technology. The prize consists of a check and a certificate.

Recipient of the 2024 Abbott Payson Usher Prize:

Faisal Husain, Penn State University

For: “To Dam or Not to Dam: The Social Construction of an Ottoman Hydraulic Project, 1701-1702,” *Technology and Culture*, vol. 64 no. 2, 2023, p. 456-484.

Husain’s article chronicles the ambitious attempt by the Ottoman state under Sultan Mustafa II in 1701 to build a dam to restore the Euphrates River to its path, and the devastating human and environmental consequences of this unsuccessful endeavour. About thirty years before, the river had shifted its course dramatically, leaving subjects loyal to the Ottoman state without its irrigating waters, while the new floodplain simultaneously enriched new groups that refused to pay taxes. This led the Ottoman state to launch a military offensive to subdue the rebels and an engineering team to restore the river’s previous path. Ottoman troops killed as many as fifty thousand rebels in a decisive rout, but state technicians failed in their efforts to build a dam. Despite cutting down all the trees that could be brought to the site, the high waters of the spring snow melt washed the dam away before it could be completed. The dam project was abandoned, leaving a deforested landscape and a devastated population.

Husain masterfully narrates this remarkable and tragic historical episode with the skilful use of a new source: the eyewitness account of an Ottoman military expert critical of the dam project. Attentive to the political economy of infrastructure projects and the early modern international flows of expertise among hydraulic technicians, the article is broadly imagined and globally situated. Well-written, it offers a stellar and haunting case study that exemplifies the power of the history of technology to illuminate the past.

Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize

The Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize is awarded each year for a single-authored, unpublished essay in the history of technology that explicitly examines, in some detail, a technology or technological device or process within the framework of social or intellectual history. It is intended for younger scholars and new entrants into the profession. The award consists of a check and a certificate.

Recipient of the 2024 Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize:

Madeleine Ware, Yale University

For: “Kegel’s Perineometer: Reframing Vaginal Disability in the Postwar United States.”

This paper presents a compelling examination of how Arnold Kegel’s perineometer device played a central role in popularizing pelvic floor exercises (commonly referred to as “kegels”), making Kegel’s name culturally synonymous with their conception despite a number of physicians who had developed such exercises before him. In it, the author argues that the design, development, and—quite crucially—Kegel’s savvy marketing of the perineometer as both a medical device and a consumer technology tapped into a confluence of midcentury cultural trends surrounding medical consumerism, personal fitness and self-help culture, and Cold War anxieties about the strength of the nuclear family. In doing so, the perineometer “reified a medical model of inherent feminine disability” in which “meanings of sex, marriage, and womanhood coalesced around a phallic, intravaginal exercise device that reinforced a heterosexual ideal of healthy sexuality for American stability.” Well-researched and clearly written, this paper draws on feminist history of technology and disability studies to offer a nuanced critique of medical innovation.

Eugene S. Ferguson Prize

The Eugene S. Ferguson Prize is awarded biennially by SHOT for an outstanding and original reference work that will support future scholarship in the history of technology. The Ferguson Prize recognizes work that is in the tradition of scholarly excellence established by Eugene S. Ferguson (1916–2004), SHOT’s pioneering bibliographer, a founding member of the Society (President, 1977–1978; da Vinci Medalist, 1977), museum curator and exhibit catalog author, editor, annotator, university professor, and scholar of the history of engineering and technology. The prize consists of a plaque and a cash award.

Awarded biennially, the next Ferguson Prize will be awarded in 2025.

Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize (2023)

Established in 1980 by Dr. Eric Robinson in memory of his wife, the prize is awarded annually for the best-delivered paper by an individual who is making his or her first appearance at the Society’s annual meeting. Candidates for the award are judged not only on the quality of the historical research and scholarship of their paper, but also on the effectiveness of the oral presentation. The Robinson Prize consists of a check and a certificate.

Recipient of the 2023 Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize:

Roan Parrish, Virginia Tech

For: “Constructing an Electronic Medical Record.”

The Robinson Prize Committee is pleased to award the 2023 Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize to Roan Parrish for her presentation “Constructing an Electronic Medical Record.” Parrish, a Ph.D. candidate at Virginia Tech, delivered an original and engaging presentation on the introduction of electronic medical records in American hospitals, examining the impact of computer science on the practice of medicine.

Parrish focused on the establishment of the Laboratory of Computer Science (LCS) at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1964, which aimed at developing a computer-automated system tailored to the needs of the hospital. Parrish showed that the efforts of the Cambridge company Bolt Beranek and Newman (BBN) to create a computerized hospital ran into some major problems: the early system was not at all practical for regular hospital functions. BBN therefore worked on a new programming language, scalable in nature, that could implement operational information systems for compartmentalized hospital tasks. A major challenge for the developers was to create a computerized medical record system, particularly one that would allow reuse of individual modules across sites, and recognize multiple terms for the same condition or medication.

