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# Dave Unger, PhD

## Education

**Harvard University**  
Cambridge, MA

**PhD, May 2013. History of Science.** Dissertation: "A Place of Work: The Geography of an Early Nineteenth Century Machine Shop."  
Focus on histories of technology, labor, economy, social movements.

**University of Chicago**  
Chicago, IL

**BA, June 2002. Anthropology.** Thesis: "Imagined Steel: Computers, Labor Control and the Introduction of the Basic Oxygen Furnace in the American Steel Industry."

## Experience

**Experience**  
**Design Studios,**  
Providence, RI  
2022-Present

**Senior Content Developer and Researcher.** Create interpretive strategy • Work on all aspects of exhibition content, including research, copy writing, image sourcing, and interactive concept development • Incorporate community perspectives into content • Work independently and as part of project team.

**Department of the**  
**History of Science,**  
**Harvard University**  
Cambridge, MA  
2018-2023

**Lecturer.** Developed innovative hands-on, project-based classes integrating practical skills and academic perspectives • Topics included public history, digital storytelling, radical labor history, and cooperative economics.

**Collection of Historical**  
**Scientific Instruments,**  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA.  
2018-2023

**Director of Administration and Operations.** Developed strategic vision and plan • Led creation of programming, including exhibits, public lectures, and digital projects • Developed, researched, and wrote exhibit content • Managed team of museum professionals • Oversaw budget • Managed donor relations and grant applications • Served as primary interface between collection and university administrative functions • Improved workplace culture • Fostered relationships across university.

**Museum of**  
**History & Industry**  
Seattle, WA.  
2015-2018

**Director of Curatorial Services and Historian.** Served as head curator • Led development and implementation of an integrated curatorial plan • Oversaw and advised on historical content of museum programming • Worked with community groups to increase museum's relevance to diverse audiences • Served as primary media spokesperson for museum • Researched and wrote exhibit and other content • Managed a team of 20 museum professionals in the exhibits, programs, education, and collections departments • Served as a member of the executive management team • Developed and oversaw department budgets totaling 0.6 million dollars.

**American Textile**  
**History Museum,**  
Lowell, MA.  
2010-2015

**Director of Interpretation.** Supervised all aspects of core exhibit, special exhibits, and interpretive projects • Established multi-year interpretive plan • Researched, designed, and managed installation of changing exhibits • Assisted curatorial staff develop exhibit content • Originated, prototyped, and fabricated interactive stations for core exhibit • Produced audio and video interpretation • Oversaw department budget • Managed exhibits staff, volunteers, and contractors.

2010-2013

**Director of Education, Interim.** Supervised all aspects of education programming and staff • Crafted new curriculum for field trips, boy and girls scouts, home school groups, and adults.

## Teaching

### Harvard University, Lecturer in the History of Science, 2018-2023

Podcasting the History of Science: Creating Research-Based Audio Stories, Fall 2022  
Co-ops, Commons, and Communes: The Technology of Cooperation, Spring 2022  
Digital Storytelling: Using Interactive Media to Share Research, Fall 2021  
Factory to Gig: The Technology of Work, Spring 2021  
Significant Stories: Podcasting the History of Science, Fall 2020  
Harvard's Changing Landscapes: A Contemporary History Project, Spring 2020

### Museum of History & Industry, 2015-2018

"Innovation Classroom" middle school curriculum  
Field trip programs, all ages  
Museum fundamentals for new board members  
Special subject tours, all ages

### American Textile History Museum, 2010-2015

Tour Groups, all ages  
Museum fundamentals for new board members  
Museum Institute For Teaching Science, Summer Institute

### Harvard University Teaching Fellow, 2006-2009

Einstein Revolution, Spring 2009  
History of Science Sophomore Tutorial, Spring 2007 and Spring 2008  
History of Technology, Spring 2007 and Spring 2008  
Science, Modernity, and Discontent, Fall 2006  
Science, Technology, and Warfare, Fall 2006

## Publications & Presentations

*Seattle on the Spot: The Photographs of Al Smith*, MOHAI and University of Washington Press, 2017. (Oversaw book development and writing).

