




Jessica Riskin

Frances and Charles Field Professor of History

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Jessica Riskin received her B.A. from Harvard University and her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley. She taught at MIT before coming to Stanford, and has also taught at Iowa State University and at Sciences Po, Paris. Her research interests include early modern science, politics and culture and the history of scientific explanation.

Riskin is the author of *Science in the Age of Sensibility: The Sentimental Empiricists of the French Enlightenment* (2002), which won the American Historical Association's J. Russell Major Prize for best book in English on any aspect of French history, and the editor of *Genesis Redux: Essays in the History and Philosophy of Artificial Life* (2007) and, with Mario Biagioli, of *Nature Engaged: Science in Practice from the Renaissance to the Present* (2012). She is also the author of *The Restless Clock: A History of the Centuries-Long Debate over What Makes Living Things Tick* (2016), which won the 2021 Patrick Suppes Prize in the History of Science from the American Philosophical Society.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, History

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Frances and Charles Field Professor, History Department, Stanford University, (2021- present)
- Jean-Paul Gimon Director, France-Stanford Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, (2018- present)
- Vice Chair, History Department, Stanford University, (2017-2021)
- Chair, Academic Council Committee on Libraries, (2017-2020)
- Professor, History Department, Stanford University, (2015-2021)
- Professeur Invite, Chaire en Humanités scientifiques, Sciences Po, Paris, France, (2011-2012)
- Visiting Fellow, Institut Jean Nicod, CNRS-ENS-EHESS, Paris, France, (2008-2009)
- Associate Professor, History Department, Stanford University, (2007- present)
- Affiliated Faculty, Modern Thought and Literature, Stanford University, (2013- present)
- Assistant Professor, History Department, Stanford University, (2001-2007)
- Leo Marx Career Development Assistant Professor of the History and Culture of Science and Technology, Program in Science, Technology and Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (1998-2001)
- Assistant Professor, History Department, Iowa State University, (1996-1998)
- Postdoctoral Fellow, Dibner Institute for the History of Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (1997-1998)
- Visiting Scholar, History of Science Department, Harvard University, (1997-1998)

- Postdoctoral Fellow, History Department, Northwestern University, (1995-1996)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Frances and Charles Field Professorship, History Department, Stanford University (2021-)
- Enhanced Sabbatical Fellowship in the Humanities and Arts, School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University (2021-2022)
- Patrick Suppes Prize in the History of Science, American Philosophical Society (2021)
- Inaugural Chair in Humanités scientifiques, Sciences Po, Paris (2011-2012)
- Membre associée, REHSEIS, CNRS and Université de Paris-7, Paris (2010-2011)
- Visiting Research Fellowship, History Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australia National University, Canberra (2007)
- William H. and Frances Green Faculty Fellowship, Stanford University (2004-2007)
- J. Russell Major Award, American Historical Association (2004)
- Scholar's Award, Program in Science and Technology Studies, National Science Foundation (2003)
- Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (2003)
- Old Dominion Fellowship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2000-2001)
- Leo Marx Assistant Professorship, Program in Science, Technology and Society, MIT (1998-2002)
- Mabelle McLeod Lewis Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley (1994-1995)
- Doreen P. Townsend Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley (1994-1995)
- Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (1993-1994)
- National Science Foundation Fellowship, National Science Foundation (1990-1993)
- Mellon Foundation Dissertation Prospectus Fellowship, Department of History, U.C. Berkeley (1991)
- Regents Scholarship, U.C. Berkeley (1989-1990)
- Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard University (1988)
- Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Award, Harvard University (1984-1987)
- Harvard College Scholarship, Harvard University (1985-1986)
- John Harvard Scholarship, Harvard University (1984-1987)
- Westinghouse Science Talent Search, top ten, Westinghouse Science Talent Search (1984)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Editorial Board member, Isis (2013 - present)
- Associate Editor, Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences (2007 - present)
- Conference Organizer, Theories of Evolution and their Applications: History of Science and History of Populations, 18th -21st Centuries, Sciences Po, Paris (2013 - 2013)
- Council member, History of Science Society (2009 - 2012)
- Program Co-Chair, History of Science Society Annual Meeting (2009 - 2009)
- Invited participant, Kandersteg Seminar on intellectual history and political thought, Remarque Institute, NYU (2007 - 2007)
- Conference organizer, Science and Sensibility in the American Enlightenment, Stanford (2007 - 2007)
- Member, Leo Gershoy Award Committee, American Historical Association (2004 - 2007)
- Member, Program Committee, Society for French Historical Studies annual meeting (2005 - 2005)
- Conference organizer, Workshop on the History and Philosophy of Artificial Life, Stanford University (2003 - 2003)
- President, West Coast History of Science Society (2001 - 2002)
- Member, History of Science Society

