

Stanford



Robert N. Proctor

Professor of History and, by courtesy, of Medicine (Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine)

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, History
- Professor (By courtesy), Medicine - Pulmonary, Allergy & Critical Care Medicine

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

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

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

I am currently using the Legacy Tobacco Documents Library to explore the history of cigarette design; this includes physical and chemical manipulations by tobacco industry chemists, but also the history of cigarette marketing and the kinds of images used to sell cigarettes. I'm also looking at how and why different professional groups have worked for cigarette manufacturers.

Other topics I work on include human origins and evolutionary theory, the political history of gemstones, the history of ignorance (agnotology), Nazi science and anthropology, the history of creationism and global climate denialism, and visual representation of phylogenetic trees. I'm also interested in the history of medical and scientific rhetoric, and the history of medical impotence (ie., social and cultural obstacles that keep us from solving large and easily soluble health problems). I'm interested in changing concepts of health and disease and how different social movements and political forces impact those concepts.

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Advanced Topics in Agnotology: HISTORY 204D, HISTORY 304D (Win)
- History of Ignorance: HISTORY 203C (Aut)
- Tobacco and Health in World History: How Big Nic created the template for global science denial: HISTORY 243G, HISTORY 343G (Aut)
- World History of Science: From Prehistory through the Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 140 (Spr)
- World History of Science: From Prehistory through the Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 40 (Spr)

2024-25

- Advanced Topics in Agnotology: HISTORY 204D, HISTORY 304D (Win)
- History of Ignorance: HISTORY 203C (Aut)
- Tobacco and Health in World History: How Big Nic created the template for global science denial: HISTORY 243G, HISTORY 343G (Aut)
- World History of Science: From Prehistory through the Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 140 (Spr)
- World History of Science: From Prehistory through the Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 40 (Spr)

2023-24

- Advanced Topics in Agnotology: HISTORY 204D (Win)
- Doing the History of Science and Technology: HISTORY 200D (Aut)
- History of Ignorance: HISTORY 203C (Aut)
- World History of Science: From Prehistory through the Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 140 (Spr)
- World History of Science: From Prehistory through the Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 40 (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Orals Evaluator

Kyle Harmse

Master's Program Advisor

Peak Suthisamphat

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Why Did Philip Morris Stop Making Cigarettes at Auschwitz? An Essay on the Geometry and Kinetics of Atrocity** *PUBLIC CULTURE*
Akselrad, D., Proctor, R. N.
2024; 36 (1): 47-74
- **Prohibition no, abolition yes! Rethinking how we talk about ending the cigarette epidemic.** *Tobacco control*
Malone, R. E., Proctor, R. N.
2022; 31 (2): 376-381
- **The Cigarette: A Political History-The Past, Present, and Future of US Tobacco.** *JAMA*
Proctor, R. N.
2020; 324 (1): 10–11
- **The Cigarette: A Political History-The Past, Present, and Future of US Tobacco** *JAMA-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION*
Proctor, R. N.
2020; 324 (1): 10–11
- **Agnotology in Action: A Dialogue** *SCIENCE AND THE PRODUCTION OF IGNORANCE: WHEN THE QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE IS THWARTED*
Galison, P., Proctor, R.
edited by Kourany, J., Carrier, M.
2020: 27–54
- **From Maverick to Mole: John C. Burnham, Tobacco Consultant** *ISIS*
Rasmussen, N., Proctor, R. N.
2019; 110 (4): 779–83
- **Big tobacco focuses on the facts to hide the truth: an algorithmic exploration of courtroom tropes and taboos.** *Tobacco control*
Risi, S., Proctor, R. N.

2019

- **Acting Now Is Urgent: Commentary on Zeller** *NICOTINE & TOBACCO RESEARCH*
Proctor, R. N.
2019; 21 (3): 340–41
- **Acting Now Is Urgent: Commentary on Zeller.** *Nicotine & tobacco research : official journal of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco*
Proctor, R. N.
2018
- **'The industry must be inconspicuous': Japan Tobacco's corruption of science and health policy via the Smoking Research Foundation** *TOBACCO CONTROL*
Iida, K., Proctor, R. N.
2018; 27 (E1): E3–E11
- **God is watching: history in the age of near-infinite digital archives** *JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY*
Proctor, R. N.
2018; 39 (1): 24–26
- **The cigarette catastrophe continues.** *Lancet*
Proctor, R. N.
2015; 385 (9972): 938-939
- **The changing public image of smoking in the United States: 1964-2014.** *Cancer epidemiology, biomarkers & prevention : a publication of the American Association for Cancer Research, cosponsored by the American Society of Preventive Oncology*
Cummings, K. M., Proctor, R. N.
2014; 23 (1): 32-36
- **Why ban the sale of cigarettes? The case for abolition** *TOBACCO CONTROL*
Proctor, R. N.
2013; 22: 27-30
- **Why ban the sale of cigarettes? The case for abolition.** *Tobacco control*
Proctor, R. N.
2013; 22: i27-30
- **The history of the discovery of the cigarette-lung cancer link: evidentiary traditions, corporate denial, global toll** *TOBACCO CONTROL*
Proctor, R. N.
2012; 21 (2): 87-91
- **On playing the Nazi card** *TOBACCO CONTROL*
Proctor, R. N.
2008; 17 (5): 289-290
- **The secret and soul of Marlboro: Phillip Morris and the origins, spread, and denial of nicotine freebasing** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH*
Stevenson, T., Proctor, R. N.
2008; 98 (7): 1184-1194
- **The political iconicity of denominative suffixes in science (or, phonesthemic tints and taints in the coining of science domain names).** *Isis; an international review devoted to the history of science and its cultural influences*
Proctor, R. N.
2007; 98 (2): 290-309
- **"-Logos," "-Ismos," and "-Ikos" - The political iconicity of denominative suffixes in science (or, phonesthemic tints and taints in the coining of science domain names)** *ISIS*
Proctor, R. N.
2007; 98 (2): 290-309
- **"Everyone knew but no one had proof": tobacco industry use of medical history expertise in US courts, 1990-2002.** *Tobacco control*
Proctor, R. N.

2006; 15: iv117-25

- **"Everyone knew but no one had proof": tobacco industry use of medical history expertise in US courts, 1990-2002** *TOBACCO CONTROL*
Proctor, R. N.
2006; 15: 117-125
- **Angel H Roffo: the forgotten father of experimental tobacco carcinogenesis** *BULLETIN OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION*
Proctor, R. N.
2006; 84 (6): 494-496
- **Learning from Philip Morris: Japan Tobacco's strategies regarding evidence of tobacco health harms as revealed in internal documents from the American tobacco industry** *LANCET*
Iida, K., Proctor, R. N.
2004; 363 (9423): 1820-1824
- **The global smoking epidemic: a history and status report.** *Clinical lung cancer*
Proctor, R. N.
2004; 5 (6): 371-376