

Stevens Institute of Technology
College of Arts & Letters



**“Science, Technology, and the Humanities:
A New Synthesis”**

An International Conference held at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, New Jersey,
April 24-25, 2009

Program

Friday, 24 April

Registration:
12:00 noon- 5:00 pm
Atrium, Babbio Building

Concurrent Sessions I
2:00-4:30 pm

Session 1: Science, Fiction, and the Future

203 Babbio

Arthur Donovan, Chair

“Nineteenth Century Techno-Warriors: Frank Stockton’s *The Great War Syndicate* and Garrett Serviss’ *Edison’s Conquest of Mars*,” Kathleen N. Monahan, English, Saint Peter’s College

“Physics and Science Fiction,” Allen I. Janis, Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh

“From Carbon Nanotubes to the Nanobama: How Science became Art,” Rasmus Slaattelid, Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities, University of Bergen, Norway

Session 2: Issues in Cognitive Theory

204 Babbio

Andrew Rubinfeld, Chair

“De-Humanities: Comparative Philology, Psycholinguistics and the Mechanical Neuron,” Mark Robinson, Anthropology, Center for the Study of Religion, and Program in American Studies, Princeton University



“Borderland Poetry and Models of Bilingual Semantic Processing: Using Cognitive Science to Understand the Literature of the US_Mexico Border,” Jessica Sullivan, Cognitive Development Lab, Wesleyan University

“Morality, Mirror Neurons, and Midrash,” Susan Schept, Social Sciences, Stevens Institute of Technology

Session 3: **Conceptual Changes**

210 Babbio

Michael Steinmann, Chair

“Plato’s Neurobiology: A Call for a Psychotherapist King?,” Elizabeth Laidlaw, Philosophy, Monroe Community College

“Science and the Humanities from the Perspective of Late Nineteenth-Century *Sprachwissenschaft*,” Judy Kaplan, History of Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“The Questions Technology Asks Us,” Eric Rabkin, English, University of Michigan

Session 4: **Darwinian Implications**

219 Babbio. Dawn Digrius, Chair

“Attack of the Evo-Psycho: How Darwinians are Trying to Take Over the Humanities,” John Horgan, Center for Science Writings, Stevens Institute of Technology

“Ingredients for Human Cancer: The Mechanism of Natural Selection,” Predrag Sustar, Philosophy, University of Rijek, Croatia

“What is the Logic Science,” George Dourdounas, Stevens Institute of Technology

Session 5: **Math, Science, and Humanism**

220 Babbio.

Stephen Bloom, Chair.

“The Math, Music, and Mysticism of the Quadrivium: The Four Paths to a Theory of Structure,” Daniel Newsome, History, CUNY and Stevens Institute of Technology

“Humanist Science,” John T. Blackmore, Philosophy, Emeritus, Bethesda, Maryland

“What People Think Mathematics Is Will Limit What Mathematics Can Say to the Humanities,” Carlos Bovell, Independent Scholar



*Plenary Session I:
Friday, 24 April 2009, 4:45-6:00
Babbio 122*

Welcome: Dr. Harold J. Raveché, President of Stevens Institute of Technology

Introductory Remarks: James E. McClellan III, College of Arts and Letters

Introduction of Plenary Speaker. Mr. John Horgan

“Locating the Soul in an Age of Molecular Medicine,” Dr. Robert Pollack, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, and Director, Center for the Study of Science and Religion, Columbia University

*Reception: 6:00-7:00 pm
Babbio Atrium*

*Dinner: 7:00-9:00
Bissinger Room
Howe Center, 4th Floor*

Dinner Speaker: Prof. Trevor Pinch, STS, Cornell University, “The Moog Synthesizer”

Saturday, 25 April

Registration:
8:00 am – 12:00 noon
Howe Center Lobby

*Breakfast, 8:00 - 9:30 am
Bissinger Room, Howe Center*

*Concurrent Sessions II
Saturday, 25 April, 9:30 am-12:00 noon*

Session 6: **Americana**

Mott Room, Howe Center, 4th Floor.
Edward H. Foster, Chair

“Purity and ‘Pollution’ in Modern America,” Kathy Cooke, History, Quinnipiac University

“Emblems of the Soul: A Natural History of the American Renaissance,” Angela Conrad, English, Bloomfield College



Session 7: Implications for Ethics

Board Room, Howe Center, 14th Floor

Garry Dobbins, Chair

“Ethics as Social Technology,” Morton Winston, Philosophy and Religion, The College of New Jersey

“Engineering Ethics and Philosophy,” James A. Stieb, English and Philosophy, Drexel University

“Ecology of Spirit,” Michael Steinmann, Philosophy, Stevens Institute of Technology

Session 8: Literature and Technological Change

Bissinger Room, Howe Center 4th Floor

Alice Craven, Chair

“A 17th-Century Intersection of Science, Art, and Literature: The Rise of the Art of Medicine (1683),”
Robert Kramer, Fine Arts, Manhattan College

“Color and the Technologies of Literature,” Nicholas Gaskill, English and Comparative Literature,
UNC, Chapel Hill

“Computing “Kubla Khan”: The Idea of Computation and the Analysis of Literature,” William L.
Benzon, Independent Scholar

