

# 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,

The Program Committee of the 41<sup>st</sup> ICOHTEC Symposium “*Technology in Times of Transition*” in Braşov, Romania (29 July – 2 August 2014) prepared our Call for Papers. Please find it in the Newsletter and as a separate attachment of my mail. Thank you to distribute it among your colleagues.

The Newsletter gives a portrait of Laura Ann Twagira, the winner of the Young Scholar Prize 2013 and – thanks to Dick van Lente – short summaries of the books which had been send in this year.

Best wishes  
Stefan Poser

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## I. ICOHTEC Symposium 2014 - Call for Papers

### Technology in Times of Transition

The International Committee for the History of Technology's 41<sup>th</sup> Symposium in Braşov, Romania  
29 July – 2 August 2014

Deadline for proposals is **3 February 2014**

The 41<sup>st</sup> ICOHTEC Symposium will be held in Romania at the turn of July and August next year. The main theme of the meeting will be *Technology in Times of Transition*. The aim is to examine major breaks and turning points in technological development with the following conversion periods in a multidisciplinary framework.

The general theme is tailored for the site, while the intention is to examine flexibility of technology to adjust to major societal transitions in the past and present. Times of transition refer to rapid and even revolutionary phases of history when major societal structures changed and nations had to bend to new conditions. Industrial revolutions of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, restructuring the economies during and after World War I, depression of the 1930s, post-war period of reshuffle and economic growth and collapse of the Soviet regime in the 1990s are examples of times of transition. In addition, the idea of the symposium is to promote dialogues between East and West as well as North and South and – if possible – also to compare experiences of various countries in the similar circumstances.

Braşov, where the medieval heritage is uniquely combined with rich industrial history, is going to be an excellent site for examining imprint of technological change on culture and civilization. Evidently Braşov is one of the cities where the transition has been felt and lived through several times in the past. Especially transition first to a massive industrialization regime during the planned economy and then to a drastic regime of de-industrialization after 1989 affected strongly to Braşov.

ICOHTEC welcomes individual paper and poster proposals as well as the submissions of entire sessions to this symposium. The tendency is to favour compact and coherent session proposals where presentations communicate with each others.

The symposium programme will include scientific and plenary sessions, poster presentations, business meetings and the general assembly of ICOHTEC as well as social events such as excursions, receptions and a banquet, and possibly pre- and postconference trips. The premises of the *Transilvania University of Braşov* will serve as venues for this meeting.

The programme committee suggests the following subthemes for the consideration of session organizers and contributors.

### ***Subthemes***

1. Technological basis for the breakthrough of industrialisation
2. Technology for warfare and post-World War I industrialisation
3. Technology during the interwar economic recession and other depressions
4. Post-World War II restructuring of production and markets
5. Technology during the Cold War
6. Post-1989 deindustrialisation and reindustrialisation of Eastern Europe
7. Restructuring in memories: experiences on technological transitions
8. Technology policy in retrospect
9. New insights into the industrial and cultural heritage
10. Skilful hands: Handicrafts under the pressure of mass production
11. Extensions of the human hand and brain: Advanced technologies
12. Technological utopias and symbols of technological progress
13. Technology in constructing gender in the market and former socialist economies
14. Artistic presentation of technology and technological perspectives of visual culture
15. Technology, design and new materials: How they have shaped society
16. Special topics

The committee will also consider submissions not directly related to the symposium theme as long as they can be regarded to be related to the history of technology broadly defined. They can be included in "*Special topics*" sessions.

### ***PROPOSAL GUIDELINES***

The symposium covers all periods and all areas of the globe. In keeping with a cherished tradition of the field, the meeting is open to scholars from all disciplines and backgrounds. We plead for submissions of new, original and unpublished work that offers fresh perspectives for the history of technology as well as exploring sources and methods. The programme committee especially encourages graduate students to participate in the symposium and submit their proposals (limited travel grants will be available; see further information at: <http://www.icohtec.org/>). Because we aim at quick and equal processing of submissions, paper or poster proposals must be submitted in English. Nevertheless, besides English also French, German, Russian and Spanish are acceptable for paper and poster presentations at the symposium but the organizers will not provide simultaneous translation during the symposium.

