



Paul N. Edwards

📄 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

I retired in January 2026 to escape rising fascism in the USA. Until then, I was Director of the Program on Science, Technology & Society (STS) and a Senior Research Scholar at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford. I also co-directed the Stanford Existential Risks Initiative with Prof. Steve Luby.

I'm also Professor of Information and History (Emeritus) at the University of Michigan, where I worked for 19 years in the School of Information, the Dept. of History, and the STS Program. I taught previously at Stanford from 1992-1998, in the STS Program and the Computer Science Dept.

I study the history, politics, and culture of information infrastructures, especially climate knowledge systems. My books include *A Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming* (MIT Press, 2010), *The Closed World: Computers and the Politics of Discourse in Cold War America* (MIT Press, 1996), and *Changing the Atmosphere: Expert Knowledge and Environmental Governance* (MIT Press, 2001, co-edited with Clark Miller). With Janet Vertesi (Princeton), I'm academic editor of the MIT Press book series *Infrastructures*.

I served as one of 234 Lead Authors for the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group I (Physical Sciences), released in August 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Director, Program in Science, Technology & Society, (2019- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- John Desmond Bernal Prize, Society for Social Studies of Science (2025)
- External Faculty Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, University of Amsterdam (2024-26)
- Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (2021)
- William J. Perry Fellow in International Security, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University (2017-2023)
- Distinguished Faculty Fellow in Sustainability, Graham Institute, University of Michigan (2016-17)
- Senior Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows (2016-17)
- Resident Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study in Media Cultures of Computer Simulation, Leuphana University (2015)
- Louis J. Battan Author's Award, American Meteorological Society (2013)
- Computer History Museum Book Prize, Society for the History of Technology (2011)

- Carnegie Scholar, Carnegie Corporation of New York (2003-04)
- Guggenheim Fellow, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2003-04)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Lead Author, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2018 - 2021)
- Member, Society for the History of Technology (1985 - present)
- Member, Society for Social Studies of Science (1985 - present)
- Member, American Geophysical Union (2000 - present)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Modern Thought and Literature
- Program in History & Philosophy of Science
- Science, Technology and Society

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz , History of Consciousness (1988)
- BA, Wesleyan University , Language and Mind (1980)

Teaching

COURSES

2024-25

- Climate Politics: Science and Global Governance: INTLPOL 271, STS 200S (Win)
- Curricular Practical Training: STS 199A (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Introduction to Science, Technology & Society: STS 1 (Win)
- Preventing Human Extinction: COLLEGE 107 (Spr)
- What is Science & Technology Studies (STS)?: STS 301 (Win, Spr)

2023-24

- Climate Politics: Science and Global Governance: INTLPOL 271 (Aut)
- Curricular Practical Training: STS 199A (Aut, Win, Spr, Sum)
- Introduction to AI Alignment: STS 10SI (Aut, Win)
- MLA Practicum: Science, Technology, and Society: Past, Present, Future: MLA 202P (Sum)
- Preventing Human Extinction: COLLEGE 107 (Spr)
- Technometabolism: Technology, Society, and the Anthropocene: STS 200J (Aut)

2022-23

- Advanced AI Alignment: STS 20SI (Win, Spr)
- Climate Politics: Science and Global Governance: HISTORY 202J, INTLPOL 271 (Win)
- Curricular Practical Training: STS 199A (Win, Spr, Sum)
- Introduction to AI Alignment: STS 10SI (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Preventing Human Extinction: COLLEGE 107 (Spr)
- Technometabolism: Technology, Society, and the Anthropocene: STS 200J (Win)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Master's Program Advisor

