

# ICOHTEC

# NEWSLETTER



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

N° 74, May 2011

## 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 next ICOHTEC Conference (Glasgow 2-7 August 2011) will take place in a few months. Please find the preliminary conference schedule on our homepage for the Glasgow meeting <http://www.gla.ac.uk/events/icohtec2011/programme/>. The early bird registration fee will be available through **mid-June 2011**.

In order to prepare our conference I want to publish the annual bibliography of books, published or edited by ICOHTEC members since June of last year. Could you please submit the bibliographic information of your new books and a short abstract in English (2-3 lines) until **20 June 2011**?

It will be a pleasure to meet you in Glasgow.

Best wishes

Yours Stefan Poser

## Contents

I. Conference reports	p. 2
II. Conference announcements	p. 6
III. Recently published books	p. 14
IV. Join ICOHTEC	p. 14

## I. Conference Reports

Due to the close link between natural disasters and technological disasters the following conference report might be interesting for us; for the organisers it would have been fruitful to integrate perspectives of historians of technology.

### **The Transculturality of Historical Disasters: Governance and the Materialisation of Glocalisation**

New Delhi, March 2011

Eleonor Marcussen and Benedict Mette, Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University, [marcussen@asia-europe.heidelberg.uni.de](mailto:marcussen@asia-europe.heidelberg.uni.de), [b.mette@stud.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:b.mette@stud.uni-heidelberg.de)

The third and concluding workshop organised by the Junior Research Group (JRG) “Cultures of Disaster” addressed governance and transcultural processes in historical ‘natural’ disasters in South Asia. In line with the two previous workshops “Hybridity of Historical Disasters: Nature, Society, and Power” (Beirut, 2010) and “Learning from Disaster from Antiquity to Early Modern Times: Knowledge and Experience, Flow and Blockage” (Heidelberg, 2009), the workshop focused on a thematic aspect of the JRG’s research. It aimed to stimulate interdisciplinary research exchange on a thematic aspect of disasters in order to explain how cultural perceptions, interpretations and reactions to disasters took shape throughout history in South Asia. As may be discerned from the titles of the workshops, the research group explores the relationship between nature and society by analysing transcultural processes in Europe, the Middle East and South Asia. The research into cultural histories of disasters has involved fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations with experts in order to grasp the cultural and social mechanisms at work in disasters.

As GERRIT SCHENK (Darmstadt/Heidelberg) stated in the introduction, a ‘natural’ disaster is often the outcome of interaction between various physical, cultural, social, economic and political factors. ‘Governance’ is thereby at the core of disasters since a ‘catastrophic event’ may turn into a disaster depending on a society’s coping abilities. The societal processes which are part of governance include various ways of utilising, inventing and reconstructing local knowledge. This social interaction between institutions and individuals highlights how ideas and practices – whether originating in a South Asian context or emerging from

elsewhere – have been incorporated, transformed or renewed in the process of glocalisation in South Asia.[\[1\]](#)

The workshop's first session was devoted to interpretations of disasters, thus giving insights into the various ways natural disasters have been received in society throughout history with special reference to South Asia.

AUDRIUS BEINORIUS (Vilnius) opened the first session with a paper on divinatory understandings of natural disasters in primary Sanskrit sources. He explained how translations of Mesopotamian omen literature into Indian languages were gradually adapted to suit the Indian intellectual traditions, most notably in Indian astrology and divination literature. However, *Bhatsa hitā*, composed by Varamihira in the 5th century, became the most influential astrological work on divination, portents of natural disasters and other threats. An important aspect of Indian astrological tradition is that the stars could be pacified through proprietary rituals in order to avoid disasters. Thus the omens gave humans scope to perceive their actions as having an impact on the cosmos. In sum, the paper argued for the necessity to analyze astrological interpretations of disasters as an integral part of a cosmological worldview in order to understand their cultural meaning.

ELEONOR MARCUSSEN (Heidelberg) continued the session on interpretations with a case study on contradicting and sometimes overlapping readings of an earthquake in Bihar in 1934. The event gave rise to a number of explanations for causes of earthquakes, both in elaborate astrological accounts and in speculative scientific theories brought forward by geologists. Even though the explanations often stood in stark contrast to each other, the astrological explanations found support in scientific theories on gravitation and the planetary positions' influence on earthquakes.

