

ICOHTEC

NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you for your mails concerning books published in 2010 and 2011. The result is a bibliography of four pages containing many interesting subjects, which gives an insight in the academic work of our members.

Technical museums and exhibitions are an interesting field for most of us. Thanks to Ralf Bülow and Jan Köster, the Newsletter informs about a new computer museum in the city of Kiel (North of Germany). If you want to read about technical museums in Scotland before going to Glasgow, the following link to the Scottish Transport & Industry Collections & Knowledge Network STICK might be helpful <http://www.stickssn.org/site/>.

Best wishes and hope to see you soon

Yours Stefan Poser

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I. ICOHTEC's Bibliography 2010 – 2011

Bibliography of books written or edited by ICOHTEC members since June 2010

Badenoch, Alexander / Fickers, Andreas (eds.): Materializing Europe: Transnational Infrastructures and the Project of Europe. Basingstoke, Palgrave 2010.

Transnational infrastructures have long been an integral part of projects to unite Europe, though what role they have actually played in this process is not always easy to determine. In interpreting infrastructures as mediating interfaces of European projects, this book aims to analyze the complex histories of network technologies in their material, institutional and symbolic performances. Taking material networks as the focal point of study allows the authors to tell a transnational history of European integration that both broadens its time frame and reveals hidden processes of integration, as well as points of fragmentation.

Berger, Molly: Hotel Dreams, Luxury, Technology, and Urban Ambition in America 1829-1929. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore 2011.

Hotel Dreams explores the cultural history of technological development through the history of the American luxury hotel over the course of the long nineteenth century. Dubbed an American invention, these buildings became key urban institutions that represented emerging ideas about American democracy, capitalism, industrialization, and technological progress. Because of their complexity and extravagance, luxury hotels became markers of a city's status but also lightning rods for controversy over gender and class relations as well as economic development.

Braun, Hans-Joachim (ed.): Industriearchäologie, Industriekultur, Industriedenkmalpflege. = Schriftenreihe der Georg-Agricola-Gesellschaft, Heft 34, Freiberg 2011.

The Volume analyses different approaches to protect the industrial heritage. Tasks and conditions of industrial archeology are discussed as well as those of the preservation of industrial monuments and issues in research concerning the industrial heritage.

Buchanan, R. Angus (ed.): Landscape with Technology. Essays in honour of L.T.C. Rolt. Millstream Books, Bath, UK 2011.

Essays on the English writer and biographer of civil engineers as B with contributions by the Rolt Fellows at the University of Bath and by the Editor (on James Nasmyth, Engineering Astronomer) and Dr Brenda Buchanan (on early civil uses of gunpowder in constructing a naval base at Tangier).

Dienel, Hans-Luidger / Schiedt, Hans-Ulrich (eds.): Die moderne Strasse – Planung, Bau und Verkehr vom 18. bis zum 20. Jahrhundert. Campus Verlag, New York, Frankfurt 2010.

The authors of this book analysed the role of roads for traffic systems since the 18th century. New opportunities of trawling were discussed as well as concurrence/cooperation of road based transportation and railway companies, the development of road construction as well as of logistics. Contributions in English and German.

Dinhobl, Günter / Haehnel, Birgit (eds.): Panorama Welterbe Semmeringbahn. Stand der Dinge. Studien-Verlag. Innsbruck a.o. 2010.

The editors published a book and a panorama dedicated to the first railway line passing the mountains, the Semmeringbahn, which connects Vienna and Trieste. The Semmeringbahn became a world heritage site a few years ago; the author's idea to combine the book with a panorama picks up a kind of visualization of the 19th century. The new panorama visualizes the history of the 150 years old site by the help of photos and drawings from different periods.

Friedel, Robert / Israel, Paul, with Finn, Bernard S.: Edison's Electric Light. The Art of Invention (1986). Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore 2010.

Friedel's, Israel's and Finn's study of the invention of the electric light and Alva Edison's contributions to this process is dedicated not only to technology but to the systems behind it: the authors analysed as well the organization of research in industry and contexts of business and politics in which the invention was carried out. The well known book was made available again as paper back.

Gelabert, Joseph: El manuscrito de cantería de Joseph Gelabert. Titulado Verdaderas traçes del Art de picapedrer : transcripción, traducción, anotación e ilustración del texto y los trazados. Colegio Oficial de Arquitectos de las Islas Baleares and Fundación Juanelo Turriano, Palma de Mallorca 2010.

