

ICOHTEC

NEWSLETTER



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N° 89, September 2012

Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Our next conference will take place in Manchester, U.K., 22 – 28 July 2013. It is ICOHTEC's 40th symposium and jointly organized with the 24th International Congress of the History of Science, Medicine and Technology, www.ichstm2013.com. We will celebrate our 40th symposium by scientific sessions which will analyse ICOHTEC's activities and ICOHTEC's contribution to research since the late 1960s.

If you did not submit a proposal to ICOHTEC in spring there is still the chance to participate in this ICOHTEC symposium and to organize a session or give an individual paper on the ICHSTM Congress. Their deadline for proposals is **30 November 2012**.

The University of Brasso in Romania will host our 41st symposium in summer 2014.

Best wishes
Stefan Poser

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I. Conference Announcements

11 – 12 October 2012

Techno-Politics in the Age of the Great War 1900–1930

IFK Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften an der Kunstuniversität Linz

Please find the program on: <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=20014&count=726&recno=5&sort=datum&order=down>

12 – 14 October 2012

Kulturwissenschaftliche Technikforschung III 2012

Institut für Populäre Kulturen, Universität Zürich

Please visit: <http://www.technik-kultur.uzh.ch/tagungen/technik.html#top>

Please contact: Thomas Hengartner, Universität Zürich, hengartner@ipk.uzh.ch

26 – 28 October 2012

Industrial Heritage 2012, 6th European contact weekend for industrial heritage volunteers and associations

London

E-FAITH, the *European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage* is the European platform promoting contacts and co-operation between non profit volunteer associations, the place where those can meet, exchange experiences, learn from each other and support each other's activities and campaigns.

E-FAITH is now going to organize in London its sixth European contact weekend for volunteers and non profit organisations that are engaged in the research, the preservation, the interpretation and/or the presentation of the industrial and technical heritage. The Weekend this October is being held in London and will provide enterprising volunteers and their associations with an excellent opportunity to promote their restoration project, whether work in progress or finished, to like-minded volunteers from all over Europe.

The main themes of this year's meeting are *the challenges facing industrial heritage sites and associations*.

During the meeting special attention will be given to

- Promoting international volunteer co-operation for industrial heritage preservation.
- Exchange of ideas on restoration, raising capital and income, marketing, technical skills, training, safety and other aspects of running projects successfully
- Presentations by volunteers and associations on existing projects and work in progress

One will continue the discussions started last year in Tilburg: the project for a *European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year* (2015), twinning between industrial heritage associations and the conservation of old industrial chimneys.

The Weekend begins in the afternoon of Friday 26th October with a guided walk in the Three Mills area in the East End of London, with a chance to learn about the House Mill - said to be the largest tidal mill in the world, which operated from the 1770s until 1940 - and the Abbey Mills pumping station. Saturday 27th October will be devoted to presentations, exchange of ideas and discussion, followed by an early evening visit to the Kirkaldy Testing Museum in Southwark. The presentations will be given in the lecture hall at Toynbee Hall in Whitechapel, itself of I.A. interest as the place where Marconi first demonstrated his wireless in the UK. On Sunday morning 28th October, the focus will be on the voluntary theme and the challenges facing voluntary museums and their staffing, with particular reference to increasing regulation and safety requirements. The morning will end with a visit to the Kew Engines Museum when the huge Cornish Engines will be in steam.

Please visit: www.e-faith.org

Please contact: 2012@e-faith.org

9 – 10 November 2012

Unternehmensgeschichte trifft Entrepreneurship, Jahrestagung 2012 des Arbeitskreises Kritische Unternehmens- und Industriegeschichte (AKKU)
Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht, Berlin
CFP – Deadline **15 October 2012**

Please find the program on: [http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-](http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=19961&count=726&recno=52&sort=datum&order=down)

[berlin.de/termine/id=19961&count=726&recno=52&sort=datum&order=down](http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=19961&count=726&recno=52&sort=datum&order=down)

Please contact: Dorothea Schmidt, HWR Berlin, dorothea.schmidt@hwr-berlin.de

13 – 15 December 2012

International Science, Technology and Engineering Conference ISTEK 2012
Dubai
CFP – Deadline **30 November 2012**

International Science, Technology & Engineering Conference (ISTEK) aims to provide a multinational platform where the latest trends science and technology can be presented and discussed in a friendly environment with the aim to learn from each other. ISTEK 2012 conference is supported by Sakarya University and TASET and will take place on December 13-15, 2012 at Holiday Inn Sharjah in Dubai. All full paper presentations will be published in an online proceeding book of ISTEK 2012 and the selected papers will be published in The Online Journal of Science and Technology.

