

BENJAMIN WILSON

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Boltzmannstraße 22, 14195 Berlin, Germany
bwilson@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2015– Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
Department II,
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
- 2014–15 Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow,
Center for International Security and Cooperation,
Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies,
Stanford University

EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Program in History,
Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society.
- 2007 M.S. Yale University. Physics.
- 2006 M.Sc. University of Toronto. Physics.
- 2004 B.E. (with great distinction). University of Saskatchewan. Engineering
Physics.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Refereed Journals:

- 2015 “The Consultants: Nonlinear Optics and the Social World of Cold War
Science,” *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences* 45, no. 5 (2015): 758–804.

Chapters in Books:

- 2014 “Calculating Times: Radar, Ballistic Missiles, and Einstein’s Relativity.” With
David Kaiser, in *Science and Technology in the Global Cold War*, ed. Naomi
Oreskes and John Krige (MIT Press), 273–316.

- 2014 “Physics.” With David Kaiser, in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the History of American Science, Medicine, and Technology*, ed. Hugh Slotten (Oxford University Press).

Other Publications:

- 2015 “American Scientists as Public Citizens: Seventy Years of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.” With David Kaiser, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* 71, no. 1 (2015): 13–25.
- 2014 “Glenn T. Seaborg.” In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the History of American Science, Medicine, and Technology*, ed. Hugh Slotten (Oxford University Press).

Book Reviews:

- 2014 “The prime minister, his key science adviser, and the partnership that wasn’t,” review of Graham Farmelo, *Churchill’s Bomb: How the United States Overtook Britain in the First Nuclear Arms Race* (Basic Books, 2013). *Physics Today* 67, no. 11 (2014): 52.
- 2013 “From Secret Bombs to Hearts and Minds,” review of Audra J. Wolfe, *Competing with the Soviets: Science, Technology, and the State in Cold War America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012). *Endeavour* 37 (2013): 190.
- 2013 “The Professionalization of Nuclear Engineering,” review of Sean F. Johnston, *The Neutron’s Children: Nuclear Engineers and the Shaping of Identity* (Oxford University Press, 2012). *Metascience* 22, no. 3 (2013): 629–632.
- 2012 Review of David C. Cassidy, *A Short History of Physics in the American Century* (Harvard University Press, 2011). *Physics Today* 65, no. 5 (2012): 54.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript:

“Island of Stability: Cold War Experts and the World of Strategic Nuclear Arms Control.” Under contract with Harvard University Press.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2015 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Cornell University, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies (declined).
- 2015 Moody Research Grant, Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation, Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library.
- 2014–15 MacArthur Nuclear Security Predoctoral Fellowship, Stanford University, Center for International Security and Cooperation.

- 2013 Stanton Nuclear Security Predoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (declined).
- 2013 Miller Center National Fellowship (Ambrose Monell Foundation Funded Fellowship in Technology and Democracy), University of Virginia (declined).
- 2013 New York University Center for the United States and the Cold War Dissertation Fellowship (declined).
- 2013 MIT Center for International Studies Summer Study Grant.
- 2013 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant .
- 2012 California Institute of Technology Archives Maurice A. Biot Award.
- 2012 American Institute of Physics, Center for History of Physics, Grant-in-Aid.
- 2008–09 Presidential Graduate Fellowship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- 2004–06 Canada Graduate Scholarship, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.
- 2004 Graduation Gold Medal, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan.
- 2004 Innovative Design Competition Award, University of Saskatchewan College of Engineering (for senior thesis design project).

INVITED TALKS

- 2014 “Insiders and Outsiders: Nuclear Arms Control Experts in Cold War America,” Stanton Foundation Nuclear Security Fellows Seminar, Washington, DC, October.
- 2014 “Disarmament, Arms Control, and Stability: The Community of Nuclear Arms Controllers, 1957-1960,” CISAC Social Science Seminar, Stanford University, February.
- 2013 “Beyond Quantum Electronics: The Laser, Defense Consulting, and the Origins of Nonlinear Optics,” Workshop “Cold War Science,” Leiden University Lorentz Center, Leiden, The Netherlands, December.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2015 “Macroeconomics Goes Nuclear: Thomas Schelling and the Rational Mechanics of Nuclear War,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November.
- 2015 “Constructing Stability: Making Arms Control, 1957–1960,” MIT Nuclear Studies Research Initiative, Airlie House, Warrenton, VA, May.
- 2014 “Nuclear Arms Control: Expertise, Ideas, and the State, 1957-1977,” Nuclear Experts and Nuclear Expertise in a Global Context after 1945, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, October.
- 2013 “The Controllers: Disarmament, Arms Control, and Community,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November.
- 2013 “The Nuclear Arms Control Community in America,” University of Roma Tre

- and the Wilson Center, Nuclear Proliferation International History Project
“Nuclear Boot Camp,” Allumiere, Italy, June.
- 2011 “Beyond Quantum Electronics: Nicolaas Bloembergen, Directed Energy Weapons, and the Origins of Nonlinear Optics,” History of Science Society Meeting, Cleveland, OH, November.
- 2010 Session Chair, “Artifacts of Science,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, Canada, November.
- 2010 “Calculating Times: Radar, Ballistic Missiles, and Einstein’s Relativity” (with David Kaiser), How the Cold War Transformed Science, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, May.

TEACHING

Teaching Assistantships:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- 2012 “Medieval Economic History in Comparative Perspective” (Professor Anne McCants).
- 2011 “Einstein, Oppenheimer, Feynman: Physics in the 20th Century” (Professor David Kaiser).
- 2010 “The Rise of Modern Science” (Professors David Jones and David Kaiser).
- 2010 “Technology in History” (Professor Rosalind Williams).

Yale University

- 2008 “Electromagnetic Theory I” (Professor Nick Read).
- 2007 “Intensive Introductory Physics” (Professor Douglas Stone).
- 2007 “Advanced General Physics” (Lecturer Sidney Cahn).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2013 Editorial Consultant, book manuscript (*What is Dark Matter?*) by Professor Peter Fisher, MIT.
- 2011 Producer and Coauthor, PBS NOVA web feature “A Trip Through Spacetime,” for the PBS NOVA documentary series *The Fabric of the Cosmos*, 2011. Available at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/physics/spacetime-trip.html>.
- 2011 Academic consultant and script fact-checker, PBS NOVA documentary series, *The Fabric of the Cosmos* (three episodes: “What is Space?,” “The Illusion of Time,” and “Quantum Leap”).
- 2010 Workshop Co-organizer, Harvard-MIT-Princeton Workshop in the History of the Physical Sciences, Princeton University, April.
- 2010 MIT HASTS Graduate Curriculum Committee member.