

Short Curriculum Vitae of Ronald R. Kline

394 Rhodes Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 279-9016

123 N. Sunset Drive
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 272-2443
rrk1@cornell.edu

Education

Ph.D., History of Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1983.
M.A., History of Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1979.
B.S., Electrical Engineering, Kansas State University, 1969.

Recent Academic Positions

Sue G. and Harry E. Bovay, Jr., Professor in History and Ethics of Engineering, Department of Science and Technology Studies (S&TS) and School of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, July 2003 to present.

Professor, History of Technology, Cornell University, 2001-2003.

Director, Bovay Program for the Study of the History and Ethics of Professional Engineering, Cornell University, 1994 to the present.

Publications

I. Books (refereed)

Kline, Ronald. Consumers in the Country: Technology and Social Change in Rural America. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000. Paperback edition, 2002.

Kline, Ronald. Steinmetz: Engineer and Socialist. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.

II. Articles and Chapters in Books (refereed)

Kline, Ronald. "Cybernetics, Automata Studies, and the Dartmouth Conference on Artificial Intelligence," IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, 33, no. 4 (Oct.--Dec. 2011): 5-16.

Kline, Ronald. "Science and Technology," in Wrestling with Nature: From Omens to Science, edited by Peter Harrison, Ronald L. Numbers, and Michael H. Shank (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), pp. 225-252.

Kline, Ronald, "Engineering Case Studies: Bridging Micro and Macro Ethics," IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, 29, no. 4 (Winter 2010): 16-19.

Kline, Ronald. "Where are the Cyborgs in Cybernetics?" Social Studies of Science, 33 (June 2009): 331-362.

Kline, Ronald. "Cybernetics, Management Science, and Technology Policy: The Emergence of 'Information Technology' as a Keyword, 1948-1985," Technology and Culture, 47 (July 2006): 513-535.

Kline, Ronald, and Thomas Lassman. "Competing Research Traditions in American Industry: Uncertain Alliances Between Engineering and Science at Westinghouse Electric, 1886-1935," Enterprise and Society, 6 (2005): 601-645.

Kline, Ronald. "What Is Information Theory a Theory Of? Boundary Work among Information Theorists and Information Scientists in the United States and Britain during the Cold War," in The History and Heritage of Scientific and Technical Information Systems: Proceedings of the 2002 Conference, Chemical Heritage Foundation, edited by W. Boyd Rayward and Mary Ellen Bowden (Medford, NJ: Information Today, 2004): 15-28.

Kline, Ronald. "Resisting Consumer Technology in Rural America: The Telephone and Electrification," in How Users Matter: The Co-Construction of Users and Technology, edited by Nellie Oudshoorn and Trevor Pinch (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003), pp. 51-66.

Kline, Ronald. "Resisting Development, Reinventing Modernity: Rural Electrification in the United States before World War II," Environmental Values, 11 (2002): 327-344.

Kline, Ronald. "Using History and Sociology to Teach Engineering Ethics," IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, 20, No. 4 (Winter 2001/2002): 13-20.

Kline, Ronald. "The Paradox of 'Engineering Science': A Cold War Debate about Education in the United States," IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, 19, No. 3 (Fall 2000): 19-25.

Lynch, William, and Ronald Kline. "Engineering Practice and Engineering Ethics," Science, Technology, and Human Values, 25 (2000): 195-225.

Kline, Ronald. "Agents of Modernity: Home Economists and Rural Electrification, 1925-1950," in Rethinking Home Economics: Women and the History of a Profession, ed. Sara Stage and Virginia B. Vincenti (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997), pp. 237-252.

Kline, Ronald. "Ideology and Social Surveys: Reinterpreting the Effects of 'Labsaving' Technology on American Farm Women," Technology and Culture, 38 (April 1997): 355-385.

Reprinted as "Home Ideologies: Progress?" in Gender and Technology: A Reader, ed. Nina Lerman, Arwen Mohun, and Ruth Oldenziel (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), pp. 392-424.

Kline, Ronald. "Ideology and the New Deal 'Fact Film' Power and the Land," Public Understanding of Science, 6 (1997): 19-30.

