

# ELIZABETH R. PETRICK

Department of History  
Rice University  
Houston, TX  
[elizabeth.petrick@rice.edu](mailto:elizabeth.petrick@rice.edu)

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

<b>Rice University</b>	
Associate Professor of History	2019 – Present
Affiliated Faculty, Department of English	
<b>New Jersey Institute of Technology</b>	
Associate Professor of History	2019
Assistant Professor of History	2014 – 2019
Associate Director, Law, Technology & Culture Program	2014 – 2019
<b>University of California, San Diego</b>	
Lecturer	2013 – 2014
Teaching Assistant	2006 – 2009

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. History and Science Studies, <i>University of California, San Diego</i>	2012
Dissertation: <i>Fulfilling the Promise of the Personal Computer: The Development of Accessible Computer Technologies, 1970-1998</i>	
Advisor: Cathy Gere	
Major field: Twentieth Century History of Science	
Minor fields: Science Studies and United States History	
M.A. History, <i>University of California, San Diego</i>	2009
B.S. Computer Science, <i>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor</i>	2003
Minor: British History	

## AWARDS AND HONORS

HRC Faculty Research Fellowship, Rice University	2024
One Week Research Fellow, Centre for Digital Cultures at Leuphana University	2022
ACM SIGCSE Top Ten Symposium Papers of All Time Award, Top Ranked Paper	2019
NJIT Excellence in Teaching Award for Upper Division Undergraduate Instruction	2018
by Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty	
Computer History Museum Book Prize	2017
Computer History Museum Travel Award	2017
University of California, San Diego Dissertation Fellowship	2010-2011
University of California, San Diego Regents Fellowship	2005-2006

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Books:

E. Petrick, *The Tablet Computer: The Idea of a Machine* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press) Under Contract.

E. Petrick, *Making Computers Accessible: Disability Rights and Digital Technology* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015).

**Winner of the 2017 Computer History Museum Book Prize**

### Refereed Articles and Chapters:

E. Petrick, "Spanning Space and Time Barriers: Computerized Conferencing, Disability, and Citizenship," in Jeffrey R. Yost and Gerardo Con Díaz, eds, *Just Code: Power, Inequality, and the Global Political Economy of IT* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, Forthcoming).

E. Petrick, "Turtles, Tablets, and Boxes: Computer Technology and Education in the 1970s," *Information and Culture* 58, no. 3 (2023): 274-294.

E. Petrick, "The Computer as Prosthesis? Embodiment, Augmentation, and Disability," in Janet Abbate and Stephanie Dick, eds, *Abstractions and Embodiments: New Histories of Computing and Society* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2022): 399-415.

E. Petrick, "A Historiography of Human-Computer Interaction," *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*, Special Issue on "Interface Architects: The Evolution of Human-Computer Interaction," 42, no. 4 (October-December, 2020): 8-23.

E. Petrick, "Building the Black Box: Cyberneticians and Complex Systems," *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, Rodolfo John Alaniz and Elizabeth Petrick, eds, Special Issue on "Unpacking the Black Box," 45, no. 4 (July 1, 2020): 575-595.

E. Petrick, "Curb Cuts and Computers: Advocating for Design Equality in the 1980s," *Design Issues* 35, no. 4 (Autumn 2019): 23-32.

E. Petrick, "Imagining the Personal Computer: Conceptualizations of the Homebrew Computer Club 1975-1977," *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 39, no. 4 (October-December 2017): 27-39.

L. C. Kaczmarczyk, E. R. Petrick, J. P. East, and G. L. Herman, "Identifying student misconceptions of programming," In *Proceedings of the 41st ACM technical symposium on Computer science education (SIGCSE '10)*, ACM, New York, NY, USA (2010): 107-111.

**Winner of the Top Ranked Paper of the "Top Ten Symposium Papers of All Time Award" from SIGCSE, 2019**

Reprinted: L. C. Kaczmarczyk, E. R. Petrick, J. P. East, and G. L. Herman. "The First of the Top Ten SIGCSE Symposium Research Papers of the Last 50 Years: Identifying Student Misconceptions of Programming," *ACM Inroads* 10, no. 2 (June 2019): 65-69.