We urge contributors to consider organizing a full session of three or four papers per time slot. Individual paper submissions will also be considered equally.

**INDIVIDUAL PAPER** proposals must include: (1) a 200-350-word abstract; and (2) a one-page CV. Abstracts should include the author's name and email address, a short descriptive title, a concise statement of the thesis, a brief discussion of the sources, and a summary of the major conclusions. If you are submitting a paper proposal dealing with a particular subtheme, please indicate this in your proposal.

In preparing your paper, remember that presentations are not full-length articles. Depending on the number of papers in the session, you will have no more than 16-20 minutes to speak, which is roughly equivalent to six – eight double-spaced typed pages. For more suggestions about preparing your conference presentation, please consult the guidelines at the conference website.

Contributors are encouraged to submit full-length versions of their papers after the symposium for consideration by ICOHTEC's journal *ICON*.

**SESSION** proposals must include (1) an abstract of the session (200-350 words at maximum), listing the proposed papers and a session chairperson; (2) abstracts for each paper (200-350 words); (3) a one-page CV for each contributor and chairperson. Sessions should consist of at least one set of presentations – but no more than four time slots of 90 minutes – and they may include three or four papers in each, which might extend series of successive sections over more than one day. Proposing a commentator – instead of the fourth presenter – is also possible. The programme committee reserves the right to relocate papers to different themes and add papers to sessions. We also encourage proposing roundtables and other "untraditional" as well as experimental session formats. Whatever the session format will be, organisers and chairs are expected to reserve enough time for general discussion between the presenters and audience.

**POSTER** proposals must include (1) a 200-350-word abstract; and (2) a one-page CV. Abstracts should include the author's name and email address, a short descriptive title, a concise statement of the thesis, a brief discussion of the sources, and a summary of the major conclusions. Please, indicate one of the specified subthemes for your poster.

#### ***PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS***

The final deadline for all submissions is Monday **3 February 2014**.

Please, sign up to our online submission system, fill in a form and send your proposal through it. All proposals are to be submitted via our online system. The link to the system is available at our website: <http://www.icohtec.org/brasov2014/>

If you have any questions related to the scientific programme, paper, poster or session proposals, please, do not hesitate to contact Slawomir Lotysz, the chair of the programme committee, via email [s.lotysz@gmail.com](mailto:s.lotysz@gmail.com)

## **II. Laura Ann Twagira – A Portrait**

### **II. 1 Gender, Technology, and Food in Mali (West Africa)**

The history of rural women in twentieth century Mali is a history of technology and of environmental change. Through the quotidian production and preparation of food, the vast majority of women in Mali engaged with and took a formative role in major processes in the history of the colonial French Soudan and its successor, the independent nation of Mali. Throughout the twentieth century the

region was predominantly rural. As a result, government administrations in need of finance sought to direct the agricultural economy. Government interventions and development programs were often heavy-handed, and over several decades of forced labor regimes, industrial development, decolonization, rural socialism, military dictatorship, and famine the region saw dramatic and in some cases rapid transformation. The gendered dimensions of such wide sweeping change were significant. Food supply was politicized in these years, making women's daily food labors extremely important.

Women experienced these political and economic shifts most immediately through changes in the environment, access to food resources, and women's technologies. By looking at the women who lived at the major agricultural program called the Office du Niger (Office), broad changes in rural society and women's lives come into focus. The Office was arguably the most important development intervention by the French in West Africa and later occupied a significant role in the economy and politics of independent Mali. Established in the French Soudan in the 1930s to produce primarily cotton and secondarily rice for export, the Office drew upon the Niger River to feed a vast irrigation network that radically altered the surrounding agricultural landscape. The scheme intensified technological and environmental changes taking place all over the region. The technologies most directly associated with women--more appropriately called *musow minaw* or women's things--included modest domestic tools such as the mortar and pestle and various metal household goods. A range of industrial agricultural machines also entered the changing rural landscape at the Office. Women adopted threshers and other agricultural machines for their food labors bridging the domestic and industrial nature of twentieth century change.