VIKAS LAKHANI (Ahmedabad) explored the concept of risk in the daily lives of three communities facing environmental hazards in rural parts of contemporary Gujarat. Several examples highlighted how human interaction with nature influence people's and communities' perception and strategies in coping with environmental risk and potential natural disasters. This was evident in the diverse ways permanent resident and migrant communities drew upon different cultural perceptions of nature, but also contextual geographical and socio-economic factors played a decisive role in determining risk perceptions.

EDWARD SIMPSON (London) presented yet another aspect of interpretations of disasters. The keynote lecture illustrated how sociological reason in the aftermath of the Kutch earthquake of 26 January 2001 emerged as "quite ordinary explanations for an extraordinary event". Comparing it to Lisbon earthquake 1755, Simpson showed the distinct responses the earthquake as an extraordinary event evoked. In the case of Kutch, 'sin' or other provocations of the divine order projected the blame inwards on one's self. The narratives of blame and explanation can be seen as a way to rationalize the catastrophe along social existing relations in Kutch. Departing from these experiences, he pointed to the "vernacular sociological reason" of the interpretations. The keynote lecture was commented by ANU

KAPUR (Delhi). Most notably she highlighted the changes in the vernacular sociological reason with the arrival of colonialism. 'Traditional' responses to disasters treated extreme natural events as part of a 'religious' cosmological order. Only after introducing nature as an independent geophysical force the concept of 'natural' disasters appeared.

The first day ended with the opening of the photo exhibition "Flooded with Memories: Portraits of Inundation from Assam" by Kazu Ahmed (Delhi). Between 1998 and 2008, the village Matmora in Assam gradually disappeared into the depths of Brahmaputra. Matmora's inhabitants, *Mising* people, adjusted to the new conditions and carried on life in stilted houses on an embankment close to the submerged village. The exhibition highlighted how people dependent on a fluctuating landscape cope with disasters and their perceptions of identity in relation to the land.

The second day began with a session on floods and rivers, contrasting the everydayness and calamitous experience of living in a flooded landscape. With the intention to (re)construct social histories of agrarian farmers (*raiya*s) through archival sources, NITIN SINHA (Berlin) illustrated the colonial state's and the peasantry's relationship with the fluid soil of *diara* lands along the Ganges in Bihar. Due to the invisibility of the actual cultivators for the larger part of the 19th century, Sinha let the official letters and statistics speak of the shifting land conditions for those farmers who had to bear in mind what officials called 'property'.

ROHAN D'SOUZA (Delhi) showed how flood dependent deltas like the Ganges delta in Bengal Presidency were transformed into flood prone areas during British colonial period and the positive aspects of the transforming landscapes gave way to calamity management. This conceptual shift was largely ignored by post-independence governments which inherited the disaster management mechanisms of their colonial predecessors.

MONISANKAR MISRA (Tripura) constructed a narrative on how the 1929 Assam floods came to be known as "the deluge". The paper underlined the political context of the floods in Suram-Barak Valley and questioned their 'natural' character in the light of increasing population density as a result of work opportunities on tea plantations and the construction of a railway line. However, according to archival sources, these human interventions affected the dimension of the floods but not to their occurrence, for which the slash and burn agriculture in the hills contributed at least as much; instead, excessive rainfall rather than governance seems to have been the official explanation for the floods.

Expanding on the theme of disaster as a social construct, PRAVIN K. KUSHWAHA (Delhi) depicted the constructed vulnerability of some inhabitants of Delhi during the flooding of poor neighbourhoods caused by the Yamuna river in 2010. He showed that government relief was considered an emergency measure, and conservation of historic buildings a short term engagement as opposed to larger urban planning processes. He contextualized the reluctance of the inhabitants to leave their houses and possessions with the preparations for the Commonwealth Games for which Delhi was about to be transformed into a "world-class city". In conclusion, the papers presented in the session on floods and rivers gave

importance to governance and the state's responsibilities and policies; at the same time they also emphasised local coping mechanisms in dealing with disaster.