- Member, American Historical Association
- Member, Society for French Historical Studies
- Member, American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies
- Member, France-Stanford Center Executive Committee (2012 - present)
- Member, Graduate Admissions Committee in History, Stanford University (2012 - present)
- Director, Honors Program in History, Stanford University (2012 - present)
- Participant, Faculty College, the new SIMILE program, Stanford University (2012 - 2013)
- Member Curriculum Committee, History Department, Stanford University (2012 - 2013)
- Field Coordinator, Early Modern Europe, History Department, Stanford University (2012 - 2013)
- Field Coordinator, History of Science, History Department, Stanford University (2012 - 2013)
- Co-Chair, Program in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Stanford University (2007 - 2012)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, History Department, Stanford University (2007 - 2010)
- Member, Introduction to the Humanities Governance Board, Stanford University (2007 - 2010)
- Member, Writing and Rhetoric Requirement Governance Board, Stanford University (2006 - 2010)
- Reader, Stanford Humanities Center fellowship applications (2003 - 2010)
- Member Graduate Studies Committee, History Department, Stanford University (2006 - 2007)
- Freshman Academic Advisor, Stanford University (2004 - 2005)
- Major Grant Proposal Reviewer, Undergraduate Research Programs, Stanford University (2004 - 2005)
- Member, Policy Committee, History Department, Stanford University (2004 - 2005)
- Member, Policy Committee, History Department, Stanford University (2007 - 2008)
- Member, Appointments Committee, History Department, Stanford University (2004 - 2005)
- Faculty Co-Coordinator, Seminar on Enlightenment and Revolutions, Stanford University (2002 - 2005)
- Member, Steering Committee for Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities, Stanford University (2002 - 2003)
- Member, Steering Committee for Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities, Stanford University (2006 - 2007)
- Member, Honors Thesis Prize Committee, History Department, Stanford University (2002 - 2002)
- Member, Humanities Fellows Selection Committee, Stanford University (2002 - 2002)
- Advisor, Program in Science, Technology and Society, Stanford University (2001 - present)
- Secretary, History Department, Stanford University (2001 - 2002)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

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

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- A.B., Harvard University , History and Science (1988)
- PhD, University of California at Berkeley , History (1995)

Teaching

COURSES

2023-24

- Approaches to History: HISTORY 304 (Aut)
- Graduate Pedagogy Workshop: HISTORY 305 (Win)
- The Ape Museum: Exploring the Idea of the Ape in Global History, Science, Art and Film: GLOBAL 41Q, HISTORY 41Q (Win)
- The Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 140A (Win)
- The Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 40A (Win)

2022-23

- Approaches to History: HISTORY 304 (Aut)
- Doing the History of Science and Technology: HISTORY 200D (Aut)
- The History of Evolution: HISTORY 240, HISTORY 340 (Win)
- The History of Evolution, Part II: HISTORY 440B (Spr)
- The Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 140A (Win)
- The Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 40A (Win)

2020-21

- Approaches to History: HISTORY 304 (Aut)
- The History of Evolution: HISTORY 240, HISTORY 340 (Spr)
- The Missing Link: HISTORY 42N (Aut)
- The Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 140A (Spr)
- The Scientific Revolution: HISTORY 40A (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Jon Cooper, Phoebus Cotsapas, Alexander Sherman, Charlotte Thun-Hohenstein

