

# ICOHTEC

# NEWSLETTER



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

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

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### Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We received nearly 150 proposals for our 38<sup>th</sup> ICOHTEC Conference in Glasgow. Thus our Program Committee is working hard to inform you about the results, soon. In the mean time ICOHTEC's Price Committee's are dealing with many interesting applications for the Young Scholar Price and ICOHTEC's new price for articles, the Maurice-Daumas-Prize.

The conferences report given in this Newsletter is dedicated to the development of the Rhine valley in those times of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries when economy was coal-based. The participants of this economic history conference discussed many subjects which are interesting for historians of technology.

Best wishes

Yours Stefan Poser

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## I. Conference Reports

### **The Coal-Based Rhine Economy. Development of an Industrial Region from Basel to Rotterdam, 1850-1950**

Conference of the Transnational Rhine Network in Frankfurt/Main, November 2011

Eva-Maria Roelevink, [eva.roelevink@rub.de](mailto:eva.roelevink@rub.de)

Is it possible to define the economies along the river Rhine as a coherent transnational economic system? And if we do so, how do we cope methodologically with cultural differences, changing national politics, and diverse geographical conditions that influence the particular economic developments of these riparian states?

These were the main questions the participants of the second transnational Rhine conference wanted to explore by discussing the development of the industrial region from Basel to Rotterdam from the 1850's to 1950, a period that has been labelled the "coal-based economy". Therefore, scholars were invited to discuss the relevance as well as the methodological settings of the Rhine economy project within its transnational and international conditions. This thematic link was the prelude for various presentations which underlined the importance of industrial clusters, databases, as well as micro- and macroeconomic activities, ties of economic development, cultural and national impacts and the role of technology.

The Rhine conference in Frankfurt/Main was opened by the hosts Werner Plumpe (Frankfurt) and Ralf Banken (Frankfurt) who presented the progress that had taken place since the first conference in Rotterdam in 2009. Plumpe and Banken pointed out that the fundamental questions were, first, why the Rhine area could be defined as a competitive but also integrated region, and second, what forces determined the economic integration of this region.

Keynote speaker RICHARD COOPEY (Aberystwyth) based his paper on the characterization of the Rhine area as a special, unique industrial district. He emphasized that the conceptual framework has to mirror the complexity and therefore needs to include various scientific disciplines and approaches as well as the inlaying dynamic of the river itself. According to Coopey research on a water-system, such as the Rhine area provides a keen advantage: the possibility to adjust micro-, meso- as well as macro-historical aspects.

The first session explored "perspectives on transport and logistics". JEROEN EUWE (Rotterdam) pointed out that statistical evidence proves that it was the Rhine that constitutes the backbone of the economic ties between Germany and the Netherlands. The ties along the Rhine, especially between Rotterdam and the Ruhr area, were significantly more intensive than Rotterdam's connection to Belgium and France. Via a detailed quantitative analysis of statistics on transportation, Euwe demonstrated that especially the heavy industry of the Ruhr area established close connections with the Netherlands and as quantitative data

seems to prove, the goods transported from this area were one of the main factors that fostered the growth of the Dutch port. Discussant MONIKA DOMMANN (Basel) affirmed that a nationalized categorisation seems to be inefficient and underlined that a broader perspective has to be taken on the interwar period, which should be interpreted as a period of rapid changes.

The second session was dedicated to business and financial relations between German and Dutch industries along the Rhine. HEIN KLEMANN (Rotterdam) focused on monetary and financial problems of the Rhine States in the Interwar-Period. ALFRED RECKENDREES (Copenhagen) took a micro-based perspective on the Vereinigte Stahlwerke and their financial relations since their foundation in 1926.

The second Keynote Speech was performed by RON BOSCHMA (Utrecht). Boschma presented a numerical data based research that explored the development of regional diversification in correlation to the transfer of technology in Sweden from 1969 to 2002. He argued that regional economic efficiency depended on the density of the network of technological transfer. Furthermore, this network establishes a cluster which, in turn, displays path dependence processes. Boschma stressed that this approach could also be applied to analyse the Rhine-Economy. Though his approach was widely appreciated, the discussion revealed that it could be difficult to obtain the required data for profound historical research, especially for the 19th and early 20th century.

