

# 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,

Our next symposium in Barcelona will take place in about three month; thus the Local Organising Committee published the first circular concerning the conference. Please find the preliminary program in the next Newsletter. For the Barcelona symposium is an early bird registration fee available until **24 April 2012**.

Simultaneously to the Barcelona conference we have to prepare the ICOHTEC symposium in Manchester 2013. Our program committee received 119 paper proposals. Thus our Manchester conference will become the largest ICOHTEC meeting as part of the ICHSTM we had until now. ICOHTEC will support young scholars by travel grants; the deadline for application is **15 November 2012**.

If you lost old manuscripts or files of contributions to ICON, the former editor Alex Keller might be able to help you with copies on CDs or disks. Please contact him by [agk@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:agk@leicester.ac.uk).

Best wishes

Yours Stefan Poser

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## I. ICOHTEC

### **I.1 Technology, the Arts and Industrial Culture, 39<sup>th</sup> ICOHTEC Symposium 2012, Barcelona, Circular no. 1 of Local Organizing Committee (LOC)**

The Local Organizing Committee is very pleased to host the 2012 meeting of ICOHTEC in Barcelona on 10-14 July 2012. We are very much looking forward to welcoming delegates to what we hope will be not only an intellectually stimulating, but also highly enjoyable conference. This circular is intended to give some preliminary information to prospective participants about local arrangements.

#### **Programme**

The ICOHTEC Programme Committee is responsible for scholarly aspects of the conference and will be selecting papers from those proposed. The preliminary scientific programme will be announced on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

#### **The venues**

The conference will be held at the **Escola Tècnica Superior d'Enginyeria Industrial de Barcelona** (ETSEIB), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya – Barcelona Tech (UPC). Founded in 1851, the School of Barcelona is the oldest industrial engineering school of Spain. In 1971, this school and the School of Architecture set up the UPC, the university that concentrates engineering, science and architecture education and research in Catalonia, with 1,500 technical personnel, 3,000 teachers and 40,000 students.

The address of the School is Diagonal 647, and it is located on the Diagonal University Campus (shared by centres belonging to the UPC and also the University of Barcelona),

which is accessible by several means of public transport.

The sessions will take place in the School of Industrial Engineering, except for the Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. This day the sessions will take place in Terrassa, at the **Museu Nacional de la Ciència i de la Tècnica de Catalunya** (mNACTEC). There will be buses from the School at Barcelona to carry the registered participants to Terrassa. The city is also connected by train (Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat) from Plaça Catalunya each 12 minutes.

### **Fees and registration**

Early bird registration will be available until 24th April 2012, with a substantially reduced registration fee. Thereafter, it will rise considerably. Besides enabling conference participation for individual delegates, the registration fee includes teas, coffees, and lunches on 11-14 July. Registered delegates will have access to the jazz evening on 12 July in Terrassa. The costs for participation in the conference dinner on 13th July are additional.

The conference fee structure is as follows:



	Early Bird (Before 24.04.12)	Regular (After 24.04.12)
Regular Member	200€	250€
Student Member	120€	150€
Regular Non-Member	250€	310€
Student Non-Member	150€	190€
Accompanying Person	90€	110€
Official Congress Dinner (Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> July)		50€

All fees include 8 % VAT.

### **Membership**

If you wish to join ICOHTEC and receive the member rate for registration, please go to the ICOHTEC web site for a membership application and send in the required fees. The URL is: <http://www.icohtec.org/about-icohtec-join-us.html>. Then complete your conference registration.

### **Accommodation**

Delegates will have the choice of booking one of several different categories of hotels near the ETSEIB or in the city centre at special rates. There is also the possibility of booking reasonably priced student accommodation in a variety of locations. The accommodation

listings and directions for booking are available on the webpage of the Barcelona symposium.

### **Excursions**

Barcelona and Catalonia have an important scientific, technical and industrial heritage. The Local Committee has organized several excursions and visits to provide an introduction to this heritage.

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, two excursions to the Museu Agbar and to the Colònia Güell have been organized. The Museu Agbar is located in a water pumping station set up in 1905. It is situated in Cornellà, near Barcelona. Many of the historical engines and facilities are exhibited, with a permanent exhibition of the water supply of Barcelona. The Colònia Güell is a former textile factory with a worker village set up in 1890. The visit includes a tour of the village, with all the services offered by the company, an exhibition on the history of the Colònia, and a visit to the church designed by Antoni Gaudí (1908), a preparation for his Sagrada Família. Both excursions will start at 14:00 and end by 16:30.

On 12<sup>th</sup> July, the sessions will take place at the mNACTEC, in Terrassa. After lunch, there will be a visit to the collections of the Museum and a tour of the industrial heritage of Terrassa. Optionally, the ICOHTEC jazz session will take place in Terrassa, a city in which the most active Catalan groups of jazz musicians are found.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July, as a post-activity of the symposium, two excursions, one to the Parc de les Mines in Gavà and the other to the Caves Codorníu in Sant Sadurní d'Anoia will be organized, both starting at 9:00 o'clock on Sunday morning. The Parc Arqueològic de les Mines in Gavà is installed at a Neolithic mine, a unique remain. The Caves Codorníu are one of the leading producers of Catalan "cava". In 1872, this company of wine producers decided to adapt the Champagne method. Since then, Cordoníu has had a remarkable trajectory as an international company. The caves were designed in 1915 by the architect Josep Puig I Cadafalch. After each visit, a typical Catalan lunch will be included. Transport to Barcelona airport is due to arrive there by 15.00.

For further information please visit

ICOHTEC web site: <http://www.icohtec.org/index.html>

LOC web page <http://icohtec2012.atlantacongress.org/>

TICCIH will visit industrial heritage sites of the north of Spain in September 2012; please find more information on page 23 of the Newsletter (Miscellaneous).