The session on famines mainly dealt with responses in the form of relief work as well as official colonial and non-official responses. GEORGINA BREWIS (London) argued that a British voluntary "ideal of service" was partly defined through encounters with Indian non-official voluntary relief work during famines from the late 18th to the beginning of the 20th century. In contrast to colonial representations of India as a "land of famine", Indian accounts asserted India as a "land of charity". The paper also suggested that the British-Indian encounters in relief work, especially fund-raising and cooperation between groups during the last quarter of the 19th century, were formative for Indian social service activities in the beginning of the 20th century.

The monsoon as a colonial project in the latter half of the 19th century was the main focus of CHARU SINGH (Delhi). She connected the colonisers' experience of different weather patterns in India with the establishment of a central meteorological institute which was used to investigate the links between rainfall, disease, agriculture and famine. The paper implied that in order to deal with this disastrous weather, the British tried to harness and accommodate local concepts and coping mechanisms (calendars, differentiation between castes and famine migration) with the aim to reduce the state's losses in taxes.

By looking at the relief measures of the 1838/39 famine caused by droughts in colonial northwest India, SANJAY SHARMA (Delhi) showed how colonial officials tried to determine the right amount and ways of offering relief so that the affected would neither spoil the labour market nor resort to plundering thereby causing further civil unrest. To render these famine migrants manageable, they were set to work on relief works in exchange for wages which were checked against the 'free' labour market and prison wages for the work of the inmates.

In a like manner to the previous panel, the papers dealing with famines focused on the state's approach and measures, mainly in the 19th century. In general, the papers brought forth the differences in local perceptions and coping mechanisms in contrast to colonial ideals and scientific inventions.

The last two presentations discussed historical evidence for mapping what might have been tsunamis in the 18th and 16th century respectively. The environmental historian RANJAN CHAKRABARTI (Kolkata) argued that the natural calamity which afflicted Calcutta and eastern lower Bengal in 1737 might have been a tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Colonial sources refer interchangeably to the calamity as a "cyclone", a "storm" and "high tidal waves".

ASHOK MARATHE (Pune) gave deep insights into archaeological multifaceted work in an attempt to map a tsunami in the early 16th century. The material remnants, discovered near the coastal village Kelshi in the Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra in 1990, consist of a large sand deposit of more than twenty meters thickness. The objects excavated include coins issued in 1433 A.D., pottery dated at the latest to the 16th century, animal and human bones

and skulls belonging to the latter period. Dating of the sand formation may be further substantiated by accounts of an earthquake during Vasco da Gama's third voyage in September 1524, and by a rare finding in the form of a map drawn in January 1539.

One of the major themes throughout the workshop was the cultural processes involved in dealing with natural disasters. In particular, the different interpretative patterns of disasters in the Indian context became evident from the sources used by the participants for their research: be it primary data from interviews in Gujarat, meteorological records and administrative files from the colonial era, or divinatory Sanskrit texts from the 5th century BC. Relying on this material, the participants gave insights into the multiple ways societies had dealt with and perceived disasters. It also became apparent how knowledge on disasters, whether stemming from 'traditional' interpretative patterns or imposed by a development paradigm, co-existed and merged in the process of events that constitute a disaster. The research on historical disasters in South Asia – a quite new and prospective field for research – could be enriched in the future by research on the pre-colonial period and by taking into consideration perceptions and interpretations of disasters found in vernacular literature and mythology. The final discussion underlined the importance of understanding the complexities that emerge, especially when focusing on transcultural processes in historical disasters.

Conference organiser: Junior Research Group A6 "Cultures of Disaster. Shifting Asymmetries between Societies, Cultures and Nature from a Comparative Historical and Transcultural Perspective", Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context", Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg University; Cluster Liaison Office New Delhi; Goethe-Institut, Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi

Please find the whole report in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 20.05.2011, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3656>

## II. Conference Announcements

**3 – 5 June 2011**

**2011 Globalisierung, Kulturvergleich und Kulturkontakt als Herausforderung für die Technikgeschichte / Globalisation, Mutual Cultural Influences and Comparison of Cultures as Subject of the History of Technology.** 20. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte, GTG / 20th Annual conference of the German Society for the History of Technology  
Berlin

Please find the program on [http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1017&Itemid=267](http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1017&Itemid=267)

Please contact Dorothea Schmidt, [dorothea.schmidt@hwr-berlin.de](mailto:dorothea.schmidt@hwr-berlin.de)

