

# ICOHTEC

# NEWSLETTER



[www.icohtec.org](http://www.icohtec.org)

N° 65, August 2010

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

Editor: Stefan Poser, Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg, Modern Social, Economic and Technological History, Holstenhofweg 85, D-22043 Hamburg, Germany, [poser@hsu-hh.de](mailto:poser@hsu-hh.de)

### Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Our joint meeting of TICCIH, work lab, and ICOHTEC in Tampere opened many perspectives of research and cooperation; reports of the conference will follow in the next newsletters. Our 2011 symposium will be held in Glasgow on 2 – 7 August.

Anne Ebert (Vienna Technical Museum) received the ICOCTEC Prize 2010 for her PhD-thesis on the history of cycling in the Netherlands and in Germany. Now ICOHTEC announces the third ICOHTEC Prize for Young Scholars; the deadline for application is **24 January 2011**.

Please pay your annual fees for ICOHTEC to our account at Commerzbank Bochum (please find the bank account on the subscription form, p. 12). It was a pleasure to meet many of you in Tampere; best wishes for the last weeks of summer

Yours Stefan Poser

## Contents

I. ICOHTEC	p. 2
II. Conference Reports	p. 3
III. Conference Announcements	p. 4
IV. Announcement of a Series of Lectures	p. 9
V. Call for contributions	p. 10
VI. Awards	p. 11
VII. Join ICOHTEC	p. 11

## I. ICOHTEC

### I.1 ICOHTEC Symposium 2011

The ICOHTEC Symposium will be held in Glasgow on **2 – 7 August 2011**. The main theme of the meeting will be “**Consumer Choice and Technology**”. The aim is to examine the interaction of technology and consumer behaviour in a historical perspective; especially to focus on factors steering consumption and how consumers by their choices have influenced in technological development in the past. A transition from agrarian society to consumer society was one of the epoch-making phases in human history that can be studied from various aspects and contexts.

The Symposium will be held at the campus of the Glasgow University and will provide versatile social events. Further information will be available on the website of ICOHTEC next few weeks.

### I.2 ICOHTEC Prize for Young Scholars 2011

Deadline for application **24 January 2011**

The ICOHTEC-Prize is sponsored by the Juanelo Turriano Foundation and consists of 3,000 Euro. ICOHTEC, the International Committee for the History of Technology, is interested in the history of technology focusing on technological development as well as its relationship to science, society, economy, culture and the environment. The history of technology covers all periods of human history and all populated areas. There is no limitation as to theoretical or methodological approaches.

Eligible to the prize are original works in any of the official ICOHTEC languages (English, French, German, Russian or Spanish) in the history of technology (published or unpublished Ph.D. theses or other monographs — *no articles or edited anthologies*) written by scholars who, when applying for the prize, are not older than 37 years.

For the ICOHTEC Prize 2011, please send a copy of the work you wish to be considered for the prize plus a 4500-word English summary of that work to *each* of the three Prize

Committee members. **Your submissions must be postmarked *not later* than 24 January 2011.**

If the work is a PhD thesis, it should have been accepted by your university in 2009 or 2010; if it is a published work, the year of publication should be 2009 or 2010. The submission should be accompanied by a CV (indicating also the date of birth) and, if applicable, a list of publications. Applicants are free to add references or reviews on the work submitted.

Send a complete application **by regular mail services** (*not* electronically) to each of the following Prize Committee members:

**Dick van Lente**, Dr., Prize Committee Chairman, [vanlente@fhk.eur.nl](mailto:vanlente@fhk.eur.nl)  
Prinses Margrietlaan 7  
3051 AM Rotterdam  
The Netherlands

**Robert Belot**, Prof., [robert.belot@utbm.fr](mailto:robert.belot@utbm.fr)  
Directeur du Laboratoire RECITS (EA n°3897)  
UTBM  
90010 BELFORT CEDEX  
France

**Thomas Zeller**, Associate Prof., [tzeller@umd.edu](mailto:tzeller@umd.edu)  
University of Maryland  
Department of History  
2115 Francis Scott Key Hall  
College Park, Md. 20742-7315  
USA

## **II. Conference Reports**

**Exploring Epistemic Shifts in Computer Based Environmental Sciences**  
Conference in Aarhus, Danmark, June 2010

Matthias Heymann, Department of Science Studies, Aarhus University,  
[matthias.heyman@mzwg.mwn.de](mailto:matthias.heyman@mzwg.mwn.de)  
Gabriele Gramelsberger, Free University Berlin, [gab@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:gab@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

The environmental sciences have experienced a revolutionary shift in the last decades. Computer modelling and computer simulation have become key practises in environmental research. These practices fundamentally changed knowledge production and forms of knowledge and indicate a transformation of science into e-science. The workshop explored

these recent and ongoing developments from an interdisciplinary science studies perspective. It had the goal to develop new interdisciplinary and collaborative strategies of research in science and technology studies suited to investigate the computer revolution and its impact on the environmental sciences.

