

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 deadline of the Call for Papers for our 41st symposium in Brasov (29 July – 3 August 2014) is near; if you intend to give a paper, please submit your proposal via ICOHTEC's submission system, <http://www.icohtec.org/brasov2014/cfp/>, until **3 February 2014**. The Newsletter gives three new calls for papers of ICOHTEC sessions: (i) history of computing, organized by Dick van Lente, (ii) industrial heritage at Brasov organised by Daqing Yang and (iii) playing with technology, organized by Stefan Poser.

ICOHTEC makes a limited number of travel grants for graduates, post-graduates and young researchers available, who are giving papers at the 2014 ICOHTEC Symposium; the deadline for application is **24 March 2014**.

Best wishes
Stefan Poser

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I. ICOHTEC

I.1 ICON

ICON's editor is looking for articles for the issue to come out at the end of 2014. Articles should be from 7,000 to 9,000 words with documentation; the deadline for submission is **1 June 2014**. Please find ICON's guidelines on <http://www.icohtec.org/publications-icon.html> and contact our editor, James Williams by techjunc@gmail.com.

I.2 Call for Papers of ICOHTEC Sessions

Computers and the 'Second Industrial Revolution' 1945-1970

For the meeting of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), 29 July – 2 August 2014 in Brasov, Rumania, I would like to set up a panel to compare the ways in which, during the nineteen fifties and sixties, electronic computers were believed to change society in different countries.

The panel explores an aspect of the conference's general theme, 'Technology in times of transition'. Several prominent intellectuals in the nineteen fifties, such as C.P. Snow and Norbert Wiener, thought that electronic computing represented the core of a 'second industrial revolution', which would cause a social transition more profound than that created by the first one. Since computers were introduced in many countries for similar purposes, one might expect similar debates everywhere. On the other hand, different economic and political conditions as well as different cultural traditions may account for differences in reactions to, and expectations of the new technology. The panel will explore such convergences and divergences by means of a number of national case studies.

If you would like to participate, please submit your proposal to me at vanlente@eshcc.eur.nl before February 1, so that I can submit a session on February 3, which is the final deadline. Your proposal of 250-300 words should include your research question, sources and (preliminary) results. Please add your cv.

Dick van Lente

New Uses of Old Technologies in Times of Transition: Theory and Practice of Industrial Heritage Management

I am proposing the above-titled session for the meeting of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), 29 July – 2 August 2014 in Brasov, Rumania.

Economic restructuring and globalization have often led to abandonment of old plants and other industrial and technological sites around the world. In recent years, local initiatives and/or national government encouragement have created new incarnations of old technologies as industrial museums, “creativity parks” and cultural and tourist attractions. What factors, political and economic, drive the creation of industrial heritage sites? What explains the relative “success” of some endeavors while others have produced little progress? How are we, as historians of technology and society, to evaluate these projects from a comparative perspective?

Currently we already have papers covering Japan, China, and post-Soviet Russia. We would like to invite additional papers dealing with other parts of the world, especially Central and Western Europe as well as North America.

If you are interested, please send a one-page (250-300 words) proposal and your c.v. to me at yanghist@gwu.edu no later than February 1.

If you are proposing a session along similar lines, let us coordinate and submit our proposals together as back-to-back sessions.

Thank you.

Daqing Yang
Department of History
George Washington University, USA

Playing with Technology – Questions of Infrastructure

Research in the field ‘Playing with Technology’ ought to contribute to the development of theory in the history of technology: both technology and play have crucial functions in human life. They have strongly influenced the development of societies. Thus research in this field might open new perspectives on the question how and why people deal with technology.

The session in Brasov will focus on infrastructures of play: in which way is the environment shaped by playing? In which way were locations and regions (mainly relicts of industry) adapted for playful purposes? Contributions on other issues of the field ‘Playing with Technology’ are welcome, too.

Please contact me until 2 February 2014 – Thank you.

Stefan Poser, Helmut-Schmidt University, Hamburg, poser@hsu-hh.de.

I.3 ICOHTEC Travel Grants

The ICOHTEC Board will make available a limited number of grants for graduates, post-graduates and young researchers who are giving papers the 2014 ICOHTEC Symposium **Technology in Times of**

Transition in Brasov, Romania, 29 July – 2 August 2014. Special preference will be given to students and young researchers from developing countries as well as Eastern and Central European countries in transition who are not able to receive sufficient financial support from their home countries or sponsors in other countries.

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

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

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

Application forms should be sent to the chair of the Travel Grant Committee as email attachments or by ordinary mail. Applications for support must include personal contact information, an estimate on travel, registration and accommodation costs, title of the paper to be presented and a short CV. An application form may be downloaded from <http://www.icohtec.org/brasov2014/grants/>.

Deadline: Applications with appendices should be submitted by Monday **24 March 2014**. Submissions via email are requested and preferred. Grants will be announced by 24 April 2014.

Slawomir Lotysz

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II. Announcements of Conferences

13 – 15 November 2014

Industries of Architecture: Relations, Process, Production

11th International AHRA (Architectural Humanities Research Association) Conference

Newcastle University

CFP – Deadline **1 May 2014**

Keynote Speakers: Adrian Forty (UK) / Peggy Deamer (USA) / Aggregate (USA) / Sérgio Ferro (France/Brazil) / Gail Day (UK).

