ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

Nº 125, September 2015

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

Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

This issue of the Newsletter gives a mixture of good and sad news. At first the sad one: Eva Vamos passed away. She was a very kind and helpful colleague, had been responsible for all Hungarian museums of science and technology and did a lot of work for ICOHTEC: top of all she invited ICOHTEC to hold it's symposium in Budapest in 1996 and organized the huge ICHSTM conference in Budapest in 2009. We will miss her!

The good news: our reviewed journal ICON is now available to JSTOR subscribers. On our last symposium in Tel Aviv, Karena Kalmbach was awarded with ICOHTEC's Book Prize and Stefan Krebs with the Maurice Daumas Prize for articles. The Newsletter gives the reports of the prize committees. It informs about the book, the article, and gives a short portrait of Stefan Krebs.

Best wishes
Stefan Poser

Contents

I. ICOHTEC

I.1 ICON is now on JSTOR

It has taken some two years, but at last *ICON* is now available to JSTOR subscribers. Volumes 1 (1995) through 19 (2013) are currently available. Our contract with JSTOR has a one-year delay, so volume 20:1 and 20:2 (2014) should be available by the end of this year. You can find *ICON* by going to http://www.jstor.org/journal/icon.

James Williams

I.2 Report of the Book Prize Committee to the Board of the International Committee for the History of Technology

The committee consisted of Peter Jakab, Klaus Stauberman, and David Zimmerman (Chair)

The prize was advertised in November 2014 in the same venues as the previous year. We received 4 entries, a number considerably lower than in past years. All the entries, however, were of high quality and worthy of consideration for the prize. The committee has unanimously chosen Karena Kalmbach's Meanings of a Disaster: The Contested 'Truth' about Chernobyl. British and French Chernobyl Debates and the Transnationality of Arguments and Actors, a dissertation completed in September 2014 at the European University Institute, Florence, Department of History and Civilization.

 Below is a summary of the committee's comments on the winning entry:

Kalmbach has done an excellent job of placing her research in the context of other scholarship and other disciplines that have addressed Chernobyl. She has also very carefully framed her questions and methodology. The committee appreciated her forthrightness about how she personally related to her research and conclusions, and how her discussion of this helps us to think about how we, those personally detached from the topic, might think about the issues. We thought these were admirable features of the work. It is well researched and she has organized her findings and arguments well. Our core evaluation of it was as a piece of sophisticated scholarship, which makes an important contribution to the history of technology.
As before, the other submissions will be summarized in the ICOHTEC newsletter. The authors' abstract is attached to this report.

David Zimmerman
Professor
University of Victoria

Meanings of a Disaster: The Contested 'Truth' about Chernobyl: British and French Chernobyl Debates and the Transnationality of Arguments and Actors.

Karena Kalmbach

Abstract

This thesis compares the French and British Chernobyl debates in the period between 1986 and 2006 and investigates the transnational debate on the health effects of this accident. While the exchange of actors and arguments has resulted in a rather congruent debate at the transnational level, the internal country debates on Chernobyl have remained very much bound by the national framework. This becomes particularly obvious in the comparison of the French and British Chernobyl debates, where multiple factors, specific to the national context, have shaped the different trajectories of the debates. In France, from the outset, Chernobyl was framed as a French debate, and placed into the context of the *nucléocratie.* In Britain, such an interpretative framework did not exist for the civil nuclear programme, since the predominant criticism against the nuclear enterprise had always been directed against the military complex and more focused on aspects of international relations than on the national nuclear energy complex. In Britain, therefore, Chernobyl was considered from a global perspective, whereas in France the focus was placed on the accident's impact at home. However, with the end of the Cold War and the British government's decision in the mid-1990s to no longer finance new nuclear power plants, anti-nuclear positions as such lost their impetus. Thus, few people in Britain were interested transforming the debate on the health impact of Chernobyl into a proxy war in the fight over the legitimacy of the civil nuclear enterprise, as was happening in France. Leaving this discursive and commemorative gap to the solidarity movement, in Britain, Chernobyl did not become an anti-nuclear *lieu de mémoire* as it did in France, but instead became associated primarily with charity activities for disabled or unprivileged children from Eastern Europe which effectively 'depoliticized' Chernobyl and separated it from the nuclear debate.

