

Jessica G. Riskin

Curriculum Vitae

[July 2023]

History Department
Lane History Corner
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2024
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Appointments

Frances and Charles Field Professor of History, Stanford University,
2021 -

Professor, History Department, Stanford University, 2015-2021

Jean-Paul Gimon Director, France-Stanford Center for
interdisciplinary Studies, 2018-

Affiliated Faculty, Modern Thought and Literature, Stanford
University, 2013 –

Associate Professor, History Department, Stanford University,
2007 – 2015

Professeur Invité, Chaire en Humanités scientifiques, Sciences Po,
Paris, France, 2011-2012

Chercheur invité, SPHERE, Université de Paris 7, Paris, France,
2010-2011

Visiting Fellow, Institut Jean Nicod, CNRS-ENS-EHESS,
Paris, France, 2007-2008

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, 1997-98

Visiting Scholar, History of Science Department, Harvard University, 1997-98

Postdoctoral Fellow, History Department, Northwestern University, 1995-96

Education

PhD in History, University of California at Berkeley, 1995

A.B. (*magna cum laude*) in History and Science, Harvard University, 1988

Areas of Focus

Seventeenth through nineteenth century European intellectual and cultural history, the history of science and technology, Old Regime and Revolutionary France

Awards & Honors

Frances and Charles Field Professorship in History, 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, awarded by the American Philosophical Society for *The Restless Clock*, November 2021

Inaugural Chair in Humanités scientifiques, Sciences Po, Paris, 2011-2012
Membre associé, REHSEIS, CNRS and Université de Paris-7, Paris, 2010-2011

Visiting Research Fellowship, History Program, Research School of Social Sciences, Australia National University, Canberra, July 2007

William H. and Frances Green Faculty Fellowship, 2004-2005, 2006-2007

J. Russell Major Award (for best book in English on any aspect of French history), awarded by the American Historical Association, January 2004

Scholar's Award, Program in Science and Technology Studies, National Science Foundation, awarded February 2003

Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, awarded January 2003

Old Dominion Fellowship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2000-2001

Leo Marx Career Development Assistant Professorship, Program in Science, Technology and Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1998-2001

National Science Foundation seed grant, awarded summer 1997

Research Grant for the Study of Science, Technology & Society, Iowa State University, summer 1997

Mabelle McLeod Lewis Fellowship, 1994-95

Doreen P. Townsend Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley, 1994-95 (stipend declined)

Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1993-94 (awarded in 1988, declined 1988-93)

National Science Foundation Fellowship, 1990-93

Mellon Foundation Dissertation Prospectus Fellowship awarded by the Department of History, U.C. Berkeley, summer 1991 (declined)

Regents Scholarship, U.C. Berkeley, 1989-90

Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard University, 1988

Ford Foundation grant, summer 1987

Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Award for 1986-87, 85-86, 84-85

John Harvard Scholarship 1986-87, 84-85

Harvard College Scholarship 1985-86

Westinghouse (now Intel) Science Talent Search 1984, top ten

Publications

- [books] *The Restless Clock: A History of the Centuries-Long Argument over What Makes Living Things Tick*. University of Chicago Press, April 2016. Paperback edition, February 2018. Chinese translation, July 2020.

永不停歇的时钟：机器、生命动能与现代科学的形成

Awards: *Patrick Suppes Prize in the History of Science*, awarded by the American Philosophical Society, November 2021

The Guardian: featured as “The Book that Changed my Mind,” by Siri Husvedt, May 2019

Chronicle of Higher Education list, The New Canon [most influential book of the last 20 years] November 2018, <https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/influential-books?essay=Shapin>

reviews: [print] *Library Journal*, 1 January 2016; “Books in Brief,” in *Nature*, Vol. 529, 14 January 2016, 153; *Times Higher Education*, 18 February 2016; *The Tartan*, 13 April 2016, *The Boston Globe*, April 24, 2016; *The Paris Review*, 13 May 2016; *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 27 May 2016; *Literary Review*, June 2016; *The Baffler*, 1 September 2016; *The Times Literary Supplement*, 9 September 2016; *Choice Magazine*, 1 November 2016; *The London Review of Books*, 1 December 2016; *Library Journal* bestseller list, 15 December 2016; *Inference*, 31 December 2016; *The New Atlantis*, 9 January 2017; *Isis*, March 2017; *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 14 July 2017; *The American Historical Review*, Volume 122, Issue 4, 1 October 2017; *Metascience* (2018) 27: 59;

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-017-0247-1>; Oren Harman, “The Life and Times of a Scientific Mistress,” in *Raritan: A Quarterly Review*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Fall 2018), pp. 97-114; Tita Chico, “Three Times,” in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 23 July 2019, <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/three-times/>

[internet and radio] Fletcher and Parry Blog, 11 March 2016; *Stanford News Service*, 4 April 2013; *Interdisciplinary Radio*, 7 April 2016; *The Human Evolution Blog*, 18 April 2016; *PublicDomainReview*, 4 May 2016; *PlausibleFutures*, 12 May 2016; Ockham’s Razor, ABC Radio, 22 May 2016; *RealClearScience*, 25 May 2016; *The Open University* 27 May 2016; *PopMatters*, June, 2016; *Inverse*, 10 July 2016; *Bizzarro Bazaar*, 4 August 2016; *Bioteaching.com*, 8 December 2016; *Bookscrolling*, Best Books of 2016 in Science and Nature, 5 January 2017; *Bookscrolling*, Best Books of 2016 in History, 8 January 2017; *TheBestSchools.org*, May 2017; Susannah Gibson, H-Net reviews, October 2018, at <https://networks.hnet.org/node/9782/reviews/2662305/gibson-riskin-restless-clock-history-centuries-long-argument-over>.

