

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,

Our President Timo Myllyntaus invites you to participate in ICOHTEC's 42nd symposium in Tel Aviv. The organisers would like to remind you that the early registration for our Tel Aviv symposium ends on **15 June 2015**. Please find the details on the conference website: <http://icohtec-histelcon.tau.ac.il/index.php/icohtec/2015>

In order to prepare our symposium, I want to give the bibliography of books published by ICOHTEC members during 2013-2015 in the next issue of the ICOHTEC Newsletter. Would you please submit the bibliographical information and a short summary (3-5 lines) of your new books by **15 June 2015**?

Thank you and best wishes
Stefan Poser

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I. ICOHTEC – Greetings from the President

The general theme of our next symposium is *High Technology*, which has various connotations as a concept. This ambiguous term is generally connected to something extraordinary, overwhelming and dynamic but there is no universally accepted definition for it. Even if it were strictly defined at some time, that description would be outdated in a short time span because the definition of this phrase shifts over time. Consequently, Tel Aviv is an appropriate site for a conference examining *High Technology*, because as the city it has similar qualities like *High Tech*. Tel Aviv is the gem among Israeli cities, as a beach and boulevard city fulfils the requirement of standard tourists, it is the only big city in the country since roughly 3 million, that is more than half of Israel's 5.5 million inhabitants, are living in Greater Tel Aviv, and it is a dynamic and fairly new city – established little over a century ago.

In 1909 representatives of about hundred families were gathered in the nearly uninhabited dunes of the sea shore some kilometres north from ancient Jaffa to allot pieces of land for building houses by using mussel shells as lottery tickets. That was the modest way how Tel Aviv (meaning *Hill of the Spring*) was founded. The architectural ambition increased in the interwar period when Jews from the German Bauhaus School arrived to build the city in the International Style. As a result, Tel Aviv became the modern face of Israel and nowadays it is connected to inspiring cuisine, nightlife and culture – in general to things including new ideas on the stage of experimentation. Despite its image as a trendy modern city, Tel Aviv also have a surprisingly great number of museums.

ICOHTEC will held its 42nd Symposium together with IEEE HISTELCON. This joint conference will have a versatile programme, which is available on the website of the Conference (<http://icohtec-histelcon.tau.ac.il/index.php/icohtec/2015>). The event will start on Sunday 16 August with an inaugural session and the Kranzberg Lecture "Mentality or circumstance? The dilemmas of science-based industry in France, 1870-1920", which will be held by Professor Robert Fox, the Oxford University, UK.

Robert Fox is a famous historian of science and technology who have dealt with numerous issues in his publications; many of which are focused on the modernization of France. **He** has also had various positions of trust; for example in 2004 – 2006 he was president of the *European Society for the*

History of Science (ESHS). The aim of the ESHS is to promote the history of science, technology and medicine throughout Europe and connect the scholars of these fields from all over the world.

It is time for meeting commitments; do not forget that the early bird registration ends within two weeks – on Monday 15 June 2015. Book soon your flights and accommodation as well.

I look forward to meeting you all in Tel Aviv – בברכה (*baruh ha-ba*, welcome).

Timo Myllyntaus
President

II. Conference Announcements

4 June 2015

Modern Japan's Elites. Translators, Doctors, Engineers, and Architects. International Workshop
Paris

Please visit <http://www.reseau-asie.com/media3/conferences-debats/japan-s-modern-elites-translators-doctors-engin/>

26 – 27 June 2015

Ecological Networks and Transfers in Colonial Contexts, c. 1850-1920

Kassel University, Germany

Please find the program on: <http://www.hsozkult.de/event/id/termine-27923?title=ecological-networks-and-transfers-in-colonial-contexts-c-1850-1920&recno=2&q=history%20of%20technology&sort=newestPublished&fq=&total=37>

28 – 30 August 2015

Infrastrukturgeschichte / History of Infrastructure. Annual conference of the Georg-Agricola-Gesellschaft

Lauf Industrial Museum, Germany

Please find the program on: <http://www.georg-agricola-gesellschaft.de/?p=562>

Please contact Norbert Gilson, Aachen, gilson.histec@t-online.de

1 October 2015

Financial Development and Economic Growth in South-East Europe – a historical and comparative perspective

