

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

www.icohtec.org

N° 117/118, January/February 2015



Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

You are still welcome to submit proposals for our 42nd symposium in Tel Aviv (16–21 August 2015): the deadline of the call for papers is extended to **16 February 2015**. Members are invited to nominate candidates for ICOHTEC's elections until **25 February 2015**.

Contributions to the next issue of our reviewed journal **ICON** should be send in to the editor, James Williams, **within the first four months** of this year. Please find the announcements on our homepage www.icohtec.org.

The obligatory reminder: if you still have to pay your annual fees for 2014, please do so now! But it would be better if you will send the fees for 2015 already. A subscription form is added on the last page of the Newsletter.

Best wishes
Stefan Poser

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I. ICOHTEC

I.1 Greetings from the President

The past year, ICOHTEC held its 41st Symposium in Brasov, Romania, which was a great success. It was attended by 186 participants from 29 countries. The host country, Romania was well represented by 52 delegates. While the participation is the third highest in our independent symposia, the attendance of 32 accompanying persons is the all-time record. Elena Helerea and her team at the University of Transilvania in Brasov made a tremendous effort in organising the symposium. Once again, I want to pass them grateful comments by dozens of satisfied participants who conveyed their positive experiences in Brasov to us.

Now we are working for our next goal, the 42nd Symposium on *History of High-Technologies and Their Socio-Cultural Contexts*, which will be held at the University of Tel Aviv, Israel on 16 – 21 August. I presume that the symposium will be interesting for various reasons. Tel Aviv is a sunny coastal city, where the sun is shining on average amazing 38% of the total annual hours. Since August tends to be practically rainless, you may forget your umbrella at home and pick up a parasol with you instead (As you remember, each of us got one in the Budapest Congress in 2009). Because of its architecture, Tel Aviv is also called the White City, and earned its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003. With the world's largest concentration of *Bauhaus* buildings (more than 4,000), it has regarded as "an outstanding example of new town planning and architecture in the early 20th century." To sum up, both the natural and built environment is worth to see in the site of our next symposium.

The general theme of this symposium, "Hi-tech histories," has raised considerable attention, if the number of visitors on the website of the call for papers in my Academia.edu site is accepted as an appropriate statistical indicator. As mentioned earlier, this theme fits well to the present site. High-tech activities have concentrated in the campus of the *Tel Aviv University* and its surrounding areas, which form the "Silicon Valley" of the East Mediterranean.

In the early 2010s, we have managed to attract a number of new participants in our symposia and let's hope that the trend will continue in Tel Aviv and beyond. This time we hope to meet several participants from the Mediterranean area, while we will have our first symposium on the Asian continent. On the basis of these viewpoints, we can expect to have a lively, multidisciplinary and multicultural symposium.

The deadline for submitting poster, paper and session proposals have been extended to Monday **16 February**. Before working out your proposals, please, read guidelines for writing an appropriate submission. The website, <http://www.icohtec.org/proposal-guidelines.html>, provides also two sample abstracts for orientation.

The first *Newsletter* of the year is delayed because of the editor's unexpected health problem. We want to express our joy and empathy that Stefan is now recovering and climbing again in the saddle.

Because of exceptionally cloudy January, we here in southern Finland have started counting moments – not hours – of sunshine that we have managed to catch this year, while in the northern most municipality of Finnish Lapland, they have enjoyed daylight only for two weeks because the polar night lasted there 52 days and nights – from 27 November to 17 January. As the result, this week they have a theoretical chance to see the sun for about 5½ hours per day. In this respect, there is a big difference between the southern Mediterranean region and northern Europe – there sunshine seems to be almost a self-evident daily phenomenon around the year, whereas here sunshine in wintertime is just a theoretical possibility only for very limited periods.

Timo Myllyntaus

President of ICOHTEC

I.2 ICOHTEC Elections

Dear ICOHTEC Members,

In the current issue of our monthly Newsletter, you will find the minutes of General Assembly that took place at the conclusion of our last annual symposium in Brasov, on August 2, 2014. In accordance to what has been decided, we are about to proceed with election of three new members of the Executive Committee there (see "Report of the Chair of Nominating Committee" section). This should have been done in 2014, but due to unexpected technical problems I was not able to organize this earlier.

We will be accepting the self-nomination from the active members of ICOHTEC (that means those who paid the membership fee for this year) for two weeks from the date of issue of current Newsletter, that is until February 25. Please send your self-nomination to my e-mail address s.lotysz@gmail.com and do not forget to attach 5-10 lines about yourself and explain in one sentence why are you running for this position – the note will be posted under your name in electronic ballot for the voters to decide. The ballot will be open within few days after the submission deadline. You will be informed about the opening and closing dates of the ballot in a separate message sent to your e-mail address, which we have recorded in our files.