I.3 Report by the 2015 Committee for the Maurice Daumas Prize

2015 marks the fifth year of ICOHTEC's Maurice Daumas Article Prize. The committee awarded the prize this year to Stefan Krebs for his article, '"Dial-gauge versus Senses 1-0": German Car Mechanics and the Introduction of New Diagnostic Equipment 1950-1980'. It was published in *Technology and Culture* in April 2014 (Volume 55, Number 2, pp. 354-389). The winning article was one of 15 accepted entries. Of these one was in German and one was in Spanish, the remaining 13 were in English. Most did not deal explicitly with technology, but rather its social impact on (most notably) tourism, the environment, colonialism or memory. Several articles dealt with technology policy.

Krebs' work set itself off from the other submissions because it seriously explores embodied knowledge about a technology in use and makes an important case for the social importance and uses of this kind of knowledge. Krebs agrees with Kevin Borg that repair represents a "middle ground" between production and consumption and is therefore particularly deserving of study. The committee was particularly impressed by the article's strong philosophical framework, which was unique among the submissions.

The article has two parts: first Krebs establishes the importance of diagnostic listening as a skill cultivated by expert car mechanics, in the second part he talks about how social relations made the adoption of diagnostic tools in car repair in Germany more difficult and slower than in America in the 1950s. Using a transnational comparison, Krebs suggests that the different sociotechnical hierarchies in the field of car maintenance were crucial to the way in which diagnostic tools were adopted or resisted.

In explaining the fate of diagnostic tools among car mechanics, Krebs argues that the tacit knowledge of diagnostic listening was key not only to how car mechanics understood the technology of faulty cars but also to their social world: particularly in Germany, where the guild structure made social hierarchies among car mechanics more explicit and longer lasting, the skills of experts set them apart from apprentices in the field and thus preserved their social position. Because of this, Krebs argues, diagnostic tools could not be adopted by German mechanics until they were advertised not (as originally) as allowing semiskilled workers to do expert work (the computer gives an expert diagnosis), but as tools that needed expert training to be correctly used and understood. This crucial change was a result, he argues, both of experience with the tools in practice and of social pressure, and allowed German auto mechanics by the 1980s to make use of diagnostic instruments without the low status associations that were earlier implied by their use.

Krebs used an impressive variety of sources for his research including handbooks, trade journals and oral histories given by former car mechanics. These interviews clearly influenced Krebs' interpretation of his other sources, demonstrating nicely how studying a technology in use can paint a different picture from trade journals that tend to promote novelty. Many aspects of Krebs' article thus demonstrate important directions for research in the field.

Dr. Hermione Giffard, The Netherlands (Chair)
Professor Susan Schmidt Horning, USA
Dr. Andrew J. Butrica, USA
Professor Pierre Lamard, France
Dr. Stefan Poser, Germany

Stefan Krebs: Dial Gauge versus Senses 1-0": German Car Mechanics and the Introduction of New Diagnostic Equipment, 1950-1980, published in *Technology and Culture* 55 (April 2014), pp. 354-89.

Abstract

The article focuses on diagnostic practices of German car mechanics and their struggle with the introduction of new diagnostic devices. Automobile sounds contain information on the technical state of the car; these sounds can be used to monitor the car while driving, and, in case of a flaw, to diagnose its source. For German car mechanics listening to car sounds was, since the institutionalisation of the trade in the 1930s, a legitimate entrance to diagnostic knowledge. The introduction of new diagnostic equipment in the 1950s contested the epistemic status of diagnostic listening. Manufacturers and trade authors claimed that these new testing instruments alone gave objective measurements whereas old-fashioned bodily practices like diagnostic listening were too subjective and thus insufficient for automobile diagnostics. However, contesting the status of sensory diagnosis implicated the contestation of the car mechanics' sociotechnical position. This is

why German mechanics did not embrace diagnostic technology until the 1980s and continued to deploy their sensory skills when diagnosing malfunctions.