## **I.2 Manchester Symposium 2013, ICOHTEC Travel Grants**

Guidelines: The ICOHTEC Board will make available a limited number of grants for graduates, post-graduates and young researchers who are giving a paper at the 2013 ICOHTEC Symposium Knowledge at Work in Manchester, UK, 22-28 July 2013. Special preference will be given to students and young researchers from developing countries as well as Eastern and Central European countries in transition who are not able to receive sufficient financial support from their home countries or sponsors in other countries.

These travel grants are not intended to provide the full costs associated with attending the symposium; they are meant as an encouragement, not a full subsidy.

Eligibility: ICOHTEC Travel Grants will be awarded to students or young researchers, travel costs and accommodation costs of whom have not been covered by some sponsors.

The Travel Grant of 350 euro is to be used to cover bus/train/flight/ship tickets, lodging and/or registration fee. Reimbursement will be made after presenting paper or poster and proving the student's or young researcher status by an appropriate document (Student's ID or supervisor's/professor's letter).

Application forms should be sent to the President as email attachments or by ordinary mail. Applications for support must include personal contact information, an estimate on travel, registration and accommodation costs, title of the paper/poster to be presented and a short CV. An application form may be downloaded from the ICOHTEC web site at: <http://www.icohtec.org/resources-prizes.html>.

Deadline: Applications with appendices should be submitted by **15 November, 2012**. Submissions via email are requested and preferred. Grants will be announced in January, 2013.

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## II. Conference Reports

### II.1 “The Great Longing for Railways” – How the Periphery Became Connected with the Centres of Industrialisation

International Railway History Association and the Centre for Urban History of East Central Europe

Ralf Roth, Historisches Seminar, Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, [Dr.Ralf.Roth@t-online.de](mailto:Dr.Ralf.Roth@t-online.de)

The conference targeted an important question of our world system in modern times: the relationship between peripheral and flourishing centres of modernisation. In his keynote speech RALF ROTH (Frankfurt am Main) pointed out the distinction between multidimensional visions and purposes of railways and its enshrined use in many regions of the world's periphery. When railways began to revolutionize the transport systems in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century many people were optimistic and full of hope about the positive effects the new technology would have on society. Indeed, the railways impacted on society in a variety of ways. They solved more or less all transport problems hindering trade so far, distributed the raw materials necessary for industrialisation, and attracted labour forces for the newly erected manufactures. One would mention here also migration initiated or supported by railways in the whole transatlantic world.

The practise of modern transport spread with no less enthusiasm in countries which lacked experiences with modern industry so far. Elites in rural regions of the Northern, Eastern and Southern periphery of Europe and other parts of the world were longing for a modernisation of their economy and wished to take part in the success story of modern technology, engineering, and manufacture. They were convinced that economic strength would lead to political power and would pave the way for independence and sovereignty. Given this context, the railways became a central key technology and therefore focus for fundamental political debates, and of course for heavy investments in the construction of railway lines too at the borderlands of Western Europe.

The question raised in the opening lecture did not only concern the European periphery but was relevant in most other parts of the world as well. Peripheries of economic backwardness include territories of the Russian, Chinese, Ottoman Empires, furthermore the numerous colonies of Great Britain, France and other European countries and also most countries of Latin America. Did railways contribute to wealth and welfare there as envisaged? Did these

infrastructures close the gap between periphery and centre? 150 years later, one must confess, obviously not – or not in the way as it was foreseen. The question is why not? A first look at the European railway network around 1900 or 1910 shows remarkable distinctions in the degree of density of the network in West- and Central Europe and the rest. Moreover, the networks at the periphery of the core had been constructed with a delay of two or three decades. Then it would be important to consider the breakdown of all four empires that dominated the Eastern-European space before World War One. On the one hand this opened the way for an independent development of railways in the Baltic States, Poland and the Ukraine, and in many other parts of the Eastern European world, but the fate of these new states was not what one could call a stable and successful development but was shattered by following wars and serious attempts of a fundamental revision of the post-war state system.

Together with shifting borders the railway systems of Eastern Europe suffered from destruction and more or less permanent periods of reconstruction that lasted several decades. Delays in construction, less density, political and administrative orientation, instability of borders, all together, this was the reason why railways in Eastern Europe did not show the same revolutionary effects as in other parts of Europe and this had enormous consequences. The societies in Eastern Europe never had left the path of a “catch-up industrialisation” (nachholende Industrialisierung). The question was if the detailed analysis of certain railway lines would approve this thesis. The panorama described in the opening lecture was also applied to other regions of the world.

This led to some fundamental consideration about the relationship between centres and peripheries and therefore to the theory of Immanuel Wallerstein. An American social scientist and social historian who started as an expert of post-colonial African affairs, his research interest shifted more and more to theories of the global economy on a macroscopic and critical perspective. Wallerstein locates the origin of the “modern world-system” in Western Europe and the Americas. An initially only slight advance in capital accumulation in Britain, the Dutch Republic and France, due to specific political circumstances at the end of the period of feudalism, set in motion a process of gradual expansion. As a result only one global network or system of economic exchange exists. By the 19th century, virtually every area on earth was incorporated into the capitalist world-economy. This capitalist world-system is far from being homogeneous in cultural, political and economic terms – instead it is characterised by fundamental differences in social development, accumulation of political power and capital.

Wallerstein drew the conclusion that there is a fundamental and institutionally stabilized 'division of labour' between core and periphery: while the core has a high level of

technological development and manufactures complex products, the role of the periphery is to supply raw materials, agricultural products and cheap labour for the expanding agents of the core, because economic exchange between core and periphery takes place on unequal terms.

This context delivered some interesting questions: Which hopes and desires came along with railway construction in these regions of the world? Are there similar visions as in Eastern Europe to become part of a more developed economic space and can we trace comparable discourse patterns which linked the level of railway infrastructure to aspirations of economic and political independence of the region? Did the connection of peripheral rural regions to larger transport networks if the core widened or diminished the gap between the two hot spots and the periphery of the world system? Finally: Did the railways contribute to the industrial development of the country as a whole in such a way that they succeeded in catching up with the leading economies of the West?

