

Rudi Volti

## Curriculum Vitae

### *Personal Data*

Place of Birth: Los Angeles, California  
Marital Status: Married, one child  
Office Address: Pitzer College, 1050 N. Mills, Claremont, CA 91711  
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### *Present Positions*

Emeritus Professor of Sociology, Pitzer College  
Docent, Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden

### *Degrees Awarded*

B.A., University of California, Riverside, 1967 (Social Sciences, with emphasis in Economics)  
Ph.D., Rice University, 1975 (Behavioral Science, with emphasis in Sociology)

### *Additional Education*

Chinese language training at Pomona College, New Asia College (Hong Kong), and Cambridge University.

### *Scholarships, Fellowships, and Research Grants*

California State Scholarship (1962-64)  
NDEA Fellowship (1967-69)  
Pitzer College research grant (several)  
Haynes Foundation research grant (1978, 1981)  
Durfee Foundation grant for travel in China (1987)  
Senior Fellowship, Smithsonian Institution (1989)

### *Additional Academic and Professional Positions*

Assistant to the Editor, Mouton Publishing Co., The Hague, Netherlands (1968)  
Fellow, Universities Service Centre, Hong Kong (1972-73)  
Member of the Steering Committee, Southern California China Colloquium (1976-78)

Field Representative, Yankelovich, Skelly, and White (1977)  
Visiting Scholar, Graduate School of Business Administration, University of Michigan (1982)  
Consultant, TiTech International (1982)  
Chair, Technology Studies and Education Interest Group Society for the History of Technology (1985-87)  
Grant Reviewer, Title VI National Resource Centers, U.S. Department of Education (1985)  
Grant Reviewer, Council for International Exchange of Scholars (Fulbright awards) (1987)  
Senior Fellow, The Smithsonian Institution (1989)  
Grant Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities (1994, 2000)  
Member of the Dexter Prize Committee (1993-1996; chair, 1995)  
Advisory Board, Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation (1995-97)  
Interport Lecturer, University of Pittsburgh Semester at Sea (1996)  
Editorial Board, *Technology and Culture* (1994-2008)  
Executive Council, Society for the History of Technology (1998-2000)  
Editorial Board, *Sociological Perspectives* (2000-2003)  
Visiting Scholar, Autonomous University of Barcelona (2004)  
Book Review Editor, *Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies* (2010-2012)

#### *Research and Teaching Interests*

Sociology of Technology and Science, Complex Organizations, Economy and Society, Modern Chinese Society

#### *Courses Taught in Recent Years*

Cars and Culture  
Economic Development and Social Change in China and Japan  
Economy and Society  
History of Science  
Introductory Sociology  
Sociology of Work and Occupations  
Technology and People

#### *Recent College Committee Service*

Academic Standards (chair)  
Academic Planning  
Faculty Executive Committee (chair)  
Curriculum (chair)

### *Public Addresses*

Universities Service Centre Colloquium: "The Organizational Development of China's Agrotechnical Services" (Hong Kong, 21 December 1972).

Pitzer College Colloquium: "Mao and China Since the Cultural Revolution" (Claremont, California, 21 February 1975).

Bank of America Executive Development Seminar: "Modernization with Pride: The Maoist Approach to Development" (Claremont, California, 17 June 1975 and 15 June 1976).

Television Colloquium: "Revolution and Social Change in China: (KNXT-TV, 20 and 23 June 1975).

Conference on the Human Dimensions of Affirmative Action: "The Chinese and Japanese in the American Occupational Structure: Upwards or Sideways?" (Claremont, California, 31 March 1976).

Claremont University Club: "Sino-Soviet Relations in American Perspective" (Claremont, California 11 October 1977).

Southern California China Colloquium, panel discussant for colloquium on China and Taiwan (Thousand Oaks, California, 15 April 1978).

"On Campus" television program: presentation on current social and economic policies in China (KNXT-TV, 10 June 1979).

UCLA Extension Program: "Appropriate Technology in China: Can Small Be Beautiful in a Land of One Billion?" (Los Angeles, California, 29 September 1979).

