

CURRICULUM VITAE
Jonathan C. Coopersmith

Professor
Department of History
Texas A&M University
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Texas A&M University	
Professor	2016+
Associate Professor	1995-2016
Assistant Professor	1988-95
Tokyo Institute of Technology	
Fulbright Visiting Lecturer/Researcher	2008-09
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	
Visiting Assistant Professor	summer 1987

EDUCATION

Oxford University	
D.Phil., Department of Modern History	1985
Princeton University	
A.B., History and Philosophy of Science Program	1978

CURRENT HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Fraudulent and frothy firms in emerging technologies
Space commercialization
Failure and technology
Technology maturity assessment
Communication technologies and politics

CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

NSF-funded conference, “To Boldly Preserve: Ensuring the Future of Space Archives,” March 1-2, 2018, American Institute of Physics, College Park, Maryland.

BOOKS

FAXED: The Rise and Fall of the Fax Machine (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015). Co-recipient of the 2016 Business History Conference Hagley prize for best book in business history.

The Electrification of Russia, 1880-1926 (Cornell University Press, 1992). Chosen by Cornell University Press in 2016 to be one of its first Open Access ebooks, muse.jhu.edu/book/46089.

with Roger Launius, eds., *Taking Off: A Century of Manned Flight* (Reston, VA: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 2003).

ARTICLES

“How do I teach thee? Let me count the ways,” in Jørn Brøndal, Anne Mørk, and Kasper Grotle Rasmussen (eds.), *Transatlantic Currents: Essays in Honor of David E. Nye* (Heidelberg, Germany: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2021), 171-80.

with Angelina Callahan, Geoffrey Nunn, and Erik Rau, “To Boldly Preserve: Why We Need to Collect and Preserve the Next Stage of Space Exploration and Exploitation,” AIAA ASCEND 2020 <https://doi.org/10.2514/6.2020-4180> (online).

with Sergio Cabajo, *et alia*, “Beamed Energy Propulsion for Low-Cost Launch to Earth Orbit: Paths for Progress,” AIAA ASCEND 2020 <https://doi.org/10.2514/6.2020-4173> (online).

with Eric W. Davis, “A Strategic Roadmap for Commercializing Low-Cost Beamed Energy Propulsion Launch Systems”, AIAA SPACE 2016, San Diego, September 7, 2016 <http://dx.doi.org/10.2514/6.2016-5555>.

“Visible and Invisible,” *Journal of the Institute of Image Electronics Engineers of Japan* 42:2 (March 2013), 168-69.

“Affordable Access to Space,” National Academy of Sciences *Issues in Science and Technology* Fall 2012, 57-62 <http://www.issues.org/29.1/jonathan.html>.

“The cost of reaching orbit: Ground-based launch systems,” *Space Policy* 27 (2011), 77-80.

“Creating Fax Standards: Technology Red in Tooth and Claw?” *Kagakugijutsushi. The Japanese Journal for the History of Science and Technology* 11 (July 2010), 37-66.

"Old Technologies Never Die, They Just Never Get Updated," *International Journal for the History of Engineering and Technology* 80:2 (July 2010), 166-82.

"Failure & Technology," *Japan Journal for Science, Technology & Society* 18 (2009), 91-118 (<https://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu/handle/1969.1/188538>).

"Do-It-Yourself Pornography - The Democratization of Pornography," in Johannes Gernzfurthner, Gunther Friesinger, and Daniel Fabry, eds., *prOnnovation? Pornography and Technological Innovation* (San Francisco: Re/Search, 2008), 48-55.

"The Dog That Did Not Bark during the Night: The "Normalcy" of Russian, Soviet, and Post-Soviet Science and Technology Studies," *Technology & Culture* 47:3 (July 2006), 623-37.

"Does Your Mother Know What You *Really* Do? The Changing Nature and Image of Computer-Based Pornography," *History and Technology* 22:1 (March 2006), 1-25.

"Membership Has Its Partisans," *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 24:2 (April-June 2002), 103-04 www.computer.org/annals/an2002/pdf/a2104.pdf.

"Pretty Good Technologies and Visible Disasters," *Technology & Culture* 42:1 (January 2001), 204-07.

"The Politician as the Patron," *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 22:4 (October-December 2000), 88-89.

"From Lemons to Lemonade: The Development of AP Wirephoto," *American Journalism* 17:4 (Fall 2000), 55-72.

"Creating the Commons: Establishing a Civic Space for a New Form of Communications," *Business and Economic History* 28:1 (Fall 1999), 115-24.

"The Role of the Pornography Industry in the Development of Videotape and the Internet," in *Women and Technology: Historical, Societal, and Professional Perspectives. IEEE International Symposium on Technology and Society 1999 (ISTAS '99)* (New Brunswick, NJ: Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, 1999), 175-82.

