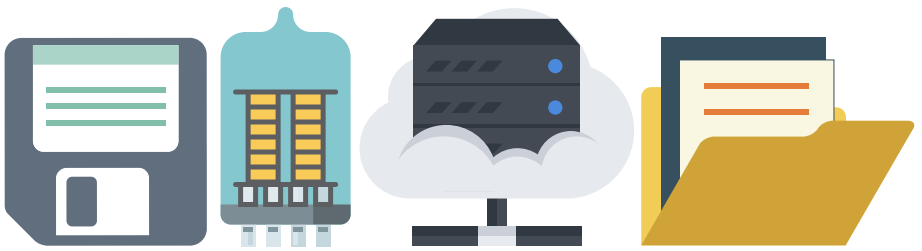


# STORED IN MEMORY



october 14, 2018  
10th annual sigcis conference

st. louis union station hotel  
st. louis, mo

# LETTER from the organizers

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Dear SIGCIS 2018 participants,

It is our honor to welcome you to the 10th annual conference of the Special Interest Group for Computing, Information & Society. We chose this year's conference theme—*Stored in Memory*—as a way to honor the past of this community and its foundational scholarship, even as we come together to embrace new and developing work that will define the future of our field.

SIGCIS was founded roughly thirty years ago as a Special Interest Group within the Society for the History of Technology, but our annual Sunday meetings did not begin until 2009. That first gathering, then called the SIGCIS History of Computing Workshop, was dedicated, according to the words printed atop the four-page conference program, “in memory of Michael S. Mahoney.” Mahoney, who passed away suddenly in the summer of 2008, was an esteemed and wide-ranging historian of science and computing who served at Princeton University from 1967 until his death. In a memorial to Mahoney published in the pages of *Isis*, his former students recollect: “So exhilarating was it to watch him inhabit lost learning that one of us recalls feeling as a freshman, scribbling madly in the closing minute of the final lecture of History 291, a vertiginous collapse of past, present and future [...]”

It was the generosity of Mahoney's own students that established The Michael S. Mahoney Travel Awards, which continue to provide funding for graduate students and early career faculty to attend our annual meeting. These awards provide financial support to individuals whose proposed papers show both diligence and creativity in how they imagine computing as a historical phenomenon. Over the past few years, SIGCIS has experienced a remarkable expansion in its aims, methods, and participants. As we look toward the next ten years, we embrace this expansiveness as central to our mission: the vitality of our community and the growth of our scholarship depends on its ability to welcome, nurture, and learn from people we've never met.

So welcome, colleagues and friends—past, present, and future. We hope you all feel welcome today. If you need anything or have questions, please feel free to ask or tweet to one of the organizers!

Cordially,

The SIGCIS 2018 Organizing Committee

# INFO

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## [organizers]

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### **co-organizers**

laine nooney, vice-chair of meetings  
con d'áz  
stephanie dick  
andrew l. russell, chair of sigcis

### **conference assistants**

kera allen + nabeel siddiqui

### **program and website design**

laine nooney

### **and special thanks to SHOT staff...**

The organizers of SIGCIS 2018 would like to thank SHOT staff members Jan Korsten, John Krige, and Sonja Beekers for making our annual SIGCIS meeting possible.

## [inclusivity and anti-harassment policy]

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SIGCIS welcomes everyone, inclusive of gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, age, appearance, race, nationality or religion. We are committed to fostering a positive, productive space for all participants, and are committed to listening more than speaking. The event organizers will not tolerate harassment of conference participants in any form, in person or over social media. Conference participants violating these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference without a refund at the discretion of the conference organizers. For more resources on conference inclusivity policies, please visit the Ada Initiative's page at <http://bit.ly/confpolicy>.

## [social media]

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We encourage participation on Twitter throughout the conference via our conference hashtag **#SIGCIS18**. The SIGCIS Twitter handle is **@SIGCIS**. A list of participant Twitter handles is available on page 15.