Orals Evaluator

Jon Cooper, Charlotte Thun-Hohenstein

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Greg Priest

Doctoral (Program)

Max Fennell-Chametzky, Greg Priest

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **American Disruptor: The Scandalous Life of Leland Stanford (Book Review)** *NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2023; 70 (11)
- **Who Killed Jane Stanford?: A Gilded Age Tale of Murder, Deceit, Spirits, and the Birth of a University (Book Review)** *NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.

2023; 70 (11)

- **Letter from Paris** *RARITAN-A QUARTERLY REVIEW*
Riskin, J.
2022; 42 (1): 100-129
- **The Scientific Method: An Evolution of Thinking from Darwin to Dewey (Book Review)** *NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2020; 67 (11): 48–50
- **The Restless Clock: A History of the Centuries-Long Argument Over What Makes Living Things Tick**
Riskin, J.
University of Chicago Press.2016
- **Machines in the Garden** *Republics of Letters: A Journal for the Stupid if Knowledge, Politics, and the Arts*
Riskin, J. G.
2010; 1 (2)
- **The Lawyer and the Lightning Rod** *Law and Science Volume I: Epistemological, Evidentiary, and Relational Engagements*
Riskin, J.
edited by Silbey, S.
London: Ashgate.2008
- **The defecating duck, or, the ambiguous origins of artificial life** *CRITICAL INQUIRY*
Riskin, J.
2003; 29 (4): 599-633
- **Science in the Age of Sensibility: The Sentimental Empiricists of the French Enlightenment**
Riskin, J. G.
University of Chicago Press.2002
- **Questions for Jablonka and Ginsburg Drawn from Lamarck's Life-Made World** *BIOSEMIOTICS*
Riskin, J.
2023
- **Biology's mistress, a brief history** *INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE REVIEWS*
Riskin, J.
2020; 45 (3): 268–98
- **Haeckel's Embryos: Images, Evolution, and Fraud (Book Review)** *COMMON KNOWLEDGE*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2020; 26 (1): 187
- **Machines in the Garden** *RENAISSANCE FUTURITIES: SCIENCE, ART, INVENTION*
Riskin, J., Black, C. V., Alvarez, M. T.
2020: 19–40
- **THE EARLY MODERN MACHINE: DIVINE, SENTIMENTAL, ROMANTIC** *MODERN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY*
Riskin, J.
2015; 12 (2): 443-451
- **Nature Engaged: Science in Practice from the Renaissance to the Present** *Palgrave Studies in Cultural and Intellectual History*
edited by Riskin, J. G., Biagioli, M., LaVopa, A., Marchand, S., Majeed, J.
Palgrave MacMillan.2012
- **Introduction: A Mingled Yarn** *NATURE ENGAGED: SCIENCE IN PRACTICE FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT*
Riskin, J., Biagioli, M., Riskin, J.
2012: 1-15
- **Machines in the Garden** *NATURE ENGAGED: SCIENCE IN PRACTICE FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT*

