



Department of History

LUIS A. CAMPOS

Rice University – MS 42
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892
lcampos@rice.edu / 713.348.2453

POSITIONS

Rice University (2022 – present)

- Baker College Chair for the History of Science, Technology, and Innovation

University of New Mexico (2012 – 2021)

- Regents' Lecturer (2019-2021)
- Associate Professor, History Department (since 2014; Associate Chair 2015 – 2019)
- Senior Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy (2012 – 2018)
- Assistant Professor, History Department (August 2012–June 2014)

Drew University (2006 – 2012)

- Assistant Professor, History Department

Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte (2007 – 2008)

- Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the History of Science
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History of Science, Harvard University, 2006

M.Phil., History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, 2000

A.B., Biology, Harvard University, June 1999

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- **2021.** *Nature Remade: Engineering Life, Envisioning Worlds* (with Michael R. Dietrich, Tiago Saraiva, and Chris C. Young), University of Chicago Press.
<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/N/bo89966766.html>
Reviewed in *Science*, *Nature*.
- **2015.** *Radium and the Secret of Life*, University of Chicago Press.
<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/R/bo19804483.html>
Reviewed in *Science*, *Isis*, *Journal of the History of Biology*, *British Journal of the History of Science*, *Chemistry World*, *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biomedical and Biological Sciences*, *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, *Annals of Science*, *Physics in Perspective*, *Ambix*, *Times Higher Education*, *Distillations*, *Colloquy*
- **2010.** *Making Mutations: Objects, Practices, Contexts* (with Alexander Schwerin). Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, volume 393.
<https://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/preprint/making-mutations-objects-practices-contexts>

Articles

- **2019.** “Genetic Sputniks,” *Grow Magazine*. Ginkgo Bioworks.
<https://www.growbyginkgo.com/2020/06/23/genetic-sputniks/>
- **2017.** “Die Wuchernde Technosphäre” [“The Proliferating Technosphere”]. *1948 Unbound: Entfesselung der Technischen Gegenwart [Unleashing the Technical Present]*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, *Tageszeitung* (<http://www.taz.de>).
- **2015.** “Tweets as Sources in the History of Contemporary Science,” *Medical History* 59.1 (January): 148–150.
- **2013.** “Un Siècle de Biologie de Synthèse,” *Revue Médecine/Sciences* Juin 2013 (Numéro Spécial GENOPOLE, hors série n°. 2): 16-21, débat 22-24.
- **2012.** “The BioBrick™ Road,” *Biosocieties* 7.2 (June): 115-139.
- **2007.** “The Birth of Living Radium,” *Representations* 97: 1-29.
- **1998.** “Chemical Ecology: Building a Better Bug Repellent,” *Science* 281 (17 July): 321-323.

Book Chapters

- **2021.** “Strains of Andromeda: The Cosmic Potential Hazards of Genetic Engineering.” In Campos et al., *Nature Remade: Engineering Life, Envisioning Worlds*. University of Chicago Press, 151-72.
- **2021.** “Going Feral,” *Rewilding Culture*, eds. Erich Berger, Ewen Chardronnet, Tina Dolinšek and Uroš Veber. Feral Labs Node Book #1, 18-32. Ljubljana, Slovenia: Zavod Projekt Atol.
- **2020.** “Life as It Could Be.” In Kelly Smith and Carlos Mariscal, eds. *Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology* 101-114. Oxford University Press.
- **2018.** “Neanderthals in Space: George Church’s Modest Steps Toward Possible Futures,” in Oren Harman and Michael Dietrich, eds. *Dreamers, Visionaries and Revolutionaries in the Life Sciences*, 143-160. University of Chicago Press.
- **2017.** “Dialectics Denied: Muller, Lysenkoism, and the Fate of Chromosomal Mutation,” in William de Jong-Lambert, and Nikolai Krementsov, eds. *The Lysenko Controversy as a Global Phenomenon: Genetics and Agriculture in the Soviet Union and Beyond*, 161-184, Palgrave-Macmillan.
- **2016.** “Transatlantic Mutants: Epistemics, Evolution, and the Engineering of Variation 1903-1930,” with Alexander Schwerin, in Hans-Jörg Rheinberger and Staffan Mueller-Wille, eds., *Heredity Explored: Between Public Domain and Experimental Science, 1850-1930*, MIT Press.
- **2013.** “Outsiders and In-Laws: Drew Endy and the Case of Synthetic Biology,” in Oren Harman and Michael Dietrich, eds. *Outsider Scientists: Routes to Innovation in Biology*, University of Chicago Press.
- **2010.** “Mutant Sexuality: The Private Life of a Plant.” In Campos et al., *Making Mutations: Objects, Practices, Contexts*. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, volume 393, 49-70.
- **2011.** “*M. myc JCVI-syn1.0*,” in Tomoko Mamine, ed. *Natural History for the 21st Century*. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.
- **2009.** “That Was the Synthetic Biology That Was,” in Markus Schmidt et al., eds., *Synthetic Biology: The Technoscience and Its Societal Consequences*. Springer Academic Publishing, 2009. (Cited 91 times by 4/29/19.)
- **2008.** “Genetics Without Genes: Blakeslee, *Datura*, and ‘Chromosomal Mutations,’” in *A Cultural History of Heredity*. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, preprint 343.

