

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,

Thanks to the work of the local organisers of our 41th ICOHTEC Symposium in Brasov our next meeting is taking shape; please find their first circular.

The obligatory reminder: if you have not yet paid your annual ICOHTEC fees for 2013 please do so now. ICOHTEC's bank account is mentioned in the subscription form on the last page of the Newsletter.

The next issue of the Newsletter will be published in the first days of January. You might not have Christmas and the New Year in your mind at time, but it might come soon.

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2014!

Stefan Poser

Contents

I. ICOHTEC Symposium 2014, Circular no. 1 of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC)	p. 2
II. Conference Announcements	p. 6
III. Recently Published Books	p. 10
IV Join ICOHTEC	p. 11

I. ICOHTEC Symposium 2014, Circular no. 1 of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC)

Technology in Times of Transition

The 41th Symposium ICOHTEC 2014, Brasov
29 July to 2 August 2014

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

LOC web page <http://www.icohtec.org/brasov2014/>

The Local Organizing Committee is very pleased to host the 2014 meeting of ICOHTEC in Brasov, Romania on 29 July to 2 August 2014. 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 **4th March 2014**.

The site and venue

The symposium will be held at the **Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania**. The site, the city of Braşov, is located in the Carpathian Mountains.

The *Transilvania* University of Braşov is a public institution of higher education with a tradition of over half a century and declares the mission of providing and developing the resources and instruments for high quality teaching and scientific research, aiming to ensure its competitiveness in the European Higher Education and Research Area. The University was founded in 1948, as a Polytechnic Institute and developed as a comprehensive university starting with 1990. The university evolves within the dynamics of today's knowledge-based society, relying on its dedicated teaching staff which coordinates numerous multi-disciplinary national and international projects, both scientific and educational, and it organizes high-class international conferences and forums.

All sessions will take place at the venue, the *AULA Main Library of Transilvania University of Brasov*, Romania, Str. Iuliu Maniu nr. 41A, PC 500091.

Fees and registration

Early bird registration will be available until **15 April 2014**, with a substantially reduced registration fee. Thereafter, it will rise considerably. Besides enabling conference participation for individual delegates, the registration fee includes tea, coffee, and lunch on **29 July – 2 August 2014**. Registered delegates will have access to the Jazz evening on 31 July in *Coroana* Garden of Brasov. An additional payment will be charged on participation in the symposium dinner on 2 August.

The symposium fees in euro are structured as follows:

	Early Bird, €	Regular, €
	(Before 15.04.2014)	(After 15.04.2014)
Regular member	190	240
Student member	85	135
Regular non-member	210	260
Student non-member	105	155
Accompanying person	85	110
Official Symposium Dinner (Saturday, 2 August 2013)	25	25

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 AULA Library of *Transilvania* University of Brasov or in the city centre at special rates. The accommodation listings and directions for booking are available on the webpage of the Brasov symposium.

Excursions

Brasov and Brasov County have an important cultural, scientific and technical heritage.

The Local Committee has organized several excursions and visits to provide an introduction to this heritage and to know the local treasures of Brasov County.

On Tuesday 29 July, the Brasov City tour has been organized. The tour includes the main monuments of the old fortress of Brasov.

The Black Church is the largest Gothic church in Romania, built between 1383 and 1477, with a six ton bell - the biggest in Romania, a huge 4,000 pipe organ built in 1839 by Carl August Buchholz (1796–1884) which is played during weekly concerts, as well as a rich collection of Anatolian prayer carpets donated from the 15th to 17th centuries by Transylvanian Saxon merchants.

The Saint Bartholomew Church is the oldest church of Brasov, with visible romanesque elements, but also later gothic additions.

The City Hall Museum, built in the fifteenth century, initially was the City Hall of Brasov. It was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1689 and rebuilt in the eighteenth century. Currently, the building houses the Department of History of the County Museum.

The first Romanian School in Brasov, documented in the sixteenth century, contains several rare old books printed by Deacon Coresi in the 2nd half of the 16th century, as well as an old printing press.

Several units of the Tractorul factory remaining after de-industrialization are also proposed to be visited.

On Thursday 31 July after lunch, there will be organized four different excursions:

- 1) The **Brasov City** Tour go around sightseeing places and beauty spots of the city.
- 2) The **Bran castle**, built between 1377 and 1378 by the citizens of Brasov as a customs point. The legend of Dracula, which became a myth in the 19th and 20th century, was born due to the original historic figure of Vlad Tepes, who ruled Walachia between 1456 and 1462.
- 3) The **Village Citadel** in **Râsnov** was built during several stages, between the 14th and the 16th centuries. It has several enclosures with towers, a polygonal bastion in the east and the ruined chapel dates from the 17th century. It is supposed that the first Saxon colonists of Rasnov came from the Rhein riverside, from a village called Rosenau. They gave this name to their new settlement from Transylvania.