The subsequent session dealt with different types of coal and its relevance for the Rhine district. HENDRIK FISCHER (Köln) und BORIS GEHLEN (Bonn) pictured the development of the Rhenish lignite industry since the 1880s and concluded that the lignite industry, although it emerged from humble origins became an essential part of the Rhine Economy from the 1920s onwards. RALF BANKEN (Frankfurt) focused on the competition between the Saar and Ruhr coal in the middle and upper Rhine valley between 1850 and 1914. He stressed a lack of research concerning the coal trade and its historical business implications. While in the early years the access to the Rhine offered a competitive advantage for the Ruhr coal, the competitive situation changed because of the enhanced development of the railroad network. This development extended the market area for the Saar not just because of the railroad itself, but also because of the access the Rhine offered for the Saar coal. As Banken resumed the Ruhr possessed a well organised sales organization, an advantage the Saar did not catch up with until the second decennium of the 20th century when the state owned Saar Coal Company started to purchase several trading companies. THOMAS JOVOVIC (Bochum) explored the Rheinisch-Westfälische Kohlen-Syndikat (Coal-Syndicate) and its influence on the process of horizontal and vertical integration of the Ruhr coal mining industry. The speaker began his presentation with some theoretical remarks on institutional economic approaches and reasoned that, contrary to mainstream opinion, cartels are not avoiding competition, but shifting it from the market to an internal level. Therefore, he argued, further research has to focus on internal debates of cartels and changes in the institutional frameworks that are represented mainly by the cartels' contracts. The process of vertical and horizontal integration that occurred in the Ruhr coal mining industry between 1893 and 1915 represents reactions to such changes. In accordance with the changing contracts of the

Coal-Syndicate, Jovovic could identify three phases of integration. Thus the coal syndicate appears to be an important factor in the shaping of the Rhine economy. Discussant DOMINIQUE BARJOT (Paris) commented that the competition in the upper Rhine Valley revealed the existence of a Rhine economy. He also stated that focussing on one commodity, especially such an important one as coal, offers the methodological advantage of an historical analysis of connecting the micro- and the macro-level.

The fourth session on “regulating and regional integration” was opened by ISABEL TÖLLE (Siegen) who presented a conflict regarding the construction of the first non-moveable bridge over the Rhine in Prussian Cologne. FRANÇOISE BERGER (Grenoble) focused on the canalisation of the Moselle and the Saar as an infrastructural feeder to the Rhine. The initiatives for the canalisation already arose in the 1880’s but a final agreement could not be reached until the 1950’s. As Berger showed, conflicting interests of industrialists, not only between German and French nationals but also between those from the Ruhr and southern Germany, as well as changing political circumstances, were responsible for the delay in the realisation of this project. TAKAFUMI KUROSAWA (Kyoto) put forth the hydro-powered Industrial Revolution of the Swiss cotton industry. He explored that the constitutive indicators were the geographical environment of the industry as well as the existing networks in particular. PETER LYTH (Nottingham University Business School) pondered this idea coming to the result that the Rhine has to be viewed as much more than a geographical expression but possibly has to be divided for methodological reasons into the High, Upper and Lower Area.

The fifth session was set on the topic of food trade within the Rhine area. LAURA RISCHBIETER (Berlin) and MARK JAKOB (Göttingen) introduced the trading of colonial goods in the 19th century with regard to coffee and tobacco. Rhenish coffee traders lost their location advantage when Hamburg attained a monopoly position and adapted by becoming roasters, thus integrating another part of the commodity chain. According to the speakers, unlike coffee, tobacco imports via the Rhine fluctuated, and after a decline since the 1840s, from the 1870s onwards the Netherlands once again exported substantial amounts of tobacco into the Germany. Jakob and Rischbieter concluded that changing patterns of specific advantages of the Rhine region have to be considered. Differing wage costs, because of the labour intensive manufacturing of cigars, seem to have played a more important role than the costs of transportation. BEN WUBS (Rotterdam) completed the session with a presentation on food trade between Rotterdam and the Rhine area. With the urbanisation and the rise of the Ruhr area, the demand for food grew. On the basis of existing literature, the paper concluded that the Lower Rhine region in the late 19th century could have developed into a functional economic region which was based on agents who interacted significantly more with each other than with agents in other regions. However, he argued that more research has to be done concerning the food trade in the Lower Rhine region.

The final speech was held by HARM G. SCHRÖTER (Bergen) who formulated some preliminary conclusions concerning a Rhine valley project. Giving no summary but some additional advices he underlined the importance of the Rhine phenomena and the necessity

to find a historical explanation for its development. Such a historical explanation could enable us to point out that European integration existed long before the first political attempts to create the European Community. Besides, he confirmed that there is a strong need to develop a framework for analysing the Rhine area; he reflected on the need for defining and narrowing down the period and the subject. Schröter suggested a limiting strategy, to include for instance the Netherlands as whole nation, but embrace only those German regions which were directly affected by the Rhine.

