

Adrian Johns

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

Full name	Adrian Dominic Sinclair Johns
Date of birth	19 October 1965
Nationality	British
Address	Department of History University of Chicago 1126 E. 59th Street Chicago IL 60637
Telephone:	773 363 3324 (h); 773 834 7571 (o)
E-mail:	johns@uchicago.edu

Present Appointment

Professor
Department of History
University of Chicago

Chair
Committee on Conceptual and Historical Studies of Science

Current projects

Piracy: Creativity, commerce and crime from the invention of print to the Internet. Now in press at the University of Chicago Press.

Death of a pirate: murder and a media revolution. A book about a shooting in 1960s Britain that brought to a head the challenge of pirate stations to the public radio broadcasting monopoly. The book examines the politics of broadcasting and public authority that lay behind the incident. It outlines the role of pirate media in the emergence of neoliberalism, and traces connections to today's digital piracy. The manuscript is roughly half complete and is under contract with W.W. Norton.

Pharmacopoeias: print, authenticity, and modernity. A project now in its early stages on half a millennium of efforts to police the identity of substances (medicaments, foods, colors, etc.) by deploying the power of print. The hypothesis is that pharmacopoeias, the genre of works that sought to guarantee substances by fixing their formulae in print, pose a fundamental problem about modernity itself. They have never really worked, except through the mediation of powerful but inscrutable policing practices. Their history enables us to see both where the power of print really resides and how the stability of both texts and substances came to be taken for granted in modern society.

Mr Smith goes to Tokyo. A project, also in its early stages, on Erasmus Peshine Smith. Smith was an American political economist, lawyer, and (at one point) natural scientist who was recruited by the Meiji Emperor of Japan to become his advisor on trade and foreign affairs in the 1870s. Living in the imperial quarters at a time when other Westerners were largely restricted to Yokohama, Smith had unique access to the emperor's household, and seems to have used it to advise policies in radical opposition to those preferred by Washington and London. The result was a scandal with repercussions that extended to the bases of colonialism, the slave trade, and economic liberalism. Smith's private papers have survived unseen, and I hope to use them to tell this story for the first time.

Publications

Books

The Nature of the Book: Print and Knowledge in the Making. University of Chicago Press, 1998.

Papers and Journals

i. Published

"Coleman Street." *Huntington Library Quarterly* 71:1 (2008), 33-54. Online [here](#).

"Truth and malicious falsehood." *Nature* 451 (February 28, 2008), 1058-60.

"The identity engine: printing and publishing at the beginning of the knowledge economy." In L. Roberts, S. Schaffer and P. Dear (eds.), *The mindful hand: inquiry and invention from the late Renaissance to early industrialisation* (Chicago, IL: Edita/University of Chicago Press, 2007), 403-28. Online at http://www.know.nl/cfdata/publicaties/detail.cfm?boeken_ordernr=20041102.

"Coffeehouses and print shops." *The Cambridge History of Science, III: Early Modern Science* (ed. L. Daston and K. Park. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), 320-40.

"Intellectual property and the nature of science." *Cultural Studies* 20 (2006), 145-64; online [here](#).

Arts of Transmission. Special issue of *Critical Inquiry*, 31:1 (Autumn 2004), edited by J. Chandler, A. Davidson, and A. Johns.

"Foreword." In W.J. Ong, S.J., *Ramus, Method, and the Decay of Dialogue: From the Art of Discourse to the Art of Reason* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004).

"Reading and Experiment in the Early Royal Society." K. Sharpe and S. Zwicker (eds.), *Reading, Society and Politics in Early Modern England* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 244-71.

"Print and Public Science." *The Cambridge History of Science, IV: Science in the Eighteenth Century* (ed. R. Porter. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), 536-60.

"Science and the Book." *The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain* (7 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. General Editors: D.F. McKenzie, D.J. McKitterick, I.R. Willison), vol. IV (2003), 274-303.