"Pornography, Technology, and Progress," *ICON* 4 (1998), 94-125.

"Facsimile's false starts," *IEEE Spectrum* February 1993, 46-49.

"Technology Transfer in Russian Electrification, 1870-1925," *History of Technology* 13 (1991), 214-33.

Setting the Stage: Government-Industry Creation of the Japanese Fax Industry, Japan Industry and Management of Technology (JIMT) Series Working Paper 97-03-1, University of Texas, Austin, March 1997.

"Technological Innovation and Failure: The Case of the Fax Machine," *Proceedings of the Conference on Business History* (Rotterdam, Netherlands: Centre of Business History, Erasmus University, 1995), 61-77.

BOOK CHAPTERS

(under consideration) "What Were We Thinking? Space Commercialization: The False Dawns of the Early Decades" in *NASA and the Rise of Commercial Space*, edited by Brian C. Odom and Stephen P. Waring (University of Florida Press).

"Beating the drum quickly: *The Economist*, Technology, and Innovation" in Tiago Mata, ed., *175 Years of The Economist* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

"Where Do We Go from Here? Ensuring the Past and Future History of Space" in *NASA and the Long Civil Rights Movement*, edited by Brian C. Odom and Stephen P. Waring (University of Florida Press, 2019), 233-243.

"Fraud and froth: Free-riding the 3D printing wave," in Bibi van den Berg, et al. eds., 3D printing: Legal, Philosophical and Economic Dimensions (The Hague: Springer-Verlag, 2016), 137-52 and in Bibi van den Berg, ed., *3D printing: destiny, doom or dream?* (Leiden, Netherlands, University of Leiden, 2013), 105-18.

with Mira Wilkins, William J. Hausman, Peter Hertner, Pierre Lanthier, and Luciano Segreto, "War, the First Nationalization, Restructuring, and Renewal, 1914-1929," in William Hausman, Peter Hertner, and Mira Wilkins, *Global Electrification: Multinational Enterprise and International Finance in the History of Light and Power, 1878-2007* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 125-89.

"Great (Unfulfilled) Expectations: To Boldly Go Where No Social Scientist and Historian Have Gone Before," in Steven J. Dick, ed., *Remembering the Space Age* (Washington, DC: National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA, 2008), 135-54.

"The Soviet Union and Nazi Germany," in W. Bernard Carlson, ed., *Technology in World History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 7 vols., 6:36-63.

"Flying the Unprofitable Skies: Commercial Aviation in America," in Jonathan Coopersmith and Roger Launius, eds., *Taking Off: A Century of Manned Flight* (Reston, VA: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 2003), 93-108.

"The Role of the Military in the Electrification of Russia, 1870-1890," in E. Mendelsohn, M.R. Smith and P. Weingart, eds., *Science, Technology and the Military* 12 (1988): 291-305.

POPULAR ARTICLES

(with JoAnne Yates and Craig Murphy, “Let’s Thwart This Terrible Idea for Standards Setting,” *spectrum.ieee.org* March 31, 2021 <https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/geek-life/history/lets-thwart-this-terrible-idea-for-standards-setting>.)

“How the U.S. can apply basic engineering principles to avoid an election catastrophe,” *spectrum.ieee.org* September 15, 2020 <https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/telecom/security/engineering-principles-us-election>.

“It takes a long time to vote,” *theconversation.com* July 7, 2020 <https://theconversation.com/it-takes-a-long-time-to-vote-141267>.

“Why do people still use fax machines,” *theconversation.com* February 14, 2019 <https://theconversation.com/why-do-people-still-use-fax-machines-109064>.

“Can sun umbrellas ever become fashionable again in America,” *theconversation.com* August 26, 2019 <https://theconversation.com/can-sun-umbrellas-ever-become-fashionable-again-in-america-121860>.

“Will Artemis fail in the halls of Congress?” *thespacereview.com* November 25, 2019 <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/3836/1>.

“What fax machines can teach us about electric cars,” *theconversation.com* March 6, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/what-fax-machines-can-teach-us-about-electric-cars-66896>.

“Obama’s legacy in science, technology, and innovation,” *theconversation.com* January 12, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/obamas-legacy-in-science-technology-and-innovation-70699>.

“Is technology making us dumber or smarter? Yes,” *theconversation.com* June 17, 2016 <https://theconversation.com/is-technology-making-us-dumber-or-smarter-yes-58124>.

“Treat the problem of unplanned pregnancies, not the politics,” *Houston Chronicle* February 11, 2016 <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Coopersmith-Treat-the-problem-of-unplanned-6824891.php>.

“U.S. must take honest look at the cost of spaceflight,” *Houston Chronicle* July 24, 2014 <https://www.chron.com/default/article/Coopersmith-U-S-most-take-honest-look-at-costs-5642237.php>.