Please visit: www.iste-c.net, <http://twitter.com/TasetTaset>,
<http://www.facebook.com/TASET.NET>

7 – 9 March 2013

LOCO/MOTION, 34th Annual Conference of the Nineteenth Century Studies Association
Fresno, California

CFP – Deadline **30 September 2012**

The long nineteenth century set the world on the move. Travel became increasingly important for business and pleasure, for war and peace. At the same time, new forms of moving people arose: the balloon, ships, undergrounds, funiculars, the railroads. Each carried riders to great distances, different locales, and novel pursuits. But motion wasn't purely spatial; new movements arose as well, sweeping the inhabitants of the period into fresh vistas of thought and endeavor. We seek papers and panels that capture the sense of movement at work and at play during the long nineteenth century (1789-1914). Papers may address the intersections of movement/s, focus on technologies of motion in isolation, or reveal the desires—for gain, glory, greed—that set the world on its feet.

Some suggested topics:

- Gold Rushes (Mineral Manias and Speculative Destinations)
- Literature of the Sea
- Maps and Cartography
- The Science of Exploration (Darwin's Voyages)
- Narratives of Time Travel, Travel into Space (Jules Verne, Arthur Conan Doyle)
- The West as Destination and Concept
- Celebrity Performance Tours
- Movement of Goods and Ideas
- Migration and Relocation
- Expeditions
- Concepts of Motion and Stasis
- New Forms of Creative Motion and Locomotion (Moving Pictures, Photography, Dance, Music)

We also welcome other interpretations of the conference theme.

Please e-mail abstracts (250 words) for 20-minute papers that provide the author's name and paper title in the heading, as well as a one-page cv, to Prof. Toni Wein at: NCSA-2013@sbcglobal.net by 30 September 2012. Please note that submission of a proposal indicates intent to present. Presenters will be notified in November 2012. Graduate students whose proposals are accepted may, at that point, submit complete papers in competition for a travel grant to help cover transportation and lodging expenses.

Please contact Toni Wein at: NCSA-2013@sbcglobal.net

10 – 13 March 2013

Shaping Landscapes and Building Expertise. The role of imperial technology in the making of the 19th and 20th century world

Lisbon

CFP – Deadline **15 October 2012**

Please visit: <http://imperialtechnology.ciuhct.com>

Please contact: Fátima de Haan, occoe@occoe.pt

8 – 10 April 2013

Work in a Globalising World: Gender, Mobility, Markets

Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS), Bielefeld

CFP – Deadline **18 November 2012**

The concept of work has been a key topic in both history and sociology since the early days of these disciplines. Up to the end of the 20th century the sociology of work as well as social history and the history of labour analysed work within the framework of the nation state and national institutional settings. During the last decade, however, it has become clear that this perspective is too narrow:

Global history has shown that work is too heterogeneous a concept to be understood within national or regional borders. During the epochs of colonisation and industrialisation, working environments and the respective labour markets underwent changes that were interwoven on global, national, regional, and local levels. Mobility studies have revealed that in the 19th and 20th centuries, long-distance migration beyond the slave trade increased dramatically, even though during this period there were alternating decades of acceleration and slowdowns, and the relations between mobility within a certain society and transnational migration varied considerably.

Global history has recently again brought to the fore basic questions about the concept of work itself: What constitutes work and how is it differentiated from non-work? Who has the authority to define this? How is work constituted in different societies and different world regions? What counts as legitimate work, and what is considered illegal? How do the ways work is constituted and defined affect the life cycles of individuals, the relations within families, gender relations, and relations between hegemonic subjects and subalterns? What role does work play in the process of subject formation both in the past and the present? To what extent are the historical and current definitions of work tied to capitalism?

Also, in the discipline of sociology, mobile work and mobility have increasingly gained prominence when it comes to analysing processes of globalisation and transnational

“Vergesellschaftung” (socialisation). Different types of mobility for work, the liabilities of migration and emerging regimes governing transnational mobile work have been discussed here.