Translated as "Ideología y Documental en el New Deal: Power and the Land," Secuencias: Revista de Historia del Cine, 5 (Oct. 1996): 31-45.

Kline, Ronald, and Trevor Pinch. "Users as Agents of Technological Change: The Social Construction of the Automobile in the Rural United States," Technology and Culture, 37 (1996): 763-795.

Extracted in Major Problems in the History of American Technology: Documents and Essays, eds. Merritt Roe Smith and Gregory Clancey (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998), pp. 337-345.

Extracted in The Social Shaping of Technology, 2nd ed., eds. Donald MacKenzie and Judy Wajcman (Buckingham & Philadelphia: Open University Press, 1999), pp. 113-115.

Kline, Ronald. "Construing 'Technology' as 'Applied Science': Public Rhetoric of Scientists and Engineers in the United States, 1880-1945," Isis, 86 (1995): 194-221.

Kline, Ronald. "World War II: A Watershed in Electrical Engineering Education," IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, 13 (Summer 1994): 17-23.

Kline, Ronald. "Harold Black and the Negative-Feedback Amplifier," IEEE Control Systems Magazine, 13, No. 4 (Aug. 1993): 82-85.

Kline, Ronald. "An Overview of Twenty-Five Years of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in the Proceedings of the IEEE, 1963-1987," Proceedings of the IEEE, 78 (1990), 469-485.

Reprinted in Proceedings of the IEEE, 93 (Dec. 2005): 2170-2187.

Kline, Ronald. "The General Electric Professorship at Union College, 1903-1941," IEEE Transactions on Education, 31 (1988), 141-147.

Kline, Ronald. "R&D: Organizing for [World] War [II]," IEEE Spectrum, 24, No. 11 (Nov. 1987), 54-60.

Kline, Ronald, J.E. Bedi, and Thomas Lindblom. "The Wheeler Gift of Electrical Books: A Legacy and a Responsibility," Science and Technology Libraries, 7, No. 4 (Summer 1987), 63-80.

Reprinted in Alternative Careers in Sci-Tech Information Service, ed. Ellis Mount (New York: Haworth Press, 1987), pp. 63ff.

Kline, Ronald. "Electricity and Socialism: The Career of Charles P. Steinmetz," IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, 6, No. 2 (June 1987), 9-17.

Reprinted in Social, Ethical, and Policy Implications of Engineering: Selected Readings, ed. Joseph Herkert (New York: IEEE Press, 2000), pp. 61-69.

Kline, Ronald. "Science and Engineering Theory in the Invention and Development of the Induction Motor, 1880-1900," Technology and Culture, 28 (1987), 283-313.

Kline, Ronald. "Origins of the Issues [in Electrical Engineering Education]," IEEE Spectrum, 21, No. 11 (Nov. 1984), 38-43.

Kline, Ronald. "Professionalism and the Corporate Engineer: Charles P. Steinmetz and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers," IEEE Transactions on Education, 23 (1980), 144-150.

III. Selected Non-refereed Articles and Other Publications

Kline, Ronald. "Teaching Social Responsibility for the Conduct of Research," IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, 32, no. 2 (Summer 2013): 52-59.