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

Texas A&M University

Mays Innovative Research Center

“Regulatory Innovation on the Commercial Space Frontier, 1960-2020s”

(with Justin Bullock and Dan Conway)

2020-21

Texas A&M University	
Triads for Transformation T3 Round 4	
“An Interdisciplinary Framework for Preserving Business Archives & Design Records in the AEC Industry” (with Andrew Tripp and Jennifer Wilhelm)	2020+
Texas A&M University	
Faculty Development Leave	2018-19
Visiting Professor, Arizona State University	Winter, 2019
Visiting Professor, King’s College, London	Fall, 2018
Hagley Library	
Exploratory Research Grant	2017
Texas A&M University	
Glasscock Center Faculty Research Fellowship	2014-15
Council for the International Exchange of Scholars	
Fulbright Lecturer-Researcher	
Tokyo Institute of Technology	2008-09
Texas A&M University	
Faculty Development Leave	2001-02
National Science Foundation	
Science, Technology, and Society Program	1994-95
National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution	
Visiting Fellow	1991-92
Hoover Institution, Stanford University	
Visiting Scholar, Title VIII Program	1987-88
Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)	
Postgraduate Fellow in Electrical Engineering History	
MIT Program in Science, Technology and Society	1986-87
Russian Research Center, Harvard University	
Visiting Scholar	1986-87
International Research and Exchange Board (IREX)	
Fellowship to Moscow State University	1985-86
University of Pennsylvania	
History and Society of Science Program	
Visiting Graduate Student	1981-82

HONORS

Fallon-Marshall Lecture Series Panelist

April 2018

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)
Senior Member

2015

American Association for the Advancement of Science

Fellow elected for distinguished contributions to the history and philosophy of science and technology, as well as for dedicated leadership to the AAAS Section on History and Philosophy of Science

2014

Society for the History of Technology

Sally Hacker Prize for “exceptional scholarship that reaches beyond the academy toward a broad audience” to *Technology in World History*, editor W. Bernard Carlson and contributors Francesca Bray, Kristine Bruland, Jonathan Coopsmith, Frederick Damon, Michael Geselowitz, Thomas F. Glick, David Killick, Pamela Long, Bryan Pfaffenberger, and Jeremy Sabloff.

2009

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Faculty Senate,

Member, 1996-2001, 2009-15, 2016-18; Executive Committee, Secretary-Treasurer, 2017-18; Executive Committee, Member, 2012-15

Liberal Arts Council,

Member, 2017-18, 2019-20

Working Group on Science and Technology, Glasscock Center

Organizer, 2017; chair, 2017-18; convener, 2019-21

Digital Humanities Working Group (née Humanities Informatics Working Group),

Member, 2005-18

Texas A&M University Chapter, American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

President and co-founder, 1997-98; President, 1999-2000; Secretary-Treasurer, 2001-08; Vice-President, 2014-18

Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)

Member, Sites Committee, 2018-22; Executive Council, 2013-15; Nominating Committee, 2009-11; Editorial Committee, 2000-05; Program Committee, 1994-96; Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers Prize Committee, 1991-93; Robinson Prize Committee, 1990-1992

WITH (women and technology) Interest Group Treasurer, 2005-08

Pam Laird Graduate Student Research Grant Committee, Mercurians Interest Group,

Member, 2011, 2013, 2015

Special Interest Group on Computing and Information Science (SIGCIS)/Computer History Museum Book Prize, Member, 2011-13; Chair, 2013

Jovians (electrical technology) Interest Group Chair, 1994-2018

American Association for the Advancement of Science Section on History and Philosophy of Science,

Chair, 2021-22, Chair-elect, 2020-21; Secretary, 2004-2012; Member-at-Large, 2000-2004

SHOT representative, 2018+

Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers

History Committee, Member, 1993-95, 2008-12; Region 5 History Committee Chair, 2010-11

Proposal reviewer for National Science Foundation.

Manuscript reviewer for Cambridge University Press, IEEE Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, NASA History Office, MIT Press, Oxford University Press, Pearson Prentice Hall (chapter only), Routledge, Rutgers University Press, Smithsonian Institution Press, Texas A&M University Press, and University of Pittsburgh Press.

Article reviewer for *American Review of Canadian Studies*, *Business History Review*, *Centaurus*, *Comparative Technology Transfer and Society*, *Enterprise & Society*, *ICON*, *IEEE Annals in the History of Computing*, *IEEE Spectrum*, *Information & Culture*, *Information Society*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Information Technology*, *Journal of Porn Studies*, *Metascience*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Research Policy*, *Science in Context*, *Shashi: the Journal of Japanese Business and Company History*, *Slavic Review*, *Social Problems*, *Space Policy*, *Technology & Culture*, *WIREs Climate Change*.

BLOG

Creator, “Infinity Limited” history of technology blog on History News Network (historynewsnetwork.org), 2015-present.