With best regards,

Sławomir Łotysz

Secretary General

I.3 Minutes of the ICOHTEC General Assembly

41st Symposium, Technology in Times of Transition

Transilvania University of Brasov, Brasov, Romania

2 August 2014, 14:00-15:30

Attending: Artemis Yagou, Irina Gouzevitch, Dmitri Gouzvitch, Daniel Calin, Victoria Cotorbai, Liviu Sofonea, Monique Chapelle, Darwin Stapelton, Vahur Magi, Vitaly Gorokhov, Marina Cionca, Roberto Cantoni, Elitsa Stoilova, M. Luisa Sousa, Elvira Callapez, Balan Stefan Florin, Balan Adelin, Staretu Ionel, Andrew Buss, Antoni Roca-Rosell, Markku Norvasuo, Francesco Gerali, Ciro Paoletti, Angelo Rapisarda, Eufrosina Otlacau, Stefan Iancu, Catalin Mihai, Ioana Firestrau, Solonina Nadezda, Emilya Karaboeva, Lytvynko Alla, Ponomarenko Lilia, Anna Sivula, Vasily Borisov, Patryk Wasiak, Hans-Joachim Braun, Ed Todd, Alin Oleresa, Andra Tudor, Timo Myllyntaus, Dick van Lente, Slawomir Lotysz, Elena Helerea, Stefan Poser, Yoel Bergman, Alexandre Herlea.

Minutes by Slawomir Łotysz

Opening by the President

The General Assembly was opened by President Timo Myllyntaus, who thanked the organizers and particularly to Elena Helerea for hosting the conference in Brasov.

Report by the President

Timo Myllyntaus started from presenting the new Board elected at the last symposium held in Manchester in 2013. While reporting on the activities of the new Board during the first year, he emphasized the publication of ICON, ICOHTEC's annual journal, helping both the Programme Committee and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) in arranging the annual symposium, and work toward organizing a Summer School.

Report by the Vice President

Dick van Lente outlined his main tasks, such as coordinating prize committees. He also mentioned his work in the Nominating Committee. He added that the two prizes would be handed to the winners at the festive dinner planned to take place after General Assembly. He also gave the names of members of both committees for the next year. Dick van Lente then thanked to the Juanelo Turriano Foundation and L'Université de Technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard as the supporters of the prizes. He also thanked the members of both committees and commentators who took part in prize session at the symposium.

Report by the Secretary General

Slawomir Łotysz reported briefly on his duties, which involved close collaboration with the LOC chaired by Elena Helerea on the preparation of Brasov conference and he thanked her and her team,

for their engagement. Łotysz also served the Chair of the Programme Committee (PC) and stressed, that serving at the same time as a link between LOC and PC, has greatly facilitated the preparation process. He also acted as the chair of Travel Grant Committee.

Report of the Treasurer and Auditor

Yoel Bergman reported on his duties, which besides normal accounting, were dominated by taking over the activities from the previous treasurer. This included management rights to ICOHTEC bank account in Bochum, Germany. The main problems he faced were caused by the fact, that the assistant treasurer based in Bochum quit in the mid of the year, and another had to be found. Bergman added that still some 60 percent of members are due to pay their fee for 2014.

The auditor, Hans-Joachim Braun confirmed that the transition went through smoothly and ICOHTEC financial situation is stable. Braun added that the only problem he had encountered is a number of expired checks totalling to some 200 Euro, which had not been cashed on time.

Timo Myllyntaus suggested that General Assembly accepts the financial report. The Executive Committee's proposal to keep the membership fee at the current level was also accepted.

Report by the Editor of ICON

The Editor-in-Chief, James Williams was not able to come. In his name the report was delivered by Artemis Yagou. She emphasised that finally, after a few years, ICON is published on schedule. In 2014 two special issues have been published, one on Technology and Play, and the other containing the papers presented at the anniversary session held at the 40th Symposium in Manchester. She added that a free copy of ICON has been posted online for those interested in submitting their papers to our journal. As for herself, Yagou added that she has been appointed as Book Review Editor in April 2014, and since then she has been busy coordinating the process of acquiring reviews for more than twenty books submitted to the ICON editorial board by the publishers.

Timo Myllyntaus encouraged all authors presenting at the symposium to submit full papers for publication in ICON. Hans-Joachim Braun added that James Williams is going to step down from the post in 2015 and thanked him for accomplishing a tremendous work as Editor.

Report by the Editor of Newsletter

Stefan Poser, the Editor of the Newsletter, reported that during the academic year 2013/2014 members have received our online bulletin at the end of each month and its structure and contents have remained nearly similar as in the previous year. He encouraged the members to submit information on books, articles, conference reports etc.

