



*Inventing America:  
The Interplay of Technology and Democracy  
in Shaping American Identity*

NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2006  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

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Throughout our nation's history, Americans have enthusiastically embraced new technology and they have been willing to experiment with new political ideas and practices. Commemorating the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, this conference will examine how Franklin, Jefferson, and their contemporaries saw technology as integral to the creation of a new form of government, a democratic republic, as well as how Americans since Franklin's time have wrestled with the interplay of technology and democracy.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3 • 5:30 to 7 P.M.  
DOME ROOM, THE ROTUNDA

### *Technology and Democratic Values in the Early Republic*

CHAIR: **Peter Onuf**, *University of Virginia*

COMMENT: **Brian Balogh**, *University of Virginia*

- **Robert Parkinson**, *Shepherd University*  
"By the Press we can speak to Nations": Franklin, Newspapers, and the Revolutionary Construction of an American Identity
  - **Brian Murphy**, *University of Virginia*  
A Monopoly of Steam: Robert Fulton, Robert Livingston, and Commercial Collisions on the Hudson
  - **Jeffrey Matsuura**, *Alliance Law Group*  
Thomas Jefferson and the Evolution of a Populist Vision of Intellectual Property Rights and Democratic Values
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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 • 9 A.M. to 3:45 P.M.  
HARRISON INSTITUTE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS • 9 to 9:15 A.M.

SESSION ONE • 9:15 to 10:45 A.M.

*Political Lives of Inventors*

CHAIR: **Tom Hughes**, *University of Pennsylvania*, emeritus

COMMENT: **Jack Brown**, *University of Virginia*

• **Edward Gray**, *Florida State University*

Tom Paine's Iron Bridge and the Technology of Nationhood

• **Sarah Kate Gillespie**, *Brooklyn Historical Society*

Democracy, Technology, and Changing Ideas of "Americanness": the Case of Samuel F. B. Morse

• **Robert MacDougall**, *University of Western Ontario*

King Crank: Technology and Democracy in the Golden Age of the American Eccentric

COFFEE BREAK • 10:45 to 11 A.M.

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SESSION TWO • 11 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

## *Manifesting Democratic Values in Art and Technology*

CHAIR: **Arthur Molella**, *Smithsonian's Lemelson Center*

COMMENT: **Susan Stein**, *Monticello*

- **Katherine Woltz**, *University of Virginia*  
Jeffersonian Politics, Republican Technology, and American Nationalism in Charles Wilson Peale's *The Exhumation of the Mastodon* (1806-08)
- **Jhennifer Amundson**, *Judson College*  
Monuments to the American Republic and its Technology
- **Karen Lemmey**, *National Gallery of Art*  
"That all my works may be cast [at] an American Establishment":  
H.K. Brown and the Origins of American Bronze Monuments

LUNCH • 12:30 to 1:30 P.M.

SESSION THREE • 1:45 to 3:45 P.M.

## *Technology and the Practice of Democracy*

CHAIR: **Bruce Williams**, *University of Virginia*

COMMENT: **Chris Sprigman**, *University of Virginia*

- **Bill Kirkpatrick**, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*  
Communications Technology and Democracy: Localism and Nationalism at the Birth of American Broadcasting
  - **Woody Register**, *Sewanee: The University of the South*  
The Dictograph Era: Eavesdropping Technologies and the Quest for Social Knowledge in Progressive Era American Culture
  - **Sam Abrams**, *Harvard University*  
The Trouble with Television: Understanding Rational Consumption of Mass Media in the Digital Age
  - **Jonathan Coopersmith**, *Texas A&M University*  
Faxing in Politics: Revolutionary or Reinforcing Technology?
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## PARTICIPANTS

### **SAM ABRAMS**

Mr. Abrams is a Graduate Fellow at the Weiner Center for Inequality and Social Policy in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is currently completing his dissertation in Political Science.

### **JHENNIFER AMUNDSON**

Dr. Amundson is Assistant Chair and Associate Professor of Architecture in the Architecture Department at Judson College.

### **BRIAN BALOGH**

Dr. Balogh is Mayo Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of History at the University of Virginia, and co-director of the Miller Center Fellowships in Public Affairs, a project to promote and disseminate scholarship in contemporary politics, public policy, and political history.