"The Ambivalence of Authorship in early Modern Natural Philosophy," in M. Biagioli and P. Galison (eds.), *Scientific Authorship: Credit and Intellectual Property in Science* (New York: Routledge, 2003), 67-90.

- “How to acknowledge a revolution.” *American Historical Review* 107 (2002), 106-25 (part of an invited “Forum” with Elizabeth Eisenstein and Anthony Grafton).
- “Pop music pirate hunters,” *Daedalus* 131:2 (Spring 2002), 67-77.
- “Printing, Publishing and Reading in London, 1660-1720.” P. O’Brien (ed.), *Urban Achievement in Early Modern Europe: Golden Ages in Antwerp, Amsterdam and London* (Cambridge University Press, 2001).
- “The Past, Present, and Future of the Scientific Book.” N. Jardine and M. Frasca-Spada (eds.), *Books and the Sciences in History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), 408-26.
- “The Physiology of Reading.” N. Jardine and M. Frasca-Spada (eds.), *Books and the Sciences in History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), 291-314.
- “Miscellaneous Methods: Authors, Societies and Journals in Early Modern England.” *British Journal for the History of Science* 33 (2000), 159-86.
- “Identity, Practice, and Trust in Early Modern Natural Philosophy.” *Historical Journal* 42 (1999), 1125-45.
- “Science and the Book in Modern Cultural Historiography.” *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 29 (1998), 167-94.
- “Prudence and Pedantry in Early Modern Cosmology: The Trade of Al Ross.” *History of Science* 35 (1997), 23-59.
- “Flamsteed’s Optics and the Identity of the Astronomical Observer.” In F. Willmoth (ed.), *Flamsteed’s Stars* (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 1997), 77-106.
- “Natural History as Print Culture.” In N. Jardine, J. Secord, E. Spary (eds.), *Cultures of Natural History: from Curiosity to Crisis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), 106-24.
- “The Physiology of Reading and the Anatomy of Enthusiasm.” In A. Cunningham, O. Grell (eds.), *Religio Medici: Religion and Medicine in Seventeenth Century England* (Aldershot: Scolar Press, 1996), 136-70.
- “The Physiology of Reading in Restoration England.” In J. Raven, H. Small, N. Tadmor (eds.), *The Practice and Representation of Reading in England* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), 138-61.
- “The Ideal of Scientific Collaboration: The ‘Man of Science’ and the Diffusion of Knowledge.” In H. Bots, F. Waquet (eds.), *Commercium Litterarium: La Communication dans la République des Lettres, 1600-1750* (Amsterdam: APA-Holland University Press, 1994), 3-22.
- “History of Science and the History of the Book.” In S. Cavaciocchi (ed.), *Produzione e Commercio della Carta e del Libro Secc. XIII-XVIII* (Firenze, Italy: Le Monnier, 1992), 881-90.
- “History, Science and the History of the Book: the Making of Natural Philosophy in Early Modern England.” *Publishing History* 30 (1991), 5-30.

ii. In press and forthcoming

- “Changes in the World of Publishing.” In J. Chandler (ed.), *The new Cambridge history of English literature: the Romantic period* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). In press.

“Ink.” In E. Spary and U. Klein (eds.), *Between market and laboratory: materials and expertise in early modern Europe* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press). In press.

“Piracy as a business force: modern media and the ideology of anti-monopolism,” *Culture machine*. In press.

“The property police.” In M. Biagioli, P. Jaszi, and M. Woodmansee (eds.), *Contexts of invention*. Forthcoming.

“Intellectual property.” In N. Thrift, A. Tickell, and S. Woolgar (eds.), *Globalization in practice* (Oxford: Oxford University Press). Forthcoming.

“The piratical enlightenment.” In W. Warner and C. Siskin (eds.), *Mediating Enlightenment* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press). Forthcoming.

“The book in early modern London.” In L. Manley (ed.), *The Cambridge companion to London in English literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). Forthcoming.

iii. Short pieces

“Printing as a Medium.” *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences* (26 vols. New York: Elsevier, 2001), 12050-12055.