# SUNDAY panels at a glance

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	New York Central	Frisco	Burlington Route
8:00AM - 9:00AM	Registration, Breakfast, Welcome, Awards		
9:00AM - 10:15AM	Keynote: Eden Medina "Computers and the Struggle For Memory in Post-Pinochet Chile" New York Central		
Session A 10:30AM - 12:15PM	Networks and Power, Forgetting and Remembrance	Memory, Media, and the Humanities	Works-in-Progress (closed session)
12:30PM - 2:00PM	Lunch Break (Illinois Central)		
Session B 2:00PM - 3:45PM	Information, Identity, and Labor	Perception, Subjectivity, and Materiality	Contriving Humans: Co-productions of Calculation, People, and Memory
3:45PM - 4:00PM	Break		
Session C 4:00PM - 5:45PM	Computing Economies	Constructing Users, Making Machines	Memory in Latin America: Past and Future Visions of Modernity

## **EDITH/WITH Lightning Sessions // 10:00AM - 12:00PM**

*Fellow SHOT Special Interest Groups EDITH [Exploring Diversity in Technology's History] and WITH [Women in Technological History] will be hosting Lightning Sessions in **Texas Special**. SIGCIS participants are welcome to join EDITH and WITH for informal, fast discussions of in-the-works research that integrate the study of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and disability –and the intersectionality of such categories–into the scholarship of the history of technology.*

# SCHEDULE

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**REGISTRATION + BREAKFAST // 8:00 - 8:45AM**  
**// Atrium A and Illinois Central**

**WELCOME + AWARDS // 8:45 - 9:00AM //**  
**New York Central**

**Laine Nooney**

Vice-Chair of Meetings // Assistant Professor, Department of Media, Culture, and Communication // New York University

**Andrew L. Russell**

SIGCIS Chair // Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences // SUNY Polytechnic Institute

## **2018 SIGCIS AWARDS + PRIZES**

**MIT Press Travel Award**

Will Lockett, Emma Catherine Perry

**Michael S. Mahoney Travel Award**

Marc Aidinoff, Elisabetta Mori, Jeffrey Moro

**Computer History Museum Travel Award**

Alberto Jorge Silva de Lima, Whitney Pow, Alana Staiti

**Mahoney Prize**

Joanna Radin

"Digital Natives: How Medical and Indigenous Histories Matter for Big Data." *Osiris* Vol. 32, No. 1 (2017): 43-64.

**Computer History Museum Prize**

Benjamin Peters

*How Not to Network a Nation: The Uneasy History of the Soviet Internet*, MIT Press, 2016.

# SCHEDULE

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**KEYNOTE // 9:00 - 10:15AM // New York Central**

## **Computers and the Struggle For Memory in Post-Pinochet Chile**

**Eden Medina**

Associate Professor // Informatics and Computing // Indiana University, Bloomington

*Introduced by Stephanie Dick*

*Assistant Professor, History and Sociology of Science // University of Pennsylvania*

**SESSION A // 10:30AM - 12:15PM**

## **A1 // New York Central Networks and Power, Forgetting and Remembrance**

**Jefferson's Ghost: Accessing the Internet's Haunted Memory**

Marc Aidinoff // Doctoral Candidate // MIT

**Networks as Primitive Accumulation: Broadcasting and Two-Way Radio in the Early Twentieth Century**

Rory Solomon // Doctoral Candidate // New York University

**The International Politics of Digital Memory**

Meg Leta Jones // Assistant Professor // Georgetown University

**Misuser: Artists Working at the Edge of Computing**

David Schmüdde // Creative Technologist // Beyond the Frame

*Chaired by Matthew L. Jones*

*James R. Barker Professor of Contemporary Civilization // Department of History // Columbia University*

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## **A2 // Frisco**

# **Memory, Media, and the Humanities**

### **Moonbit: A Creative and Critical Reading of the Apollo 11 Guidance Computer Code**

James E. Dobson // Lecturer // Dartmouth College

Rena J. Mosteirín // Dartmouth College

### **Software for “Sociology’s Hardware”: Experimental Modernisms, Computer-Aided Design, and the Reimagination of Architectural Memory ca. 1970**

Theodora Vardouli // Assistant Professor // McGill University

### **MemoryCast: Connecting Personal Memory and Web Archives**

Frances Corry // Doctoral Student // University of Southern California

*Chaired by Janet Abbate*

*Associate Professor of Science and Technology in Society // Virginia Tech*

# SCHEDULE

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## **A3 // Burlington Route Works-in-Progress**

Works-in-Progress is a closed session for SIGCIS participants receiving feedback on pre-circulated written work from conference organizers and SIGCIS volunteers.