The final general discussion reflected the aspects of the coal-based Rhine economy, which emphasized that the Rhine-Economy can be seen as an economic and “flowing” region which was bound together by trade and transnational competition as well as by cooperation. The conference had its strength in the diversity of presentations which demonstrated a range of important factors and relating conditions in context of the economic tied Rhine region since the 1850s. Even if it cannot be neglected that the Rhine economy was a “coal-based” region the conference clarified that the research in terms of transport relations, financial settings, the interrelation of micro and macro level and related the related economic and cultural transformation has to be put forward. The discussions which arose from the presentations profited in a fruitful way from the international character of the conference which as well confirmed the need for transnational analysis. Thus, further research has to be set on a common framework. The questions which had been asked at the beginning of the conference could not be answered completely but have been precisely defined for further discussions. Though, at the moment research focuses on the economy of the Rhine, it may prove to be fruitful to analyse other river economies and pave a way for comparative studies. In 2011 the conference will take place in Bochum to discuss on the oil-based Rhine-Economy since the 1950s.

Please find the whole report in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 24.02.2011, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3556>

## II. Conference Announcements

**4 – 5 March 2011**

**Anwendungsorientierung in der universitären Forschung.** Historische Perspektiven auf eine aktuelle Debatte. **Application-oriented Research at Universities** – Historical perspectives and nowadays discussions.

Zentrum für Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte, Munich

Please visit <http://www.deutsches-museum.de/information/fortbildung/organisationen/>

Please contact Dr. Désirée Schauz, Münchner Zentrum für Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte, [Desiree.Schauz@mzwgt.mwn.de](mailto:Desiree.Schauz@mzwgt.mwn.de)

**10 – 11 March 2011**

**Ideologie und Innovation. Die Technik und der nationalsozialistische Vierjahresplan. / Ideology and Innovation. The influence of the national socialist's four-year plan on the development of technology.** Technikhistorische Jahrestagung des VDI / Annual

Conference on History of Technology of the Association of German Engineers, VDI  
Ruhr University, Bochum

Please contact Helmut Maier, Chair for the History of Technology, Ruhr University, Bochum,  
[helmut.maier@rub.de](mailto:helmut.maier@rub.de)

**15 April 2011**

**Gagarin als Erinnerungsfigur und Archivkörper.** Workshop zum 50. Jahrestag des ersten bemannten Weltraumflugs. **Workshop dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the first orbital flight of a human being.**

Deutsch-Russisches Museum, Berlin

CFP – **Attention please, deadline 28 February 2011**

The workshop will discuss different pictures of Jurij Gagarin, drawn in the time of the Soviet Union and since the 1990s.

Please visit <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=15580>

Please contact Matthias Schwartz, Osteuropa-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin,  
[schwartz@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:schwartz@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

**6 – 7 June 2011**

**Neurohistory Workshop.** How can neuroscience help us understand the past?

Rachel Carson Center, Munich

CFP – **Attention please, deadline 28 February 2011**

Disciplines can make major advances when they synthesize their ideas and methods with those of other disciplines. This workshop focuses on the ways in which neuroscience might help us understand history (and, ideally, vice versa). Following the lead of Daniel Smail (*Deep History and the Brain*, 2008), we refer to this synthesis as neurohistory.

We will focus on four major questions:

1. What ideas and methods have neuroscientists developed that historians can use to shed a new light on the past (and vice versa)?
2. What new research questions can neuroscience suggest for historians (and vice versa)?
3. What are the biggest challenges in developing neurohistory as a field, and how can they be overcome?
4. How might neurohistory shed light on the interaction between people and their environment, in both the past and the present?

Eight to ten participants will write pre-circulated papers of about one thousand words that focus on major conceptual issues in neurohistory. We will discuss papers in the workshop, and afterwards, participants will revise them for publication in *Rachel Carson Center Perspectives*.

The Rachel Carson Center will pay for participants' airfare, lodging, and meals during the workshop. The workshop's co-conveners are Edmund Russell, [ed.russell@carsoncenter.lmu.de](mailto:ed.russell@carsoncenter.lmu.de), and Arielle Helmick, [arielle.helmick@lmu.de](mailto:arielle.helmick@lmu.de).

We seek proposals from scholars from any discipline with expertise in history, neuroscience, or environmental studies. Experience working at the intersection of neuroscience with history or environmental studies is welcome, but not required. One of our goals is to stimulate interest among scholars who may not have thought about these intersections before. While we expect to focus on the four questions above, we will also consider proposals that pose creative new questions.

The deadline for the receipt of proposals is 28 February 2011. The proposal consists of a cover letter and a CV. The cover letter should, in no more than two pages, describe the contributor's background, research interests, and paper idea. We ask contributors to both pose the question his/her paper addresses, and to propose a way to answer it. Send the cover letter and CV to Andrea Jungbauer as email attachments, [andrea.jungbauer@carsoncenter.lmu.de](mailto:andrea.jungbauer@carsoncenter.lmu.de), or by mail to the Rachel Carson Center, (Leopoldstrasse 11a, 80802 Munich, Germany).

