

ICOHTEC

NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This month the Program Committee of the ICOHTEC & TICCIH joint conference in Tampere (10 – 15 August 2010) decided about the paper proposals for our next meeting. If you submitted a proposal in time and did not receive an answer until now, please contact us. In result we will have a large program and many interesting sessions. The preliminary program of the conference will be published soon.

Best wishes for the beginning of spring
Yours Stefan Poser

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I. Conferences

10 – 12 May 2010

Experiment and Experience: Ancient Egypt in the Present.

CMA, Egypt Centre and the Department of History and Classics
Swansea University

Experiment and Experience: Ancient Egypt in the Present is a conference where those interested in ancient Egypt or in technology (academics, craftspeople and the general public) can meet and share their common enthusiasm. All ages and abilities are welcome. An array of demonstrations and talks include flint knapping, flower arranging, textiles, and shipbuilding, as well as woodworking, stoneworking, manufacturing of ritual clay artefacts, antler bow manufacture, glassworking, an oral performance, and of course mummification! Experimental archaeology applies the scientific method and has the potential to be a powerful interdisciplinary research tool. Along with experiential approaches, it is an excellent medium for educating and widening participation. This conference aims to integrate the arts, humanities and sciences through a series of lectures, workshops and practical demonstrations that explore the value of a hands-on approach to understanding the past generally and Ancient Egypt in particular.

Hosted by CEMA, Egypt Centre and the Department of History and Classics, Swansea University, Monday 10th through Wednesday 12th May 2010, Swansea University.

Please see <http://www.swan.ac.uk/egypt/conference010.htm> for the full announcement, programme and booking form.

3 – 6 June 2010

Industriekultur und regionale Identität. Treffen des Gesprächskreises für Technikgeschichte / **Industrial Heritage and Identity.** Annual Meeting of the working group for the History of Technology

Linz, Austria

CFP – Deadline **1 March 2010**

For more information please contact Ute Streit, Regina Weber, Peter Theissen and Gerhard Stadler by regina.weber@googlemail.com.

16 – 17 September 2010

Informatik in der DDR. Computer Sciences in the German Democratic Republic

Humboldt University Berlin

CFP – Attention please, deadline passed; proposals are welcome until the **beginning of March**

Computer Sciences in the German Democratic Republic is the fourth meeting of a series of conferences, inaugurated in Chemnitz in 2004.

Please contact Wolfgang Coy, Humboldt University, Berlin by informatik@hu-berlin.de.

9 – 13 August 2010

Old-growth and Primeval Forests: Ecology, Conservation and Management

International Conference

Sundsvall, Sweden

CFP – extended Deadline **1 April 2010**

Significant areas of the northern hemisphere's forests remain in old-growth or primary conditions. These forests not only harbour unique conservation and recreational values, but provide many other ecosystem services and also provide important reference areas critical to our understanding of forest structure, composition and processes.

The scientific scope of this conference will gather researchers, administrators, and conservation managers from a wide spectrum of regions and disciplines. Results will aid in designing scientifically well-founded strategies to deal with current threats to forest biodiversity, climate mitigation, and the other ecosystem services these forests provide.

The scientific organizing committee and keynote speakers include researchers from across the U.S., Canada, and Europe. For more information and registration please visit the conference web site. The abstract deadline has been extended to April 1, 2010.

For more information please visit www.prifor2010.org.

24 – 26 September 2010

Ernährung, Essen und Trinken aus medizin-, wissenschafts- und technikhistorischer Sicht / Nutrition, Eating and Drinking: the View of Historians of Medicine, Science and Technology.

Tagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik e.V. (DGGMNT) und der Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte e.V. (GTG) / Joint conference of the German Society for the History of Medicine, Science and Technology and the German Society for the History of Technology
GTG

Maastricht, The Netherlands

CFP – Deadline **31 March 2010**

The German Society for the History of Medicine, Natural Science, and Technology (DGGMNT), together with the German Society for the History of Technology (GTG) would like to invite papers and panels for their combined annual conference on the theme of Nutrition, Eating and Drinking in the History of Medicine, Science and Technology.

Nutrition is a total phenomenon in history. Eating and drinking determine the everyday experience of every human being for their entire lives. Taking a meal at a specific times of day shapes the organization of daily routine and shapes the bodily rhythm of digestion and absorption of nutrients. At the same time, rhythms of work structure our eating rhythms. Food and rituals of eating and drinking have been expressions of hybrid cultural activities since the earliest civilizations, where religion and science, culture and nature, *ratio* and *emotio* intersect and overlap.

