

# Symposium on Technology and Culture

First Annual Symposium of the Stanford International Initiative

April 30, 2007

Bechtel Conference Center, Encina Hall



THE  
INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

## 8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast

### 8:30-10:00 Session 1

#### Impact of Technology on Gender

How have gender roles and beliefs about gender interacted in our own and other societies and how will these interactions change in the future?

Technology and gender interact in two main ways. On the one hand, beliefs about gender may impact who is educated and involved in technological innovation, what kinds of problems are addressed through technology, how technology is adopted, and who transmits new technologies from one group to another (as well as how they are transmitted). On the other hand, technological change may impact the lives of each sex in different ways and may transform pre-existing gender roles and beliefs. This panel will address how technology and gender have interacted in our own and other societies and what forms the interaction might take in the future.

#### Panelists

**Richard Saller**, *moderator*

Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences  
*Research interests:* The use of literary, legal, and epigraphic materials to investigate issues of social hierarchy and gender distinctions

**Denise Johnson**

Associate Professor of Surgery

*Research interests:* The immunohistochemical analysis of sentinel and non-sentinel nodes to determine if changes in CD4, CD8, and CD1 and CD1a predict survival

**Clifford Nass**

Professor of Communication

*Research interests:* Human-computer interaction, non-parametric statistical methods, and the psychology of technology

**Christine Min Wotipka**

Assistant Professor of Education

*Research interests:* Women in science, international human rights, women's studies, globalization, and higher education

## 10:15-11:45 Session 2

### Culture, Technological Change, and Development

How does culture affect the process of development? In what ways do cultural factors shape the creation of new technologies, the diffusion of innovation, and the formation of institutions?

#### Panelists

**Jeremy Weinstein**, *moderator*

Assistant Professor of Political Science

*Research interests:* Comparative politics, international relations, and political economy

**Avner Greif**

The Bowman Family Professor in Humanities and Sciences

*Research interests:* European economic history, the historical development of economic institutions, their interrelations with political, social, and cultural factors and their impact on economic growth

**Jessica Riskin**

Associate Professor of History

*Research interests:* Enlightenment science, politics and culture, and the history of scientific explanation

**Romain Wacziarg**

Associate Professor of Economics, Graduate School of Business

*Research interests:* International political economy and the determinants of economic development across countries

## 11:45-12:30 Lunch

## 12:30-1:15 Lunch Keynote Address

### Does the United States Have a Mercenary Army?

#### How Technology Has Made It Too Easy to Go to War

**David Kennedy**

The Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History

## 1:30-2:45 Session 3

### Technology, Culture, and National Security

Does culture influence national decisions about what military technology should be developed or how it should be used in crises or war?

This panel will explore this question regarding different countries' nuclear weapons doctrines, professional cultures and advice about US defense technology, and national cultural assumptions about, and political accountability for, military intervention as a US policy.

#### Panelists

**Scott Sagan**, *moderator*

Professor of Political Science

*Research interests:* The development of norms concerning the use of force, the management of hazardous technology, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and South Asia

**David Kennedy**

The Donald J. McLachlan Professor of History

*Research interests:* American studies and the integration of economic and cultural analysis with social and political history

**Rebecca Slayton**

Lecturer in the Program in Science, Technology, and Society

*Research interests:* Historical sociology of science and technology, especially computing; public expertise; the role of scientists in weapons policy making

## 3:00-4:30 Session 4

### Health Technology Adoption

As the supply of health technologies in developing countries has improved, why are these technologies often not used as much as their health benefits seem to warrant?

Efforts to improve health in developing countries have traditionally been supply-oriented, emphasizing access to health technologies, infrastructure development, and the training of health professionals. As supply has improved, however, puzzling demand-side phenomena have become evident. For example, even when health technologies are not costly in obvious ways (at least to outside observers), they are often not used as much as their health benefits seem to warrant. Understanding household decision-making about the adoption and use of health technologies is therefore essential for the development of effective health improvement strategies. The purpose of this session is to explore the behavioral foundations of health technology adoption (and what some consider to be their "under-use").

#### Panelists

**Grant Miller**, *moderator*

Assistant Professor of Medicine

*Research interests:* Health and development economics and economic demography

**Lynn Hildemann**

Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

*Research interests:* Atmospheric chemistry, characterization of source emissions, dispersion modeling, and indoor air pollutants

**David Katzenstein**

Professor (Research) of Medicine (Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine)

*Research interests:* The treatment and evaluation of HIV infection

**Aprajit Mahajan**

Assistant Professor of Economics

*Research interests:* Economic theory, applied econometrics, and development