The Technological Fix

October 4 – 5, 2002

Friday, October 4, 2002

9:30-11:30 OBJECTS AS FIXES

Shelley McKellar (National Museum of American History)
"Artificial Hearts - A Technological Fix More Monstrous than Miraculous?"

Carolyn Thomas de la Peña (University of California, Davis)

Angela Cartland (Australian National University)
"The Cash Register from 'Thief Catcher' to 'Automatic Preacher' to Business Machine, 1879-1929"

Comment: Ritchie Garrison (University of Delaware)

1:00-2:30 INSTITUTIONS SEEKING FIXES...

Shane Hamilton (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
"Long Haul Trucking and the Technopolitics of Industrial Agriculture, 1945-1970"

Michael Ackerman (University of Virginia)
"The Nutritional Enrichment of Flour and Bread: Technological Fix or Half-Baked Solution"

Comment: Janet F. Davidson (National Museum of American History)

3:00-5:00 ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES

James R. Fleming (Colby College)
"Fixing the Weather and Climate: Military and Civilian Schemes for Cloud Seeding and Climate Engineering"

Timothy LeCain (Montana State University)
"When Everybody Wins Does the Environment Lose? Historical Case Studies in the Limits of 'Eco-Efficiency'"

Frank Uekotter (Universitaet Bielefeld)
"Solving Air Pollution Problems Once and For All: The Potential and the Limits of Technological Fixes"

Comment: Lisa Rosner (Richard Stockton College)

Saturday, October 4, 2002

9:00-11:00 CULTURE AND SYSTEMS

Thomas Haigh (University of Pennsylvania),
"The Fix is Information, Now What Was The Problem?"

Jim Tobias (New York University)
"Technology and Disability"

Warren Belasco (University of Maryland-Baltimore County)
"Synthetic Arcadias: Dreams of 'Air Food,' Meal Pills, and Algae Burgers"
Comment: TBA

11:15-12:30 CLOSING KEYNOTE

Thomas Hughes (University of Pennsylvania, Emeritus)