The electronic record system created at LCS enjoyed some success as it was adopted by other hospitals in the United States and abroad. However, the system also met with much resistance, especially from physicians who were accustomed to working with handwritten records. In this regard, Parrish showed that the acceptance or resistance to the use of the electronic system lay not only in the intrinsic potential of the technology, but also in a certain inertia of existing practices. This led to hybrid forms of record keeping, based in part on computer models but completed by hand, which then became difficult to catalog and risked dispersing or losing knowledge about patients and therapies. Parrish also considered the question of creating the expertise to manipulate electronic records and the training of hospital staff. This raised questions not only about the division of labor in the hospital, but also about gender, since the people who had to work more directly with electronic records were nurses and other staff, mostly women.

Parrish’s argument was supported by solid evidence that required careful work in medical archives and a clear understanding of the history of computing. The narrative she produced was rich and multifaceted, pointing to the non-linear relationship between technology and health-care practices. In conversations with the audience, Parrish provided extremely clear answers and demonstrated a complete mastery of her research subject, clearing up any lingering doubts in the audience.

The judges were impressed by Parrish’s skillful presentation of her research, which stands as an original contribution to studies of the relationships between medicine and computer science, and as a timely reflection on what computers can and cannot do. For these reasons, Parrish’s presentation seems most deserving of the 2023 Robinson Prize.

Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize

The Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize is supported by the IEEE Life Members’ Fund and administered by the Society for the History of Technology. The prize is awarded annually to the best paper in the history of electrotechnology—power, electronics, telecommunications, and computer science—published during the preceding year. The prize consists of \$500 and a certificate.

Recipient of the 2024 Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize:

Adeyemi Damilola Adeyemi, York University

“Electricity, Agency and Class in Lagos Colony, c. 1860s–1914,” *Past & Present*, no. XX (2023).

In “Electricity, Agency and Class in Lagos Colony, c. 1860s–1914,” Adeyemi Damilola Adeyemi develops an original perspective in a case study of electrification and colonization in West Africa. He offers a well-researched, revisionist portrait of three issues: the study and use of electricity; the role of Africans in influencing installation of British imperial power plants; and the complexity of Nigerian electricity consumption in Lagos, especially along popular and class dimensions. The study contributes to scholarly debates over the role of electrification in colonial development and state building as well as the impact of colonial infrastructure on African populations. The author offers a prehistory of Lagos as a tiny island colony long before industrialization became widespread and the city became a megalopolis. Adeyemi centers under-examined African efforts to shape communities, industries, and countries, as well as the history of empire. Indeed, as the author demonstrates, centering Africa’s enormous geography and diverse polities, economies, and cultures allows us to replace strictly Euro-American readings of technologies and systems with accounts that highlight native agency and local contingency.

Adeyemi shows that Lagos’s experience of colonial electrification was exceptional. Due to the paucity of references to electrification in British or Nigerian national archives, he makes

creative use of short-lived contemporary newspapers beginning in the 1860s. He provides a strong geographical, demographic, and political reconstruction of Lagos – one of the earliest and most developed British colonies in West Africa – at the high watermark of European empires. Lagos’s unique experience with electrification was tied to its growth as a non-settler, non-mining, and non-industrial colony. Adeyemi provides insight into the popular experience of that process – from street lighting to religious spaces – as well as informal and formal electrical engineering and physics education in Nigeria and West Africa. He explores the social impact of electricity consumption and chronicles successful popular resistance to the introduction of a taxation scheme to pay for power production. Overall, Adeyemi highlights the role of Africans themselves in the development of colonial infrastructures and draws attention to new sources and subnational variations in Africa’s experience of electrification.

Dibner Award for Excellence in Museum Exhibits

The Dibner Award for Excellence in Museum Exhibits was established in 1985, through the generosity of Bern Dibner, to recognize excellence in museums and museum exhibits that interpret the history of technology, industry, and engineering to the general public. The award consists of a plaque and up to \$1,000 to cover expenses for a member of the design team to accept the award at the SHOT awards banquet.

The next Dibner Award for Excellence in Museum Exhibits will be awarded in 2025.

Martha Trescott Prize

*The Martha Trescott Prize will be given annually for the best published essay in one of two areas. In even-numbered years, the prize will be awarded to an outstanding published historical essay in the area of women in technology. In odd-numbered years, the prize will be awarded to an outstanding published essay in the area of social responsibility of engineers in history. Martha Trescott was one of the pioneering spirits behind *Women in Technological History (WITH)*. She wished to honor Frances McConnell Moore, Carroll Pursell, and Edwin T. Layton, Jr., with this prize. The award consists of a \$500 check and a certificate.*

Recipient of the 2024 Martha Trescott Prize:

Camilla Mørk Røstvik, University of Agder

For: “Tampon Technology in Britain: Unilever’s Project Hyacinth and the ‘7-Day War’ Campaign, 1968–1980.” *Technology and Culture*, vo., 62 no. 1, 2022, p. 61–86.

