

**David P.D. Munns,**  
B.Sc., B.A.(Hons.), M.Phil., Ph.D.

## **Curriculum Vitae**

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### **CURRENT POSITION:**

2009-current: Associate Professor, Department of History, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. CUNY.  
New York, NY. 10019. USA. Contact: Allison Kavey: +1-212-237-8827. [akavey@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:akavey@jjay.cuny.edu)

Tenure awarded: effective Aug 26, 2014.

### **EDUCATION:**

2003 – Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University. Advisor: Stuart W. Leslie.

1998 – M.Phil. University of Sydney. Advisor: Nicolas Rasmussen.

1995 – B.A.(Hons). Australian National University.

1993 – B.Sc. Australian National University.

### **PREVIOUS POSITIONS:**

2006-2009: Lecturer, Centre for the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology, Imperial College. London.

2002-2006: Auxiliary Professor, Department of History and Politics, Drexel University. Philadelphia.

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

#### **Books**

*A Single Sky: How an International Community Forged the Science of Radio Astronomy*  
(MIT Press, 2013).

*Engineering the Environment: Phytotrons and the Quest for Climate Control in the Cold War*  
(University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017).

#### **Peer-reviewed articles**

‘The phytotronist and the phenotype: plant physiology, big science, and a Cold War biology of the whole plant,’ *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences Part C* 50 (2015): 29-40.

‘ “The awe in which biologists hold physicists”: Frits Went’s first phytotron at Caltech, and an experimental definition of the biological environment.’ *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences* 36:2 (2014): 209-231.

‘A Single Sky: Learning to See the Heavens and the World Through Radio,’ in *The Dark Universe: Sonic Acts XV* Arie Altena ed. (Sonic Acts Press, 2013): 62-83.

‘Controlling the Environment: the Australian phytotron and postcolonial science,’ *British Scholar* II:2 (2010): 197-226.

‘“Gay, Innocent, and Heartless”: Peter Pan in Popular Culture,’ in *Second Star to the Right: Peter Pan in the Popular Imagination* Allison Kavey and Lester Friedman eds. (Rutgers University Press, 2008): 219-42.

‘The Challenge of Variations: The Observational Traditions of Ptolemy and Aristotle, and Copernicus’ Heliocentric Solution,’ *Nuncius* 27:2 (2007): 221-257.

‘If We Build It, Who Will Come?: Training radio astronomers and the limitations of ‘National’ laboratories in Cold War America,’ *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences* 34:1 (2003): 93-117.

‘Linear Accelerators, Radio Astronomy, and the Search for International Prestige in Australia, 1944-1948,’ *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences* 27:2 (1997): 299-318.

### **Book reviews**

Review of ‘Chen-Pang Yeang, Probing the Sky with Radio Waves: From Wireless Technology to the Development of Atmospheric Science (University of Chicago Press, 2013), in *Technology and Culture* (2014).

‘Cosmic Noise,’ Review of Cosmic Noise: the history of early radio astronomy Woodruff T. Sullivan III (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), in *Metascience* 20 (2010).

‘Nanotechnology: Very Small Narrative Cultures,’ Review of Nanoculture: Implications of the New Technoscience N. Katherine Hayles (ed.) (Intellect Books, Bristol, 2004), in *History and Technology* 21:4 (Dec 2005): 393-95.

‘Magnetrons, Micropups, and Me: Personal Histories of Radar,’ Review of Louis Brown, A Radar History of World War Two: Technical and Military Imperatives (Bristol: Institute of Physics Publishing, 1999), Robert Hanbury Brown, Boffin: A Personal Story of the Early Days of Radar, Radio Astronomy and Quantum Optics (Bristol: Adam Hilger, 1991), Edward G. Bowen, Radar Days (Bristol: Institute of Physics Publishing, 1998), and Bernard Lovell, Echoes of War: The Story of H<sub>2</sub>S Radar (Bristol: Adam Hilger, 1991), in *Metascience* 10 (2001), 406-411.

