

ICOHTEC

NEWSLETTER



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,

This issue of the Newsletter publishes a call for papers on “Sport, Leisure and Play: Science, Technology and Culture” in order to prepare the next ICOHTEC Symposium in Barcelona (10 – 14 July 2012). Please let me know if you want to publish a call for papers for a session in Barcelona or in Manchester, too.

Thanks to our Past President Hans-Joachim Braun, the newsletter gives a report of a conference on „Urbanization to Modernism – Formation of Metropolitan Harbour and Commercial Districts”, held in Hamburg.

Best wishes

Yours Stefan Poser

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I. ICOHTEC

Sport, Leisure and Play: Science, Technology and Culture

Call for Papers for a Session of the 39th Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC (Barcelona, 10-14 July 2012)

Deadline **15 January 2012**

Organizers: Hans-Joachim Braun, Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg, Stefan Poser, Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg, James Williams, Independent Scholar, Deland, Florida

What is the role of science and technology in sport, leisure activities and play and to what degree is scientific and technological development mirrored by it? Have new scientific and technological concepts as Taylorism and Toyotism influenced strategies of sport? Has sport and play fostered the consumption of technology?

The aim of the session is to identify and to trace influences from science and technology on sport, leisure activities, play and vice versa. What about their relationship to culture and society, what about processes of change? Technology, sport and play have crucial functions in human life. They have strongly influenced the development of societies. Following Johan Huizinga, cultural developments are based on play. Although this view may be somewhat exaggerated, it is quite true that since the beginning of industrialization technology-based play has become increasingly important. Thus research in this field may open new perspectives on the questions of how and why people interact with technology.

We are interested in *case studies* (e.g., the role of technology in sport, amusement park technology, technical toys, computer games, handicraft works in leisure time, do-it-yourself) as well as in *contributions to theory*.

Please contact us – Hans-Joachim Braun, hjbraun@hsu-hh.de, Stefan Poser, poser@hsu-hh.de and James Williams, techjunc@gmail.com – and submit an abstract (200 – 400 words) and a one page CV until **15 January 2012**.

II. Conference Reports

Urbanization to Modernism – Formation of Metropolitan Harbour and Commercial Districts

International Conference, Hamburg 13 – 14 October 2011

Hans-Joachim Braun, Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg, hjbraun@hsu-hh.de

In 2014 the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg is planning to apply for recognition of the ensemble “Chilehaus with office building district and adjoining warehouse district” as a World Heritage Site.

To put the importance of the Hamburg ensemble in an international context, ICOMOS Germany and the Hamburg Ministry of Culture/Department for Heritage Preservation, in cooperation with the HafenCity University and the Sutor Foundation, organised an international conference on „Urbanization to Modernism – Formation of Metropolitan Harbour and Commercial Districts“. Comparable international examples were presented and discussed in both subject areas – that is for the architecture of storage building complexes around 1900 and for the modern office building architecture of the 1920/30s. Particular attention was given not only to the question of what comparable properties exist in other countries, but also to their state of conservation.

The Chilehaus, built by Fritz Höger in 1922-24, is one of the most significant architectural achievements in German brick expressionism and in the office building style. Hamburg's office building district, characterized by Chilehaus, Meßberg-, Sprinken- and Mohlenhof, is one of Germany's most impressive cityscapes of the 1920s, and the first office district dedicated to the European continent. The warehouse district, built from 1883-1928 on the basis of the Customs Union between Hamburg and the German Empire, is the largest cohesive, unified warehouse ensemble in the world. It features a specific functional, architectural and urban planning structure, with 17 seven- to eight-storey warehouses in richly ornamented brickwork, together with streets, waterways, railway lines and intermediate buildings. Both ensembles of considerable size – in their current state and their unique concentration impressive contributions to the development of the European architecture of the last 19th and first half of the 20th century and to the ideals of that period for functional urban planning – are located in close proximity to one another, and are complementary in their economic functions.