Report by the Webmaster

Sławomir Łotysz reported that the website is maintained on a regular basis. The updates include such items as monthly Newsletters (provided by Stefan Poser) Calls for Papers and information relating to our annual symposium (provided by PC and/or LOC), new additions to the PhD corner (provided by Francesco Gerali), and new additions to Book Corner (provided mainly by authors). As for new

features implemented on the website, Łotysz emphasized particularly the PayPal button, and thanked Lars Bluma for setting up the PayPal account which is linked with ICOHTEC bank account.

Report of the Chair of Nominating Committee

Dick van Lente, who is the Chair of Nominating Committee, reported on proposed changes to the nomination procedure discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. The general aim of those changes was to democratize the process of selecting candidates for certain duties within ICOHTEC, particularly to Executive Committee, where three new members have to be elected every year. Van Lente explained that in order to make the procedure more transparent and democratic, it is proposed to implement a rule of self-nomination in addition to the already existing nomination by the Board. Sławomir Łotysz added that after collecting the self-nomination, brief information about the candidates will be posted in the Members Area at the ICOHTEC website and the electronic ballot will be made available, but only active members will be allowed to vote.

Next Dick van Lente explained two issues relating the Editorial Board. One was a procedure of electing two new members of the Editorial Board, who will be elected through electronic balloting. The second issue raised by van Lente was the connection between the Editorial Board and the ICOHTEC Board, which consists of officers and the Executive Committee. While reporting on current practice, he said that the Editor in Chief reports to the Executive Committee once a year, which has failed in preventing problems in the past. To ensure that such a situation does not happen again, van Lente proposed to consider two options. The first one would be enlarging the Editorial Board by adding one officer, for example the President, Vice-President, Secretary-General or Treasurer. Under such an arrangement the Board of ICOHTEC would be permanently informed about activities of the Editorial Board, and could react faster if problems arise. The third option discussed by van Lente was emulating SHOT's procedure, which is to have, besides an Editorial Board concerned with a content of the journal, an Editorial Committee consisting of other members which control the work of the Editorial Board and solve any issues which may appear. The editorial board is elected by members. Van Lente suggested that choosing between those three options, including the existing practice, will be put under the voting of general membership.

New Committees

Timo Myllyntaus reported on the committees naming their members as follows:

2015 Programme Committee

Christopher Neumaier, (Chair), Germany

Noah Efron, Israel

Ciro Paoletti, Italy

Louisa Sousa, Portugal

James Stark, UK

IT moderator: Shaul Kaatzir, Israel

ICOHTEC Prize Committee for 2014-15

Peter Jakab, USA

Klaus Staubermann, UK/Germany

David Zimmerman, Canada (chair)

Maurice Daumas Prize Committee, 2014-2015

Hermione Giffard, UK/NL (chair)

Andrew Butrica, USA

Pierre Lamard, France

Stefan Poser, Germany

Susan Schmid Horning, USA

Membership Committee

Yoel Bergmann (chair), ISR

Maria Elvira Callapez, POR

Jeffrey Larabee, USA

Travel Grant Committee, 2014-15

Yoel Bergman, Israel

Timo Myllyntaus, Finland

Slawomir Lotysz, Poland (chair)

Financial Committee, 2014-15

Yoel Bergman, Israel

Timo Myllyntaus, Finland (chair)

Slawomir Lotysz, Poland

Summer School Committee

Hans-Joachim Braun, Germany (chair)

Maria Elvira Callapez, Portugal

Peter Koval, Germany

Timo Myllyntaus, Finland

Klaus Stauberman, UK/Germany

Report on Summer School Committee

The chair of the Summer School Committee Hans-Joachim Braun reported on problems with acquiring sufficient funds. He pointed out that EU institutions tend to sponsor summer schools lasting for two weeks or more, while we aim at having much shorter events (2-3 days) held in conjunction with our annual symposia. Braun also added that while it is possible to obtain the financial resources from some national institution, these are typically reserved for the participants from that particular country, which makes the organization of an international event much more difficult. As a possible solution, Braun brought up an idea of applying, as ICOHTEC, for a research grant from EU, an idea, which had been discussed among the members for several years.

Report of the Local Organizing Committee for the Brasov Symposium

Elena Helerea, chair of the LOC thanked all people who helped in preparation of the conference.

Report of the Tel Aviv Local Organizing Committee

Representing the LOC for Tel Aviv conference, which will be held from 16 to 21 of August 2015, Yoel Bergman named all partners involved in the preparation of the meeting. The symposium will be hosted by the University of Tel Aviv, and will be held in conjunction with HISTELCON, which is organized by historical section of IEEE. The main theme of the symposium will be “History of High-Technologies and Their Socio-Cultural Contexts”.