The papers and the debate indeed circled around these problems. There was a close and narrow focused debate on railway construction and railway systems in parts of the world which did not belong to the two main spots of the world system, i.e. Western Europe and the United States. The papers delivered a lot of valuable information about the beginnings of railways in Latin America, a region in Africa, the periphery of Europe in the South and of course above all in Eastern Europe. Much was said about the differences between what the railways were foreseen for before they were constructed and about their real effects after construction. In this respect it is important to mention that many projects failed in their strategic outlook. Numerous planned connections from Europe to Asia had mostly not been realised – with the exception of the Transsiberian Railway and parts of the railway project to Bagdad. Transcontinental lines in South America failed as well as in Africa, but they were early realised in Europe in the 1850s and a decade later in the United States. Many projects at the periphery served only few interests in the multitude of purposes railways can be used for. This was very clear the result of the contribution of ANDREAS BEER (Rostock). His paper about railways in Latin America demonstrated that only short lines from the rural hinterland to the harbours at the coast served above all the interest of American fruit companies. The lines did not form a network and they had no connections to neighbouring countries. So, a third outcome of the conference was that most projects at the periphery did not lead to rapid industrialisation as it was thought before construction.

So far this picture fits very well into the theory of Immanuel Wallerstein. The question is still why? The papers about Northern Nigeria from SHEHU TIJJANI YUSUF (Leiden) and EMILIE COTTET DUMOULIN (Savoie) about the European transport backbone via Savoy

gave some hints. The complex causes of the increasing world market drove the use of the railways in a certain direction with sometimes astonishing results: the mighty power of the British administration in Nigeria did not have the power to break through their interest against the demands of the world market. In this particular case the Nigerian farmers made advantage of it and shifted the use of railways from transporters foreseen for cotton from the colonial administration to transporters of ground nuts as the indigenous people of North Nigeria were interested in. This is a result one would not have awaited from our understanding of colonial rule. However, this mosaic piece fits very well in the picture of the Indian railways where also the interest of the British colonial administration had dominated the construction of railways but which were then partly transformed to means for the indigenous people which became more mobile by railway use.

The example of the Savoy region showed in addition the ambivalence of strategic railway routes. Even such corridors or transport axes were successfully introduced this not necessarily must be of advantage for the region in all respect. The region became connected with the centres of industrialisation moreover it became part of the centre itself. But this meant on the one hand less flourishing industry but a decline of its traditional economy as textile and mechanic manufactures which could not stand the competition with producers from other regions. On the other hand the railways opened new perspectives as for example tourism.

Eastern Europe seems to fit in a similar panorama. The conference schedule included a lot of examples as the contributions of IHOR SIOMOCHKIN (Lviv, Ukraine) about railways in Galicia and the Bukovina, IHOR MELNYK (Lviv, Ukraine) about the line from Cracow via Lviv to Czernowitz, ZORIANA MELNYK (Lviv, Ukraine) about the borderlands of Russia and the Habsburg Empire, ANDREJI KISHTYMOV (Minsk, Belarus) about railways to Lithuania, SERGEY LYUBICHANKOVSKIY (Orenburg, Russia) about the Orenburg-Tashkent railway and IHOR ZHALOBA (Kyiv, Ukraine) about the railway network of Galicia. Many of these papers underlined the idea of a limited use of railways in these peripheral regions. In the first run dominated freight transport of raw material from agricultural production and wood and then at second passenger transport and its effects for mobility and migration. All these railways were more or less related to rural regions.

The discussion about this aspect was intensified by the papers of GABOR JEGER (Miskolc, Hungary) on the role of narrow gauge railways for the rise of rural regions in Hungary and of STEFAN BRAUCKMANN (Hamburg) who contributed on the role of narrow gauge lines in a country of the core, Germany. All presenters agreed that the high expectations of the beginning were not fulfilled. The gap between the core of Europe and the centre was not closed up to World War One. But although we find impressive examples of a heavy industry

in the Don region of Ukraine and of course in Czech, parts of Hungary and Poland later on this type of industry unfold its dynamic when the industry in the West already turned to new dimension and even more complex structure of different kind and the gap between the economy of the core and the periphery remained stable. This is a second outcome that would fit in the painting drawn by Immanuel Wallerstein.

The conference had further inspiring results: IRYNA AHIYENKO (Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine) spoke about the “Emergence of a railway network in Ukrainian lands” and of the political role of railway jubilees in present Ukraine. NADJA WECK (Vienna) contributed together with IHOR ZHUK (Lviv, Ukraine) to the main railway station of Lviv and representatives of the city who presented an overview of the future planning for the station rounded up long series of papers and demonstrated that cities in this region served as Wallerstein would have put it as a core to the periphery and a periphery to the core.

The 5th International Conference on Railway History in Lviv was organised by the International Railway History Association and the Centre for Urban History of East Central Europe, with support of OeAD Cooperation Office Lviv, Regional Government of Kärnten (Landesregierung Kärnten), Austrian Cultural Forum, City of Vienna, and the Austrian and French Ambassadors in Ukraine, Mag. Wolf Dietrich Heim and Jacques Faure.

The report was published first

in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 21.02.2012, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=4076>

## **II.2. Screen Culture and the Social Question: Poverty on Screen 1880–1914**

Lydia Jakobs, Universität Trier, [jako2c01@uni-trier.de](mailto:jako2c01@uni-trier.de)

Public screenings with the magic lantern emerged as a widespread social practice in the nineteenth century. The ‘art of projection’ firmly established the screen as a part of international cultural life. The audience was already prepared before the rapid success of ‘cinematography’, starting at the beginning of the twentieth century. An astonishingly large number of lantern slides and early films were used to present the living conditions of the poor and the controversial discourse on the Social Question in public performances around 1900. In line with the various aspects of the conference topic, the papers approached this issue from very different perspectives.