The combined meeting of the DGGMT and GTG would like to approach this topic from the perspective of the history of science, technology and medicine. The organizers are seeking contributions that discuss the role of science and technology in the research, analysis, production, preservation, transport, distribution, consumption and disposal of foodstuffs. Besides exploring these more instrumental relationships between science, technology and food, we are further interested in how eating and drinking habits have changed in the course of the scientification, mechanization, and industrialization of our food cultures, and the medical, scientific and dietetic debates that have shaped and/or criticized these processes. The conference represents a forum for critical discussion of different disciplinary approaches as well as differing epochal points of emphasis. Contributions can explore themes such as:

- the relationship of body, nutrition and the scientific definition of health;
- the history of dietetics and the medical-philosophical concepts of healthy eating and/or harmful substances and eating habits;
- discovery, production and consumption of *ersatz* foods, artificial flavours or flavour enhancers;
- the transfer of the logic of industrial systems to the production, distribution and consumption of foodstuffs and their consequences;
- Security and danger – the role of medicine, science and technology in the institutionalization of trust in foodstuffs;
- development, implementation and consequences of packaging and preservation technologies.
- phases of scientific research, instruments and theories for determining, analysing and explaining the effects of nourishment in the human body (eg. energie and substance levels, holistic theories, etc.)
- scientific nutrition research within and between the fields of physiology, medicine, chemistry and physics;
- nutrition science and politics: food and nutrition in the context of colonization, totalitarian regimes, development aid and international (aid) organizations;
- political and ideological discourses of health or danger of specific foodstuffs of eating and drinking rituals;
- Causes and effects of historical cases of hunger or abundance;
- influence of scientification, mechanization, and industrialization on eating and drinking habits

Proposals for individual papers or panels of 3- 4 people (2 papers, 1 commentator and 1 chair, or 3 papers and 1 chair) are welcome. In putting together panels, please leave ample time for discussion (session times are set at 90 minutes in total). Applications for individual papers should be accompanied by an abstract (1 page maximum). Proposals for panels should include individual abstracts plus a general description of the panel. Abstracts should be sent by 31 March 2010 to Sabine Schleiermacher, sabine.schleiermacher@charite.de.

In addition, the GTG is putting together a poster forum for PhD candidates in the history of technology independent of the conference theme. Prizes will be awarded for the best presentations. Proposals for posters should be sent to Stefan Krebs, s.krebs@tue.nl by 31 March 2010, who will provide further information on the process. A separate call for posters for this session will also be published.

Please visit http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=900&Itemid=267.

Please contact Sabine Schleiermacher, sabine.schleiermacher@charite.de.

8 – 10 October 2010

WHEATS 2010. Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology and Science for PhD Students

Madison Centre for Culture, History and Environment, University of Wisconsin

CFP – Deadline **15 April 2010**

The Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is pleased to be hosting WHEATS in Fall 2010. Now in its seventh year, the Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science (WHEATS) brings together graduate students studying the history of the environment, agriculture, science, or technology. WHEATS is open to submissions from any discipline with interests in these fields. Papers – generally 25-30 pages – are circulated in advance to all participants, and at the workshop papers receive feedback from participants and senior scholars through a roundtable discussion.

Due to logistical constraints, papers must be in English. UW-Madison will provide housing, food, and some funding to help defray travel costs. Potential participants should submit a one-page abstract (200 words) and short curriculum vitae by April 15, 2010. All submissions will be acknowledged by e-mail. Applicants should note their year of graduate study or Ph.D. completion date.

Please visit <http://envhist.wisc.edu/wheats>

For further information contact Amrys Williams, aowilliams@wisc.edu.

Please send submissions to Kellen Backer, kbacker@wisc.edu.

14 – 16 October 2010

Globalizing Beauty: Body Aesthetics in the 20th Century

Conference at the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC,

Organiser: Hartmut Berghoff (GHI Washington) and Thomas Kühne (Clark University)

CFP – Deadline **15 March 2010**

Beauty matters. That it matters more and more in modern societies can easily be measured in the amount of money people spend on cosmetic surgeries, on fashion, on cosmetics, on looking at beautiful stars, and, since the 1990s in particular, in the number of scholarly articles and books analyzing exactly this phenomenon. Challenging the myth of eternal, unchanging, and cross-cultural beauty ideals, this conference inquires into the rise of powerful and yet ambiguous discourses on and practices of body aesthetics in the 20th century; it explores the interaction of hegemonic and non-hegemonic discourses on body aesthetics; and it tracks the impact of globalization and commodification on the struggle for beauty. What is considered beautiful depends on time and space, that is, on cultural and social settings. Beauty is linked to other categories of difference—the good, the strong, the wealthy, the healthy people. Beauty is highly gendered, closely affiliated with racial hierarchies, and has always been a tool of social distinction. Owning beauty and accessing beautiful things are privileges. As with consumerism in general, the acquisition of beauty relies on and reinforces preexisting social hierarchies. At the same time, the modern discourse on beauty is embedded in ideas—one may say, illusions—of social advancement. Beauty defines identity, and it causes controversy. What is called beauty may refer to different ideologies and to different techniques of perceiving and defining ‘reality.’ As Toni Morrison says in *The Bluest Eye*, black girl Pecola, who wishes nothing more than to have blue eyes, “would never know her beauty. She would see only what there was to see: the eyes of other people.” Morrison calls the Western obsession with beauty—and she refers to a particular idea of beauty—one of “the most destructive ideas in the history of human thought.” The conference will shed light on how non-hegemonic groups responded to the rise of the dominant Western beauty ideal. In doing so, it will investigate the means, paths, and limits of the transnational exchange and export of cultural norms and practices. This interdisciplinary conference will put 20th-century discourses on beauty and corresponding practices into the context of racial ideologies, national identities, commercial strategies, and the rising consumer society. It will trace the processes of homogenization and diversification in the perception of beauty as well as and the way media and corporations dealt with them. It will focus on the interplay between corporate strategies and consumers’ preferences, between marketing and customers’ receptiveness or rejection, between economic imperatives and sociocultural norms, between ideological concepts and the whims of fashion in the course of the 20th century.

