

# ICOHTEC

# NEWSLETTER



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N° 56, November 2009

## Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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### Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The ICOHTEC & TICCIH meeting in Tampere (10 – 15 August 2010) will become a rather large conference: 220 proposals were sent in by historians of technology, related to ICOHTEC. Nevertheless the members of the Program Committee decided to postpone the deadline to the **7 January 2010**. If you or your colleagues intend to participate in the Tampere meeting, there is still some time to think about proposals.

The history of technology was discussed on two interdisciplinary conferences held in October; a third conference was dedicated to books from the second century of printing and projects of catalogues of those books. The Newsletter gives short reports of these queries.

Best wishes for the beginning of Advent  
Yours Stefan Poser

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## I. Conference Reports

### I.1 Product Communication and the Nationalisation of Consumption

Wien, 1 – 3 October 2009

Oliver Kühschelm, University of Vienna, [oliver.kuehschelm@univie.ac.at](mailto:oliver.kuehschelm@univie.ac.at)

Florian Müller, University of Vienna, [f.mueller@univie.ac.at](mailto:f.mueller@univie.ac.at)

In his introductory remarks HANNES SIEGRIST (Leipzig) used the concept of mental mapping to analyse how consumers relate to nationalising product communication. Furthermore he highlighted the role of the state and more specifically of government intervention into industrial production. He traced the story of state-sponsored nationalising efforts back to the French Revolution when government tried to involve artists and industry in the promotion of sugar beet as an alternative to sugar-cane.

One panel asked “What’s driving the nation”. MANUEL SCHRAMM (Chemnitz) emphasized that although the histories of motorization and car manufacturing are well researched, comparative studies are still lacking. He discussed the role of small cars in post-war Western Europe. Although it was widely accepted that a modern European country needed its own car industry, important differences as to how the German Volkswagen, the Italian Fiat, the French 2CV, or the British Mini were staged as national icons can be observed. Whereas advertising was almost unnecessary in the sellers’ market of the 1950s, the media and especially motor journals played an important part in making the small cars objects of national pride. However, the question of what consumers thought about those cars remains a question that cannot be answered by a treatment of sources from the media alone. LUMINITA GATEJEL (Berlin) presented on her research investigating how small cars worked as an “engine” for future socialist economic development and as a symbol for a rising standard of living in Eastern European countries. Products like the DDR-Trabant were conceived as the socialist response to the Volkswagen using the same concept of an affordable “people’s car”. Nevertheless, the production of “national” cars often required importing Western car technology. The Russian Lada was based on the Fiat 124, the Romanian Dacia was built in cooperation with Renault. The Lada was nationalised with a reference to the Russian territory and its characteristic climate. In the Romanian context the brand name “Dacia” clearly reveals the effort to associate the car with the Romanian nation, though its French origin was never completely erased because it symbolized the idea of a closeness to French culture that served as a counter-balance to Soviet influence.

The third day opened with a session about “Housing national identity”. MIKAEL HARD (Darmstadt) focused on the Swedish “million programme” from 1965 to 1974, a large scale housing scheme. This project was set against the background of social-democratic policies, but what made it distinct when compared to similar projects in other countries seems to be the close-knit cooperation between public institutions,

cooperative bodies, and private industry. This largely accounts for its success in creating national standards, which in turn advanced the creation of national brands like Electrolux and Ikea. In an earlier panel BRITA LUNDSTRÖM (Stockholm) had focused on the joint effort of companies and the government in promoting modern Sweden abroad. Swedish-style modernity has been well known amongst consumers internationally for many years. While certain Swedish brands have achieved a global presence and private companies have tried hard to present Sweden as a land of free enterprise, this particular image of Sweden has been arguably unsuccessful abroad. NATALIE SCHOLZ (Amsterdam) spoke about discourses on furnishing the home in post-war Germany. Based on research in lifestyle magazines and popular films, she analysed the tensions between a claim to modernity and nostalgia for a furniture that was deemed to express German tradition. After heavily promoting a farewell to "German style" from 1945 to the mid 1950s and an ensuing search for a modern West German design identity, in the late 1950s magazines reacted to the discontent of average consumers with international, functionalist style and increasingly featured stories about antique furniture.