In their introductory address, conveners Andreas Gestrich and Ludwig Vogl-Bienek indicated the shared interest of their institutions in exploring representations of poverty. As examples

Gestrich named both Trier University's Collaborative Research Centre 'Strangers and Poor People' (SFB600) and the German Historical Institute London's current research project 'Pauper Letters and Petitions for Poor Relief in Germany and Great Britain, 1770–1914'. Ludwig Vogl-Bienek spoke of the "hidden history" of lantern and screen culture in the nineteenth century. Their historic function in the public sphere has hardly been explored by social historians, he said, and is seriously under researched in media history. Vogl-Bienek named the lack of availability of primary sources, especially the lantern slides themselves, as one of the main obstacles to research, and pointed to current efforts to publicize knowledge of the magic lantern by making digitized lantern slides available to both researchers and the general public.

The first panel was entitled 'Screen Culture and the Public Sphere: Historic Context and Social Impact 1880–1914'. In his paper, MARTIN LOIPERDINGER (Trier) showed that lantern shows were used in diverse contexts such as public lectures, church services, German Navy League recruiting drives, and by religious and charity organizations in Britain. He suggested that descriptions of audience response should use the concept of appropriation instead of the stimulus–response model. STEPHEN BOTTOMORE (Bangkok) focused on the role of the magic lantern and the cinematograph in political campaigns in his paper, 'The Lantern and Early Film for Political Uses'. As a basis for further research he presented a typology of the various applications of projection media in political campaigns. One of his major examples was the 1907 campaign by the Conservative Party in Britain. In his comment Andreas Gestrich discussed the relationship between screen culture and the public sphere. He highlighted the public reception of projection media as a shift away from privatization compared with the private consumption of print media. He assumed that social competition between different organizations was one of the bases of the mass distribution of media. In the discussion, the elements of performance in the art of projection were suggested as a basis for crucial research questions: audiences and their living environment, organizers (organizations), performers, venues, apparatuses, slides and films, texts, and music.

The following panel, entitled 'Road Show: Approaches to the Hidden History of Screen Culture', shifted the focus towards the current situation of research in this field. INE VAN DOOREN (Brighton) and FRANK GRAY (Brighton) in their dual roles as researchers and archivists spoke about the obstacles lantern scholars face and efforts to establish the digital slide collection and information database LUCERNA. They also reported on the related Lucerna cooperation network established by the universities of Brighton, Indiana, and Trier, and the Magic Lantern Society. Frank Gray suggested that the lack of research structures and a common methodological framework were preventing the establishment of 'lantern

studies'. He stressed the importance of a contextual approach to magic lantern history that takes into account various inter-textual and inter-medial relationships with other cultural practices and art forms. In her presentation 'Archiving and Preserving Lantern Slides and Related Resources', Ine van Dooren described the work of the Screen Archive South East and its effort to collect and publicize (through digitization) lantern artefacts for both educational and research purposes. The first day of the conference concluded with the 'academic launch' of the LUCERNA database, <slides.uni-trier.de>. The developer of the database, RICHARD CRANGLE (Exeter), impressed the participants with his practical demonstration. The database brings together varied primary and secondary source materials on the history of the magic lantern. The open access database is an attempt to lay the foundation for future research by de-privatizing sources such as slides, texts, and readings.

The second day started with the panel 'Raising Public Awareness of Living Conditions in Slums and Tenements'. LUDWIG VOGL-BIENEK (Trier) presented a paper entitled 'Slum Life and Living Conditions of the Poor in Fictional and Documentary Lantern Slide Sets'. He differentiated between the life model slides, which presented narratives on the living conditions of the poor, and documentary sets, which claimed to show 'realistic' images of street life and big city slums. He reflected on the concept of a seemingly "virtual inclusion" of the respectable poor, depicted in different ways by different producers according to their liberal or conservative points of view. In their paper 'Poetry of Poverty: The Magic Lantern and the Ballads of George R. Sims', JOSS MARSH (Bloomington) and DAVID FRANCIS (Bloomington) stressed the social relevance of Victorian author George R. Sims, whose ballads brought the poor into the homes of his middle-class readers and gave the disreputable and desperate a voice. Sims was characterized as "the quintessential multi-media celebrity of Victorian London" because of the various genres in which the prolific writer worked (theatre, poetry, social investigation) and the large number of adaptations of his stories for lantern slide series. After this portrayal of fictionalized representations of poverty, curator BONNIE YOCHELSON (New York) spoke on 'Jacob Riis, his Photographs, and Poverty in New York, 1888–1914'. Riis is mostly remembered today for his book "How the Other Half Lives" (1890) and its photographic illustrations. What is less well known is that until his death in 1914 he devoted several months of each year to delivering lantern slide lectures nationwide on New York slums. Yochelson pointed out that Riis used photographs as material evidence of the living conditions of the poor to authenticate his reports. For this purpose he and the amateur photographers accompanying him undertook 'raids' in New York slums and immigrant tenements. The subsequent panel discussion reflected on interconnections between art, philanthropy, and business. Visual representations, specifically, photographs of the poor created by middle-class producers for middle-class

audiences, were questioned as exploiting or expropriating the poor. Investigations of magic lantern slides and shows on social topics need to take this aspect of exclusion into account.

The third panel dealt with 'Education and Entertainment for the Poor: The Use of Lantern Shows and Early Films by Charity Organizations'. In her presentation 'Educating Moyshe: Jewish Socialists, Gentile Entertainments, and the Future of the Jewish Immigrant Masses in America', JUDITH THISSEN (Utrecht) made clear that the educated elites often distrusted the efforts of early film to school the working-class 'masses'. Her detailed case study of the socialist Jewish daily *Forverts* revealed that Jewish intellectuals and labour leaders in turn of the century New York rejected the notion that cinema had any educational value. Instead they relied on the high-brow form of Yiddish literary drama to educate Moyshe (the Jewish mass audience) while the 'uneducated' masses themselves embraced the low-brow cultural forms of moving pictures, penny arcades, and the phonograph. The subsequent discussion of Thissen's paper clarified that the use of media by social movements is an open research question (known examples draw quite divergent pictures) that requires international comparative research. Looking at British and German Christmas films, CAROLINE HENKES (Trier) analysed narrative strategies used to evoke compassion from the audience. She applied an intermedial framework to demonstrate how these Christmas films adopted "various modes of representation from the established visualization techniques of the magic lantern", comparing them with lantern-slide sets that illustrated the same stories. Intermediality and the repetition of certain tropes in pauper narratives were the subject of subsequent discussion. Frank Gray commented on the often neglected need for material evidence as the 'bedrock' of research, required for understanding new media phenomena such as cinematography in historical context. He stressed the importance of repetition for certain representational strategies in narratives on poverty with similar depictions of the poor repeated across media borders and often featuring death and ascension to heaven as their resolution (like several Christmas stories). The second day concluded with the live magic lantern performance 'Tidings of Comfort and Joy: A Festive and True-Made Victorian Magic Lantern Show for the Deserving Poor of London' given at the Foundling Museum by showman Mervyn Heard accompanied by Juliette Harcourt (recitation and song) and Stephen Horne (piano).