The translation and transcription from Catalan to Spanish, with explanatory notes and drawings, of a seventeenth century manuscript on the art of masonry.

Geometría y proporción en las estructuras: ensayos en honor de Ricardo Aroca. Geometry and proportion in structural design: essays in Ricardo Aroca's honour. Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Escuela Técnica Superior de Madrid and Fundación Juanelo Turriano, Madrid 2010.

A collection of essays by twenty-four authors from different countries dealing with geometric form and structural properties in architectural and engineering design.

Inkster, Ian (ed.): History of Technology, Volume 30 (2010), special issue: History of Technology in Spain.

The Volume gives 16 essays and 250pp; it is the first collection on History of Technology in Spain published in English in England. The journal is indexed by Historical Abstracts, Article First, Ebscohost, and European Reference Index Humanities (ERIH) category "A" in History, and Category "B" in History and Philosophy of Science.

James, Felicity / Inkster, Ian (eds.): Religious Dissent and the Arkin-Barbauld circle 1740-1860. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2012.

The book is dedicated to the members of the British Arkin-Barbauld circle and their influence on literature as well as politics, science, and industrialization in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Jørgensen, Finn Arne: Making A Green Machine: The Infrastructure of Beverage Container Recycling. Rutgers University Press, Piscataway, 2011.

The book traces the historical development of a sociotechnical infrastructure for handling empty beverage containers in Norway, Sweden, and the US, with a particular focus on deposit/refund systems and reverse vending machines for accepting containers. It looks at how these technological solutions were transferred between markets with varying success, and how the problem of empty beverage containers gradually became reinterpreted as an environmental problem instead of a logistical one.

Levin, Miriam / Forgan, Sophie / Heßler, Martina / Kargon, Robert H. / Low, Morris: Urban Modernity. Cultural Innovation in the Second Industrial Revolution. MIT Press, Cambridge MA, London 2010.

The book examines the construction of an urban-centred, industrial-based culture – an entirely new social reality based on science and technology. The authors show that this invention of modernity was brought about through the efforts of urban elites – businessmen, industrialists, and officials – to establish new science- and technology-related institutions. International expositions, museums, and other such institutions and projects helped stem the economic and social instability fueled by industrialization, projecting contemporary developments as part of a steady continuum of scientific and technical progress. The authors analysed these developments in Paris, London, Chicago, Berlin, and Tokyo from 1870 to 1930.

Lundin, Per / Stenlås, Niklas / Gribbe, Johan (eds.): Science for Welfare and Warfare: Technology and State Initiative in Cold War Sweden. Science History Publications, Sagamore Beach 2010.

Science for Welfare and Warfare investigates the establishment of state-led science and technology in the economic and industrial development of Cold War Sweden. The book examines how the state gradually took on a new role during and after the Second World War, how this role was justified and how it thoroughly transformed the Swedish society and economy over a few decades.

Myllyntaus, Timo (ed.): Thinking Trough the Environment: Green Approaches to Global History. White Horse Press, Cambridge 2011.

Thinking through the Environment: Green Approaches to Global History is a collection offering global perspectives on the intersections of mind and environment across a variety of discourses – from history and politics to the visual arts and architecture. Its geographical coverage extends to locations in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and North America. A primary aim of the volume is, through the presentation of research cases, to gather an appropriate methodological arsenal for the study of environmental history.

Reynolds, Terry S. / Dawson, Virginia P.: Iron Will: Cleveland-Cliffs and the Mining of Iron Ore, 1847-2006. Wayne State University Press, Detroit 2011.

The authors use the history of the only surviving independent American iron mining firm as a lens for viewing the history of one of the world's great iron mining districts (Lake Superior)

and for providing the raw material provider's perspective on major transitions in the history of the American iron and steel industry.

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

Staubermann, Klaus (ed.): Reconstructions. Recreating Science and Technology of the Past. National Museum Scotland Enterprises Ltd - Publishing Ltd, Edinburgh 2010.

Historic reconstructions have become a decisive tool in the history of science and technology. The book brings together key studies of recently completed reconstruction projects.

Una mirada a nuestro patrimonio industrial. Colegio Oficial de Ingenieros Industriales de Madrid and Fundación Juanelo Turriano, Madrid 2010.