The **Village Citadel** in **Prejmer**, known also by its Saxon name of Tartlau, is the major Saxon citadel in Southern Transylvania. It was built starting from the 15th century, with a relatively circular shape. A fortified church was built by the Teutonic knights and two centuries later it started to be used by the Saxon community of Prejmer/Tartlau.

- 4) The trip include also the visit at **IAR** company – the oldest **Romanian aerospace manufacturer**, founded in 1925, which today carries out only revisions and overhauls on helicopters and light aircrafts. The new technological centre of Brasov and Research Institute of the *Transilvania University* is also included in visit.

On Sunday 3 August, as a post-activity of the symposium, three excursions will be organized:

One excursion includes the region **Fagaras – Lisa – Sambata – Carta – Voila** (on the Sibiu road): the old fortress and museum of Fagaras; the ruins of the Cistercian monastery of Carta which still point out strongly to one of the oldest and most important early Gothic monuments of Transylvania; Lisa village as unique ensemble of traditional installations conserved and restored, powered by waterfalls; chain of hydroelectric plants on Olt river.

Another excursion includes the region **Bran – Sinaia**: The royal castle Peles, built between 1875 and 1883 on a plateau in the scenic Bucegi Mountains forest, is a miniature replica of the Hohenzollern castle from Düsseldorf, and it was the summer residence of King Carol I; The Pelisor castle, built between 1899 and 1902 by the Czech architect Karel Liman and decorated by the Viennese artist Ludwig Bernhard, was since 1903 the summer residence of Prince Ferdinand and Maria. The desire of Queen Maria of Romania was the castle to be decorated in an original Art Nouveau style. Her contribution at the development of a specific Art Nouveau trend, blended by traditional Romanian as well as medieval elements, is well acknowledged by the art historians; The Hydroelectric Museum of Sinaia represents a true jewel of the 19th century, as if brought from one of Jules Verne's novels. This special museum of hydroelectric plant, like an open door to the technical-scientific future of mankind, is now an active technical museum.

The third excursion takes participants to the **Dracula Castle** and **Rasnov Fortified Village**. Originally, citizens of Brasov built this Castle, also known as **Bran Castle** between 1377 and 1378 as a customs point on the long trade route from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea.

Social programme

On Tuesday 29 July, all participants are invited to the Welcome Reception at the venue, the Aula Library, just after the Kranzberg Lecture.

On Wednesday 30 July, a reception will be organized in old Citadel/Cetate of Brasov, when the music of medieval times could be listened.

On Thursday 31 July, a Romanian Music Event will provide folk and popular music with traditional food at Cerbul Carpatin Restaurant of Brasov.

On Friday 1 August, the ICOHTEC jazz evening will take place in the Garden of Coroana Brasov, where, together with ICOHTEC jazz group, the local jazz singers will be presented.

On Saturday 2 August, the symposium banquet will be organized in touristic station Poiana Brasov at the famous traditional restaurant Coliba Haiducilor.

How to get to Brasov, the site of ICOHTEC's 2014 symposium

A. Travel by plane

The main airport is Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport, situated at ca. 15 km distance from Bucharest down-town, and approx. 160 km from Brasov.

Henri Coanda Express trains provide connections between Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport and Bucharest North Railway Station. Regular trains connect Bucharest North Railway Station to Brasov Railway Station.

Access roads: The National Road DN_1, connecting Bucharest to Transylvania, via Brasov. The distance between Bucharest and Brasov is ca. 175 km.

We shall provide transportation by bus to Brasov. All participants coming on 28th of July, between 8:00 and 20:00 o'clock will be picked up from Bucharest International Airport Henri Coanda. Shuttle busses will leave from the airport between 10:00 and 21:00 o'clock.

As well, all participants departing on 3th of August, between 9:00 and 21:00, will be taken to the Bucharest International Airport Henri Coanda. Therefore busses will leave from Brasov between 5:00 and 17:00. A bus trip between the Bucharest airport and Brasov takes nearly three hours.

B. Coming to Brasov directly by train

There is a direct train lines from Budapest, Hungary to Brasov via Romanian cities Cluj or Sibiu.

C. Coming to Brasov by car

There is a direct motorway by car via Budapest. On the route, the beautiful city Sibiu (European Capital in 2007) could be visited.

