

Historians of Science... for the People

Historians of science, along with our colleagues in sister disciplines, have vital roles to play in movements to mobilize STEM for social justice. Increasingly, historians of science have ceased writing “origin stories” that justify our existing knowledge systems as the inevitable results of steady progress over time. Instead, we highlight how ideas and practices have differed across time and space, and thus the contingency of our current situations. Any work that opens our minds to the variety of past experiences, and thus the range of possibilities before us, serves the work of social and political transformation. But some scholars take a more direct approach. We trace the roots of current systems of exploitation and injustice, helping to explain how we got into the messes we find ourselves in... and how we might get out. We document activist struggles to ensure that new generations can build and improve on the work of their predecessors. We map out activist scholarly agendas. And we write people’s histories of science that recognize the contributions of farmers, workers, hobbyists, and others to the knowledge we collectively share.

The following is *just a sample* of writings in the historical and social study of science and technology that can inform the work of justice movements. The list will grow as more people contribute.

Tracing the Roots of Exploitation and Injustice

Explaining how we got into these messes... and perhaps how we might get out

- S. E. Anderson and Maurice Bazin, "Science, Technology, and Black Liberation," in Arditti, Brennan, and Cavrak, eds., *Science and Liberation* (South End Press, 1980) -- the rest of the volume is great too!
- Warwick Anderson, *Colonial Pathologies: American Tropical Medicine, Race, and Hygiene in the Philippines* (Duke University Press, 2006).
- Allan Brandt, *The Cigarette Century: The Rise, Fall, and Deadly Persistence of the Product that Defined America* (Basic Books, 2009).
- Sarah Bridger, *Scientists at War: The Ethics of Cold War Weapons Research* (Harvard University Press, 2015).
- Barry Commoner, *The Poverty of Power* (Random House, 1976).
- Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man* (Norton, 1981).
- Donna Jeanne Haraway, *Primate Visions: Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science* (Verso, 1989).
- Erwin N. Hiebert, *The Impact of Atomic Energy: A History of Responses of Government, Scientists, and Religious Groups* (Faith and Life, 1961).
- Jack Ralph Kloppenberg, *First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology, 1492-2000* (Cambridge University Press, 1988).
- Beth Macy, *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America* (Little, Brown and Company, 2018).

- Jonathan Metzler, *The Protest Psychosis: How Schizophrenia Became a Black Disease* (Beacon: 2011).
- Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway, *Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming* (Bloomsbury Press, 2010).
- Robert Proctor, *Golden Holocaust: Origins of the Cigarette Catastrophe and the Case for Abolition* (University of California Press, 2012).
- Sam Quinones, *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic* (Bloomsbury Press, 2015).
- Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty* (Pantheon, 1997).
- Alexandra Minna Stern, *Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America* (UC Press, 2015).
- Helen Tilley, *Africa as a Living Laboratory: Empire, Development, and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge, 1870-1950* (University of Chicago Press, 2011).
- Harriet A. Washington, *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present* (Doubleday, 2007).

Documenting Activist Struggles and Political Movements

Remembering the work of our predecessors so that we may build and improve on it

- Laura Briggs, *How All Politics Became Reproductive Politics: From Welfare Reform to Foreclosure to Trump* (UC Press, 2017).
- Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* (Houghton Mifflin, 1962).
- Joshua P. Howe, *Behind the Curve: Science and the Politics of Global Warming* (Washington, 2014).
- Joshua P. Howe and Paul S. Sutter, eds., *Making Climate Change History: Documents from Global Warming's Past* (Washington, 2017).
- Steven Epstein, *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge* (University of California Press, 1996).
- Kim Fortun, *Advocacy after Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders* (University of Chicago Press, 2001).
- David J. Hess, *Alternative Pathways in Science and Industry: Activism, Innovation and the Environment in an Era of Globalization* (MIT Press, 2007).
- Jonathan Schell, *The Fate of the Earth* (Knopf, 1982).
- Sheila Jasanoff, *Designs on Nature: Science and Democracy in Europe and the United States* (Princeton, 2005).
- Sabrina McCormick, *Mobilizing Science: Movements, Participation and the Remaking of Knowledge* (Temple University Press, 2009).

- Moore, Kelly, *Disrupting Science: Social Movements, American Scientists, and the Politics of the Military, 1945-1975* (Princeton University Press, 2008).
- Alondra Nelson, *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011).
- Britt Rusert, *Fugitive Science: Empiricism and Freedom in Early African American Culture* (NYU Press, 2017).
- Sigrid Schmalzer, Daniel S. Chard, and Alyssa Botelho, eds. *Science for the People: Documents from America's Movement of Radical Scientists* (Amherst, MA: UMass Press, 2018).
- Gary Werskey, *The Visible College: A Collective Biography of British Scientists and Socialists of the 1930s* (London: Free Association Books, 1988).
- Mathew Zachariah and R. Sooryamoorthy, *Science for Social Revolution: Achievements and Dilemmas of a Development Movement -- the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad* (Zed, 1994).

Mapping Activist Scholarly Agendas

- Beatriz da Costa and Kavita Philip, eds., *Tactical Biopolitics: Art, Activism, and Technoscience* (MIT Press, 2008).
- Scott Frickel and Kelly Moore, *The New Political Sociology of Science: Institutions, Networks, and Power* (Madison: U. of Wisconsin Press, 2005).
- Sandra Harding, *Sciences From Below: Feminisms, Postcolonialities, and Modernities* (Duke UP, 2008).
- Brian Martin, "The Critique of Science Becomes Academic," *Science, Technology, & Human Values* 18.2 (1993): 247-259.
- Andrew Ross, ed., *Science Wars* (Duke University Press, 1996).
- Sharon McKenzie Stevens, "Speaking out: Toward an Institutional Agenda for Refashioning STS Scholars as Public Intellectuals," *Science, Technology, & Human Values* 33.6 (2008): 730-753.
- Banu Subramaniam, "Moored Metamorphoses: A Retrospective Essay on Feminist Science Studies," *Signs* 34.4 (2009): 951-980.
- Edward Woodhouse, David Hess, Steve Breyman, and Brian Martin, "Science Studies and Activism: Possibilities and Problems for Reconstructivist Agendas," *Social Studies of Science* 32.2 (2002): 297-319.

Writing People's History of Science

Recognizing the contributions of ordinary people to scientific knowledge

- Clifford D. Conner, *A People's History of Science: Miners, Midwives, and "Low Mechanics"* (Nation Books, 2005).
- John Harr, *A Civil Action* (Random House, 1995).

- Shigeru Nakayama, "Grass-Roots Geology: Ijiri Shōji and the Chidanken," in *Science and Society in Modern Japan: Selected Historical Sources*, ed. Nakayama Shigeru, David L. Swain, and Yagi Eri (MIT Press, 1974).
- Preciado, Paul B. *Testo Junkie: Sex, Drugs, and Biopolitics in the Pharmocaopornographic Era*. New York: Feminist Press at CUNY, 2013.
- Sigrid Schmalzer, *Red Revolution, Green Revolution: Scientific Farming in Socialist China* (University of Chicago Press, 2016).
- Asif Siddiqi, *The Red Rockets' Glare: Spaceflight and the Soviet Imagination, 1857-1957* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).
- Gabriela Soto Laveaga, *Jungle Laboratories: Mexican Peasants, National Projects, and the Making of the Pill* (Duke UP, 2009).
- Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins* (Princeton University Press, 2015).
- Edgar Zilsel, "The Sociological Roots of Modern Science," *American Journal of Sociology* 47 (1942): 544–62.