Discussion on Organizing future symposia

Timo Myllyntaus reported that after issuing a call for organizing our 43rd Annual Meeting in 2016, we received proposals from Porto and Berlin. While introducing the Portugal bid, Maria Elvira Callapez emphasized the rich technological heritage of this location and a significant experience of the local team in organizing large scientific events. On behalf of the German bidders, Hans-Joachim Braun briefly outlined the main features of Berlin as a potential venue for 2016 ICOHTEC conference. The General Assembly voted in favour of Porto.

Various Other Items

Francesco Gerali proposed to launch a Book Review section on the ICOHTEC website. Hans-Joachim Braun expressed his opinion about a general trend within academia to publish mainly in English, adding that publishing in one’s own language should not be neglected. Angelo Rapisarda of the European Pupils Magazine informed the General Assembly about the idea behind the EPM initiative and expressed his intention to collaborate with ICOHTEC in some form, for example, by a joint organization of summer school. Alexandre Herlea called for seeking more actively for recognition on an institutional level to the history of technology as a scholarly discipline.

The President concluded the General Assembly at 15:30.

II. Conference Reports

Nuclear Experts and Nuclear Expertise in a Global Context After 1945

Jan Hansen, Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Nuclear experts and nuclear expertise were at the center of a workshop hosted by Gabriele Metzler (Berlin) and Carola Sachse (Vienna) at Humboldt University Berlin on 6 and 7 October 2014. The participants, mostly historians and political scientists from various continents, aimed at researching these experts and their knowledge in a global context after 1945. The conference thus sought to shed light on a phenomenon that can be seen as crucial for our understanding of the last century.

It is impossible to think of the international and social history of the second half of the 20th century without considering the role experts played in this “nuclear age.” To put it briefly, there would have been no “Cold War”, as we are accustomed to labeling this period, if there

had not been physicists who developed the weapon of that age. In general, atomic power was the product of a long-term research process, and scientific experts were the decisive protagonists in the detection and utilization of nuclear fission. Their expertise enabled the leaders of states, the military and the economy to put nuclear knowledge to strategic use. They thereby helped transform the post-war world order. At the same time, so-called “counter-experts” questioned the potential and the consequences of the military and civil use of nuclear power, giving scientific credence to social protest movements.

Expertise became more and more important during the 19th and 20th century, as the knowledge society developed dynamically. Lutz Raphael referred to this process as “scientification of the social,” a concept that has gained lasting influence in historiography. Experts with scientific knowledge became increasingly present in bureaucracies, political parties, parliaments and the economy. Soon they played a vital role in social processes because they possessed the authority to produce knowledge and define problems.

What did experts have to do in order to be regarded as such? Most importantly, they had to follow a particular verbal and non-verbal strategy. They referred to the concepts of “truth” and “objectivity;” additionally, they displayed their expertise by using elaborate rhetorical and performative strategies, creating legitimacy through trust. Experts behaved in a way that lent credence to what they were saying, and they used specific rhetorical and visual strategies to make their audience believe what they maintained.

In her introduction, CAROLA SACHSE delineated six questions that served as guidelines for the discussion. These were: 1. How can we understand knowledge about nuclear energy after 1945? 2. Who was an expert and how did they justify their status as such? What role did trust as an immaterial resource play in that context? 3. How did they organize? How did experts from countries further from the center of the Cold War participate? 4. Did this “community of knowledge” develop a transnational identity? Did it contribute to the delegitimizing of the nation-state and of national statehood? 5. How did governments, the public and protest movements perceive these experts? 6. What part did experts play with regard to (non-) proliferation of nuclear weapons?

Subsequent contributions approached the issue from different angles, touching upon different fields. Some of them studied particular individuals who, as experts, played vital roles in establishing and promoting the field of nuclear expertise. In his talk, SEBASTIAN VEHLKEN (Lüneburg) for example focused on scientist Wolf Häfele. He situated Häfele’s work in an “age of hypotheticality,” stressing the importance of computer simulations for the development of nuclear theory. WAQAR ZAIDI (Lahore) concentrated on James T. Shotwell’s attempts to popularize his proposals for the international control of atomic energy in the United States. By doing so, Zaidi sought to alter our understanding of early postwar atomic internationalism, and the role scientists and non-scientists played within the construction of the expertise on nuclear energy.

Other contributions focused on institutions and institutionalized expertise. SYBILLE MARTI (Zurich) reviewed the Swiss Federal Commission for Radioactivity Surveillance, which was appointed in 1956 in order to respond to the emerging public concern about radiation hazards. Its task was to monitor the radioactivity of food products, complemented by measurements of the radionuclide content in the human body. ANNA WEICHSELBRAUN (Chicago) presented her project on the International Atomic Energy Agency, in which she focuses on safety inspectors as nuclear experts.