At the conference, the development of the harbour and commercial districts in Hamburg was compared with that of other port cities all over the world. Carola Hein, Bryan Mawr College, dealt with towns and harbours in a global context, and made a comparison between London, Philadelphia and Tokyo. Robert Lee, University of Liverpool, analysed the social life of the port architecture: history, politics, commerce and culture, and Dirk Schubert, Harbour City University Hamburg, put the amphibious city of Hamburg into an international context. Here is a selection of other papers:

Antonella Caroli Palladini, on the old port of Trieste, Axel Föhl on the port of Antwerp, Sara E. Wermel on Boston's historic warehouses and Afredo Conti on Puerto Madero, Buenos Aires, evolution of a warehouse area. On the topic of the Hamburg office buildings in national and international comparison speakers included Carol Krinsky on the office building architecture in early 20th century New York City, Christopher Woodward on London in the same period, Herman van Bergeijk on the Netherlands and Vladimir Slapeta on Prague.

This was a well-organized conference with stimulating papers and interesting discussions which will surely have advanced the cause of supporting Hamburg's warehouse and commercial districts gaining the status of a World Heritage Site.

III. Conference Announcements

17 – 19 November 2011

Sport in Early Modern Culture

German Historical Institute, London

While the history of sport exercises of fencing, riding and dancing, ranging from rowing, wrestling, jeu de paume, soccer and gymnastics to swimming, diving, pall mall, shooting, running and ice skating. The early modern period had professional players as well as sports grounds, training as well in the modern period has attracted a great deal of interest in recent years and new approaches have found their way into research, sport and physical exercise in the early modern period is still a rather neglected topic. Our aim is not to continue the well-known discussion of whether or not sport existed in pre-modern times. There were many physical activities beyond the courtly as contests, referees as well as public audiences. And sometimes important political and economic issues were at stake.

This conference aims to bring together specialists from diverse disciplines and many nations to view the practice of sport and physical exercise in its cultural context, taking into special consideration social, political and economic influences. Contributions may relate to individual countries, to specific individuals or groups, or to individual sports.

Please find the program on: <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=17628>

Please contact: Angela Schattner, GHI London, schattner@ghil.ac.uk

3 – 5 May 2012

Transformation in European History. Preconditions – Processes – Perceptions. 6th

Annual Graduate Conference in European History (GRACEH)

University of Vienna, Vienna

CFP – Deadline **15 January 2012**

The “transicion” of political systems in Southern Europe and Latin America since the 1970s and the revolutionary changes in Central and Eastern Europe in 1989/91 have resulted in the rise of “transformation studies” in social sciences. The term transformation is commonly understood as the politically steered transition from communist dictatorship to democracy, from a planned to a market economy, and from a closed to an open society. In contrast to this teleological reading the 6th GRACEH conference intends to explore a historical approach to transformation. A very broad working definition of the term would characterize transformation as a “period of especially intense and accelerated structural changes on a political, social, economic, and cultural level” that were caused by major political and social upheavals such as the breakdown of the continental empires in 1918, the French Revolution in the late 18th century, or the Reformation. Unlike the social sciences, we wish to broaden the application as far back as to the beginning of modern age. In what way can this concept

of transformation be applied to contemporary, modern and early modern contexts? What kinds of adjustments of the concept are required for the historicization of transformation?

The following three key aspects will serve as guiding questions throughout the conference:

- Which preconditions lead to periods of transformation? Which triggers, causes and turning points can be identified?
- On which levels does transformation occur? How can the complexity of transformation processes be analyzed without being trapped in teleological assumptions?
- How is transformation perceived and interpreted by internal and external observers? How do transformation discourses influence the process itself?

The conference invites postgraduate and early career researchers in history and related disciplines to submit their papers dealing with this broad concept of transformation on the basis of textual and visual sources from the modern age onward. The proposals should consider and discuss political, social, and cultural dimensions, causes, evolution and perceptions of transformation. In order to enrich the discussion the GRACEH organizers have invited Gudrun Gersmann (DHI Paris/Universität Köln) and Christian Gerlach (Universität Bern) as external keynote speakers.

We look forward to receiving submissions on topics including but not limited to the following research areas:

- Continuity and discontinuity in transformation periods
- Agents of transformation
- Transfers and transnational dimensions of transformation
- Synchronic and diachronic comparative approaches for a history of transformation(s)
- Historical source material of transformation research
- Macro- and microhistorical approaches to transformation
- Legitimizations of transformation such as nation building, independence, liberty, and economical welfare, social movements, social network analysis, gender issues

The main conference language is English. The conference has no registration fee. We offer logistic help to find good and low budget accommodation near the University of Vienna. A limited part of the travel cost for external participants can be covered on the basis of individual request (if you like to apply for a stipend, please provide documentation about your economic situation).