### **JACK BROWN**

Dr. Brown is Associate Professor in the Division of Technology, Culture and Communication at the University of Virginia. He specializes in British and American industrial history, focusing particularly on the history of engineering.

### **JONATHAN COOPERSMITH**

Dr. Coopersmith is Associate Professor in the History Department at Texas A&M University.

### **SARAH KATE GILLESPIE**

Dr. Gillespie is Director of the Fine Arts Initiative/Curator at the Brooklyn Historical Society. She was recently awarded her Ph.D. in Art History from The Graduate Center at the City University of New York.

### **EDWARD GRAY**

Dr. Gray is Associate Professor in the Department of History at Florida State University and Editor of Common-place ([www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org)), An Interactive Journal of Early American Life.

### **THOMAS P. HUGHES**

Dr. Hughes is Emeritus Mellon Professor of the History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania. His books include *American Genesis: A Century of Invention and Technological Enthusiasm*. He is currently a Distinguished Visiting Professor at MIT.





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**BILL KIRKPATRICK**

Mr. Kirkpatrick is a Ph.D. Candidate in Media & Cultural Studies in the Department of Communication Arts at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**KAREN LEMMEY**

Dr. Lemmey is Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow in the Department of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the National Gallery of Art where she is organizing an exhibition on French sculptor and medallist Alexandre Charpentier.

**ROBERT MACDOUGALL**

Dr. MacDougall is Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Associate Director for the Centre for American Studies at the University of Western Ontario.

**JEFFREY MATSUURA**

Jeffrey Matsuura is an attorney with the Alliance Law Group. He recently completed a fellowship at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, where his research explored Jefferson's philosophy towards intellectual property rights.

**BRIAN PHILLIPS MURPHY**

Mr. Murphy is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of History at the University of Virginia and Thomas Jefferson Foundation Dissertation Fellow at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello.

**PETER ONUF**

Dr. Onuf is Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Professor in the History Department at the University of Virginia. He has co-edited and authored several volumes on Revolutionary and Jeffersonian America.

**ROBERT PARKINSON**

Dr. Parkinson is Assistant Professor of History at Shepherd University and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture.

**WOODY REGISTER**

Dr. Register is Professor in the Department of History and Director of the American Studies Program at Sewanee: The University of the South.

**CHRIS SPRIGMAN**

Mr. Sprigman is Associate Professor of Law at the University of Virginia. His scholarship focuses on how legal rules affect innovation and the deployment of new technologies.

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**SUSAN STEIN**

Ms. Stein is Gilder Curator and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation's Vice President for Museum Programs. She organized the landmark 1993 exhibition *The Worlds of Thomas Jefferson* at Monticello, and authored a widely hailed book of the same title.

**BRUCE WILLIAMS**

Dr. Williams is Professor in the Media Studies program at the University of Virginia.

**KATHERINE WOLTZ**

Ms. Woltz is a Ph.D. Candidate in the McIntire Department of Art at the University of Virginia and Doctoral Fellow at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello.

**PROGRAM SELECTION COMMITTEE****W. BERNARD CARLSON**

Professor, Department of Science, Technology, and Society School of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Virginia

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of American History*  
*Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation*

The Smithsonian's Lemelson Center documents, interprets, and disseminates information about invention and innovation to encourage inventive creativity in young people, and to foster an appreciation for the central role that invention and innovation play in the history of the United States. Please visit us on the web at [www.invention.smithsonian.org](http://www.invention.smithsonian.org).



The UVa Department of Science, Technology, and Society seek to advance understanding of the social and ethical dimensions of science and technology. Working with other groups at UVa, the STS Department is developing a major teaching and research initiative into the interaction of technology and democracy. For more information, see [www.tcc.virginia.edu](http://www.tcc.virginia.edu).



Robert H. Smith International  
Center for Jefferson Studies  
at Monticello

The Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies promotes the ongoing study of Thomas Jefferson internationally by building a network of scholars, teachers, and resources; by helping to define new areas of investigation; and by applying new technologies to Jefferson scholarship. The Center can be contacted at [www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org).