Curriculum Vitae

Bruce J. Hunt

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Education

1984 Ph.D., Department of the History of Science, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

1979 B.A. (History) and B.S. (Physics), magna cum laude, University of Washington, Seattle.

Academic Appointments

1992– Associate professor, History Department, University of Texas at Austin.

1985–92 Assistant professor, History Department, University of Texas at Austin.

1984 Instructor, History of Science Department, Johns Hopkins University.

Books

2010 Pursuing Power and Light: Technology and Physics from James Watt to Albert Einstein (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press).


Scholarly Articles


Popular Articles


Essay review


Book reviews


**Invited Papers and Presentations**

2016 “Malthus and Darwin,” contribution to a roundtable on “The Life and Legacy of Thomas Robert Malthus,” Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas.


2016 “Darwin and Religion,” Center for Inquiry lecture series, Austin.

2015 “Fat Men, Not Little Boys: The Trinity Test and the Use of the First Atomic Bombs,” invited lecture at Austin Community College History Symposium, Austin, Texas.


2015 “The Science and Technology of Darkness and Light,” contribution to a roundtable on “Darkness and Light in History,” Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas.


2015 “Austin’s Electric Streetcar Era,” lecture and tour for Inherit Austin/Preservation Austin.


2014 “The Past and Future of the History of Science,” History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, University of Texas.

2014 “Electrifying Austin in the 1890s,” NOVA lecture series, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Texas.

2012 “Oliver Heaviside and the Technological Roots of ‘Maxwell’s Equations’,” Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Colloquium, University of Texas.


2012 “The Maxwellians and the Remaking of Maxwell’s Equations,” session to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of Maxwell’s equations, national meeting of the American Physical Society, Boston.

2011 “Darwin and Religion, or the Lack of It,” Atheist Community of Austin Lecture Series.


2011 “The Kelvin Dictum, the Proxy Problem, and the Obstacles to Measuring What Matters,” History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium, University of South Carolina.


2007 “Kelvin the Telegrapher,” Institute of Physics symposium to mark the hundredth anniversary of the death of Lord Kelvin, Glasgow University.


2006 “Engineering Equations: Maxwell, the Ohm, and the Electromagnetic Field,” colloquium, History Department, University of California at Los Angeles.

2005 “The Image of Einstein,” lecture at the opening of a commemorative exhibit, Dell Jewish Community Center, Austin.

2005 “The Place of the History of Science in Science Education,” panel discussion, Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values, Notre Dame University.
2004  “Bringing the History of Science into the Science and Mathematics Classroom,” special session on education, History of Science Society meeting, Austin.

2003  “Fat Men, not Little Boys: The Trinity Test and the Use of the First Atomic Bombs,” colloquium, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

2003  “Power and Light: Steam, Electricity, and Science in the Nineteenth Century,” public lecture, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

2003  “Fat Men, not Little Boys: The Trinity Test and the Use of the First Atomic Bombs,” colloquium, Department of the History of Science, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

2002  “The Scientific Work and Reputation of Benjamin Franklin,” roundtable discussion, Faculty Seminar in British Studies, University of Texas.

2001  “Sunday: Time, the Church, and Astronomy in Early Modern Europe,” lecture series on cultural aspects of time, University of Texas Continuing Education program.

2001  “Fraud and Deception in Science,” at the Social and Personality Area Meeting, University of Texas Department of Psychology.

2001  “‘Our Friend of Brilliant Ideas’: G. F. FitzGerald and the Maxwellians,” symposium to mark the dedication of the FitzGerald Building, Physics Department, Trinity College Dublin.

2001  “The Electric Word: The Origins of Telecommunications,” to open an exhibition of historic scientific instruments, Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX.

2001  “Maxwell, Measurement, and Model-Building: Electromagnetic Theory in the 1860s,” Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Texas.

2000  “Teaching the History of the Atomic Bomb,” session on teaching controversial subjects in the history of science, History of Science Society meeting, Vancouver, BC.


2000  “Taking the Measure of James Clerk Maxwell,” Department of the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.


1999  “Taking the Measure of Maxwell’s Treatise,” History of Science Society meeting, Pittsburgh.

1999  “Maxwell’s Equations and Cable Telegraphy,” Institute for Advanced Technology, University of Texas at Austin.
1999 “When the Earth Moved: The Copernican Revolution and the Authority of Science,” Honored Guest Lecture in History, Cottey College, Nevada, Missouri.