Ten essays, describing selected items of the industrial heritage in the central regions of Spain.

Vahrenkamp, Richard: Von Taylor zu Toyota. Rationalisierungsdebatten im 20. Jahrhundert. Eul Verlag, Köln 2010.

The author analyses discourses on rationalisation in the 20th century from an economist's point of view. He makes the point that Taylor's and Ford's concepts of mass production influenced thinking about rationalisation until the 1980s and investigates controversial discussions on different concepts which came up since those times.

II. Museums and Exhibitions

This chapter of the Newsletter will inform about new developments in the field of technical museums and exhibitions. The first article is dedicated to a computer museum, which was opened in the city of Kiel in the North of Germany.

Ready at Last: The Computer Museum of the University of Applied Science Kiel

Ralf Bülow, Jan Köster

The vintage computer collection of the University of Applied Science Kiel was the first exhibition on computer history recognized by a broader public in Germany when it opened in March 1982. At that time the exhibition covered less than 100 m² and was presented by a registered association, the Schleswig-Holsteinisches Museum für Rechen- und Schreibtechnik e. V.

In 1990 the association handed over the collection – which had grown considerably – to the University of Applied Science Kiel. But hundreds of objects had to be stored in a number of makeshift depot and only a small part, i.e. two analog computers, five systems from the Zuse KG and a large Kongsberg plotter, were displayed in an exhibition room on the campus.

Now, the collection has become a museum at last, with an assured future and very safe rooms: in mid-June the “Computermuseum der Fachhochschule Kiel“ – this is the official title – celebrated its opening in a former air-raid shelter from 1941. The shelter is situated in the district of Dietrichsdorf on the east side of Kiel bay and near a former shipyard area, where many submarines were built during World War II. In the neighbourhood there are two more shelters from those years. One of them was transformed into a cultural center, called “Bunker-D”, four years ago. The refurbishing of the museum shelter took several months, and it not only got a new heating system and new electricity wirings but also a lift and large windows which stretch over four floors. The outer walls were steam-cleaned so that they lost their old painting and regained – with the exception of the windows – their wartime look.

With an exhibition space of 800 m² the museum is in the same league as the computer gallery of the Deutsches Museum in Munich, the Heinz Nixdorf MuseumsForum in Paderborn and the House for the History of IBM Data Processing in Sindelfingen. As these three computer history sites opened between 1988 and 1996, the Kiel museum can truly be called the first German computer museum of the 21st century.

A focal point of the exhibition is the life of Berlin-born computer inventor and manufacturer Konrad Zuse (1910 –1995). The Kiel museum shows three generations of Zuse-built machines: a relay computer Z11 from the mid-fifties, a vacuum-tube computer Z22 from 1958 and the transistor-based Z23 and Z25 from the 1960s, furthermore the Zuse plotters Z64 and Z90 and the small digital planimeter Z80.

The exhibition area about transistor technology not only presents two big Siemens computers (Siemens 2002 and 3003) but also – besides IBM, Control Data and Telefunken systems – one of only two surviving Electrologica X1 machines from the Netherlands. The other X1 is in the collections of Delft technical university.

On the fourth floor the museum offers a large selection of small systems and microcomputers, beginning in the 1960s with the Olivetti Programma and ending with the genesis of today's laptop computer. Contrary to most computing histories the laptop did not descend from Osborne-type portable computers but from the pocket calculator. Furthermore, the visitors may relive their first computing experiences at three PC stations which emulate popular systems of days past.

So the new museum covers the whole field of computing technology from early mechanical calculators through minis and mainframes to today's microprocessor-based computers. It shows the evolution of computing hardware from small gears through relays, vacuum tubes and transistors to the integrated circuit and the microchip. The main technological trends are accompanied by a timeline of world events, which covers the walls of the main staircase, running from 1940 to 2000.

In the new Kiel computer museum you will find text and picture panels as in other museums, but also 15 video monitors and two audio stations presenting Konrad Zuse soundbites and IBM company songs. Before entering the three main exhibition floors the visitor may enjoy a short introductory movie, which was produced in 3D technology.

