

Inaugural lecture
Prof.dr.ir. Erik
van der Vleuten
April 21, 2017

Visiting address

Auditorium (gebouw 1)
Groene Loper, Eindhoven
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Challenging Prometheus: A History of Technology for an Age of Grand Challenges

Where innovation starts

Invitation

Prof.dr.ir. Erik van der Vleuten was appointed professor of History of Technology in the Department of Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences at Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) on June 1, 2015. He will deliver his inaugural lecture on Friday, April 21, 2017.

Erik van der Vleuten received his MSc degree in Technology and Society from Eindhoven University of Technology in 1992, and his PhD degree in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine from the University of Aarhus, Denmark in 1998. He came back to Eindhoven in 1999, where he worked on the synthesis of the Dutch history of technology program and participated in the founding of the Tensions of Europe research network and the research program *Inventing Europe. Technology and the Making of Europe 1850-2000*. He chaired this network from 2013 to 2015. Since 2015, he has held the TU/e History of Technology Chair. He is also the scientific director of the Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT).

About the lecture

The world is in turmoil: we are witnessing great social and environmental challenges. Often technology is identified as both the cause of, and solution to, these challenges. To solve them, the engineering community has defined a new research agenda: the grand challenges for engineering. The lecture puts today's debate on the role of engineering in our Age of Grand Challenges in a historical perspective. Great social challenges triggered the birth of modern engineering roughly two centuries ago—and have shaped engineering science and practice ever since. Conversely, engineering solutions have shaped the modern world, for better or worse. In some cases, past solutions generated today's problems. (For example: the fossil fuel-based energy system helped democratize energy access, but triggered climate change). Understanding how engineers have sought solutions to challenges of their time, and set in motion a chain of new unforeseen challenges and solution making, requires an analytical frame based on a long-term perspective. The 'grand challenge' for the History of Technology today is to develop such a frame.

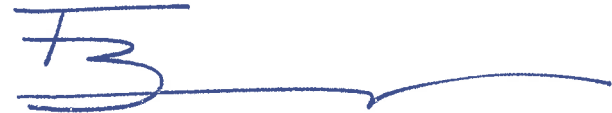
The Executive Board of Eindhoven University of Technology cordially invites you to attend the inaugural lecture of Prof.dr.ir. Erik van der Vleuten on **Friday, April 21, 2017, at 4.00 PM**. The public lecture will be delivered in the Blauwe Zaal of the Auditorium. You do not need to register.

The lecture concerns

**'Challenging Prometheus:
A History of Technology for an Age of Grand Challenges'**

After the lecture, drinks will be served in the Senaatszaal.

All full professors are invited to join the cortège. If you want to join the cortège, please register in advance with the P&P office which organizes all academic ceremonies, telephone +31 (0)40 247 25 15, e-mail: penp@tue.nl.



Prof.dr.ir. F.P.T. Baaijens
Rector Magnificus

After April 21, 2017, the text of the inaugural lecture will be available online at www.tue.nl/lectures.