

Program In Science, Technology, and Society

The Program in Science, Technology, and Society (STS) helps MIT offer an education that teaches scientists and engineers to engage their work's social and cultural dimensions at the highest levels. This education sets MIT apart from the numerous engineering schools worldwide that turn out technical specialists. The STS program continues to distinguish itself as the leading department and graduate program of its kind in the United States.

Educational Activities

Undergraduate

In AY2022, 70 MIT undergraduates were working on a concentration in STS (45 of whom completed). STS also administers the Computing and Society concentration, which had six students this year. Seven students worked on or completed a minor in STS; their primary majors were Biology (two students); Biological Engineering; Computation and Cognition; Chemistry; Physics; and Political Science. Five students worked on Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) projects with four different STS faculty members. One student added STS as his second major this year and expects to finish in AY2023.

Subjects and Enrollment

STS offered 26 undergraduate subjects and 12 graduate subjects in AY2022, including five Communication Intensive in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CI-H) subjects. Undergraduate enrollment totaled 531 students, and graduate totaled 142.

STS continues to emphasize collaboration with other areas of MIT, and five STS classes were co-taught with one STS faculty member and one outside of STS in the following units: Aeronautics and Astronautics; Anthropology; Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences (EAPS); History; and Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP).

Four subjects were offered for the first time this year. Three were graduate-level subjects: STS.421 Global South Cosmologies and Epistemologies, Graduate Super Seminar, STS.458 Science, Technology, and Human Rights, and STS.486J Entrepreneurship in Aerospace and Mobility Systems. Associate Professor Eden Medina also offered an undergraduate special topics class, STS.S20 Tales of Two Parallels: Documenting East Campus History, to help the residents and alumni of East Campus document the culture of their community before the students move out due to impending renovations. Medina is one of the Associate Heads of House at East Campus and plans to continue teaching this class.

Doctoral Program

The doctoral program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS) is run by STS in collaboration with the History and Anthropology sections. The program is administered by STS, which awards the degrees. During this academic year, Anthropology Professor Graham Jones completed his second year as director of graduate studies.

In AY2022, 32 students were enrolled in the graduate program, including three who graduated in September and two in February. The format of MIT's Commencement exercises changed this year, with each School leading its own advanced degree ceremony. A nomination process was opened for the student speaker at the SHASS ceremony, and HASTS alumnus Marc Aidinoff was selected. Of the five graduates finishing the PhD this year, three already have tenure-track jobs awaiting them (two of them after they finish their current postdoctoral positions). The positions these five alumni went to directly after graduation are:

- Chief of staff with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities at the Wolf Humanities Center at the University of Pennsylvania
- Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the John B. Hurford '60 Center for the Arts and Humanities at Haverford College
- Postdoctoral fellow with the University of Southern California's Society of Fellows in the Humanities
- Assistant professor in the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology at Leiden University, The Netherlands

STS suspended 2021 admissions due to COVID-19, so there was no incoming cohort this academic year. In the 2022 admissions cycle, HASTS received 287 applications, which surpassed the previous highest number of 201 in the 2020 cycle, and was 200% higher than the average applicant pool for the 10 years preceding that. Of those students offered admissions to the HASTS program, 86% accepted, and a cohort of five students will be joining the program in the fall.

The HASTS program began a review of the academic program requirements and welcomed a new funding model provided by the dean's office and provost.

In February 2023, details for the new funding model were solidified enough that the program could offer newly admitted students a five-year funding package, including three months of summer stipend, plus a nine-month fellowship for the sixth year. Previously, guaranteed funding was for five academic years, and the program did not have a source for long-term guaranteed summer funding. The program was able to extend this package to all currently enrolled students who were not yet in their sixth year.

In July 2022, the program issued a final report and recommendations from the HASTS program review. A report draft was circulated to get feedback from HASTS alumni who had participated in our community meetings and all HASTS faculty and students. The report informs the revisions to the HASTS student handbook for AY2023. The program plans to continue implementing other changes, as we have the time to thoughtfully work out the logistics and implications of some of the more complex propositions.

Projects, Grants, and Initiatives

Associate Professor Dwai Banerjee received funding from the SHASS Research Fund for his book in progress, "Towards a Counter-History of Computing From India."

Thomas M. Siebel Distinguished Professor Kate Brown received a travel grant and fellowship from Tallinn University in Estonia. She also received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study.