My study examines how the women who came to the Office integrated the colonial and post-colonial irrigation infrastructure into an existing system of food production. I argue that women used the resources of the project to engineer a highly adaptive local food production system that depended on female labor power and made use of modest technologies that are generally overlooked in favor of the more impressive irrigation infrastructure of the scheme.

By focusing upon women at the Office, it becomes clear that the question of technology must involve more than the large-scale infrastructure of the scheme, it must also attend to the modest technologies associated more directly with women. Initially, the Office was populated through the forced migration of families. Chronic hunger plagued residents at the colonial Office for many decades and recurred in the post-colonial years. Women often struggled to produce food. Yet, it was the quality and not simply the quantity of available food that concerned women. Good food was measured by the taste for specific textures, smells, flavors, the sensations of fullness, as well as the nutritional content. Gradually women adapted the project elements (the new labor calendar, built-infrastructure, industrial machines, and market logistics) to their own needs. This process of adoption spanned the colonial and post-colonial eras and entailed the interplay between women's labor, the environment, modest technologies, and industrial technologies. Amid major political changes, women experienced transformation in terms of the technological adaptations that enabled

them to weather rapid change. Ultimately for women, it was the texture of daily life and the quality of food that served as the measure of “development.”

## **II.2 Laura Ann Twagira – CV**

After receiving my BA in French from Wellesley College, I traveled to Mali to work as a volunteer with the American Program the Peace Corps. I worked predominantly with women, and while in Mali was introduced to the daily labor of cooking in the late-twentieth century rural West Africa. I also learned to speak the local language Bamana. When I began my Ph.D. in History at Rutgers University I returned to my interest in women's labor and cooking in Africa. Thanks to a grant from the United States Education Department, I continued my study of the Bamana language. My later doctoral research in Mali was supported by the U.S. Fulbright-Hays program. It was during my fieldwork that I recognized the highly technological nature of what I was studying, especially the overlapping of women's concerns for food resources in the environment, their use modest technologies, and integration of an industrial agricultural infrastructure. When I returned from Mali, I received additional support from the American Historical Association and the Society for the History of Technology for additional research and writing.

While completing my dissertation I was awarded a research fellowship at Boston University. As a fellow, I published the working paper "Peopling the Landscape: Colonial Irrigation Technology and Demographic Crisis in the French Soudan" in the Program for the Study of the African Environment (PSAE) Research Series. I also began a project on masculinity and technology tentatively titled "The Robot Farmer and the Cosmopolitan Worker: Masculinity and Agricultural Technology in the French Soudan (Mali)," which focuses on the men who operated the large industrial machines of the Office du Niger. I am currently in my first semester of teaching as an Assistant Professor of History at Wesleyan University.

I am tremendously honored to be the recipient of the 2013 Young Scholar Prize. This past July I attended my first ICOHTEC meeting in Manchester to receive my prize. Among the events I was especially happy to attend was a multi-panel session on the global history of technology and food security. At these sessions and countless other events I was met with a warm atmosphere and fruitful discussions. It was such a pleasure to attend meeting.

My thesis is still unpublished, but I am hoping for it to be in print soon.

## **III. Young Scholars on the History of Technology. A brief summary of submissions for ICOHTEC's Young Scholar Prize**

Dick van Lente, September 2013

Like last year, we present here ultra-brief descriptions of the books and unpublished dissertations that competed for our Young Scholars Prize. They indicate the range of interests of young scholars,

and hopefully alert readers to new research of high quality that they might not run into otherwise. There were eighteen entries. Two of these had been submitted before. They have already been summarized in ICOHEC's Newsletter nr. 88, of July 2012, and therefore do not appear again here. The prize committee consisted of Nina Möllers, Peter Jakab, and Rachel Maines (chair). All works were defended as theses or published in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

The prize winner was **Laura Ann Twagira** with her Rutgers University dissertation on women's development of food technology in early 20<sup>th</sup> century colonial west Africa, ***Women and Gender at the Office du Niger (Mali)***. The prize committee characterized the book as follows. 'Twagira successfully characterizes and contextualizes the technological *gestalt* of a mundane and routine, but absolutely necessary task: putting acceptable food on the family table. She sets this daily chore, for which historically women in Niger/Mali were responsible, not only into what she calls the "foodscape" of the natural environment, but also into the context of efforts at colonial development that mainly targeted men's activities. Twagira makes us sharply aware that cookware, containers, heating equipment, and agricultural hand implements, plus the tacit knowledge of how to make successful products using these tools, is no less a technological system than is farming with a tractor or the manufacture of semiconductors. One of the committee members correctly observes that Africa is "a space much underexposed in studies of technology." Twagira's work is exemplary in its framing of women as decision makers and significant actors under a colonial regime that recognized economic and technological development only in male-dominated forms of work.'