Anna Lenzer, “To avoid climate catastrophe, it’s going to take a revolution of the mind,” March 15th 2020,

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90475368/to-avoid-climate-catastrophe-its-going-to-take-a-revolution-of-the-mind>

reprints:

Rahma Khazam, ed., *Objets vivants*. In the collection *Arts, esthétique, philosophie*, directed by Jacinto Lageira, no. 23. Sesto San Giovanni, Italy: Editions Mimésis, 2023.

Nature Engaged: Science in Practice from the Renaissance to the Present [co-edited volume with Mario Biagioli]. *Palgrave Studies in Cultural and Intellectual History*, series editors Anthony LaVopa, Suzanne Marchand and Javed Majeed. Palgrave MacMillan, 2012.

CHOICE “Essential” book, September 2013

Genesis Redux: Essays in the History and Philosophy of Artificial Life [edited volume]. University of Chicago Press, 2007.

reviews: Greg Bear, in *Nature*, Vol. 450, 29 November 2007, 612; Nancy Princenthal in *Art in America*, April 2008, 45-51.

Science in the Age of Sensibility: The Sentimental Empiricists of the French Enlightenment. University of Chicago Press, 2002.

awards: J. Russell Major Prize (for best book in English on any aspect of French History), awarded by the American Historical Association, January 2004

Berkshire Conference First Book Prize, shortlisted, 2002

reviews:

1. David Bates, in *Eighteenth Century Thought*, Vol. 2 (Summer 2004) 2. Paola Bertucci, in *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences*, Vol. 34, Part I (2003), 199 3. Joyce Chaplin, “Benjamin Franklin and Science: Continuing Opportunities for Study,” in *Perspectives on Science* 14.2 (2006), 232-251 4. Patricia Fara, “Bright Sparks,” in the *Times Literary Supplement*, 22 August 2003 5. David Howes, “Charting the Sensorial Revolution,” in *The Senses and Society*, Vol. 1, issue 1 (March 2006), 113-128 6. Marijn S. Kaplan, in the *French Review*, Vol. 77, no. 5 (April 2004), 1039 7. Ralph Kingston, in *European History Quarterly*, 35.1 (January 2005) 8. Sarah Knott, “Sensible Science,” in *History of European Ideas*, Vol. 30, issue 2 (June 2004), 256-59 9. James E. McClellan III, in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 35.1 (2004), 130-131 10. Dorinda Outram, in *British Journal for the History of Science*, Vol. 37, Issue 133 (June 2004), 210-211 11. J.B. Shank, “The Sciences in Old Regime France: A Review of Recent Scholarship,” in *French Historical Studies*, 28 (Fall 2005), 661-695 12. Larry Stewart, in the *American Historical Review*, Vol. 109, no. 2 (April 2004), 627 13. Stéphane Van Damme, “Reason and sentiment: The Enlightenment, golden age of the translation of the sciences?” in *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science Part A*, Volume 35, Issue 2 (June 2004), 383-389 14. Anne Vila, in

Journal of Modern History, Volume 77, Number 1, March 2005 15.
Caroline Warman, in *French Studies* Vol. 61, No. 3, pp. 377-378.

reprints:

An excerpt from Chs. 1-3 is reprinted as “Science in the Age of Sensibility,” in Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, eds., *Making Things Public* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005), 722-726.

A version of Ch. 4 is reprinted as “The ‘Spirit of System’ and the Fortunes of Physiocracy,” in *Oeconomies in the Age of Newton*, eds. Neil De Marchi and Margaret Schabas. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2003: 42-73.

Ch. 5, “The Lawyer and the Lightning Rod,” is reprinted in Susan Silbey, ed., *Law and Science Volume I: Epistemological, Evidentiary, and Relational Engagements* (London: Ashgate, 2008), Ch. 5.

Ch. 6, “The Mesmerism Investigation and the Crisis of Sensibilist Science,” is reprinted in David Howes, ed., *The Sixth Sense Reader* (New York: Berg, 2009), Part II, Ch. 6.

[edited journal issue] *Early Adventures in Evolution*, Forum issue, *Republics of Letters*, Vol. 6, issue 1, 4 March 2018,
https://arcade.stanford.edu/rofl_issue/volume-6-issue-1

[longer articles] “[A Sort of Buzzing Inside My Head.](#)” In the *New York Review of Books*, 25 June 2023.

“Professor of Insects and Worms,” in Heilbron Fest in *Archimedes: New Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology*.

“Letter from the Paris Botanical Garden.” In *Raritan*, Volume 42, Number 1, Summer 2022, pp. 98-127.

“Biology’s Mistress, A Brief History” in Marga Vicedo and Denis Walsh, eds., *Making Sense of Metaphor: Evelyn Fox Keller and Commentators on Language and Science*, a special issue of *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*, Vol. 45, Issue 3 (2020): 268-298.