Session 9: Metaphysical and Epistemological Issues

Calder Room, Howe Center, 3rd Floor

Alan Janis, Chair

“Renaturalizing philosophical naturalism,” Rebecca Bamford, Philosophy, Hunter College

“The Promise and Threat of Naturalism: The Reach of a Unifying Science,” Keith A. Nier,
Independent Scholar

“Scientific Knowledge and the Humanities: How Molecular Biology Illuminates the Problem of
Epistemological Skepticism,” Jeff Buechner, Philosophy, Rutgers University-Newark and CUNY
(Kripke Center)

Session 10: Beyond the West

Skyline Room, Howe Center, 4th Floor

Jonathan Wharton, Chair

“Orientalism as a Human Science,” B. Harun Küçük, History, UC San Diego

“Written in the Flesh: Historical Epistemology and the Changing Medical Perceptions of the Body in
China,” Howard H. Chiang, History of Science, Princeton University



“Ming Qing Medicine: Plurality and Interaction,” Sare Aricanli, History of Science, Princeton University

Session 11: Practical Impact of Technologies

Fielding Room, Howe Center, 3rd Floor

Harold Dorn, Chair

“Transportation: Synthesis of Disability Justice and Ecological Rationality,” Doris Zames Fleischer, Humanities, NJIT

“Science and Technology in the Countercultural Back to the Land and Environmental Movements of the Sixties and Seventies: The Birth of Ecofuturism?,” Adam Tinkle, Writing Program, Wesleyan University

“From Cargo Containerization to Contemporary Globalization – the Historical Impact of a New Technology,” Arthur Donovan, Humanities (Emeritus) U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

12:00 noon – 2:00 pm

Luncheon

Bissinger Room

Howe Center, 4th Floor

Luncheon Speaker: Prof. Karen Barad,
Professor of Feminist Studies, History of Consciousness, and Philosophy, UC Santa Cruz
“The Entanglement of Matter and Meaning”

Concurrent Sessions III
Saturday, 25 April, 2:00-4:30

Session 12: Poetry as Technological Artifact

Bissinger Room, Howe Center, 4th Floor

Edward H. Foster, Chair

“Digital Poetry: ‘slippingglimpse’,” Stephanie Strickland

“‘Lest you shall chance to whip your information’: The Aesthetics of Database Management,” Andrew Klobucar, NJIT

“Poems of the Web, by the Web, for the Web: The Google Synthesizers,” Chris Funkhouser, NJIT



Session 13: Relations Between Art and Science

Board Room, Howe Center, 14th Floor

Julie Harrison, Chair

“Art or Science?: The Practices of Tactical Media,” Hannah Rogers, STS, Cornell University

“The Sewing Needle: Technology Piercing the Science/Art Divide,” Maura Flannery, Biology, St. Johns University

“Positive Potential: Technology and Fashion in the 1960s,” Sarah Scaturro, Textile Conservator, Smithsonian, Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum

Session 14: Literature, History, and Science

Skyline Room, Howe Center, 4th floor

Lisa Dolling, Chair

“An Alternative End to History: The *Da Vinci Code* Phenomenon and Orthodoxy,” Derek J. Thiess, English, Auburn University

“Science Through the Lens of Brecht’s Hollywood: The Case of Galileo,” Alice Craven, Comparative Literature, American University of Paris

“Networks as Social and Conceptual Metaphors in Historical Analysis,” Robin Wolfe Scheffler, History of Science and Medicine, Yale University

Session 15: Episodes in the History of Science

Fielding Room, Howe Center, 3rd Floor

Daniel Newsome, Chair

“Going Small in the Humanities and Social Sciences: Thoughts on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Richard Feynman’s ‘There’s Plenty of Room at the Bottom,’” David Valone, History, Quinnipiac University

“Perceptual History and Visual Psychology: A Nineteenth-Century Case Study and James Gibson’s ‘Ecology of Light’ Theory,” Alice Barnaby, Exeter Interdisciplinary Institute, University of Exeter, UK

“Ancient Roman Technology in Modern Archaeological Scholarship,” Deborah Chatr Aryamontri, History, Stevens Institute of Technology



Session 16: **Advanced Technologies and their Impact**

Calder Room, Howe Center 3rd Floor

Andrew Russell, Chair

“Aristotle’s E-Mail, Or Friendship in the Cyber Age,” Tim Madigan, Philosophy, St. John Fisher College

“Knowledge, Reputation, Discourse: The Creation of Relevance in Search Technology,” Finn Brunton, Centre for Modern Thought, University of Aberdeen, UK

“Cyborgs & Posthumans: The Encounters of Technology, Prosthetics, Bodies and Memory,” Emilie Dionne, Social and Political Thought, York University, Toronto

*Plenary Session II:
4:45-6:00 pm
Bissinger Room
Howe Center, 4th Floor*

Introduction of speaker: Prof. Lisa Dolling, Stevens Institute of Technology

“From Scientism to Humanism: Reuniting Science with the Arts and Humanities”

Prof. David Lowenthal

Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography
University College London



*Post Conference Reception
CAL Headquarters
308 Peirce Building, Stevens Campus*

*“Verge” Student Art Exhibit
America’s Cup Café and S.C. Williams Library
6:00-9:00 pm*