Medina was a co-recipient of a grant from the Social Science Research Council's Scholarly Borderlands Initiative.

Knight Science Journalism (KSJ) program director Deborah Blum secured a new \$50,000 grant from the Kavli Foundation in support of updating the handbook with new chapters and translating it into French (ongoing). She also secured an \$80,000 award from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to support additional fact-checking workshops and to underwrite a short series of sketch comedy tutorials about fact-checking.

Ongoing Activities

In AY2022, the MIT STS Program continued its more than 20 year colloquia series, "Seminar on Agricultural and Environmental History," a collaboration with the History department. Created by Professors Deborah Fitzgerald and Harriet Ritvo, it moved to the aegis of Professor Kate Brown, Assistant Professor Tristan Brown, and Associate Professor Megan Black.

The series included Tony Perry, University of Virginia, "History of Slavery and Environmental Knowledge in Antebellum Maryland"; Bartow Elmore, Ohio State University, "History of Monsanto and Ecological Impacts of Agrochemical Industries"; Bernadette Pérez, UC Berkeley, "History of Migrant and Sugar Beet Workers in the U.S. West"; Jay Turner, Wellesley University, "History of Batteries and Their Life-Cycle from Extraction to Disposal"; Caterina Scaramelli, Boston University, "Anthropology of Wetlands in Turkey"; and, Victor Seow, Harvard University, "History of Energy Regimes in East Asia."

Medina created the series Science, Technology, and Human Rights. It began as a Zoom meeting in her class in the fall of 2022 and hosted four talks: Oriana Bernasconi, "Documenting Atrocities: Human Rights Archives, Technologies of Resistance, and Insurgent Knowledge"; Robin Reineke, "Forensic Citizenship Among Families of Missing Migrants Along the U.S.-Mexico Border"; Sandra Ristovska, "Seeing Human Rights: How Video Serves Distinct Policy Functions"; and Andrea Ballesterio, "A Future History of Water, or, How to Wonder with Techno-Legal Devices?"

The program hosted a lecture by PhD alumna Anne Pollock (King's College London), who discussed her new book, *Sickening: Anti-Black Racism and Health Disparities in the United States*.

The annual Arthur Miller Lecture on Science and Ethics featured another alumna, Kendall Hoyt (Dartmouth), whose topic was "Faster Vaccines: A Look at the Past, Present, and Future of Our Efforts to Accelerate Development."

The annual Benjamin Siegel Prize, awarded to the best scholarly paper on the history and anthropology of science and technology by an MIT student, was awarded to

Hampton Smith, a second-year doctoral student in the Department of Architecture. His paper, “Making Quantification in the Age and Wake of Slavery,” featured original research on quantification, the transatlantic trade in Africans as slaves, and the plantation experience.

Knight Science Journalism Fellowship Program

The [Knight Science Journalism Fellowship Program](#), in response to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, continued its experimentation with new and innovative forms of digital outreach and long-distance learning. Due to health and logistical concerns related to the pandemic, as occurred in AY2021, we selected a class of remote project fellows rather than the traditional in-person academic format. The project fellowships were designed to support essential US science journalism during a challenging time, and the program selected 21 fellows for this 39th class. The fellows ranged from a documentary filmmaker looking at environmental justice and health issues in the American South to a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine* working on a book about the co-evolutionary strands of life on Earth. In partnership with *The Boston Globe*, we hosted our first STAT-Begley fellow through a fellowship program funded by the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, designed to train young journalists of color in reporting on health science.

The AY2022 fellows are listed below:

Nine-Month Fellows

- Jessica Camille Aguirre is an award-winning journalist and writer.
- Rene Ebersole is an award-winning journalist specializing in investigative stories about science, health, and the environment.
- Lauren Gravitz is an award-winning, independent science journalist.
- Karen Hao was the senior AI editor at *MIT Technology Review*.
- Ferris Jabr is a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine* and *Scientific American* and is writing a book about the coevolution of Earth and life.
- Asha Stuart is a documentary filmmaker and photographer whose work focuses on sociocultural themes.
- Emily Willingham is a science journalist and author.

Fall Fellows

- Nina Berman is a documentary photographer, filmmaker, and author.
- Sam Bloch is a contributing writer at *The Counter*, covering business, environment, and culture.
- Virginia Gewin is a former soil scientist turned journalist who has written for *Nature*, *Popular Science*, *Bloomberg*, and *Civil Eats*.
- Jeremy Hance is a writer and freelance environmental journalist.