The 5th Annual Seminar of the BHGS wants to push these considerations one step further. Historical as well as sociological analyses of globalisation and gender studies have only occasionally been combined convincingly. More often, global studies have tended to reproduce the gender dichotomy as introduced by the 19th European middle classes and counterfactually associated autochthony/locality with women and change/mobility with men.

However, gender issues do not just influence male or female migration and so-called female and male work. They also impact on hierarchies of masculinities and femininities in translocal contexts. How are sedentariness and mobility linked to gender issues? How are social differences according to ethnic or social origin connected to differential concepts of work or vice versa? How do local concepts of work change when confronted with translocal, transregional, or transnational challenges? How is mobility for work integrated into everyday life? On which levels are transnational institutional settings and regimes regulating mobile work emerging? Is it possible to observe the emergence of transnational labour markets?

The conference welcomes papers that tackle one or several aspects of these topics. The conference language is English. Proposals of one page maximum (400 words) should be submitted by 18th November 2012 to Dr. Karen Holtmann: AnnualSeminar@uni-bielefeld.de.

Please visit: [http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/\(en\)/bghs/programm/ansem/2013.html](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/(en)/bghs/programm/ansem/2013.html)

Please contact: Karen Holtmann, Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology, at AnnualSeminar@uni-bielefeld.de

28 May – 1 June 2013

Changing Nature: Migrations, Energies, Limits. Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, tenth Biennial Conference

University of Kansas, Lawrence

CFP – Deadline **15 November 2012**

The Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) invites proposals for its Tenth Biennial Conference, to be held May 28th through June 1st, 2013, at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. The decennial conference theme is intended to reflect some of the most engaging current conversations within the environmental humanities and across disciplines, and to link those discussions to the transnational nexus of energy, labor, borders, and human and nonhuman environments that are so fundamentally “changing nature,” and with it the widely varied kinds of environmental critique we practice, art we make, and politics we advocate. Migrations—of humans, of non-human creatures, of “invasive species,” of industrial toxins across aquifers and cellular membranes, of disease across species and nations, of transgenic pollen and GM fish—have changed the meanings of place, bodies,

nations, and have lent new urgency to the old adage that “everything is connected to everything.” Energies—fossil, renewable, human, spiritual, aesthetic, organic—radically empower our species for good and for ill, and make our individual and collective choices into the Anthropocene. And those choices are profoundly about Limits on resources, climate, soil, and water; about voluntary and involuntary curbs on individual and collective consumption and waste; about the often porous and often violently marked borders of empire, class, race, and gender.

We seek proposals for papers, panels, roundtables, workshops, and other public presentations that address the intersections between representation, nature, and culture, and that are connected to the conference’s deliberately broad and, we hope, provocative theme. As always, we emphatically welcome interdisciplinary approaches; readings of environmentally inflected fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and film; and proposals from outside the academic humanities, including submissions from artists, writers, practitioners, activists, and colleagues in the social and natural sciences.

For additional information and to submit a proposal, visit the conference website: <http://www.asle.ku.edu>.

For questions about the program, please contact 2013 ASLE President Paul Outka, at paul.outka@ku.edu. For questions about the conference site and field sessions, please contact the Conference Site Host, Byron Caminero-Santangelo, at bsantang@ku.edu.

10 – 13 July 2013

Modern Soundscapes. Conference of the Australasian Association of Literature

University of New South Wales, Sydney

CFP – Deadline **1 March 2013**

What is a modern soundscape? This conference aims to address this question by drawing together researchers engaged with the history and theory of sound and noise from the fields of literature, film, and media studies, as well as architecture, music and the visual arts to consider the multiple soundscapes that have shaped and continue to shape the history of modernity. Jonathan Sterne contends that dating from around 1725 ‘sound itself’ becomes ‘an object and a domain of thought and practice, where it had previously been conceptualized in terms of particular idealized instances like voice or music’. This historical claim challenges the assumption that modern culture is essentially a visual culture, substituting the ear for the eye, and creating a space for a new sonic history of modernity to be written, theorized and contested. Thinking through sound has long been a literary preoccupation. Reflecting on the potential of the “auditory imagination” T.S.Eliot wrote, it “is the feeling for syllable and rhythm, penetrating far below the conscious levels of thought and feeling, invigorating every word; sinking to the primitive and forgotten, returning to the origin and bringing something back, seeking the beginning and the end. It works through meanings, certainly, or not without meanings in the ordinary sense, and fuses the old and obliterated and the trite, the current, and the new and surprising, the most ancient and civilized

