

Sara "Sally" Lynn Hacker, daughter of Frank and Ruth (Felkel) Swank, was born September 25, 1936, in Litchfield, Illinois. She was expelled from school in the eleventh grade when she got pregnant with her son, Richard Mark Teresi (later known as Mark Hacker). She married the child's father, Richard Teresi, a printer, in 1953; they later divorced. A second marriage to Bruce Frisbie, a graduate student in sociology, also ended in divorce. In 1966, she married Barton C. Hacker, a historian of technology.

After her expulsion from high school, Hacker took classes at A.A. Wright Junior College in Chicago, Illinois, and won a scholarship to the University of Chicago, where she received her B.A. (1962), M.A. (1965), and Ph.D. (1969). Alice Rossi supervised her dissertation, entitled "Patterns of Work and Leisure: An Investigation of the Relationships between Childhood and Current Styles of Leisure and Current Work Behavior among Young Women Graduates in the Field of Public Education." From 1962 to 1966, Hacker was a research assistant to sociologists Alice Rossi, Phil Stone, and Fred Stodtbeck at the University of Chicago and Harvard University. From 1966 to 1970, she lived in Houston, where she was a clinical instructor in psychiatry at Baylor University College of Medicine and a staff sociologist at the Texas Research Institute of Mental Sciences. She was an assistant professor of sociology at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, from 1971 to 1976. Between 1976 and 1977, she was a lecturer in formal organizations at Tufts University and an assistant professor of medical sociology and sociology of technology at Rhode Island College. From 1977 to the time of her death, she was a professor of sociology at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon.

In 1973, Hacker received a Ford Faculty Research Fellowship at Drake University to study technological change, particularly as it affected women's work, in telecommunications, agribusiness, printing and publishing, and insurance. In 1975, she received a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Humanities and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she studied how technological change interacts with sex and race.

Much of Hacker's work focused on technological change and its effect on gender stratification. To better understand the topic, she took classes in engineering at MIT and in architecture at Linn-Benton Community College in Albany, Oregon. In 1982, she worked as an executive secretary in an engineering firm to perform an ethnographic study of aerospace and related industries in the Los Angeles area. In 1985, she spent a sabbatical year in the Basque Country of Northern Spain studying the worker-owned production cooperatives of Mondragon.

A self-described "radical feminist anarchist," Hacker and her husband, Barton Hacker, helped found the Des Moines and Ames chapters of the National Organization for Women (NOW). She headed up NOW's AT&T Task Force, which studied sex discrimination and presented evidence in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) hearings on the country's largest private employer. In 1973, a

U.S. District Court in Pennsylvania approved a consent decree among AT&T and its subsidiaries (the Bell System), the EEOC and others, which included back pay for affected workers, as well as affirmative action and compliance programs. Hacker was also an active member of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, Iowa Women's Political Caucus, Women's Equity Action League, and other groups. In addition she helped organize a union drive at the Central National Bank (ca.1970-1973).

Hacker published and spoke extensively on the effects of engineering education and changing technology, particularly in the fields of telecommunications and agribusiness.

She was the author of *Pleasure, Power & Technology: Some Tales of Gender, Engineering, and the Cooperative Workplace*, which was published posthumously in 1989. *"Doing It the Hard Way": Investigations of Gender and Technology*, a collection of her essays containing her comments on how she came to write each was edited by Dorothy E. Smith and Susan M. Turner and published in 1990.