**16 – 18 June 2011**

**Electrified Voices: Medial, Socio-Historical and Cultural Aspects of Voice Transfer**

Universität Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany

The aim of this conference is to explore the phenomenon of the electrified voice through interdisciplinary approaches such as media and technology studies, social history, and comparative cultural studies. The conference will focus on the following three problem clusters: reflections on the societal level about the task of electronic voice transmission; the mediation of gender- and occupation-specific vocal stereotypes in audio and audio-visual formats; and the genesis of such vocal stereotypes in national radio and film cultures. Such a historicizing approach to societal experience in the field of voice mediation, including the use and interpretation of voice media, is of great relevance today in light of the collective learning processes currently triggered by rapid advances in technology.

**Goals and Schedule of Work**

A greater awareness of electro-acoustic voice media increasingly defines the day-to-day experience of the modern historical witness. This witness is able to calmly read about catastrophes while eating breakfast, but will quickly lose his appetite when he is confronted with the voices of catastrophe victims in audio or audio-visual real-time formats. Calculated strategies of “letting hear” can manipulate the individual’s sense of perception and guide it in various directions. And vice versa: by accessing electro-acoustic means of production, the contemporary individual seizes the possibility of manipulating the perception of others. By modifying amplitudes, frequencies and phase shifts, electronic “voice transformers” enable the user to model new identities by refining shrill voices or suppressing pronunciation mistakes.

In order to analyze the listening experience accumulated by this new historical witness, scholars of voice must develop a suitable set of instruments. The development of such a conceptual equipment, which must take place at the disciplinary boundaries between philosophy and media philosophy, linguistics and media linguistics, literary studies and film studies, sociology and sociology of the media, history and media history, is the primary goal of this conference. The program of the conference is divided into four thematic blocks. Within the first, participants will address broader questions regarding voice transmission. In blocks two and three, presenters will focus on the communicative functions of audio and audio-visual voice formats, whereas contributions in the fourth block will emphasize transformations of vocal stereotypes in national film cultures.

Please find the program on <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=16508&count=22&recno=2&sort=datum&order=down&current=1&search=history+technology>

Please contact: Dmitri Zakharine, Universität Konstanz, [Dmitri.Zakharine@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:Dmitri.Zakharine@uni-konstanz.de)

**8 – 9 December 2011**

**Impressions of Colour: Rediscovering Colour in Early Modern Printmaking, ca 1400-1700**

Cambridge Institute, Cambridge

CFP – Deadline **29 June 2011**

The absence of colour has long been considered a defining characteristic of early modern printmaking. Colour printing from the hundreds of years between the invention of the printing press and 1700, when Christophe Le Blon developed the three-colour method we use today, has been thought of as rare and extraordinary. However, new research has revealed that bright inks added commercial value, didactic meaning and visual emphasis to subjects as diverse as anatomy, art, astronomy, biology, cartography, medicine, militaria and polemics in both single-sheet prints and books.

Despite the significance and scale of these discoveries, the bias against colour continues to dominate print scholarship; the colour in colour prints is often ignored. As the technology to disseminate images in their original colour has spread, much important material has suddenly become available to scholars. Now that techniques that were thought to have been isolated technical experiments seem to have been relatively common practice, a new, unified history of, and conceptual framework for, early modern colour printing has become necessary, and significant aspects of early modern print culture now must be reconsidered. This conference aims to explore new methodologies and foster new ways of understanding the development of colour printing in Europe through an interdisciplinary consideration of the production.

Proposals considering diverse aspects of early European colour printing in relief and intaglio from the middle ages to the turn of the eighteenth century are welcome, including those dealing with textiles and book illustrations. Please send a 250-word abstract for a 20-minute paper to [impressionsofcolour@gmail.com](mailto:impressionsofcolour@gmail.com) by 29 June 2011. Conservators, rare book librarians and practising printers are also encouraged to apply.

Topics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Textiles and Other Predecessors of Colour Printing
- Techniques, Ingredients and the Earliest Sources
- The Rise, Decline and Re-emergence of Chiaroscuro Woodcuts
- Special Problems of Reproductive Prints
- Confronting Historiographical and Artistic Preferences for Monochromatic Black
- Issues in Intaglio Colour Printmaking
- Online Print Databases and their Role in Research on Early Colour Printmaking

The conference will feature a demonstration in the Historical Printing Room and a display of colour printing at the University Library.