mentality.” Thinking through the resonant opening created by poetic form Eliot imagines potential creative fusions that cut across space, time, culture and forms. Taking inspiration from Eliot’s expansive vision, we invite papers that engage with sound as a catalyst for thought, critical and creative practice, and historical reconsiderations of modern soundscapes from the eighteenth century to the present.

Possible themes/issues may include:

- Voices, Listening, Hearing
- Sound Technologies
- Music and Modern Space
- Literary soundscapes
- Sound & Cultural/National Difference
- Sonic Environments
- Noise/Sound & Everyday Life
- Noise & Silence
- The politics of noise (rioting, dissent, suppression)
- Noise & the Media
- Print Culture/ the History of the Book
- Architectural Space & Acoustics
- Psychology & Noise
- Aesthetics & Noise
- Film Sound
- Noise & the Avant-Garde
- Noise & Modernism
- Victorian & Eighteenth Century Soundscapes

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Steven Connor (Cambridge) and Garrett Stewart (Iowa)

Conference website – <http://www.aal.asn.au/conference/2013/>

Please submit titles and abstracts for proposed papers by Friday March 1st, 2013 via the submission form on the conference website.

Please visit: <http://www.aal.asn.au/conference/2013/>

21 – 23 August 2013

Chemistry in Material Culture. 9th International Conference for the History of Chemistry
Uppsala

CFP – Deadline **31 March 2013**

9th International Conference in the History of Chemistry (9ICHC) will be held in Uppsala 21-23 August, 2013. The theme of the conference is: CHEMISTRY IN MATERIAL CULTURE and papers might address:

- Chemical sites, objects and practices as cultural heritage.
- The philosophical meaning of chemical “materiality”.

- Chemical industry and the commodification of chemicals.
- The cultural and economic significance of elements and other chemical “objects”.
- Museum collections of chemical instruments and other chemistry-related objects.
- Laboratories and experiments.

Please visit: <http://www.9ichc.se>

9 – 11 September 2013

Accidents and Emergencies: Risk, Welfare and Safety in Europe and North America

Oxford Brookes University, UK

CFP – Deadline **31 January 2013**

Context and aims: We live in a society obsessed with risk and safety. Via a medley of state-related and commercial agencies, we insure ourselves against the possibility of death, ill-health, accident, theft and unemployment, subjecting every facet of our lives to the calculus of risk. Meanwhile, a battery of signs, leaflets, manuals and adverts spread the message of ‘health and safety’, reminding us of the dangers lurking in our everyday actions.

Equally, notions of risk and safety go to the heart of our sense of collective welfare, and the complex relations of self, society and the State, and public and private agency. Indeed, for some sociologists, we live in a ‘risk society’, premised on the ‘reflexive’ processing of information, the prevention of the accidental and the unexpected, and the anxious desire to predict – even control – the future.

The aim of this conference is to take stock of the present by focussing on modern Europe and North America from roughly 1750 onwards. It welcomes:

- historians from all sub-fields (social, medical, cultural, etc.)
- scholars from other disciplines such as sociology and cultural studies.

Risk, welfare and safety have long been sites of historical inquiry. This conference takes this literature as its point of departure, and encourages both general and trans-national appraisals of the history and nature of modern ‘risk societies’, as well as accounts which focus on particular technologies, practices and discourses. In sum, the aim of ‘Accidents and Emergencies’ is to:

- rethink the history of risk, welfare and safety;
- encourage a more integrated approach to their empirical study and conceptualisation;
- open up new historical and sociological perspectives through which we might better grasp the present.