- Kline, Ronald. "Foundational Stories," Technology and Culture, 54 (Jan. 2013): 117-129. SHOT Presidential Address.
- Kline, Ronald. "Beyond the Closed World," History and Technology, 28 (Dec. 2012): 407-413. Invited commentary.
- Kline, Ronald. "From Progressivism to Engineering Studies: Layton's Revolt of the Engineers," Technology and Culture, 49 (Oct. 2008): 1018-1024. Invited commentary.
- Kline, Ronald. "Forman's Lament," History and Technology, 23 (2007): 160-166. Invited commentary.
- Kline, Ronald. Entries on "Rural Electrification," "Indoor Plumbing," "Telephone," and "Automobile," in The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia, Richard Sisson, Christian Zacher, Andrew Cayton, eds. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006).
- Kline, Ronald. "Research Ethics, Engineering Ethics, and Science and Technology Studies," Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics, ed. Carl Mitcham, 4 vols. (New York: MacMillan, 2005), 1: xxxv-xli.
- Kline, Ronald. Entries on "Norbert Wiener" and "Charles Steinmetz" in Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics, Carl Mitcham, ed. (New York: MacMillan, 2005).
- Kline, Ronald. "Information Theory," Berkshire Encyclopedia of Human-Computer Interaction, ed. William S. Bainbridge (Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Publishing Group, 2004), 1: 377-380.
- Kline, Ronald. "Technological Determinism," International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, 3rd ed., edited by Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Baltes (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2001), 23: 15495-15498.
- Kline, Ronald, and Trevor Pinch. "Taking the Black Box Off Its Wheels: The Social Construction of the American Rural Car," in The Car and Its Environment: The Past, Present, and Future of the Motorcar in Europe, Proceedings from the COST A4 Workshop in Trondheim, Norway, May 6-8, 1993, ed. Knut H. Sorenson, COST A4, Vol. 2, 1994, pp. 69-92.
- Kline, Ronald. President's Messages, IEEE Technology and Society Magazine: "Supporting Whistleblowers," Spring 1991; "'Engineer of Death' or 'Winning with Technology'?" June 1991; "Schizophrenic Transnationalism," Fall 1991; "More Ethics Support," Spring 1992; "Technology Policy Procedures," Winter 1992.
- Kline, Ronald. "Manufacturing a Legend: Charles Proteus Steinmetz as Modern Jove," Engineering: Cornell Quarterly, 24, No. 1 (Autumn 1989), 49-54.
- Kline, Ronald. "Tesla and the Induction Motor," Technology and Culture, 30 (1989), 1018-1023. Invited letter to editor.
- Kline, Ronald, Joyce E. Bedi, and Craig Semsel, compilers. Sources in Electrical History: Archives and Manuscript Collections in U. S. Repositories. New York: IEEE Center for the History of Electrical Engineering, 1989.

Kline, Ronald, Joyce E. Bedi, and Craig Semsel, compilers. Recent Titles in Electrical History: A Selective Bibliography, 1982-1985. New York: IEEE Center for the History of Electrical Engineering, 1988.

III. Book, Microform, and Film Reviews

33 reviews in Isis, Technology and Culture, Metascience, Journal of American History, IEEE Spectrum.

Invited Papers and Commentaries of Sessions Outside of Cornell University

60 invited papers and commentaries at Society for the History of Technology, History of Science Society, conferences sponsored by the NSF and the NAE, and at the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, MIT, University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, University of Delaware, University of Maryland, CCNY, Rutgers University, Texas A&M University, Union College, Smithsonian Institution.

Recent Teaching

Undergraduate

ECE/ENGRG//HIST 2500; STS 2501: Technology in Society.

ECE/AMST 2980; S&TS/INFO 2921; HIST 2920: Inventing an Information Society.

Graduate

S&TS 6261/HIST 6190: Seminar in the History of Technology.

S&TS 7003/HIST 7000: Issues in the Cultural History of Technology.

Ph.D. Committee Chair

Rayvon Fouche, S&TS, "The Dark Side of Technology: Black Inventors, their Inventions, and the African-American Community, 1875-1925" (Ph.D., 1997).

Suzanne Moon, S&TS, "Constructing 'Native Development': Technological Change and the Politics of Colonialization in the Netherlands East Indies, 1905-1930" (Ph.D., 2000).

Alec Shuldiner, S&TS, "Trapped Behind the Automat: Technological Systems and the American Restaurant, 1902-1991" (Ph.D., 2000).

Jameson Wetmore, S&TS, "Systems of Restraint: Redistributing Responsibility in Automobile Safety in the United States since the 1960s" (Ph.D., 2003).

Josh Greenberg, S&TS, "From Betamax to Blockbuster: Medium and Message in the Video Consumption Junction" (Ph.D., 2004).

Pauline Kusiak, S&TS, "The Machine "that Makes the Inside Visible":

Medical Instruments, Mentalities-Talk and the Politics of Technology in Colonial and Postcolonial Senegal” (Ph.D., 2004).

