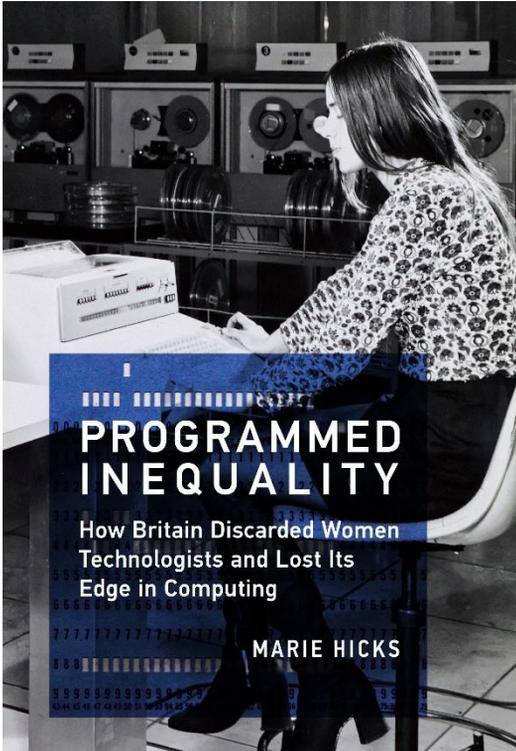# UNCW College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Lecture Series in the Humanities

Thursday, February 21
5:00 p.m.
Randall Library Auditorium
Free and Open to the Public

Marie Hicks

Marie (Mar) Hicks is an Associate Professor of History of Technology at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois, and a 2018-2019 Fellow at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, NC. Hicks's work looks at labor, gender and sexuality in computing. Her award-winning book, *Programmed Inequality: How Britain Discarded Women Technologists and Lost Its Edge in Computing*, was published by MIT Press in 2017.

Prehistories of Bias in Computing

Many researchers and journalists are currently sounding the alarm on algorithmic bias in computing today, warning that it will soon have major negative consequences for society. Bias in computing, however, has a very long history. This talk looks at some of the biases that helped build the field, from gendered labor bias and classist ideas about who made the ideal computer worker, to historical examples of early algorithmic bias-like transphobic algorithmic bias that was programmed in mainframes as early as the 1960s. The talk shows how understanding this long history of bias in computing helps us better understand, and begin to solve, the problems we are facing today.

The Dean's Lecture Series in the Humanities brings to UNCW renowned scholars whose scholarship and dedication to advancing our human condition have been nationally and internationally recognized. All ask difficult questions that prompt us engage in self-reflection while expanding our intellectual horizons beyond our own disciplines. These thinkers examine the past, the present, and the future and unveil unexpected intersections between art, politics, medicine, philosophy, the environment, literature, and history. They address critical issues of race, gender identity, immigration, ethics and beliefs.

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