### Other Publications

Review of *The Apple II Age: How the Computer Became Personal* by Laine Nooney. *Isis* 115,

no. 3 (Sept 2024): 690-691.

E. Petrick, "Report on SIGCIS 2021: Online Edition," *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 43, no. 4 (Oct-Dec 2021): 105-107.

E. Petrick, "Membrane Computer Keyboard and Method." *Annotated Patent History Digital Archive*, Sept. 2017.

<https://patenthistory.org/patent/membrane-computer-keyboard-and-method-us5450078/>

Review of *From Mainframes to Smartphones: A History of the International Computer Industry* by Martin Campbell-Kelly and Daniel D. Garcia-Swartz and *Abacus to Smartphone: The Evolution of Mobile and Portable Computers* by Evan Koblentz. *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 39, no. 2 (Apr-Jun 2017): 10-11.

A. Lefkovitz and E. Petrick. "The History of Patents at NJIT." *In the Classroom: A Blog about Undergrad Teaching and Learning*, Consortium for Undergraduate Law & Justice Programs, April 24, 2017.

<http://www.culjp.com/blog/elizabeth-petrick-and-alison-lefkovitz-the-history-of-patents-at-njit>

## **GRANTS AWARDED**

Co-PI, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminars, \$225,000 2023-Present  
"Reimagining Technologies of Care: Racial Health Equity and Data Justice"

Co-PI, Rice University Brown Teaching Grant, \$3000 2024  
"Appropriate and Effective Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence: Training Peer Educators"

Co-PI, NSF FW-HTF-RM: #1928627, \$849,000 2020-2022  
"Augmenting Social Media Content Moderation"

Co-PI, Rutgers Institute for Research on Women Collaborative Work Group, \$1800 2017-2018  
"The Gender, Race and Disability Politics of Science and Technology"

PI, New Jersey Institute of Technology Faculty Seed Grant, \$7000 2016-2017  
Annotated Patent History Digital Archive

## **DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND PUBLIC HISTORY**

PI, *Annotated Patent History Digital Archive*. New Jersey Institute of Technology 2015-present  
<http://patenthistory.org>

Co-PI, *NJIT Distributed Museum*. New Jersey Institute of Technology 2015-2019  
Funded by the Office of the Provost. Three showcases completed.

*Aoinagi Karate Digital History Archive*. Aoinagi Ken Shu Kai. 2014-2016  
[http://aoinagikenshukai.com/wp/?page\\_id=47](http://aoinagikenshukai.com/wp/?page_id=47)

## **RECENT INVITED TALKS**

“Imagined User,” Sawyer Seminar Research Symposium, “Reimagining Technologies of Care: Racial Health Equity and Data Justice,” Rice University, March 6, 2025.

“Computer Technology as Disability Rights: The fight for Access to the Digital World,” Houston Philosophical Society, Rice University, February 20, 2025.

“Disability Rights and Accessibility during the Personal Computer Revolution,” Marcel and Josephine Patterson Memorial Lecture in the Medical Humanities, UTMB Galveston, November 7, 2024

“Digitality, Universal Access, and the Apple II,” Advancing Access Equity Series, Rice University, October 18, 2023.

“The Dynabook as a Form of Human-Computer Interaction,” HCI Lunch, Stanford University, July 12, 2023.

“How Do We Talk About Technology? Disability, Prostheses and Embodiment,” DeLange Conference, Rice University, December 5, 2022.

“The Annotated Patent History Digital Archive,” Centre for Digital Cultures at Leuphana University Lüneberg, Germany, June 14, 2022.

“The Internet as Public Accommodation: Web Accessibility and US Law,” Lex Machina, Online, April 21, 2022.

“Disability, Embodiment, and Online Socialization: Computerized Conferencing Technology in the 1970s,” Centre for Digital Cultures at Leuphana University Lüneberg, Online, December 7, 2021.

Lan Li and Elizabeth Petrick, “STS, History and Writing about the Other ‘Sciences,’” History Department Brown Bag, Rice University, Online, September 20, 2021.

"Dynabook and Smalltalk: Interfaces of People and Computers in the 1970s," History Department Brown Bag, Rice University, September 23, 2019.

"Encouraging Student Engagement in Gen-Ed Courses," Lunch at ITE, Institute for Teaching Excellence, NJIT, October 16, 2018.