II. Conference Announcements

10 – 12 April 2014

Embattled Heavens. The Militarization of Space in Science, Fiction, and Politics

Berlin Free University

CFP – Deadline **1 December 2013**

For much of the twentieth century, outer space has been envisioned as not only a site of heavenly utopias, but also the ultimate battlefield. Science fact and science fiction celebrated visions of progress and renewal. Astrofuturists imagined a future in which the wonders of space exploration would unite humankind and eliminate violent conflict worldwide. Nonetheless, many of the projects and preoccupations central to Western space thought, such as the efforts to establish a military base on the moon, are testaments to the darker and more violent side of astroculture. Defense interests have historically been driving factors in the development of space technologies. Military and civilian aspects have, however, often been dealt with separately in debates about humanity's widely anticipated future in the stars.

Concentrating on weapons, warfare, and violence, this conference examines the military dimensions of astroculture in the period between 1942 and 1990. While space history tends to distinguish between military and civilian aspects, this conference examines the ways in which both have been linked in the legitimization and popularization of spaceflight. By highlighting the militarization of extraterrestrial frontiers and conquest in politics and popular culture alike, 'Embattled Heavens' addresses the complex processes that oscillate between peaceful and aggressive characteristics of human endeavors in outer space. It aims to decentralize a historiography that often focuses on the two space superpowers, the US and the USSR. While the Space Age is usually associated with the Cold War, this conference complicates established narratives by integrating Western European and global perspectives. Examining astropolitics, technoscientific practices, and science fiction, our goal is to reconceptualize the history of outer space with a view toward its military dimensions.

The conference will be structured around the following five core themes: (1) **ROCKETS AND DOMINATION** looks at military spaceflight and its political applications from the V-2 rocket to satellite surveillance, problematizing the 'dual use' character of space technology. (2) **HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT AND HEROIC UTOPIAS** explores the interplay of romantic images and technoscientific narratives in legitimizing the development and use of space technology. (3) **SPACE MACHINES** emphasizes the collaborative role of both technology and human actors in developing ever-new capabilities of space assets and envisioning the possibilities for space-based wars. (4) **BODIES IN SPACE** focuses on agency and experience in relation to aspects of physical power and violent practices and the constant preoccupation with the possibilities of extraterrestrial life. (5) **ENVISIONING SITES OF WAR** examines the importance of visions articulated in science fiction and their influence on international politics, from Wernher von Braun's space station scheme to Ronald Reagan's Star Wars program, stressing the tensions between depictions of the heavens as a utopian site eliminating all future wars, and as a battlefield of cosmic dimensions.

Our approach is transdisciplinary, and we welcome proposals for twenty-minute presentations from scholars of all fields, including history, political science, science and technology studies, and cultural

studies. Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words together with a short CV (up to two pages) before 1 December 2013 to Daniel Brandau and Tilmann Siebeneichner at astrofuturismus@fu-berlin.de. All lodging and meals during the conference will be covered. A limited number of grants will be given to contributors to cover their travel expenses.

Please visit http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/en/e/fmi/astrofuturismus/CfP_EH/index.html

Please contact the organizers by: astrofuturismus@fu-berlin.de

1 – 3 September 2014

9th Science and Technology in the European Periphery, STEP, Meeting

Lisbon, Portugal

CFP – Deadlines: Session proposals submission **10 January 2014**

Abstract submission (for stand-alone papers) **10 March 2014**

Submission of pre-circulated papers **30 June 2014**

We are pleased to announce that the 9th meeting of STEP (Science and Technology in the European Periphery) will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, 1-3 September 2014. It is organized by the Interuniversity Center 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.

STEP meetings have always sought to strike a balance between historiographical reflections, which help develop a broader comparative analysis, and case-studies examining different national and regional contexts. We will continue to favor both approaches at the 9th meeting. The Scientific Committee encourages contributions on a range of themes related to STEP's interests and in particular to its established research groups:

<<http://147.156.155.104/?q=node/85>> Cross-National, Comparative and Transnational History of STM

1. <<http://147.156.155.104/?q=node/10>> Experts in the Periphery?
2. <<http://147.156.155.104/?q=node/43>> Material Culture of Science: Museums and Collections in the Periphery?
3. <<http://147.156.155.104/?q=node/44>> Popularization of Science and Technology: Centres and Peripheries?
4. <<http://147.156.155.104/?q=node/483>> Science and the Press?
5. <<http://147.156.155.104/?q=node/9>> Universities in the Periphery?
6. <<http://147.156.155.104/?q=node/42>> Women in Science, Women in the 'Periphery'
7. Science x Medicine

Individual papers should aim at building upon the work of <<http://www.uoa.gr/step/?q=node/2>> previous conferences and the current group structure within STEP. However, for session proposals, we also encourage a focus on areas which have so far been under-represented in STEP meetings (especially medicine and technology). We particularly invite contributions with a transnational dimension (either within Europe, or relations beyond Europe), or with a philosophical/theoretical

angle on the nature of peripheries and their significance in the history of science, technology and medicine. We would also be happy to receive suggestions for sessions (not individual papers) on any other theme that relates to STEP's interests (see website). A Special fee will be considered for those attending both STEP and ESHS (4-6 Sept), also in Lisbon at the same premises.