### **Other publications**

David P.D. Munns, *The Cannon of Learning: Reginald John Gardner’s story, 1926-1999*. (Self-Published, 2014).

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS:**

Article: ‘The Alcatraz versus the Fecal Bag: Reconsidering the Space Program from the Bottom Up.’ Under review with the *Journal for the History of Biology*.

Co-Authored book with Karin Nickelsen: *The Rise of Plant Physiology in the Age of Biology, and its Fall in the Age of Biotech*.

Monograph: *To Live Among the Stars: The Quest to Build a Controlled Environment Towards a Space-Faring Ecology*.

Monograph: *Civilizing the Atom: Educating Nuclear Engineers in the Cold War*.

Monograph: *The Automobile and The City: How the Car Shaped the History of New York.*

**GRANTS AND AWARDS:**

2016-17: PSC-CUNY Enhanced Research Award.

2016-17: Mid-Career Fellowship, Office of the Advancement of Research.

July 2014- June 2015 – PSC-CUNY Award.

2013-14. Office of Undergraduate Research grant to develop a multi-year research methods course for history majors.

July 2011- June 2012 – PSC-CUNY Award.

March 2011 – Friends of the Library of the University of Wisconsin, Madison Award.

Feb 2011 – Biot Grant, California Institute of Technology Archives, Pasadena.

April 2001 – Mayer Fellowship, The Huntington Library, Pasadena.

Spring, 2001. Nomination for the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins University Teaching Assistant Award.

Spring 1999 – Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University. Awarded for the purpose of independently constructing and teaching an undergraduate course – ‘*The Name of the Rose: Science and Culture in the Middle Ages.*’

1997-2002 – Johns Hopkins University Ph.D. doctoral scholarship recipient.

**INVITED TALKS:**

‘The case of the Algotron; or coping with shit in space,’ *Again, Method.* Oct 24–25, 2016, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Germany.

‘The phytotronist and the phenotype: Plant physiology, big science, and a Cold War biology of the whole plant,’ *Perspectives for the history of the life sciences: New themes, new sources, new approaches.* Oct 30–Nov 1, 2015, Munich, Germany.

‘A Single Sky: learning to see the heaven through radio,’ *The Dark Universe (Cosmic Acts International and Interdisciplinary Festival).* Amsterdam, Feb 21-24 2013.

‘Frits Went’s vision of Theoretical Biology in the Caltech phytotron.’ History of Science Reading Group, Gallatin School, NYU, Feb 2012.

‘Gay, Innocent, and Heartless’: The aging of Peter Pan in popular culture. Goodenough College London Port Talk, July 2009.

‘Controlling the Environment: the Australian phytotron and postcolonial science,’ *HPS Department, University of Leeds,* Feb 2009.

‘Science for a Postcolonial World: the case of the Australian phytotron,’ *Menzies Center for Australian Studies.* London. Jan, 2009.

**PAPERS PRESENTED (last 5 years only):**

‘The World of Trons.’ *Society for Literature, Science and Culture.* Atlanta, Nov 3-6, 2016.

‘Civilizing the Atom.’ *History of Science Society.* Atlanta, Nov 3-6, 2016.

‘“The awe in which biologists hold physicists”: Frits Went, plant physiology, and the creation of the first phytotron at Caltech.’ *History of Science Society.* Boston, Nov 2013.

‘Frits Went’s vision of Theoretical Biology in the Caltech phytotron.’ History of Science Reading Group, Gallatin School, NYU, Feb 2012.

‘“The tree has graduated from molecular biology”: physics, biology, and the plants under the glass of the phytotron.’ *History of Science Society.* Cleveland, Nov 2011.

'The technology of the environmental control of plant growth.' *Society for the History of Technology*. Cleveland, Nov 2011.

