

**Call for Participants:**  
**Trans-hemispheric Seminar on Race and the History of Technology**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**September 11-15, 2023**

We invite applications from early-career scholars to attend a four-day, in-person seminar at the Department of History at Drexel University in Philadelphia (US), co-hosted with the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto, and the Society for the History of Technology. For this event, doctoral students, post-doctoral fellows, pre-tenure and non-tenure-track instructors, and early-career independent scholars will convene in a trans-hemispheric conversation on Race and the History of Technology (HoT).

As we write this, historiographies dominating the field of HoT remain beholden to Euro American constructions of race. That is: Historical inquiry on race and technology depends heavily on a sense of naturalized human difference, and critical interrogation of the historical formation and sturdiness of racial taxonomies remains tethered to Euro-American classifications. Similarly understudied is the essential whiteness of the terms of debate surrounding how best to evaluate historiographic approaches.

While academic ideas of what shall count historically as technologies have lately expanded to include concepts, skills, ideologies, and forms of governance alongside material artifacts, the field has yet to engage with a reflexive, critical address of social relations, including wide-ranging sociabilities of race. To challenge these prevailing epistemics we envision a meeting of critical young scholars to engage with historiographies of the Americas, Africa, South Asia, and the Pacific and to experiment with alternative ways of writing HoT. The conversation will produce a set of 10-12 short peer-reviewed essays to be published as coordinated special issues of *History and Technology* and *Tapuya: Latin American Science, Technology and Society*. The journals' editors and other historians will attend the seminar and offer ongoing support for the development of manuscripts for submission to *H+T* and *Tapuya*.

We seek participation from those working in institutions in all global regions and we will fund, in function of need, transport and accommodation, and most meals. We regret that we are not able to fund visa- or related costs for participants.

To apply: Please send a short CV [up to 1 page] and brief statement of your interest in attending this seminar [up to 500 words] as a single attachment, by email to [HTeditors@drexel.edu](mailto:HTeditors@drexel.edu) by May 1, 2023. Statements should address the following questions:

- How might we challenge formulations of race that have predominated in EuroAmerican historiographies of technology?

- The terms of debate currently surrounding race and the history of technology support institutional and disciplinary hierarchies; how might we challenge and change these frameworks?
- Periodization, causality, geographies, and other “tools of the historical trade” are not yet well interrogated through the lenses of race-making; how does your own research approach these or other such tools?

Please contact [HTeditors@drexel.edu](mailto:HTeditors@drexel.edu) with any questions.