“Restless Machines.” In Sune Holm and Maria Serban, eds., *Philosophical Perspectives on the Engineering Approach in Biology: Living Machines?* (New York: Routledge, 2020), 23-39.

“Alive and Ticking.” In *Aeon*, 30 August 2018,
<https://aeon.co/essays/can-animals-be-usefully-described-as-clockwork-machines>

“The Naturalist and the Emperor, A Tragedy in Three Acts; or, How History Fell Out of Favor as a Way of Knowing Nature.” In *KNOW* V2N1, Spring 2018, 85-110.

“Frolicsome Engines: The Long Prehistory of Artificial Intelligence.” Public Domain Review, 4 May 2016:
<https://publicdomainreview.org/2016/05/04/frolicsome-engines-the-long-prehistory-of-artificial-intelligence/>

“Striving Machinery: The Romantic Origins of a Historical Science of Life.” In *Intellectual History Review*, 2 April 2014. Taylor and Francis online:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17496977.2014.888614#.U0mp2eZdXjB>

“The Restless Clock.” In Paula Findlen, ed., *Early Modern Things: Objects and their Histories, 1500-1800* (New York: Routledge, 2012): Ch. 3.

“A Mingled Yarn” [Introduction], in Biagioli and Riskin, eds, *Nature Engaged* (2012).

“The Divine Optician.” In “Forum: The Senses in History,” *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 116, no. 2 (April 2011): 352-370.

“The Adventures of Mr. Machine, With Morals,” in *A Cultural History of the Human Body*, Vol. 4: *A History of the Human Body in the Age of Enlightenment, 1650-1800*, ed. Carole Reeves (Oxford: Berg, 2010): Ch 4, pp. 73-92.

“Machines in the Garden.” *Republics of Letters: A Journal for the Study of Knowledge, Politics, and the Arts* 1, no. 2 (April 3, 2010):
<http://rofl.stanford.edu/node/59> A second version appears in Mario Biagioli and Jessica Riskin, eds., *Nature Engaged: Science in Practice from the Renaissance to the Present* (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012): Ch. 11. Reprinted in Charlene Villaseñor-Black and Mari-Tere Álvarez, eds., *Renaissance Futurities: Science, Art, Invention*, University of California Press, 2019, pp. Chapter 2.

“Mr. Machine and the Imperial Me,” in *The Super-Enlightenment: Daring to Know Too Much*, ed. Dan Edelstein, special issue of *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century* 2010.01, 75-94.

“Amusing Physics.” In Joyce Chaplin, ed., *Harvard Library Bulletin* 2007, special catalog issue on Benjamin Franklin, Volume 17, nos. 1-2 (Spring-Summer 2006), 14-28. Reprinted in *Science and Spectacle in the European Enlightenment*, Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent and Christine Blondel, eds. (London: Ashgate, 2008), Ch. 3.

“The Sistine Gap” [Introduction], in Riskin, ed., *Genesis Redux* (2007), Ch. 1.

“The Defecating Duck; or, The Ambiguous Origins of Artificial Life.” In *Critical Inquiry* Summer 2003, Vol. 29, No. 4: 599-633
Reprinted in Bill Brown, ed., *Things* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004), 99-133.

Cameo appearance in Peter Carey’s novel *The Chemistry of Tears* (Knopf 2012), pp. 29 and 48.

“Eighteenth Century Wetware.” In *Representations*, Summer 2003, No. 83: 97-125. Reprinted in *The Artificial and the Natural: An Evolving Polarity*, eds. Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent and William R. Newman (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007), Ch. 11; and in *Weird Scholarship: From Curious to Rare*, *Representations* Special Issue, 8 January 2021, <https://www.ucpress.edu/blog/54106/weird-scholarship/>. Also published in translation into German as: “Künstliches Leben produzieren. Denkparallelen im Automatenbau des 18. Jahrhunderts und heute,” in Barbara Orland, ed., *Artifizielle Körper lebendige Technik: Technische Modellierungen des Körpers in historischer Perspektive* (Zürich: Chronos Verlag, 2005), 65-85.

“The ‘Spirit of System’ and the Fortunes of Physiocracy.” In *Oeconomies in the Age of Newton*, eds. Neil De Marchi and Margaret Schabas. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2003: 42-73.

“The Lawyer and the Lightning Rod.” In *Science in Context*, 12, 1 (1999): 61-99. Reprinted in Susan Silbey, ed., *Law and Science Volume I: Epistemological, Evidentiary, and Relational Engagements* (London: Ashgate, 2008), Ch. 5.

“Poor Richard’s Leyden Jar: Electricity and Economy in Franklinist France.” In *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences*, Vol. 28, Part 2 (1998): 301-336.

“Rival Idioms for a Revolutionized Science and a Republican Citizenry.” In *Isis* 1998, 89: 203-232.

[shorter articles]

“Comment: Questions for Jablonka and Ginsburg Drawn from Lamarck’s Life-Made World.” In *Biosemiotics* 20 February 2023 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12304-023-09523-0>

“Science in the Age of Sensibility.” In Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, eds., *Making Things Public* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2005), 722-726.

“La Machine, l’art et l’étron.” In *La Recherche* hors série no. 12, July-September 2003: 51-53.