1997 “To Rule the Waves: British Cable Telegraphy and the Making of ‘Maxwell’s Equations,’” Physics Department, Texas A&M University.


1993 “Practical Men, Impractical Men, and Scientists: Measurement and Credibility in early Cable Telegraphy,” conference on 19th century electrical science and technology, Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology, MIT.

1992 “The Ohm is Where the Art Is: Electrical Standards in Victorian Telegraphy,” History of Science Society meeting, Washington, DC.

1992 “Cable Telegraphy and the Development of British Field Theory,” Physics Department, Texas Tech University.


1989 “FitzGerald and the Physics of the Ether,” Physics Department, Trinity College Dublin.

1989 “Submarine Cable Telegraphy and British Field Theory, 1850–1880,” symposium on the history of science-based industry, Oxford University.
1989 “‘Imperial Science’: Submarine Cables and the Development of British Field Theory,” colloquium, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University.


1985 “Heaviside the Telegrapher,” History of Science Society meeting, Bloomington, Indiana.


1985 “‘How My Model Was Right’: FitzGerald and the Reform of Maxwell’s Theory,” British Society for the History of Science meeting, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.


1982 “FitzGerald and the Ether,” Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.


**Honors and Awards**

2015 Elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society “for groundbreaking work on the history of electromagnetism in the nineteenth century and the relationship between physics and technology.”


2013 Awarded $3000 UT College of Liberal Arts Raymond Dickson Centennial Endowed Teaching Fellowship

2007 Awarded a UT History Department fellowship to support a semester of research leave.

2002 Awarded a UT Faculty Research Assignment for 2003–2004 to support a semester of leave for research and writing on physics and technology in the 19th century.

2002 Received a $5000 UT President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award.

2001 Awarded a UT College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Fellowship for research leave (spring 2002).
1989  Awarded a $40,000 National Science Foundation grant; spent 1989–90 at Cambridge University researching the history of telegraphy and physics in 19th century Britain.

1989  Elected a Visiting Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, for 1989–90; subsequently elected a Life Member of the college.

1989  Received $1000 Texas Excellence Teaching Award (College of Liberal Arts), sponsored by the University of Texas Ex-Students’ Association.

1986  Awarded a UT University Research Institute summer research grant.

1984  Awarded a Smithsonian Institution postdoctoral fellowship; spent 1984–85 at the National Museum of American History researching the history of telegraphy.

1981  Awarded a Fulbright fellowship to support doctoral study in Britain, 1981–82; affiliated with University College London.

1980  Awarded the Schuman Prize [now the Reingold Prize] by the History of Science Society for the best graduate student paper of the year.

Public and Professional Service

2015– Member of the Editorial Board of the Thomas A. Edison Papers, Rutgers University.

2013– Member of the Advisory Committee of the European Conferences on the History of Physics, sponsored by the European Physical Society and the Institute of Physics.

2012– Member of the Advisory Board of H-PhysicalSciences, an H-Net discussion network devoted to the history and historiography of the physical sciences.

2011–13 Member of the Committee on Publications of the History of Science Society (HSS); chair, 2013.

2009–12 Member of the NASA Fellowship Committee of the HSS; chair, 2010–12.

2005– Chair of a special HSS Long Range Planning Committee.

2005 Member of the Nominating Committee of the HSS.

2004–07 Member of the Council of the HSS.

2004 Local Arrangements Chair for the annual HSS meeting, held in Austin.

2000–06 Member of the Committee on Publications of the HSS; chair, 2005–06.

1999–2006 Member of the Committee on Meetings and Programs of the HSS; chair, 2000–01.
1998–2000 Member of the Pfizer Award Committee of the HSS, to select the outstanding book in the field for the year; chair, 2000.

1996 Member of the Nominating Committee of the HSS.

1994 Speaker at the annual meeting of the Philosophical Society of Texas.

1994–97 Member of the Dibner Visiting Scholars Committee of the HSS.

1990–94 Member of the editorial board of *History of Technology*.


In 1988 I helped found and hosted the first meeting of the Lone Star History of Science Group, which each spring brings together historians of science, technology, and medicine from around Texas. I spoke at the 1991 meeting and also hosted nine subsequent meetings in Austin.