Interviews and Dialogues

- **2021.** “Mutant Strains, Mutant Rays, and Mutant States: Interview with Luis Campos by Ana María Gómez López,” *Akademie Schloss Solitude Journal* 3: 12-23.
- **2021.** “Reasoning Before the Fact,” *Making: The New Alphabet*, eds. Katrin Klingan, Johanna Schindler, Nick Houde. Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Spektrum Books

- **2018.** “Other Genetic Alphabets,” dialogue with Steve Benner, *Journal of Design and Science*, MIT Media Lab, December 10. Available at: <https://jods.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/issue4-campos-benner>
- **2014.** “Interviews with Historians: Luis Campos.” *Shadowgraph Magazine* 2 (Summer): 6-16.
- **2014.** “Heal the World,” interview with Sascha Pohflepp, in *Blueprints for the Unknown* from Design Interactions Research at the Royal College of Art, London.

Book Reviews

- **2021.** “Pandora’s Pandemic: *The Andromeda Strain*’s oft-invoked fictional outbreak continues to offer context for considering possible futures,” *Science* 371.6534 (12 March 2021).
- **2021.** “Genomics and Genre: A scholar probes subtle shifts in stories told through genes.” Book review of Laura Choksey, *Narrative in the Age of the Genome: Genetic Worlds*, in *Science* 371.6529 (5 February 2021).
- **2020.** “Tinctures of Time and Schrödinger’s Virus,” *Science* 368.6490 (1 May 2020): 478-479.
- **2020.** “Atomic Adventures.” Book review of James Mahaffey, *Atomic Adventures*. *Isis*, September 2020.
- **2020.** “The Gene: From Genetics to Postgenomics.” Book review of Hans-Jörg Rheinberger and Staffan Müller-Wille, *The Gene: From Genetics to Postgenomics*, tr. Adam Bostanci. *History of the Philosophy of Science* (HOPOS), Spring: 344-7.
- **2019.** “Total Eclipses and the Heart: Unexpected connections emerge in a lyrical meditation on the lives and loves of pioneering women in science.” Book review of Maria Popova, *Figuring*, in *Science* 363 (February 22): 825.
- **2018.** “Staying with the Trouble.” Book review of Donna Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene* in *Quarterly Review of Biology* 93.1 (March): 28-9.
- **2017.** “Our Synthetic Moment.” Book review of Sophia Roosth, *Synthetic: How Life Got Made*, in *Science* 355 (March 17, 2017): 1136.
- **2017.** “A Brief History of Creation.” Book review of Bill Mesler and H. James Cleaves, *A Brief History of Creation* in *Quarterly Review of Biology* 92 (March 2017): 84-5.
- **2016.** “Crops on Demand.” Book review of Helen Curry, *Evolution Made to Order*, in *Science* 354 (11 November): 713.
- **2016.** “Making Marie Curie.” Book review of Eva Hemmungs Wirtén, *Making Marie Curie. Intellectual Property & Celebrity Culture in an Age of Information*, in *Isis*, June.
- **2015.** “Gendering Chromosomes.” Book review of Sarah Richardson, *Sex Itself: The Search for Male and Female in the Human Genome*, in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, July 24.
- **2015.** “Life Atomic.” Book review of Angela Creager, *Life Atomic*, in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, March.

- **2014.** “The Science of Human Perfection.” Book review of Nathaniel Comfort, *The Science of Human Perfection* in *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, published online February 6, 2014.
 - **2009.** “In Pursuit of the Gene.” Book review of James Schwartz, *In Pursuit of the Gene: From Darwin to DNA* in *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 31 (2009): 471-520.
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FELLOWSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES

Akademie Schloss Solitude (2022)

- Fellow, Stuttgart, Germany

Fondation Brocher (2020, 2022)

- Fellow, Geneva, Switzerland

Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte (2021)

- Visiting Scholar, Department III, Berlin, Germany

Ginkgo Bioworks (2019)

- Scholar in Residence, Boston, MA

SOLU/BioArt Society (2019)

- Kilpisjärvi Biological Station, Finland

Institute for Advanced Study (2019)

- Visitor, Program in Interdisciplinary Studies, Princeton, NJ

Library of Congress (2016 – 2017)

- Baruch S. Blumberg NASA Chair of Astrobiology

Columbia University (2014)

- Visiting Scholar, History Department
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CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

2021. International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, July 11-16. Program co-chair.

2020. History of Science Society Virtual Forum. Secretary, October 8-11.

2018. “A Century of Engineering Life: Populations and Ecosystems,” Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA, May 16-23. Program co-chair.