“Robespierre, l’avocat et le paratonnerre.” In *La Recherche* hors série no. 8, July/August/September 2002: 86-91.

“Le canard, l’homme et le robot.” In *La Recherche*, no 350, February 2002: 36-40.

“Duckshit and Damask.” In Jennifer Riddell, ed., *Eve Andrée Laramée: A Permutational Unfolding*. Cambridge: List Visual Arts Center, MIT, 1999: 45-51.

“Chimie et Révolution: Le Pouvoir des Mots.” In *La Recherche*, no. 320, May 1999: 75-80.

**[encyclopedia
articles]**

“Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815).” In *The SuperEnlightenment*, Dan Edelstein, ed., http://collections.stanford.edu/supere/page.action?forward=author_franz_anton_mesmer§ion=authors. Stanford University Libraries, Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University, 2009).

“Newtonianism.” In *The Oxford Companion to the History of Modern Science*. Edited by J.L. Heilbron. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003: 574-576.

“Dimostrazioni e intrattenimento.” In *Storia della scienza*, ed. Sandro Petruccioli, Roma, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, 10 vols., 2001-, Vol. VI, 2002, pp. 139-143.

“Gli amusements aeriformi,” “Gli amusements imponderabili,” “Gli amusements automatici.” In *Storia della scienza*, ed. Sandro Petruccioli, Roma, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, 10 vols., 2001-, Vol. VI, pp. 261-268.

“I parafulmini.” In *Storia della scienza*, ed. Sandro Petruccioli, Roma, Istituto della Enciclopedia Italiana, 10 vols., 2001-, Vol. VI, pp. 275-278.

“Condillac, Etienne Bonnot de,” *Encyclopedia of Psychology*, edited by Alan E. Kazdin (Oxford University Press, 2000), Vol. 2: 255-56.

“La Mettrie, Julien Offray de la,” *Encyclopedia of Psychology*, edited by Alan E. Kazdin (Oxford University Press, 2000), Vol. 4: 471-72.

[reviews]

“A Poisonous Legacy.” Review of Richard White, *Who Killed Jane Stanford: A Gilded Age Tale of Murder, Deceit, Spirits and the Birth of a University*. New York Review of Books, 22 June 2023.

“Why Biology Is Not Destiny: An Exchange.” *New York Review of Books*, 9 June 2022.

“Why Biology Is Not Destiny.” Review of Kathryn Paige Harden, *The Genetic Lottery: Why DNA Matters For Social Equality*. New York Review of Books, 21 April 2022, pp. 43-46.

“Nature’s Evolving Tastes.” Review of Jeremy DeSilva, ed., *A Most Interesting Problem: What Darwin’s Descent of Man Got Right and Wrong About Human Evolution*; Laura Bossi, ed., *The Origins of the World: The Invention of Nature in the 19th Century*; and Robert McCracken Peck, ed., *The Natural History of Edward Lear*. *New York Review of Books*, 21 October 2021, pp. 45-47.

“When Engineers were Humanists.” Review of Paolo Galluzzi, *The Italian Renaissance of Machines*. *New York Review of Books*, 11 March 2021, pp.

“Evolution Wars: The Saga Continues.” Review of J. Scott Turner, *Purpose and Desire: What Makes Something “Alive” and Why Modern Darwinism Has Failed to Explain It* and Richard O. Prum, *The Evolution of Beauty: How Darwin’s Forgotten Theory of Mate Choice Shapes the Animal World – and Us*, in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 20 October 2020, at <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/evolution-wars-the-saga-continues/>

“Just Use Your Thinking Pump!” Review of Henry M. Cowles, *The Scientific Method: An Evolution of Thinking from Darwin to Dewey*. *New York Review of Books*, 2 July 2020, p. 187.

Little Review of Nick Hopwood, *Haeckel’s Embryos: Images, Evolution and Fraud*, in *Common Knowledge*, 26:1 (January 2020).

“Pinker’s Pollyannish Philosophy and its Perfidious Politics,” review of Steven Pinker, *Enlightenment Now*, in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 15 December 2019, at <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/pinkers-pollyannish-philosophy-and-its-perfidious-politics/>

“The Value of W; or, Interdisciplinary Engagements on Culture. A review of Kevin Laland, *Darwin’s Unfinished Symphony: How Culture Made the Human Mind*.” In *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, 31 October 2018, at <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-value-of-w-or-interdisciplinary-engagements-on-culture/>

“The Early Modern Machine: Divine, Sentimental, Romantic.” Essay review of Justin E.H. Smith, *Divine Machines: Leibniz and the Sciences of Life*; John Tresch, *The Romantic Machine: Utopian Science and Technology After Napoleon*; and Adelheid Voskuhl, *Androids in the Enlightenment: Mechanics, Artisans and Cultures of the Self*. In *Modern Intellectual History*, Vol. 12, Issue 2 (August 2015), 443-451.

“Newton and Monotheism.” Essay review of Stephen Gaukroger, *The Emergence of a Scientific Culture*; Peter Harrison, *The Fall of Man and the Foundations of Science*; Peter Dear, *The Intelligibility of Nature*; and George Saliba, *Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance*. In *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, Vol. 40, no. 3 (summer 2010): 399-408.