The fourth and final panel was entitled 'Social Prevention with the Aid of the Screen and Exhibitions'. ANNEMARIE McALLISTER (Preston) spoke on 'The Use of the Magic Lantern in the Band of Hope', Britain's largest temperance organization for young members. In their weekly meetings, magic lantern performances combined instruction and entertainment to reinforce the message of abstinence and to show the evils of strong drink, which was considered one of the main causes of poverty. McAllister outlined the development of the

extensive lantern department set up by the UK Band of Hope Union which lent lanterns, slides, and readings to its local branches, British colonies, and the European continent. MARINA DAHLQUIST (Stockholm) spoke of philanthropic organizations in the United States and their use of moving pictures and lantern slides in health campaigns. She showed that these organizations devised veritable multi-media campaigns to promote sanitary measures and to warn the inhabitants of slums and overcrowded living quarters of health hazards. These activities were also intended encourage the Americanization of immigrants. MICHELLE LAMUNIÈRE (Harvard) presented a paper entitled 'Sentiment as Moral Motivator: From Jacob Riis's Lantern Slide Presentations to Harvard University's Social Museum'. She analysed Riis's sensationalist imagery as a tactic to engage audiences for social reform by appealing to "familiar cultural symbols and prejudices". Lamunière contrasted them with exhibits from the collection of Harvard University's Social Museum founded by Francis Greenwood Peabody in 1903. The collection of 4.500 photographs and 1.500 related materials provides empirical data "to facilitate the comparative study of social problems and the institutions and methods devised to alleviate them in Europe and America". In his comment, Scott Curtis (Evanston) discussed the role of the image in education. The extensive use of visual media in social instruction and prevention was based on a widely held belief that images could establish a direct and immediate connection with the mind of the 'uneducated' or the child. Participants also stressed, however, that the combination of sound (text) and image as an inherent feature of lantern performances should be taken into account. A comparison of the different ways of presenting images of the poor to the well-to-do clarified that they appealed not only to their social conscience but also to their self-interest: poverty could pose a threat to their own security and health.

Closing remarks by Ian Christie (London) and Clemens Zimmermann (Saarbrücken) directed the concluding discussion towards methodological requirements. The history of the cultural establishment of the screen and its influence on social history, as so impressively demonstrated by the papers delivered at this conference, needs international research to be better coordinated. More empirical data is necessary to answer economical, political, technical, and design questions and to enable audience research. Comparative analysis of historical screen practice (lantern and early cinema) within the wider context of social and cultural history requires micro-analytical approaches based on an internationally agreed research agenda. The participants felt confident that this conference had taken a crucial step towards this end.

The report was published first in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 22.03.2012,  
<http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=4159>

### III. Congress Announcements

**17 May 2012**

**2. Technikhistorisches Forum der Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte / Second Forum for Young Researchers of the German Society for the History of Technology, GTG**

Deutsches Museum, Kerschensteiner Kolleg, München

Please contact: Sophie Gerber, TU München, [Sophie.Gerber@mzwgt.mwn.de](mailto:Sophie.Gerber@mzwgt.mwn.de)

**18 – 20 May 2012**

**Technikversagen – Von technischem Scheitern zu Technikdesastern und Naturkatastrophen, Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte, GTG Tagung 2012 / Failing of Technology and Technological Desasters.** Annual conference of the German Society for the History of Technology, GTG

Deutsches Museum, München

Deutsches Museum, München

Please find the program on <http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/content/view/488/273/>

Please contact Matthias Heymann, Center of Science Studies, Aarhus University,

[matthias.heymann@ivs.au.dk](mailto:matthias.heymann@ivs.au.dk)

**1 June 2012**

**Exhibiting Industry. Mass Culture and Visual Culture at Industrial Exhibitions in the 19th and 20th Centuries**

University of Lausanne, Lausanne

CFP – Deadline **9 April 2012**

For the past twenty years, the historiography of national exhibitions and World's Fairs has experienced a growing interest among scholars from various disciplines, leading to a new field called exhibition studies. As a distinctly multidisciplinary research area exhibition studies embraces methodologies borrowed from art history and architecture, cultural history and media studies, as well as gender and post-colonial and anthropological studies. The role of exhibitions in the creation of national identities and in the assertion of social and cultural differences (race, gender, class), their importance for the consolidation of nation-states or for the organization of modern capitalist economy has been emphasized repeatedly.

Unlike World's Fairs and national exhibitions, industrial exhibitions organized primarily around commercial activities remain rarely studied. Usually scheduled periodically, they are

held both in the provinces and in urban centers, and are dedicated to one or more industrial sectors. Addressing identical issues as the “major” exhibitions in terms of representation and discourse, they reflect a dense network of politically, economically and culturally significant mass events. Similarly to department stores or advertising, industrial exhibitions contribute furthermore to the spectacularization and mediatization of industrial goods and participate in the “invention of the (female) consumer”.