In 2007 I helped found the University of Texas History of Science Colloquium (from 2013, the UT History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium).

**University and Departmental Service**

2016– Member of the History Department Executive Committee.

2016– Member of the History Department Curriculum Review Committee.

2015– Director of the UT History and Philosophy of Science Colloquium.

2015 Chair of the History Department Perry Prize Committee to select the best master’s thesis or report of the year.

2013 Chair of a History Department search committee in the history of science.

2011–16 Member of the History Department Graduate Program Committee.
2011  Member of the History Department Excellence Hiring Committee.
2009–11  Member of the History Department Executive Committee.
2008–09  Member of the Steering Committee of the UT Institute for Historical Studies.
2008  Chair of the History Department Lathrop Prize Committee to select the best dissertation of the year.
2007–08  Chair of a History Department search committee in the history of science.
2002–07  Graduate Adviser, History Department; chair of the Graduate Program Committee, the Graduate Studies Committee, and the Graduate Admissions Committee.
2002–03  Member of the University of Texas Graduate Assembly.
2002–03  Chair of a History Department search committee in the history of science.
2002–03  Member of the History Department Internal Assessment Committee.
2001–02  Member of the History Department Post-Tenure Review Committee.
2001  Member of the History Department Graduate Program Committee.
2001  Chair of the History Department Dora Bonham Fund Committee.
2001  Member of a committee appointed by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts to advise on selection of a new chair for the Philosophy Department.
2001  Honors adviser, History Department.
2000–03  Member of the History Department senior search committee.
2000–01  Member of the History Department Budget Council.
1998–2003  Member of the History Department Dora Bonham Fund Committee.
1998–2000  Member of the UT International Education Fee Scholarship Committee.
1997  Member of the History Department Lathrop Prize Committee to select the best dissertation of the year.
1995–96  Member of a History Department committee to revise the graduate program.
1994  Member of the History Department Lathrop Prize Committee to select the best dissertation of the year.
1993–97  Member of the History Department Graduate Program Committee.
1992–93  Associate professor representative to the History Department Budget Council.

1992–93  Chair of the History Department European Area Committee.

1992  Member of the History Department Perry Prize Committee to select the best master’s thesis or report of the year.

1991–93  Undergraduate adviser, History Department.

1990–91  Member of a History Department search committee in American history.

1987–88  Member of a History Department search committee in American history.

1987–88  Member of a committee appointed by the Dean of Liberal Arts to advise him on selecting a chair for the History Department.

1986–88  Member of the History Department Budget Council.

1986  Member of the History Department Lathrop Prize Committee to select the best dissertation of the year.

**Teaching Experience**

Since coming to the University of Texas I have taught lecture courses on the Scientific Revolution of the 17th century, the history of modern science, and the atomic bomb; undergraduate seminars on Galileo, Darwin, the Industrial Revolution, and electrification; graduate seminars on modern science and technology, themes and problems in the history of science, philosophy of science in the 20th century, the literature of modern European history, and education in Victorian Britain. I have also taught the departmental honors seminar, freshman seminars for the Plan II honors program, “Perspectives on Science and Mathematics” in the UTeach–Natural Sciences program for prospective science and mathematics teachers, and, with Prof. Linda Henderson of Art History, a freshman Signature Course on science and art. I have supervised two completed PhDs (Rubén Martínez, now at Sacramento City College, and Angela Smith, now at Austin Community College) and co-supervised three others (Gregory Cushman, now an associate professor at the Univ. of Kansas; Brett Bennett, now a lecturer at the Univ. of Western Sydney; and Felipe Cruz, now an assistant professor at Tulane). I have also supervised four MAs and have served on the doctoral committees of graduate students in History, Philosophy, Government, American Studies, English, Comparative Literature, Art History, Library Science, Music, Speech Communication, Radio–Television–Film, and Architecture and Urban Planning. Students under my supervision have won several History Department prizes: the Lathrop Prize for the best dissertation (2004); the Perry Prize for the best MA thesis (1991); the prize for the best senior honors thesis (1988, 1999, and 2002); and the prize for the best undergraduate seminar paper (1994, 1995, and 2000).

**Professional affiliations**

- History of Science Society
- American Physical Society
- Society for the History of Technology
- British Scholar Society
- British Society for the History of Science
- Lone Star History of Science Group