### *Participants*

#### **Dangerous Technology: Visions of Public Cryptography, 1970s-1980s**

Jillian Foley // Doctoral Student // University of Chicago

#### **“We Believed Our Own Myths”: The Early Development of Software Engineering on Project Whirlwind (1949-1956)**

Dylan Lederle-Ensign // Doctoral Candidate // University of California, Santa Cruz

#### **Pointers and Positions: Experiments in Addressing the Memory**

Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal // Doctoral Student // University of California, Davis

#### **“Computer Looks Ahead and Shudders”: Representations of Computation in the Limits to Growth Debate**

Kevin Baker // Doctoral Student // Northwestern University

*Works-in-Progress is facilitated by:*

### *Con Díaz*

*Assistant Professor, Department of Science and Technology Studies // University of California, Davis*



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## **LUNCH BREAK // 12:30 - 2:00PM**

Lunch will be provided for SIGCIS participants in Illinois Central.

## **SESSION B // 2:00 - 3:45PM**

### **B1 // New York Central Information, Identity, and Labor**

#### **Initial Reference: Attribution and Institutional Memory in the Age of ARPANET**

Emma Catherine Perry // Doctoral Candidate // University of Georgia

#### **Documented, Documenting: Unearthing Transgender Subjectivity in the Computer Operating System**

Whitney Pow // Doctoral Candidate // Northwestern University

#### **"Every Machine has a Status, Every Worker has a Condition": Factory Simulation and Industrial Computing, 1955-1968**

Devin Kennedy // Doctoral Candidate // Harvard University

#### **Want of Water, Want of Data: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database and Oceanic Computing**

Jeffrey Moro // Doctoral Student // University of Maryland, College Park

*Chaired by Sarah Bell*

*Assistant Professor of Digital Media, Department of the Humanities // Michigan Technological University*

# SCHEDULE

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## **B2 // Frisco**

### **Perception, Subjectivity, and Materiality**

**From Robot Turtles to Dynaturtles: Logo, Graphical Abstraction, and the Elaboration of Computational Screen Subjectivity**

Scott C. Richmond // Assistant Professor // University of Toronto

**Archeology of the Toposcope**

William Lockett // Doctoral Candidate // New York University

**The Material Cultures of Digitization: Lights, Cameras, Stone, Plastic, and Other Unexpected Treasures in Rapid, Non-contact Laser Scanning Research, 1977-1994**

Alana Staiti // Doctoral Candidate // Cornell University

**Memory and Other Analogies: Debates about Machines, Learning, and Intelligence in Cold War Poland**

David G. Halsted // Affiliated Faculty // University of Illinois at Chicago

*Chaired by Andrew L. Russell*

*Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences // SUNY Polytechnic Institute*

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## **B3 // Burlington Route**

### **Contriving Humans: Co-productions of Calculation, People, and Memory**

**Remembering What Never Was: The Strange Historiography of Machine Learning and its Political and Social Consequences**

Aaron Plasek // Doctoral Candidate // Columbia University

**Socius as Surplus Values of Code: the Information Metaphor and Freed Machines from Molecular Biology to Deleuze**

Danielle Judith Zola Carr // Doctoral Candidate // Columbia University

**Computing Control for “Automatic Pilots”: Memory-making in Early Twentieth Century Bombing Machines and Their Impacts, 1911-1953**

Theodora Dryer // Doctoral Candidate // University of California, San Diego

**“Syntax-Based Analytic Reading of Musical Scores”: Music theory at the MIT AI Group, 1965–1968**

Eamonn Bell // Doctoral Candidate // Columbia University

*Chaired by Stephanie Dick*

*Assistant Professor, History and Sociology of Science // University of Pennsylvania*

**BREAK // 3:45 - 4:00PM**

# SCHEDULE

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## SESSION C // 4:00 - 5:45PM

### C1 // New York Central Computing Economies

#### **Revisiting Grosch's Law**

Allan Olley // Independent Scholar

#### **From Academia to Business: the case of EDSAC and LEO**

Elisabetta Mori // Doctoral Candidate // Middlesex University, London

#### **Stacking the Deck: Technical Choices that Enabled the iPhone App Store**

Hansen Hsu // Curator // Center for Software History, Computer History Museum

*Chaired by Jeffrey Yost*

*Associate Director, Charles Babbage Institute // University of Minnesota*

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## C2 // Frisco

### **Constructing Users, Making Machines**

#### **Inanimate Reason: Charles Tomlinson and the Reception of von Kempelen's Chess-Playing Automaton**

Jared Neumann // Doctoral Student // Indiana University, Bloomington

#### **Dirty Memories: Cleanliness, Vulnerability, and the Problematic User**

Rachel Plotnick // Assistant Professor // Indiana University, Bloomington

#### **Here Come the "Computer People": Personalization and Anthropomorphization at the West Coast Computer Faire, 1977-1985**