- Riskin, J., Biagioli, M., Riskin, J.
2012: 229-248
- **The New Pragmatism** *Nature Engaged: Science in Practice from the Renaissance to the Present*
Riskin, J.
edited by Biagioli, M., Riskin, J.
2012
 - **Machines in the Garden** *Nature Engaged: Science in Practice from the Renaissance to the Present*
Riskin, J.
edited by Biagioli, M., Riskin, J.
New York: Palgrave MacMillan.2012
 - **The Restless Clock** *Early Modern Things: Objects and their Histories, 1500-1800*
Riskin, J.
edited by Findlen, P.
New York: Routledge.2012
 - **The Divine Optician** *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*
Riskin, J.
2011; 116 (2): 352-370
 - **The Emergence of a Scientific Culture: Science and the Shaping of Modernity 1210-1685. (Book Review)** *HISTORICAL STUDIES IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2010; 40 (3): 399-408
 - **The Intelligibility of Nature: How Science Makes Sense of the World. (Book Review)** *HISTORICAL STUDIES IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2010; 40 (3): 399-408
 - **Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance. (Book Review)** *HISTORICAL STUDIES IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2010; 40 (3): 399-408
 - **The Fall of Man and the Foundations of Science. (Book Review)** *HISTORICAL STUDIES IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2010; 40 (3): 399-408
 - **The Adventures of Mr. Machine, With Morals** *History of the Human Body in the Age of Enlightenment, 1650-1800*
Riskin, J.
edited by Reeves, C.
Oxford: Berg.2010: 73-92
 - **Mr. Machine and the Imperial Me** *The Super-Enlightenment: Daring to Know Too Much, special issue of Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*
Riskin, J.
2010; 1: 75-94
 - **Newton and Monotheism (Review of "The Emergence of a Scientific Culture" by S. Gaukroger, "The Fall of Man and the Foundations of Science" by P. Harrison, "The Intelligibility of Nature" by P. Dear, and "Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance" by G. Saliba)** *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*
Riskin, J.
2010; 40 (3): 399-408
 - **Art of Evolution** *NATURAL HISTORY*
Riskin, J.
2009; 118 (2): 6
 - **Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815)** *The SuperEnlightenment*
Riskin, J.

edited by Edelstein, D.
2009

- **The Mesmerism Investigation and the Crisis of Sensibilist Science** *The Sixth Sense Reade*
Riskin, J.
edited by Howes, D.
New York: Berg.2009
- **Amusing Physics** *Science and Spectacle in the European Enlightenment*
Riskin, J.
edited by Bensaude-Vincent, B., Blondel, C.
London: Ashgate.2008
- **The first scientific American: Benjamin Franklin and the pursuit of genius. (Book Review)** *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2007; 112 (1): 187-188
- **Cottage in a Boudoir (Review of "Sensation and Sensibility: Viewing Gainsborough's Cottage Door" by A. Bermingham, Ed.)** *Senses and Society*
Riskin, J.
2007; 2 (3): 391-398
- **The Sistine Gap** *Genesis Redux*
Riskin, J.
edited by Riskin, J.
2007
- **Eighteenth Century Wetware** *The Artificial and the Natural.· An Evolving Polariry*
Riskin, J.
edited by Bensaude-Vincent, B., Newman, W. R.
Cambridge: MIT Press.2007
- **As Famous as the Moon (Review of "The First Scientific American: Benjamin Chaplin and the Pursuit of Genius" by J. Chaplin** *American Historical Review*
Riskin, J.
2007: 187-188
- **Genesis Redux: Essays in the History and Philosophy of Artificial Life**
edited by Riskin, J. G.
University of Chicago Press.2007
- **Science and polity in France: The revolutionary and Napoleonic years. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF MODERN HISTORY*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2006; 78 (3): 722-724
- **Growing explanations: Historical perspectives on recent science. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HISTORY*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2006; 37 (1): 91-92
- **Amusing physics** *HARVARD LIBRARY BULLETIN*
Riskin, J.
2006; 17 (1-2): 14-28
- **Kunstliches Leben produzieren. Denkparallelen im Automatenbau des 18. Jahrhunderts und heute** *Artifizielle Korper lebendige Technik: Technische Modellierungen des Korpers in historischer Perspektive*
Riskin, J.
edited by Orland, B.
Zurich: Chronos Verlag.2005: 65–85
- **Science in the Age of Sensibility** *Making Things Public: Atmospheres of Democracy*
Riskin, J.