Whereas the majority of the workshop participants presented papers on experts and expertise in the context of the civil or military use of nuclear energy, ANGELA N. CRAEGER (Princeton) pointed out the ways in which the question of waste and environmental expertise was linked to the workshop topic. She traced the history of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) by focusing on the emergence of expertise in radioecology at three AEC installations: Hanford, Oak Ridge, and Savannah River. In these sites, she emphasized, research on radioactive waste generated new knowledge about the biological concentration of contaminants within aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

A third group of presenters concentrated on specific nuclear programs or dealt with country studies. MARA DROGAN (Loudonville) analyzed President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace program. She worked out how the program became the vehicle for the transfer of nuclear technology and fissionable material around the globe. This is why, she argued, the program had a long-lasting historical impact. IBRAHIM AL-MARASHI (San Marcos) dealt with Iraq's atomic energy program. He monitored the interplay between experts and the government and underlined that the program reflected the evolution of the representation of the Iraqi state. The thematic scope of this conference even extended to the role nuclear experts played in Australia and in Japan, as LACHLAN CLOHESY (Melbourne) and TAKA DAITOKU (Evanston) revealed in their talks.

Beyond the personal, institutional and national level, a fourth group of contributors presented findings on expert networks, which were important for the identity and self-construction of experts. It became clear that these experts cannot be separated from other professional branches. MAURO ELLI (Padua) showed in his talk with regard to the industry how experts built bridges and transferred their knowledge into the economy. CHRISTIAN MARX (Trier) produced intriguing results in terms of nuclear experts and economic interests. He outlined the discussion between state authorities and experts concerning the application by the German chemical company BASF to construct its own nuclear power plant in Ludwigshafen in 1969.

In his talk about the arms control network in the United States, BENJAMIN WILSON (Stanford) depicted experts as boundary-crossers. Stating that the relationship between the state and its experts was more complicated and fluid than is typically acknowledged, he termed experts as "insiders" and "outsiders" at the same time. They were natural and social

scientists, expert servants of the state and expert critics, government representatives and supporters of grassroots opposition to government policies. ANNE I. HARRINGTON (Washington, DC) and MATTHIAS ENGLERT (Darmstadt) noted that scientific experts delimited the boundaries of the techno-strategic framework of safeguards and verification.

These experts can neither be separated from other professional branches nor conceived without reference to what else was going on in Western societies at the time. Alongside others, two presenters exposed this nexus in their talks very clearly. ALISON KRAFT (Sheffield) on the one hand explored the early Pugwash movement in Britain as a site for knowledge production and counter-expertise. She traced this transnational network as an epistemic community. CHRISTOPH LAUCHT (Swansea) on the other hand researched the Professions for World Disarmament and Development (PWDD). While historians and social scientists have commonly analyzed anti-nuclear-weapons activism in Britain and elsewhere as part of the peace movement or transnational relations, his paper offered a fresh approach to these protests by viewing them as a form of professional activism.

A recurring question of this workshop was whether nuclear experts, in their transnational networks, tried to overcome the Cold War system and envisioned a new, post-binary world order. One of the most fascinating and stimulating contributions in this context came from KARIN ZACHMANN (Munich), who asked how experts tried to rethink the Cold War. Researching the European Society for Nuclear Methods in Agriculture (ESNA), she exposed that this non-governmental organization aimed at opening new channels of cross-bloc communication and knowledge flow against the backdrop of American domination.

How can we connect all these different stories about experts and their knowledge? And, starting from here, wherein lies the specificity of the history of nuclear expertise? In a final round of discussion, GABRIELE METZLER and HOLGER NEHRING (Stirling) gave some preliminary answers. Metzler identified five fields of research: the nuclear history itself; the ways in which trust was constructed; representations of nuclear expertise; tensions between the national, transnational and international; the deconstruction of boundaries by experts and expertise; and finally the rescaling of temporality and time regimes by experts.

One specificity of the history of nuclear knowledge that Nehring pointed out was the connection between nuclear knowledge and nationhood/statehood. In order to be “modern”, a state had to have nuclear knowledge, he argued. In this way, expertise in the field of nuclear power was essential for the self-image of the state and for the construction of modernity. In addition, Nehring posed the question of what happened to nuclear knowledge after it entered the bureaucracy: Was it simplified the higher it climbed the government hierarchy? How was it passed around?

Questions such as these deserve further analysis and require careful explanation. This conference went a long way to stimulating that discussion and providing some tentative answers. Future research, however, should look more closely at the materiality of nuclear

expertise (as Nehring rightly claimed), at the technology and the techniques, at the mechanisms as well as at the practices of the creation of knowledge.