Dylan Pichay

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Is climate change ungovernable?** *LONDON REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL LAW*
Edwards, P. N.
2024
- **Digitalization and the Anthropocene** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES*
Creutzig, F., Acemoglu, D., Bai, X., Edwards, P. N., Hintz, M., Kaack, L. H., Kilkis, S., Kunkel, S., Luers, A., Milojevic-Dupont, N., Rejeski, D., Renn, J., Rolnick, et al
2022; 47: 479-509
- **Platforms are Infrastructures on Fire** *Your Computer is on Fire: The Politics of Computing and New Media*
Philip, K.
edited by Mullaney, T. S., Peters, B., Hicks, M.
MIT Press.2021: 313–336
- **Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**
Masson-Delmotte, V., Zhai, P., et al
Cambridge University Press.2021
- **Knowledge Infrastructures under Siege: Climate Data as Memory, Truce, and Target** *Data Politics: Worlds, Subjects, Rights*
Edwards, P. N.
Routledge.2019
- **We Have Been Assimilated: Some Principles for Thinking About Algorithmic Systems** *Living with Monsters? Social Implications of Algorithmic Phenomena, Hybrid Agency, and the Performativity of Technology*
Edwards, P. N.
Springer.2018: 19–27
- **Infrastructure studies meet platform studies in the age of Google and Facebook** *NEW MEDIA & SOCIETY*
Plantin, J., Lagoze, C., Edwards, P. N., Sandvig, C.
2018; 20 (1): 293–310
- **Knowledge infrastructures for the Anthropocene** *ANTHROPOCENE REVIEW*
Edwards, P. N.
2017; 4 (1): 34–43
- **Big Data Is the Answer ... But What Is the Question?** *OSIRIS*
Strasser, B. J., Edwards, P. N.
2017; 32 (1): 328–45
- **Entangled histories: Climate science and nuclear weapons research** *BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS*
Edwards, P. N.
2012; 68 (4): 28–40
- **Science friction: Data, metadata, and collaboration** *SOCIAL STUDIES OF SCIENCE*
Edwards, P. N., Mayernik, M. S., Batcheller, A. L., Bowker, G. C., Borgman, C. L.
2011; 41 (5): 667–90
- **History and the Technopolitics of Identity: The Case of Apartheid South Africa** *JOURNAL OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN STUDIES*
Edwards, P. N., Hecht, G.

2010; 36 (3): 619-639

- **The Technopolitics of Cold War Toward a Transregional Perspective** *ESSAYS ON TWENTIETH-CENTURY HISTORY*
Hecht, G., Edwards, P. N.
edited by Adas, M.
2010: 271–314
- **Infrastructure and Modernity: Force, Time, and Social Organization in the History of Sociotechnical Systems**
Edwards, P. N.
edited by Misa, T. J., Brey, P., Feenberg, A.
MIT PRESS.2003: 185–225
- **Climate science for 2050** *FRONTIERS IN CLIMATE*
Brasseur, G., Stammer, D., Friedlingstein, P., Hegerl, G., Shaw, T., Trenberth, K., Richter, J., Vera, C., Berger, A., Cleugh, H., Easterbrook, S.,
Edwards, P., Jacob, et al
2025; 7
- **One Planet, Many Worlds: The Climate Parallax (Book Review)** *ISIS*
Book Review Authored by: Edwards, P. N., Chakrabarty, D.
2025; 116 (1): 175-176
- **Three institutional pathways to envision the future of the IPCC** *NATURE CLIMATE CHANGE*
Asayama, S., De Pryck, K., Beck, S., Cointe, B., Edwards, P. N., Guillemot, H., Gustafsson, K. M., Hartz, F., Hughes, H., Lahn, B., Leclerc, O.,
Lidskog, R., Livingston, et al
2023
- **Systematic review of marine environmental DNA metabarcoding studies: toward best practices for data usability and accessibility.** *PeerJ*
Shea, M. M., Kuppermann, J., Rogers, M. P., Smith, D. S., Edwards, P., Boehm, A. B.
2023; 11: e14993
- **Peer Review** *CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE*
Edwards, P. N.
edited by DePryck, K., Hulme, M.
2023: 96-104
- **Institutions, Infrastructures, and Innovation** *COMPUTER*
Edwards, P. N., King, J.
2021; 54 (1): 103–9
- **PLATFORMS ARE INFRASTRUCTURES ON FIRE** *YOUR COMPUTER IS ON FIRE*
Edwards, P. N.
edited by Peters, B., Hicks, M., Mullaney, T. S., Philip, K.
2020: 313-336
- **Infrastructuration: On Habits, Norms, and Routines as Elements of Infrastructure** *Thinking Infrastructures*
Edwards, P. N.
Emerald Publishing.2019: 355–66
- **Re-integrating scholarly infrastructure: The ambiguous role of data sharing platforms** *BIG DATA & SOCIETY*
Plantin, J., Lagoze, C., Edwards, P. N.
2018; 5 (1)
- **Producing "one vast index": Google Book Search as an algorithmic system** *BIG DATA & SOCIETY*
Chalmers, M. K., Edwards, P. N.
2017; 4 (2)
- **Downscaling From global to local in the climate knowledge infrastructure** *INFRASTRUCTURES AND SOCIAL COMPLEXITY: A COMPANION*
Edwards, P. N.
edited by Harvey, P., Jensen, C. B., Morita, A.
2017: 339–51