The workshop consisted of three major sessions “Ideas and Infrastructure”, “Computability” and “Good’ science” in which pre-circulated papers of the participants were discussed. A major result of the workshop was the identification of three fields of future research:

- 1) New knowledge practices and epistemic uncertainty,
- 2) Institutions, infrastructures and epistemic politics,
- 3) Geographies of epistemic power and politics of scale.

Computer modelling and simulation involved a host of new practices. The workshop showed that computer simulation in the environmental sciences raises a host of new questions about scientific practice and uncertainty and its political and cultural implications. Emerging and adopted practices in different fields display a wide range of features and cannot easily be categorized or subsumed under traditional key concepts like theory making or experimentation. For most fields we do know very little about these practices in question, because historical, philosophical and sociological investigations so far are limited and larger collaborative research efforts missing altogether. We know even less about the abundant political and cultural implications computer simulation entails, such as shifts of perceptions and interests, new ways of looking at and making sense of the world, new policies of expertise and geographies of power. A final question remains unanswered so far: How did computer simulation in the environmental sciences gain the cultural authority it currently displays, as visible examples like climate simulation show or less visible examples like simulation based environmental planning and regulation indicate.

The whole report is published in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 24.07.2010, <<http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3211>>.

### **III. Conference Announcements**

**15 – 19 December 2010**

**4th International Conference: History under Debate**

Santiago de Compostela

CFP – **no deadline mentioned**

This makes the fourth time, twice this century, that we make a call to historians across the world to pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela to debate on the discipline of history, the great events and historical processes that we are witnessing and the demands of other cultural, political and social subjects that have a part in the writing of history. We will be looking at what the job of the historian should be like in the 21st century. New ways of

working with the sources and theories, of orienting the didactics of history, of connecting with readers and viewers through new technologies. By developing new paradigms, networks and tendencies such as History under Debate and others that arise from the new realities of the century.

Contributing from the common ground of methodology, epistemology, historiography, immediate history and digital history to the indispensable defragmentation of an ancient science that seeks a new spring in the age of globalisations without giving up historiographic breakthroughs from the 20th century that are being reformulated. Living academic history more globally and collectively means showing an concern for the shared present, contributing our historical knowledge to the understanding and evolution of the major issues of a global now that is increasingly determining to grasp the form and the content of the job of historians, and humanities and social sciences at large.

**Thematic Sections:**

- I. The Historian's Job
- II. Historiography

**Round Tables:**

- I. Immediate History
- II. History, Subjects, Writing

Extended Programme, rules of participation and inscription bulletin at: [http://www.historyunderdebate.com/congresos/4/menu\\_def.htm](http://www.historyunderdebate.com/congresos/4/menu_def.htm)

Please contact Carlos Barros, History under Debate Coordinator, [cbarros@wanadoo.es](mailto:cbarros@wanadoo.es)

**18 – 20 April 2011**

**History of European Universities.** Challenges and transformations

University of Lisbon Campus. Joint organization of the University of Lisbon Centennial and International Commission for the History of Universities (ICHU)

CFP – **Deadline not yet mentioned**

Universities in Portugal have a long history, starting with the foundation of the University of Lisbon in 1288-90, which was relocated in Coimbra in 1537. The present organization of the University of Lisbon dates back to 1911, and is a direct outcome of the institution of a Republican government in 1910.

Celebrating in 2011 its first centenary, the commemorations of the reestablishment of the University of Lisbon encompass various reflections on its history. Among several events, the Executive Commission for the University's celebrations, together with the International Commission for the History of Universities, is organizing an international conference titled *History of European Universities. Challenges and transformations*, to be held from 18-20 April 2011, at the University of Lisbon Campus.