Please contact: Elizabeth Upper, King's College, University of Cambridge

[impressionsofcolour@gmail.com](mailto:impressionsofcolour@gmail.com)



**22 – 24 March 2012**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association**

Asheville

CFP – Deadline **30 September 2011**

From Romanticism's spiritual resurgence to the interrogations of Darwinism and science, the nineteenth century was immersed in conversation about the place of spirituality and religion in society, politics, and the arts. Paper and panel proposals are welcome on all aspects of belief, religion, and spirituality in the long nineteenth century, from 1789 to 1914.

Papers might include, but are not limited to: retreats, communes and utopias; group spirit; altered states; awakenings, revivals and reforms; religious doctrines and dogmas; free spirits, lunatics, and addicts; acts of faith and interfaith; non-European spiritual traditions; emotions and the unconscious; revered commodities and capital; sacred texts, pictures, music and shrines; spiritual tours and monuments; shamans, mediums, and psychics; secular and aesthetic spirituality; spirituality of agnostics and atheists; fear of and reaction to spirituality and religion. Please e-mail abstracts (250 words) for 20-minute papers that provide the author's name and paper title in the heading, as well as a one-page c.v., to Phylis Floyd AND Michael Duffy by September 30, 2011. Phylis Floyd, Michigan State University, [floyd@msu.edu](mailto:floyd@msu.edu); Michael Duffy, East Carolina University, [duffym@ecu.edu](mailto:duffym@ecu.edu). Presenters will be notified in November, 2011.

Please contact: Phylis Floyd, Michigan State University, [floyd@msu.edu](mailto:floyd@msu.edu);

Michael Duffy, East Carolina University, [duffym@ecu.edu](mailto:duffym@ecu.edu)

**18 – 22 April 2012**

**Call for Papers: Society of Architectural Historians**

Detroit

CFP – Deadline **1 June 2011**

Change is afoot in the abstract submission process and schedule, so we ask that you read this call for papers with extra care. Note particularly that the deadline for submitting abstracts is earlier this year: 1 June 2011. Our goal is to allow session chairs to make decisions earlier, so the Fellowship Committee may make decisions about travel grants sooner. This will allow everyone to know their funding situation well in advance of the meeting, giving them time to secure alternative funding (if necessary) to be able to attend the conference.

We are also introducing this year an on-line system for the submission of abstracts, which will help us streamline the logistics involved in expanding the number of sessions we plan to offer this year and in the future. Please do not send your abstract to the session chair's email address as this may delay the review of your abstract or possibly void your submission.

Members and friends of the Society of Architectural Historians are invited to submit abstracts by 1 June 2011, for the thematic sessions listed below. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted online via the SAH website at [www.sah.org](http://www.sah.org). Only one abstract per author or co-author may be submitted. The new SAH online submission process will only accept the first submission. Abstracts should define the subject and summarize the argument to be presented in the proposed paper. The content of that paper should be the product of well-documented original research that is primarily analytical and interpretative rather than descriptive in nature. Papers cannot have been previously published, nor presented in public except to a small, local audience. All abstracts will be held in confidence during the review and selection process and only the session chair and General Chair will have access to them. In addition to the thematic sessions listed below, five open sessions are announced. With the author's approval, thematic session chairs may choose to recommend for inclusion in an open session an abstract that was submitted to, but does not fit into, a thematic session. Thematic session chairs will notify all persons submitting abstracts to thematic sessions of the acceptance or rejection of their proposals by 15 July 2011. Those submitting to the Open Sessions will be notified by 30 July 2011.

All session chairs have the prerogative to recommend changes to the abstract in order to ensure it addresses the session theme, and to suggest editorial revisions to a paper in order to make it satisfy session guidelines; it is the responsibility of the session chairs to inform speakers of those guidelines, as well as of the general expectations for participation in the session and the annual meeting. Authors of accepted proposals must submit the complete text of their papers to their session chair by 10 January 2012. Session chairs will return papers with comments to speakers by 7 February 2012. Speakers must complete any revisions and distribute copies of their paper to the session chair and the other session speakers by 1 March 2012. Session chairs reserve the right to withhold a paper from the program if the author has not complied with those guidelines.