Please visit

[http://www.carsoncenter.unimuenchen.de/news\\_events/neurohistory\\_cfp/index.html](http://www.carsoncenter.unimuenchen.de/news_events/neurohistory_cfp/index.html)

Please contact Andrea Jungbauer, Rachel Carson Center,

[andrea.jungbauer@carsoncenter.lmu.de](mailto:andrea.jungbauer@carsoncenter.lmu.de)

## **2 – 4 September 2011**

### **Jahrestagung der Georg-Agricola-Gesellschaft, GAG, Annual Conference of the Georg-Agricola Society**

Neustadt/Weinstrasse, Germany

The conference is dedicated to the history of technology of vine making and the history of vine culture.

More information will be available soon on <http://www.georg-agricola-gesellschaft.de/>

Please contact Norman Pohl, Freiberg University, [Norman.Pohl@iwtg.tu-freiberg.de](mailto:Norman.Pohl@iwtg.tu-freiberg.de)

## **12 – 14 September 2011**

### **Vortragstagung der Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, Fachgruppe Geschichte 2011. Annual Conference of the History Group of the Society of Chemistry in Germany**

Rostock, Germany

CFP – Deadline **15 March 2011**

The conference is dedicated to the history of chemistry and the history of the chemical industry. The 8th International Conference on History of Chemistry will take place in Rostock after this meeting.

Please visit [http://www.gdch.de/strukturen/fg/geschichte/tagung\\_2011.htm](http://www.gdch.de/strukturen/fg/geschichte/tagung_2011.htm)

Please contact Renate Kießling, Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, [r.kiessling@gdch.de](mailto:r.kiessling@gdch.de).

#### **14 – 16 September 2011**

**Pathways of Knowledge.** 8th International Conference on History of Chemistry

Rostock, Germany

CFP – **Attention please – deadline 4 March 2011**

The Working Party (WP) on History of Chemistry of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) will hold its bi-annual International Conference on the History of Chemistry (8th ICHC) in Rostock, Germany, from 14 to 16 September 2011.

From 12 to 14 September 2011 the [National Conference of the Working division on History of Chemistry](#) of the German Chemical Society will be held in Rostock, too. At this conference historians of science and technology and chemists will meet around several themes in history of chemistry. Everybody has the useful option of visiting both events in Rostock.

The 8th ICHC will focus on the theme “Pathways of Knowledge”. This theme is in direct connection to the general aim of the conferences organised by the WP, namely to facilitate communication between historically interested chemists and historians of chemistry from all over Europe. Previous conferences organised by the WP were held in Lisbon 2005 (Chemistry, Technology and Society), Leuven 2007 (Neighbours and Territories: The Evolving Identity of Chemistry) and Sopron 2009 (Consumers and Experts: The Uses of Chemistry (and Alchemy)).

Please find the call for papers on <http://www.gdch.de/vas/tagungen/tg/firstcirc.pdf>

Please contact the chairman of the PC, Peter Morris, [peter.morris@NMSI.ac.uk](mailto:peter.morris@NMSI.ac.uk)

#### **6 – 7 October 2011**

**Engineer or Engineers?** Between expansion and fragmentation - new insights and comparative perspectives

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris

CFP – **Deadline 2 May 2011**

Thirty years ago was held the now well-known conference “L'ingénieur dans la société française” in the Ecomusée at Le Creusot, France. The publication of its proceedings allowed at that time, through a first gathering of scattered studies, creating the conditions of a genuine scientific debate. This event was well in line with the manifold stakes faced by the professional group, particularly its dissolution into the administrative category of “cadres”. Ironically, this very category seems to have been the most chosen empirical object of

enquiry, which could partly explain the subsequent disengagement of social sciences in the study of engineering. However, the researches conducted since then clearly show that a number of vivid questions remain unsolved.

More contemporary events further interrogate researchers: the transformation of the professional group has reached a point where its unity is put into question, especially given the heterogeneity of practices, labour markets, functions, social categories and even training programmes. Is this fragmentation as salient as it appears? And is it really new? Does it engender consequences on the position occupied by the group in the system of professions? Should one regard this ongoing ramification as a colonisation of new territories in the division of labour, or as a balkanisation of the profession? Can one instead imagine that it actually maintains its unity while at the same time undergoing a process of segmentation? Which approaches should be mobilised to seize these apparently contradictory phenomena?

