

# ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

[www.icohtec.org](http://www.icohtec.org)

N° 109, May 2014



## Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

Editor: Stefan Poser, Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg, Modern Social, Economic and Technological History, Holstenhofweg 85, D-22043 Hamburg, Germany, [poser@hsu-hh.de](mailto:poser@hsu-hh.de)

### Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

ICOHTEC's Local Organising Committee in Brasov decides to publish proceedings of our 41<sup>st</sup> symposium; the deadline for submission is **15 June 2014**. Thus there is the opportunity to publish a short paper immediately, and to send an extended version to the editor of our reviewed journal ICON.

It will be a pleasure to meet many of you in summer.

Best wishes

Stefan Poser

### Contents

|                              |      |
|------------------------------|------|
| I. ICOHTEC                   | p. 2 |
| II. Conference Announcements | p. 2 |
| III. Call for Contributions  | p. 5 |
| IV. Awards                   | p. 7 |
| V. Miscellaneous             | p. 8 |
| VI. Recently Published Books | p. 8 |
| VII. Join ICOHTEC            | p. 9 |

## **I. ICOHTEC – Proceedings of the Brasov Symposium**

The Local Organising Committee will publish the Proceedings of the Brasov Symposium as an edited and printed book with ISBN. Participants are invited to work out their papers of 4 to 6 pages in English according to the template which is available for download here. These mini-article manuscripts are to be uploaded by means of an online document submission form, which is available in the link here. The deadline is Sunday **15 June 2014**.

Please find the example on: <http://www.icohtec.org/brasov2014/files/icohtec2014-template.doc>

Please find the mask to submit your contribution on: <http://cerex.unitbv.ro/icohtec/>

Please contact the organiser by [icohtec-brasov2014@unitbv.ro](mailto:icohtec-brasov2014@unitbv.ro)

## **II. Conference Announcements**

**19 – 22 June 2014**

**First International Early Mainline Railways Conference**

Caernarfon, North Wales

'Building on the success of the International Early Railways Conference series, the organising committee have arranged to accommodate the interests of historians pursuing the origin and development of mainline railways between 1830 and c1870. This reflects the all-important years when railways first developed routes and networks and became major contributors to economic growth around the world, made possible by rapid advancements in civil and mechanical engineering techniques.'

Please visit <http://www.rchs.org.uk/trial/gwvf.php?wpage=EMLRC>

Please contact the organiser by: [early.main.line.railways@gmail.com](mailto:early.main.line.railways@gmail.com)

**12 – 13 September 2014**

**International Conference on History and Technology at Black Sea, ISTM 2014**

Ovidius University of Constanta, Romania

CFP – Deadline **1 June 2014**

ISTM conference will address the Realities, socio-historical and technological perspectives needs at the Black Sea and will benefit from the participation of Romanian Academy Committee for Science and Technology History and Philosophy and strong liaison with French academia.

For more information please visit <http://sorging.ro/en/articles/istm-2014-conference>

Please contact: Valentina M. Pomazan, Ovidius University of Constanta, [vpomazan@univ-ovidius.ro](mailto:vpomazan@univ-ovidius.ro)

**21 – 22 November 2014**

**Leibmessen: Experimentelle Optimierung von Körper und Alltag, Tagung der Gesellschaft für Wissenschafts- und Technikforschung, GWTF / Experiments to Optimise the Human Body and to Optimise Routines of Everyday Life**

Tübingen, Germany

CFP – Deadline **15 July 2014**

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

Please contact:

Jan-H. Passoth, Technische Universität Berlin, [passoth@soz.tu-berlin.de](mailto:passoth@soz.tu-berlin.de), and The Pennsylvania State University, [jpassoth@psu.edu](mailto:jpassoth@psu.edu)

Jörg Strübing, Universität Tübingen, [joerg.struebing@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:joerg.struebing@uni-tuebingen.de)

**5 – 6 February 2015**

**Learning How: Training Bodies, Producing Knowledge, a Workshop**

**Research Group Histories of Planning, Dep. III, Artefacts, Action and Knowledge**

Max-Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

CFP – Deadline **16 May 2014**

The focus of this workshop will be on processes of learning in relation to material production: how a less-knowing body becomes more-knowing; how mastery is understood by both "masters" and others; what provisions and resources might be available, and to whom, in a particular time and place. Finding words to analyze knowledge of material processes is often a contested project, but whatever terms scholars choose -- regenerating/ acquiring/ emulating/ developing knowledge -- we propose there is a common set of questions to explore and a rich conversation to be had.