Please submit your proposal of max. 300 words and your CV by using the application form to graceh2012@univie.ac.at. You can download the application form on the congress website: www.univie.ac.at/graceh2012.

Deadline for submission: January 15, 2012

If your proposal is accepted by the program committee, you are expected to submit a paper (5-10 pages) no later than April 1, 2012. For further information on the GRACEH 2012, please consult the congress website.

Organizing Committee

The GRACEH 2012 program committee: Katharina Ebner, Sandra Hertel, Florian Kühner, Rafael Prehler, David Pruonto, Marion Romberg, Burkhard Wöllner, Prof. Philipp Ther, Prof. Wolfgang Schmale

Congress website: www.univie.ac.at/graceh2012.

For further questions, please contact the organizers by e-mail: graceh2012@univie.ac.at.

17 May 2012

2. Technikhistorisches Forum für Doktoranden/innen und Habilitanden/innen der Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte GTG / Second Workshop of PhD.-Students and Young Scholars of the German Society for the History of Technology

German Museum, Munich

CFP – Deadline **31 January 2012**

Please find the cfp on http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/images/stories/cfp_technikhistorisches_forum_2012.pdf

Please contact GTG's President Prof Martina Heßler, mhessler@hsu-hh.de, Prof Reinhold Bauer, Stuttgart University, reinhold.bauer@hi.uni-stuttgart.de and Sophie Gerber, sophie.gerber@mzwgt.mwn.de

18 – 20 May 2012

Technikversagen – von technischen Scheitern zu Technikdesastern und Naturkatastrophen / Results of Failing Technology: technical and technology-based natural disasters. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte, GTG / Annual Meeting of the German Society for the History of Technology

German Museum, Munich

CFP – Deadline **6 January 2012**

The aim of the conference is to analyse mutual influences of technological development and disasters.

Please find the cfp on:

http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/images/stories/cfp_gtg_jahrestagung_2012.pdf

Please contact the organizers Prof Matthias Heymann, Prof Helmut Trischler and Dr Frank Uekötter by matthias.heyman@ivs.au.dk

21 – 23 May 2012

Between Autonomy and Engagement. Performances of Scientific Expertise, 1860-1960.

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven

CFP – Deadline **30 January 2012**

In Science Studies, problems of scientific expertise have drawn tremendous attention in recent years. The emergence of expert authority within ever more fields of human activity has often been associated with the emergence of a new type of expert knowledge that evolved in the late nineteenth century. This knowledge, it is argued, related to the growing scientification of the economy, of society and even of politics. At the same time, this expert knowledge resulted from the increasing recruitment of 'specialists' by the state in order to back up ever more policy measures in a context of expanding state intervention.

During this conference, we wish to focus upon the complex performance of expertise that came along with this scientification of society. More specifically, this conference will elaborate upon the careful negotiation between two potentially conflicting dynamics of this performance - an ever growing autonomy of expertise, on the one hand, from which experts gained their presumed abilities to overcome social conflict; and an ever increasing engagement of experts with 'the political' on the other hand, in order to consolidate their position in a competitive market of knowledge.

We welcome contributions about such distant fields as expertise in public policy (e.g health policy or agricultural policy), courtroom expertise (e.g expert witnessing) and economic governance expertise (e.g business administration).

1. In order to explore this performance of expertise, we wish to focus in the first place upon the newly emerging social roles that were performed by scientific experts and their counterparts, as well as the cultural meanings that were ascribed by them to these roles. To what extent did state recruitment of scientists, profound urbanization and democratization of society put traditional self-representations of scientists under pressure? In order to lay bare these new roles, the genealogy of expertise as a concept should be focused upon as well. Did new performances tap in into older meanings of expertise that were held up by practitioners such as physicians and craftsmen, rather than by laboratory scientists? Whereas nineteenth century experts seemed to present themselves as distanced observers in the first place, could other notions of expertise being a matter of personal implication and experience still survive? What did this mean for the expert's autonomy and engagement on a social level?

2. We also wish to focus, in the second place, upon the construction of the different fields of expert knowledge by experts and their counterparts. To what extent did scientist help to conceptualize these fields of intervention, building likewise upon their perceived autonomy and engagement? In order to conceptualize the shaping of these fields by scientific experts and their counterparts, focus could be put upon medical and engineering models such as 'sanitation measures' in health policy, Malthusian and other concepts in agricultural policy,

scientific management and efficiency models in economic governance, or criminal anthropological concepts in scientific expert witnessing in the court room.