"Demanding Inclusion: People with Disabilities and Computer Technology," History and Sociology of Science Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, November 13, 2017.

"Inclusion, Exclusion, and Computer Technology," German Historical Institute Spring Lecture Series, Washington, DC, April 06, 2017.

Elizabeth R. Petrick and Alison L. Lefkowitz, "Panel: The First 100 Days of the New Administration and Entrepreneurship," 3rd Annual Global Intellectual Property Law Symposium, Gearhart Law, NJIT, April 3, 2017.

“Becoming Users: People with Disabilities and Computer Technology,” Center for Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society Colloquium Series, University of California, Berkeley, March 16, 2017.

## **RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Imagined Bodies Using Imagined Computers at Xerox PARC,” *Society for the History of Technology*. Online, July 10, 2024.

Kat Brewster and Elizabeth Petrick, “‘Even When My Eyes Are Gone for Good’: Computer-Mediated Disability, Visibility, and Embodiment,” *American Studies Association*. Montreal, Canada, November 4, 2023.

“Turtles, Tablets, and Boxes: Computer Technology and Education in the 1970s,” *History of Science Society*. Chicago, IL, November 18, 2022.

“The Intellectual History of a Machine: The Ideas Behind Tablet Computers,” *Society for the History of Technology*. New Orleans, LA, November 11, 2022.

Chair: “The Intellectual History of Technology” and “New Histories of American Personal Computing.”

Roundtable: “Can we integrate issues of gender, justice and embodiment into the story of the computer itself or must these narratives remain separate and particular?,” *Rethinking and Rebuilding: Grand Narratives in the History of Computing*, Online, July 5, 2022.

“The Genealogy of the Dynabook: A Vision of Personal Computing,” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*. Online, April 1, 2022.

“Replacing Visions: The Notetaker Prototype and the Loss of Education,” *History of Science Society / Society for the History of Technology*. Online, November 20, 2021.

Chair: “Visioneering Past and Future in Science Museums and Educational Technologies” and “Explaining Everything: Models, Machines, and Black Boxes in Histories of Science and Technology.”

“Spanning Space and Time Barriers: Computerized Conferencing, Disability, and Citizenship,” *Just Code Symposium*. Charles Babbage Institute, Online, October 24, 2020.

Roundtable: “Information and the Material World,” *Science & Technology in the Long 20th Century*. Purdue University, November 16, 2019.

“Adele Goldberg, Smalltalk, and Children’s Education with Computers,” *Society for the History of Technology Special Interest Group on Computers, Information, and Society*. Milan, Italy, October 27, 2019.

Chair and Commentator: SHOT session on “Workplace Technologies and the Organization of Labor.”

“Curb Cuts and Computers: Arguing for Accessibility in the 1980s,” *Society for the History of Technology Special Interest Group on Computers, Information, and Society*. Philadelphia, PA, October 29, 2017.

**Winner of the 2017 Computer History Museum Travel Award for best abstract**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**Rice University**

Founding Co-Director: Science and Technology Studies Program	2022 – 2024
<b>New Jersey Institute of Technology</b>	
Associate Director: Law, Technology & Culture Program	2014 – 2019
Acting Director: Law, Technology & Culture Program	2016

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **Rice University**

#### *University Service:*

Advisor: Data Science minor	2019 – Present
Advisor: Science and Technology Studies minor	2023 – Present
Member: Advisory Board, Technology, Culture and Society Initiative	2019 – Present
Member: University IT Committee	2024 – Present
Member: Rice Strategic Planning Committee	2022 – 2024
Member: Philosophy Search Committee	2023 – 2024
Member: Email Migration Advisory Committee	2022 – 2024
Deputy Speaker: Faculty Senate	2021 – 2023
Chair: Senate Nominations and Elections Committee	2022 – 2023
Senator: Faculty Senate, School of the Humanities Representative	2020 – 2023
Member: OIT Academic Technology Committee	2020 – 2023
Member: COVID-19 Research Fund Oversight and Review Committee	2020

#### *History Department Service:*

Member: Executive Committee	2023 – Present
Member: Graduate Committee	2022 – Present
Member: Premodern History of Science Search Committee	2024 – 2025
Member: Undergraduate Committee	2020 – 2022
Chair: Baker College Chair Search Committee	2020 – 2021