First published in H-Soz-Kult, 08.12.2014,

<http://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-5709>

III. Conference Announcements

19 – 20 Februar 2015

Lebenszyklen der Technik? / Life Cycle of Technology? Technikgeschichtliche Jahrestagung des Vereins Deutscher Ingenieure / Annual Conference on the History of Technology of the Association of German Engineers, VDI 2015

Deutsches Bergbaumuseum, Bochum

Please visit: <http://www.vdi.de/bildung/artikel/technikgeschichtliche-jahrestagung-2015>

Please contact Lars Bluma, Deutsches Bergbaumuseum, Bochum,

lars.bluma@bergbaumuseum.de

8 – 10 April 2015

Risk, Uncertainty and Transition. MidTerm Konferenz of the European Sociological Association (ESA)

Stuttgart

We aim to stimulate sociological and interdisciplinary research and debate into how risk and uncertainty are perceived, constructed, managed and/or neglected by social actors – individuals and organisations – as well as the impact of these responses in society. Modern sociological theory describes the modernisation process as a transition from stable, calculable and predictable societies, so-called modern, industrial societies, to a new type of society where stable structures are replaced by fluid arrangements. The term ‘risk’ is increasingly supported by a focus on uncertainty. Following Beck, a risk and uncertainty perspective allows insights into contemporary society and has become one of its defining features. When individuals, organizations and societies are planning for the future, they are fundamentally exposed to complexity, uncertainty, and ambiguity.

Online registration: <http://www.riskanduncertainty.net/conferences/2015-esa-rn22-mid-term-conference-risk-uncertainty-and-transition/>

Please visit: <http://www.riskanduncertainty.net/conferences/2015-esa-rn22-mid-term-conference-risk-uncertainty-and-transition/>

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Zwick, Stuttgart University, michael.zwick@sowi.uni-stuttgart.de,

2 May 2015

World History Theory and Practice: Gender, Technology, Culture

St. John's University, Manhattan Campus, NYC

CFP – Deadline **14 February 2015**

St. John's University's History department convenes its second World History Theory and Practice conference in order to advance theories and to consider practices of world history. The conference will offer panels on both research and teaching with the aim of fostering research-driven conversations on the teaching of world history.

We invite papers that deal with any aspect of the themes of this year's conference - Gender, Technology, Culture. We seek a broader understanding of how each of these has informed historical research, teaching, and public history. Paper proposals need not address all three areas, or necessarily more than one, but all papers should make a contribution to the wider discourse on the theory and practice of World History. Topics may include, but are not limited to, mass or popular movements, invention/innovation in global perspective, popular culture in world history, the gendering of technology, representations of gender/technology in the arts or media, the history of ideas, cultural influences/confluences/conflicts, and the application of theory, research, social media, and other technologies to classroom practice.

We welcome digital applications of world history and paper proposals from world history practitioners-world history instructors, advanced graduate students, public historians, librarians, archivists, and museum curators-who research and teach world history and study how gender and technology have shaped our culture and our histories. In particular, we are interested in proposals that highlight the significance of research for the practice of world history or how the practice of world history affects the way that we conceptualize research.

Please submit a 250 word abstract for a 20-minute presentation and a one-page CV or resumé to conference organizers at worldhistorytheorypractice@gmail.com by February 14, 2015.

Please contact Susan Schmidt Horning, planning committee chair, schmidts@stjohns.edu

11 – 12 June 2015

The European Retail Trade and the Clothing Industry in Historical Perspective (late 19th to 20th Centuries). Workshop of the Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte, GUG in cooperation with the University of Regensburg

Frankfurt/Main, Germany

CFP – Deadline **28 February 2015**

Besides food and shelter, clothing is a vital good for any household in any society. While the textile industry and the import/export of textiles have always been important subjects for historical research, the downstream processes, in particular production, distribution and marketing of processed textiles and industrially produced clothing have found little interest. Both the clothing industry and modern forms of the retail trade (department stores, chain stores, variety stores and cooperatives) did not emerge before the mid-19th century. During the 20th century the European low-tech clothing industry has shifted its production sites abroad because of lower labor cost, whereas the European retail trade faces an ever-increasing volatility but keeps on flourishing.

This workshop, which is jointly organized by the German Society for Business History (Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte, GUG) and the University of Regensburg (Chair for Economic and Social History), aims at bringing together those who are currently working on

- (Textile) retail trade
- Clothing industry
- Retail marketing and advertising

We welcome papers that address any aspect of the history of the European retail trade (textile, other non-food or food) and/or the clothing industry during the last 150 years. The workshop will take place at the Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften in Bad Homburg (<http://www.forschungskolleg-humanwissenschaften.de/index.php/en/>)

which is close to Frankfurt on Main and its airport. Accommodation is provided by the organizers, (reasonable) travel costs will be reimbursed according to the guidelines of the GUG.