**Sulfikar Amir**, a sociologist at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, published his book *The technological state in Indonesia* with Routledge. The book analyses the Indonesian government's authoritarian, technocratic politics, during the period 1966-1998, when a host of technological institutions were established and large-scale high-tech projects were set up. Amir examines the ideological underpinnings and the practices of Indonesian technocracy, as well as the impact of globalization.

**Francesca Russello Ammon's** Yale University dissertation *Culture of clearance; waging war on the landscape in postwar America* is an analysis of the ideology, technology and practice of destruction of old buildings and natural landscape elements, as a preparation for the erection of new buildings, that was part of the postwar surge of reconstruction. The bulldozer, a machine developed as a weapon during the Second World War, was a major instrument and symbol of this process. The book examines children's books, *Life* magazine, and art works, among other sources, as well as case studies of clearance projects in New Haven, Connecticut, and Orange County, California, to document the rise and decline of this culture of destruction.

**Joeri Bruyninckx' Sound science. Recording and listening in the biology of birdsong, 1880-1980**, defended last year at Maastricht University, analyses how sound recording techniques, which were associated with popular entertainment, became legitimate scientific instruments and how they changed scientists' perceptions of bird voices by scientists: the listening techniques they had to

develop and the ways they appropriated these technologies as legitimate empirical tools and bases of scientific knowledge.

**Catarina Caetano da Rosa's *Operationsroboter in Aktion. Kontroverse Innovationen in der Medizintechnik***, published by Transcript this year, discusses the debate among doctors, journalists, patients and judges about the effectiveness of robots used in performing surgery on hips and knees.

**Darryl Mark Cressman's** dissertation *The concert hall as a medium of musical culture*, defended at Simon Fraser University, discusses the nineteenth century concert hall as a technology to facilitate attentive listening to music, with the Amsterdam Concertgebouw as a case study. He shows how the design of such concert halls had their origins in romantic ideas about music and listening, and how the Amsterdam bourgeoisie, acting upon these ideas, served as patrons for the creation of the Concertgebouw, which opened in 1888.

**Brian Fehner's *Finding oil. The nature of petroleum geology, 1859-1920*** was published by the University of Nebraska Press. Departing from the idea that the search for oil was a search for power, Fehner shows that prospectors were pursuing very different kinds of power. By tracing their careers he documents their struggles for cultural, intellectual, and professional authority, over both nature and their peers.

**Hannah Fitsch's** dissertation, *Just to give you a picture. Sicht- und Sagbarkeiten in der funktionellen Magnetresonanztomographie*, was defended at the Humboldt University in Berlin. It analyses the process by which an invisible phenomenon, the human brain, is projected in an image by means of magnetic resonance techniques. This visualization implies a reduced perception of the brain's activities, making it susceptible of statistical analysis and diagnostics.

**Louise Iles' dissertation *Reconstructing the iron production technologies of western Uganda*** combines fieldwork in Uganda with archeometallurgical analysis to reconstruct the ways in which the smelters of Western Uganda have produced agricultural implements, household tools and weapons since the fourteenth century. Among other things, she has been able to reconstruct the materials used and the different kinds of furnaces employed. The book is available in pdf format at the website of the Institute of Archeology of University College in London.

In ***European coasts of Bohemia: negotiating the Danube-Oder-Elbe Canal in a troubled twentieth century***, **Jira Janac** describes the project to create a waterway that would connect the Black Sea ports to Atlantic markets. Being located mostly in Czech territory, it would provide Czechoslovakia with a connection to the sea, but its wider promise was that it would contribute to the integration of Europe. Although it was never built, the project remained on political agendas and absorbed large resources throughout the twentieth century. The book was published by Amsterdam University Press.