- Melanie D.G. Kaplan is a freelance journalist.
- Tasmiha Khan is a freelance writer.
- Emily Mullin is an award-winning science journalist who writes about how biology shapes our future.
- Natasha Singer is a reporter at *The New York Times*.
- Jared Whitlock is a freelance health reporter.

Spring Project Fellows

- Rebecca Boyle is an award-winning science journalist and author.
- Anna Kuchment is a science reporter at *The Dallas Morning News*.
- Julia Rosen is an independent journalist covering science and the environment.
- Hilke Schellmann is an Emmy-award-winning reporter and journalism professor at New York University.
- Sushma Subramanian is a health and science journalist and author of *How to Feel: The Science and Meaning of Touch*.

STAT-Begley Fellow

- Isabella Cueto is a bilingual multimedia journalist from Miami and the inaugural Sharon Begley-STAT Science Reporting Fellow.

KSJ continued to embrace our mission to pursue excellence in science journalism. In June, Oxford University Press published, *A Tactical Guide to Science Journalism*, co-edited by Blum, associate director Ashley Smart, and editor in chief of *Undark* Tom Zeller, featuring the work of more than 40 of the world's leading science journalists. The book was supported by a \$100,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. KSJ's project for science editors included a series of webinars based on the digital, downloadable *Handbook for Science Editors*, produced two additional webinars, and added three new chapters to the book, including one written by Dr. Smart. The handbook, supported by both the Kavli Foundation and Howard Hughes Medical Institute, was also translated into Spanish and Portuguese (the latter through a collaboration with the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas at UT-Austin). KSJ's fact-checking project, developed with support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, sponsored two free online workshops coordinated by Brooke Borel, author of *The Chicago Guide to Fact-Checking* and produced by SciCommX. The workshops drew hundreds of science journalists from around the world, representing more than 40 countries.

A prestigious panel of jurists selected the fourth recipients of our [Victor K. McElheny Award in Science Journalism](#) in March 2021. The award honors excellence in local and regional science journalism and this year recognized "[Black Snow](#)," a Palm Beach Post-Pro Publica investigation into the environmental hazards posed by the burning of sugar cane fields in south Florida.

The Knight Science Journalism program is supported by an endowment from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and additional alumni and foundations.

Faculty

Dwaipayan Banerjee, Associate Professor

Banerjee's first book, *Enduring Cancer: Life, Death, and Diagnosis in Delhi*, was a finalist for the British Association for South Asian Studies Book Prize. He is working on his second book, "Towards a Counter-History of Computing from India." He received MIT SHASS Research Fund awards for 2022 to support this project. Banerjee published several peer-reviewed articles on vaccines and health issues in India in leading journals, reviewed papers in several high-ranked disciplinary journals, and served on three editorial boards in his area of expertise.

Within the department, he serves as the Undergraduate Officer and serves on the Curriculum Revision Committee and Shapiro Funds Committee. Within the School, he served on the Faculty Diversity Committee and as the faculty advisor for the SHASS Computing and Society minor. He continued working with the institutewide Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing group.

Banerjee taught two new classes, including one for undergraduate students, STS.075J Technology and Culture, and developed a new course for graduate students, Computing in the Global South. In addition, he served on three exam committees and two doctoral committees at HASTS and was the principal advisor of one PhD student. He also served on the doctoral committee of a graduate student in Harvard's History of Science program.

Kate Brown, Thomas M. Siebel Distinguished Professor in History of Science

Brown continued research on her book project "Little Gardens Everywhere," about the long 20th-century history of urban self-provisioning. She received a grant from the European Union Development Fund that allowed her to conduct research at Tallinn University in Estonia. She was awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study for AY2023. She continued to write articles on nuclear history; and media, speaking, and interview requests sped up after the war in Ukraine began in February 2022. Brown fielded calls from CNN, Bloomberg, Fox News, ABC affiliates, *The Washington Post*, and several radio news programs as the Russian Army invaded the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone and the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. She also addressed the European Parliament about the emergency. With Susan Solomon, she published an op-ed in *The Washington Post* about the special vulnerabilities of war in a nuclearized country.