Please note: each speaker is expected to fund his or her own travel and expenses to Detroit. SAH has a limited number of partial fellowships for which Annual Meeting speakers may apply. However, SAH's funding is not sufficient to support the expenses of all speakers. For information about SAH Annual Meeting fellowships, please visit our website at [www.sah.org](http://www.sah.org).

**Albert Kahn, Fordism and Their Legacies:** No Detroit architect left a more enduring legacy than Albert Kahn. His designs in the 1910s and 1920s for Ford, General Motors and other Detroit automotive corporations, none more famous than the River Rouge complex, revolutionized the factory as an architectural form, and perfectly expressed the ethos of mass production. In tracing the emergence of what social critics call (perhaps too confidently) the cultural landscape of "late, late capitalism," we may be in danger of losing sight of just how fundamentally an earlier political economy transformed the built environment. Kahn also brought sweeping changes to the organization and practice of architecture. As Terry Smith has pointed out, "Kahn's office became a machine for the reproduction of mass production as a mode of industry," as vertically integrated and self-sufficient as the River Rouge.

A reconsideration of Kahn's Fordist architecture on its own terms offers an opportunity for scholars from a variety of disciplines an opportunity to engage Detroit's architectural inheritance. Whether understood strictly as a place of production, as a marker of the cultural zeitgeist, as a postmodern ruin, or, most recently, as the result of a neo-Marxist cultural logic, Fordist Detroit has had a social, economic, and aesthetic impact comparable to the automobile itself. This session welcomes papers that address Kahn and Fordism theoretically or empirically. We encourage an exploration of Fordist architecture beyond factories to the city Kahn and his firm did so much to shape, and to other architects and cities that drew on Fordist visions. Papers looking at Fordist architecture outside of the US, and in the postwar period, would be especially welcome. So would papers considering how Kahn's surviving work might be preserved, interpreted, or repurposed.

Please contact the Session chairs:

Stuart W. Leslie, Professor, Department of History of Science and Technology, The Johns Hopkins University, [swleslie@jhu.edu](mailto:swleslie@jhu.edu)

Robert H. Kargon, Professor, Department of History of Science and Technology, The Johns Hopkins University, [kargon@jhu.edu](mailto:kargon@jhu.edu).

Please find more information on the whole conference on [www.sah.org](http://www.sah.org).

**The Architecture of the American Building Industry, 1945-Present:** Studies of post World War II American architecture have usually focused on several themes: the transplantation of international modernism to North America with the immigration of leading European refugee-designers; the rise of merchant builders such as William Levitt and Philip M. Klutznick (of the Levittowns and Park Forest, Illinois, respectively); the expansion of suburbs on the fringes of metropolitan areas; and the ubiquitous consumerism of America's rapidly expanding middle-class. Although such scholarship has transformed our understanding of postwar American architecture, the diffuse modes of building practiced by architects, builders and developers during the past seven decades have yet to be thoroughly explored. Likewise, the built landscapes of postwar America have yet to be adequately considered in the context of these new patterns of development. This session will add to existing scholarship through papers that elucidate the day-to-day practices of architects, builders, and developers. In contrast with research that centers on consumers of the built environment, this session will engage issues of production, considering how buildings and landscapes of all types were realized during the postwar period. Specific issues to be addressed may include the relationship between architects, developers and contractors; the effect of urban planning and environmental legislation on individual builders or the building industry; the impact of widespread ideas (e.g., new urbanism, international style aesthetics) on local building practices in a particular location; the transitions of architectural practice and the rise of the "design build" firm; speculative building practices and patterns; and the relationship between builders, developers, and resource suppliers. Case studies of individual builders or

developers are welcome, provided the paper addresses a theme that has broader relevance to the study of postwar building practices.

Please contact the Session chair:

Anna Vemer Andrzejewski, Associate Professor, Department of Art History, University of Wisconsin, [avandrzejews@wisc.edu](mailto:avandrzejews@wisc.edu)

### **1 – 3 November 2012**

#### **Scientific Cosmopolitanism and Local Cultures: Religions, Ideologies, Societies.** 5th

International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science, ESEH

National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens

CFP – Deadline **30 November 2011**

The 5th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science will be held in Athens, Greece, from November 1 to 3, 2012. The theme of the conference is "Scientific cosmopolitanism and local cultures: religions, ideologies, societies".

