The first computer programmers were women. In fact, the work of "coding" a computer, as it was originally envisioned, was an inherently feminized occupation: low-status, low-paid, and largely invisible. Today, of course, the situation has almost entirely reversed, and computer programmers have adopted an almost stereotypically masculine identity. The story of the transformation of the "computer girls" of the early electronic computer era into the "IT guys" of the present period is more than a mere historical curiosity: by highlighting the ways in which the professionalization of computing work also involved the masculinization of its practitioners, it sheds new light on contemporary questions about both the state of the computing professions and the issue of gender in computer science education.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Nathan Ensmenger is an associate professor in the School of Informatics and Computing. His research focuses on the social and cultural history of software and software workers, the history of artificial intelligence, and gender issues in information science and technology. His undergraduate degree (in civil engineering and operations research) is from Princeton; his Ph.D. in the history of science is from the University of Pennsylvania. His recent book, *The Computer Boys Take Over: Computers, Programmers, and the Politics of Technical Expertise* (MIT Press, 2010) explores the emergence of new forms of technological and professional expertise. His current book project focuses on the use of computerized decision tools in medicine, finance, and public policy.