With History colleagues, Brown took over leadership of the Seminar in Agricultural and Environmental History. With colleagues in the Anthropology Department, she organized a weekend program called Living Climate Futures, which coincided with Earth Day.

Brown's service to the profession included serving as the founding, consulting editor of History Unclassified, a section in the *American Historical Review*, and senior editor of *International Labor and Working-Class History*. She is a member of the editorial board of *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*. She serves as co-chair of the advisory

committee of the Humans and the Microbiome project of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. She served on the committee for the George Perkins Marsh Prize for the best book in environmental history. She reviewed tenure and promotion files for scholars at Ohio State University, Boston College, Notre Dame University, and Northern Illinois University. At MIT, Brown served on the HASTS Graduate Admissions Committee, the Gender Equity Committee, the fellowship selection committee for the Environmental Solutions Initiative, and the campus climate change adaptation committee. She is an advisor or serves on the dissertation committee for three HASTS students at MIT, one at Harvard, and another at the University of Chicago.

In the School, Brown was awarded a Digital Humanities (DH) Fellowship. She worked with faculty and staff in the DH group to prepare a digital humanities lab for 20 undergrad UROP students to map the history of urban food provisioning gardens and food pathways of Deanwood, a historically Black neighborhood of Washington, DC.

William Deringer, Associate Professor

Deringer's first book, *Calculated Values: Finance, Politics, and the Quantitative Age* (Harvard University Press, 2018), was awarded the 2021 Joseph J. Spengler Prize for best book (published 2018–2020) by the History of Economics Society. He continues to work on his second book, *Discounting: A History of the Calculation That Rules Our Future*, which is under contract with Yale University Press. He gave talks on this at many universities and professional meetings. He was a peer reviewer for book manuscripts, proposals from several academic presses, and article manuscripts for several leading journals.

Deringer taught two courses, an undergraduate course, STS.003 From Ancient Greeks to Modern Geeks: A History of Science, and a graduate seminar, STS.414 Risk, Fortune, and Futurity, which he co-taught with Caley Horan of the History section. He was a member of seven PhD dissertation committees—four in MIT's HASTS graduate program, one at MIT Sloan, and two at Harvard (the Department of History of Science and the STS Program of the Kennedy School of Government).

At MIT, he served as a member of the Presidential Committee on Distinguished Fellowships, as the SHASS representative on the Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement, and as a regular peer reviewer for the Case Studies series offered by the Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing (SERC) division in the Schwarzman College of Computing. Within STS and the HASTS Graduate Program, he helped initiate a collaborative effort between STS, History, and Anthropology to organize an aligned colloquium series for AY2022. He also served on the Graduate Admissions Committee for HASTS and as the STS Program representative for the HASTS Program Seminar in the spring semester.

Michael M.J. Fischer, Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities

Fischer completed two new books that will come out next year with Duke University Press: *Probing Arts and Emergent Forms of Life* and *At the Pivot of East and West: Ethnographic, Literary, and Filmic Arts*. He continues co-editing the leading STS book series, *Experimental Futures*, at Duke University Press. He has also published several book reviews and reviewed manuscripts for two presses. He serves on the editorial or advisory boards of *Cultural Politics*, *Cultural Anthropology*; *Science, Technology and Society*, *East Asian Science and Technology*, and *Annuário Antropológico*.

Fischer was chair of one dissertation committee and served on the HASTS Admissions Committee. He was co-convenor of the weekly Joint MIT-Harvard (“Friday Morning”) Seminar in Medical Anthropology (now running for over 40 years) and taught in the associated Ethnography seminar in the Master of Medical Science program.

Deborah Fitzgerald, Leverett Howell and William King Cutten Professor of the History of Technology

Fitzgerald served as acting head of STS for AY2022. In that capacity, she participated in weekly School Council meetings, attended department head events, and led discussions on policies and practices within STS with the faculty.

At MIT, she served as chair of the Committee on Nominations, chair of the Collections Committee of the MIT Museum, member of the Advisory Board of the Museum, member of the Commencement Committee, and member of the Digital Humanities committee in SHASS. She served on the Bose Award selection committee, met with potential donors to the School and the Institute, and served as an Advisor to a School colleague involved in a personnel dispute. After creating and chairing a colloquia series, the Seminar in Agricultural and Environmental History, with colleague Harriet Ritvo, she turned it over to new colleagues Kate Brown, Megan Black, and Tristan Brown.