The project leader for the Kiel computer museum was Klaus-Michael Heinze, chancellor of the University of Applied Science. The exhibition concept was developed by Dr. Ralf Bülow and Eduard Thomas; Mr. Thomas is also the director of the new museum. The exhibition texts were written by Dr. Bülow and Prof. Ludwig Fromm. Prof. Fromm and his colleague Prof. Michael Breda are both from the Muthesius Academy of Fine Arts and Design Kiel, and together with Berlin architect Fedor Sukatus they were responsible for the scenography of the computer museum. The main financial support came from the government of the German State Schleswig-Holstein.

The museum's website is www.computermuseum-kiel.de. The building is situated at Eichenbergskamp 8 in 24149 Kiel; opening hours are 5-8 p.m. on Fridays and 5-8 p.m. on Saturdays. For further information phone ++49-341-210-1741 (tue-fr 8:30–11 a.m.) or send an e-mail to service@computermuseum-kiel.de.

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III. Congress Announcements

1 July 2011

Canada Day 2011. Spaces, Environments, Identities

Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, Germany

Since 2009, scholars of history, political science, and the field of American Studies meet here in Bochum to discuss current projects and research questions from an interdisciplinary perspective. The aim of the annual "Canada Day" is to generate a broader interest as well as to develop new approaches to the study of Canada in the academic landscape of Germany. This year's conference focuses on the complex ties between people and their environments. The presentations will address questions such as: How did society shape, transform, and organize its surrounding spaces and the "natural landscape"? And vice versa, what was the impact of environments on the processes of constructing identities and spaces - political, cultural, and social? In this regard, Canada is a striking example as its landscape is defined by thousands of "empty" miles of land and ice, language differences, regionalism, immigration and indigenous peoples, rich natural resources and exploitation, which are all challenging the nation's identity.

The multilayered interactions between society and space will be discussed from both a continental and transatlantic perspective.

The conference is open to the public; no registration needed.

Please find the program on <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=16769>

21 – 23 September 2011

Does War belong in Museums? The Representation of Violence in Exhibitions

Museumsakademie Joanneum, Graz, Austria

Presentations of war and violence in museums generally oscillate between the fascination of terror and its instruments and the didactic urge to explain violence and, by analysing it, make it easier to handle and prevent. The museums concerned also have to face up to these basic issues about the social and institutional handling of war and violence.

Does war really belong in museums? And if it does, what objectives and means are involved? Can museums avoid trivializing and aestheticising war, transforming violence, injury, death and trauma into tourist sights? What images of shock or identification does one generate – and what images would be desirable? Can anything of the dialectic of friend and foe be made accessible? Is it ultimately about frightening off, warning, pondering, shocking, emotional manipulation, comparing, historicizing and learning, about keeping a sense of detachment in museums, defusing?

The expectations of visitors, the effects that such a literally weapon-heavy collection has, but also the views of curators of the collections and museums concerned will also be discussed. Conference language is English.

Please find the program on <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=16735>

3 – 6 November 2011

Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, SHOT 2011

Cleveland

Preliminary information about the SHOT Annual Meeting in Cleveland is now available on the SHOT Website. There is information about the meeting and links to the conference hotel and Cleveland attractions, as well as a video on the city and the surrounding area. Start planning your trip now.

Please visit http://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual_meeting.html

17 – 18 November 2011

SDH 2011 Supporting the Digital Humanities: Answering the Unaskable

University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen

CFP – **Deadline 24 July 2011**

Following the first successful SDH conference in Vienna in 2010, the CLARIN and DARIAH initiatives have decided to jointly organise the second SDH conference in Copenhagen, Denmark in November 2011. The conference venue will be at the University of Copenhagen, a participant in both CLARIN and DARIAH.

Digital technologies have the potential to transform the types of research questions that we ask in the Humanities, and to allow us to address traditional questions in new and exciting ways, but ultimately they will also allow us to answer questions that we were not even aware we could ask, hence the title of this conference. How can digital humanities help us not just to find the answers to our research questions more quickly and more easily, but also to formulate research questions we would never have been able to ask without access to large quantities of digital data and sophisticated tools for their analysis? Supporting the Digital Humanities will be a forum for the discussion of these innovations, and of the ways in which these new forms of research can be facilitated and supported.

CLARIN and DARIAH are creating European research infrastructures for the humanities and related disciplines. SDH2011 aims to bring together infrastructure providers and users from the communities involved with the two infrastructure initiatives. The conference will consist of a number of topical sessions where providers and users will present and discuss results, obstacles and opportunities for digitally-supported humanities research. Participants are

encouraged to engage with honest assessments of the intellectual problems and practical barriers in an open and constructive atmosphere.