Language: Abstracts and presentations should be in English.

Looking forward to seeing you in Lisbon
On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee
Ana Simões
Maria Paula Diogo

Please visit <http://step2014.ciuhct.com/> and <http://bdrupal.hicido.uv.es/?q=node/3>
For any other information please contact the local secretariat Fátima de Haan, occoe@occoe.pt

4 – 6 September 2014

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

Lisbon

CFP – Deadlines: Symposia Submission (theme and rationale of symposium and abstract of papers)

10 January 2014

Abstract Submission for stand-alone papers **10 March 2014**

The 6th International Conference of the European Society for the 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, practices of science, technology and medicine appear as involving in an essential way forms of communication, to such an extent that the distinction between the making and the communicating of science, technology and medicine is ultimately blurred.

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:

Symposia Submission (theme and rationale of symposium and abstract of papers) - 10 Jan 2014

Decision regarding accepted symposia - 10 February 2014

Abstract Submission for stand-alone papers - 10 March 2014

Decision regarding accepted papers - 10 April 2014

Language: Abstracts, presentations and proceedings should be in English, preferably.

Looking forward to seeing you in Lisbon

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee

Ana Simões

Maria Paula Diogo

Website address <http://www.eshs.org/> and <http://eshs2014.ciuhct.com/>

For any other information please contact the local secretariat Fátima de Haan, occoe@occoe.pt

12 – 14 September 2014

Kooperation und Konkurrenz in Wissenschaft, Medizin und Technik. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik / Cooperation and Competition in Science, Medicine and Technology. Annual conference of the German Society for the History of Medicine, Science, and Technology.

Munich, Germany

CFP – Deadline **20 April 2014**

Please visit: <http://www.dggmnt.de>

Please contact Dr. Susan Splinter, Schriftführerin der DGGMNT, NDB, Historische Kommission

b. d. Bayerischen Akademie d. Wissenschaften, splinter@ndb.badw.de

26 – 28 September 2014

New Directions in the History of Infrastructure

Copenhagen, Denmark

CFP – Deadline **1 December 2013**

The Danish Post & Tele Museum and Aalborg University are organizing an interdisciplinary conference on the history of infrastructure, to be held at the Post & Tele Museum in Copenhagen, from the 26th-28th September 2014. The main theme is the role of infrastructure in the modernization of society, from about 1850 to the present day, viewed in the light of recent scholarship in history, cultural studies and the social sciences. The conference takes its point of departure in the notion of a «material turn» within the humanities, and highlights the dynamic and crucial relations between human actors, technology and society in the historical processes.

Scholars from all relevant fields are invited to submit proposals to conference2014@ptt-museum.dk no later than December 1, 2013. We welcome papers that delve into the history of particular kinds of infrastructure

- communications, sanitation, transport, energy supply etc. - but we are also open to theoretical contributions on issues such as infrastructure and modernization or the analytical significance of the material turn.

After the conference, a selection of the papers presented will be published in an edited volume on current trends in the historiography of infrastructure. Please note that the conference will be held in English.

Visit the website at: http://www.ptt-museum.dk/conference_2014/

Please contact Andreas Marklund, Forskningskoordinator, Ph.d./ Research Coordinator, Ph.D., Post & Tele Museum, by conference2014@ptt-museum.dk

III. Recently Published Books

Dinçkal, Noyan: Sportlandschaften: Sport, Raum und (Massen)Kultur in Deutschland, 1880-1930. = Kritische Studien zur Geschichtswissenschaft, vol. 211, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen 2013.

Noyan Dinçkal analysed the history of environments for sports and the development of spectator sports as (new) mass culture in-between 1880s and 1930s. This interesting contribution to research on technology-based play deals with the concept of space and demonstrates how new spaces for sports, mainly stadiums, became highlights of modern cities.

König, Wolfgang: Kleine Geschichte der Konsumgesellschaft. Steiner, Stuttgart 2013.

Wolfgang König's „Kleine Geschichte der Konsumgesellschaft“ (1st edition 2008) is now available in a revised second edition. He reveals a concise history of the consumer society from its origins in the

Industrial Revolution until today. In particular, he compares consumption in the US and in Germany. Special chapters are dealing with food, clothing, housing, health, sexuality, mobility, mass tourism, and entertainment.

IV. 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)
- Electronic access to back issues of ICON (published since 1995)
- ICOHTEC's electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)

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or ask your library to subscribe!**



**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

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- *for a student (30 € or 40 \$ or equivalent **for two years**)*
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