Fitzgerald taught the introductory undergraduate STS class STS.004 Science, Technology and the World in the fall term. She also served on the doctoral committee of a student in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

Fitzgerald’s service to the professions included writing letters for tenure cases at the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and Guelph University, letters for distinguished chair appointments at Georgia Institute of Technology and Ohio University, and one letter for a Harvard fellowship, as well as evaluating several book manuscripts for academic presses. She once again served as a proposal reviewer for the Radcliffe Institute, presented a paper at a conference on agricultural modernization (Athens Greece, virtual), served as a panelist for a book launch (Cambridge University, virtual), reviewed a book for *Agraria Historica*, and blurbed two books.

David Kaiser, Germeshausen Professor in the History of Science, Professor of Physics, and MacVicar Faculty Fellow

During AY2022 academic year, Kaiser completed his service as Associate Dean for SERC in MIT’s Schwarzman College of Computing.

Kaiser completed two edited volumes: *Well, Doc, You Are In: Freeman Dyson’s Journey Through the Universe* (MIT Press, 2022) and *Theoretical Physics in Your Face: Selected Correspondence of Sidney Coleman* (World Scientific, 2022). He also completed four research articles in physics. He continued to co-direct the Density Perturbations Group in MIT’s Center for Theoretical Physics, together with Prof. Alan Guth. He delivered nine invited keynote presentations, colloquia, and public lectures.

Kaiser chairs the editorial board of the MIT Press, serves as an associate editor of *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, and serves on the advisory boards for *Nautilus*

and *Undark*. He is also a member of the advisory boards for the Catalyst Collaborative (MIT and Central Square Theater) and the MIT Museum. He continues to serve on the Alumni Advisory Board for the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Dartmouth College and as a volunteer mentor with the Unlock Her Potential program. He served on the external visiting committee for the Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology of the University of Toronto; on the search committee for a new director of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin; on the MIT Corporation Joint Advisory Committee on Institute-Wide Affairs; and on the MIT Presidential Search Committee. Kaiser also served as an advisor and on-screen contributor for two new documentary films about physics and cosmology, which premiered in fall 2021. He served as the principal advisor for three PhD students (two in HASTS, one in Physics) and as a dissertation committee member for another nine PhD students (one in HASTS, four in Physics, three in Harvard's Department of History of Science, and one at the University of Amsterdam).

Jennifer Light, Bern Dibner Professor of the History of Science and Technology and Professor of Urban Studies and Planning

Light stepped down after two multiyear terms as department head and launched a new embodied education project that combines physical activity and academic subject instruction. She spent the year exploring various movement traditions and recruiting collaborators while enrolled in a preprofessional program that trains circus acrobats.

Light designed a new undergraduate course, conducted research for a book, advised PhD students from MIT, and served as an academic consultant to the Museum of the City of New York for its *Analog City* exhibition. She also received the 2021 Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Children and Youth for her recent book.

Chakanetsa Mavhunga, Professor

Mavhunga continued work on his three legacy projects in curriculum, applied research, and community service within both MIT and society. The first was his new book series with MIT Press called *Global South Cosmologies and Epistemologies*, a collaborative project with indigenous, Latin American, African, Asian, and Pacific scholars. He committed to publish in that series his third single-authored book, *Dare to Invent the Future: Knowledge in the Service of and Through Problem-solving*, his second edited volume, *Everyday Design-MakerX: From the Margins to the Center*, and a collaboratively written multiauthor book, "Introduction to Global South Cosmologies and Epistemologies." *Dare to Invent the Future* is now under contract. He is finishing the edit on *Everyday Design-MakerX* for fall publication, and continues to work on the co-authored book for early spring 2024. The hybrid and field-based class *Multidisciplinary Learning Through Problem-Solving*, to be composed of one semester of residential learning and one summer field class, will be taught in fall 2022. STS.421 Graduate Super-Seminar on *Global South Cosmologies and Epistemologies*, team-taught with colleagues across the globe via Zoom, had a successful start; he is preparing to offer it in fall 2022. He continued to represent SHASS and STS on the faculty steering committee of the MIT Climate and Sustainability Consortium.

Eden Medina, Associate Professor

Medina continued work on her MISTI-funded project, *Designing a Revolution: Histories of Design and Political Change*, which included a research trip to Chile to collaborate with colleagues at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in Santiago. She also continued working on her current book manuscript, “Bones and Lives” (working title). She received a grant with colleagues from three other universities from the Social Science Research Council’s Scholarly Borderlands Initiative.