2017. "Life as It Could Be: Astrobiology, Synthetic Biology, and the Future of Life." Baruch S. Blumberg Symposium on Astrobiology, Library of Congress, September 28.
2017. "Habitable Wor(l)ds: Astrobiology as Culture." Baruch S. Blumberg Summit on Astrobiology, Library of Congress, September 14.
2011. "Playing God: Disciplinary Perspectives." Drew University. Campbell Colloquium. September 14.
2009. 44th Annual Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology. Drew University. April 3-4.
2009. "Making Mutations: Objects, Practices, Contexts." Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany. January 13-15.
2008. Lowell House Bell Festival and Symposium. Harvard University.

KEYNOTES AND INVITED LECTURES (SINCE 2016)

2021

- "Habitability on Earth and Elsewhere" Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany, October 21.
- "Prospects for Life: Genetic Engineering for a Pandemic," International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Prague, Czechia, July 25.
- "Pandora's Pandemic: Infectious Futures at the Dawn of Genetic Engineering," George Sarton Memorial Lecture in the History and Philosophy of Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Phoenix, February 10.

2020

- "Chance Encounters of Life," *Pohflepp in Practice*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), Trust Berlin, Eyebeam NYC, and UC San Diego Visual Arts, December 5.
- "Mutant Sexuality: The Private Life of a Plant (And Those Who Studied It)," New York Botanical Garden, Humanities Center, June 26.

2019

- "The Spirit of Asilomar: Familiar Frontiers in Engineering Life," inaugural lecture, Scientific Citizenship Initiative, Harvard Medical School, December 2.
- "Amiable Discord: The Rescue and Return of Harvard's Russian Bells," Lowell House, Harvard University, October 13.
- Ginkgo Bioworks, Inc., History of Biology series, September.
- "Making" and "Here Be Dragons: How Do You Know It When You See It," Lebensformen [Life Forms] conference, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany, April 27.

2018

- “Digging into the History of American Science.” All-staff meeting on “The Future of the East Wing,” National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, December 13.
- “On Becoming ‘Business Manager for the Cosmic Process of Evolution,’” Viriditas Conference on the Uses of Synthetic Biology in Space Exploration, Ginkgo Bioworks (biotechnology company), Boston, October 20.
- “Amiable Discord: The Rescue and Return of Harvard’s Russian Bells,” Danilov Monastery (seat of the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church), Moscow, Russia, September 26-29.
- “The Ghost of Asilomar,” University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 30.
- “Neanderthals in Space: George Church’s Modest Steps Toward Possible Futures.” University of California, Davis, March 7-8.

2017

- “Heredity and Heresy” and “2048, According to Chance” in “1948: Unbound” conference, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin. November 30-December 2.
- “Astrobiology and the Humanities,” NASA Astrobiology Institute, October 4.
- “Life as It Could Be” and “Habitable Wor(l)ds Revisited.” Blumberg Summit Symposium on “Life As It Could Be: Astrobiology, Synthetic Biology, and the Future of Life,” Library of Congress, September 14.
- “Radium and the Secret of Life.” National Museum of American History (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, DC, August 8.
- “Finding Life in Space.” Congressional Members Breakfast, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, June 8.
- “Astrobiology and the Scholars Council.” Scholars Council, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, May 4.
- “Neanderthals in Space,” Cornell University. Ithaca, NY, May 1.
- “Radium and the Secret of Life.” National History Center of the American Historical Association, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC, March 20.
- “We Are Not Alone.” Keynote address, Emerging Researchers Network, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, DC, March 4.

2016

- “Roadmaps.” Presented at “Making the Living World Engineerable: Science, Practice, and Policy,” National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, Washington, DC, November 16.
- “Synthesizing Life: From Early Origins to New Natures.” Baruch S. Blumberg Symposium, on “The Emergence of Life: On the Earth, in the Lab, and Elsewhere.” Library of Congress, Washington, DC, September 15.

MEMBERSHIPS

History of Science Society (HSS)

International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB)

Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)

American Association of University Professors (AAUP)

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)