

BOYD C. RUAMCHAROEN

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 2025–27
Postdoctoral Fellow in Global American Studies
Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 2025
Ph.D. in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS)
Dissertation: “Deteriorating Relations: Weatherable Materials, Tropical Decay, and American Power, 1942–1970s” (Christopher Capozzola, Stefan Helmreich, Kate Brown, Megan Black)
Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program (КТСР), Teaching and Learning Lab
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 2022
S.M. in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS)
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA 2015
B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology, with a Minor in Interpretation Theory

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

“Tropicalizing the Portable Radio: Electronics and the U.S. Military’s Battle Against Fungi in the Pacific War,”
Technology and Culture 65, no. 2 (2024): 497–529, <https://doi.org/10.1353/tech.2024.a926313>.

IN PROGRESS

“Rotten Analogies: Climatic Analogs and the U.S. Military’s Environmental Testing for Tropical Warfare,”
Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space (revise and resubmit).

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

EXTERNAL

Othmer Library Travel Grant, Science History Institute 2025
Short-Term Research Fellowship (declined), Science History Institute 2025
Taylor-Wei Dissertation Fellowship in the History of Meteorology, Department of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, University of Oklahoma 2024–25
Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship, University of Chicago Library 2023
Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation Fellowship, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution 2023
Ralph C. and Mary Lynn Heid Research Fellowship, University of Michigan Library 2023

Arthur L. Norberg Travel Grant, Charles Babbage Institute (CBI)	2023
Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)	2023
Henry Belin du Pont Fellowship, Hagley Museum and Library	2022
Research Fellowship, Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (CHSTM)	2022

INTERNAL

Kelly-Douglas Travel and Research Grant, MIT	2022/25
Sustainability Grant, Graduate Student Council (GSC), MIT	2024
Fast Forward Climate Action Plan Fellowship, MIT	2023–24
HASTS Departmental Fellowships, MIT	2019–23
Charles M. Vest Presidential Fellowship, MIT	2018–19
Student Arts Fund, John B. Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities, Haverford College	2015
Phi Beta Kappa Society, Swarthmore College	2015
Penelope Mason Grant for Summer Research in Asian Studies, Swarthmore College	2014

CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS

Robert A. and Barbara Divine Graduate Student Travel Grant, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)	2023/24
Conference Travel Grant, National Science Foundation (NSF)/American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)	2024
CIS/Starr Student Travel Fellowship, Center for International Studies (CIS), MIT	2023
Conference Travel Grant, National Science Foundation (NSF)/Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)	2022/23
Conference Travel Grant, Graduate Student Council (GSC), MIT	2022

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Weathering Decolonization: Tropical Standards of Durability and Postcolonial Worldmaking, 1947–1970s,” Building the Non-Aligned World, Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, October 9–11	2025
“Weathering Decolonization: Weatherable Materials and the Making of Tropical Futures,” The Environment and Worldmaking, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA, June 26–28	2025
Roundtable Participant, Envirotech Roundtable: Past, Present, and Future Directions, American Society of Environmental History (ASEH) Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, April 9–13	2025
“Archive Fever After Empire: ‘Tropical Archivology,’ Microfilm Copying, and the Role of U.S. Archivists in the Global South,” special presentation at the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA, February 25	2025