“Cottage in a Boudoir,” review of Ann Bermingham, ed., *Sensation and Sensibility: Viewing Gainsborough’s Cottage Door*,” in *Senses and Society*, Vol. 2, Issue 3 (November, 2007), 391-398.

“As Famous as the Moon,” review of Joyce Chaplin, *The First Scientific American: Benjamin Chaplin and the Pursuit of Genius*, in the *American Historical Review*, February 2007, 187-188.

Charles Coulston Gillispie, *Science and Polity in France: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Years*, in *The Journal of Modern History*, 78: 3 (September 2006), 722-724.

“Verum Cretum,” review of M. Norton Wise, ed., *Growing Explanations: Historical Perspectives on Recent Science*, in *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. XXXVII (Summer, 2006), 91-92.

“Curiosities of the Cabinet,” review of Patricia Fara, *Pandora’s Breeches: Women, Science and Power in the Enlightenment*, in *Nature* 429 (3 June 2004), 503-504.

Julia V. Douthwaite, *The Wild Girl, Natural Man and the Monster: Dangerous Experiments in the Age of Enlightenment*, in *The Journal of Modern History*, 76:2 (June 2004), 451-453.

William Clark, Jan Golinski and Simon Schaffer, eds., *The Sciences in Enlightened Europe*, in *Isis*, Vol. 92, No. 4 (2001), 786-88.

Martin S. Staum, *Minerva’s Message: Stabilizing the French Revolution*, in *Isis*, Vol. 90, No. 3 (1999): 598-599.

Jean-Pierre Poirier, *Lavoisier: Chemist, Biologist, Economist*, in *The Journal of Modern History*, 70:3 (1998): 703-705.

Theodore M. Porter, *Trust in Numbers: The Pursuit of Objectivity in Science and Public Life*, in *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences*, 27:1 (1996): 190-91.

I. Bernard Cohen, *Benjamin Franklin's Science*, in *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences*, 24:1 (1993): 190-191.

Invited lectures

“The Garden Where It All Began (No, Not That Garden),” Primary Source Symposium, Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Stanford University, 13 April 2023.

“Professor of Insects and Worms: The Life-Made World of Jean-Baptiste,” MacCaffrey Lecture, History Department, Reed College, 22 March 2023.

“Letter from the Paris Botanical Garden.” NYC History of Science Workshop, NYU Gallatin School, 1 April 2022.

“De l’horloge inquiète au grand divorce entre science et culture.” *Vie et technique. Quelles histoires?* Journées d’étude proposées dans le cadre du GDR 2092 “Techniques et production dans l’histoire” en collaboration avec l’équipe “Anthropologie de la vie” (Laboratoire d’anthropologie sociale – Collège de France/PSL) Seconde Journée – Organismes et systèmes techniques: analogies. 18 October 2021 (remote format).

“Lamarck’s Giraffe, A Political History.” Evolution and Social Science Group, University of Missouri (remote format), 4 October 2021; conference on *Objets vivants*, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, 18 November 2021 (remote format).

“The Great Divorce: How Science and Letters Went Their Separate Ways and Why it Matters, Symposium: Technological Revolutions in Art History, The Frick Collection, New York City (remote format), 15 October 2020.

“The Great Divorce: The Branding of Science, the Popularization of Evolution, and the Stranding of the Sciences and Humanities on Diverging Continents,” *New Directions in the History of Science: Nineteenth-Century North America*, Stanford University (remote format), 9-11 October 2020.

“The Restless Machinery of Life,” keynote address at *Evolution evolving: Process, mechanism and theory*, Churchill College, Cambridge University, 1-4 April 2019; Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, 16 April 2019; Stanford University Libraries Annual Donor Event, 14 November 2019; “A.I. and the Human(ities),” Forum Humanum and

Institute for Philosophy & the New Humanities, The New School, New York City (remote format), 23 October 2020.

Androids, Automata, Avatars, Agency: Stanford Library Dialogues, inaugural dialogue w/ Oussama Khatib, 5 February 2019.

“Life as Origin: Lamarck’s Radical Theory,” Conference on The Exploration of Life’s Origin from Antiquity to the Present, Center for the Study of Origins, University of Colorado, Boulder, 6 October 2018.

“Lamarck’s Giraffe and the Problem of Agency,” Conference on the History and Metaphysics of the Laws of Nature, 13 July 2018 Central European University, Budapest.

“Pre-Mechanistic Machines,” Yale Workshop on Preindustrial Technology, Yale University, 21 April 2018.

“The Naturalist and the Emperor, A Tragedy in Three Acts.” Stevanovich Institute for the Formation of Knowledge inaugural conference, 17 November 2017; History of Political Thought workshop, Stanford University, 16 April 2018.

“On the Banishment of History from Science,” Stanford Complexity Group, 14 November 2017.

“The Restless Clock,” *Colloquium in the History and Philosophy of Science*, University of Sydney, 27 August 2012; *Historical Conversations*, History Department, Stanford University, 17 October 2012; *History of Science Workshop*, Stanford University, 17 February 2016; *Boundaries of Humanity* project, Stanford University, 29 March 2016; *Seminar on Enlightenment and Revolutions*, Stanford University, 18 November 2016; European University Institute, Florence, Italy, 22 June 2017; Max Planck Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin, Germany, 13 July 2017; *Contemplation by Design*, Stanford University, 8 November 2017.