3. We wish to elaborate, in the third place, upon the backfiring of this expertise engagement within the scientific community. How did experts and non-experts alike evaluate the fate of autonomy and engagement in the age of expertise? To what extent did the rise of expert knowledge imply the persistence of an autonomous field of scientific inquiry, both as a contrasting image and as a necessary condition for the performance of expertise? We especially welcome contributions about the failures of expertise as perceived within scientific communities. Here again, the fragilities of expertise should help to lay bare expertise as an open ended performance, rather than as a ready made tool of a fixed 'technocracy'.

4. In the fourth place, we wish to focus upon the interdependent meanings of scientific expertise and politics. How did experts conceptualize the political sphere, and how did notions of 'expert governance' and 'technocracy' influence that sphere? We do welcome contributions about the embedment of expertise within the political cultures of progressive liberalism, newly emerging socialism and reinvented conservatism. At the same time, however, we wish to dig deeper into the continuous use of older concepts such as social physics, social mechanics and social engineering. These concepts had been at the core of political thinking from the early nineteenth century onwards and therefore could be studied as complementary, highly respectable points of reference for newly emerging experts.

The word limit for abstracts is 250 words. We welcome contributions from all relevant fields, from the history of science and technology to the history of ideas, sociology and philosophy of science.

Please send your abstract to: expertiseconf@arts.kuleuven.be

Abstract deadline: 30 January 2012

Please visit: <http://expertiseconf.wordpress.com/>

Please contact: Joris Vandendriessche, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven,
joris.vandendriessche@arts.kuleuven.be

23 May 2012

Historiography as Intervention: Communication across Geographies, Communities & Divides, ICA Preconference

Phoenix

CFP – Deadline **15 November 2011**

Writing history is far from neutral. Recovering undocumented stories can reassess different groups' actions and contributions. Counterhistories can denaturalize the present and challenge ideologies. The past provides tools, warnings, solutions and mistakes. Historiography can engage in contemporary struggles and change the way we see the world

and its possibilities. This ICA preconference convenes communication scholars pursuing historiographic work and historians addressing communication-related areas. Some topics may be established and vibrant areas of historic inquiry; others may be neglected areas needing appraisal. Panels will address historic issues in communication scholarship, such as evolving theories and philosophies, and also stage engagements between related fields, such as medical historians and health communication scholars or political communication scholars and social-movement historians. The preconference will also feature invited speakers from both fields. Throughout, international and intercultural representation will afford insights from comparative histories of relevant topics, such as media policies or strategic interventions. Ultimately, this preconference aims to instigate intersections and encounters that can provoke collaborative interventions with issues facing our discipline, schools, communities, and countries.

Submitted papers should present historiographic methods and/or historic data, theories or subject matter within a framework of social intervention by providing tools, offering insight or communicating information. Work should be from or of interest to historians and communication scholars. Innovative proposals for transdisciplinary, multimodal or media-based presentations (e.g., interactive digital archives, documentary screenings, database tours) are highly encouraged. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, historiographic interventions through:

- Demystifying moral panics
- Recovering contributions, such as minority or female scholars
- Counteracting contemporary stereotypes, such as racial technophobia
- Raising ethical issues through representing a particular voice, perspective or agenda
- Comparing methods, such as Foucauldian genealogy, Derridean hauntology or Hayden White's discourse tropes
- Challenging dominant ideologies and fields of knowledge
- Rethinking newness; historicizing contemporary issues and conversations
- Staging interdisciplinary conversations, as with visual communication scholars and art historians, across the field of sound studies, or economics and communication infrastructures
- (Re)making the past, (un)making the present, envisioning potential futures
- Critiquing dominant narratives and concepts, such as convergence culture, network society, silent cinema's "train effect," the long tail, social media's role in the Arab Spring, affective labor, excesses of postmodernism or textual studies, political economies of information, etc.
- Suggesting policy strategies and solutions

Send paper abstracts or project descriptions of 300 words by 15 November 2011 to D. Travers Scott, dscott3@g.clemson.edu. Authors will be informed of decisions by 15 December 2011. Papers are due 1 May 2012. The preconference will be 1 May 2012 at the conference hotel, the Phoenix Sheraton Downtown. The preconference is sponsored by the International Communication Association's Communication History Interest Group and organized by D. Travers Scott of Clemson University.