Luke Stark // Postdoctoral Researcher // Microsoft Research, Montreal

*Chaired by Thomas Haigh*

*Associate Professor, History Department // University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*

*Comenius Visiting Professor of Computing History // Siegen University, Germany*

# SCHEDULE

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## **C3 // Burlington Route**

### **Memory in Latin America: Past and Future Visions of Modernity**

#### **Missing Memories: The Role of Computing Technology in the Ayotzinapa Case**

Rodrigo Ferreira // Doctoral Candidate // New York University

#### **Pan-American Tabulation and Brazilian Financial Memory: IBM in Brazil Before Computation**

Colette Perold // Doctoral Candidate // New York University

#### **Constructed Memories, Promises of Autonomy and the Histories of the National Informatics Policy (70s and 90s) and the Free Software Fostering Policy (2003-2016) in Brazil**

Alberto Jorge Silva de Lima // Doctoral Candidate // Systems Engineering and Computer Science Program, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro  
Professor // Federal Center for Technological Education Celso Suckow da Fonseca

#### **Convivial Computing**

Leonardo Aranda // Doctoral Student // SUNY-Buffalo

*Chaired by Benjamin Peters*

*Associate Professor of Media Studies // University of Tulsa*

## **POST-CONFERENCE MIXER // The Grand Hall**

For those staying Sunday night or leaving later in the evening, join SIGCIS conference organizers, presenters and colleagues in The Grand Hall for post-conference socializing and unwinding. First beverage is free for graduate student presenters (soda, beer or house wine), courtesy SIGCIS Conference Organizers

# TWITTER roll call

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Janet Abbate	<b>@janetabbatevt</b>	Elisabetta Mori	<b>@bettygorf</b>
Marc Aidinoff	<b>@maidinoff</b>	Jeffrey Moro	<b>@jeffreymoro</b>
Leonardo Aranda	<b>@leonardoaranda_</b>	Rena J. Mosteirín	<b>@Rena_Mosteirin</b>
Kevin Baker	<b>@kevinbaker</b>	Jared Neumann	<b>@jaredmneumann</b>
Eamonn Bell	<b>@_eamonnbell</b>	Laine Nooney	<b>@sierra_offline</b>
Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal		Colette Perold	<b>@coletteperold</b>
	<b>@ranjodhd</b>	Emma Catherine Perry	
Stephanie Dick	<b>@mysdick</b>		<b>@_ecp_</b>
James E. Dobson	<b>@jeddobson</b>	Benjamin Peters	<b>@bjpeters</b>
Theodora Dryer	<b>@theodoradrye</b>	Aaron Plasek	<b>@aaronplasek</b>
Jillian Foley	<b>@jillianefoley</b>	Rachel Plotnick	<b>@rachelplotnick1</b>
Thomas Haigh	<b>@thomashaigh</b>	Whitney Pow	<b>@whitneypow</b>
Matthew L. Jones	<b>@nescioquid</b>	Scott Richmond	<b>@bazintastic</b>
Meg Leta Jones	<b>@megleta</b>	Andrew Russell	<b>@RussellProf</b>
Devin Kennedy	<b>@devinbkennedy</b>	David Schmüdde	<b>@dschmudde</b>
Alberto Jorge Silva de Lima		Rory Solomon	<b>@rorys</b>
	<b>@alberto_jorge</b>	Luke Stark	<b>@luke_stark</b>
William Lockett	<b>@rand0mwalk</b>	Theodora Vardouli	<b>@tvardouli</b>
Eden Medina	<b>@edenmedina</b>		



SIGCIS is the leading international group for historians with an interest in the history of information technology and its applications. Our primary activities include meetings held in connection with our parent society, the Society for the History of Technology, and a range of online resources hosted from our website.

[meetings.sigcis.org](http://meetings.sigcis.org)  
[www.sigcis.org](http://www.sigcis.org)

@SIGCIS  
#SIGCIS18