***Das Störfall- und Umweltrisiko der chemischen Industrie. Der Einfluss gesellschaftlichen Wertewandels auf unternehmerisches Handeln bei Bayer und Henkel seit der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts*** by **Thilo Jungkind** analyses changes in decision making processes in the chemical industry brought about by the rise of environmental concerns and shifting ideas about the social role of industrial firms during the second half of the twentieth century. He attempts to develop a model that may serve corporations in their decision making about production processes involving environmental risks. The book has been published this year by Franz Steiner Verlag.

In ***Running out? An environmental history of climate and water in southwest Western Australia, 1829-2006***, **Ruth Morgan** compares indigenous and non-indigenous approaches to land and water management in rural and urban Australia, and their changes in the nineteenth and twentieth century's. The dissertation was defended at Monash University in Australia.

**Guadalupe Pizarro's dissertation *Water supply in Córdoba: archeology and history***, defended at the University of Córdoba, describes the development of systems for the procurement and distribution of potable water in the city of Córdoba throughout history, demonstrating the importance of these systems for the prominent position of the city in the region.

**Juan Manuel Cano Sanchiz' University of Cordoba dissertation *La minería y la metallurgica del cobre como elementos de industrialización*** analyzes the role of copper mining and metallurgical operations by four British companies in the industrialization of Cordoba. The book focuses on the Cerro Muriano, part of the Cordobian mountain range, between 1897 and 1919, placing this case study in the wider time frame of Cordoba's industrialization, 1850-1950. The thesis uses archaeological methods to study the remains of these industrial activities, combined with the study of other sources of information.

**Sarah M. Schlachetski's *Fusing lab and gallery. Device art in Japan and international nano art*** analyzes recent interactions between art, technology and science, by focusing on two case studies: device art in Japan (a form of media art) and artistic engagements with nanotechnology. The study combines a sociological approach, inspired among others by Bourdieu's theory of fields, and discourse analysis. The book has been published by Transcript Verlag.

**Cristiano Zanetti defended his dissertation *Janello Torriani: life of a 16<sup>th</sup> century mechanicus (Cremona 1500 – Toledo 1585)*** at the European University Institute in Florence. The book examines the life of the great Italian craftsman Torriani, who served on the courts of Charles V and Philip II of Spain and created, among other things, marvelous clocks and a gigantic machine for elevating water. Zanetti's aim is to better understand the social and cultural conditions of innovation at the dawn of the Scientific Revolution.

## IV. Conference Announcements

**14 September 2013**

**Acoustic Communication and Soundscape Design**

Green College/University of British Columbia, UBC

Vancouver

Please visit [http://www.greencollege.ubc.ca/whats\\_on/index/events746/2012-09.php](http://www.greencollege.ubc.ca/whats_on/index/events746/2012-09.php)

Please contact Hans-Joachim Braun, Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg, Green College/University of British Columbia, UBC, [hjbraun@hsu-hh.de](mailto:hjbraun@hsu-hh.de)

**27 February – 1 March 2014**

**Annual Meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, SAHMS**

St. Louis College of Pharmacy

CFP – Deadline **30 September 2013**

SAHMS welcomes papers on the history of medicine and science, broadly construed to encompass historical, literary, anthropological, philosophical and sociological approaches to health care and science including race, disabilities and gender studies.

Paper proposals must be submitted online at the following link <https://www.uab.edu/lister/sahmssf>.

For further information about the program or SAHMS please visit:

[http://www.sahms.net/HTML/2014\\_conference.html](http://www.sahms.net/HTML/2014_conference.html)

Please contact the Program Chair, Michael A. Flannery: [flannery@uab.edu](mailto:flannery@uab.edu).

**6 – 7 March 2014**

**Vertrauen in Technik? Technikgeschichtliche Tagung des VDI 2014**

**Can we Trust in Technology? Annual Conference on History of Technology of the Association of German Engineers, VDI**

Deutsches Bergbau-Museum, German Mining Museum, Bochum

CFP – Deadline **10 November 2013**

Please visit: [www.vdi.de](http://www.vdi.de)

Please contact Lars Bluma, Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum, [lars.bluma@bergbaumuseum.de](mailto:lars.bluma@bergbaumuseum.de)

**10 – 12 April 2014**

**Automotive History Conference. The Society of Automotive Historians**

Palo Alto, California

CFP – Deadline **31 October 2013**

The Society of Automotive Historians is seeking proposals for papers to be presented at its Tenth Biennial Automotive History Conference to be held in Palo Alto, California, USA, from 10 through 12

April 2014. The conference will be co-sponsored by the Revs Automotive Research Program at Stanford University and will take place at the Vail Automotive Innovation Facility on the Stanford campus.