“A Whirlwind Tour of the History of Robotics,” *Uncanny Valleys: Thinking and Feeling in the Age of Synthetic Humans*, University of Southern California, 23 March 2017.

“How the Mouse Lost Its Tail, Or, Lamarck’s Dangerous Idea,” Marcus Feldman Laboratory, Stanford University, 24 February 2017; The Oxford Research Center in the Humanities, 12 June 2017; Bioengineering Department, Stanford University, 7 November 2017.

“Lamarckiana,” *Networks of Enlightenment*, Stanford Humanities Center, 29 April 2016.

“Fabriquer le vivant,” Collège de France, Paris, France, 18 June 2015.

Débats du Centre Alexandre Koyré, Ecoles des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, France, 17 June 2015.

“Lamarck’s Dangerous Idea,” Mind, Body, Culture Workshop, Stanford University, 21 April 2015

“L’Horloge inquiète II,” Collège de France, Paris, France, 11 June 2014.

“A History of Lamarckism and anti-Lamarckism,” Hopkins-McGuinness Lecture, University of California, Davis, 22 April 2014.

“How the Mouse Lost its Tail: A Brief History of Lamarckophobia,” *Theories of Evolution and their Applications: History of Science and History of Populations, 18th-21st Centuries*, Sciences Po, Paris, 16-18 May 2013; SND, Sorbonne, Paris, 14 June 2013; The International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB) annual meeting, Montpellier, 10 July 2013; Seminar on Human Sciences, University of Chicago, 18 April 2014; *Let There Be Enlightenment: The Religious and Mystical Sources of Rationality*, Stanford University, 17 May 2014.

“Lamarck’s More Dangerous Idea,” *The Eighteenth Centuries: An Interdisciplinary Symposium*, The University of Virginia, 1-2 March 2013.

“The Adventures of Mr. Machine: La Mettrie Goes to Berlin,” *Sensibility in the Early Modern Era*, University of Sydney, 28-29 August 2012

Bar Hillel Lectures, Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel Aviv University and Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 7 and 9 May 2012

Inaugural lecture, Rentrée solennelle, Sciences Po-Reims, 8 September 2011

“Emotional and Other Adventures of Mr. Machine.” Queen Mary Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies and Centre for the History of the Emotions, University of London, Queen Mary College, 27 January 2011.

“L’Horloge inquiète.” Séminaire de Master 2, *Analogie et techniques*: Sophie Beaune, Liliane Hilaire-Perez, Koen Vermeir, Université de Paris 7, 10 November 2010; Equipe REHSEIS du Laboratoire SPHERE, UMR CNRS 7219, Université de Paris 7, 8 March 2011;

Séminaire de Master 1, *Sciences et arts à l'âge des lumières*: Marie-Noëlle Bourguet, Liliane Hilaire-Perez, Université de Paris 7, 16 mars 2011.

“The Unquiet Clock.” Conference on *Early Modern Things* at the Stanford Humanities Center, 29 January 2010; History Department, University of Vancouver, 4 February 2010; Philosophy Department, New School for Social Research, 4 March 2010

“The Adventures of Mr. Machine, with Morals.” Subway Series in History of Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, 26 October 2009; *Enlightenment 2.1*, University of California at Berkeley, 23 April 2010

“Me and My Machine.” Brown University, 1 April 2009

“Christ-Machines, Beast-Machines and the Human Soul.” UCLA History Department, 1 December 2008; Wesleyan University Humanities Center, 30 March 2009

“Benjamin Franklin, Scientist.” Humanities West, San Francisco. 18 October 2008

<https://archive.org/details/benjaminfranklin01huma>

“The Watch on the Heath and the Mosaic Chronometer,” *Science for and against Enlightenment: Studies prompted by the career of Jean-André Deluc (1727-1817)*, Geneva and Coppet, April 2008

“The Divine Optician,” at *21st-Century Enlightenment: New Perspectives on the Eighteenth-Century*, University of California at Berkeley, 16 March 2007; “Sensing and Feeling: The Embodiment of Experience in the Eighteenth Century,” *Bloomington Eighteenth Century Workshop*, May 2007; Discovering Life, History Department, Princeton University, February 2008

“Mechanical Christs, Hydraulic Brutes and the Invention of Consciousness,” History Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison, April 2006; Colloquium in History and Philosophy of Science, Northwestern University, April 2006; History of Science Society annual meeting, Vancouver, November 2006; Stanford Seminar in Science, Technology and Society, December 2006; Centre for Consciousness, Australia National University, Canberra, July 2007; Technology and Formations of Power, Science Studies Department, University of California, San Diego, May 2008

“Lifelike Machines: A Long History,” Institute for the History of Natural Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Beijing University, June 2007

“The Long History of Robots,” Avenidas Distinguished Lecture Series, Palo Alto, CA, November 2006

Comment, roundtable on “Science and Sensibility in the American Enlightenment” (panel in response to my book, *Science in the Age of Sensibility*), American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Montreal, March 2006

“Magic and the Politics of Debunking,” Society for French Historical Studies annual meeting, Stanford University, March 2005