*Edible City: A Delicious Journey*, Museum of History and Industry, 2016. (Oversaw book development and writing).

"Early American Labor History: Future Directions," Panel Presentation at Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, April 2016.

"Where We Worked: Understanding Place in Historic Industrial Preservation," History of Science Society Annual Meeting, November 2015.

"Bridging the Gap—Successful Formal/Informal Partnerships for Advancing STEM Education," presented at National Science Teachers Association Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2015.

"Mythbusters and the Joy of Technology," *Technology and Culture*, Volume 55, Number 2, April 2014.

"Putting Science Practices and Engineering Design Together in Your Elementary Classroom," National Science Teachers Association Meeting, Boston, MA, April 2014.

"Designing the Past: History and Engineering Education," presented at the New England Museum Association Meeting, Hartford, CT, 2013.

"Suitable Coal and Various Iron: The Geography of Supply in Early 19th Century Boston," presented at the Society for the History of Technology Meeting. Tacoma, WA, 2010.

"Cow Paths of Waltham," with Aya Rothwell, published in *Inbound 4: A Comic Book History of Boston*, ed Dan Kender, Dan Mazur and Shelli Paroline. Boston: Boston Comics Roundtable, 2009.

"Politics of the Spoke Shave: Traditional Crafts at Modern-day Colonial Williamsburg," presented at the Society for the History of Technology Meeting. Washington, DC, 2007.

"Cog's Persona: The Life and Afterlife of a Robot," presented at the Society for the History of Technology Meeting. Minneapolis, MN, 2005.

## **Exhibitions as Curator**

- “Visual Science: The Art of Research,” Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments (CHSI), Harvard, 2019-2020.
- “Flight Path: 100 Years of Boeing in Seattle,” Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), 2016-2017.
- “Sorting Things Out: A Countercurrent Distribution Machine,” CHSI, Harvard, September 2015–Ongoing.
- “Flowers in the Factory,” American Textile History Museum (ATHM), February–June 2014.
- “Inventing Lowell,” ATHM, February–June 2014.
- “To Catch the Eye: Advertising and the Art of Business,” ATHM, October–January 2014.
- “Aloft: The Wonder of Kites,” with the Drachen Foundation, ATHM, November 2011–May 2012.
- “Heaven Save the Ladies: Textiles in Dickens’ America, an Embedded Exhibit,” ATHM, May–October 2011.
- “Boston Manufacturing Company,” Charles River Museum of Industry, March–September 2009.

## **Exhibitions, Curatorial Oversight**

- “Measuring Difference: Race and Science,” CHSI, Scheduled for 2023.
- “Surveillance,” CHSI, June-December 2023.
- “Freud’s Drawings,” CHSI, 2020.
- “Seattle Style: Fashion and Function,” MOHAI, 2019-2020.
- “Seattle on the Spot: The Photographs of Al Smith,” MOHAI, October 2017–June 2018.
- “Edible City: A Delicious Journey,” MOHAI, November 2016–September 2017.
- “Color Revolution: Style Meets Science in the 1960s,” ATHM, September 2013–January 2014.
- “Behind the Veil: Brides and their Dresses,” ATHM, April–August 2013.
- “Home Front and Battlefields: Quilts in Context in the Civil War,” ATHM, June–November 2012.
- “Grace and Glamour: Fashion in the 1930s,” ATHM, May–October 2011.

## **Selected Special Projects**

- Notes for a Living World, a newsletter about creating a better world. ([livingworld.substack.com](http://livingworld.substack.com)).
- Restless Device: A Podcast about Extraordinary Technology ([www.restlessdevice.com](http://www.restlessdevice.com)).
- “Inventing Lowell,” Three-part video series for the Smithsonian Institution “Places of Invention” exhibit ([vimeo.com/107630705](https://vimeo.com/107630705)).
- “The 1908 Gearhart Knitting Machine,” Video for American Textile History Museum. ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=-89WEDsfAyc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-89WEDsfAyc))

## **Awards**

- Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Spring 2021. Harvard Office of Undergraduate Education.
- Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Fall 2020. Harvard Office of Undergraduate Education.
- Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Spring 2008. Harvard Office of Undergraduate Education.