The first SDH conference in 2010 gave a broad and multi-faceted presentation of the domains of interest to CLARIN and DARIAH. This time we have chosen a somewhat more focussed approach, focussing on two major themes, but not excluding other themes of interest for the humanities. The two themes are:

- Sound and movement – music, spoken word, dance and theatre
- Text and things – text, and the relationship between text and material artefacts, such as manuscript, stone or other carriers of text

Submissions are invited for individual papers and posters, as well as panels. Focus should be on tools and methods for the analysis of digital data rather than on digitisation processes themselves, both from the provider and from the user perspective. We want to pay special attention to inspiring showcases that demonstrate the innovative power of digital methods in the humanities.

Some important dates:

July 15, 2011: Submission of suggestion for panels

July 24, 2011: Submission of abstracts (4 pages)

August 15, 2011: Notification on panel proposals

September 15, 2011: Author notification

October 15, 2011: Final version of papers for publication (8 pages).

November 17-18: Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark

Programme committee:

Bente Maegaard, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Steven Krauwer, Utrecht University, Netherlands

Helen Bailey, University of Bedfordshire, UK

Tim Crawford, Goldsmith's University of London, UK

Matthew Driscoll, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Neil Fraistat, University of Maryland, United States

Erhard Hinrichs, Tübingen University, Germany

Fotis Jannidis, Würzburg University, Germany

Helen Katsiadakis, Academy of Athens, Greece

Krister Lindén, Helsinki University, Finland

Heike Neuroth, Göttingen State and University Library, Germany

Laurent Romary, INRIA, France

Nina Vodopivec, Institute for Contemporary History, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Peter Wittenburg, MPI, Netherlands/Germany

Martin Wynne, Oxford University, UK

Please contact: Christiane Fritze, Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen (SUB) Göttingen Centre for Digital Humanities (GCDH), fritze@sub.uni-goettingen.de

6 – 7 January 2012

Projects as Institutions, 17th – 20th Centuries

Paris

CFP – Deadline **20 September 2011**

Projects have become ubiquitous in the last decades, in various realms of human activities – arts, science, technology, education, etc. From this point of view, they may appear as a relatively recent phenomenon, linked to the spread of management discourses and tools in new social contexts. Yet, projects, understood as ways of organizing future actions, involving multiple participants, prior examination and decisions, have obviously been around for centuries, especially in technical fields.

This conference will initiate a long-term history of projects, to identify projects as precise socio-historical forms, context-specific and subject to historical developments.

Projects (plans, programs, etc.) are rarely studied as such. Scholars usually focus on one project or another, without seeking to understand it as a *modus operandi*, with a logic and procedures that apply to all similar projects. The literature, especially in the history of technology, usually favours two trends. One focuses on the individual figure of the designer, on his creative activity and the tools he uses, thus minimizing the collective, social and political, dimensions of the project. Another trend considers the project as a process, typically the process of birth of a technological object. In that case, scholars emphasize institutional and technological innovations, the singularity of the situation, the technical and social arrangements that made this new object possible. Focusing on innovation, however, tends to minimize the professionalization of project-making, its inclusion in regular forms and procedures.

This conference will focus on the collective nature of projects and their increasing formalization and regulation. It will pay attention to the ordinary functioning of projects, to stabilized social forms, norms and standards, rules and procedures, be they implicit or explicit, that regulate participation in a collective action. In short, it will consider projects as institutions.

Subjects to be considered might include the links between the development of new forms of project and changes in relationships (often asymmetric) between the actors involved. For the modern period in particular, it might be asked how new forms of projects emerging in the 17th and 18th centuries, seeking to guarantee a certain control, a certain trust between the actors, addressed problems posed by the ambivalent figure of the projector, a figure synonymous with great uncertainty about the realism and morality of the proposed

undertakings. More generally, one may study the models and counter-models, be they of moral, political, economic or technical nature, the governmentality underlying different forms of projects. One may look at how the future was considered, planned or directed, the organization of temporalities, what the project left open (and for whom), what it sought to close, whether and how it introduced irreversibility. One may also examine the dissociation (in fact or in principle) that projects introduce between different roles or activities – for example between designers and implementers – the meaning one may give these separations, the organization of work that they introduce and their possible impact on project authorship or ownership by the various participants. One may study, finally, the importance played by review and decision-making procedures in projects.