The conference theme is “The Evolution of Automotive Technology” and will focus on the continuing development of the motor vehicle and its process of manufacture over a 120-year history. Although considered by many to have reached a plateau a half-century ago, the industry and its products seem in recent years to have entered a new phase of creative development addressing again issues once thought resolved and responding to new economic, social, and environmental conditions through fundamental research.

Papers may address the search for an effective and portable source of energy, one of the first issues confronted by automotive pioneer designers and one that is being studied again from the point of view of contemporary requirements. Papers may address the development of standardized vehicle control systems, the arrangement of power components or safety devices and the interface between the vehicle and the driver, all of them under reconsideration in ways that have the potential to fundamentally alter the relation between the vehicle, the driver and the road. At the same time the industry, until recently believed to be entering a phase of business consolidation, has expanded to embrace many new producers, a process that could only be made possible through innovations in production technology and international trade agreements. Proposals for papers on automotive subjects unrelated to the conference theme will also be considered.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Rudi Volti, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Pitzer College, Claremont, California. Professor Volti’s fields of expertise cover technology and society, social bases of economic structure and behavior, automobility, and the sociology of work and occupations. Following the conference, a certain number of the conference papers will be selected for publication in *Automotive History Review*, the journal of the Society.

The Society of Automotive Historians is a unique interdisciplinary organization devoted to all aspects of automotive history – engineering, design, economics, the lives of automotive pioneers and innovators, the history of motorsport competition, the integration of motor vehicles into modern life and the culture of cars. In its publications and conferences, historians of technology, business historians and social historians interact to share their knowledge and perspectives.

Proposals should include the title of the submission, names and affiliations of presenters, chairs, participants, etc., together with addresses, phone/fax numbers, email addresses of contact personnel, proposed format (paper, panel, workshop, etc.) and a one-page abstract describing the content of the presentation. Proposals must be received by 31 October 2013; notification of preliminary acceptance is anticipated by 30 November.

Proposals should be submitted by email to Arthur W. Jones, Conference Chair, [nomecos@verizon.net](mailto:nomecos@verizon.net).

**May 2014**

**From Fossil to Renewable Energies? Energy Regimes, the Environment and International Relations, 1970s to Today. International Conference**

Bologna, Italy

CFP – Deadline **1 October 2013**

We invite to submit proposals for a one-day workshop on “from Fossil to Renewable Energies? Energy Regimes, the Environment and International Relations, 1970s to Today”. The Workshop will take place in Bologna in May 2014 (*exact date and location to be confirmed*), and will be divided in two panels, one focused on the impact of energy issues on international relations and the other devoted to studies on environmental history.

At the onset of the 21st century both the production and the consumption of energy relies primarily on fossil sources. As for the next few decades, the scenario of World Energy Outlook 2010 of the International Energy Agency envisages a future dominated by fossil fuels. According the International Energy Agency, however, sustainable technologies are bound to become «the second most important source for the generation of electricity after coal». Energy sources represent a highly relevant subject both in environmental history and in the history of international relations. From nuclear power to the consequences of scarcity of sources and volatility of prices, from environmental diplomacy to questions of global governance, energy issues have (and have had) relevant geopolitical and environmental implications. The conference intends to discuss new, original scholarship in environmental history and in international history that bridges traditional disciplinary boundaries and divisions.

In particular, we seek individual papers that engage the following broader issues:

- The environmental impact, and externalities caused by energy sources;
- the existing relationships between the development of renewable energies and the birth of civil committees opposed to the realization of wind farms and solar plants;
- the existing relationship between the use of fossil fuels and the deterioration of the urban environment;
- the geopolitical implications of the transformation of energy policies;
- the role of social movements and the connection between traditional forms of protest and new environmental activism.