Universities have been a typically European institution. Conforming to changing social, religious, ideological and political conditions, they played a significant role in virtually all philosophical, religious and scientific controversies that shaped Western culture. Furthermore, universities proved instrumental in shaping the profile of many professions.

Contributions to the history of universities have been often pursued in the context of cultural history with little interaction with the history of science, history of education, and science policy. This conference aims at bridging this gap by inviting reflections within and across these usually separate domains, and specifically by promoting discussion on the evolution of scientific disciplines within universities, the role of locality in discipline formation and training, and the positioning of universities vis-à-vis the context of liberal societies in the West. With this rationale in mind, the following themes would be specifically addressed:

1. Circulation and networks of knowledge: disciplinary formation and identity, interdisciplinary relationships, formation and evolution of scientific fields.
2. Universities in peripheral contexts: specificities of the formation and structuring of universities in the European periphery; relations between centre and periphery; adaptation of universities to different local contexts.
3. University training in comparative framework: strategies for the training of students, role of universities in elite formation, discussions and policies on higher education. We would appreciate if you share this information with your colleagues and other people interested in the subject.

Ana Simoes - On behalf of the Scientific Organizing Committee and the Local Organizing Committee

For further information please visit <http://centenario.ul.pt/conferencias/history-of-european-universities>

**28 – 30 April 2011**

**Regulation between Legal Norms and Economic Reality: Intentions, Effects, and Adaptation: The German and American Experiences**

German Historical Institute Washington D.C.

CFP – Deadline **15 October 2010**

Currently, the terms regulation and deregulation are on everyone's lips; however, those using them frequently forget that regulation, in its strict sense, is a mechanism either to restrain competition or to induce competition where there is none or too little. Natural monopolies are the most prominent targets of regulation, because efficient competition cannot emerge by itself in such cases. For historical reasons, opinions on what regulation entails have varied greatly. By the end of the nineteenth century, it was apparent in both the U.S. and Germany

that natural monopolies such as water utilities and railways needed to be regulated in order to overcome market failure. Attempts to solve the problem ranged between two extremes. On the one hand, there was government regulation of private companies in the U.S., and, on the other hand, there was government provision or nationalization of companies in Germany and most of Continental Europe. Existing research suggests that political reasons lay behind this divergence. Regulation can generally be seen as the outcome of a bargaining process between stakeholders, namely, enterprises, the scientific community, as well as local and federal governments. While this approach to regulation has been studied for several sectors, there has been no systematic analysis of whether this political embrace of the concept of regulation (for instance, the steering of markets in the natural monopoly case) has really influenced legislative processes and what it has meant for the efficiency of markets. Situated at the intersection of legal and economic history, the symposium will focus on the regulation of natural monopolies in network industries such as railways, energy, or telecommunications. On one hand, it will analyze constitutional and legal frameworks, and, on the other hand, it will investigate the development of markets and the political influence exerted by market participants. Of particular interest are the formative periods of 1870–80 and 1930–35, when major decisions were made about which regulatory path to take. The period from 1945 until the 1980s will also be examined, because it was then that the deregulation discussion took firm hold in the United States, and the American concept of regulation was replicated in Germany and the European Economic Community. Naturally, all of these historical moments lead to broader questions about regulation in its cultural historical context, including the general principles underlying public regulatory policy in law, economics, and society—as well as existing path dependencies. Hence, the symposium will also serve as a transnational and intercultural dialogue about the different characteristics and cultural interpretations of markets and market economies as well as their roles in society. Paper proposals (two pages maximum) are welcome from both young and established scholars from different disciplines, especially economics, economic history, business history, and legal history. Proposals should include an abstract of the paper (20–25 minutes) and a curriculum vitae in English. The proposals should be submitted via email (preferably in pdf format) by October 15, 2010 to Cathrin Kronenberg.

