



RFG Talk:

US Policymaking and the Promises of Technology in the 1990s' "New Economy"

FEB
28
TUE

4:00 – 5:30 PM

4080 HSSB

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The 1990s was a heady moment for chatter about technological change. This “irrational exuberance” would eventually end in the dot com bust, but not before members of the Clinton administration used projections around “the New Economy” to justify a number of decisions that would have far-reaching ramifications, including policies around telecommunications, labor and trade, education and training, student loans, and economic, racial, and gender inequality. This talk will build on recent work on the history of the Clinton White House and political economy. Vinsel will ask what can be gained for this literature by focusing on technology, both the actual material change and, perhaps most importantly, the ideas and fantasies surrounding the concept “technology,” which greatly outpaced reality.



Lee Vinsel is Associate Professor of Science, Technology and Society at Virginia Tech. He is the author of *Moving Violations* and coauthor of *The Innovation Delusion*.

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