Proposals should consist of a 400-word abstract of the proposed paper and a one-page CV. All proposals should be submitted individually to Federico Paolini (University of Naples II): [federico.paolini \[at\] unina2.it](mailto:federico.paolini[at]unina2.it)

Deadline for submission is **1 October 2013**. Selected participants will be notified by 1 December 2013. Accepted papers will be pre-circulated to registered attendees. The organizers will cover living expenses and accommodation for two nights; depending on funding, we count to be able to contribute also to travel expenses.

If you have any questions, please contact: [federico.paolini \[at\] unina2.it](mailto:federico.paolini[at]unina2.it)

*Workshop selection committee*

Mario Del Pero (Institut d'Études Politiques, Paris)

Giuliano Garavini (Università di Padova)

Federico Paolini (Università di Napoli, II)

If you have any questions, please contact: Federico Paolini (Università di Napoli, II), [federico.paolini\[at\]unina2.it](mailto:federico.paolini[at]unina2.it)

**4 – 6 September 2014**

**Communicating Science, Technology and Medicine. 6th International Conference of European Society of History of Science**

Lisbon

CFP – Deadline **15 December 2013**

The 6th International Conference of the European Society of History of Science will be held in Lisbon, 4-6 September 2014 and is organized by the Interuniversity Centre for the History of Science and Technology (CIUHCT), a research centre associated with the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon and the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the New University of Lisbon.

The theme of the conference is "Communicating Science, Technology and Medicine" Communicating science, technology and medicine has always been central to the scientific and technological enterprise, but across ages and spaces agents, audiences, means, aims and agendas behind this complex process have varied considerably. The interpretations put forward by historians of science, technology and medicine have also changed considerably. Historians have been compelled recently to move away from former historiographical categories opposing creative producers to passive recipients and consumers, and contrasting the production of knowledge with its transmission. The vertical model of diffusion has been superseded by a horizontal conception of circulation and appropriation of science, technology and medicine, which gives voice to various actors and to their different, often contradictory, agendas. Within this framework, science, technology and medicine are envisaged as active forms of communication, to such an extent as ultimately blurring the distinction between the making and the communicating of science, technology and medicine.

The 6th ESHS aims at stimulating historical and historiographical studies and debates on the communication of science, technology and medicine along the following sub-thematic clusters:

- 1) Human and non-human agents: experts, amateurs, and institutions;
- 2) Networks of circulation and communication of knowledge;
- 3) Means of communication: correspondence, papers, books, textbooks, popularization outlets, newspapers, radio, theatre, films, cartoons and internet;
- 4) Spaces and modes of communication: conferences, classrooms, public demonstrations, exhibitions, instruments, collections and museums;

- 5) Audiences: lay and specialized audiences, consumers;
- 6) Rhetorical devices;
- 7) Communication in the European Periphery;
- 8) Communication in a globalized world: challenges and constraints; ideology of communication, hegemonic values and commercialized science, technology and medicine

#### Deadlines

Proposal Session Submission (Max 4 papers) and abstract of papers– 15 Dec 2013

Decision of accepted sessions – 1 February 2014

Abstract Submission (for stand-alone papers) – 20 February 2014

Decision of accepted papers – 30 March 2014

Abstracts, presentations and proceedings should be preferably in English.

A second Call for papers, with website address, fees and further information will be sent on 1 October 2013.

For any other information please contact the local secretariat Fátima de Haan, [occoe@occoe.pt](mailto:occoe@occoe.pt)

Looking forward to seeing you in Lisbon

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee

Ana Simões

Maria Paula Diogo

## V. Miscellaneous

### **Danube Railway Bridge in Linz (Austria) in Danger**

An exceptional railway bridge, build by the E. Gaertner company 1897 - 1900, is in danger to be demolished. The bridge serves for street and railway traffic; the track is situated in the middle of two roadways. It was a subject of the 'Allgemeine Bauzeitung' already in 1903; a book project is in progress. Please find bibliographic information of two papers:

Eduard Kundmann: Die Eisenbahn- und Straßenbrücke über die Donau bei Linz. In: Allgemeine Bauzeitung, 68 (1903), pp. 31-33, pp. 69-75 (available online via <http://anno.onb.ac.at/>).