Articulating four main panels, the conference will gather new contributions to the study of engineers, in the past or in the present, with the purpose of repositioning the focal point on this professional group. The selection committee will give special attention to propositions that extend the field of enquiry with international cases, particularly non-occidental societies that have been understudied and to studies conducted by young scholars that are likely to bring up new perspectives. It will also consider with high interest approaches shedding light on new dimensions of the history of the group, through the study of particular periods, movements or biographies that have left imprints on the profession, or through reflections on engineering historiography.

### **Panel 1: Forms of organisation of the profession**

Across different countries, engineers have progressively constituted what could be considered as a profession, through the development of a specialised training, professional associations or institutions geared to gain recognition of their specificity both vis-à-vis public authorities and the public in general. Even though this evolution has been extensively studied and is now increasingly placed in a transnational perspective, many blind spots still remain and entire historical periods need to be covered, such as the after-war decades. This panel also offers the opportunity to critically revisit the structuration of the engineering profession through the lens of its evolution, looking at institutional logics as well as international developments. For example, the questioning of the unity of the group occurs when the profession reaches its highest level of institutionalisation, which seems to contradict the very idea of “professionalisation”. Hence, drawing on results yielded by research on different national contexts, this panel will stimulate critical reflections on the relevance of a universalistic idea of a profession as a coherent body unified by techno-scientific practices.

### **Panel 2: Engineering knowledge and practices overtime**

The development of the professional group has occurred concomitantly with the constitution and the takeover of bodies of specific knowledge. Too often considered as a mere ensemble of techno-scientific know-how, engineering knowledge also relies on other material, commonly labelled as “non-technical”, which has gained substantial legitimacy since the

1990s. However, the presence of such “non-technical” training – whatever the label used to name it and the forms it can take – tracks back to the origins of engineering education. This raises important questions related to the commonly agreed idea of an “introduction” of this component in a historical base of techno-scientific knowledge. It also raises issues concerning the relevance of the dichotomy between “hard” and “soft” sciences, since the structuring role of knowledge in engineering practice has mostly operated through the entanglement of these bodies.

Therefore, this panel will centre on processes of codification, normalisation and questioning of engineering knowledge and practices in different contexts (training programmes, professional associations, etc.). In this respect, it will be conceivable to explore these phenomena in terms of creation, importation or hybridisation of specific bodies of knowledge. Particular attention will be given to the circulation of approaches such as Scientific Management and more recent trends of management and business sciences, economics and social sciences, in order to assess their effects on the dynamics of the group and their role in the perpetuation of its unity. It seems important, however, to equally consider the breadth of activities relating to fields commonly considered as “traditional”. Taking these into account allows tempering declinist or prophesying interpretations of the dynamics of the professional group.

### **Panel 3: The relationship between engineers and production systems**

The title of Veblen's famous book synthesised in a few words what is often regarded as a natural, given fact: the relationship between engineers and capitalism. However, the importance of engineers in the last centuries in non-capitalist economies invites researchers to reconsider the scope of this idea, while keeping alive the question of the relationship between engineers and the production systems. Indeed, the engineer, at the same time production agent and production manager, is subject to complex and heterogeneous relations with the economic sphere.

This theme is also geared to gather works on the relations that individuals have with labour markets throughout their career and on their integration to larger economic organisations (firms, corps d'Etat, etc.). In this respect, comparative or monographic approaches on the professional situation of engineers in given production systems allows uncovering the consequences of salarisation or job casualisation, as well as studying the evolution of the specific segment of the profession which has settled on managing or administrative functions. What is at stake is an attempt to go beyond the professional literature on the domination of the “managerial” or the “entrepreneurial” model, and to concentrate on the forms of intervention of engineers who hold administrative positions. In the vein of these reflections, contributions can also focus on interest or economic groups, such as the *patronat* or labour unions, and on their impact on the profession.

### **Panel 4: Engineers and society**

The topic of the role of the engineer in its society tracks back to the emergence of the group. The various movements that have contributed to the settlement of the profession have, almost systematically, seized this question. This panel will pursue the objective of bringing into light the different stances on the engineer-society relationship, and elucidating their links

with the great ideologies that have impinged the professional group throughout its history. It is hoped that a critical reassessment of movements such as Saint-Simonianism, Leplaysianism, Fayolism or social catholic doctrines could help understand the recent diffusion of social responsibility, sustainable development and ethics, in both engineering education and engineering practice. The panel will also encompass the issue of commitment of engineers in the public sphere, whether it relates to activism, association or NGO voluntarism, labour union or ethics.

### **Selection procedure and deadlines**

Abstracts shall not exceed 4000 characters and will include an author presentation (name, surname, status, institutional affiliation and contact details) as well as a preliminary title.

Abstracts must be submitted before May, 2nd 2011 to the following address:

[colloque.ingenieur2011@ehess.fr](mailto:colloque.ingenieur2011@ehess.fr).