Please contact: Travers Scott, Clemson University, dscott3@g.clemson.edu

6 – 8 June 2012

6th Symposium of the Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History (SOLCHA)

Villa de Leyva, Columbia

CFP – Deadline **1 December 2011**

The Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental (SOLCHA) is pleased to announce its 6th Symposium, which will take place in Villa de Leyva, Colombia, from June 6 to June 8, 2012. The conference is being organized by the research group Historia, Ambiente y Política with the help of the Universidad de los Andes, the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Instituto de Investigación de Recursos Biológicos Alexander von Humboldt, and El Colegio Verde de Villa de Leyva. The Villa de Leyva Symposium follows those held in Santiago (Chile, 2003), Havana (Cuba, 2004), Carmona (Spain, 2006), Belo Horizonte (Brazil, 2008), and La Paz (Mexico, 2010).

The invitation to participate is open to anyone who examines environment-society relations from an historical perspective. Whenever possible, we encourage people who are interested in participating to organize thematic panels rather than submit individual papers. The following general themes are suggested. They were selected only to facilitate the organization of panels and are not intended to be exhaustive or exclude any proposal. All proposals will be considered and new thematic groups could emerge based on accepted abstracts.

1. Cities and the environment
2. Agrarian, forest, and mining topics
3. Methods, new directions, and debates
4. Landscape change
5. Political ecology
6. Biodiversity and conservation
7. Others

Please visit <http://visimposiosolcha.uniandes.edu.co/index.php?ac=inicio&idi=en>

7 – 9 June 2012

More Atlantic Crossings? Europe's Role in an Entangled History of the Atlantic World, 1950s-1970s

German Historical Institute, Washington DC

CFP – Deadline **1 December 2011**

Fifteen years ago Daniel Rodgers' *Atlantic Crossings* marked a milestone in the transnational history of the twentieth century Atlantic world. It not only put the American Progressive Era within a broader Atlantic framework, but also highlighted a myriad of transnational exchanges and networks among professionals, civil society organizations, policy-makers and intellectuals during the first half of the twentieth century. The study, however, ends during the 1940s, as the increase in U.S. power fundamentally altered the dynamics of transatlantic relations. This workshop will explore the degree to which we can still trace these reciprocal "Atlantic Crossings" into the postwar decades. In what ways and areas, specifically, did Europeans and European social, economic, and cultural models continue to shape transatlantic debates despite the seemingly overwhelming role played by the United States?

We are interested in taking stock of ongoing research on transnational transatlantic exchanges since the middle of the twentieth century. In a recent essay on the field of transnational history, Ian Tyrell singled out the postwar decades as a period in order to illustrate the impact of asymmetrical power relationships on transnational exchange processes. To him and many others, the era was one of unidirectional transatlantic flows and of "Americanization." Despite such imbalances, Americans did not cease to look to Europe after World War II in search of alternative solutions, inspirations or challenges. Postwar development was in many areas more entangled than linear narratives of Americanization suggest. While the social question dominated the *Atlantic Crossings* of the early part of the twentieth century, issues of social modernization and mass consumer affluence were of special significance in the decades under consideration here. These were, to be sure, trademark issues of the "American century," but at the same time, they were subject to competing visions of modernity.

The impact of European impulses on the American social landscape has not yet received systematic consideration from historians of the postwar period. As Americans recognized the limitations of the American Dream, what elements of European social policy did they consider? As the death of the American city became an issue of debate, how did American perspectives on European cities change? While Europeans were discussing the "American challenge," how did American society react to the increasing global competitiveness of European economies? As American commercial culture became ubiquitous, did European notions of culture and style disappear completely from the transatlantic scene? In many areas, European social or economic models failed to gain traction and cases of outright imports are far and few between. Still, such exchanges should be considered a vital element of the entangled history of the postwar Atlantic world, complementing our increasingly refined understanding of European reflections about and adaptations of American models.