Gerhard A. Stadler: Die Linzer Eisenbahnbrücke. Zeugnis der Ingenieurbaukunst. In: Denkma[i]l. Nachrichten der Initiative Denkmalschutz, (13/2013), pp. 42 f.

Please visit: <http://www.rettetdieisenbahnbruecke.at/index.php/item/72-der-verein-und-seine-ziele>

Please contact [office@rettetdieisenbahnbruecke.at](mailto:office@rettetdieisenbahnbruecke.at)

## **Review Platform for European History - recensio.net**

recensio.net is a Europe-wide, multi-language platform for reviews of historical literature. recensio.net is committed to the principles of Open Access. All content is permanently accessible for free. The platform's navigational languages are English, German and French. Reviews may be written in any European language. The platform's aim is to reflect and assess current developments taking place on the historical literature market through two approaches:

### *»Traditional« reviews - recensio.net as an Open Access aggregator*

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### *Presentations by authors or readers*

Authors can present the core statements of their publications (monographs or articles) on recensio.net and enable expert discussions to take place. Gradually, moderated user comments will create »live reviews« and discussions based on these presentations (or individual aspects). You as the author are free to decide whether you would like to get involved in the discussion and are automatically notified about incoming comments. Academic online resources can also be presented and reviewed.

Readers can also submit comments on books or articles which have so far not been presented by the respective author.

recensio.net is a joint project of the Bavarian State Library (BSB) Munich, the University of Cologne and the Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG) Mainz – funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

## **Research Group on Scientific Practise in Science, Technology, and Society (STS)**

The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Tel Aviv University, Israel

The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Tel Aviv University, Israel, and the Israel Association for History and Philosophy of Science are pleased to announce a new research group in the field of Science, Technology, and Society (STS) on scientific practices, their legitimacy among various publics, and the making of local knowledge.

In recent decades, public discussion of scientific and technological domains has undergone a deep democratization process. Experts' authority to adjudicate controversial questions has eroded, while non-experts' legitimacy of participating in scientific debates and decision-making processes has grown. Following these trends, research on sites of production of knowledge and technology has started examining the mutual relations between local non-expert knowledge and credited formal knowledge, as well as scientific consensus formation processes. We invite scholars whose research deals with issues such as:

- Contemporary scientific authority, and the formation of new bases of legitimacy;
- Local knowledge as a political concept;
- Lay activism and lay participation in science and technology;
- The integration of local and scientific knowledge;
- Consensus formation mechanisms and dissent;
- Scientific controversies, outsiders and rebels.

The group will meet once a month at Tel Aviv University. Leading scholars from Israel and abroad will be invited to take part in the meetings. A final workshop is planned, in which group members will present their papers. We aim at publishing the group members' research papers in a special issue of a leading relevant journal.

We call for scholars from relevant disciplines to apply to the group. The relevant disciplines include history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, law, science and technology studies, gender studies, and any other field that studies knowledge generation processes and their outcomes. We especially encourage young scholars to join the group, including doctoral students in their ABD stage. Visiting scholars in Israel are also welcome. Please send your application by email to [safracen@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:safracen@post.tau.ac.il), and include a short C.V. and a one-page description of your research project that is relevant to the group.

The group will be administrated by Prof. Nadav Davidovitch, Dr. Anat Leibler, and Dr. Boaz Miller.

### **ESEH Best Article Prize 2013**

At the 7th ESEH Conference in Munich the ESEH Best Article Prize 2013 was awarded to Ben M. Anderson (Keele University) for his article "The construction of an alpine landscape: building, representing and affecting the Eastern Alps, c. 1885–1914", *Journal of Cultural Geography* 29:2 (2012), pp. 1-29.

The article is available online (currently in free access):

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08873631.2012.683288#.Uhsu2D9voms>

The prize committee decided to give an honorable mention to a second contribution: Santiago Gorostiza, Hug March and David Sauri. "Servicing Customers in Revolutionary Times: The Experience of the Collectivized Barcelona Water Company during the Spanish Civil War", *Antipode – A radical journal of geography*, first published: 22 June 2012.

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