



The French Institute for Research in Social Sciences (CEFRES) and
the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague
invite you to the lecture delivered by

Robert Fox

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in Prague
Member of Historical Laboratory of Electrical Engineering - Seminar of the history of
technology (Technická 2, Prague 6)

Museums and their publics in the modern world

CEFRES, Štěpánská 35, Prague 1, 5th floor

October 12, 2010 at 4.00 p.m.

The lecture will be delivered in English

Discussion may continue in English, French and Czech.

Museums of science and technology fulfil many functions. For some, the main purpose is the diffusion of today's knowledge. Others see themselves as guardians of a precious heritage of historic objects. And others again seek to foster public debate about the political and social issues raised by science and its applications in modern society. But how well do museums, widely respected but costly, fulfil their various roles? A reflexion on three great Parisian institutions (the Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, the Palais de la découverte, and the Musée des arts et métiers) and their place in the wider European world of museological practice helps us to understand the strengths and weaknesses of a form of communication that dates back, in France, to the Revolution.

Some publications by Robert Fox

'Research and curatorship in the national science museums: a reflexion on threats and opportunities', *Impact of science on society*, xi (1990), 263–71.

The culture of science in France, 1700–1900 (Aldershot: Variorum, 1992).

Science, industry, and the social order in post-revolutionary France (Aldershot: Variorum, 1995).