“The Birth of Scientific Reading.” *Nature* 409:6818 (January 2001), 287.

“Printing: Invention of, Europe.” D. Jones (ed.), *Censorship* (4 vols. London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001), III, 1950-55.

“Print, Piracy, and the History of Reading.” *Inside Borders* magazine, October 1998.

Book reviews for *Annals of Science*, *British Journal for the History of Science*, *German History*, *History*, *Isis*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Journal of Modern History*, *Medical History*, *Metascience*, *Nature*, *Physis*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, and *Times Higher Education Supplement*.

Contributor to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, *New Dictionary of National Biography*, *Encyclopaedia of the Scientific Revolution* (Routledge, 2000), and *Reader's Guide to the History of Science* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001).

Multimedia

- 2000 Software installation demonstrating the use Peter Apian's *Astronomicum Caesareum* (1540) for the Huntington Library's *Star Struck* exhibition on the history of astronomy.
- 1998-2003 Project design and pilot modules for "The Universal Laboratory," a multimedia initiative in the history and sociology of the sciences (funded by NEH as *Microcosmos*).

Previous Appointments

- 2000-01 Associate Professor
Division of Humanities and Social Sciences
Caltech
Pasadena CA 91125
- 1998-2000 Professor (formerly Assistant Professor) of Sociology
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093.
- 1996-8 Senior Research Fellow in History
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena
CA 91125.
- 1994-6 Lecturer [≈Assistant Professor] in History of Science
Centre for History & Cultural Studies of Science
School of History
University of Kent
Canterbury, UK.
- 1991-4 Research Fellow
Downing College
Cambridge, UK.
- 1990-1 Munby Fellow
University Library
Cambridge, UK.

Teaching

- 2001-8 University of Chicago
“Early modern Britain.”
“Historiography.”
“Introduction to science studies” (with J. Evans).
“Natural Philosophy 1200-1800.”
“Piracy and intellectual property.”
“Science, Culture, and Society.”
“The book in early modern Europe.”
“Favorite readings in the history of science” (with R.J. Richards, A. Winter).
- 2000- Caltech “Early Modern Europe.”
2001 “Intellectual Property and Piracy from Gutenberg to Gates.”
“Science and Society.”
- 1999- UCSD “Introduction to Science Studies” (Graduate: co-taught with Prof. G. Doppelt).
2000 “Science and Society” (Introductory course to new minor in science and society).
“Sociology of Technology.”
“Humanities 2: Rome, Christianity, and the Middle Ages.”
- 1998-9 UCSD “Media and Society from the Book to the Internet.”
“Introduction to Science Studies” (Graduate: co-taught with Prof. Naomi Oreskes).
“Sociology of Technology.”
- 1997-8 California Institute of Technology:
“British History 1500-1700” (Advanced level course; part one of a new three-course sequence in British history).
“The Scientific Revolution” (Advanced level course; with Dr. K. Knox).
“Scientific Communication” (Advanced level course).
“Early Modern Europe” (Freshman level course).
Tutor in TIDE (a pedagogic initiative in multimedia).
- 1996-7 California Institute of Technology:
“The History of the Book” (Advanced level course).
“The Scientific Revolution” (Advanced level course).
“Early Modern Europe” (Freshman level course).
- 1995-6 University of Kent:
Convenor, new MA program: “Writing the History of Science.”
Convenor, new Part II course: “The Making of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe.”
Convenor, Part I course: “Development of the Social Sciences.”
Lecturer, new Part I course: “The History of the Book.”
Seminar Leader, Part I course: “Introduction to Literature and Science.”
Tutorial Co-ordinator, School of History (with responsibility for progress of all students in years 2 and 3 of a 3-year degree program).
University of Cambridge:
Part II course: “Magic in Renaissance and Early Modern Europe.” (Invited lectures.)
- 1994-5 University of Kent:
Lecturer and seminar leader, Part I course: “Development of the Social Sciences.”
Seminar leader, Part I course: “Introduction to Literature and Science.”
University of Cambridge:

Part II course: "Magic in Renaissance and Early Modern Europe." (Invited lectures.)