This workshop will focus on concrete exchanges and actors; and it will investigate the relative importance of transatlantic networks of policy makers and professionals, of civil society organizations and of business managers, artists, intellectuals, and cultural entrepreneurs. Their world was often one that transcended binary oppositions between Europe and America. It was, however, also shaped by larger dynamics of the era – most

importantly Cold War divisions, perceptions of crisis during the 1970s, and a new era of globalization. Thus, understanding the entangled history of the postwar Atlantic world also means considering its place within a broader global framework.

To explore postwar American perspectives on Europe, as well as the degree of and limitations to postwar “Transatlantic Crossings,” we are soliciting submissions from historians and scholars in related fields working on post World-War II transatlantic exchanges in (among others) the following areas:

- Public policy
- Social movements (environmentalism, feminism, peace movement) and ideology
- Urban planning and architecture
- Management studies, labor relations and human resources
- Science and technology
- Arts and popular culture
- Gender and the family
- Transatlantic networks and elite migrants

Conveners: Jan Logemann (GHI), Mary Nolan (NYU), Daniel Rodgers (Princeton)

Please send a paper title, a 500 word abstract, and a CV to Jan Logemann (logemann@ghi-dc.org) by December 1, 2011. Expenses for travel (economy class) and accommodation will be covered, though you may defray organizing costs by soliciting funds from your home institution.

Please visit: http://ghi-dc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=938&Itemid=833

Please contact: Jan Logemann, German Historical Institute, logemann@ghi-dc.org

1 – 3 August 2012

Trading Environments. Commercial Knowledge and Environmental Transformations

Rachel Carson Center, Munich

CFP – Deadline **25 November 2011**

This conference considers the historical relations between commodity markets and environments. We plan to explore the environmental and landscape consequences of trading networks and their associated practices and interdependencies. How have environments been engineered, standardized and transformed within past trading systems? What have been the successes and failures of economic knowledge in dealing with resource production in complex environments? The ‘Trading Environments’ conference will consider the environmental consequences of marketing and commodifying nature through study of such phenomena as the performance of commodity exchanges, trading networks, land markets, debt relations, quality assurance through standardization, insurance, consumer movements,

and changes in governance regimes. We look for a diverse range of papers in terms of historical and regional contexts, but are principally interested in papers that deal with the period between 1750 and the present. Papers should innovatively consider the ways in which transnational commodity chains bound distant environments together. Above all, in this conference we will reflect on the history of competing economic knowledge systems and their environmental effects. We envision a conference designed to address this issue organised around five interrelated themes.

- Environmental effects of commodity market dynamics. Markets have dynamics of their own that contribute to environmental transformations. Participants might analyse the environmental effects of speculative bubbles, economic cycles, bear and bull markets, or shifts from arbitrage to futures trading.
- Environmental implications of trade. What are the effects of trade on energy exchanges, biodiversity, environmental services and natural processes, and what effect has trade had on landscape transformation? What happened when a new competitor production region disrupted the supply arrangements of an existing commodity chain, or when new standards rendered a production network uncompetitive? Alternatively, what were the environmental effects of new product certifications and labelling systems?
- The effects of the cultures of markets for commodities. Various economic actors have legitimised landscape transformation using idealised environments portrayed in warehouses, bourses, fairs, advertisements and trade catalogues. What fictive landscapes were generated by trade, what was the landscape iconography of trading systems, and how were consumers or investors mobilized? Papers might focus on the effects of consumer co-operatives, or calls for consumer sovereignty on the markets for commodities.
- Land, Landscape and nature as commodities. Throughout the “long 19th century,” nature and natural resources were a major focus, as the emerging fields of natural sciences like botany, zoology, geography and geology, more and more interpreted nature as a warehouse of natural goods. Scientific expertise was used to exploit nature more effectively for economic purposes. The idea and ideology of frontier was linked to the search for natural resources, and harnessed to colonial land markets. Papers addressing this theme might show how new frontiers were established, and how “valueless” and “pristine” nature was investigated and separated into tradable pieces and goods.
- Disconnections between first and second nature. The infrastructure of a commodity chain may be at odds with the processes of first nature. New ecologies of trade emerge when environments are first articulated with markets or trade networks. The very economic devices used to cope with natural diversity and variability produce a second nature whose distributions and rhythms are increasingly dictated by the needs of capital. Similarly, efforts to manage exploitation for capital may meet with resistance and opposition as contending moral economies collide. We look to analyses of how the restructuring of trading networks generated new material exchanges and environmental relations with winners and losers.

