Kevin Baker
Summer 2013 - Special Field Reading List
"Science, Technology, and Medicine in the 20ᵗʰ Century World"

HISTORY AND SOCIOLOGY OF BIOMEDICINE

- "How did biomedicine become "uniquely powerful" and "uniquely global" and with what consequences?"[1]
- How has biomedicine contributed to (and) undermined our sense of human difference?[2]

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[1] I took this directly from Helen's Biomedicine syllabus, but it is a really good question!
[2] Adapted from the SHC recruitment flier.

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<u>History of Economics and the Human Sciences</u>

- What is economic "embeddeness" and how have historians and social scientists used and modified Polanyi's framework?
- Does "economics perform the economy?" What is the relationship between economic theory and economic life?

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HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL THOUGHT

- How have environmental issues come to be understood as problems?[3]

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[3] Both questions adapted from Helen Tilley's "Global Environments and World History" course

- How have environmental problems come to be understood as global in scope?

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HISTORY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

- How have information technologies come to embody the economic and social values of their designers and users?
- In what ways have computers enabled new political formations and in what ways do they reinscribe existing power relations?

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THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

- In the words of Langdon Winner, "do artifacts have politics?"
- Do you identify with the constructivist approach to the history of science?

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