The conference agenda includes four sections:

1. EXPLAINING BEAUTY: Covering ethical, psychological, medical, sociological, economic, and political discourses, this section will discuss why and how beauty matters.

2. **SELLING BEAUTY:** This part will deal with producers and sellers of beauty products around the globe. How big was the market? Who dominated it? Which methods were applied to overcome diversity and to export products across national and cultural barriers?

3. **CONSUMING BEAUTY:** This section will explore the significance of beauty for advanced and developing consumer societies and analyzes practices of consumers, as well as their interaction with expert advice, role models, ads, media, etc.

4. **CONTESTING BEAUTY:** The focus of this part is social, cultural, and economic conflicts about beauty and their association with factors of race, ethnicity, religious orientation, gender, age, ideology.

The organizers invite proposals on all related aspects from both young and established scholars, from all disciplines in the humanities and the social and behavioral sciences, and from all countries around the world. The costs of travel (economy airfare), accommodation, and meals will be covered for applicants whose papers are accepted. Interested applicants should submit for consideration 1) name, address, email and telephone number; 2) the title and an abstract of the proposed paper (a maximum of 250 words in English); 3) a curriculum vitae. The application deadline is March 15, 2010.

Please submit materials via email to both

Hartmut Berghoff, Professor of Economic History, Director, German Historical Institute, Washington, DC, email: Ms. Baerbel Thomas, thomas@ghi-dc.org.

Thomas Kühne, Professor of History, Strassler Family Chair in the Study of Holocaust History, Clark University, Worcester, MA, tkuehne@clarku.edu

II. Scholarships and Awards

The IEEE Life Member's Prize in Electrical History

Deadline for application **15 April 2010**

If you or someone you know has published an article in 2009 dealing with any aspect of the history of electricity, electronics, telecommunications, or any other electrically-related field, and this entails history of technology in its broadest sense, please consider nominating it for the IEEE Life Members' Prize in Electrical History. Paper authors are encouraged to nominate themselves by submitting a copy of their article, and everyone is asked to submit notice of anything that they have seen published in 2009 that they feel is worthy of being considered for the Prize. For more information, see the official prize announcement below or contact Andrew Butrica, Prize Committee Chair, at abutrica@earthlink.net, or W. Bernard Carlson, SHOT Secretary at shot@virginia.edu.

NOTICE: The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Life Members' Prize in Electrical History, supported by the IEEE Life Members' Fund and administered by the

Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), is awarded annually to the best paper in the history of electro-technology, power, electronics, telecommunications, and computer science, published during the preceding year. Any article published in a learned periodical is eligible if it treats the art or engineering aspects of electro-technology and its practitioners. The article must be written in English, although the journal or periodical in which it appears may be a foreign language publication. The prize consists of a cash award of \$500 and a certificate. To nominate an article, please send a copy (paper or electronic) of the article to each member of the prize committee. Deadline for the 2009 prize is April 15, 2010.

Please contact:

Andrew J. Butrica (chair), abutrica@earthlink.net

Robert MacDougall, Department of History, University of Western Ontario, rmacdou@uwo.ca

Eden Medina, School of Informatics and Computing, Indiana University,

eden.medina@gmail.com

13 – 16 September 2010

Summer School in Comparative and Transnational History, Theories, Methodology and Case Studies

European University Institute, Florence

Deadline for application **15 May 2010**

Are you convinced that national history and its approaches are limited? Do you want to look beyond the nation in which you live? In this case, you may be interested in attending the HEC 2010 Summer School which will take place in one of the most evocative places in Florence: Villa Schifanoia.

The Department of History and Civilization at the European University Institute is a major centre of comparative and transnational European history. The courses will allow you to continue and to broaden your research interests in this field.

Well-known specialists from the European University Institute and from other European outstanding institutions will present interesting ways of writing the history of Europe as well as raising important questions on its development.

You will have the opportunity to meet our researchers, who are preparing their Ph.Ds. in this European institution, participate in a seminar in this centre of excellence, visit the Library, the Historical Archives of the European Union and have find out about how to apply to the European University Institute.

Most courses are held in English, but also other EU languages are accepted. In the evening, you will have the opportunity to visit Florence, one of the most beautiful towns of the world!

Conveners: Profs. Kiran K. Patel, Antonella Romano and Steve Smith

Francesca Parenti, HEC Summer School, Department of History & Civilization, European University Institut
HEC.SummerSchool@eui.eu

<http://www.eui.eu/DepartmentsAndCentres/HistoryAndCivilization/SummerSchool/Index.aspx>