This one-day conference aims at placing industrial exhibitions in the context of an emerging visual and media culture specific to the mass and consumption culture that appeared in Europe and the United States at the turn of the century. It will pay particular attention to the processes of circulation, negotiation, and appropriation among the various events, which invite us to put them in a transnational and multidisciplinary perspective. Beyond the paradigmatic case of the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the shows in its wake, the study of “exhibiting industries” opens new fields of research for a visual history of industrial culture in the 19th and 20th centuries. This conference intends to discuss several of its strands.

Among the topics for possible consideration at this conference are:

- Industrial exhibitions and World's Fairs: circulations, negotiations and appropriations
- Cultures of consumption and industrial exhibitions
- Means of production and representation: displays of industrial processes
- Mass media and industrial promotion at exhibitions
- Publicizing the exhibitions: magazines, newspapers, radio, cinema, and exhibitions
- Production processes, representation, and reception: from the visitor to the consumer
- Industrial exhibitions and gender: the invention of the female consumer

Please submit a proposal in French or English including a 300-word paper abstract and a short biography to [exhibitingindustry@gmail.com](mailto:exhibitingindustry@gmail.com) by Monday 9th April 2012.

The presentations will be given in French and English.

The conference is organized by Claire-Lise Debluë and Anne-Katrin Weber, Department of History and Aesthetics of Cinema, University of Lausanne; and sponsored by the Center of History of Culture: Literature, Arts and Society, University of Lausanne (UNIL).

Please contact: [exhibitingindustry@gmail.com](mailto:exhibitingindustry@gmail.com)

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

**13 September 2012**

**Cultural Narratives of race in the German Empire: 1871-1945**

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh

CFP – Deadline **1 May 2012**

German history is often determined by caesurae of crucial political dates (1871, 1919, 1933, 1945), eliciting debates around issues of narrative continuity spanning these divisions. Despite the complexity of these scholarly investigations, a common constant is the persistence of discourses of race, however differently manifested in the Kaiserreich, the Weimar republic or the so-called Third Reich. From völkisch definitions of the Gemeinschaft to the racial eugenic ideology of National Socialism, cultural narratives of race spanned the public and private spheres of policy, publishing, the arts and cultural criticism. Although many authors situated their racial theories in the scientific and academic realm - e.g. Friedrich Ratzel's Lebensraum hypothesis, Carl Meinhof's Hamitic hypothesis, Hans F.K. Günther's Rassenkunde des deutschen Volkes – the subject matter elicited much public discussion and entered the domain of popular culture.

This day long interdisciplinary symposium, to be held at the University of Edinburgh on September 13th, will explore the (dis)continuities of cultural narratives of race and its surrounding discourses in 19th and 20th century German history. Further objectives are to investigate the impact of race on popular cultural narratives and vice versa, to identify implicit mechanisms of appropriation in cultural production, and to question the use race as a monolithic conceptual framework for understanding or conceiving of a German nation and people.

We are very pleased to announce a keynote lecture by Tina Campt, Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University and author of *Other Germans: Black Germans and the Politics of Race, Gender and Memory in the Third Reich* (2004) and *Image Matters: Archive, Photography and the African Diaspora in Europe* (2012). We invite 20-minute papers on topics connected with cultural narratives of race in the 1871-1945 period, including:

- Intellectual discourse and popular culture
- Perceptions of nationhood
- The intersection of history and anthropology
- Narratives of technology, innovation and science
- Travel, boundaries and Kulturmission
- The German reception of international racial theory
- Comparative perceptions of indigeneity, race, and nationality

A peer-reviewed publication of selected papers is intended.

A number of travel bursaries will be available to postgraduate contributors by an Innovation Initiative Grant of University of Edinburgh and the Centre for the Study of Two World Wars, School of History, Classics and Archeaology.

Please submit abstracts of 250 to 300 words by 1 May 2012 online at:

[www.hss.ed.ac.uk/conferences/cultural\\_narratives\\_conference](http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/conferences/cultural_narratives_conference) or by email to the symposium organisers: Lara Day Benjamin, [l.day.benjamin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:l.day.benjamin@ed.ac.uk), and Oliver Haag, [ohaag@staffmail.ed.ac.uk](mailto:ohaag@staffmail.ed.ac.uk)

**13 – 15 September 2012**

**Apples and Oranges: Practicing Comparison**

University of London, London

CFP – Deadline **20 April 2012**

Qualitative social science has become uneasy about comparing: it is easily frightened by both accusations from within quantitative traditions that assert the inability of its methods to control variables precisely enough and a colonial past in which cultural comparisons had a dubious taint of racism. However, despite being a loaded term, comparisons are nonetheless routine within qualitative social science, although they are often more implicit than explicit. We perform them in conferences where we group in thematically similar panels, in more or less strident academic debates, as well as in our everyday practices as a way to understand and contextualise our own research. However, we observe that this seemingly comparative practice is rarely named as such. Further, we also suspect – while being acutely aware of the problematic history of comparison as a social scientific activity, whether in the service of forms of reductive positivism or a hierarchy of cultures – that this history does not explain the degree of ongoing sensitivities about the value of naming certain research as comparative. More directly, we suggest that abstaining from explicit comparisons unnecessarily constrains qualitative research.

This conference seeks responses to this problematic. Questions we are interested in exploring include – but are not limited to – the following:

- Accounts of Comparative Practices: What are the difficulties of (collaborative) comparative projects? How do projects deal with cases that refuse comparison, with fields that lose their comparative features and with theoretical concepts that fail to help to compare?

- Comparison policing: how is (non)comparative practice enacted and policed across academic life and in different disciplines?
- Strange comparisons: What is a 'strange' comparison? What is a 'proper' comparison?
- Incomparability/Failed comparisons: what are the limits to comparison? How are these limits performed? According to which modes of expertise?
- Comparison and value: Is comparison a technology of commensuration? What is lost? What is gained?
- Comparison and temporality: what kinds of comparisons are 'restudies'? To what extent do comparisons across time equate to comparisons across space?
- Comparison, method and theory: how should theory inform comparative practice? At what point? Might experimental methodologies generate new registers for comparison?
- Beyond comparison: which other terms and frameworks can be used to describe the value of comparative practices? Which alternatives can be proposed to the strength and authority of certain ways of doing comparison in academic discourses and beyond?