These are some issues that might be raised. Economic history and the history of technology are obviously the most relevant fields for these inquiries, but contributions in other fields will be welcome.

The conference will be held in French and English. Talks may be made in either of these languages. Travel expenses and accommodation will be supported.

To propose a contribution, please send an abstract of 500 words and a one-page CV to projectsasinstitutions@gmail.com before September 20, 2011.

Please visit: <http://www.hstl.crhst.cnrs.fr/research/anr/profutur/>

Please contact: Frédéric Graber, Centre de recherches historiques (EHESS-CNRS, Paris)

28 – 31 March 2012

From the Local to the Global: Ethics, Environmentalism and Environmental History in an Independent World. Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History
Madison, Wisconsin

CFP – **Attention please: deadline 8 July 2011**

For its 2012 conference, the American Society for Environmental History will convene in Madison, Wisconsin, a city and state rich in historical and environmental heritage. Here environmentalist John Muir grew up and took courses in botany and geology at the University of Wisconsin, frontier historian Frederick Jackson Turner transformed the study of US history, and borderlands historian Herbert Eugene Bolton began his own transformative career. In Wisconsin architect Frank Lloyd Wright built structures attuned to the American landscape, and painter Georgia O’Keeffe began her career as an artist depicting that landscape. Wisconsin was the first state to restrict DDT, seven years after the 1962 publication of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*. While closely identified with the American Midwest, Wisconsin is also a border state, facing Ontario across Lake Superior.

2012 will be the 125th anniversary of the birth of one of Wisconsin’s most important environmental thinkers who rose to international prominence, Aldo Leopold. In *A Sand County Almanac* and “The Land Ethic,” Leopold tried to find ways to live ethically with nature,

and this began not in an iconic wilderness like Yosemite or Yellowstone but instead at the most local level - one's own home, yard, or farm.

2012 is also the 50th anniversary of the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*--a book with tremendous regional and global consequences. Both Carson and Leopold tied the idea of local responsibility to a much broader, all-encompassing environmental awareness, an environmental ethic informed by both science and morality that possessed the potential to be nationally and even globally transformative. Like Leopold and Carson, the ASEH conference for 2012 will begin with the local, but look to the global. We take their work as a starting point to look inward and outward, across chronological eras and geographic divides.

Individuals and groups all over the world are searching for ways to live better with nature, and to make a better world for all outside of traditional political structures and older models of environmentalism. Please join us in Madison for an intellectual and collegial journey – “From the Local to the Global: Ethics, Environmentalism, and Environmental History in an Interdependent World.”

Please visit <http://www.asehmadison2012.com/>

9 – 13 July 2012

Early Mechanization in Global Perspective, World Economic History Congress

Stellenbosch, South Africa

CFP – Deadline 31 December 2011

One of the salient features of the first industrial revolution was the mechanization of production processes in a wide range of industries. However, mechanization was not an unprecedented phenomenon. Historians of technology have found evidence in different historical contexts, well before the eighteenth century, of the development and adoption of machines or systems of machinery that, in terms of technical sophistication, are fully comparable to the “gadgets” of the industrial revolution. Significant examples of early mechanization have been observed in the ancient world, in the middle ages, and in the early modern period. Moreover, these examples emerged in very different civilizations in Europe and Asia. Interestingly enough, before the industrial revolution these episodes of mechanization remained peculiar to specific segments of the economy and did not spread across sectors. In some cases (such as Renaissance Italy or fourteenth century China) the restricted diffusion of mechanical technologies has prompted economic historians to talk of “failed transitions” to the modern industrial world. In the literature, several hypotheses have been put forward for explaining both the emergence of new mechanical technologies and their limited diffusion before the industrial revolution. Several authors have pointed to the role played by economic factors (especially by high wages) in inducing the invention and diffusion of new machines. Others have drawn attention to the resistance to mechanization maintained by those social groups whose skills were going to be replaced by the new

machines. Finally, another stream of literature has emphasized the role played by broader social and cultural factors.

The aim of this session is to shed new light on these episodes of early mechanization in a global perspective. In particular, we intend to provide a number of case-studies of early mechanization that will reappraise not only those factors responsible for the development and adoption of specific mechanical technologies in different economies but also those factors responsible for their limited diffusion.