Please send a paper proposal (max. 1,000 words) to Mark Spoerer, mark.spoerer@ur.de, not later than 28 February 2015. We will inform all authors before 31 March 2015.

3 - 6 September 2015

Technology and Environment'. 7th Tensions of Europe Conference

KTH, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm (Sweden)

CFP – Deadline 15 February 2015

Confirmed key-note speakers are Amita Baviskar and Erik Swyngedouw.

Second call for papers

The 7th Tensions of Europe Conference will have as its main theme the interaction between technology and the environment. One way of understanding the environment is to think of it as nature appropriated by humankind through technological, scientific and representational means. From farming to space travel, we use technologies and natural resources to sustain our lives. Our use of technologies leaves traces behind in the form of altered environments. Changes at global historical and geological scales are accumulated as heritage and geophysical strata respectively. The intersection of technology and the environment can also be understood culturally or socially. We use technology in our understanding and appreciation of nature (religious, poetic or physical), in monitoring it, assessing it representing it. Further, technology can be a lens and a tool in shaping our relation to the environment. Technologies not only assist in shaping and transforming nature, they also assist us to perceive, observe, record and communicate natures and environments, including imaginative representations of techno--natures in art, literature and film.

The conference also invites scholarship in the general themes of the Tensions of Europe network, such as trans--border flows, common resources, conflicting interests, hidden integration and cultural practices. We not only invite traditional panel-sessions with a number of papers and a commentator, but also strongly encourage different formats and new ideas. These can concern anything from the archive to the woods, be big or small, structured or spontaneous. The programme committee will not prioritize between formats if the suggestions promise constructive, stimulating and engaging discussion.

We invite scholars from all relevant fields to submit proposals to 7toe2015@kth.se by 15 February 2015.

Please visit www.tensionsofeurope.eu.

Best regards,

Jan Korsten

7 – 9 September 2015

Postcolonial Studies Association Convention

University of Leicester, UK

CFP – Deadline **28 February 2015**

The first convention of the Postcolonial Studies Association will take place at the University of Leicester (UK), from 7 to 9 September 2015. Contributions from academics and postgraduates investigating any area of postcolonialism from any disciplinary, cross- or interdisciplinary perspective are warmly invited.

Please find the call for papers on <http://eseh.org/cfp-postcolonial-studies-association-convention/>

Please contact the organizers by psa2015convention@gmail.com

14 – 17 September 2015

The Future of Mobilities: Flows, Transport and Communication Joint conference of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T2M) and the Cosmopolitanities Network

Santa Maria C.V. (Caserta), Italy

Reminder: the Deadline for Submission for your Cfp is **1 March 2015**

Here you can read the full call:

<http://t2m.org/conferences/2015-caserta/>

Please contact Nathalie Wachotsch, T2M Executive Secretary, secretary@t2m.org

8 – 11 October 2015

Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Call for Papers and Sessions – Deadline **31 March 2015**

Formed in 1958, SHOT is an interdisciplinary and international organization concerned not only with the history of technological devices and processes but also with technology in history, the development of technology, and its relations with society and culture --that is, the relationship of technology to politics, economics, science, the arts, and the organization of production, and with the role it plays in the differentiation of individuals in society.

Accordingly, the Program Committee invites paper and session proposals on any topic in a broadly defined history of technology, including topics that push the boundaries of the discipline. The Committee welcomes proposals for individual papers or complete sessions from researchers at all levels. We also welcome proposals from all researchers, whether veterans or newcomers to SHOT's meetings, and regardless of primary discipline. Submitters are encouraged to propose sessions that include a diverse mix of participants: multinational origins, gender, graduate students and junior scholars with senior scholars, significantly diverse institutional affiliations, etc.

For the 2015 meeting the Program Committee welcomes proposals of three formats:

- 1-Individual papers
- 2-Sessions of 3 or 4 papers
- 3-Unconventional sessions

(Unconventional sessions have formats that diverge in useful ways from the typical 3 or 4 papers with comment, including round-table sessions and workshop-style sessions with pre-circulated papers.)

To submit a proposal, visit www.historyoftechnology.org and follow the links!

The deadline for proposals is 31 March 2015

NEW FEATURE FOR 2015: OPEN SESSIONS

This year the SHOT Program Committee inaugurated an Open Sessions process for the purpose of facilitating collaboration among scholars. Individuals interested in finding others to join panel sessions for the Annual Meeting proposed Open Sessions to the Program Committee in January.

To join a proposed panel from the Open Sessions list, contact the organizer for that panel, not the Program Committee. Open Session organizers will then assemble full panel sessions and submit them to the Program Committee by the end of the regular call for papers on March 31, 2015. The Program Committee will review the resulting Open Sessions panels for quality and adherence to SHOT standards of gender, geographic, and institutional diversity with an assumption of inclusion in the final Annual Meeting program.