The conference succeeded in bringing together cases from different national contexts and different spheres of daily consumer life. Similarities and structural analogies as well as the specifics of the observed cases were amply discussed. The conference also helped to identify open questions and methodological desiderata: Most talks heavily relied on the analysis of advertising and more generally of mass media communication, but the performance of those texts proved difficult to assess. The multimodality of product communication and the interaction of verbal and visual texts have to be carefully analyzed. Moreover product communication can be conceived in a much broader sense. Going significantly beyond the perspective of business and marketing strategies entails the necessity of including sources that reflect the views and experiences of citizen-consumers in a more direct way.

The report of the whole conference is published as: *Product Communication and the Nationalisation of Consumption*. 01.10.2009-03.10.2009, Wien, in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 20.11.2009, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=2862>.

## **I.2 Flows of Images and Media. Annual Conference 2009 of the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context"**

Universität Heidelberg, 7 – 9 October 2009

Laila Abu-Er-Rub, Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context",  
Universität Heidelberg, [abu-er-rub@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:abu-er-rub@asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de),  
Cathrine Bublatzky, Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context",  
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The conference 'Flows of Images and Media' was the first in a series of four Annual Conferences organised by the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" at the Ruprecht-Karls-University in Heidelberg. One panel (Panel 4) was dedicated to "Floating Technoscapes". The papers contributed to the history of the telegraph, of photography and images and of cinema and films (StP).

While the overall research agenda of the cluster revolves around the dynamics of shifting, asymmetrical flows between the cultures of Asia and Europe in a global context, this first Annual Conference brought together scholars from the Social Sciences and Humanities to investigate the concept of 'Transculturation', which, according to the definition by Nicholas Mirzoeff, "highlights those places where the carefully defined borders of identity become confused and overlapping, a task that requires new histories, new ideas and new means of representation".<sup>[1]</sup> Considering the ever increasing variety of shifting, globally available images and their role as cultural mediators between Asia and Europe, the conference organizers, Christiane Brosius and Roland Wenzlhuemer, emphasised the need to ask new questions when discussing transcultural flows. The resulting new approach will need to develop new or modify existing concepts, such as 'origin', 'original' and 'originality', or 'authenticity', 'value', 'taste' and 'distinction'. The ethno- and euro-centricity inherent to many such concepts enforces conventional categories of distinction between indigeneity and hybridity, high and low art, or religious and secular domains. Against this background of problematic concepts, the papers of the conference addressed various forms of visibility. One major focus was the migration of image itineraries in terms of speed and quality, as well as across times and borders, because such migratory movements cause transcultural shifts and ruptures in global media-scapes (Panel 1). Presentations discussed the agency or non-agency of technologies in transnational flows, and addressed the double role of media in these processes, either as carrier of or as the very content of such flows (Panel 2).

The broad spectrum of talks was arranged around two keynote lectures delivered by Sarat Maharaj and Nicholas Mirzoeff. In his opening lecture "Pandemonium Asia: Shifts and Surges in the Flow of Images, Media and Info-Data" SARAT MAHARAJ (London/Lund) addressed the nature of globally disseminated flows of visualities in their undetermined directions. Our contemporary "post-spectacle era" is, according to Maharaj, characterised by "retinal ubiquity", "everywhereness" or a "twitter gaze", created by modern technologies like mobile- and i-phones, twitter or digital cameras. Nowadays, flows of images and media cannot be explained in an exclusively linear or laminar way, because they are turbulent and entangled: they assume the characteristic of "digital liquidity". In order to "unpack today's 'image-info-data-media flows', the issues of disequilibrium, mistranslation and transformation" become of particular importance. Additionally, Maharaj suggested that the transcultural translation of 'the other' needs to be re-thought, since 'the other' is no longer to be found at the edge of the former empire, but in our midst.