- **Scientific Babel: How Science Was Done before and after Global English (Book Review)** *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*
Book Review Authored by: Edwards, P. N.
2016; 121 (5): 1636–37
- **An Archive for the Future: Paul N. Edwards on Technology, Historiography, Self, and World** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION*
Monea, A., Edwards, P. N.
2016; 10: 3174–85
- **Should I Stay or Should I Go? Alternative Infrastructures in Scholarly Publishing** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION*
Lagoze, C., Edwards, P., Sandvig, C., Plantin, J.
2015; 9: 1052–71
- **AHR Conversation: Historical Perspectives on the Circulation of Information** *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*
Edwards, P. N., Gitelman, L., Hecht, G., Johns, A., Larkin, B., Safier, N.
2011; 116 (5): 1392–1435
- **Climate Change: Science and Software Introduction** *IEEE SOFTWARE*
Easterbrook, S. M., Edwards, P. N., Balaji, V., Budich, R.
2011; 28 (6): 32–35
- **History of climate modeling** *WILEY INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEWS-CLIMATE CHANGE*
Edwards, P. N.
2011; 2 (1): 128–39
- **A Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming**
Edwards, P. N.
MIT Press.2010
- **Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming** *VAST MACHINE: COMPUTER MODELS, CLIMATE DATA, AND THE POLITICS OF GLOBAL WARMING*
Edwards, P. N.
2010: 1-518
- **Introduction: An Agenda for Infrastructure Studies** *JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS*
Edwards, P. N., Bowker, G. C., Jackson, S. J., Williams, R.
2009; 10 (5): 364–74
- **Revolutionary secrets - Technology's role in the South African anti-apartheid movement** *SOCIAL SCIENCE COMPUTER REVIEW*
Garrett, R., Edwards, P. N.
2007; 25 (1): 13–26
- **Meteorology as infrastructural globalism** *OSIRIS*
Edwards, P. N.
2006; 21: 229–50
- **"A vast machine": Standards as social technology** *SCIENCE*
Edwards, P. N.
2004; 304 (5672): 827–28
- **Changing the Atmosphere: Expert Knowledge and Environmental Governance**
edited by Miller, C. A., Edwards, P. N.
MIT Press.2001
- **Global comprehensive models in politics and policymaking** *CLIMATIC CHANGE*
Edwards, P. N.
1996; 32 (2): 149-161
- **The Closed World: Computers and the Politics of Discourse in Cold War America**
Edwards, P. N.

MIT Press.1996

- **HYPertext AND HYPertension - POSTSTRUCTURALIST CRITICAL-THEORY, SOCIAL-STUDIES OF SCIENCE AND SOFTWARE** *SOCIAL STUDIES OF SCIENCE*
EDWARDS, P. N.
1994; 24 (2): 229-78
- **THE ARMY AND THE MICROWORLD - COMPUTERS AND THE POLITICS OF GENDER IDENTITY** *SIGNS*
EDWARDS, P. N.
1990; 16 (1): 102-127