Annual Meeting of the Association for Chinese Studies: "China's Four Modernizations" (Long Beach, California, 10 November 1979).

Claremont College Forum: "China at Thirty" (Claremont, California, 2 October 1979).

Annual Meeting of the Regional China Council: "The Scientific Tradition in China" (Tucson, Arizona, 7 November 1980).

Conference on Technology Transfer to the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union: "Technology Transfer and the Chinese Economy: Social and Organizational Constraints" (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 5 December 1981).

Scripps Alumnae Association: "Economic Development in China Today" (Newport Beach, California, 10 May 1981).

Scripps Alumnae Association: "China from 1949 to 1981" (San Francisco, California, 5 April 1981).

Annual Meeting of the Technology Transfer Society: "International Technology Transfer" (Pasadena, California, 15 June 1982).

Center for Chinese Studies Colloquium: "Technological Development in China: New Organizational Patterns and Old Problems" (Ann Arbor, Michigan, 23 November 1982)

A series of lectures on organizational theory, industrial sociology, and the sociology of technology presented at the Heilongjiang Institute of Social Sciences, the Harbin Institute of Technology, the Heilongjiang Provincial Electronics Bureau, and Yanshan University (People's Republic of China, June 1987).

Job Partnership Training Department, Riverside County, California: "Technology and the Future of Work" (6 October 1988).

Smithsonian Institution Colloquium Series: "What's under the Hood? Automobile Engines and the Process of Technological Choice, 1900-1915" (Washington, D.C., 28 November 1989).

Michigan Technological University Lecture Series, "Glorious Past, Uncertain Future: Technology, Politics, and Culture in China" (Houghton, Michigan, 12 February 1990).

National Association for Science, Technology, and Society, roundtable discussion of STS Textbooks (Alexandria, Virginia, 7 February 1992).

"How We Got Frozen Foods" Annual Meeting of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (Chicago, Ill., 31 January 1995).

Discussant, "New Questions about the Early History of the Automobile" Annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (Charlottesville, Virginia, 22 October 1995).

Discussant, "Doing It Electrically: The State of the Art of Electrical History" Annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (Pasadena, California, 16 October 1997)

Discussant, "Doing It Differently" Annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (Munich, Germany, 19 August 2000)

"Teaching about Technology and the Future," Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society (St. Louis, Missouri, 5 April 2001).

“Harnessing Imported Technologies for Economic Growth: Is There an East Asian Model?” (Lehigh University Colloquium and Lecture Series, 20 April 2001)

Discussant, “Encyclopedic Knowledge: Critical Comparisons of Two Neo-Enlightenment Projects.” (Annual meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science, Pasadena, CA, October 2005)

Panel session organizer and presenter, “The Automobile and Public Transportation in Southern California: Collision or Complement?” (Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Sociological Association, Universal City, CA, 21 April 2006)

“Cars and Culture,” (Greenfield Village Motor Muster, Dearborn, MI, 17 June 2006)

Discussant, “Science and Technology in the Making of Modern China,” Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA (27 February 2009)

Discussant, “Dutch Mobility in a European Context,” (Utrecht, the Netherlands, 5-8 February and 26-28 March 2009)

Panel Organizer and Discussant, “The Social Construction of Science and Technology,” (Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, San Diego California, 10 April 2009)

“Education and Design,” IDSA Western Design Conference (Santa Monica, CA, 25 April 2009)

Discussant, “State and Technology: National Institutes and Government Agencies,” (Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Pittsburgh, PA, 15 October 2009)

Discussant, “Technology across Borders,” (Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Tacoma, WA, 2 October 2010)

Discussant, “Streetcar Cultures and Politics in Comparative Perspective, 1859-1915” (Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Cleveland, OH, 5 November, 2011)

Discussant, “Spaces of Experiment,” (Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6 October 2012)

Keynote address, semi-annual meeting of the Society of Automotive Historians (Palo Alto, CA, 15 April 2014)

### *Papers Presented*

"American Images of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution," Annual Meeting of Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (Pacific Grove, California, 12 June 1976).

"Rural Industries and Population Policies in China", 30th International Congress of Human Sciences in Asia and North Africa (Mexico City, 5 August 1976).