The tools of the project "Histories of Planning" are particularly adept at opening and analyzing processes of knowledge production and regeneration: "making material things work" highlights both the intentions of actors engaged in perpetuating material techniques, and the improvisations and insights produced in artisanal encounters over generations, within communities, across boundaries, between bodies and minds. The rubric demands situating types of knowledge specifically -- in particular materialities, workplaces, workshops, kinship groups, classrooms, laboratories, markets, structures of power etc. -- yet seeking methodological and comparative points of commonality and conversation.

Focal questions for this workshop will be:

- What are the structures, from apprenticeships to classrooms to pay scales to inheritance, within which learning is envisioned? How rigid or flexible are the rules, plans, boundaries?
- How is "learning" understood by the people involved? Who is expected to become knowledgeable, and about which materials and processes?

- How do we go about studying and articulating human learning processes, familiar or unfamiliar, historical or contemporary? When can we assume a common neurological being or when should we emphasize the contingent cultural constructions of knowing?
- Similarly, when can we assume continuities of specific materialities -- "stone", "wood", "metal", etc -- and when do apparently obvious continuities turn out to be materially incommensurate?
- How do various cultures, societies, or communities define and value modes of knowing, and how do these differences shape the questions we can ask?

Against this topical background the workshop invites discussions about how anthropologists, historians, sociologists, archaeologists, scientists and others can know, investigate, and write about the nonverbal, the veiled and the embodied. We seek to interrogate and explore the different forms of knowledge produced by different disciplinary methods (e.g. interviews, archival research, participant observation, quantitative sampling etc.) and how such data may be used to generate and inform novel understandings of the subjects under scrutiny.

Contributors are requested to send in a 250-300 word abstract with their biographical details (full name, institutional affiliation, e-mail address and telephone numbers) by **16 May, 2014**.

Funding will be available.

The "Histories of Planning" project is online here: [http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/en/research/projects/DeptIII\\_SchaeferDagmar-HistoriesOfPlanning](http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/en/research/projects/DeptIII_SchaeferDagmar-HistoriesOfPlanning)

If you have questions about the workshop contact Nina Lerman or Stewart Allen at [learninghow@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:learninghow@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de)

**13 – 14 February 2015**

**Mobilität und Umwelt. Workshop des Arbeitskreises Verkehr in der Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, München**

Deutsches Museum, Kerschensteiner Kolleg

CFP - Deadline **15 September 2014**

In our society, transport, mobility and the environment are closely intertwined fields. Motorized means of transport and their physical infrastructures are responsible for a considerable portion of environmentally-relevant emissions (like the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide), for noise pollution, and for the consumption of space. On the other hand, new concepts of mobility have fueled the growing discourse about sustainability and ecological justice. The policies and politics of transport and the environment are closely connected, with close causal interdependencies. But the dimension of historical experience is mostly absent from contemporary discourses about conflicts between transport and the environment. The topics and methods of environmental history are only partially integrated into the history of transport, traffic, and mobility.

This joint conference of the Arbeitskreis Verkehrsgeschichte and the Rachel Carson Center looks at the environmentally relevant aspects of transport, traffic, and mobility from a historical perspective. The conveners favor a wide definition of mobility. Apart from historians, researchers from other

disciplines are encouraged to present new research about the ecological aspects of transport, traffic, and mobility and, vice versa, about the effects of ecological thinking and actions on transport. We welcome contributions from the whole scope of historiography, from political history (of transport) and the history of political cultures to environmental history, economic and business history, the history of technology, and social and cultural history

Presenters are invited to give their presentations in German or English.

Presentations should not exceed 25 minutes. The organizers provide accommodation at the Kerschensteiner Kolleg of the Deutsches Museum. Expenses for domestic travel (BahnCard 50 tickets) will be fully reimbursed. Presenters from abroad will receive a percentage of their travel expenses that is yet to be determined.

Please e-mail a brief exposé of your presentation (half page plus short C.V.) until September 15, 2014 to: Christopher Kopper ([ckopper@hotmail.com](mailto:ckopper@hotmail.com)).

