



Gabrielle Hecht

Stanton Foundation Professor of Nuclear Security and Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

History

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Gabrielle Hecht is Professor of History, Professor (by courtesy) of Anthropology, and Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute's Center for International Security and Cooperation. She is Vice-President/President-Elect of the Society for the History of Technology.

Her current research explores radioactive residues, mine waste, air pollution, and the Anthropocene in Africa. Essays based on this research have appeared in *Cultural Anthropology*, *Aeon*, *Somatosphere*, the *LA Review of Books*, and *e-fluxArchitecture*. Hecht's graduate courses include colloquia on "Infrastructure and Power in the Global South," "Technopolitics," and "Materiality and Power." She teaches a community-engaged undergraduate research seminar on "Racial Justice in the Nuclear Age," in partnership with the Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates (BVHPCA). She is currently working with BVHPCA and other partners to develop knowledge infrastructures to underpin community-driven public history that supports racial equity and environmental justice.

Hecht's 2012 book *Being Nuclear: Africans and the Global Uranium Trade* offers new perspectives on the global nuclear order by focusing on African uranium mines and miners. It received awards from the Society for the Social Studies of Science, the American Historical Association, the American Sociological Association, and the Suzanne M. Glasscock Humanities Institute, as well as an honorable mention from the African Studies Association. An abridged version appeared in French as *Uranium Africain, une histoire globale (Le Seuil 2016)*, and a Japanese translation is due out in 2021. Her first book, *The Radiance of France: Nuclear Power and National Identity (1998/ 2nd ed 2009)*, explores how the French embedded nuclear policy in reactor technology, and nuclear culture in reactor operations. It received awards from the American Historical Association and the Society for the History of Technology, and has appeared in French as *Le rayonnement de la France: Énergie nucléaire et identité nationale après la seconde guerre mondiale (2004/ 2014)*.

Her affiliations at Stanford include the Center for African Studies, the Program in Science, Technology, and Society, the Center for Global Ethnography, the Program on Urban Studies, and the Program in Modern Thought and Literature. Before rejoining Stanford in 2017, Hecht taught at the University of Michigan's History department for 18 years. She helped to found and direct UM's Program in Science, Technology, and Society (STS). She served as associate director of UM's African Studies Center, and participated in its long-term collaboration with the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (South Africa). She has supervised dissertations in STS, African history and anthropology, nuclear studies, and French history.

Hecht holds a PhD in History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania (1992), and a bachelor's degree in Physics from MIT (1986). She's been a visiting scholar in universities in Australia, France, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, and Sweden. Her work has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council for Learned Societies, and the South African and Dutch national research foundations, among others. She serves on numerous advisory boards, including for the Andra, France's national radioactive waste management agency.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, History
- Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