edited by Latour, B., Weibel, P.
Cambridge: MIT Press.2005: 722–726

- **Pandora's breeches: Women, science and power in the enlightenment (Book Review)** *NATURE*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2004; 429 (6991): 503-504
- **The wild girl, natural man, and the monster: Dangerous experiments in the age of enlightenment (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF MODERN HISTORY*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2004; 76 (2): 451-453
- **The Defecating Duck; or, The Ambiguous Origins of Artificial Life** *Things*
Riskin, J.
edited by Brown, B.
Chicago: University of Chicago Press.2004: 99–133.
- **Eighteenth-century wetware (Automatons, artificial mechanics)** *REPRESENTATIONS*
Riskin, J.
2003: 96-125
- **The 'Spirit of System' and the Fortunes of Physiocracy** *Oeconomies in the Age of Newton*
Riskin, J.
edited by Marchi, N. D., Schabas, M.
Durham and London: Duke University Press.2003: 42–73
- **La Machine, l'art et l'etron** *La Recherche*
Riskin, J.
2003; 12: 51-53
- **Newtonianism** *The Oxford Companion to the History of Modern Science.*
Riskin, J.
edited by Heilbron, J. L.
Oxford: Oxford University Press.2003: 574–576
- **A version of Ch. 4 is reprinted as "The 'Spirit of System' and the Fortunes of Physiocracy,"** *Oeconomies in the Age of Newton*
edited by Marchi, N. D., Schabas., M.
Durham and London: Duke University Press.2003: 42–73
- **Le canard, l'homme et le robot** *La Recherche*
Riskin, J.
2002; 350: 36-40
- **Dimostrazioni e intrattenimento** *Storia della scienza*
Riskin, J.
edited by Petruccioli, S.
Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana.2002
- **Robespierre, l'avocat et le paratonnerre** *La Recherche*
Riskin, J.
2002; 8: 86-91
- **The sciences in enlightened Europe. (Book Review)** *ISIS*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
2001; 92 (4): 786-788
- **Dimostrazioni e intrattenimento** *Storia della scienza*
edited by Petrucciole, S.
Istituto della Enciclopedia.2001; 10

- **I parafulmini** *Storia della scienza*
Riskin, J.
edited by Petruccioli, S.
Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana.2001: 275–278
- **Gli amusements aeriformi, Gli amusements imponderabili, Gli amusements automatici** *Storia della scienza*
Riskin, J.
edited by Petruccioli, S.
Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana.2001: 261–268
- **Condillac, Etienne Bonnot de** *Enyclopedia of Psychology*
Riskin, J.
edited by Kazdin, A. E.
Oxford University Press.2000: 255–256
- **La Mettrie, Julien Offray de la** *Enyclopedia of Psychology*
Riskin, J.
edited by Kazdin, A. E.
Oxford University Press.2000; 471-472
- **Minerva's Message: Stabilizing the French Revolution. (Book Review)** *ISIS*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
1999; 90 (3): 598-599
- **The lawyer and the lightning rod** *SCIENCE IN CONTEXT*
Riskin, J.
1999; 12 (1): 61-99
- **Duckshit and Damask** *Eve Andree Laramie: A Permutational Unifolding*
Riskin, J.
edited by Riddell, J.
List Visual Arts Center, MIT.1999: 45–51
- **Chimie et Revolution: Le Pouvoir des Mots** *La Recherche*
Riskin, J.
1999; 320: 75-80
- **Lavoisier: Chemist, biologist, economist. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF MODERN HISTORY*
Book Review Authored by: Riskin, J.
1998; 70 (3): 703-705
- **Rival idioms for a revolutionized science and a republican citizenry** *ISIS*
Riskin, J.
1998; 89 (2): 203-232
- **Poor Richard's Leyden Jar: Electricity and economy in Franklinist France** *HISTORICAL STUDIES IN THE PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES*
Riskin, J.
1998; 28: 301-336
- **Review of "Trust in Numbers: The Pursuit of Objectivity in Science and Public Life" by T. M. Porter** *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences*
Riskin, J.
1996; 27 (1): 190-191
- **Review of "Benjamin Franklin's Science" by I. B. Cohen** *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences*
Riskin, J.
1993; 24 (1): 190-191