### **New Jersey Institute of Technology:**

#### *University Service:*

Member: Teaching, Learning & Technology University Committee	2014 – 2019
Member: Digital Humanities Working Group	2017 – 2019
Member: CSLA Faculty Seed Grant Review Committee	2017, 2019
Member: Committee on Graduate Education	2017 – 2018
Member: Albert Dorman Honors College Dean Search Committee	2016

#### *Federated History Department Service:*

Chair: History Research Paper Award Committee	2017 – 2018
Member: History of Science, Technology, Law Search Committee	2016 – 2017
Member: African History Search Committee, Rutgers-Newark	2015 – 2016
Member: South Asian History Search Committee, Rutgers-Newark	2014 – 2015

### **Professional Service:**

Editorial Board, <i>IEEE Annals of the History of Computing</i>	2017 – Present
Associate Editor in Chief	2022 – Present
SIGCIS (Society for the History of Technology's Special Interest Group for Computers,	

Information and Society)	
Co-Chair	2023 – Present
Vice-Chair for Communications	2020 – 2023
Mahoney Prize Committee Member	2020 – 2022
Chair	2021
Annual CBI Ben Shneiderman Award in Human-Computer Interaction History	
Committee Member	2023 – Present
Advisory Group, Liquid Crystal Oral History Project, Kent State	2021 – Present
Advisory Group, OpenStax Kinetic, “From principles to practice: Constructing an equity throughline in ed-tech research,” Rice University	2023 – 2024
Graduate Advisory Editor, <i>Science, Technology, &amp; Human Values</i>	2008

Manuscript Reviewer: Oxford University Press, Harvard University Press, SSRC  
Article Reviewer: *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, Information & Culture, Technology & Culture, Theory & Psychology*  
Grant Reviewer: NEH

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Rice University**

Intro to Doctoral Studies (Graduate seminar)  
Data, Ethics, and Society  
History of Artificial Intelligence  
Video Games as History  
Computers and Society  
Law in the Digital World  
What Is an (Ab)Normal Body?  
Disability and U.S. Law  
Technology and Culture in American History

### **New Jersey Institute of Technology:**

History of Artificial Intelligence  
Introduction to Research Methods  
Computers, Innovators and History  
Civil Rights and Disability  
Law in the Digital World  
Invention and Regulation  
Global History of Technology and Culture (Graduate seminar)  
Technology and Culture in American History

### **University of California, San Diego:**

History of the Computer  
History of Modern Medicine  
Technology in the Twentieth Century

## **GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING**

### **PhD Committee Member**

Christopher Senn, “The Rise of the Magician State: Remote Viewing, Telepathic Influence, and the Secret History of the Mind-Machine Interface,” *Rice University*, Department of Religion. December 2024.

Felix Y Wu, “Can Organizational Resources Improve Well-Being for Employed Caregivers of Children with Disabilities?” *Rice University*, Department of Psychological Sciences. May 2024.

### **Master's Thesis Advisor**

Thomas Derr, “A Socio-cultural Analysis on the History of Gaming Technology,” *Rutgers-Newark*, Federated Department of History. October 2020.

Nathan Todd, “The Collapse of Supersonic Transportation,” *Rutgers-Newark*, Federated Department of History. May 2019.

Brian Tobin, “The Development and Implementation of the Access Link Program at New Jersey Transit: New Jersey’s Response to Providing Complementary Paratransit Access Under the ADA,” *Rutgers-Newark*, Federated Department of History. October 2016.

## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING**

### **Honors Thesis Advisor**

Anna Margaret Clyburn, “Revenge Pornography: Historicizing the Junction of U.S. First Amendment Law, Technological Development, Government Inaction, and Sexual Exploitation, 1917-2020,” *Rice University*, History Department. April 2021.

Blake Erhardt-Ohren, “Waiting for a Seat at the Table: Haiti’s Hard Past and Difficult Future,” *University of California, San Diego*, Eleanor Roosevelt College. June 2014.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Society for the History of Technology (2008 – Present)

History of Science Society (2007 – Present)

American Studies Association (2023)

Society for Cinema and Media Studies (2021-2022)