



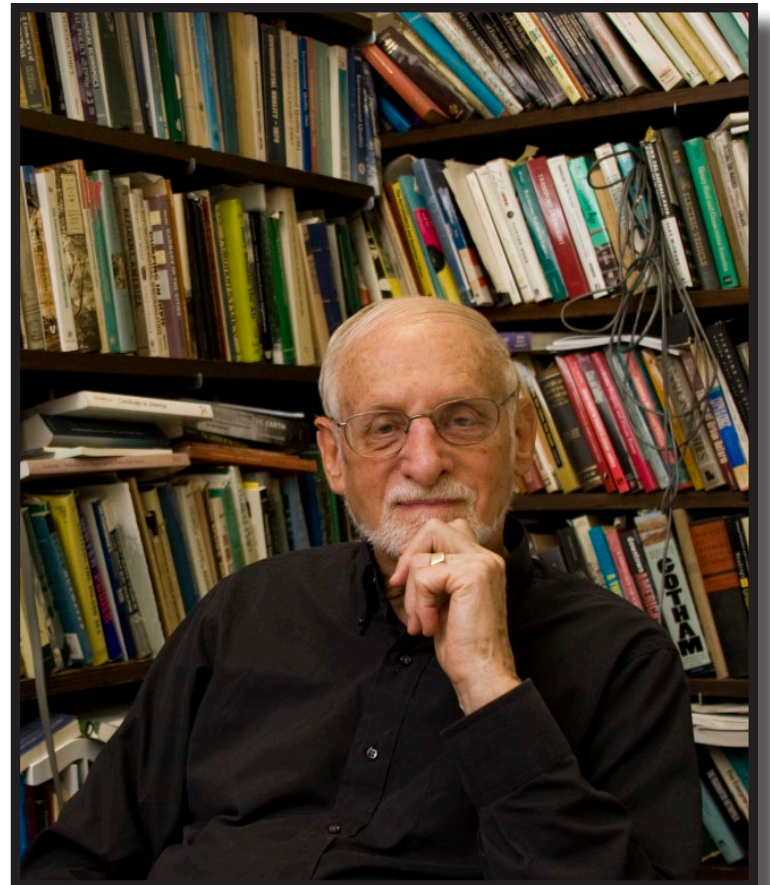
# PRESSING ISSUES: THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY MEETS PUBLIC POLICY

A Goldfarb Center International Conference

Monday, October 7, 7 pm, Room 1, Olin Science Center. Please join us for a keynote lecture by Joel A. Tarr:

## The Environmental Impacts of Energy Transitions, Past and Present

The United States is currently in the midst of a set of energy transitions the full dimensions of which are unclear, especially in regard to environmental impacts. But while considerable uncertainty exists concerning the future effects of energy transitions, there is also only limited information regarding the environmental impacts of past transitions. The absence of this information limits our ability to provide historical perspectives on current changes as well as restricting possible contributions to policy. In an attempt to provide some perspective on this history, my talk will focus on two cases of energy transitions, each of which left large environmental legacies – the manufactured gas industry that existed in thousands of American cities for over a century and past and present natural gas development in Pennsylvania.



**Joel A. Tarr** is Richard S. Caliguiri University Professor of History & Policy at Carnegie Mellon University and a winner of the DaVinci Medal of the Society for the History of Technology.

## Conference Program

### Tuesday, October 8

9:00–11:45 am: Smith, Hurd, Robbins Room, Chandra Bhimull, chair

**Sverker Sörlin**, KTH, Stockholm, *Ground-Truthing the Environmental Humanities: Policy dimensions of Environmental STS and History*

**Joseph Martin**, Colby, *Using Cultural Scaffolding to Assess and Manage Technological Change*

**Ann Johnson**, U. South Carolina, *The Role of Predictions and Forecasts in Policy-Making*

3:30–5:45 pm: Maine Lakes Resource Center, Jim Fleming, chair

**Maurits Ertsen**, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands, *A Tombstone as Diploma? Why Long-Term Trends in Ancient Water Systems Matter*

**Howard Segal**, U. Maine, *Techno-Fix Nation: America's Historic Embrace of Practical Utopias and the Policy Implications*

**David Nye**, U. Southern Denmark, *Technological Fix or Regime Change? The US and Alternative Energies since ca. 1980*

7:30 pm: Communicating between history and policy

**Nina Wormbs**, KTH, Stockholm, *The Swedish Radio Industry: Analogue to digital*

**Frazier Benya**, National Academy of Engineering, *Walking the Policy Line*

**Dave Baiocchi**, RAND Corporation, *Space Junk*

### Wednesday, October 9

9:00–11:45 am: Smith, Hurd, Robbins Room, Roger Launius, chair

**Paul Josephson**, Colby, *Public Participation in Science and Technology Assessment: Russia and the United States*

**Teasel Muir-Harmony**, MIT, *The Apollo Program, Public Diplomacy, and the Role of Technology in Foreign Relations*

**John Logsdon**, GWU emeritus, *Linking History to Policy: The example of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board*

1:00–2:30 pm: Olin 1, Joel Tarr, chair

**Patrick McCray**, UC Santa Barbara, *Analogy as a Tool for Regulating New Technologies*

**Jonathan Coopersmith**, Texas A&M U., *Academic Societies and Public Policy: Help or hindrance?*

3:00–4:30 pm: Open discussion, Jim Fleming, Roger Launius, chairs

### Conference Organized by:

Jim Fleming - Colby College

Roger Launius - Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

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