Keynote speakers

- Professor Bill Luckin (University of Bolton, UK)
- Dr Arwen Mohun (University of Delaware, USA)

Format and themes:

This will be a three-day conference: 9, 10 & 11 September 2013, to be held at Oxford Brookes University and supported by the University of Portsmouth. We intend that the papers should be pre-circulated, in a draft form of around 5,000 words (though we appreciate this will not be possible in all cases). Papers – conceptual and empirical – are invited which address one or more of the following themes:

1. Conceptualising and historicising 'risk society': the work of Beck, Giddens, Luhmann and Ewald – and others
2. The politics of risk and solidarity: liberalism, social democracy and neo-liberalism
3. Selling risk and safety: mixed economies of welfare, and the insurance and safety industries
4. Statistics, temporality and the calculus of risk: histories of actuarial probability
5. Industrial risks (i): pollution and the environment
6. Industrial risks (ii): technology and workplace accidents
7. Shock, trauma and sensation: representing accidents and emergencies
8. Logistics of risk and safety: emergency services and technologies
9. Preventing accidents (i): surveillance, inspection and maintenance
10. Preventing accidents (ii): health and safety education
11. Transnational risks and exchanges: policies, innovations and institutions
12. Key words: meanings of 'safety', 'risk', 'probability' and 'accident' in particular contexts

Over the three days we would like speakers to raise the salient issues of their papers in order to leave as much time as possible for discussion and feedback. The conference language will be English. We intend to publish a selection of the papers in the form of an edited volume or special issue of a journal.

Contacts: Expressions of interest to: mike.esbester@port.ac.uk. These should include:

- a brief 'bio' (detailing institution, publications, research interests, etc.)
- a proposal/abstract (of roughly 300 words), indicating the theme or themes for which you wish to be considered.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 31 January 2013.

Alternatively, if you are interested in attending as a delegate please email to reserve a place.

Conference organisation enquiries: tcrook@brookes.ac.uk

Please contact Mike Esbester, mike.esbester@port.ac.uk

24 – 25 October 2013

Ligaments of Colonial Economies. 13th Annual Conference of the Program in Early American Economy and Society

Philadelphia

CFP – Deadline **1 November 2012**

How did ordinary colonial people accomplish the daily buying and selling, producing and exchanging, that sustained their households? How did colonial traders put a ship of goods together, protect goods moving into foreign Atlantic empires, and communicate effectively with strangers during the early modern era? What kinds of skills and resources were necessary for ordinary colonists who circulated in local market places, or prosperous merchants who visited distant ports? This conference will explore the practical connections and mutual obligations between individuals in the early modern economies of local places and across the boundaries of frontiers and empires. Whether a widow tavern keeper in Montreal, or a merchant in Veracruz, or a stone mason in Charleston, imperial subjects had to know how to make a sale, evaluate forms of money, and judge a neighbor's reliability or the value of goods. Many also had to write business letters, dun their debtors in newspapers, acquire marine insurance, charter ships, or visit bills of exchange brokers and bankers, all of which required particular expertise and particular paper forms. Some also engaged in legal disputes that required more expertise and paper forms. This conference will explore these and other connective sinews of skill and knowledge that joined colonists of all classes and cultures in their economic experiences across European empires.

The Library Company of Philadelphia's Program in Early American Economy and Society invites proposals for papers. Please send a brief description of the research you wish to present and a CV no later than 1 November 2012 to Cathy Matson, PEAES Director, at cmatson@udel.edu. The program committee will reply by the first week of December.

Please contact: Cathy Matson, PEAES Director, cmatson@udel.edu

II. Miscellaneous

The Fundación Juanelo Turriano library has digitised the first 40 issues (1923-1926) of the journal *Ingeniería y Construcción: Revista Iberoamericana*, which was published in Madrid until 1936. Any of these issues can now be downloaded in PDF format. Please visit the catalogue of the foundation's library on <http://62.32.98.8/F10321UKStaff/OPAC/>.

III. 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)
- Access to back issues of ICON in electronic form on ICOHTEC's web site

- ICOHTEC's electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)

Please find the subscription form on the next page.

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International Committee for the History of Technology

Membership in ICOHTEC includes subscription to the journal *ICON*, access to back issues of *ICON* in electronic form on ICOHTEC's web site, reduced registration at ICOHTEC's annual symposium and a monthly newsletter.

ICOHTEC Subscription Form

I wish to become a member of ICOHTEC and pay my annual subscription:

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Please, return this form with

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– or a cheque payable to "ICOHTEC" and sent to Dr. Patrice Bret, 10 avenue Joffre, F-94160 SAINT-MANDE, FRANCE