The conference is organized by the History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme of the National Hellenic Research Foundation.

Please visit: <http://5eshs.hpdst.gr>

<http://www.hpdst.gr/simplenews/statistics/click?p=eNoBPlwwwf9zOjU0OlwiJkUwl1FlaB8oDNtAKbJw7fiwgtytmf8jL45nbXg3Vwia1d8UZ4hl6Qh3Xq2SW7AvXiqfLuv8FwiO0hqHYc%2C&h=eNortjl2sllYtko1SjFKSzY3SksyTU0yM0pMNUxKSU0yNjZJTE0zTFWYBlww7lxcC8w%2C>

### **Fall 2012**

#### **Immigration & Entrepreneurship. An Interdisciplinary Conference**

College Park, MD and Washington DC

CFP – Deadline **15 September 2011**

The United States has long been an immigrant society as well as an entrepreneurial society. This is no coincidence: immigrants launch new enterprises and invent new technologies at rates much higher than native-born Americans. As the volume of in-migration again approaches that of the "new immigration" at the turn of the twentieth century, it is time to measure how immigrants have shaped the American economy in the past and how immigration policy reform in 1965 has fostered the transformation of business and economic life in the United States. How have newcomers shaped and in turn been shaped by American economic life?

There are striking parallels between nineteenth-century immigration and contemporary immigrant entrepreneurship. Then, as now, immigrants brought considerable education, ambition, and capital, yet often were marginalized or excluded from mainstream opportunities

by law, custom, and prejudice. Particular immigrant groups ultimately dominated particular industries and services. Immigrant entrepreneurs built and circulated through trans-Atlantic, trans-Pacific, and at times global networks of people, capital, and know-how. However, the two eras of heavy migration also differ in significant ways. Newcomers from East and South Asia and Latin America have supplanted Eastern and Southern European immigrants who dominated in the late nineteenth century, and German and Irish immigrants who arrived in the early nineteenth century. And whereas many recent immigrants, like their predecessors a century ago, have worked in low-skilled occupations, in construction, or have created small businesses, a significant portion of recent immigrants have arrived with advanced degrees and have launched businesses in the most advanced sectors of the economy, from Silicon Valley to Rte. 128, from biotech to the digital economy.

The Center for the History of the New America, the Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute, and the German Historical Institute invite proposals from scholars working in a variety of disciplines – including but not limited to history, sociology, economics, business administration, entrepreneurial studies, anthropology, and cultural studies – to submit research paper proposals. Comparative studies across time and place are especially welcomed.

The conference will engage these and related research topics:

- immigrant group styles and patterns of entrepreneurship
- immigrant entrepreneurship and U.S. economic development
- geography of ethnic entrepreneurship
- journeys of successful high-tech entrepreneurs
- immigrant entrepreneurs as small proprietors
- succeed and failure narratives and other discourse surrounding ethnic immigrant entrepreneurship
- barriers to immigrant entrepreneurial success
- policy implications of historical and contemporary research on immigrant entrepreneurship

For full consideration, please submit a 200-word abstract and a short c.v. to [immigrant-ent@umd.edu](mailto:immigrant-ent@umd.edu) by September 15, 2011.

The conference will take place in College Park, MD, and Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2012. Presenters will be given accommodations and a travel stipend. Selected conference presenters will be invited to publish their work in an edited scholarly volume of essays that will grow out of the conference.

Please contact: David Sicilia, University of Maryland, [immigrant-ent@umd.edu](mailto:immigrant-ent@umd.edu)

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

*Schot, Johan / Lintsen, Harry / Rip, Arie (eds.): Technology and the making of the Netherlands. The Age of Contested Modernization, 1890-1970. (640 pp.), Zutphen: Walburg Press; Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2010.*

This study offers both an account of twentieth-century technology in the Netherlands and a view of Dutch history through the lens of technology. It describes the trajectory of modernization through technology in certain characteristically Dutch contexts – including the omnipresence of water, the pervasiveness of urbanization coupled with a high-tech agricultural sector, and the legacy of colonialism – but at the same time makes it clear that Dutch struggles over technology choices, infrastructure development, mass production, and the role of government are comparable to the experience of any Western industrialized country.

### **V. 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)

## 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 **2011, 2012, 2013** (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.