The Author: Stefan Krebs

Since April 2015, Stefan Krebs is post-doctoral researcher at the University of Luxembourg, his current research project is entitled *Failure and Success of Dummy Head Recording: An Innovation History of 3D Listening*. Stefan holds a PhD in the history of technology from RWTH Aachen University. Until August 2014, he was involved in the *Sonic Skills* project at Maastricht University (The Netherlands), where he did historical research on the listening practices of engineers, mechanics and skilled workers on the shop floor, especially in the car and paper industry. He is author of *Technikwissenschaft als soziale Praxis [Engineering Science as Social Practice]* (Franz Steiner Verlag, 2008), *„Sobbing, whining, rumbling": Listening to Automobiles as Social Practice* (Oxford Handbook of Sound Studies, 2011), and with Melissa Van Drie *The Art of Stethoscope Use: Diagnostic Listening Practices of Medical Physicians and "Auto Doctors"* (ICON, 2014). Together with Karin Bijsterveld, Eefje Cleophas and Gijs Mom he published *Sound and Safe: A History of Listening Behind the Wheel* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

The Book prize and the Maurice Daumas Prize are sponsored by the Fundación Juanelo Turriano and the Université de technologie Belfort-Montbéliard.

II. Conference Announcements

14 – 15 September 2015
Beyond Methods of Mining
Utrecht

The workshop seeks to explore how results of digital research should be used in historical research and to address questions about the validity of digitally mined evidence and its interpretation. In order to stimulate discussion on this subject we seek contributions that discuss how researchers can ensure the relevance of digitally mined evidence to larger historical questions and/or how digital history projects might be better integrated into the field of 'traditional' history scholarship. Thus we are not looking for discussions of the way that particular digital tools work, or how to visualize digitally produced data, but for discussions of how to effectively combine digital methods with established historical methods. Some discussion of methods is undoubtedly necessary, but each paper's focus should be on the analysis and use of results rather than solely on methods of text mining.

Organising institutions: University of Utrecht and University College London

Please visit http://asymenc.wp.hum.uu.nl/call-for-participation-beyond-methods-of-mining-14-15-september/

Please contact Tessa Hauswedell, University College London, t.hauswedell@ucl.ac.uk

27 February 2016

Du bist, was du nicht isst! Gesundheit und Ernährung seit 1850 / You Are, What You Arn't Eating! Health and Nutration since 1850s

Freie Universität Berlin

CFP – Deadline **30 September 2015**

Please visit: http://www.hsozkult.de/event/id/termine-28589

Please contact the organisers Veronika Settele (FU Berlin), veronika.settele@fu-berlin.de, and Norman Aselmeyer (EUI Florenz), Norman.Aselmeyer@fu-berlin.de

16 – 18 March 2016
Digital Editions: Academia, Society, Cultural Heritage. DiXiT Convention
Cologne, Germany
CFP – Deadline **16 October 2015**

The Cologne Center for eHumanities is organizing the second DiXiT convention, taking place 16-18 March 2015 in Cologne, Germany. The conference will be preceded by a day dedicated to workshops on:

* Publishing Models for Digital Scholarly Editions
* Aggregation of Digital Cultural Content and Metadata Mapping
* XML-Free Scholarly Editing

The convention organizers invite contributions from everyone working in the field of scholarly editing and its neighbouring areas. Early career scholars are welcome.

I. Topics

While the convention is open to any research about digital scholarly editing, the focus will be on its relation to academia, society and cultural heritage. As such, topics for the sessions may especially include:

* textual criticism and the future of the high standard critical edition
* open/public knowledge: mutual benefit for academia & society
* social editing, crowdsourcing, citizen science
* issues of rights and ethics related to scholarly editions
* scholarly curation and usage of cultural heritage data
* museums, libraries & archives as data providers for the edition

* dissemination, sustainability and addressability of digital heritage assets
* publishing the edition and the role of publishers
* editors and the job market: career prospects
* and others

We encourage exploratory papers and posters.

II. Submissions

We invite proposals for papers and posters.

We ask those interested in presenting a paper or poster to email their proposal to dixit-info@uni-koeln.de.

Every announcement can be found on the DiXiT website: http://dixit.uni-koeln.de/.