Christina Dunbar-Hester, S&TS, “Propagating Technology, Propagating Community? Low-Power Radio Activism and Technological Negotiation in the U.S., 1996-2006” (Ph.D., 2008).

Hong-Hong Tinn, S&TS, “Working with Computers, Constructing a Developing Country: Introducing, Using, Building, and Tinkering with Computers in Cold War Taiwan, 1959-1984” (Ph.D., 2011).

Victor Marquez, S&TS, “Airports as Seen through the Eyes of the Landside–Airside Boundary” (Ph.D., 2013).

Darla Thompson, S&TS, Defended dissertation on technology and slavery, July 2013.

Ling-Fei Lin, co-chair, S&TS, 2009 to present (ABD).

Anto Moshin, S&TS, 2010 to present (ABD).

Ph. D. Minor Committee Member

For 25 Ph.D.’s in S&TS, History, and Communications from 1993-2013.

Current Professional Activities

Immediate Past President of the Society for the History of Technology, 2013-2014.

Member, Editorial Board, Social Studies of Science, 2003-present.

Member, Founding Editorial Board, Engineering Studies, 2008-present.

Member, Publications Committee, IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology, 1998-present.

Member, MIT Corporation Visiting Committee for the Social Sciences, 2009-2015.

Refereeing

Referee for NSF, NEH, Johns Hopkins University Press, Columbia University Press, MIT Press, Technology and Culture, Isis, Social Studies of Science, Business History Review, Artefacts, Annals of Science, Perspectives on Science, Agricultural History, Enterprise and Society, IEEE Technology and Society Magazine, IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, IEEE Transactions on Education, IEEE Proceedings, IEEE Spectrum.

Member of SHOT, HSS, IEEE.

Current Cornell Activities .

College of Engineering:

Member, Nominating Committee (2013-2016).

College of Arts and Sciences:

Dean's Advisory Committee on Appointments, 2009 to present.
Academic Freedom and Professional Status Committee, 2012-2015.

Recent Honors and Awards

Outstanding Educator for Having Influenced Merrill Presidential Scholar, Enongo Lumumba-Kasongo, Cornell University, Spring 2008.

Selected Grants

Principal investigator, NSF postdoctoral fellowship: Jennifer Lieberman, "Power Lines: The Electrical Network in American Life, 1882-1950," Aug. 15, 2011 to July 31, 2013.

Principal investigator, NSF doctoral dissertation improvement grant: Darla Thompson, "Harnessing Labor: Iron Collars and the Forces of Slavery," Jan. 1, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2011.

Principal investigator, NSF doctoral dissertation improvement grant: Ling-Fei Lin, "How Contract Manufacturers Matter: Design-Manufacturing Knowledge as Field Knowledge in Taiwanese Laptop Producers, 1988-2008," August 15, 2010 to July 31, 2011.

Principal investigator, NSF, Doctoral dissertation improvement grant: Honghong Tinn: "Tinkering with Computers, Constructing a Developing Country, the History of Computing in Taiwan, 1945-1985," Jan. 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009.

Principal investigator, NSF Doctoral dissertation improvement grant: Christina Dunbar-Hester, "Radio for Whom? Media Activism, Identity, and the (Re)Imagination of Radio Technology in the United States," July 15, 2004 to July 15, 2007.

Principal investigator, NSF Doctoral dissertation improvement grant: Joshua Greenberg, "Medium and Message in the Consumption Junction: Retailers, Consumers, and the Invention of Movies on Video," Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2003.

Principal investigator, NSF Doctoral dissertation improvement grant: Pauline Kusiak, "The Machine 'qui permet a voir a l'interieur': Inventing Visual Culture in Colonial and Postcolonial Senegal," NSF, Jan. 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2002.

Principal investigator, "A History of Information Theory," NSF, sabbatic leave supplement, plus travel money, July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001.

Principal investigator, "A Social History of the Automobile, Telephone, Radio, and Electric Light and Power in the Rural United States, 1900-1960," NSF, sabbatic leave supplement and one year of graduate-student funding to conduct an oral history program, July 1, 1994 to June 30, 1995.

References

Available upon request.

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