Universität Wien, Institut für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte; Österreichische Nationalbank, Vienna, Austria

CFP – Deadline **14 June 2015**

The relationship between finance and growth is an evergreen in economic history, at least since the seminal work of Alexander Gerschenkron. In particular, the role of the financial sector for growth and development of emerging countries has been in the focus of quantitative and qualitative research. The purpose of the 10th Conference of the SEEMHN

“Financial development and economic growth in South-East Europe – a historical and comparative perspective”

is to gather scholars working on financial development (e.g. development of banks, central banks and financial markets) and economic development (e.g. growth and structural change) in Southeastern Europe to get new, challenging and exciting insights into the links between the financial sector and the real economy. Quantitative and qualitative research as well as national case studies and cross-country comparative work can be presented at this conference.

The conference is being organized by the Oesterreichische Nationalbank and the University of Vienna, Department of Economic and Social History. The conference will take place at the Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Vienna, on October 1, 2015 and will be followed by a workshop on “The central bank balance sheet in a long-term perspective” on October 2 (see separate call for papers). Conference participants are invited to also attend the workshop.

Scholars interested in presenting new research at the conference are requested to send a one-page abstract and a short CV to seemhn2015@oenb.at by June 14, 2015. Accepted speakers will receive an invitation by June 26, 2015.

Selected papers of the conference will be published in a special issue of the Financial History Review (FHR) subject to fast-track review procedures. When submitting an abstract to the conference please indicate whether you would like to have your paper considered for the FHR. Papers submitted for the special issue shall be made available shortly after the conference.

Participants have to cover their costs of travel and accommodation.

It is also possible to attend the workshop as an observer only. If you wish to make use of this option we kindly request that you register your attendance, as the number of participants is limited.

Please contact Carsten Burhop, Universität Wien, Institut für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte, carsten.burhop@univie.ac.at

6 – 8 November 2015

Science and Technology Across Borders. CALL FOR PAPERS and POSTERS of the Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association

York University, Toronto

CFP – Deadline **30 June 2015**

The 2015 CSTHA biennial conference will be held November 6-8 at York University in Toronto. The Program Committee invites papers addressing this year's conference theme: "science and technology across borders." We also invite papers on all subjects relating to the history of science, technology, and medicine in Canada.

Science and technology have long been used to imagine, draw, enforce and naturalize borders of all kinds — between areas of knowledge, between subjects and objects, between nature and machine, between bodies and their environments, nations and regions. But over their history, those enterprises have also challenged and destabilized boundaries. From the Humboldtian sciences of the 19th century and the geophysical sciences of the Cold War, to nuclear proliferation, artificial intelligence and the hybrids of cybernetics, science and technology have repeatedly pointed to the instability and permeability of the very borders they help create.

We welcome proposals for both individual and thematic sessions, in English and/or French, on any topic related to the history of Canadian science and technology. We particularly encourage papers addressing this year's theme of "science and technology across borders." Topics may include, but are not limited to: cross-border exchanges and flows; infrastructure; nations, regions, and technoscientific systems; technological identities and sovereignties; quantification and its objects; and invisible boundaries and borders.

Individual proposals must include a title, an abstract of about 150 words, and a short résumé for the presenter(s). Session proposals must include a title, a brief summary of the theme, titles and abstracts for each paper, and a short résumé of each speaker. Posters can also be presented and will be available for the duration of the conference. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2015.

York University is Canada's third largest university. Located in the north of the City of Toronto, it is home to both undergraduate and graduate programs in Science and Technology Studies (sts.yorku.ca).

Please see <http://cstha-ahstc.ca/conference-colloque-2015/> for information on submitting papers or registration. Presenters at this conference must be members of CSTHA. To become a member or to renew your membership, visit <http://cstha-ahstc.ca/membership-adhesion/>.

If you have any questions, please email Dorotea Gucciardo, CSTHA Secretary, at conference@cstha-ahstc.ca.

