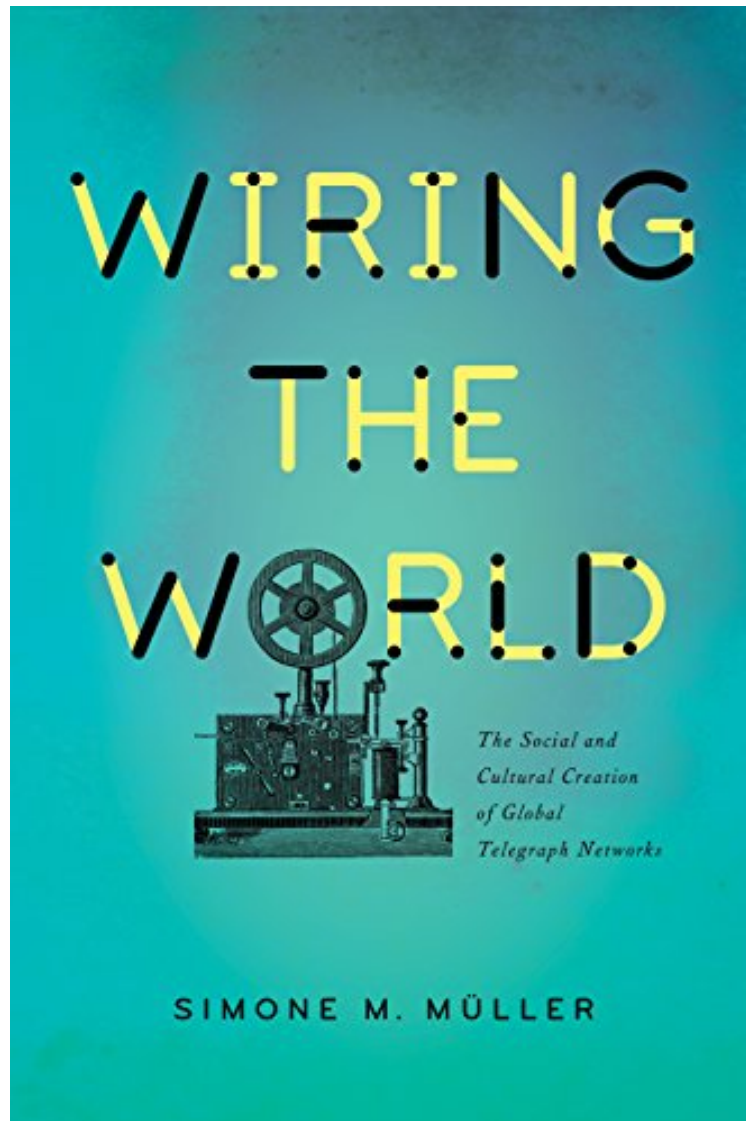


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(Columbia Studies in International and Global History)

Wiring the World: The Social and Cultural Creation of Global Telegraph Networks (Columbia Studies in International and Global History)

Simone M. Müller
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Simone M. Müller : Wiring the World: The Social and Cultural Creation of Global Telegraph Networks (Columbia Studies in International and Global History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wiring the World: The Social and Cultural Creation of Global Telegraph

Networks (Columbia Studies in International and Global History):

The laying of the transatlantic cable in the 1850s sparked a revolution in communication. A message could travel from Newfoundland to Ireland in minutes, collapsing the space among continents, cultures, and nations. An eclectic group of engineers, entrepreneurs, politicians, and media visionaries then developed this technology into a telecommunications system that remade civilization. The desire to wire the world, though, was not shared by all. This unusual history focuses not only on those who advanced cable communications, but also on those who harbored alternative ideas. These battles manifested in the cable wars, discourses on morality and violence, a rivalry between science and business, and the rise of strategic nationalism. They might seem peripheral, but such struggles determined the growth of cable technology, which in turn influenced world history. Filled with fascinating characters and new insight into defining events, this book recognizes globalization's diverse paths and close ties to business and politics.

Based on a clear knowledge of the state of the art, while adopting a solid methodology and robust concepts, Mueller is able to provide a fresh history of the development of telegraph networks during the nineteenth century in a truly global perspective. (Pascal Griset, Sorbonne) *Wiring the World* is a story not only of technical and entrepreneurial achievement but of imperial rivalry, the rise of professions, complex cultural interactions, far-reaching social changes, and a remapping of the meaning of maritime space. Focusing on one of the major developments of the communications revolution—the linking together of much of the world with submarine cable lines in the era before World War I—Simone M. Mueller's carefully crafted study contributes significantly to the history and theory of globalization. (Emily S. Rosenberg, editor of *A World Connecting, 1870-1945* (Harvard University Press, 2012)) By reconstructing the social networks that linked nineteenth-century British, German, and American North Atlantic telegraph promoters, *Wiring the World* provides us with a wealth of intriguing and sometimes startling insights into the cultural significance of the Atlantic cable—one of the most iconic technological innovations of the age. (Richard R. John, author of *Network Nation: Inventing American Telecommunications*) An excellent resource for communications history. Highly recommended. (CHOICE) A valuable and illuminating analysis. (Connections) Based on voluminous research, and written in a clear and accessible fashion, *Wiring the World* is a notable contribution to the history of globalization and technology. (Duncan Bell *Times Literary Supplement*) The endnotes and bibliography make this book a valuable tool for scholars interested in further research on North Atlantic cable telegraphy. By introducing actor-network theory into the history of telecommunications, Mueller has led the way to further advances in the field. (Daniel Headrick *American Historical*) About the Author Simone M. Mueller is Project Director Principal Investigator at DFG-Emmy Noether Research Group "Hazardous Travels. Ghost Acres and the Global Waste Economy" at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society.