In his evening lecture "The Flow and The Flood: Mediation, Migration, Circulation and Climate Change" NICHOLAS MIRZOEFF (New York) referred to the connections between transcultural images and global imagery. He claimed that modernity and the "biopolitical mediation of the 'natural'", or the circulation of goods as the negotiation of resources, is inextricably connected with the process of climate change. This is why, Mirzoeff argues, the global imagination revolves around climate scenarios, in which the projected future emerges from the experiences of the past and present.

Two lectures addressed the question of how technologies and media shape the content of messages: In her diachronic approach to intercontinental telegraphy in South Asia, AMELIA BONEA (Heidelberg) investigated the possibilities and limitations of this medium in nineteenth-century colonial India. Bonea investigated how the new technology of the telegraph influenced the nature of messages as well as the communications of the agents who used it.

MIO WAKITA (Heidelberg) discussed the making of Japanese femininity in Meiji Souvenir photography and demonstrated how photography, as a visual medium of modernity, was adapted in Japan by generating a new visual semantics of images. In her case study of Meiji photographic practices in the late 19th century Wakita traced the asymmetries in the concept of photography and the contested meanings of photographic texts in Japan and Europe.

The Annual Conference 'Flows of Images and Media' ended with a lively, innovative and productive plenary discussion about the methodological and analytical ground shared by the many participants from their various disciplines. The papers presented at the conference not only underlined, but also answered the urgency of studying 'transculturality'. The participants concluded that transculturality needs in-depth investigation not only of visual flows and asymmetries as such, but also of their substance and their various meanings in different cultural contexts. In our "post-spectacular times" (Maharaj), visualities act as mediators, while people become agents behind and within these transcultural flows of agents, objects and processes made visible by media and images. Yet flows are hard to trace: they are not linear, but complex and entwined. Still, the concept provides scholars with a methodological tool that helps grasp the fluid and complex nature of entangled societies in a global context.

Note:

[1] Nicholas Mirzoeff (ed.), *The Visual Culture Reader*. Second fully revised edition, London 2002 (Original publication 1997), p. 477.

The whole conference report is published as *Flows of Images and Media. Annual Conference 2009 of the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context"*. 07.10.2009-09.10.2009, Heidelberg, in: *H-Soz-u-Kult*, 20.11.2009, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=2857>.

### **I.3 The Book Triumphant: the Book in the Second Century of Print, 1540-1640**

University of St Andrews, 9 – 11 October 2009

The following report might be interesting for scholars who's research subjects are linked to the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Jürgen Beyer, Saxo Institute, University of Copenhagen/Tartu University Library; [beyer@hum.ku.dk](mailto:beyer@hum.ku.dk),  
Philip Owen John, School of History, University of St Andrews, [poj@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:poj@st-andrews.ac.uk)

The Universal Short Title Catalogue, based at the University of St Andrews, aims to catalogue all books printed in Europe during the sixteenth century. For parts of the European book production, printed short title catalogues will be published as well.<sup>[1]</sup> Along the way, the project also organises conferences on the history of the book. The second of these was called "The book triumphant: the book in the second century of print, 1540-1640". The papers may roughly be divided into two groups, one devoted to databases on early books, the other dealing with a number of different aspects of book history.

MALCOLM WALSBY (St Andrews) presented the Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC) project. It will permit users to search for a particular text, author or edition and to identify not only the location of surviving copies but also of online reproductions. The database is designed as well to permit a range of analytical searches such as genre, place of publication, printer or language. It will, in short, allow the whole corpus of books published in the sixteenth century to be subjected to both microscopic and general analysis. The date of completion is, ambitiously, set to 2015. Somewhat smaller in scope is that of the Wellcome Trust database of sixteenth-century medical books, dealing "only" with publications from England, the Netherlands, France and Switzerland. According to GRAEME KEMP (St Andrews), it will list about 3500 editions.

BRENDA HOSINGTON (Coventry) gave a sketch of a complete catalogue of all the translations published in Britain and all the translations into English published on the Continent during the period 1473 to 1640. It will demonstrate how translation moved from being confined to the court and universities, and to few authors, subjects and languages, to a wider world of cultural values made available by translators, printers and booksellers for an ever-expanding readership.