"Red Guard in San Francisco," Annual Meeting of Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (Anaheim, California, 9 June 1978).

"The Development of Energy Sources in China: The Politics of Technological Change," (Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 20 October 1978).

"The Assimilation and Absorption of the Acquired Technologies in China," Conference on the Development of Industrial Science and Technology in the People's Republic of China (St. George, Bermuda, 5 January 1979).

"Technology and Organizational Change in China," Conference on Organizational Behavior in Chinese Society (Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, 20 April 1979).

"Small-Scale Industries and Economic Development: Walking on Two Legs or Economic Dualism?" Southern California China Colloquium (Los Angeles, California, 1 March 1980).

"Technological Foundations of Agricultural Development in the People's Republic of China," Western Regional China Seminar (Berkeley, California 32 May 1980).

"Organizational Sets and Technology Transfer in the U.S. Automobile Industry," Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2 November 1984).

"Creating and Sustaining Science, Technology, and Society Programs," Annual Meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education (Portland, Oregon, 22 June 1988).

"Sociology and the History of Technology," Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association (Washington, D.C.. 17 November 1989).

"Alternative Internal Combustion Engines, 1900-1915," Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (Uppsala, Sweden, 19 August 1992).

"Science, Technology, and Society: From the Perspective of the History of Technology and Sociology," Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (San Jose, California, 6 October 2001)

"Mass Motorization in Spain: Policies, Products, and Processes," Second International Conference on the History of Transport, Traffic, and Mobility (Dearborn, Michigan, 6 November 2004)

“Did the Maoist Promotion of Worker Innovation Contribute Anything to China’s Present Technological and Economic Successes?” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (Philadelphia, PA, 28 March 2010)

### *Articles*

"Organizations and Expertise in China," *Administration and Society*, 8, 4 (February 1977).

"The Assimilation of Acquired Technologies," in Richard Baum (ed.), *China's Four Modernizations: The New Technological Revolution* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1980).

"The Import Politics of the People's Republic of China," (with Richard Suttmeier) in *The Implications of East-West Technology Transfer* (Washington, D.C., U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, 1979).

"In Search of the Fifth Modernization: Dilemmas of Technological Development and Organizational Change," in Sidney Greenblatt, Richard Wilson, and Army Auerbacher Wilson (eds.) *Organizational Behavior and Chinese Society* (New York, Washington, and London: Praeger, 1981).

"Technology and Polity: The Dynamics and Dilemmas of Managed Change," *Studies in Comparative Communism*, 15, 1-2 (Spring-Summer 1982).

"Why Are They Dying? An Exercise in Social Analysis and the Formation of Social Policy," *American Sociological Association Teaching Newsletter*, 10, 6 (October 1985).

"Museum Review: The National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham, England," *Technology and Culture* 28, 1 (January 1987)

"Creating and Sustaining Science, Technology, and Society Programs," *The Journal of Epsilon Pi Tau*, 14, (Summer/Fall 1988). Reprinted in *Science, Technology, and Society*, no. 71/72 (April/June 1989).

"The Carburetor’s Story," *The NLA News*, 5, 7 (March 1989).

"Sociology and the Study of the Technology," *The Weaver*, 8, 1 (Spring 1990).

"Why Internal Combustion?" *American Heritage of Invention and Technology* 6, 2 (Fall 1990).

"Knowledge, Power, and Black Boxes: An Apologia for the Sociology of Technology," *Science, Knowledge, and Technology*, 4, 2 (July 1991). Reprinted in *Science, Technology and Society*, no. 85 (September 1991).

"Alternative Internal Combustion Engines, 1900-1915" in Mikael Hard (ed.), *Automobile Engineering in a Dead End: Mainstream and Alternative Developments in the 20th Century* (Gothenburg University Publications in Human Technology, No. 5, 1992).

"How We Got Frozen Food," *American Heritage of Invention and Technology* 9, 4 (Spring 1994).

"The Petersen Automotive Museum," *Technology and Culture* 36, 3 (July 1995).