'Approaches to national and disciplinary comparative history,' *British Society for the History of Science Meeting*. Leicester, July 2009.

'Discipline and Disciples: Reasserting Community in the History of Recent Science,' *The '3-Societies' Meeting: BSHS-CSHSSS-HSS*, Oxford, July 4-6, 2008

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Undergraduate classes taught, with year range:

- a) The Discovery of the Scientific Method, 2013-
- b) Global History, AD500-AD1600, 2002-2006, 2009-2014
- c) Global History, AD1600-AD2000, 2002-2006, 2009-2014
- d) Justice in the Western Tradition, 2010-2012, 2014
- e) Research Methods in History, 2011, 2013-
- f) Historiography, 2012-
- g) The History of Technology, 2002-2009.
- h) European History, 1870-1989, 2006-2009.
- i) Benjamin Franklin, 2004 (team-taught, interdisciplinary).
- j) The Scientific Revolution, 2003.
- k) History of the Automobile in Modern America, 2002-2006.
- l) *'The Name of the Rose': Science and Culture in the Middle Ages*, 1999, 2003.
- m) The Atomic Age: Bombs, Scientists, and Superpowers, 2000.
- n) The Atomic Bomb, 2003 (team-taught, interdisciplinary).
- o) The History of Science since Newton, 2005-2006.
- p) The History of Science from Plato to NATO, 2004.
- q) The History of the Renaissance, 2002.
- r) United States Military History in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- s) The History of Science in London, 2008.
- t) Frankenstein, 2005 (team-taught, interdisciplinary).
- u) Modern America - 1898-1989, 2003.

Senior Undergraduate (Honors) Seminar

- v) Galileo: Artist, Courtier, Scientist, Heretic?, 2006.
- w) Senior Seminar and Thesis for Humanities and Justice, 2013, 2015, 2016.
- x) Science and Technology in New York City, 2014, 2015, 2016.

Graduate Seminars

- y) Introduction to Liberal Studies: "How to Know about Knowing: Introduction to the History, Sociology, and Philosophy of Science, Medicine, and Technology." (CUNY Graduate College, Spring 2014.)
- z) Understanding Scientific Instruments in Recent Science (Drexel University M.Sc., 2005)
- aa) Core Seminar in the History of Science, Medicine, and Technology (London Center, M.Sc., 2006-2009)
- bb) Science, Technology and Medicine in the Twentieth Century (London Center, M.Sc., 2006-2009)

## COLLEGE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

2015-16: Vice-President (elected) of the Faculty Senate, John Jay College.  
2014-15: At-Large member (elected), Faculty Personnel Committee, John Jay College.  
2013-16: Humanities and Justice Major Coordinator.

David P.D. Munns, Research Portfolio.

2013-16: Chair, Humanities and Justice Assessment Committee  
2013-16: Chair, Humanities and Justice Curriculum Committee.  
2013-15: Co-sponsor, Provost's taskforce on the Student Evaluation of the Faculty.  
2013-14: Member, Senate sub-committee on the Student Evaluation of the Faculty.  
2014-15: Faculty advisor to Student Government.  
2013-16: Office of Undergraduate Research, Advisory Board.  
2013-14: World Cultures and Global Issues Assessment Team.  
2012-15: John Jay College representative to the CUNY Faculty Senate.  
2010-14: History Departmental Representative on the John Jay College Council.  
2010-14: History Departmental Representative on the John Jay College Senate.  
2012-13: John Jay Faculty Senate Poetry Selection Committee.  
2012-13: History Department Curriculum Committee.  
2011-15: History Department Assessment Committee.  
2010-16: Humanities and Justice Committee (Chair 2013-16).  
2010-12: John Jay College Sexual Harassment Policy committee.  
2007-09: Core Course Convener for the London Center M.Sc.  
2007-09: Chair of the syllabus sub-committee on the London Center M.Sc. Core Course.  
1995-96: President of the Senior Common Room of The Women's College, University of Sydney.