HONORS AND AWARDS

- General Anthropology Division Prize for Exemplary Cross-Field Scholarship, American Anthropological Association (2019)
- Rachel Carson Prize, Society for Social Studies of Science (2016)
- Susanne M. Glasscock Humanities Book Prize for Interdisciplinary Scholarship, Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at Texas A&M University (2014)
- Honorable Mention, Melville J. Herskovits Prize, African Studies Association (2013)
- Robert K. Merton Prize, Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section, American Sociological Association (2013)
- Martin A. Klein Prize in African History, American Historical Association (2012)
- Michigan Humanities Award, University of Michigan (2012)
- Edelstein Prize, Society for the History of Technology (2001)
- Henry Baxter Adams Prize, American Historical Association (1999)
- Abbott Payson Usher Prize, Society for the History of Technology (1996)
- Dean's Award, Stanford University (1996)
- Levinson Prize, Society for the History of Technology (1991)
- Newcomen Prize, Newcomen Society (1991)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Advisory Board Member, RADIANT: Radioactive Ruins: Security in the Age of the Anthropocene, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) (2018 - present)
- Member, Nuclear Consulting Group (2018 - present)
- Advisory Board Member, AnthroTOX Convergence Environment, University of Oslo (2017 - present)
- Advisory Board Member, Chair of excellence in Security Studies, Sciences Po (2017 - present)
- Member, Conseil Scientifique, ANDRA (Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs) (2015 - present)
- Member, Comité Scientifique, Projet AGORAS (Amélioration de la Gouvernance des Organisations et des Réseaux d'Acteurs pour la Sécurité Nucléaire) (2014 - 2019)
- Member, Scientific Advisory Board, Sciences Po (2013 - 2017)
- Editorial Board Member, Technology's Stories (2016 - present)
- Editorial Board Member, Engaging Science, Technology, and Society (eSTS) (2015 - present)
- Editorial Board Member, Feminist Technosciences book series, University of Washington Press (2014 - present)
- Editorial Board Member, African Perspectives book series, University of Michigan Press (2014 - present)
- Editorial Board Member, Global History and Culture: Medicine, Science and Technology book series, Manchester University Press (2013 - present)
- Editorial Board Member, Hospodarske dejiny (2013 - present)
- Editorial Board Member, History and Technology (2008 - present)
- Member, Merton Prize Committee, Science, Knowledge and Technology Section, American Sociological Association (2014 - 2014)
- Member, Executive Council, Society for the Social Studies of Science (2006 - 2009)
- Member, Comité d'histoire d'électricité, Fondation Electricité de France (2001 - 2015)
- Member, Executive Council, Society for the History of Technology (2000 - 2003)
- Member, Transition and Coordinating Committees, Tensions of Europe (1999 - 2007)

- Theme Leader, “Colonialism, Decolonization, and Development,” Tensions of Europe (1999 - 2004)
- Member, Editorial Committee, Society for the History of Technology (1995 - 2000)
- Co-founder & Convener, Bay Area Technology & Culture discussion group (1993 - 1998)
- Member, Levinson Prize Committee, Society for the History of Technology (1993 - 1995)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for African Studies
- Modern Thought and Literature
- Program in History & Philosophy of Science
- Program on Urban Studies
- Science, Technology and Society

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania , History and Sociology of Science (1992)
- M.A., University of Pennsylvania , History and Sociology of Science (1988)
- S.B., Massachusetts Institute of Technology , Physics (1986)

LINKS

- CISAC page: <https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/people/gabrielle-hecht>
- Publications: <https://stanford.academia.edu/GabrielleHecht>
- Personal site: <http://gabriellehecht.org>

Teaching

COURSES

2022-23

- Power in the Anthropocene: Pasts, Presents, Futures: ANTHRO 302D, HISTORY 302D, SUSTAIN 352 (Aut)
- The History of 2022: HISTORY 1 (Aut)

2020-21

- Materialities of Power, Part I: ANTHRO 402D, HISTORY 403A (Aut)
- Materialities of Power, Part II: ANTHRO 402F, HISTORY 403B (Win)
- Racial Justice in the Nuclear Age: HISTORY 203F (Spr)

2019-20

- Nuclear Insecurity in the Bay Area and Beyond: HISTORY 203F, STS 200T (Win)
- Technopolitics: Materiality, Power, Theory: ANTHRO 302A, HISTORY 302 (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Ben Baker, Jaime Landinez Aceros, Wallace Teska

Orals Evaluator

Alina Bykova, Aliyah Dunn-Salahuddin, Kyle Harmse

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Janice Ndegwa, Miri Powell, Katja Schwaller, Adele Stock

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (NonAC)

Sonya Schoenberger

Doctoral (Program)