- 1993-4 University of Cambridge:
M.Phil. in History and Philosophy of Science: supervision and assessment.
Part II course: "Natural Philosophy in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, c.500-1600."
Part II course: "Natural Philosophy and the History of the Book, c.1450-1850."
Part II course (Faculty of Modern History): "Social and Natural Order in Early Modern England."
Acting Director of Studies in History, Downing College (Lent Term.)
- 1992-3 University of Cambridge:
M.Phil. in History and Philosophy of Science: supervision and assessment.
Part II course: "Natural Magic in Early Modern Europe."
- 1989-90 University of Cambridge, Department of Extra-Mural Studies:
"British Science, 1650-1980" (with others).
- 1987-94 University of Cambridge:
Supervision:
Scientific Ideas and Practice from Antiquity to the Renaissance.
The Scientific Revolution: Renaissance to Enlightenment.
History of Science since the Enlightenment.

Awards

- 2005 National Science Foundation sabbatical award.
2001 American Philosophical Society sabbatical award.
1999 Leo Gershoy Award, American Historical Association.
1999 John Ben Snow Prize, North American Conference on British Studies.
1999 Louis Gottschalk Prize, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.
SHARP Prize (for best book on the history of authorship, reading, and publishing).
1999 Research grant, Committee on Research, University of California.
1996-7 Various research and travel funds from Caltech.
1987-93 Various research grants from Downing and Corpus Christi Colleges, the British Academy, and the Royal Society.
1987-90 British Academy Major Studentship, Cambridge University.
1988 Caldwell Scholarship, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
1987 Bronowski Prize for best dissertation in the history of science, Cambridge University.
1987 Bacon Prize, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
1985 Caldwell Scholarship, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
1985 Bacon Prize, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Service

Within UC

Chair, Fellowships and placement committee, Department of History (2007-)
Chair, CHSS (2001-)
Chair of the Board of University Publications, University of Chicago Press (5/04-7/06)
Chair, Search committee in British History (2006-07)
Divisional dissertation prize committee (2008)
Member, University Committee on Intellectual Property (July 1, 2007-)
Member, committee to appraise the undergraduate program in Environmental Studies (2005)
Member, Fellowships Committee, Department of History (2003-6)
Member, Search committee in Latin American history (2004-05)
Organizer (with Richard Epstein, UC Law School): Cultural Policy Workshop series, 2004, on Intellectual Property

Beyond UC (selected)

Program chair for History of Science Society annual meeting, 2004 (with Angela Creager, Princeton)
Advisory board member, *Isis* (2003-06)
Referee for submissions to *Historical Journal*, *Canadian Journal of History*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Huntington Quarterly*, University of Chicago Press, Harvard University Press, Yale University Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Ashgate Press
Referee for proposals submitted to National Science Foundation
Referee for Macarthur Foundation
Referee for CNRS, Paris
Tenure referee for several institutions (not listed here as the process involves anonymity)
Board member, Society for Critical Exchange
PhD. Examiner, University of Sydney, Australia
Committee, ASECS Gottschalk Prize: member, 1999-2000; chair, 2000-01

Education

1987-92	Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University, UK.	Ph.D.	1992
		M.A. (Cantab.)	1990
1984-7	Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University, UK.	B.A. (Hons.), Natural Sciences (History and Philosophy of Science): Class I	1987

Conferences and Presentations (2001-)

2007-08 "The authenticity engine." Society for Scholarly Publishing, Boston, MA.

"Pirate principles: information, monopolies, and media in the modern age." Yale University.

"Pharmaceuticals and the origins of modernity: adulteration, piracy, and credit in the early Enlightenment." University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

“Babbage and the book: information, modernity, and media at the origin of the knowledge economy.” University of Chicago.

