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Center for Nanotechnology in Society



Cyrus Mody

Interdisciplinarity and Vietnam-Era Protest at Stanford

Thursday, October 13

2320 Girvetz Hall: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

The late '60s and early '70s are remembered on many American campuses as times of strife and protest. It is well known to historians, though perhaps less so in the popular imagination, that much of the Vietnam-era campus protest centered on the conduct of academic research.

Some protesters took up an overtly anti-science agenda. More often, though, campus protesters wanted to have a say in what was researched at their universities, who got to participate, where the funding came from, and how long it would take for academic research to deliver benefits to American society.

A case study of electrical engineering research at Stanford during this period shows how faculty and graduate students at the forefront of the Vietnam-era movement for research interdisciplinarity went on to play pivotal roles in the creation of key nanotechnology research institutions that helped shape the development of the nanoenterprise.



Cyrus Mody is an Assistant Professor of the History of Science at Rice University.

He is a CNS extramural collaborator, and a member of Interdisciplinary Research Group 1.



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