Workshops: BIM Goes the Architect / Working with Regulation: Creative engagements between architects and regulation / Retrofit in Practice: What next? / On Site: Observations and conversations on the design and production of the built environment / Risk and Reflexivity: Architecture and the industries of risk-distribution / New Glass Performances and Materials Designed for Purpose

This 2½ day conference invites architectural theorists, historians, designers and others to explore the industrial, technical and socio-economic contexts in which building is constituted that are all too often sidelined within the architectural humanities. Industries of Architecture will also host a number of open-structured debate-oriented workshops with the aim of bringing into the discussion those working in building, technology, law, practice management, construction or in industry together with researchers in the architectural humanities. In addition, the opening night features public screenings of a series of artists' films that explore the production of architecture, including the work of Harun Farocki and Allan Sekula.

Call for Papers: For detailed information about Industries of Architecture and for the full CFP please go to: www.ncl.ac.uk/apl/news/events/documents/loACFP.pdf
500 word abstracts, including title, and 50 word bio to be sent to IOA@ncl.ac.uk by 1 May 2014.

20 – 21 November 2014

Media and the Cold War, 1975-1991

Volda University, Norway

CFP – Deadline **1 March 2014**

In recent years, the major economic, political, and cultural changes in societies during the last two decades of the Cold War have come into greater focus for academics from a variety of disciplines. This conference examines the role of the media during the period from the Helsinki Conference in 1975 until the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989-91. It explores the engagement of various forms of media with the Cold War on a global scale, including alternative media representations, performances, and cultures during this time.

The conference also seeks to analyze media actors and networks, evolving theories about the social responsibility of media, as well as narrative and visual frames on a local and (trans-) national level. The purpose is to illuminate the complex interrelations between the media—both as a dependent and independent variable—and competing political, economic and cultural elites, as well as explain the role of grassroots politics in the formation of public opinion.

Topics include, but are not limited to the following:

- print media and literary representations of the Cold War and international relations
- audio-visual depictions (e.g., television, movies, documentaries, animated films, cartoons)
- Cold War imagery, iconography, and symbolism

- (pop-)cultural and artistic manifestations
- narrative frames, discourses, and language
- political communication
- journalism, media structures, and organizations
- foreign news coverage and framing
- alternative media and popular culture
- official and grassroots media strategies
- public/cultural diplomacy
- freedom of speech

The conference will feature workshops with leading media scholars and historians as well as panel discussions comprising trans-/interdisciplinary approaches, with the goal of generating fresh perspectives that will promote future scholarly teamwork across national, cultural, and regional borders.

Keynote speakers include:

- Daniel C. Hallin, UC San Diego, "Media Systems and the Cold War, 1975-1991"
- Odd Arne Westad, London School of Economics (LSE), "Historiographical Approaches to the Cold War of the 1970/80s"

Applications are especially encouraged from postgraduate students, early-stage researchers (Ph.D.-students), postdocs, and young scholars from all disciplinary and national backgrounds. Successful applicants will be provided with an allowance that should cover all necessary expenses during the conference. The organizers will also provide a limited travel grant. The conference language will be English.

Deadline for applications and abstracts: March 1, 2014

Selections will be made by: April 15, 2014.

The conference will focus on the discussion of 5,000–6,000-word, pre-circulated papers (due October 1, 2014).

Please upload your application materials, which should include

- a paper proposal (500-1,000 words, in English)
- a brief CV / biographical statement

at: www.hivolda.no/mcw

Organiser: Rolf Werenskjold / Henrik G. Bastiansen, Volda University College; Martin Klimke, New York University Abu Dhabi; supported by the 'Freedom of Expression Foundation', Norway, and 'The Nuclear Crisis'-Research Project

For further questions or suggestions, please contact Rolf Werenskjold, rof@hivolda.no

III. Call for Contributions

Theorizing technology in Architecture and Urbanism

Issue of the International Journal of Architectural Theory Wolkenkuckucksheim | Cloud-Cuckoo Land

The International Journal of Architectural Theory- Wolkenkuckucksheim | Cloud-Cuckoo Land | - is publishing an issue on "Theorizing technology in Architecture and Urbanism."

The issue "Theorizing Technology in Architecture and Urbanism" intends to span the traditional understanding of technics techniques technology as the ability to produce architecture, and the newer understanding of technology as building-integrated artefacts and processes, which allow for the functioning and performing of architecture.

The journal invites critics, practitioners and theorists – beyond the boundaries of languages, cultures, and disciplines – to join a broad discourse on the relationship of technology and architecture. Contributions should not solely focus on the description of technological artefacts, processes or functionality, but emphasize the discussion of their cultural context, conceptual dimensions, aesthetic relevance, and experiential value (object-user-relation).

The CFP can be found here http://cloud-cuckoo.net/fileadmin/issues_en/issue_31/cfa_issue_34.pdf

The abstract is due on **15 February** and the full paper on **15 June 2014**.

Please contact: Ute Poerschke, Associate Professor of Architecture, The Pennsylvania State University, uxp10@psu.edu

IV. Recently Published Books

Högselius, Per / Hommels, Anique / Kaijser, Arne / Vleuten, Erik van der (eds.): The Making of Europe's Critical Infrastructure: Common Connections and Shared Vulnerabilities. Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, Hampshire 2013.

Europe's critical infrastructure is a key concern to policymakers, NGOs, companies, and citizens today. A 2006 power line failure in northern Germany closed lights in Portugal in a matter of seconds. Several Russian-Ukrainian gas crises shocked politicians, entrepreneurs, and citizens thousands of kilometers away in Germany, France, and Italy. This book argues that present-day infrastructure

vulnerabilities resulted from choices of infrastructure builders in the past. It inquires which, and whose, vulnerabilities they perceived, negotiated, prioritized, and inscribed in Europe's critical infrastructure. It does not take 'Europe' for granted, but actively investigates which countries and peoples were historically connected in joint interdependency, and why. In short, this collection unravels the simultaneous historical shaping of infrastructure, common vulnerabilities, and Europe.

V. 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.*

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