JÜRGEN BEYER (Copenhagen/Tartu) discussed the completeness of the German national bibliographies for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, VD16 and VD17. Beyer argued that VD16 and VD17 at best describe two-thirds of the titles still extant, possibly only half of them. He arrived at these results in two ways: Firstly, by investigating the production of some Lubeck printers. Only 30 to 80 per cent of their books can be found in VD16 and VD17. Most of the additional titles are held by

Scandinavian and Baltic libraries. Secondly, Beyer drew attention to imprints preserved in archives. Most of them are official publications spread among the handwritten records. For this reason they have not been catalogued as books. Extrapolating counts for Sleswick-Holstein and Estonia, he arrived at the conclusion that the percentage of official publications in VD17 should not be 4 per cent (as now) but rather 17 per cent. Beyer also discussed the decision to base VD16 and VD17 on the core German language area. This is a rather imprecise definition, since the language border was not constant during the period under consideration. A criterion easier to handle would be the main language of printing (apart from Latin). This would lead to the inclusion of the entire production from towns such as Riga, Tartu and Tallinn. VD16 excludes them, while VD17 only registers the imprints in German. The Latin production from these towns, however, was directed at a German readership.

Turning now to the second half of the conference papers, those on books history beyond databases, we shall begin with URS LEU's (Zurich) study of the book production at Basle and Zurich. During the 1530s and 1540s book production increased, following an increasing demand probably caused by the Reformation and its emphasis on literacy and education.

ALEXANDER MARR (St Andrews) explored donations of scientific books to the Bodleian Library in its formative years. Using evidence from the Benefactors Register, Sir Thomas Bodley's letters and extant books in the Bodleian itself, he assessed the socio-cultural contexts in which gifts were procured and recognised, before presenting three case studies of major donors before 1605. Having associated numerous extant books in the Bodleian with scientific titles given by these donors (as listed in the Benefactors Register), Marr explored issues of provenance, marginalia, binding and content, arguing that a focus on benefactors reveals much new information about the scientific community of late Renaissance England, as well as about book history in the golden age of print. The conference proceedings will be published in the series "Library of the written word" (Leyden: Brill).

The whole report is published as: *The book triumphant: the book in the second century of print, 1540-1640*. 09.09.2009-11.09.2009, St Andrews, in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 07.11.2009, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=2839>.

Note:

[1] Already available is: Andrew D. M. Pettegree / Malcolm Walsby / Alexander Wilkinson (eds.), *French vernacular books: books published in the French language before 1601*, 2 vols., Leiden 2007. Currently similar catalogues are being prepared for Dutch books and for Latin books published in France.

## II. New Conferences

**17-19 February 2010**

**Financial Crises: Historical Perspectives. Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference**, organised by the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

CFP – **Attention please: Deadline 30 November 2009**

Papers and proposals for sessions are invited for the 2010 APEBH conference. Although the main conference theme is 'Financial Crises: Historical Perspectives' we also extend a welcome to contributions on any other topics in economic, social, and business history, as well as to proposals for sessions on particular themes.

Researchers across a range of disciplines are warmly welcomed including economists and historians of economic thought, accounting, business, society, and management, as well as archivists. Early career researchers are encouraged to participate. The conference organisers are particularly interested in attracting papers that examine developments within the Asia-Pacific region broadly defined and/or papers that provide an international comparative perspective, but by no means wish to discourage papers on other regions of the world.

The current global financial crisis raises many questions that invite historical comparison. What are the similarities and differences between this and previous financial and economic crises, including the depression of the 1930s and the Asian crisis of the late 1990s? To what extent are financial crises inevitable, or can they be avoided by sound banking practices and economic policy? What could today's policy makers and business leaders learn from previous eras of financial turmoil? How did financial regulation change in response to past episodes of crisis and with what consequences? How do financial crises affect different types of economy and different groups in society? Can we expect to see the revival of Keynesian and other doctrines that rose to popularity in the 1930s? Why are some businesses more vulnerable to the impact of national and international financial crises than others? Do crises lead to opportunities for astute entrepreneurs? Are there historical precedents for a financial crisis caused by the growth of new instruments and new institutions that were not formally included in existing regulatory regimes and, if so, how did regulators respond? These questions could be approached from a number of perspectives, including those of the cliometrician, the economic historian, the economic theorist, the business historian, and the social historian. There is scope for new interpretations as well as syntheses of existing work.