Medina created a new undergraduate course, STS.S20 *Tales of Two Parallels: Documenting East Campus History*, which allowed students to conduct original research on the history of the East Campus community. She also received funding from the MIT Alumni Class Funds to support ongoing historical work by students in residence. She created a new doctoral seminar, STS.458 *Science, Technology, and Human Rights*, and organized a speaker series related to the course. She also served as the primary advisor for three PhD students (one at MIT HASTS, two at Indiana University, Bloomington) and a committee member for six PhD students (including three at MIT HASTS, one at Indiana University, Bloomington, and one at Northwestern University). In addition, she mentored the research of a master’s student in the MIT Department of Architecture, four undergraduate students at MIT, and two undergraduate students at Harvard University.

Medina was a Summer Fellow of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and served on several editorial boards and professional committees. At MIT, she serves on the SERC Advisory Committee and advises the HASS Concentration in Latin American and Latino/a Studies. She continues to serve as the Associate Head of House of the undergraduate residence East Campus.

David A. Mindell, Frances and David Dibner Professor of the History of Engineering and Manufacturing and Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Mindell published *The Work of the Future: Building Better Jobs in an Age of Intelligent Machines* (MIT Press, 2022), co-authored with David Autor and Elizabeth Reynolds and featuring a foreword by Robert Solow. The results from the Task Force and this book have already shaped policy in the Biden administration, particularly through Reynolds’ current position in the National Economic Council as Special Assistant to the President for Manufacturing and Economic Development. Mindell has regularly consulted in this regard, including drafting papers and proposals such as one from the MIT Mobility Initiative on solving current clogs in the supply chain. Mindell remains an active participant in the Mobility Initiative, mentoring its excellent leader, the Edward and Joyce Linde Associate Professor of City and Transportation Planning Jinhua Zhao.

Robin Wolfe Scheffler, Associate Professor

Scheffler continues to work on completing his second book, “Genetown: Boston and the Rise of the Modern Biotechnology Industry,” with support from the National Science Foundation. He gave many talks on his earlier work on the history of cancer as well as his new biotechnology research. He published an article on cancer research and a book review.

Scheffler taught two courses—his long-running undergraduate class on the history of cancer as well as a graduate seminar jointly taught with the Anthropology Department on historical and anthropological approaches to biology and medicine. He was the primary advisor for an undergraduate thesis in STS and a supervisor for a UROP in the same program. He continues to serve on two dissertation committees.

Within the STS, Scheffler served on the Strategic Initiatives Committee. Within the Institute more broadly, he was a member of a working group in SERC and a member of the Subcommittee on the Communication Requirement. He continues to serve as a member of the MIT Museum Life Science Advisory Committee, a member of the Center for Environmental Health Sciences, and the steering committees for the Environmental Solutions Initiative minor and the Global Health and Humanities minor.

Merritt Roe Smith, Leverett and William Cutten Professor of the History of Technology and MacVicar Fellow

Smith taught during the fall term and was on medical leave during the spring term. He refrained from accepting any outside speaking engagements owing to the pandemic and his health condition. During the summer months, Smith worked intermittently on his book about technology and its implications during the Civil War. He continues to be on the editorial board of *Vulcan* (a journal devoted to the history of military technology) and on the national advisory committees of the American Precision Museum (Windsor, VT), the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation (Waltham, MA), the Thomas A. Edison Papers (Rutgers University), and the Lincoln Prize in Civil War History (Gettysburg College).

Sherry Turkle, Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology

Turkle's 2021 memoir, *The Empathy Diaries*, won first prize as the best memoir from the National Jewish Council and first prize in creative nonfiction from the New England Society. It was released in paperback this year. She wrote two scholarly articles and many essays for publications such as the *Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*.

She continued her nonprofit board and advisory work for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, the Boston Children's Museum, *Harvard Magazine*, the Children's Screen Time Action Network, and the Society of Responsible Robotics. She is on the visiting committee for Harvard College.

Professor Turkle is working on two books: one on empathy and democracy and a second on the politics of the metaverse.

Deborah Fitzgerald

Department Head 2021–2022

Leverett Howell and William King Cutten Professor of the History of Technology Professor of the History of Technology