To answer this call for papers, send a proposal, including title, abstract, and an outline of how the proposed paper might contribute to the themes of the ‘Trading Environments’

conference, to the conference conveners by 25 November 2011. For further questions, please contact either of the event conveners.

Please visit: http://www.carsoncenter.uni-muenchen.de/events_conf_seminars/calendar/conf_trad_env/index.html

Please contact: Gordon Winder, Rachel Carson Center,
gordon.winder@carsoncenter.lmu.de

29 August – 1 September 2012

A Historical View on the Development of the Sustainable City. Strategies of Sustainability in European Urban Design Theory from the 16th to the 20th Century.

Session of the 11th International Conference on Urban History, EAUH 2012

European Association for Urban History, Prague

CFP – Deadline **15 November 2011**

Cities play a definitive crucial role in the on-going discourse on sustainability, due to the fact that more than half of the world's population is living in urban agglomerations, causing a concomitant concentration of energy use and refuse production. However, in spite of its current urgency, the ideal of a sustainable city is not a new concept; it has a long history built on a variety of ideas on the improvement of the urban environment, which have been rethought and revised over the course of the last century. In fact, many of the considerations on the improvement of the urban environment that mark today's ideas on sustainable urban design can already be found in the urban development tracts and political, philosophical and social reform texts in medical, economic or political treatises of past centuries. The arguments of today's sustainability debate, namely, the permanence of structure, stability of the substance, and social balance, as well as providing construction material, ground sealing, water supply, drainage, ventilation, hygiene, garbage removal, traffic, greening, and land and energy needs will be the focuses of this session.

The section is intended to be of interest to researchers from the historical and cultural disciplines, sociology, the political sciences as well as the natural and technical sciences.

Chair:

Dr. Katia Frey, ETH Zurich, Institute for History and Theory of Architecture (gta)

Dr. Eliana Perotti, ETH Zurich, Institute for History and Theory of Architecture (gta)

Dr. Ruth Hanisch, Technische Universität Dortmund

All abstracts (maximum 500 words) should be submitted by November 15th, 2011 per online paper proposal form at: www.eauh2012.com/sessions/call-for-paper-proposals/

Please visit: www.eauh2012.com

Please contact: Eliana Perotti, ETH Zürich, eliana.perotti@gta.arch.ethz.ch

1 – 3 November 2012

5th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science

Athens

CFP – Deadline **30 March 2012**

We remind you that the 5th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science will be held in Athens, 1-3 November 2012.

The conference website address is <http://5eshs.hpdst.gr>

Please visit the website for details about symposia and abstract submission, important dates of the conference, registration, grant allocation and accommodation.

Looking forward to see you in Athens,

On behalf of the organizing committee

Efthymios Nicolaidis and Constantine Skordoulis

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

Please contact: Gianna Katsiampoura, National Hellenic Research Foundation,

<http://5eshs.hpdst.gr/contact>

IV. Call for Contributions

Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies 1720 to the Present

Call for contributors – no deadline mentioned

The German Historical Institute Washington DC is currently working on an ambitious project, *Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present*. The project seeks to explore the contributions that first- and second-generation German immigrants have made to business and entrepreneurship in America and will feature 250 biographies of prominent entrepreneurs of German descent. For a brief overview, please see our temporary website at www.ghi-dc.org/entrepreneurship.

Not surprisingly, several of the candidates in our database made their names in the fields of science, medicine and technology. We are currently looking for biographical essays on businesspeople especially in our earliest volume (1720-1840), such as Joseph Donath and Jacob Schieffelin Jr., as well as our latest volume (1945 – today), such as Andy Bechtolsheim, Werner Michael Blumenthal, Willibald Conzen, Konstantin Guericke, Bernard A. Hausen and Eckhard Pfeiffer. We also welcome further suggestions.

We are asking for articles of 15-20 pages, supporting visual material and offer an honorarium of \$400. The articles will undergo a peer-review process and appear on our project's online platform, which is currently being developed. Additionally, we hope to have opportunities for

some of the authors to present their research at project-related events. If you or anyone you know may be interested in authoring an entry, please contact Jessica Csoma at csoma@ghi-dc.org.

V. Miscellaneous

An exhibition dedicated to construction history was opened to public in Madrid:

Ildefonso Sanchez del Rio. El ingenio de un legado / The legacy of an engineer

Exhibition of the Juanelo Turriano Foundation and the Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos in Madrid, 6 October – 3 November 2011.