Paper abstracts of one page may be submitted at any time up to **30 November 2009**. A decision on proposals will be made within a month of submission. Session



proposals of one page may be submitted up to the same date, outlining the main objectives of the session.

You are not obliged to submit your full paper for refereeing. However, some universities require staff attending conferences to have their papers refereed, and if this is the case in your institution please submit the full paper by **11 January 2010**, earlier if possible. Any papers sent to us by 12 February 2010 will be posted on the conference website.

A conference paper prize will be awarded. A selection of papers (subject to the normal reviewing process and standards) may be published in the Australian Economic History Review.

Please contact the organisers and submit proposals to the them:

Rick Garside, Otago University, [Rick.Garside@otago.ac.nz](mailto:Rick.Garside@otago.ac.nz) Edwyna Harris, Monash University [Edwyna.Harris@buseco.monash.edu.au](mailto:Edwyna.Harris@buseco.monash.edu.au).

### **6 – 9 May 2010**

#### **History of Science in Practice.** International Conference

Athens, Greece

CFP – Deadline **15 February 2010**

We are pleased to announce the International Conference "History of Science in Practice", organized by the Programme of History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology (National Hellenic Research Foundation and University of Athens) and the Hellenic Society of History, Philosophy and Didactics of Sciences. The Conference will be held in Athens, Greece from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010 and updated info will be available at

<http://www.hpdst.gr/events/conferences/history-of-science-in-practice>

As its title suggests, the Conference will explore the possibilities of putting history of science into practice, both in teaching and in communication with the public. The Conference will focus on the following themes:

- Exploring the creation of a common European textbook of History of Science
- Using History of Science in formal and informal teaching of science
- Examining epistemological problems in the teaching of History of Science
- Appraising what a History of Science Museum can offer to the public
- Examining the preservation of contemporary scientific heritage.

Conference papers will be published in the Proceedings volume. Selected papers will appear in a special issue of the journal History of Scientific Ideas:

<http://www.hpdst.gr/publications/hsi>

Invited speakers:

Fabio Bevilacqua, Physics Department "A.Volta", University of Pavia

Michel Blay, Director of the Centre d'Archives en Philosophie, Histoire et Édition des Sciences, ENS-CNRS

Christopher Cullen, Director of the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge

Liu Dun, Institute for the History of Natural Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, President of the Division of History of Science and Technology / International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science

Wilfrid Hodges, President of the Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science / International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science

Jeff Hughes, University of Manchester, President of the British Society for the History of Science

Catherine Jami, REHSEIS-UMR 7219 (CNRS & Université de Paris-Diderot)

Vincent Jullien, Department of Philosophy, University of Nantes

Eberhard Knobloch, President of the International Academy of History of Science

Alexandre Kostov, Institute of Balkan Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Helge Kragh, University of Aarhus, President of the European Society for the History of Science

Jay Malone, Executive Director of the History of Science Society

Alexandar Petrovich, Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac, Serbia

Submission of papers:

Abstracts must be submitted using the Abstract Form at

<http://www.hpdst.gr/events/conferences/abstract-upload>

All abstracts will undergo a peer review process. Abstracts should be uploaded electronically to the Congress website between 1 December 2009 and 15 February 2010.

Registration:

Participants to the Conference are kindly asked to register on-line at

<http://www.hpdst.gr/events/conferences/registration>

Registration will open 1 December 2009.