The research project „Designing freedom – The implications of historic legacy and standardization on the regulation of the economy“ is an interdisciplinary research project, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

Conveners: Hartmut Berghoff (GHI, Washington D.C.); William J. Hausman (College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA); Günther Schulz (University of Bonn)

Please contact: Cathrin Kronenberg, Zentrum für Historische Grundlagen der Gegenwart, Universität Bonn, [c.kronenberg@uni-bonn.de](mailto:c.kronenberg@uni-bonn.de)

**21 – 26 June 2011**

**Species, Space, and the Imagination of the Global.** 9<sup>th</sup> ASLE Conference

Indiana University, Bloomington

CFP – Deadline **5 November 2010**

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) invites proposals for its Ninth Biennial Conference, on the theme of “Species, Space, and the Imagination of the Global.” We seek proposals for papers, panels, roundtables, workshops, and other public presentations connecting language, nature, and culture. As always, we welcome interdisciplinary approaches; readings of environmentally inflected fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction; and proposals from outside the academic humanities, including submissions from artists, writers, practitioners, activists, and colleagues in the social and natural sciences. The conference theme seeks to engage with questions of humans’ relation to nonhuman species, both plant and animal, and to explore intersections between work on nonhuman species in disciplines such as biology, anthropology, philosophy, neuroscience, literature, and art. Our goal is to do so in a transnational framework that will allow us to reflect on how different historical, geographical and cultural contexts shape our encounters with the natural world and with environmental crises. The following topics are of particular relevance to the conference theme; we also encourage submissions on other, related issues:

- Visions and theories of globalization in their relationship to the environment
- Cultural geography in its contributions to environmentalist thought
- Postcolonial ecocriticism and the geopolitical relationships that have shaped different human populations’ uses of natural environments
- Environmental justice
- Environmental literature as world literature
- Environmental disasters and their repercussions
- Environmental diseases
- New media for envisioning local and global processes
- Studies of migration, both human and nonhuman
- Wildlife conservation
- Ethnozoology and ethnobotany
- Critical animal studies
- Biotechnology and its transformations of biodiversity
- The politics, cultures and pedagogies of climate change

**Paper Formats:** Participants are invited to submit paper proposals for 90-minute sessions. ASLE welcomes scholarly panels and creative writing presentations; proposals for hybrid or nontraditional panels should indicate the nature and purpose of the presentations’ unique features. We will accept paper and panel proposals in *English* and in *Spanish*, and we welcome panels in Spanish at the conference. For detailed information on the different formats and for submission guidelines, please visit the conference website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~asle2011/>. All proposals must be submitted by Friday, November 5,



2010, on the conference website. Notifications of accepted and rejected proposals will be e-mailed by February 15, 2011.

**Pre-conference Workshops and Seminars on Tuesday, June 21:** ASLE will once again offer a number of pre-conference workshops and seminars led by prominent environmental writers and critics: 1) Graduate Student Workshop – Tom J. Hillard; 2) Early Modern Literature & Ecocriticism Seminar – Simon Estok; 3) Ecological Media & Ecocriticism Seminar – Sid Dobrin and Salma Monani; 4) Place-Based Pedagogy Workshop – Jennifer Kobylecky, Aldo Leopold Foundation; 5) Human Natures: Approaches to Teaching EcoLiterature & Human Groups (seminar) – Kimberly Ruffin; 6) Global Indigeneity, Environmental Justice, and Ecocriticism Seminar – Joni Adamson and John Gamber. Each workshop and seminar will last for three hours on the afternoon of June 21 and will be limited to 15 participants. Advance registration is required and will begin October 15 and close March 15 (or when full, whichever is earlier). Some pre-conference preparation will be required for seminars, including short position papers. Because titles of position papers will be listed in the conference program, we encourage (but will not require) seminar participants to consider attending the seminar in lieu of presenting at the conference itself (rather than doing both). For further information or to pre-register for pre-conference workshops and seminars, please contact Greta Gaard: [greta.gaard@uwrf.edu](mailto:greta.gaard@uwrf.edu).

**Field Sessions and Post-Conference Field Trips:** As with past conferences, there will a number of half-day field excursions on Friday afternoon and several post-conference field trips on Sunday. Destinations will include the Lilly Rare Book Room; Goose Pond, one of the largest restored wetland areas in the Midwest; Lake Monroe, a successful bald eagle restoration site; the Stone Age Institute; New Harmony, site of two of America's utopian communities; and the Audubon Museum in Kentucky.

Questions about the program? Please contact Ursula Heise at [uheise@stanford.edu](mailto:uheise@stanford.edu).

Questions about the field sessions? Please email Christoph Irmischer at [christoph.irmscher@gmail.com](mailto:christoph.irmscher@gmail.com).