We are keen to encourage interdisciplinary engagement around these questions, and welcome submissions from those working within anthropology, cultural studies, geography, Science and Technology Studies, sociology, and other related disciplines. We also encourage submissions that look at the practices of comparisons of actual, ongoing projects. This might be, for example, projects which struggle with making their objects comparable, or which test standard ideas about and objects of comparison, or collaborative projects dealing with the practice of comparison. Our focus in this event is less on theoretical or historical contributions and more on the way we perform comparisons in our everyday practice.

Abstracts of around 300-500 words should be sent to [organising.disaster@gold.ac.uk](mailto:organising.disaster@gold.ac.uk) by April 20th 2012.

Successful submissions, potentially drawing on participants' own experiences, will be expected to circulate a short (1,000 – 3,000 words) response to the problematics sketched above by August 31st . These will be circulated around conference participants in advance of the event, with the aim of stimulating richer, more productive dialogue. These need not be fully fleshed out academic papers, but can be looser responses to the problematic of comparison. We also invite contributors to suggest other formats as they prefer that either perform comparison or allow for specific insights into the issue of comparison.

There is a small amount of funding available for those without funding for travel and

accommodation. Please indicate on your application if and how much funding you would need.

Please contact: [organising.disaster@gold.ac.uk](mailto:organising.disaster@gold.ac.uk)

#### **4 – 11 November 2012**

#### **Post-colonialism & the Reinterpretation of the Industrial Heritage, The XVth International TICCIH Congress 2012**

Taiwan

The next international congress of The International Committee for Conservation of the Industrial Heritage' – TICCIH – will be in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, in November 2012. TICCIH congresses are only held every three years. But they are the biggest international meetings of enthusiasts, professionals, students and everyone interested in the heritage of industry and the culture of industrialized societies. It also provides an excellent opportunity to understand why, when the Portuguese first saw Taiwan, they exclaimed *formosa* ("beautiful island").

This is a marvelous milestone for the first TICCIH Congress to be held in Asia. The central theme is '***Post-colonialism & the Reinterpretation of Industrial Heritage***'. It aims to investigate the connections between historical, political, racial, environmental, economic, technical, and social issues of industrial heritage in our modern world. We will explore especially the industrial heritage in relation to post-colonialism - to see the industrial heritage from various points of view, and to seek solutions to the massive industrial impact on the landscape in the present day. The congress in Taiwan will draw the world's attention to Asia and highlight the special differences of this region from the rest of the world.

Colonization affected the development of many industries, in both the colonized and colonizing territories, and changed urban and rural landscapes all over the world. It is clearly visible in surviving industrial sites, in landscapes formed over centuries by industrial activities and in technical infrastructure. However, for the new generation, post-colonialism has provided a different interpretation and ideas about industrial heritage. So for this, the first TICCIH congress in Asia, we would like to explore the relationship between industrial heritage and post-colonialism - to see *the industrial heritage of others* from various points of view and to seek the solution to the massive industrial impact on the landscape in the present day.

The geographical character of Taiwan forms the base of the diverse ecological character of this island. With mountains over 3,000 m, plains and tropical seashores, Taiwan is rich in plantation, geographical landscape, and mines. Its industrial development is founded on diverse farming and mining resources, on technologies brought in by different stages of political powers, and it is a great place to demonstrate the influence of post-colonialism.

The Taiwan congress fits with ICOMOS' aim to widen the geographical and thematic scope of world heritage expressed in its report 'The World Heritage List – filling the gaps, an action plan for the future'. In the west, 'regeneration through heritage' has a long development, yet in Asia it is a relatively new concept for urban and regional development.

The congress will include keynote speeches by major international experts, paper presentations, poster sessions and meetings for the specialist sections, as well as TICCIH's General Assembly and elections for the Board. The meeting will include an exhibition of Industrial Tourism, there will be tours of local historic industrial sites and optional three-day post-conference excursion. Social activities will be arranged as a cultural platform to introduce Chinese art, culture and delicacies. We look forward to seeing you in November.

Come to join us. For information on how to register on-line, travelling to Taiwan and where to stay, other activities in the area, please visit the congress website:

<http://www.arch.cycu.edu.tw/TICCIH%20Congress%202012/index.html>

and: <http://www.taipeitavel.net> for further informations.

Please contact the organisers by [ticcih2012taiwan@yahoo.com](mailto:ticcih2012taiwan@yahoo.com)

## **9 – 10 November 2012**

### **Stoffströme – Stoffkreisläufe / Flow of Materials – Cycle of Materials.**

Technikgeschichtliche Tagung der Eisenbibliothek 2012

Eisenbibliothek, Schlatt, Switzerland

CFP – Deadline **27 April 2012**

The Eisenbibliothek, Foundation of Georg Fischer Ltd., Schaffhausen, would like to offer young academics a chance to present a paper and discuss their research results at their annual conference on the history of technology. The topic of this year's conference is deliberately broad and suggestions covering the whole range of the history of technology field as well as projects from related subjects concerned with issues of the history of technology are very welcome.

The conferences have been held for over 30 years and serve as a meeting place for academics and researchers from all over the world to discuss topics from the field of the history of technology in an interdisciplinary context. References to the present are, however, also an important aspect of the conference. Topics of the past years have been, for example, “Water treatment” (2011), “History of technology in museums“ (2010), “Transfer of knowledge and technology Asia – Europe” (2009), “Handling of metals: on the way to the final product” (2008), “Tunnelling: subterranean perspectives” (2007).

The conference takes place in Switzerland, Klostersgout Paradies in Schlatt, home of the Eisenbibliothek ([www.eisenbibliothek.ch](http://www.eisenbibliothek.ch)), on 9 – 10 November 2012.

The Eisenbibliothek offers free accommodation to speakers and the subsequent publishing of their paper in the library’s own annual journal “Ferrum”. Presentation length is limited to 30 minutes, followed by questions and discussion. 50 guests, mainly speakers of German, attend the conference each year, but papers in English are welcome.