Please visit: <http://www.hpdst.gr>

Contact information:

Constantine Skordoulis: [kskordul@primedu.uoa.gr](mailto:kskordul@primedu.uoa.gr)

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You may also use the following contact form: <http://www.hpdst.gr/contact>  
<http://www.hpdst.gr/contact>

### **7 – 10 July 2010**

**The Spectres of Utopia.** 11th International Conference of the Utopian Studies Society, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS)

Lublin, Poland

CFP – Deadline **31 March 2010**

Proposals are invited for papers of 20 minutes on different aspects of utopias, dystopias, utopianism and anti-utopianism as they manifest themselves in politics, society, economics, art, and culture. The conference language is English. Sessions conducted in other languages are also possible (minimum 2 papers). Abstracts (approx. 250 words) should be submitted by e-mail as file attachments in MS WORD to [L.Gruszewska-Blaim@ug.edu.pl](mailto:L.Gruszewska-Blaim@ug.edu.pl).

Lublin lies in the south-eastern Poland a hundred miles from Warsaw. The campus is situated very close to the city historic centre. The nearest international airport is Warsaw. Trains run every two hours from Warsaw Central Railway Station to Lublin (journey time 2, 5 hrs). There are also inexpensive bus services from the centre of Warsaw to Lublin. A shuttle from Warsaw Airport to the Campus may be provided on the day before the conference.

The registration fee will be 190 Euro, to include teas, coffees, buffet lunches and two evening receptions. Details of hotels will be available nearer the conference date. The Utopian Studies Society has limited funds available to assist post-graduates with the expenses of attending the Society's annual conference. If your paper has been accepted, and you would like more details or an application form, please contact the USS Secretary, [Lorna.Davidson@newlanark.org](mailto:Lorna.Davidson@newlanark.org).

Deadline for registration: 30th May 2010 (late registrations will be accepted up to 7 days prior to the conference at additional cost of 40 Euro).

The conference website [www.utopia2010.umcs.lublin.pl](http://www.utopia2010.umcs.lublin.pl) is currently under construction.

Please contact Lorna Davidson, [lorna.davidson@newlanark.org](mailto:lorna.davidson@newlanark.org), and L. Gruszewska-Blaim, [L.Gruszewska-Blaim@ug.edu.pl](mailto:L.Gruszewska-Blaim@ug.edu.pl)

16 – 19 June 2010

**Water History Conference of the International Water History Association**

Delft

The Netherlands

CFP – Deadline **15 January 2010**

The Water History Conference of the International Water History Association in Delft, the Netherlands, will be a unique opportunity to exchange and develop new insights on the history of our most precious resource. The conference is co-organized by IWHA, Delft University of Technology and UNESCO-IHE.

**Abstracts and sessions:** The program committee welcomes abstracts for individual papers as well as proposals for complete sessions. Session proposals should include either 1) three papers and a commentator or 2) four papers; the inclusion of a session chair is encouraged. Proposals for double sessions will also be accepted. There are no designated topics for papers. We seek papers on all aspects of water history, from rivers to drops, from seas to mountain lakes, from technologies to cultures. However, all submissions must be “wet” in that each is related to water and of a historical nature.

**Submission process for abstracts and sessions:** All abstracts, both for individual papers and those proposed for sessions, will be reviewed by the program committee. Abstracts should be submitted by the main author through the online submission system. Abstracts should not exceed 300 words. A link to the online abstract submission page can be found at the website of the conference: [www.waterhistory2010.citg.tudelft.nl](http://www.waterhistory2010.citg.tudelft.nl), or go directly to [http://www.eventure-online.com/eventure/welcome.do?type=abstract&congress=19\\_1893](http://www.eventure-online.com/eventure/welcome.do?type=abstract&congress=19_1893).

Session proposals should be sent separately to the chair of the program committee. These proposals should contain session title, a 100-word description, names and affiliations of presenters and titles of their abstracts, and names and affiliations of commentator and/or chair. Please send session proposals to Maurits W. Ertsen at [m.w.ertsen@tudelft.nl](mailto:m.w.ertsen@tudelft.nl).

**Time schedule:** Abstracts and sessions can be submitted between November 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 and January 15<sup>th</sup> 2010. Decisions on acceptance are foreseen to be available on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2010. The final conference program will be available on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010. To appear on the program, presenters with accepted abstracts need to register before April 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. Registration will open in February 2010.

**24 - 25 September 2010**

**Protecting Nature and the Environment in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries - the French Experience.** Conference, organised by the Association for the History of the

Protection of Nature and the Environment (AHPNE) and the Universities of Paris-Sorbonne and Paris-Sud.