“Dissimulations: Magic, Freedom and the Limits of Mechanism,” History of Science Society annual meeting, Austin, Texas, November 2004; History Department, Rice University, November 2004; Science Studies Program, U.C. San Diego, March 2005; History and Philosophy of Science Program, McGill University, April 2005; Committee on the Conceptual Foundations of Science, University of Chicago, April 2005

“Dissimulations,” *Imposters: Identity and Pretense in Europe and the Atlantic World, 1600-1800*, A Conference Presented by the UCLA Center for 17th & 18th Century Studies and the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, October 2004

“Mind Out of Matter,” Research Triangle Intellectual History Seminar, National Humanities Center, North Carolina, March 2004; Program in the History of Medicine and Science, Yale University, April 2004

“Androids, Awake! A History of the Quest for a Conscious Machine,” Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, Princeton University, February 2004

“The Android’s I: A Joint History of Consciousness and Artificial Life,” *Workshop on the History and Philosophy of Artificial Life*, Stanford Humanities Center, October 2003; Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values, University of Notre Dame, December 2003

“The Lawyer and the Lightning Rod,” French Culture Workshop, Stanford University, February 2003

“Talking Heads: Eighteenth-Century Simulations of Speech and Other Bodily Functions,” Southern California Colloquium in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology, *Automata in History: Cultural Projections*, University of California, Los Angeles, February 2003

“Sentimental Empiricism in Political Economy,” *Oeconomies in the Age of Newton*, History of Political Economy conference, Duke University, April 2002

“Talking Heads,” College Art Association annual meeting, February 2002

“Robots – Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern,” invited presentation to class on *Renaissance Engineers* (Letters and Science 122), Professors Roger Hahn, James Casey, Filip Filippou, and Stephen Tobriner, University of California at Berkeley, April 2001

“Eighteenth-Century Wetware,” colloquium on *Knowledge, the Body and Machines in the Enlightenment*, History Department, Stanford University, February 2001; Office for the History of Science and Technology, University of California at Berkeley, April 2001; workshop on *The Artificial and the Natural: An Ancient Debate and its Modern Descendants*, organized by William Newman and Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent at the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology, May 2001; workshop on *Cultures of Innovation*, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University, May 2001

“The Defecating Duck, Or, The Very Early History of Artificial Intelligence,” History Department, Stanford University, February 2001; Rhetoric Department, University of California at Berkeley, March 2001

“The Blind and the Mathematically Inclined,” Northeast American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies,” University of New Hampshire, December 1999

“Moving Anatomies,” Early Sciences Study Group, History of Science Department, Harvard University, October 1999; History of Science Society, Pittsburgh, PA, November 1999

“Poor Richard’s Leyden Jar: Electricity and Economy in Franklinist France,” Sloan Foundation Workshop on “The Newtonian corpuscle, short-range forces and knowledge of the microscopic world, 1670-1820,” Lewis, Wisconsin, September, 1998

“The Early History of Artificial Life,” AGORA 2000, Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin, June, 1998

“The Defecating Duck, Or, The Limits of Possibility in the Early History of Automation,” Program in Science, Technology and Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, December 1997; Early Sciences Study Group, History of Science Department, Harvard University, February, 1998; American Society for Eighteenth

Century Studies, Notre Dame University, March, 1998; *Ordering Nature in the Enlightenment*, A Conference Presented by the UCLA Center for 17th & 18th Century Studies and the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, May 1998

“Amusing Physics,” Dibner Institute for the History of Science, April 1998

“The Defecating Duck, Or, Scenes from the Early History of the Idea of Automation,” History of Science Society, San Diego, CA, November 1997

“Naming the Elements: Chemistry, Language and Politics in Revolutionary France,” History Department, Iowa State University, January 1996; Committee on the Conceptual Foundations of Science, University of Chicago, February 1996; Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, Northwestern University, February 1996; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 1996

“He Seized the Lightning from Heaven and the Scepter from Tyrants’: Benjamin Franklin and the French Enlightenment,” History Department, Northeastern Illinois University, February 1996

“Philosophical Modesty and the Spirit of System,” History of Science Society, New Orleans, October 1994

“Natural and Political Philosophy during the Chemical and French Revolutions,” West Coast History of Science Society, Stanford University, May 1994

“Le hasard dans l’évolution: Gould sur Darwin,” Centre National de Recherche Scientifique at the Collège de France, Paris, March 1989

Public History

“Irrational Politics, Unreasonable Culture,” conversation with Justin E.H. Smith, *Commonwealth Club of California*, 29 January 2020, podcast: <https://www.commonwealthclub.org/events/archive/podcast/irrational-politics-unreasonable-culture-justin-smith-and-jessica-riskin>

The goop Podcast, conversation with host Elise Loenen, recorded 13 March 2019, forthcoming to air summer 2019.

Jessica Riskin on Life, Machinery and the Restless Clock: conversation on EconTalk with host Russ Roberts, 11 February 2019, at <http://www.econtalk.org/jessica-riskin-on-life-machinery-and-the-restless-clock/>

“A Whirlwind Tour of the Long History of Robots,” MUTEK SF, California Academy of Sciences, 3 May 2018.

Ockham’s Razor, ABC Radio, 22 May 2016, at <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/ockhamsrazor/the-restless-clock/7429734>.