The 15 approved Open Session descriptions are listed below; for more information on each of these sessions, including the contact information for each, please visit http://www.historyoftechnology.org/call_for_papers/index.html.

1-Legal Histories of Technology

Organizers: Meg Leta Jones, Georgetown University, USA
and Elana Zeide New York University, USA

2-Satellite Remote-sensing and Environment

Organizer: Gemma CIRAC CLAVERAS, Centre Alexandre Koyré, Paris.

3-Through the Looking Glass: Virtual Reality in Historical Perspective

Organizer: Alexander B. Magoun, IEEE History Center at Stevens Institute of Technology, USA

4-Digital Histories of Technology

Organizer: Finn Arne Jørgensen, Umeå University, Sweden

5-Machine Tools and Precision Mechanics: Reliability, Quality, Standard

Organizer: Nadège SOUGY, University of Neuchatel, Switzerland

6-Whose History? Museum Collections, Public Display and Interpreting the History of Technology.

Organizer: Tilly Blyth, Science Museum, London

7-"Copie Non Conforme": Places, Practices, and Politics of Illicit Reproduction in the 20th Century

Organizer: Ksenia Tatarchenko, NYU Shanghai, China

8-Nature Transformation and Technology

Organizer: Paul Josephson, Colby College, USA & Tomsk State University, Russia

9-Outside Technologies: Instruments and their Users in the Field Sciences

Organizer: Philipp N. Lehmann, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

10-Tinkering with Technology: Modification and Improvisation by User and Consumer

Organizer: Penelope Hardy, Johns Hopkins University, USA

11-Connecting Technology's Peripheries

Organizer: Joshua Grace, University of South Carolina, USA

12-A Vicious Cycle: Histories of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle

Organizer: Caroline R. Peyton, University of South Carolina, USA

13-Alternative Cultures/Alternative Technology: Conscious Construction of the Path Not Taken

Organizer: Pamela C. Edwards, Shepherd University, USA

14-Engineers, Technology, and Neoliberal Economic Doctrine and Practice

Organizer: Atsushi Akera, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA

15-Automation, Computerization, and Digital Manufacturing: The Past and the Future

Organizer: Ling-Fei Lin, Cornell University, USA

SHOT allows paper presentations at consecutive meetings but rejects submissions of papers that are substantially the same as previous accepted submissions. Submissions covering the same fundamental topic should explain the difference(s) with the prior presentation.

The Program Committee has established a Facebook page to facilitate collaboration in establishing sessions:

<https://www.facebook.com/login.php?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fgroups%2F679068282131880%2F>. Alternatively, postings to the sci-med-tech listserv (<http://www.h-net.org/~smt/>) can also facilitate collaboration and session-forming.

David Lucsko

Society for the History of Technology

IV. Recently Published Books

Mom, Gijs: Atlantic Automobilmism. Emergence and persistence of the car, 1895 – 1940.

Berghahn Books, New York/Oxford 2014.

Our continued use of the combustion engine car in the 21st century, despite many rational arguments against it, makes it more and more difficult to imagine that transport has a sustainable future. Offering a sweeping transatlantic perspective, this book explains the

current obsession with automobiles by delving deep into the motives of early car users. It provides a synthesis of our knowledge about the emergence and persistence of the car, using a broad range of material including novels, poems, films, and songs to unearth the desires that shaped our present "car society." Combining social, psychological, and structural explanations, the author concludes that the ability of cars to convey transcendental experience, especially for men, explains our attachment to the vehicle.

Mom, Gijs: *The Evolution of Automotive Technology. A Handbook.* SAE International, Warrendale 2015.

The book covers one and a quarter century of the automobile, conceived as a cultural history of its technology, aimed at engineering students and all those who wish to have a concise introduction into the basics of automotive technology and its long-term development. Gijs Mom offers a book that is systemic and includes the behavior of drivers, producers, nonusers, victims, and other "stakeholders" as well as the discourse around mobility.

Stranges, Anthony N. : *Technological Transformation of Gilded Age America.* Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, Dubuque, Iowa 2014.

The Author examines the technological transformation that occurred in the American steel, aluminum, petroleum, communication, and electrical industries in the last half of the nineteenth century. Significant technological development occurred at this time because the advances in nineteenth-century science enabled science to *catch up* to technology and provide a scientific explanation for the technological transformation that was occurring. The three themes discussed are the new technological developments and their impact on the United States, the organizers and the organizing techniques they employed which made the United States the leading industrial nation in 1900, and the environmental consequences that resulted from the Gilded Age technological transformation.

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

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