- “Empire’s Deadwood: Decomposing Vegetation in the American Imperium,” Decaying and Decomposing Knowledge, History of Science Society (HSS) Annual Meeting, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, November 7–10 2024
- Roundtable Participant, The Habitat of Empire: How U.S. Power Shaped the Environment and Vice Versa, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, June 13–15 2024
- “Deteriorating Relations: The Deterioration of Materials and U.S. Global Environmental Management,” Pathologies of Materials, American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, April 3–7 2024
- “Testing Environments: The United States, India, and the Internationalization of Tropical Standards for Electronics in a Decolonizing World, 1947–71,” 43rd History of Technology Conference—Good, Durable, Safe: Quality and Safety Requirements of Technology in History, The Iron Library (Eisenbibliothek), Schaffhausen, Switzerland, November 16–18 2023
- “Making Waves in the Tropics: Tropical Broadcasting and North-South Contestations over the Radio Tropical Zone at the International Telecommunication Union,” Ethereal Inequality: Empire, Decolonization, and Capitalist Extraction on the Electromagnetic Spectrum, Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, October 25–29 2023
- “Rotten Analogies: Deterioration Control and the U.S. Military’s Approach to the Tropical Environment since World War II,” Militarized Landscapes: An Interdisciplinary Scholarly Workshop, Boise State University, Boise, ID, October 20–22 2023
- “Archive Fever After Empire: Microfilm, American Archivists, and the Postcolonial Tropics, 1945–72,” U.S. Foreign Relations in Extreme Environments, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA, June 15–17 2023
- “The Decomposing Message: Electronics, Tropical Deterioration, and the United States in World War II,” Emerging Scholars Workshop: New Directions in WWII History, The Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy at the National WWII Museum, New Orleans, LA, February 23–24 2023
- “Archive Fever After Empire: Microfilm, American Archivists, and the Postcolonial Tropics,” The Images of Counter-Hegemony, Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 10–13 2022
- “Typography of a Nation: How to Craft Digital Typefaces in Post-Crash Thailand,” How to Read the How-to, Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting, virtual, October 6–9 2021
- “Tropicalizing the Portable Radio,” Launching the Atmospheric Humanities, virtual, August 3–5 2021
- “Scaling the Cloud: Filming Pacific Clouds in Postwar Tropical Meteorology,” Workshop on the History of the Physical Sciences (Phunday), virtual, January 22–24 2021
- “Tropicalizing the Portable Radio,” Grotesque Epistemologies, European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Joint Annual Meeting, virtual, August 18–21 2020

CONVENERS, CHAIRS, AND DISCUSSANTS

- Convener, “Decomposing and Decaying Knowledge,” History of Science Society (HSS) Annual Meeting, Mérida, Mexico, November 7–10 (with Brad Bolman) 2024
- Discussant and Moderator, “Stories Beyond Species,” by Bathsheba Demuth and Eli Nelson, Cross-STs Series, MIT, Cambridge, MA, October 30 2024

Convener and Discussant, “Tropical Materialities,” European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) and Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Joint Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, July 16–19 (with Hina Walajahi)	2024
Convener, “Pathologies of Materials: Environmental Histories of Material Decay and Its Management,” American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) Annual Conference, Denver, CO, April 3–7 (with Ji Soo Hong)	2024
Convener, “U.S. Foreign Relations in Extreme Environments,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAHR) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA, June 15–17 (with Stephen Buono)	2023
Convener and Chair, “Aerotechnologies: Air as an Elemental Technology,” Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting, virtual, October 6–9 (with Jia-Hui Lee)	2021
Convener and Chair, “How to Read the How-to,” Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting, virtual, October 6–9 (with Emma Pask)	2021
Discussant, “A Phenomenal Language: Analog Representation and the Graphic Method,” by Jack Klempay, Workshop on the History of the Physical Sciences (Phunday), Cambridge, MA, September 28	2019

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

Degradation Workshop, Microsoft Research (MSR) New England Lab, Cambridge, MA, May 7	2024
Collaborative Research Workshop on the History of the New World Information and Communications Order (NWICO), Non-Aligned News Research Partnership (NANREP), virtual, June 5–9	2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cultures of Computing, Teaching Assistant, MIT	Spring 2023
The Indigenous History of MIT, Teaching Assistant, MIT	Fall 2021
Technology and Culture, Teaching Assistant, MIT	Fall 2020
Science in Action: Technologies and Controversies in Everyday Life, Teaching Assistant, MIT	Spring 2020

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Noor Kamal, “The Socio-Cultural Value of NFT’s” (undergraduate thesis), Social Studies Program, Harvard University	2021–22
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ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Convener, Envirotech Special Interest Group, American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) and the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)	2025–present
Cofounder and Editor, Contrasts Magazine, MIT	2025–present
Student Representative, History Section, MIT	2024–25
Student Coordinator, Seminar on Environmental and Agricultural History (SEAH), MIT	2022–24
Programmer and Organizer, Cross-STS Seminar Series, MIT (with Alex Reiss-Sorokin)	2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)

Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)

Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)

History of Science Society (HSS)