Please contact: Franz Fischer, CCeH, Universität zu Köln, franz.fischer@uni-koeln.de

11 – 13 April 2016
Images and Texts in Medical History: A Workshop in Methods, Tools, and Data from the Digital Humanities
National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland
CFP – Deadline **30 September 2015**

Images and Texts in Medical History: A Workshop in Methods, Tools, and Data from the Digital Humanities seeks applications from historians and librarians interested in applying digital humanities tools to researching the history of medicine. Designed to encourage collaborative learning and innovative approaches, this free workshop will provide participants with a deeper appreciation of innovative methods and data sources useful for analyzing images and texts in the field of medical history. The workshop will take place at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, on April 11-13, 2016. The workshop is a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Humanities Office of Digital Humanities, the Wellcome Trust, the U.S. National Library of Medicine, and Virginia Tech. All participants must apply to be invited to attend.
Information about presenters, location, partner institutions, applications, and schedule is available from the website: http://medicalhistworkshop.org/

III. Call for Articles

Contributions to "Scanning Our Past"

Proceedings of the IEEE is pleased to announce a Call for Papers for its "Scanning Our Past" feature.

About *Proceedings of the IEEE:* For over 100 years, *Proceedings of the IEEE* has been the leading journal for engineers looking for in-depth tutorial, survey, and review coverage of the technical developments that shape our world. Offering practical, fully referenced articles, Proceedings of the IEEE serves as a bridge to help readers understand important technologies in the areas of electrical engineering and computer science. *Proceedings of the IEEE* is one of the most highly cited journals in these areas.

To learn more, please visit the journal's website at: www.ieee.org/proceedings

About the Scanning Our Past feature: The Scanning Our Past feature, which appears in every issue of the Proceedings, includes history-based articles featuring people and technologies related to electrical engineering and computer science. The articles are usually 3,000 to 4,500 words long. Topics should be of sufficient general interest and must be related to electrical engineering and computer science. Illustrations, graphics, and images are welcome.

Submissions will be peer reviewed. Accepted submissions will be published in our print issue and online in IEEE Xplore at: ieee.org/ieeexplore.

Titles of a few past articles are included below.

- Connecting Computers with Robert Kahn
- The First Man-Made Memristor: Circa 1801
- There, and back again: How Adolf Goetzberger got to Solar Energy
- Manhattan Electric Power Distribution, 1881-1901
- Thelma Estrin and the Origins of Biomedical Computing
- Lasers
- Remembering Jan Rajchman and the Origins of Electronic Memory
- Rise and Fall of Minicomputers

Submission Guidelines: Please submit the article in either Word or LaTeX to the Proceedings of the IEEE Editorial Office at: proceedings@ieee.org. There is no specific format to follow. If accepted, the article will be typeset using the house style at the expense of the publication.

Graphics Submission: IEEE accepts PostScript (PS), Encapsulated PostScript (EPS), Portable Document Format (PDF), Portable Network Graphics (PNG), or Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) for graphics submission. Only when the graphic was originally drawn in the program, is it acceptable to submit Microsoft Office Documents (DOC, PPT, XLS). The minimum resolution is 300dpi. Authors are responsible for obtaining permissions from copyright holders for reproducing any illustrations, tables, or figures.

For questions, please contact:

Vaishali Damle   Alexander B. Magoun, Ph.D., Outreach Historian

Managing Editor
Proceedings of the IEEE
445 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854 USA
E-mail: v.damle@ieee.org

IEEE History Center
at Stevens Institute of Technology
Samuel C. Williams Library 3rd Floor
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5991, USA
Email: a.b.magoun@ieee.org

Jahrbuch Technikphilosophie, ed. by Gerhard Gamm, Petra Gehring, Andreas Kaminski, Alfred Nordmann, and Christoph Hubig
Deadline for working title and abstract **1 October 2015**
Deadline for contributions **15 January 2016**

The Jahrbuch Technikphilosophie / Yearbook of the Philosophy of Technology invites to submit contributions on the topic technisches Nichtwissen / missing technical knowledge.