Ildefonso Sanchez del Rio (1898-1980) is one of the leading engineers of the so-called Generation 27 in Spain. He is well known for his innovative concrete constructions shaped similar to corrugated iron sheets.

British Industrial Heritage at Risk

The largest ever research project into the condition of England's industrial heritage was published by English Heritage together with its annual Heritage at Risk Register in October, 2011. It reveals that listed industrial buildings are more at risk than almost any other kind of heritage. 40% of listed industrial buildings at risk, such as mills, warehouses and factories, could be put to sustainable and economic new uses. The remaining 60%, typically buildings that contain historic machinery, redundant engineering structures or mining remains, are of immense cultural value. These have the power to unite local communities and although not easy, there are countless examples that have been saved by committed local groups as conserved sites in the landscape often with public access or as visitor attractions. Lead, tin, copper and coal mines are the industrial sites most at risk on Register. Textile mills also make up a large proportion and these buildings are often concentrated in a single place - Lancashire, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire. The remains of 20th century industries are poorly understood under-appreciated and very much at risk.

Please visit <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/archives-and-collections/portico/>
For further information, please contact Philippa Byrde, English Heritage Communications, philippa.byrde@english-heritage.org.uk or Beth McHattie, beth.mchattie@english-heritage.org.uk

Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowships 2011 Awarded

Dora Vargha and Anna Kotomina, two early career scholars in the history of technology, received the Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowships of 2011.

Dora Vargha (Hungary) studies the transfer of Polio technologies in communist Hungary in the Fifties and early Sixties. She plans to use the Freeze Fellowship grant (Euro 2,000) to

complete the remaining research for her dissertation *Iron curtain, Iron Lungs: Governing Polio in Cold War Hungary 1952-1963*. To fully explore the significance of iron lungs in the history of polio, and the way these devices shaped policies, medical hierarchies, and patient experiences, she will conduct additional interviews with iron lung patients and polio victims in Hungary. Furthermore, she will be collecting material in media archives in Budapest in order to round out the picture of the Cold War rhetoric applied in the public representation of cutting edge medical technology.

Anna Kotomina (Russia) received the grant to support her research project *Pre-cinematic projection technology and the public sphere in Russian Imperia in 1863-1915*. The topic of projection lanterns as a pre-cinematic technology is highly relevant. While many history of technology projects focus on the twentieth century, this particular late-nineteenth history of Czarist Russia promises to link the neglected nineteenth century history to the current history of the multimedia society. Kotomina, who works in Moscow at the State University for Human Sciences and at the Central State Museum of the Cinema, will use the fellowship for archival research in the Russian State Archives in St. Petersburg and Moscow.

The Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship Fund is a joint initiative of the Dutch Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT) and the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) to encourage research of early career scholars in the history of technology in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe. The Fund was established in memory of Karen Johnson Freeze (1945-2009). Through her efforts, the history of technology has begun to develop as a scholarly field in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Selection Committee, chaired by Professor Ruth Oldenziel (Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands), selected the two scholars out of 21 applicants, whose work was also of exceptional quality. Members of the Selection Committee are Professor Luda Klusakova (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic), Dr. Dobrinka Parusheva (Institute of Balkan Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria), Professor Steve Usselman (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA), and Dr. Jan Korsten (Foundation for the History of Technology, the Netherlands)

Next year's Karen Johnson Freeze Fellows will be announced at the Annual Meeting of SHOT in Copenhagen (October 4-7, 2012), during a special event organized by the Tensions of Europe research network. The new Call for Applications will be distributed in spring 2012.

For more information, please visit <http://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/www/en/fellowship-fund>

VI. Recently Published Books

Mom, Gijs; Norton, Peter; Clarsen, Georgine; Pirie, Gordon (eds.): Mobility in History. Themes in Transport. T2M Yearbook 2011. Neuchâtel 2010.

T2M's second yearbook focuses on three topics: (i) reviewing recent scholarship on history of mobility from different continents, (ii) topics and subdisciplines as gender and mobility, maritime history or history of aeromobility and (iii) MacKay's classic "Tramways and Trolleys" (1976): the editors brought essays inspired by MacKay and interviews together.

VII. Join ICOHTEC

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

The membership includes:

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

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