December 2015

Workshop on British Industrial Research Before 1945

Science Museum, London

Dear Colleagues,

In December 2015 the Science Museum is planning a one day workshop on British industrial research before 1945. It would be very useful to know if you or a colleague would be interested in taking part. In particular doctoral students with related projects would be welcomed. This is part of an AHRC funded project and expenses would be paid.

So please contact me, Robert.bud@sciencemuseum.ac.uk, if you think you might be interested in taking part.

Dr Robert Bud, Research Keeper, The Science Museum, London

24 – 26 February 2016

The Crisis of the 14th Century: ‘Teleconnections’ between Environmental and Societal Change?

Deutsches Historisches Institut/Istituto Storico Germanico, Rome, Italy

CFP – Deadline **30 June 2015**

The first half of the 14th century, with its relatively rapid transition from the so-called Medieval Climate Anomaly to the so-called Little Ice Age, is the first time in history that a change from one climatic regime to another is assessable not primarily by scientific data only. At the same time, this climactic change can also be detected in comparatively good written records on meteorological and social phenomena of change. The idea of the ‘crisis of the 14th century’ is a well established interpretational pattern for numerous developments and problems of late medieval societies in Europe. However, this interpretation has been criticized as a contemporary projection of the crisis-ridden 20th century. Certainly the narrative of crisis does not apply to all developments after 1300, but if we focus on the natural framework of the time this might help sharpen our knowledge about the processes through which environmental change contributed to socio-economic crisis.

The increasing frequency of extreme natural events and their impact on societies is hard to deny: The first huge onslaught of plague, the Black Death of 1347-51, has always attracted the attention of research but the wet and cold years from 1345 onwards are yet to be analysed in detail. The interest in the “Great Famine” (1315-21), which is believed to have affected above all North-western Europe, has become stronger in the past few years. New fields of investigation are added to the analysis of epidemics and famines: There is emerging research on epizootics and flood events such as St. Mary Magdalene’s Flood of 1342, which led to massive erosion, or the ‘Grote Mandrenke’ storm surge of the year 1362 at the North Sea coast. At the same time counteractions of the affected societies can

be observed. These include the construction of embankments and dikes, grain provision and the organization of municipal health care. On the cognitive level, a newly awakened interest in reception and interpretation of meteorological phenomena by late medieval witnesses is clearly visible and is not limited to interpretations based on astro-meteorology and theology of punishment.

The conference will focus on the supposed climatic deterioration since 1300, discussing its presumed impact on economy and society, and the possibly related epidemic, cultural and political phenomena. In the context of this meeting, the meteorological term ‘teleconnections’ describes the occurrence of causal correlations between (not only geographically) distant areas: Here, we deal with the direct and indirect impact of meteorologically extreme events on medieval societies between 1280 and 1380. Geographically, the investigation will focus on not only the relatively well explored Northwestern Europe but the equally important areas of Southern and East-Central Europe. Additionally, a global perspective will be opened within the realms of possibility; thus proposals on the Byzantine and Muslim world as well as on China and India are very welcome.

We kindly ask you to hand in proposals for 30-minute presentations. The conference language will be English. Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words, along with a short CV, by 30 June 2015 to both Gerrit J. Schenk (Darmstadt University of Technology) at schenk@pg.tu-darmstadt.de and Martin Bauch (German Historical Institute Rome) at bauch@dhi-roma.it Accommodation during the conference and travel expenses will be covered.

Please contact Martin Bauch, Deutsches Historisches Institut, Rom, bauch@dhi-roma.it

11 – 12 March 2016

Consuming the World: Eating and Drinking in Culture, History, and Environment

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, Germany

CFP – Deadline **15 July 2015**

Conveners: Michelle Mart (Penn State University, Berks Campus), Daniel Philippon (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), Hanna Schösler (University of Bayreuth)

The Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, a joint initiative of LMU Munich and the Deutsches Museum in Munich, invites paper proposals for a conference on eating and drinking in culture, history, and environment.

The food that people produce and eat is perhaps the most basic expression of their culture and their relationship to the environment. What individuals consume is determined by the culture of which they are a part, and what groups of people consume is determined by the environment in which they live. But food is also a matter of choice: individuals and groups also consume food as expressions of cultural narratives and desires. Moreover, culture, environment, and consumption are in a dynamic relationship, shifting and evolving at different points in time and place.