Mathew Ayodele, Kyle Harmse, Wallace Teska, Caryce Tirop

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Systemic and Epistemic Racism in the History of Technology** *TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE*
Bhimull, C., Hecht, G., Jones-Imhotep, E., Mavhunga, C., Nakamura, L., Siddiqi, A.
2022; 63 (4): 935-952
- **2012: An elemental force: Uranium production in Africa, and what it means to be nuclear** *BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS*
Hecht, G.
2020; 76 (6): 431–37
- **INTERSCALAR VEHICLES FOR AN AFRICAN ANTHROPOCENE: On Waste, Temporality, and Violence** *CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY*
Hecht, G.
2018; 33 (1): 109–41
- **Residue** *Somatosphere*
Hecht, G.
2018
- **Uranium Africain, une histoire globale**
Hecht, G.
Editions du Seuil.2016
- **AHR Conversation History after the End of History: Reconceptualizing the Twentieth Century** *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*
Goswami, M., Hecht, G., Khalid, A., Krylova, A., Thompson, E. F., Zatlín, J. R., Zimmerman, A.
2016
- **Does Africa Really Want Yesterday's Future** *The African Technopolitan*
Hecht, G.
2015
- **Being Nuclear: Africans and the Global Uranium Trade**
Hecht, G.
MIT Press.2014
- **Radioactive Excess: Modernization as Spectacle and Betrayal in Postcolonial Gabon** *Modernization as Spectacle in Africa*
Hecht, G., Manuh, T.
edited by Bloom, P. J., Miescher, S. F.
2014
- **Nuclear Janitors: Contract Workers at the Fukushima Reactors and Beyond** *The Asia-Pacific Journal*
Hecht, G.
2013; 11 (1)
- **The Work of Invisibility: Radiation Hazards and Occupational Health in South African Uranium Production** *INTERNATIONAL LABOR AND WORKING-CLASS HISTORY*
Hecht, G.
2012: 94-113
- **An elemental force: Uranium production in Africa, and what it means to be nuclear** *BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS*

- Hecht, G.
2012; 68 (2): 22-33
- **Entangled Geographies: Empire and Technopolitics in the Global Cold War**
edited by Hecht, G.
MIT Press.2011
 - **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
 - **History and the Technopolitics of Identity: The Case of Apartheid South Africa** *Journal of Southern African Studies*
Edwards, P., Hecht, G.
2010; 36 (3)
 - **The Technopolitics of Cold War: Through a Transregional Perspective** *Essays on Twentieth-Century History*
Hecht, G., Edwards, P.
2010
 - **HOPES FOR THE RADIATED BODY: URANIUM MINERS AND TRANSNATIONAL TECHNOLITICS IN NAMIBIA** *JOURNAL OF AFRICAN HISTORY*
Hecht, G.
2010; 51 (2): 213-234
 - **Africa and the Nuclear World: Labor, Occupational Health, and the Transnational Production of Uranium** *COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN SOCIETY AND HISTORY*
Hecht, G.
2009; 51 (4): 896-926
 - **The Radiance of France, New Edition: Nuclear Power and National Identity after World War II**
Hecht, G.
MIT Press.2009
 - **Le Rayonnement de la France: énergie nucléaire et identité nationale après la Seconde Guerre mondiale**
Hecht, G.
MIT Press.2009
 - **A Cosmogram for Nuclear Things** *Isis*
Hecht, G.
2007; 98: 100-108
 - **Negotiating Global Nuclearities: Apartheid, Decolonization, and the Cold War in the Making of the IAEA** *Osiris*
Hecht, G.
2006; 21 (1): 25-48
 - **Nuclear Ontologies** *Constellations*
Hecht, G.
2006; 13 (3)
 - **Globalization meets frankenstein? Reflections on terrorism, nuclearity, and global technopolitical discourse** *History and Technology*
Hecht, G.
2003; 19 (1)
 - **Rupture-Talk in the Nuclear Age: Conjugating Colonial Power in Africa** *Social Studies of Science*
Hecht, G.
2002; 32 (5-6): 691-727
 - **Technology, Politics, and National Identity in France** *Technologies of Power: Essays in Honor of Thomas Parke Hughes and Agatha Chipley Hughes*
Hecht, G.
edited by Allen, M. T.

2001