Die Organisatoren/The Conveners:

apl. Prof. Dr. Christopher Kopper, Fakultät für Geschichtswissenschaft, Universität Bielefeld

([ckopper@hotmail.com](mailto:ckopper@hotmail.com))

Dr. Christopher Neumaier, Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung (ZZF), Potsdam ([neumaier@zzf-pdm.de](mailto:neumaier@zzf-pdm.de))

Prof. Dr. Helmuth Trischler, Rachel Carson Center und Deutsches Museum, München

([h.trischler@deutsches-museum.de](mailto:h.trischler@deutsches-museum.de))

### III. Call for Contributions

#### **Media and Mobility section of Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies**

(no deadline mentioned)

Transfers, now in its fourth year of publication, is emerging as a key peer-reviewed platform for new research into the practices, experiences and representations of disparate mobilities. In its mission to «rethink mobility», the journal also provides a forum for innovative research at the intersection of mobility and media studies. The focus lies on contemporary and historic interactions and linkages between transport, traffic, communication, and media in its broadest sense. Transfers has outlined this field in a special section on 'Traffic' - On the Historical Alignment of Media and Mobility in 2013 (1).

To further elaborate on the «media and mobility» link, we invite submissions that investigate the diverse relations between technology, mobility, and media. This includes submissions that analyze the role of infrastructures with respect to communication and transport, or the «mobilization» of communication and media technologies and the «mediatization» of transportation, and its long-term development. We also invite contributions that link media to mobility more theoretically, e.g. by conceptualizing media as an intermediary field that always includes and negotiates aspects of

mobility. We encourage submissions that treat «media» and «mobility» as entangled entities, that discuss their spatio-temporal and historical dimensions in respect to what it means to be mobile or to migrate, and that explore the embodied, affective, and interpersonal dimensions of media and mobility.

In particular, we suggest three fields of research that entail multiple perspectives on media, mobility, and their relationships:

1) Media technologies in the context of transportation: Any transportation needs communication, and media technologies were and are used to improve, control or enhance travel and its safety or comfort. This field has multiple facets; it includes media-based traffic simulation systems, the interconnectedness of virtual and physical travel as well as navigation technologies or the question of how spaces were and are experienced by those who are moving and consuming media. Moreover, media and transportation technologies have a long shared history, with the telegraph-railway symbiosis of the 19th century, the media-saturated cars of the 20th century or the mobile locative media of the 21st century being prominent examples.

2) Mobility and transportation technologies in the context of media: Mobility technologies and motion techniques are used as artistic methods in the media and the arts (e.g., tracking shots or so-called phantom rides in motion pictures; flight simulation, etc.). Yet, novel transportation technologies are not only used, portrayed, or discussed in different media as motif. Rather, due to their specific modes of perception, such technologies generate new means of (re-)presentation which lead to changes within the media sector (e.g., fragmentation techniques in art, montage in film, interactive and multimedia applications in computer games). This field investigates intermedial relations, such as structural similarities between processes of locomotion and processes of seeing or recording in motion. Moreover, a prime example for connecting 1) and 2) would be the case of mobile media.

3) «Traffic» and «media» as exchange, transportation and communication: A third field concerns research that takes up historical meanings of «traffic» and «communication» when these terms meant both the movement of people and objects, and of ideas, words, images, or bits respectively. This includes research inside media studies and media history that expands a narrow understanding of «media» in favour of a broader concept of «mediation». Articles might analyse the «unfixedness» of media, or investigate how novel mobility or media technologies have been appropriated and how, subsequently, this modified or co-shaped mentalities and discourses, the perception of space, and contemporary mobility concepts.

Transfers aims to combine the empiricism of traditional mobility history with more recent theoretical approaches in media and mobility studies, media theory and media historiography in its «media and mobility» section. In line with our wider mission, we especially welcome work on media and mobility in the Global South. We invite intellectually rigorous, wide ranging, and conceptually innovative contributions from diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

Please refer to the Info for Authors page for submission and style guidelines and to the Journal

Contributors' page for general information and guidelines regarding topics such as article usage and permissions for Berghahn journal article authors.

See <http://journals.berghahnbooks.com/trans/>

Editor:

Gijs Mom, Eindhoven University of Technology

For the «media and mobility» section, you might contact:

Regine Buschauer, [rebus@bluewin.ch](mailto:rebus@bluewin.ch)

Dorit Müller, [dorit.mueller@fu-berlin.de](mailto:dorit.mueller@fu-berlin.de)

Gabriele Schabacher, [gabriele.schabacher@uni-siegen.de](mailto:gabriele.schabacher@uni-siegen.de)

Mimi Sheller, [mimi.sheller@drexel.edu](mailto:mimi.sheller@drexel.edu)

Sunny Stalter, [sls0009@auburn.edu](mailto:sls0009@auburn.edu)

Heike Weber, [hweber@uni-wuppertal.de](mailto:hweber@uni-wuppertal.de)

## IV. Awards

### **Computer History Museum Prize 2014**

Deadline for application **15 May 2014**

The Computer History Museum Prize is awarded to the author of an outstanding book in the history of computing broadly conceived, published during the prior three years. The prize of \$1,000 is awarded by SIGCIS, the Special Interest Group for Computers, Information and Society. SIGCIS is part of the Society for the History of Technology. Books published in 2011-2013 are eligible for the 2014 award. Books in translation are eligible for three years following the date of their publication in English. Publishers, authors, and other interested members of the computer history community are invited to nominate books. Send one copy of the nominated title to each of the committee members listed below. To be considered, book submissions must be postmarked by **15 May 2014**. For more information, please contact the prize committee chair.