Abstracts shouldn’t exceed two A4-pages and should be submitted electronically. In addition, information about your biography/professional development and current activity should be provided. Please send abstracts to: Dr. Britta Leise [britta.leise@georgfischer.com](mailto:britta.leise@georgfischer.com).

The conference is organised by the Eisenbibliothek. The conference program is organized by Prof. Dr. Reinhold Reith (Universität Salzburg), Prof. Dr. Friedrich Steinle (TU Berlin), Kilian T. Elsasser (Museumsfabrik Luzern), Dr. Britta Leise (Eisenbibliothek).

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

## **V. Scholarships**

The Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) is pleased to draw attention to Fulbright Scholar Program awards for 2013-2014 in the field of alternative energy. The Award Catalog lists 43 awards that will be of interest to you and your colleagues, including 175 All Discipline awards. Full details can be found at the CIES website at [www.cies.org](http://www.cies.org)

Andy Riess, Ph.D., Assistant Director of Outreach  
Council for International Exchange of Scholars

## VI. Miscellaneous

### A Guided Tour of the Industrial Culture of Northern Spain, September, 2012

Too much sunshine, not enough coal, or insufficient work ethic –whatever the cause, only three regions in southern Europe responded to the industrialisation that took off in Britain. A guided tour through northern Spain in September, 2012 sets out to discover two of them. Subtitled “A country of belated marvels,” it starts from Gijón (Asturias), takes in Santander (Cantabria) and then a coastal train ride into Bilbao (Basque Country). The itinerary includes major mining and railway museums, ironworks and other attractions, the seaside palaces commissioned by wealthy entrepreneurs from Gaudí and other Catalan architects, as well as a fiesta in a mining village.

Then, following an evening in Logroño (La Rioja) devoted to understanding the industrial base of its wine industry and getting to know its unrivalled tapas bars, we'll head east on the new high-speed AVE train to Barcelona, Eduardo Mendoza's ‘City of Marvels’.

Barcelona is one of only a hand-full of industrial cities that were also powerful centres of medieval production, and retains important sites like the 14<sup>th</sup> century Drassanes shipyards. After steam power was smuggled here from Britain in 1833, industrialisation followed a unique path based on water power. The final days of the tour will investigate some of the hundred or so industrial settlements that were the backbone of the industrial economy, including the ‘Scottish colony’ built by Coats of Glasgow.

From Barcelona you can fly home to numerous British and European airports, or we can suggest where you might go next to explore Spain or southern France.

So tick the boxes: railways, mines, foundries and steelworks, textile colonies, industrial architecture in stone and iron, the houses of the Midases and of the masses, autumn sunshine and superb food and wine. Your guides on this inimitable field tour are all Barcelona-based: Jim Douet is ex-English Heritage and editor of TICCIH; Trevor ApSimon is director of FollowTheBaldie.com, a cultural tour business and the organiser of this trip; Silvana Criado is a textile artist.

The price of £955 per person (£1165 single occupancy) for eight nights includes all transport; accommodation in selected (period) 3-/4-star or equivalent hotels; all breakfasts, three lunches and welcome and farewell dinners; all guiding services, entry fees, taxes and tips; and, last but not least, a specially published bedtime reader containing freshly translated excerpts from contemporary novels, diaries, industry journals and reports.

Full and definitive tour and booking details can be found on FollowTheBaldie.com, shortcut <http://goo.gl/9ByRd>.

## **1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War**

Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin

The kick-off workshop of the international project "1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War" took place on the 20th and 21st of January at the Freie Universität of Berlin. This project aims to develop an English-language virtual encyclopedia about the First World War under the Open Access paradigm over the course of three years. It will be managed and coordinated by a project board located at the Free University of Berlin. Around 40 renowned experts from 14 countries are participating in this international project directed by Oliver Janz, professor of history at the Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut, and Nicolas Apostolopoulos, director of the Center for Digital Systems (CeDiS). The project was initiated in cooperation with the Bavarian State Library and aims to provide a globally oriented historical overview of the First World War based on a closely collaborative international research network. On the technical side the project explores new navigational procedures for electronic encyclopedias and tests search engines and research tools. Important cooperation partners include the German Historical Institutes in London, Paris, Rome, Warsaw and Moscow as well as the Library of Contemporary History Stuttgart, the University of Birmingham, the Military History Research Institute Potsdam and the European project CENDARI based at Trinity College Dublin. The German Research Foundation (DFG) is funding the project with a grant of around 1 million Euros. The encyclopedia is planned to be released in 2014, the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. The project's website can be found at: [www.1914-1918-online.net](http://www.1914-1918-online.net). The encyclopedia promises to become a representative multi-perspective and globally accessible reference work on the First World War. The next event of the project is a workshop on "World War I in Poland" taking place at the German Historical Institute Warsaw from 26th to 27th April 2012 where the contents of this section of the encyclopedia will be prepared and discussed.

Please find a report of the kick-off workshop of the project "1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War" in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 22.02.2012, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=4087>

## **VII. Reviewer Wanted**

We search for a reviewer of the book: *Kaiser, Knut / Merz, Bruno / Bens, Oliver / Huettl, Reinhard F.*: Historische Perspektiven auf Wasserhaushalt und Wassernutzung in

Mitteleuropa. Waxmann, Münster 2012.

The review will be published in ICON. Please contact Alex Keller, [agk@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:agk@leicester.ac.uk) and James Williams, [techjunc@gmail.com](mailto:techjunc@gmail.com).

## VIII. Recently Published Books

*Steinbeck, Frank: Das Motorrad. Ein deutscher Sonderweg in die automobilen Gesellschaft. = Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte, Beihefte 216. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2012.*

The author analyses the history of motorbikes in Germany. He is dealing with a missing link: there are many contributions concerning the development of the automobile in Germany, although the motorbike was much more important for the consumers until the 1950s.

## IX. 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.

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