Paris

CFP – Deadline **29 January 2010**

The history of the protection of nature and the environment in France has resulted in numerous publications in the last thirty years. Research has focussed, for example, on the existence - or not - of environmental protection policies in France before the creation of the ministry of the environment in 1971, on the creation of natural parks, on environmental pressure groups and on the emergence of environmental law. However, current research remains scattered amongst different academic disciplines, and the opportunities for dialogue have been rare since the publication of the proceedings of the Florac conference in 1985, on Protection de la Nature, Histoire et Idéologie. Yet, the recent renewed interest in France for environmental questions amongst the general public, politicians and the corporate sector, call for a historical perspective that would enable a better understanding of the phenomenon. Moreover, much research on environmental protection in France has also recently been undertaken by scholars outside of France, and it is one of the conference's aims to enable dialogue between scholars of different countries.

The conference organisers would be particularly interested by papers (from any academic discipline) addressing one or more of the following questions:

- What is particularly 'French' - if anything - about French society's relation to 'nature' and the environment in the late modern era? How do these specificities explain the emergence of a "light-green society" in post-WWII France (Michael Bess)?
- To what extent were French environmental policies inspired by concepts, ideas and experiences from abroad?
- Is the accusation of the 'backwardness' of France in environmental protection, for example in relation to Britain and Germany, a valid one?
- What role did/does the French approach, if it exists, play in European environmental policies?
- Who have been (and who are today) the actors of environmental protection in France (the state, associations, NGOs, city councils, private corporations, citizens.)? What have been their respective roles and how successful have they been in influencing legislation and public opinion?

Please send proposals (1 page maximum), with a CV, to both Charles-François Mathis, Université Paris-Sorbonne, [charles-francois.mathis@paris-sorbonne.fr](mailto:charles-francois.mathis@paris-sorbonne.fr), and Jean-François Mouhot, Université de Birmingham, [j.mouhot@bham.ac.uk](mailto:j.mouhot@bham.ac.uk), before 29 January 2010.

**18 – 20 November 2010**

**The Circulation of Science and Technology.** 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS)

Barcelona

CFP – **Attention please: deadline 30 November 2009**

Historiography has recently acknowledged that circulation of ideas and techniques plays a central role in the understanding of their evolution. Given that science and technology are international achievements, their dissemination could be the most distinctive element in their construction. Circulation is not a simple change of geographical place; it carries with it epistemological and philosophical changes as a result of the crossing of cultural and political boundaries. Networks cover a wide range of local settings, actors, institutions and interests, both in the production of new science and technology, and in the reception and appropriation of known science and technology.

The conference should stimulate studies and debates about the dissemination of science and technology: first, the circulation of ideas, theories, methods and practices; second, of objects, instruments, machines, artefacts, seeds, plants, minerals, drawings, illustrations, inscriptions, paintings...; third, of texts: manuscripts, printed books, textbooks, journals, letters, book notes; fourth, of scientists and technicians around the world in “grand tours”, trips for leisure, lecturing, business and industrial espionage; and fifth, of information about institutional organization, transmission of knowledge and the influence of local contexts, among others.

Please visit <http://4eshs.iec.cat/>

Please contact the conference’s secretariat: [4eshs@iec.cat](mailto:4eshs@iec.cat).

### **III. Recently Published Books**

**Chinese** Technological History: The Great Divergence, by Jerry Liu and Kent Deng. And: The Mindful Hand, by Lissa Roberts and Ian Inkster. Special issue in: Ian Inkster (ed.): History of Technology 29 (2009).

The first collection of the yearbook addresses problems relating to technological development in Imperial China. The second part of the book is dedicated to the development of knowledge and technique in early modern Europe.

**Technik** und Design. Themenheft der Zeitschrift Technikgeschichte, organised and introduced by Martina Heßler. In: Technikgeschichte 76 (2009), Heft 3.

The interesting special issue “Technology and Design” of the journal „Technikgeschichte“ analyses mutual influences between technology and design as well as similarities of history of design and history of technology.