

TRENDS

in Society and Information Technology

2015-2016 Seminar Series



**FRED TURNER, Professor and Chair
Akiko Yamazaki and Jerry Yang University Fellow in Undergraduate Education,
Department of Communication, Stanford University**

"The Politics of Interactivity in Cold War America"

Friday, October 9, 2015

3 to 4 p.m.

6011 Donald Bren Hall

A reception will follow the talk at 4 p.m. in the 5th floor atrium.
Free and open to the public; no RSVP required.

ABSTRACT Today we find ourselves surrounded by screens – on our iPhones, our tablets, our desktop computers. Little do we know that we are living out the multimedia dreams of several dozen Cold War social scientists, a handful of Bauhaus artists and the musician John Cage. This talk will track those dreams and the politics that drove them from World War II to the psychedelic sixties. It will lay bare the long-buried cultural roots of today's multimedia revolution and in the process, provide a rich historical context for thinking about the design of highly interactive digital environments.

BIO Fred Turner is a cultural historian and Professor of Communication at Stanford University. Since the late 1990s he has been tracing the ways in which changes in computing and American culture have shaped one another. He is the author of several books, including the award-winning *From Counterculture to Cyberculture: Stewart Brand, the Whole Earth Network, and the Rise of Digital Utopianism*, and most recently, its prequel, *The Democratic Surround: Multimedia and American Liberalism from World War II to the Psychedelic Sixties*.

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