Please visit http://jtphil.de

Please contact Alexander Friedrich, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Institut für Philosophie, friedrich@phil.tu-darmstadt.de

IV. Scholarships

Scholar-in-Residence-Program of the Deutsches Museum
Deadline of application **16 October 2015**

The Deutsches Museum in Munich has several attractive scholarships to offer research scholars interested in working for six or 12 months on projects involving the museum`s vast and heterogeneous collections. The scholarship programme is international and interdisciplinary in scope.
There are myriad opportunities at the Deutsches Museum for innovative research into scientific processes and the changing cultures of technology. Founded in 1903, the museum's holdings comprise some 100,000 objects; an <u>archive</u> of 4,500 shelf metres including an extensive collection of scientific photographs, technical illustrations, trade literature and private papers; and a specialist <u>research library</u> with 875,000 volumes, 5,000 journals, and an extensive collection of rare books on the history of science and technology. The museum's collections have evolved over the years, absorbing the instruments, books and archives of individual scientists and engineers as well as of companies and scientific institutions, and reflect bygone experimental systems and cultures of innovation. The unique structure of this collection enables scholars to develop innovative cross-disciplinary methods of research on the basis of texts, images and artefacts available on site and to engage in both the historical and archaeological exploration of science and technology.

Applicants are invited to base their projects on the collections of the Deutsches Museum and to

cooperate closely with museum staff on site when formulating their research proposals. Projects involving innovative approaches to artefact-oriented research are especially welcome.

During their stay, visiting scholars will have daily contact with the museum´s curators, archivists and librarians (approx. 50 staff members) as well as members of the <u>Münchner Zentrum für Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte</u> (Munich Center for the History of Science and Technology; approx. 50 staff members).

Scholarship holders will have their own workplace with a desktop computer and telephone, and the opportunity to reside temporarily in subsidized apartments of the museum complex insofar as these are available. They will present their research projects to colleagues at the beginning of their stay and will be expected to participate regularly in the museum's and the Munich Centre's Monday colloquium series and workshops.

Pre-doctoral stipends: € 7,500 (six months) / € 15,000 (full year). Post-doctoral stipends: € 15,000 (six months) / € 30,000 (full year). Scholars at any level of seniority are eligible to apply, provided they have at least one university degree. There are no restrictions regarding nationality. All scholars are requested to make their own provisions for health insurance.

Please send applications, including:

- completed application form (<u>pdf-file</u>, 20 kB or <u>rtf-file</u> 60 kB)

- curriculum vitae

- project description (3 to 5 pages)

- two confidential references (can be sent directly by the referees)

to the following address:

Andrea Walther
Coordinator of the Research Institute
Deutsches Museum
80306 Munich
Tel.: 00 49 (0) 89 2179-280
Fax: 00 49 (0) 89 2179-239
<u>a.walther</u>@<u>deutsches-museum.de</u>

Please visit <u>http://www.deutsches-museum.de/forschung/scholar-in-residence/</u>
Detailed information available upon request:
Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Vaupel, <u>e.vaupel@deutsches-museum.de</u>

V. Recently Published Books

Anthony N. Stranges: Science Changed the World, pp. xxvi +761, Kendall Hunt Publishers, Dubuque, IA 2015.

This is an introductory survey of the history of science from ancient times to the present.

VI. Join ICOHTEC

An ICOHTEC membership makes you a member of the scholarly network of the UNESO-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

ICOHTEC
International Committee for the History of Technology

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):

□ An individual. Rate: (40 $ or 30 € or equivalent) per year

□ A student. Rate: (40 $ or 30 € or equivalent for two years)

□ An institution. Rate: (100 $ or 75 € or equivalent) per year

□ A library. Rate: (Europe: 36 €, Oversees 39 € or 52 $) per year

Tick the years of membership to be paid: □ 2014 □ 2015 □ 2016 □ 2017

I submit the total amount: _____ €/$

Your first name and surname: _____

Email: _____

Postal address: _____

Country: _____

Tick the method of your payment:

□ Through the PayPal option on ICOHTEC website

□ Through international money transfer: Make international money transfer to:

   "ICOHTEC" at Commerzbank Bochum (Husemannplatz 3-4, D-44787 Bochum, Germany):
   IBAN: DE44 4304 0036 0390 2590 00; BIC: COBADEFFXXX

□ Through a cheque. Send the check with the appropriate sum made out to "ICOHTEC" and send to:
   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.