

Robert N. Proctor was born in 1954 in Corpus Christi, Texas, the great-grandson of a Baptist missionary in China and the grandson of a Klansman. He grew up on the King Ranch and later in Kansas City, where he was raised on a diet of John Dewey's pragmatism and Thorstein Veblen's heterodox economics. He studied biology and chemistry at Indiana University, following which he obtained a doctoral degree in the History of Science at Harvard, while also teaching with Stephen Jay Gould and Richard Lewontin. He is the author of *Racial Hygiene: Medicine Under the Nazis* (1988); *Value-Free Science? Purity and Power in Modern Knowledge* (1991); *Cancer Wars* (1995); and *The Nazi War on Cancer* (1999). He is also editor, with Londa Schiebinger, of *Agnotology: The Making and Unmaking of Ignorance* (2008). Much of his work treats the history of abusive science, but he has also written on human origins, rockhound aesthetics, expert witnessing, scientific rhetoric, and the social production of ignorance (agnotology). He was the first Senior Scholar in Residence at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. (in 1994) and in 1999-2000 was a Fellow at the Max-Planck-Institute for History of Science in Berlin. In 2004 he took a position at Stanford as Professor of the History of Science, after having co-founded and co-directed the Science, Medicine, and Technology in Culture Initiative at Penn State. He is now writing a book on how to interpret the oldest human tools ("The Acheulean Enigma"), a volume titled "Darwin in the History of Life," a book on figured stones and gemstone aesthetics ("Agate Eyes"), and a book on the global history of science. In 2011 he published *Golden Holocaust: Origins of the Cigarette Catastrophe and the Case for Abolition* (2011), which won the Rachel Carson Prize from the 4S, and the Prescrire Prize in Paris. His most recent book, a winner of the Rollins Prize, is *Packaged Pleasures: How Technology and Marketing Changed Desire* (2014, with Gary Cross), exploring the prehistory of modern addictions, from sugar to cigarettes. He was the first historian to testify against the tobacco industry as an expert witness in court (in 1998), and continues to serve in that capacity in both the U.S. and abroad.