

History Search Committee
Department
University
Street
City

January 4, Year

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the position as an assistant professor in Modern Global History at X Institute. I recently defended my dissertation in the History of Science at the University of Y, and I will receive my doctoral degree in Month & Year.

My research focuses on technology in international relations. The 20th century saw the rise of the United States as a principal international player. Beginning with the construction of the Panama Canal, Americans employed technologies to facilitate their global ascent. While military technologies sometimes established American dominance, electronic computers were central among the technologies that spread the American political and economic model through peaceful means. I study transatlantic flows of knowledge and technology to better understand modern global history.

In my dissertation, supervised by Professor Name, I chart the cultural meaning of computers as they traveled across the Atlantic in the two decades following World War II. American government officers for the Marshall Plan and the executives of progressive corporations formed a public-private partnership to transfer American computer culture to Europe, and to instill productivity-mindedness in (Western) Europeans. American computers were intended to increase the productivity of European economies by carrying the American values of free enterprise, cooperative industrial relations and integrated markets. But Europeans did not perceive of computers as productivity devices that promised higher standards of living; they saw computers as automation technologies that replaced physical and mental work. My closer study of the German insurance and banking industries shows that traditional class and gender relations in each industry shaped the emerging computing practices. While information technology was intended as a means of Americanization, Europeans adapted computers to their existing political and corporate culture.

For my research in archives in the United States and Europe, I have received generous funding, including a research grant from the National Science Foundation. Also, funding from the European Science Foundation has allowed me to collaborate with a consortium of European researchers on the history of European computing. Results of my research have been published in the *IEEE Annals for the History of Computing*, and I have been invited to present my work at conferences and seminars in the US and abroad.

When I organized a conference session on international computing at the annual meeting of the *Society for the History of Technology*, attendees commented afterwards that the panel discussion created a sense of “energy in the room” by addressing a new set of questions in the history of computing.

In the future, I intend to study how computers became instruments of global development and helped advance American dominance in the Cold War era. Historians have now begun to study science and technology in postcolonial relations; but they mostly focus on government and inter-governmental actors. I will continue to explore multinational corporations to contribute to an integrated understanding of globalization as a political as well as an economic process.

I have developed and taught two courses: *Technology and Society*, a survey in the global history of technology, and *America in the Communication Age*, a seminar on 19th and 20th century information and communication technologies. I have also served as a teaching assistant in big lecture courses with up to 130 students as well as in small seminars with 20-30 students. These courses have brought a wide range of students with diverse experiences and backgrounds into my classrooms: undergraduate liberal arts students, engineering, business and premedical students, and returning part-time students.

In my courses, I seek to encourage independent learning and an interactive classroom. To this end, I facilitate class discussions and I use teaching methods such as group projects, roleplays and debates because they encourage students to work together, challenge their own assumptions, and respect the viewpoints of others. I also enjoy exploring new teaching methods. For example, when our department reintroduced its history of technology survey course, *Technology and Society*, I was part of a team of graduate students who developed research units on technological artifacts. I found in my own courses that many students responded with enthusiasm to these practical, object-centered learning modules.

At X Institute, I can teach introductory courses in modern European and German history and transatlantic relations. I am also interested in developing courses on topics in postcolonial and transnational history such as the history of international organizations and international business. In addition, I would like to teach courses on science and technology in the global context such as a global history of industrialization, information technology and globalization, social and environmental history of climate change, and comparative science fiction.

I have enclosed my curriculum vitae and contact information for my three references, professors Names. If you require any additional materials, I will be happy to supply them. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Candidate Name