Communications can be performed in French or in English and shall not exceed 20 minutes.

A collective publication of selected papers is envisaged. The outcome of the call will be communicated to authors in May 2011. Accepted papers shall be submitted for the 1st of September 2011.

### **Organising committee**

Antoine Derouet, PhD Student at EHESS

Dr. Frapier Christel, Post-doctoral researcher, Centre for Social History of Twentieth Century (UMR 8058 CNRS/ Paris I University)

Simon Paye, PhD Student at Sciences-Po

Please contact the organising committee by [colloque.ingenieur2011@ehess.fr](mailto:colloque.ingenieur2011@ehess.fr).

### **9 – 11 November 2011**

#### **Industrialisierung in europäischen Regionen. / The Development of Industrialisation in Different Regions of Europe**

Haus der Geschichte des Ruhrgebiets, Bochum

CFP – **Attention please, deadline 28 February 2011**

Please visit [http://www.gtg.tu-](http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1008&Itemid=267)

[berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1008&Itemid=267](http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1008&Itemid=267).

Please contact Juliane Czieroka, Ruhr Universität Bochum, [juliane.czieroka@ruhr-uni-bochum.de](mailto:juliane.czieroka@ruhr-uni-bochum.de).

### **11 – 12 November 2011**

#### **Wasserversorgung. Technikgeschichtliche Tagung der Eisenbibliothek / Water Supply.**

Conference dedicated to the History of Technology of the Eisenbibliothek.

Eisenbibliothek, Schlatt, Switzerland

CFP – Deadline **8 April 2011**

Please visit [http://www.gtq.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1010&Itemid=267](http://www.gtq.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1010&Itemid=267)

Please contact Dr. Britta Leise, [britta.leise@georgfischer.com](mailto:britta.leise@georgfischer.com)

**14 – 16 December 2011**

**Railways and Speed. Two centuries of speed on the railways, thirty years of high-speed trains**

Paris

CFP – Deadline **15 May 2011**

*The conference is supported by:*

SNCF, International Union of Railways, AFFI

Chair

Etienne Auphan, emeritus Professor of Geography, Paris-Sorbonne University, François Caron, emeritus Professor of History, Paris-Sorbonne University, Chair of the AHICF Scientific Board of Advisers, Pierre Zembri, Professor of Geography, Cergy-Pontoise University.

Steering committee

Etienne Auphan, emeritus Professor of Geography, Paris-Sorbonne University, Pierre Zembri, Professor of Geography, Cergy-Pontoise University, Michel Leboeuf, SNCF, Thomas Rémond, RFF, Marie-Noëlle Polino, AHICF.

Conference secretary and local venue

AHICF - Association pour l'histoire des chemins de fer

9, rue du Château-Landon, F-75010 PARIS

Phone : +33(0)1 5820 5101 or 51 02, fax: +33(0)1 5820 0286

[contact@ahicf.com](mailto:contact@ahicf.com) - [www.ahicf.com](http://www.ahicf.com)

Calendar of events:

Deadline for submissions: 15 May 2011

Speakers will be notified by June 1st, 2011.

Deadline for submission of a paper to the *Revue d'histoire des chemins de fer*, which will publish the conference proceedings after a peer review process : March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

Please visit [www.ahicf.com](http://www.ahicf.com).

Please contact Conference secretary and local venue, AHICF, by [contact@ahicf.com](mailto:contact@ahicf.com).

**3 – 7 July 2012**

**The 4th International Congress on Construction History**

Paris

CFP – Deadline **15 April 2011**

We invite researchers from all disciplines concerned with the history of construction—whether they be historians or experts, experienced or young researchers—to submit 20-minute paper abstracts for the 4th International Congress on Construction History. The proposal should include:

- a title followed by the name(s) of the author(s) and institutional affiliation(s);
- an abstract of 400 words maximum that must contain mention of the sources consulted;
- six key words (selected, if possible, from the list of topics and subjects below);
- a short curriculum vitae of one page maximum indicating contact information, status, laboratory affiliation if relevant, as well as a list of your most important or most recent publications.

Prospective speakers should submit proposals to us by e-mail

([tricia.meehan@parismalaquais.archi.fr](mailto:tricia.meehan@parismalaquais.archi.fr)) no later than 15 April 2011. Two members of the Scientific Committee will evaluate each proposal. The results of these deliberations will be communicated before 31 June 2011. This will give authors of accepted proposals six months to complete their papers—following the publication format guidelines that will appear on the web-site under the header “Instructions for Papers”—to be sent no later than 31 December 2011. The paper will then be evaluated by the Scientific Committee, which has the right to accept the text as it is, request modifications or refuse the text submitted.

