ELIZABETH R. PETRICK

Department of History
Rice University
Houston, TX
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Rice University
Associate Professor of History 2019 – Present
Affiliated Faculty: Department of English, STS Program, Media Studies Program

New Jersey Institute of Technology
Associate Professor of History 2019
Assistant Professor of History 2014 – 2019
Associate Director, Law, Technology & Culture Program 2014 – 2019

University of California, San Diego
Lecturer 2013 – 2014
Teaching Assistant 2006 – 2009

EDUCATION

Ph.D. History and Science Studies, *University of California, San Diego* 2012
Dissertation: *Fulfilling the Promise of the Personal Computer: The Development of Accessible Computer Technologies, 1970-1998*
Advisor: Cathy Gere
Major field: Twentieth Century History of Science
Minor fields: Science Studies and United States History

M.A. History, *University of California, San Diego* 2009

B.S. Computer Science, *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor* 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 by Tenured/Tenure Track Faculty 2018
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, 2026).

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, "'Take my will with them:' The Agency of Telescript Mobile Agents in the 1990s," *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* (Forthcoming).

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, 2025): 193-211.

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 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

E. Petrick and T. Astarte, "Best Papers of 2024," *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 47, no. 3 (July-Sept 2025): 156-157.

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 2023-2025
"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
https://aoinagikenshukai.com/content/

RECENT INVITED TALKS

"Embodiment and Mobility in Online Technologies: From Computerized Conferencing to Tablets," Charles E. Culpeper Lecture in the History of Medicine, University of Minnesota, October 24, 2025.

"Imagined Users," 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.

"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.

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Locating Authority over AI Agents in the 1990s: Novice Users vs Expert Programmers," *History of Science Society*. Edinburgh, Scotland, July 16, 2026.

"'Anthropomorphic, obsequious little sci-fi agents:' AI Personal Assistants in the 1990s," Intelligence and Imitation: Mind, Mechanism, Mimesis Workshop. Johns Hopkins University, April 24, 2026.

"'Take my will with them:' The Telescript Programming Language and Mobile Smart Agents in the 1990s," *Society for the History of Technology*. University of Luxembourg, October 10, 2025.

Roundtable: "On *The Connectivity of Things: Network Cultures since 1832,*" *Society for the History of Technology*. University of Luxembourg, October 10, 2025.

"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.

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.

"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.

"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

Director of Graduate Studies, History Department	2025 – Present
Founding Co-Director: Science and Technology Studies Program	2022 – 2024

New Jersey Institute of Technology

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: Science and Technology Studies Steering Committee	2022 – Present
Member: University IT Committee	2024 – 2026
Member: AI Advisory Committee, Subcommittee on Responsible AI Vision and Policy	2026
Member: Advisory Board, Technology, Culture and Society Initiative	2019 – 2025
Member: Rice Strategic Planning Committee	2022 – 2024
Member: Email Migration Advisory Committee	2022 – 2024
Member: Philosophy Search Committee	2023 – 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
Chair: Graduate Committee	2025 – Present
Member: Graduate Committee	2022 – 2025
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, *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 2017 – Present
Associate Editor in Chief 2022 – Present
Chair: Best Paper Committee 2025 – 2026
Member: Best Paper Committee 2020
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
Society for the History of Technology
Executive Council 2026 – Present
Annual CBI Ben Shneiderman Award in Human-Computer Interaction History
Committee Member 2023 – 2026
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, *Science, Technology, & Human Value*s 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)
Gender, Science, and Technology (graduate seminar)
Data, Ethics, and Society
History of Artificial Intelligence
Video Games as History
Computers and Society
Disability and U.S. Law (undergraduate research seminar)
Law in the Digital World (undergraduate research seminar)
What Is an (Ab)Normal Body?
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)