Current information may be found at <http://www.sigcis.org/chmprize>.

Please contact David Nofre (chair): Research Affiliate, Centre d'Estudis d'Història de la Ciència at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Send books to him at Kleyn Proffijtlaan 47, 2343DB Oegstgeest, Netherlands [d.nofre@gmail.com](mailto:d.nofre@gmail.com)

## V. Miscellaneous

### **The Wegener Diaries: Scientific Expeditions into the Eternal Ice – A virtual exhibition**

This virtual exhibition sheds light on Alfred Wegener's expeditions to Greenland between 1906 and 1931. Its main focus is on the diaries Wegener wrote during his explorations, which offer unique insights into the manifold challenges man and material faced in Greenland's extreme environments. You may choose to read the diaries in their original state, or browse the expeditions individually and read transcribed and translated excerpts by visiting

<http://www.environmentandsociety.org/exhibitions/wegener-diaries/overview>.

Christian Kehrt, Helmut-Schmidt-Universität, Hamburg, [kehr@hsu-hh.de](mailto:kehr@hsu-hh.de)

## VI. Recently Published Books

**Butrica, Andrew J.:** The Navigators: A History of NASA's Deep Space Navigation. CreateSpace, Independent Publishing Platform (April 25, 2014).

This is the untold story behind NASA's successful exploration of the solar system over the past half century. The book focuses on two broad themes. One is the beginnings and evolution of space navigation in response to the security crisis starting with World War II and running to the present century. The other overarching theme is the relationship between navigation and science, especially astronomy. The author argues that navigators are representative of the application-oriented science that the security crisis fostered. The book makes additional points about modeling, the role of technology (computers, instruments), and the reasons for navigation's increasing accuracy.

**Stegmann, Knut:** Das Bauunternehmen Dyckerhoff & Widmann. Zu den Anfängen des Betonbaus in Deutschland 1865–1918. Ernst Wasmuth Verlag, Tübingen/Berlin 2014.

Concrete based on Portland cement is one of the most important innovations in the field of building construction in the 19th century. The "triumph" of the material is inextricably linked with the upcoming concrete industry. The book deals with the Dyckerhoff & Widmann Company as one of the most important protagonists in that field in Germany. The company's systematic experiments laid down the foundations for the expansion of concrete constructions. Organizational developments, partly based on study trips to the US, improved the productivity on the construction sites by mechanizing and optimizing the building processes. Marketing strategies, largely unknown in the building industry, contributed to the distribution of the technical innovation. In this way the company gradually succeeded in opening up new markets for concrete: from precast concrete components to products of civil engineering and eventually to (famous) architecture like the Centennial Hall in Wroclaw.

## **VII. 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)

*Please share this subscription form with a colleague who is not a member  
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**

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

- *for an individual (30 € or 40 \$ or equivalent per year)*
- *for a student (30 € or 40 \$ or equivalent **for two years**)*
- *for a library (Europe: 36 € or 48 \$, overseas: 39 € or 52 \$ or equivalent per year)*
- *for an institution (75 € or 100 \$ or equivalent per year)*

*for each year checked:*

2012  2013  2014  2015  
*ICON 18 ICON 19 ICON 20 ICON 21*

*I submit the total amount: \_\_\_\_\_ € / \$*

*Your first name and surname: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Email: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_*

*City/State/postal code: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Country: \_\_\_\_\_*

*ICON issues for the years you have checked and paid for will be sent to your mailing address. In the event it changes, please send your new address to our treasurer Yoel Bergman, [yoelb@protalix.com](mailto:yoelb@protalix.com), with "ICOHTEC new address" as the "Subject"*

Please, return this form

– and make an international money transfer to "ICOHTEC" at Commerzbank Bochum (Husemannplatz 3-4, D-44787 Bochum, Germany) : IBAN DE44 4304 0036 0390 2590 00 ; BIC COBADEFFXXX (members in Germany take Commerzbank Bochum BLZ 43040036, Nr. 390259000.