After approval by the Scientific Committee, the papers will be published in both paper and electronic versions. In the electronic publication, authors who would like to may, in addition to the English version of their article, also publish a version in the language of their choice. We have drawn up a thematic list of topics and subjects attempting to cover the various aspects of the history of construction. Undoubtedly, the submitted and accepted abstracts will challenge this scheme, thereby revealing the state of research in construction history in 2012. They will intersect with the suggested thematics, giving rise to new and stimulating debates. One of the interests of the Congress is just this: to discover the richness of research today in construction history. However, as you are aware, the history of construction should not be confused with the history of architecture, of urbanism or of heritage, even if it maintains privileged and sometimes direct links with these disciplines. Any proposition must therefore make sure to respect the distinctions that constitute construction history.

Furthermore, we would like to draw your attention (and especially that of non English speaking researchers) to the fact that the texts must be written in an impeccable English in order to not detract from the quality of the publication that will result from this congress.

**Calendar**

- Deadline for abstracts: 15 April 2011

- Decision regarding abstracts: 30 June 2011
- Deadline for papers: 31 December 2011
- Decision regarding papers: 31 January 2012

## **Topics and Subjects in Construction History**

### **History of Construction: Object of Study or Discipline?**

- Definitions of construction history and/or its components
- Relationships to related disciplines (history of technology, archaeology, geology, ecology, urbanism, landscape)
- Sources: buildings, archives and documents
- Methods of research, analysis and evaluation; communications tools
- Teaching, pedagogy with regard to engineers and architects

### **Theoretical Thought and Applied Sciences**

- Ideas, design, competitions
- Applied Sciences: engineering, natural disasters and fire, interior environment (heating, ventilation, air conditioning, lighting, acoustics), hydraulics, structural morphology, ergonomics
- Scientific and technical controversies
- Function, feasibility, sustainability
- Model, modeling, analytical methods
- Invention, innovation
- Constitution, diffusion and transfer of knowledge
- Models, drawings
- Relations between science and practice
- The technical publication: technical writing and drawings
- Experimentation, control, quality

### **Constructive techniques and materials**

- Techniques and applied arts: Stereotomy, carpentry, masonry, engineering (civil, military, maritime), technology, cladding, decoration
- Heritage: expertise, preservation, restoration, rehabilitation
- Constructive elements: foundations and floors, walls, bays, elements of support and stability, spanning (lintel, arc, vault, ceiling), frame, roofing, staircase
- Constructive process: prefabrication, standardization, technical gestures, disorderliness and faulty workmanship, reuse
- Materials: earth, wood, metal, stone, concrete, glass, fabric, composite materials, binders
- Tools, instruments, apparatuses, machines, heavy equipment
- Places of practice: workshops, lodges, construction sites
- Infrastructure and public works: bridges, dams, roadways and diverse networks

### **Social and cultural perspectives**

- Law: estimates and contracts, legislation, regulations, codes, technical norms and trade practices, customs, expertise, control, patents, ownership, leasing, easements,

neighborliness, responsibility, architect, client

- Economy: history of companies, construction trades, economic analyses of construction, accounts, prices, cost, wages, financing, production, quantity surveying, estimating, risk, speculation
- Social history of labor: training, teaching, academies, technical literature, archives, corporations, craft industry, trade-guilds, emigration/immigration, organization of work
- Construction professions and knowledge of the trades, biographies
- Construction politics and policies
- Cultural influences of the society on construction and vice versa (construction history in literature, cinema and television)

Please visit [www.icch-paris2012.fr](http://www.icch-paris2012.fr)

Please contact [tricia.meehan@parismalaquais.archi.fr](mailto:tricia.meehan@parismalaquais.archi.fr).

### III. Summer Schools

**12 – 16 September 2011**

**Summer School. Mobility and Information Technologies: A Long-Term Perspective**

Pleumeur-Bodou, France

CFP – Deadline **25 April 2011**

Organised jointly by the Cité des Télécommunications, the Paris-Sorbonne University, the Foundation for the History of Technology SHT at Eindhoven University of Technology, and Transfers, Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies, the summer school aims at providing doctoral students with an overview of relevant research results and of innovative tools and methodologies in the field of communication and mobility studies, and their history.

Students (including mostly Ph D students and a limited number of young post doc) will spend five days at the Cité des Télécommunications in the northern part of Brittany (see: <http://www.cite-telecoms.com/>). They will present and discuss their research in conjunction with lectures presented by scholars. Daily language will be English.

The summer school will focus on the relationship between mobility and communication history seen from a long-term perspective. This means that we are interested in projects dealing with the history of electronic systems connected or included in a mobility system broadly defined, but also in approaches of intermediality in history.