## **IV. Announcement of a Series of Lectures**

The *National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh*, which is involved in our next ICOHTEC Conference, organised a series of lectures on “Understanding Technology” in cooperation with the Institute for the Study of Science, Technology and Innovation, *University of Edinburgh*.

### **Understanding Technology**

The third series of public lectures presenting leading international research and ideas in the history, philosophy, politics and sociology of technology

Monday 30 August 2010

Phil Scranton

Rutgers University

Complexity and Contingency in Technological Innovation: Making Jet Propulsion Work

Thursday 11 November 2010, 6pm \*

Early People Gallery, National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street \*

Simon Schaffer

Cambridge University

Between Edinburgh and Egypt: How the Pyramids Transformed Scottish Astronomy

Thursday 20 January 2011

Graeme Gooday

Leeds University

Patenting the Telephone: Legally Disputing an Inventive History

March 2011 (date to be confirmed)

Liliane Hilaire-Perez

Université de Paris

What is Technology? A Comparative Study of the Science of the Artificial in Britain and France at the Turn of the XVIIIth and XIXth Centuries

Thursday 5 May 2011

Andrew Pickering

Exeter University

Sketches of Another Future: Cybernetics in Britain, 1940-2000

Except where noted \* :

Lectures commence at 3 pm

Dunfermline Room, National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF

Admission is free but space is limited.

Please register with Maureen Kerr, [m.kerr@nms.ac.uk](mailto:m.kerr@nms.ac.uk).

## **V. Call for contributions**

**Vergangenheitsbewirtschaftung – Theorie – Praxis – Ethik / Economy of History:  
Theory, practice and ethics**

Deadline for submitting abstracts **30 September 2010**

The Editor Christoph Kühberger, Hildesheim University calls for contributions about the economy of history for a book scheduled for 2012.

Please visit the call for papers on “aktuelles”, <http://www.unternehmensgeschichte.de/>

Please contact Christoph Kühberger, Universität Hildesheim, Institut für Geschichte, [christoph.kuehberger@unihildesheim](mailto:christoph.kuehberger@unihildesheim).

## **VI. Awards**

**ICOHTEC** announced the third Prize for Young Scholars; see Chapter I.2.

### **Awards of the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH)**

Deadline for application **30 November 2010**

The ESEH awards two publication prizes every two years: The Turku Book Award is awarded by the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC). The prize is intended to identify and encourage innovative and well-written scholarship in the field of environmental history. The 2011 prize, worth € 3000, will be awarded for the best book in environmental history published in 2009 or 2010. Monographs must be received by 15 January 2011. The ESEH Best Article Prize is intended to identify and encourage innovative and well written research in the field of environmental history of Europe. It will be awarded for an article published in 2009 or 2010. Applications are welcomed from senior and junior scholars from all countries, even though some preference may be given to junior scholars from Europe. The winner will receive an award worth € 500 plus travel grant (if needed) to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> ESEH Conference in 2011. Complete applications must be received by 30 November 2010.

Please visit <http://eseh.org/about/publiprize/>

## **VII. Join ICOHTEC**

An ICOHTEC membership makes you a member of the scholarly network of the UNESCO-based International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC.

The membership includes:

- Reduced fees for ICOHTEC's conferences
- ICOHTEC's reviewed journal ICON (published annually, ca. 200 pp.)
- ICOHTEC's electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)

## Subscription Form

I wish to become a member of ICOHTEC and pay my annual subscription  
(tick an appropriate box):

- for an individual (40 \$ or 30 € or equivalent)
- for a student (20 \$ or 15 € or equivalent)
- for an institution (100 \$ or 75 € or equivalent)

for the year **2010, 2011, 2012** (please, circle the year[s]). The total amount: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ / €

Your first name and surname:

---

Email:

---

Postal address with a postcode:

---

---

Country:

---

**Please, return this form** with a cheque of an appropriate sum made out to “ICOHTEC, Patrice Bret” and send it either to  
**Dr. Patrice Bret , IRSEM, Case 46, 1 place Joffre, F-75700 Paris SP 07, France** or to  
Professor Timo Myllyntaus, University of Turku, Finnish History, School of History,  
FI-20014 Turku, Finland

You can also transfer the dues by international money transfer to our ICOHTEC account:  
“ICOHTEC“:

IBAN : DE44 430400360390259000

BIC : COBADEFFXXX

N.B. Do not omit to indicate the membership year(s) together with your name and address.