If you are interested in participating to this session, please send an abstract to Christine MacLeod, c.macleod@bristol.ac.uk, and to Alessandro Nuvolari, alessandro.nuvolari@sssup.it, preferably before 31 December 2011.

6 – 10 August 2012

XV International Conference of Historical Geographers

Charles University, Prague

CFP – Deadline **31 December 2011**

The conference is organized under the auspices of:

Prof. Dr. Václav Hampl, Rector of Charles University,

Prof. Ing. Dr. Jiří Drahoš, President of the Academy of Sciences of the CR, and

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tadeusz Siwek, President of the Czech Geographical Society.

The international conference of historical geographers emerged from a meeting of Canadian and British historical geographers held in Canada in 1975. Four subsequent meetings held in Britain, Canada and the USA were called “CUKANZUS” conferences. They increasingly attracted scholars from other countries, especially from Europe. This progress inspired the organizers of the sixth meeting, held in 1986 in Baton Rouge (Louisiana, USA), to name it the Sixth International Conference of Historical Geographers. Since then these conferences have been held under this new title every three years in different parts of the world. The Prague conference is the first to be held in a post-communist country. It will be open to all historical geographers and scholars using historical (or spatial) approaches, and also to scholars in related disciplines of geography, history, environmental history, landscape ecology, etc.

The Prague conference will be held from 6 to 10 August 2012 (with post-conference excursion from 10 to 13 August). The Faculty of Science of Charles University in cooperation with the Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, v. v. i., and the Section for Historical Geography and Environmental History of the Czech Geographical Society are responsible for local organization. The five-day program will consist of paper and poster presentations, excursions and various social events. We intend to encourage the participation of young scholars and post-graduate students, as well as researchers using multidisciplinary approaches.

Further information and updates

Further information will be included in the first circular (to be published in June 2011).

For the latest news and updates, please consult also the conference website

<http://www.ichq2012.cz>

29 August – 1 September 2012

Everyday Life in the Socialist City. Session at the EAUH 2012

European Association for Urban History, Prague

CPF – **Deadline 1 October 2011**

European Association for Urban History - 11th International Conference on Urban History
Specialist Session - S 26: Everyday life in the socialist city

Since the 1970s, the notion of 'everyday life' in social sciences has been strongly associated with studies and theorizations of the ordinary, routine, daily practices and situations, as Crow and Pope (2008) point out in their editorial foreword to the special issue of the *Sociology Journal* (*Sociology and Everyday Life*). In the urban context, such repeated and seemingly insignificant actions and trajectories help to (re)produce or transform urban spaces and their meanings, often in very creative ways. Our session aims at opening the questions about the character of everyday life in the specific context of 'socialist' cities in the Central and Eastern Europe (understood as cities/towns in a country with a state socialist regime prior to the transformations following the fall of the Berlin Wall). We wish to discuss examples from various cities and countries, explaining the specific activities, relationships, rhythms and trajectories that the urban users developed in these cities, to reflect the differences and similarities of these patterns with the forms appearing in the cities in the rest of Europe, and to follow the changes in everyday life along the period of state socialism. The main goals of the session are, on the one hand, to discuss the interconnections between the forms of everyday urban life and the economic, political and social characteristics of the period, and, on the other hand, to search for examples of challenging, contesting and disrupting the routine, or defining the everyday situations in creative ways by the urban dwellers. Although the theme is not strictly new in the field of urban history, the specificity of the socialist everyday urban life and daily (re)production or contestation of urban space, has not been given much attention, especially not in a comparative perspective.

We would like to welcome papers based on archival and/or oral history research, focusing on life in big cities, as well as describing little towns.

Topics include (but are not limited to):

- everyday life in the public/private spaces
- urban rhythms and routines and their disruptions
- work, leisure, and consumption in urban environment
- representation of socialist home – dwelling forms for socialist family

- socialist ideology in public/private spaces
- celebrations and festivities (mass public and private celebrations) and their connection to public/private spaces

Session Organizers:

Jana Nosková (Institute of Ethnology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Brno, Czech Republic), Slavomíra Ferenčuhová, Barbora Vacková, Lucie Galčanová (Faculty of Social Studies Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic)

Please submit paper proposals through the conference website at:

www.eauh2012.com/sessions/call-for-paper-proposals/

5 – 7 September 2012

Sixth Railway History Congress, VIe Congrès d'histoire ferroviaire

The Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles (FFE-Spanish Railways Foundation)

Vitoria, Spain

CFP – Deadline passed (20 June 2011)

The Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles (FFE-Spanish Railways Foundation), through the Railway History Programme of the Madrid Railway Museum, and in collaboration with EuskoTren, is holding the Sixth Railway History Congress, which will be held in Vitoria on September 5-7, 2012.