The framework of the summer school will be twofold. On the one hand, we are indebted methodologically to the history of technology and innovation studies, including large technical system and social construction of technology approaches. On the other hand, we are interested in studies that explore the very borders of the concept of mobility, including studies that approach transport vehicles as media, just like means of communications such as the one enumerated above, but also novels, films, and other carriers of messages and knowledge. Topics could include wireless telegraphy, radar, mobile phone, mobile

information systems, computerized traffic system regulation, radio, GPS as applied in walking, trains, cars, airplanes, boats, and rockets.

The summer school will be structured as follows. Each half-day session will be based on a keynote lecture by an invited scholar and followed by student presentations and discussions of their work in progress. Social events and visits will give the opportunity to discover either traditional or modern faces of this high tech part of Brittany.

The academic organizers are: Mathieu Flonneau (University Panthéon -Sorbonne) Irice-CRHI, Pascal Griset (University Paris-Sorbonne) Irice-CRHI, and Gijs Mom (Eindhoven University of Technology; editor of Transfers)

Teachers during the week will be:

Paul Cerruzzi, Air and Space Museum, Washington DC.  
Mathieu Flonneau, Université Panthéon-Sorbonne  
Pascal Griset, Université Paris –Sorbonne  
Gisela Hürlimann, Universität Zurich  
Vincent Kaufmann, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne  
Gijs Mom, Eindhoven University of Technology  
Frank Schipper, Leiden Institute for History  
Heike Weber, Technische Universität Berlin

Participation to the program, including social events, is free. All local costs (accommodation and food) will be covered by the organizers. Participants are expected to pay their own travel to and from Lannion, the closest railway station linked to Paris by TGV. There is a limited amount of travel stipends available, sponsored by SHT and Transfers. The stipend from the latter are available for those students who agree to submit their paper to Transfers for a special issue on Mobility and Communication. Participation will be limited to 15-18 students. Those interested in attending the summer school should send the following documents by e-mail to Mathieu Flonneau at: [mattaflo@aol.com](mailto:mattaflo@aol.com):

- a CV
- a summary of their dissertation project and an example of their work in progress (provisional chapter of the dissertation or a published article in any language)
- a summary of their project for post doc candidates

The deadline for applications is April 25th 2011. Students selected will be notified before May 16th 2011.

Please contact Mathieu Flonneau, [mattaflo@aol.com](mailto:mattaflo@aol.com)

## IV. Fellowships

### **AMC History Fellowship of the Association for Computing Machinery**

Deadline for application **15 April 2011**

The Association for Computing Machinery, founded in 1947, is the oldest and largest educational and scientific society dedicated to the computing profession, and today has members in more than 100 countries. To encourage historical research, the ACM History Committee plans to make two awards. One, a travel grant of \$2,500 to support historical research on the wide variety of ACM- related activities, including ACM members, officers, and prize winners. Second, a fellowship grant of \$5,000 focusing on ACM's rich institutional history, including consideration of its organization, publications, SIG activities, and sponsored conferences. Successful candidates for either award may be of any rank, from graduate students through senior researchers.

To Apply:

Applicants for either award should send a 2-page CV as well as a 750-word project description that

- describes the proposed research project;
- identifies the importance of specific ACM historical materials, whether traditional archival collections or online historical materials (oral histories, digitized conference papers, ACM organizational records, et al.);
- discusses the project's planned outcome (e.g. conference paper, journal article, book or dissertation chapter, teaching resource, museum exhibit); and
- outlines a timeline for completing the project, generally within one calendar year of the award, including a final project report sent to the ACM History Committee chair.

In preparing a proposal, applicants should examine the extensive list of "ACM Research Materials" as well as "Sources for ACM History," CACM 50 #5 (May 2007): 36-41. Other research materials relating to ACM history may also be used. Applicants should include a letter of endorsement from their home institution or an external scholarly reference.

Proposals are due by 15 April 2011. Proposals should be submitted as a single pdf-format document to history committee webmaster. Notification of awards will be made within six weeks.

## V. Recently Published Books

*Museum Folkwang (ed.): Mit dem Zug durch Europa. Plakate für Luxusreisen um 1900 [Ausstellungskatalog].* Edition Folkwang/Steidl, Göttingen 2010.

Catalogue of an exhibition in the Museum Folkwang, Essen. The exhibition was dedicated to poster advertisements for luxurious traveling by train in-between 1900 and the 1920s. The selection of the book shows railways as well as hotels and draws a picture of touristic attractions of those times – most of them situated in the South of Europe.

## **VI. 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 pages)
- ICOHTEC's electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)

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Professor Timo Myllyntaus, University of Turku, Finnish History, School of History,  
FI-20014 Turku, Finland

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