“Death of a Pirate: Murder and Media in the 1960s.” University of Michigan.

“Pirate Listeners and the Political Economy of Broadcasting, 1920-1950.” History of Science Society, Washington, DC.

“Babbage and the Book: Printing in the Creation of an Information Society.” Breslauer Lecture, UCLA.

2006-07 “The open source campaign in Victorian England.” Mossman Lecture, McGill University.

“The future of the history of science.” McGill University.

“The printing counter-revolution.” Conference on “mediating Enlightenment,” NYU.

“The identity engine: printing and publishing in the development of the knowledge economy.” UC Irvine.

“The identity engine: printing and publishing in the creation of the knowledge economy.” SHARP conference keynote, Minneapolis.

“Inventors, Schemers, and Men of Science: Intellectual Property and its Enemies in Victorian England.” Nicholson Center, University of Chicago.

“The politics of patenting and the nature of science.” HPSS Workshop, University of Chicago.

Round table on “Intellectual Property, policy, and public culture.” Society of Fellows, Chicago.

“When All Intellectual Property was Theft: The Nineteenth-Century Assault on Patenting and Copyright.” University of California, Berkeley.

“Science, industry, and empire in the invention of intellectual property.” University of Notre Dame.

2005 “The Invention of Intellectual Piracy.” NYU.

“Coleman Street.” Huntington Library, San Marino, CA.

“Print, medicine, and the culture of credit in early modern England.” University of Pittsburgh.

“Medicine and the crisis of credit in early modern England.” Yale University.

“Microcosmos.” Columbia University.

“The great oscillation war: early broadcasting and the politics of popular experiment.” Harvard University.

“Reading, Discovering, and Knowing.” Keynote address, “Transliterations” project conference, UCSB.

“Intellectual Property and the nature of science at the onset of the information age.” ICHS, Beijing (China).

2004. “The land without property.” Rutgers University.

“Grub Street Pirates and the Plausibility of Print.” Princeton University.

“Piracy, patenting, and progress: Intellectual property and the nature of science.” Bucknell University.

“The last Samurai and the last book.” University of Chicago, Workshop on Science, Technology, Society and the State.

“The end of the history of the book.” Conference on “The survival of Scholarship,” U. of Chicago.

“The nature of Intellectual property in the mid-twentieth century.” Cultural policy workshop, University of Chicago.

-- Organizer, with R. Epstein (Law School), workshop series of the Cultural Policy Workshop, Spring 04.

-- Organizer, with J. Chandler and A. Davidson, “Arts of Transmission,” a large international conference at the Franke Institute, May 04.

“The last Samurai and the last book.” Southern California Center for the Book. UCLA, March 04.

“Irish pirates and the English Market.” Princeton University.

2003. “Death of a pirate.” Northwestern University.

Commentator, plenary session for History of Science Society annual conference, Boston.

“The invention of scientific reading: objectivity and the passions in early modern natural philosophy.” Gipson Lecture, Lehigh University.

“Pirates, experimenters and amateurs.” HPS Workshop, University of Chicago.

Moderator, Society for Critical Exchange annual meeting, Downtown Chicago.

2002. “The thermodynamics of civilization: print, piracy and the invention of social science in nineteenth-century America.” Princeton University.

“The times of the signs: History, agency and the nature of print in the early nineteenth century.” University of Chicago, Semiotics Workshop.

“The invention of piracy.” University of Chicago/Northwestern University workshop on early modern Britain.

“On the deep history of software piracy.” Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago.

2001. “England’s Age of Revolution.” Conference organizer (with S. Pincus). University of Chicago Department of History.

“Music piracy in Edwardian London.” Cornell University.

“The Birth of Scientific Reading.” Stanford University.

Plenary lecture, University of Iowa Center for the Book.

Invited session organized, “The social space of publication,” Folger Library.

Invited co-teacher (with Peter Dear), NEH Summer Institute, Folger Library, on experience in early modern Europe.