The 2024 Martha Trescott Prize recognizes an outstanding published historical essay in the area of women and technology in history. This year, we received a wide collection of thoughtful essays, treating the full range of approaches from representations of gender roles in language, to the experience of people perceived as female in the technological workplace, to explorations of technologies of reproduction. Our prize winner exposes intersections of engineering, business strategies, test marketing, and gathered opinions of users in the arena of menstrual management technologies. In her T&C article “Tampon Technology in Britain: Unilever’s Project Hyacinth and the ‘7-Day War’ Campaign, 1968–1980” (Technology and Culture 63, no. 1 (2022): 61–86) Camila Mørk Røstvik’s creative use of corporate archives and contemporary politics and visual culture offers insight not only into the business process behind a product never actually introduced, but also into attitudes toward gender and body technologies in 1970s era UK. The committee found Røstvik’s article both accessible and theoretically sophisticated as it explicates intersections of technological change, corporate marketing, gender ideologies, and the expertise of users of technologies of the body, situating marketing options in a wider political and social context.

Unilever’s “Project Hyacinth” was an overarching effort to include tampons in its product offerings, in competition with other major producers of “feminine hygiene” and “sanitary” technologies. Eventually focusing on newly developed absorbent gels, (with an eye to eventually expanding into the diapers/nappies market), planners carefully tracked existing and emerging products as well as market research. Probably fortunately for both Unilever at the time, and for the survival of untapped archival materials decades later, competing US corporation Procter and Gamble was first to market with the new “superabsorbent” products (Rely tampons) -- and thus bore the brunt of frightening publicity when toxic shock syndrome (TSS) became associated with their new tampons. Unilever shut down its UK project, which was well underway by that time.

Røstvik’s article focuses on the corporate interactions with user expertise, highlighting the paradox of recognized need for the expertise of people who menstruate with the ways researchers attempted to assign psychological patterns to technological choices, and the overlain process of sifting potential-user responses to proposed marketing strategies. Røstvik’s multi-faceted analysis of the decision to develop an advertising campaign based on the idea of menstrual management as a “7-day war” fought privately by women every month situates an often hidden technology (1970s UK censorship law prohibited explicit reference to tampon as object) in a wider range of political and cultural context. A series of well-chosen images help the reader envision references from product design to popular culture. Martha Moore Trescott’s legacy of uncovering reliance on women’s expertise and situating women in the history of technology is well honored as well as extended by Røstvik’s work.

Race and Histories of Technologies Prize

The prize is part of a collective commitment for addressing systemic and epistemic racism at SHOT and in the global intellectual field it represents. The prize is intended for junior scholars and new entrants to the profession worldwide. The prize will be awarded for a single-authored, unpublished essay in any language that is of a length suitable for publication in Technology and Culture (T&C)–approximately 7,500 words (not including notes) and 100 notes.

Recipient of the 2024 Race and Histories of Technologies Prize:

Xin Peng, *University of Cambridge*

For: “‘The Chinaman and His Phone’: Noise, Gibberish, and the Telephone’s Social Use.”

In “‘The Chinaman and His Phone’: Noise, Gibberish, and the Telephone’s Social Use,” Xing Peng uses the linguistic imagination of an outsider to San Francisco’s Chinatown at the end of the 19th century to defamiliarize the democratization of a social technology. Beginning with a white entrepreneur’s eager thinking around democratization as a way to engage new markets, Peng seizes and teases out a novel way of thinking about race and technology by studying the entrepreneur’s amusement when seeing and hearing the “Chinaman” speak his language over the phone. Peng analyzes the white supremacist logic around language and technology, characterizing the encounter of body, language, and conversational promiscuity facilitated through telephony as queer, threatening, and exciting. Peng pushes us to think with efficiency: while the Chinese language seemed incompatible with message clarity to the white ear, it is also structurally ultra-efficient. However, fear of contagion partitions language as it does people. Peng brilliantly rereads telephony as an embodied practice with people at both ends and in between, sonically connecting across physical bearers of the color line.

AWARDS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Mercurians Prize (Awarded by the Mercurians)

Information on this award will be announced at a later date.

Computer History Museum Prize (Awarded by SIGCIS)

Information on this award will be announced at a later date.

Mahoney Prize (Awarded by SIGCIS)

Information on this award will be announced at a later date.



SOCIETY
for the
HISTORY
of
TECHNOLOGY

WWW.HISTORYOFTECHNOLOGY.ORG