Please visit for further informations: www.docutren.com/congreso_vitoria/index_en.htm

Please contact : Museo del Ferrocarril de Madrid, Technical and Administrative Secretariat :

congreso.historia@docutren.com

Fall 2012

Immigration & Entrepreneurship. An Interdisciplinary Conference

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 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 visit: <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=16533>

Please contact: David Sicilia, University of Maryland, immigrant-ent@umd.edu

IV. Support for Cooperation with Canadian Scholars

Situating Science, January 2012 – March 2013

Deadline for application **3 October 2011**

Situating Science is a SSHRC-funded Strategic Knowledge Cluster, mandated to build networks among scholars, Canadian and international, in the various disciplines engaged in the humanistic and social study of science and technology, and to engage the work of these scholars with the wider Canadian public.

Situating Science is soliciting workshop proposals for the timeframe of: Jan. 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013. Up to two Canadian workshops will be funded (up to \$10,000 each). Workshop topics should fall under one of the four themes of the Cluster:

- Science and its Publics
- Historical Epistemology and Ontology (including philosophy of science)
- Material Culture and Scientific/Technological Practices
- Geography and Sites of Knowing

Detailed information on the themes can be found at www.situsci.ca. The themes are intended to be broad and flexible. If in doubt as to whether your proposed topic fits within one of the themes, contact your local SituSci organisers or the SituSci central office (contact info below). In accordance with SituSci's mandate, organisers are encouraged to seek interdisciplinary participation (from within and/or outside the academy), and, where feasible, include a public component to their event. We also entertain proposals that include plans for an associated pedagogical component (e.g., 2-3 day "school")

The Cluster will provide financial and organisational support, with the expectation that organisers will leverage additional funding from partnering institutions. The Proposal should be no more than three pages, including:

- Workshop title
- Cluster theme under which workshop falls
- Short description of workshop
- Possible participants
- Preliminary budget
- Potential sources of outside funding
- Possible inter-disciplinary partnerships (e.g., museums, journalists, etc.)
- Preliminary plans for involvement of students
- Possible date

Proposals and queries are to be sent to the local SituSci organiser:

West Coast: Alan Richardson, UBC, alanr@interchange.ubc.ca

Alberta: Robert Smith, U. Alberta, robert.smith@ualberta.ca

Saskatchewan: Larry Stewart, U. Saskatchewan, l.stewart@usask.ca

Ontario: Bernie Lightman, York U., lightman@yorku.ca

Quebec: Yves Gingras, UQAM, gingras.yves@uqam.ca; Nicholas Dew, McGill, nicholas.dew@mcgill.ca

Atlantic: Melanie Frappier University of King's College, melanie.frappier@ukings.ns.ca; Letitia Meynell, Dalhousie University, letitia.meynell@dal.ca

SituSci central office at: situsci@dal.ca,

The deadline for submissions is 5 pm ADT, Monday, 3 October 2011

V. Miscellaneous

Berlin Technical University's Center for Technology and Society – Zentrum Technik und Gesellschaft der Technischen Universität Berlin, ZTG – celebrated its 15th anniversary. The centre was founded as a central research institution of the TU Berlin. It belongs to the early academic institutions dedicated to interdisciplinary research. ZTG's mission is to study the interplay of technological and social change. Research projects are focused on innovation studies, many of them dealing with environmental questions, the societal impact of information- and communication technologies, and the field of security, risk and privacy.

Today more than 50 researchers are engaged in several transdisciplinary projects. Their academic fields are wide spread: historians (including historians of technology) are collaborating with sociologists, psychologists, political scientists, architects, specialists of urban planning and environmental questions as well as occupational scientists, engineers and scholars for cultural studies. ZTG's director is Hans-Liudger Dienel, whom you know as President of T2M.

For more information please visit <http://www.tu-berlin.de/ztg>

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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