"A Century of Automobility," *Technology and Culture* 37, 4 (October 1996)

"George Baldwin Selden," *American National Biography* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).

"Economy and Work" (with Ann H. Stromberg and Sally A. Raskoff) in Norman A. Dolch and Linda Deutschmann (eds.), *Social Problems: A Case Study Approach* (New York: General Hall, 2000)

"Technology and American Business," in George Kurian, *The Encyclopedia of American Studies* (Bethel, CT: Grolier, 2001)

"An STS Perspective on Technology and Work," in Stephen H. Cutcliffe and Carl Mitcham (eds.), *Visions of STS* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001)

"Transportation: Automobiles," in Paul Finkelman (ed.) *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2001)

"Reducing Automobile Emissions in Southern California: The Dance of Public Policies and Technological Fixes," in Arthur Molella and Joyce Bedi (eds.), *Inventing for the Environment* (Cambridge, MA and London: MIT Press, 2003)

"Science, Technology, and Society from the Perspective of Sociology and the History of Technology," *Bulletin of Science, Technology, and Society*, 23,. 6 (December 2003)

"Renascent Engineering (~1400-1800)" and "Expansive Engineering (~1800-1940)," Chapters 5 and 6 of A.A. Harms, B.W. Betz, and R.R. Volti, *Engineering in Time: The Systematics of Engineering History and Its Contemporary Context* (London: Imperial College Press, 2004)

"Automobiles and Leisure," in *The Encyclopedia of Recreation and Leisure* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2004)



“Classics Revisited: William F. Ogburn, *Social Change with Respect to Culture and Original Nature*,” *Technology and Culture*, 45, 2, (April 2004)

“The Automobile,” in Carl Mitcham (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics* (New York: MacMillan, 2005)

“The Automobile” and “Transportation Technologies,” in Sal Restivo (ed.), *Science, Technology, and Society: An Encyclopedia* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)

“Mass Motorization in Spain,” *The Journal of Transport History*, 27, 2 (September 2006)

“For the Love of Cars” (movie review), *The Journal of Transport History* 28, 2 (September 2007)

“The Automobile,” in *The Encyclopedia of the Modern World* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008)

“A Car for the Great Asian Multitude,” *Technology and Culture*, 49, 4 (October 2008)

“The Automobile and the Environment,” in Kim Kennedy White (ed.) *America Goes Green: An Encyclopedia of Eco-Friendly Culture in the United States* (Broomfield, CO: ABC/Clio, 2012)

“Worker Innovation: “Did Maoist Promotion Contribute to China’s Present Technological and Economic Success?” in Darryl Brock and Nancy Chunjuan Wei (eds.), *Mr. Science and Chairman Mao’s Cultural Revolution*, Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2013)

“Automobiles,” in James Trefil, ed., *Discoveries in Modern Science: Exploration, Invention, Technology* (Farmington Hills: Macmillan, 2015)

“Work and Employment,” in A. Javier Trevino (ed.) *Investigating Social Problems* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2015)

Approximately forty book reviews in *The International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Technology and Culture*, *The Journal of Asian History*, *History Online*, *The Journal of Politics*, *The Journal of Transport History*, *The Journal of History*, *The Journal of Michigan History*, *Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies*, *ICON*, and *Environmental History*

### *Books*

*Technology, Politics, and Society in China* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1982).

*Society and Technological Change* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988; 2nd edition, 1992; 3rd edition, 1995, 4th edition, Worth Publishers, 2001, 5th edition, 2005. 6th edition, 2009, 7th edition, 2013).

*The Engineer in History*, co-authored with John B. Rae (New York: Peter Lang, 1994, 2nd edition, 2001).

*The Encyclopedia & Science, Technology and Society* (3 vols.), editor and principal author (New York: Facts on File Publications, 1999)

*Cars and Culture: The Biography of a Technology* (Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2004; Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006)

*Technology Transfer and East Asian Economic Transformation* (n.p.: The Society for the History of Technology and the American Historical Association, 2002)

*An Introduction to the Sociology of Work and Occupations* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2008, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2012)

*Technology and Commercial Air Travel* (Washington, DC: The American Historical Association, 2015)