Interview with Michael Schulson reported in *Salon*, Sunday September 14th, 2014, 07:00 PDT: http://www.salon.com/2014/09/14/what_robot_theology_tells_us_about_ourselves_partner/

“Benjamin Franklin, Scientist.” Public lecture for Humanities West, Herbst Theater, San Francisco, CA, 18 October 2008

radio interview on *Odyssey*, a daily talk show of ideas produced by WBEZ, hosted by Gretchen Helfrich, on “Sight” for a special series on “The History of the Senses,” 14 June 2005

radio interview on *Odyssey*, on “The History of Artificial Intelligence,” 2 December 2003, at https://archive.org/details/Odyssey_WBEZ_Chicago_Public_Radio/od_031202.rm

Professional Activities

Chester Higby Prize for best article in the *Journal of Modern History* in the previous two years, American Historical Association and *Journal of Modern History*, selection committee, 2020-Advisory Board, Stanford Global Shakespeare Encyclopedia, 2020-Editorial Board member, *Republics of Letters*, 2015 – Editorial Board member, *British Journal for the History of Science*, 2015 –

Editorial Board member, *Isis*, 2013 –
 Editorial Board Member, *Modern Intellectual History*, 2015 – 2018
 Associate Editor, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, 2007 –
 UCLA Center for 17th and 18th Century Studies and Clark Library
 review, November-December 2018
 Conference Organizer, *Theories of Evolution and their Applications: History
 of Science and History of Populations, 18th-21st Centuries*, Sciences Po,
 Paris, 16-18 May 2013
 Council member, History of Science Society, January 1st 2009 –
 January 1st 2012
 Program Co-Chair, History of Science Society Annual Meeting, 2009
 Invited participant, Kandersteg Seminar on intellectual history and
 political thought, organized by Prof. Tony Judt, Remarque
 Institute, New York University, Kandersteg, October 2007
 Conference organizer, *Science and Sensibility in the American
 Enlightenment*, Stanford, October 2007
 Member, Leo Gershey Award Committee of the American Historical
 Association, February 2004–2007
 Member, Program Committee, Society for French Historical Studies
 annual meeting, March 2005
 Conference organizer, *Workshop on the History and Philosophy of Artificial
 Life*, Stanford University, October 2003
 President, West Coast History of Science Society, 2001-2002
 Member, History of Science Society, American Historical
 Association, Society for French Historical Studies, American
 Society for Eighteenth Century Studies

Service

Jean-Paul Gimon Director, France-Stanford Center for
 Interdisciplinary Studies, 2018-
 Member, France-Stanford Center Executive Committee, 2012-
 Vice Chair, History Department, 2017- 2021
 Chair, Academic Council Committee on Libraries, 2017-2020
 Field Coordinator, History of Science, Early Modern Europe, Early
 Modern Britain, History Department, 2012-2018
 Member, Graduate Admissions Committee in History, 2012-2018
 Member, Curriculum Committee, History Department, 2012-2018
 Participant, Faculty College, the new SIMILE program, 2012-2013
 Director, Honors Program in History, 2013-2017
 Co-Chair, Program in History and Philosophy of Science and
 Technology, 2007 – 2010
 Director of Undergraduate Studies, History Department, 2007 – 2010
 Member, Introduction to the Humanities Governance Board, 2007 –
 2010
 Member, Writing and Rhetoric Requirement Governance Board,
 2006 – 2010
 Reader, Stanford Humanities Center fellowship applications, 2003 –
 2010

Member, Graduate Studies Committee, History Department, 2006-2007
 Freshman Academic Advisor, 2004-2005
 Major Grant Proposal Reviewer, Undergraduate Research Programs, 2004-2005
 Member, Policy Committee, History Department, 2004-2005, 2007-2008
 Member, Appointments Committee, History Department, 2004-2005
 Faculty Co-Coordinator, Seminar on Enlightenment and Revolutions, 2002-2005
 Member, Steering Committee for Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities, 2002-03, 2006-2007
 Member, Honors Thesis Prize Committee, History Department, Spring 2002
 Member, Humanities Fellows Selection Committee, Winter 2002
 Advisor, Program in Science, Technology and Society, 2001-
 Secretary, History Department, 2001-2002

Courses

[current]

HIST 304: Approaches to History
 HIST 305: Graduate Pedagogy Seminar
 HIST 40A/140A: The Scientific Revolution
 HIST 41Q: The Ape Museum (Sophomore seminar co-taught w/ Caroline Winterer)

[past]

HIST 240/340: The History of Evolution
 HIST 42N: The Missing Link (Freshman seminar)
 HIST 40A/140A: The Scientific Revolution
 HIST 240/340: The History of Evolution
 HIST 200D Doing the History of Science and Technology
 HIST 209S Research Seminar for Majors
 The Enlightenment
 Science and Law in History
 SIMILE 92: Science in the Making
 History Honors Seminar
 Science and Magic
 IHUM 57: Humans and Machines
 What is Life? The History of a Question
 History of the Senses
 Minds and Worlds, From Aristotle to Newton to Einstein
 Origins and History of the Scientific Fact
 Science and Culture Wars
 The History of Artificial Life
 Machines and the Nature of Life and Mind
 Computers and Organisms
 The Prehistory of Computers
 Toward the Scientific Revolution

The Rise of Modern Science
Introduction to the History of Science
Europe, 1648-1815
The History of Chemistry
Science and Politics in Revolutionary France and America