

Prometheans Open Call 2 of 3 — HTA: Interactive Workshop

Research Methods in the History of Engineering

The Prometheans (History of Engineering) Special Interest Group (SIG) invites proposals for an interactive workshop on methods for researching the history of engineering. The Prometheans support scholarly community among those who study engineers and engineering, and the sources engineers leave behind — design drawings, specifications, calculations, patents, technical reports, standards, and the gray literature of professional practice — often call for methods that differ from those of other historical work. This workshop is a venue to share, test, and interrogate such methods together. We welcome contributions from scholars at any career stage who want to demonstrate a research technique, work through a methodological problem, or discuss the practical and interpretive challenges of reconstructing the engineered past. In keeping with the virtual, 60-minute format, we favor proposals built for participation and exchange rather than formal presentation.

To help us gauge fit, we ask prospective participants to consider:

1. What method or research practice would you contribute, and what kinds of sources or evidence does it work with?
2. What does this method reveal about the engineered past that other approaches tend to miss?
3. How could other scholars adopt or adapt your method in their own work, and what obstacles (technical, archival, or interpretive) should they anticipate?

Please [submit your proposal](#) by **Monday, 13 July 2026**. What we need to know:

- Your name, email, affiliation and title, and short bio or first page of your CV.
- Proposed presentation title and short abstract (350 words max).
- Your preferred time zone block (three choices: Americas UTC-10 through UTC-3 | Europe/Africa/South Asia UTC+0 through UTC+6 | Asia Pacific UTC+7 through UTC+12).
- Whether you intend to apply for the [Robinson Prize](#).

We look forward to reading your proposals.

Kind regards,

Ryan Hearty and Ellan Spero, Prometheans co-chairs

[Ryan Hearty, Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Teaching Professor, Johns Hopkins University

[Ellan F. Spero, Ph.D.](#)

Instructor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Co-Founder and Board Director, Station1

on behalf of the [SHOT Prometheans](#) and the [Engineering Studies](#) working group at the [Consortium for the History of Science, Technology & Medicine](#) in Philadelphia