

## Series Foreword

We live in highly engineered worlds. Engineers play crucial roles in the normative direction of localized knowledge and social orders. The Engineering Studies Series highlights the growing need to understand the situated commitments and practices of engineers and engineering. It asks, What is engineering for? What are engineers for?

Drawing from a diverse arena of research, teaching, and outreach, engineering studies raises awareness of how engineers imagine themselves in service to humanity and how their service ideals impact the defining and solving of problems with multiple ends and variable consequences. It does so by examining relationships among technical and nontechnical dimensions and how these relationships change over time and from place to place. Its researchers often are critical participants in the practices they study.

The Engineering Studies Series publishes research in historical, social, cultural, political, philosophical, rhetorical, and organizational studies of engineers and engineering, paying particular attention to normative directionality in engineering epistemologies, practices, identities, and outcomes. Areas of concern include engineering formation, engineering work, engineering design, equity in engineering (gender, racial, ethnic, class, geopolitical), and engineering service to society.

The Engineering Studies Series thus pursues three related missions: (1) advance understanding of engineers, engineering, and outcomes of engineering work; (2) help build and serve communities of researchers and

learners in engineering studies; and (3) link scholarly work in engineering studies to broader discussions and debates about engineering education, research, practice, policy, and representation.

Jessica M. Smith's *Extracting Accountability: Engineers and Corporate Social Responsibility* shows that understanding the accountability of technoscientific corporations requires critically analyzing the agencies of the people who work within them. Observers regularly demonize the extractive industries and portray corporate social responsibility as an insidious example of capitalist deception. In a revealing ethnographic and archival study of engineers in the extractive industries, Smith critically examines actions and commitments that these accounts dismiss or ignore. She shows how engineers have framed corporate responsibility as an extension of the material and service benefits of engineering, enacting what she calls an "ethic of material provisioning." In so doing, engineers practice accountability to multiple publics, from the people who live closest to extractive operations to activists who oppose their industries. Smith concludes by demonstrating that one way to alter the accountability of technoscientific corporations is to alter the agencies of engineers who work in them.

—Gary Downey and Matthew Wisnioski, Series Editors

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# Extracting Accountability

## Engineers and Corporate Social Responsibility

By: Jessica M. Smith

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