This workshop aims to explore the connections between culture, history, and environment from an interdisciplinary and multicultural perspective. In particular, we wish to address the following questions:

- How have cultures modified their food traditions in response to changes in their local environmental conditions?
- How have food cultures, traditions, and imaginaries been shaped by a range of biosocial factors (not only race, class, gender, and religion, but also place, geography, and biology)?
- How have cultural concerns about local/organic/slow/fair/sustainable food driven, and been driven by, specific historical, ecological, and economic changes?
- How have cultural concerns about healthy food connected bodily health with environmental health?

Paper proposals of 1–2 pages should be sent by 15 July 2015 to conferences@rcc.lmu.de.

All participants are expected to provide a draft of their paper approximately eight weeks before the conference. We will circulate papers in advance and expect that participants will have read them before the event.

Please visit http://www.carsoncenter.uni-muenchen.de/events_conf_seminars/calendar/ws_food/index.html

Please contact the Events Coordinator, conferences@rcc.lmu.de

III. Call for Contributions

Public Works Historical Society – Essays in Public Works Call for Abstracts

The Public Works Historical Society publishes its popular Essays in Public Works History Series to provide a forum for historians and practitioners to publish articles on public works topics.

Eligibility

Completed manuscripts can be 50 to 100 pages in length. They should be well-documented, but not written exclusively for an academic audience. They should be original (i.e., not published before in full and final form). Preference is given for subjects that address events and people from North America. The series includes historical papers on a variety of public works topics, such as: planning and engineering; roads, streets and highways; waterways; sewer and wastewater treatment; public buildings; urban mass transportation; flood control and damage; military installations; energy and utilities.

Selection

Initial screening is provided by a professional historian that serves as editor for the journal series. Final selections are made by a committee comprised of members of the Society that includes both professional historians and public works practitioners.

Publication

The Essays in Public Works History Series is copyrighted by the Public Works Historical Society and is available for purchase through APWA as a not for profit project. Authors receive byline recognition for published essays, however the Society does not generally provide financial compensation for published material. Authors receive a nominal number of copies for promotional and personal use.

Submission

Potential authors should submit an abstract of no more than 300 words by July 17, 2015, to: Dr. Janet R. Bednarek, Department of History, University of Dayton, 300 College Park, Dayton, OH, 45469-1540 or jbednarek1@udayton.edu.

For additional information about the Society's Essays in Public Works History Series and a list of previous publications, contact Connie Hartline chartline@awpa.net.

IV. Summer Courses

14 – 17 July 2015

The Fundación Juanelo Turriano is organising a summer course entitled *De Re Metallica: engineering, iron and architecture*, to be delivered (in Spanish) at the Madrid School of Architecture from 14 to 17 July 2015. Participants will be eligible for extracurricular credits or one ECTS elective course credit toward their undergraduate degrees.

Please visit <http://www.juaneloturriano.com/>

V. Recently Published Books

Stranges, Anthony N.: Transforming America, Kendall Hunt Publishers, Dubuque 2014.

The book is a comprehensive survey of science in America from colonial times to the present.

VI. 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 form with a colleague who is not yet a member or ask your library to subscribe



Form for annual membership renewals / registration of new members

Annual membership includes subscription to ICOHTEC's refereed annual journal ICON, access to all back issues of ICON in electronic form via the ICOHTEC website, a monthly Newsletter, and special registration rates at the annual ICOHTEC symposium.

I wish to renew my membership / to become a new member in ICOHTEC. (Tick below the appropriate description/rate):

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Dr. Lars Bluma Otmarstrasse 5, D-45131 Essen, Germany.

After filling the form, please scan and send by email to Dr. Yoel Bergman, ICOHTEC Treasurer at yoelb@protalix.com or, send a hardcopy by regular mail to Yoel Bergman, 20 Haatzmaut St., Herzliya 46789, Israel. Your filled form will facilitate sending ICONs and allocating access privileges.