

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

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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,

We received 240 proposals for our 43rd ICOHTEC Symposium in Porto 2016; now our Program Committee has a good work load.

There was a chance to extend the deadline of the call for papers for **ICOHTEC's 44th meeting in Rio de Janeiro** (23 – 29 July 2017) again; thus we did. It is **15 March 2016** now. Timo Myllyntaus invites to participate in his session *West ↔ East Transfer of Technology during the Cold War*; the deadline is **8 March 2016**. There are many other session proposals for this conference, which were published in the last editions of the ICOHTEC Newsletter and on our website. Their deadlines are extended to **8 March** or **14 March 2016**. Please find more information about the conference, the session proposals and the link to ICOHTEC's submission system on <http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-2017.html>

Best wishes
Stefan Poser

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I. ICOHTEC

West ↔ East Transfer of Technology during the Cold War Session proposal for the 44th ICOHTEC Symposium in Rio 2017

Session organizer: Timo Myllyntaus, University of Turku, Finland

Deadline: **8 March 2016**

The history of transferring knowledge and technology between East and West, socialist and capitalist, big and small states has attracted many researchers. Current historiography proposes new sources and approaches studying various forms of transfer on different levels, emphasizing not only conventional trade flows from West to East, but vice versa as well as other more or less unofficial forms of technology mobility. They include communication between scientists, attending exhibitions and conferences as well as copying patented innovations and industrial espionage among other channels of transfer, which demonstrate the permeability of geographical, state, cultural, political, social, and institutional borders. This permeability was also attested during the Cold War, results of which demonstrate the significance of East and West transfers and as Karen Freeze puts it in her article on Czechoslovak theatre technologies and their move westward: “we may conclude that the Iron Curtain was more permeable than previously thought”. Consequently, technology transfer opens a wide and challenging field of research. Apart explaining movement and exchange of technologies, transfers explicate social, political and cultural transformations they entail and serve for. They also help explain communication of different actors on governmental, institutional, company and individual levels.

Following this wide meaning of technology transfers between East and West our session proposal contains empirically based and conceptually solid contributions to the symposium’s subtheme *Moving and removing technology: Territorial movements of technology and technological knowledge*. Although much good research on the topic has already been done, there are still many grey areas in this large field. Historiography on transfers still requires more case studies, in particular on small Eastern and Central European countries, involving

more areas and focuses in order to develop better comprehension of how soft and hard technologies cross borders, how they influence those who were engaged in transfer, what role did the transfer play in social change and other transformations.

Propositions for papers including an abstract of 200 – 300 words and a one-page CV should be submitted by March 8, 2016. The abstract and CV should be sent via e-mail to timmyl@utu.fi

For more information about the Congress of ICOHTEC and ICHST, please, consult the websites <http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-2017.html> and <http://www.ichst2017.sbhc.org.br/>.

II. Conference Announcements

30 September – 2 October 2016

Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, & Science. WHEATS 2016

Rutgers University, Department of History
New Brunswick, New Jersey

CFP – Deadline **15 April 2016**

The Department of History at Rutgers University is pleased to be hosting the annual WHEATS meeting in Fall 2016. Now in its twelfth year, the Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science (WHEATS) brings together graduate students and recent PhDs studying the history of the environment, agriculture, science, and/or technology. WHEATS is open to submissions from any discipline with interests in these fields. Papers—generally 25 to 30 pages—are circulated in advance to all participants. During the workshop, papers receive individual feedback from participants and senior scholars through roundtable discussion. This format is well suited for works in progress, including articles and dissertation chapters. The workshop will include a session on publishing and provide opportunities for participants to engage with students and faculty affiliated with the Science, Technology, Environment, and Health program in the Department of History at Rutgers. Food and housing (two nights) will be provided for the duration of the conference, and presenters will receive a travel grant of up to \$300 to help cover their travel to New Brunswick.

Potential participants should submit a one-page abstract (up to 250 words) and a brief curriculum vitae by April 15, 2016. Applicants will be notified of acceptance by May 15th,

and completed papers from accepted applicants will be due for pre-circulation on August 15. Please send all submission materials to wheats@history.rutgers.edu.

Please visit our website www.wheats2016.wordpress.com

For further information, please contact Rachel Bunker, rbunker@history.rutgers.edu

6 – 8 October 2016

European Network of River Museums. Meeting 2016

Duisburg, Germany

In May 2014 the European Network of River Museums was founded in Gdańsk. The second meeting was held in Lauenburg/Elbe in June 2015. You are cordially invited to the third meeting in Duisburg from 6th to 8th October 2016. Please save the date! One of the topics – maybe the main topic - will be the exchange of data between the river museums in Europe concerning their inventory (e.g. literature, .paintings, models). This is also a call for participation. Please send us your proposals of discussion. We would be grateful if you would give us a commitment of your appearance. We very much look forward to hearing from you and remain with kind regards

Dr. Bernhard Weber, Leiter des Museums der Deutschen Binnenschifffahrt in Duisburg

Dr. Jerzy Litwin, Director of the National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk

Please contact info@binnenschifffahrtsmuseum.de

6 – 8 October 2016

The post-socialist street: rising car mobility in comparative perspective.

Regensburg, Germany

CFP – Deadline **24 March 2016**

International workshop organized by Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings (Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies, University of Regensburg) and Dr. Tauri Tuvikene (Centre for Landscape and Culture, Tallinn University; visiting researcher at Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography).

Life on city streets has always enjoyed great interest amongst scholars, philosophers, and artists. Rightly so, as the urban street triggers unexpected and unpredictable encounters: the urban social fabric is, as it were, woven by people moving around, accompanied by others or transporting stuff from A to B, on foot, using animal power or public transport, or vehicles

such as bicycles, cars, trucks, and buses. Yet, where these various forms and modes of mobility meet, there is inevitably 'friction', resulting from differences in speed, weight, maneuverability and symbolic value of the vehicles used (see for example Henderson 2013; Katz 1999; Truitt 2008). Hence the street does not only facilitate movement (Blomley 2011), it is also a site of multiple colliding mobilities that need to be negotiated and regulated. Despite the global spread of street signs, traffic regulations, and engineered devices, traffic often 'looks' and 'feels' very different in cities around the world (Edensor, 2004; Miller, 2001). These differences are due to the variety of conditions: the cultural environment and the geographic terrain or climate, the quality of roads and the composition and density of the built environment, the vehicles used and the regulations imposed by authorities, the urban demography in terms of ethnicity and class, and the social and cultural perceptions towards various modes of mobility.

For this workshop we propose to reflect on traffic interaction and street life in post-socialist central and eastern Europe, as 'friction' has been particularly intense here due to the sudden and explosive rise of car ownership and car mobility after 1989. Here, but also in other (still) socialist countries such as China, political changes have led to radical transformations in the way people move around, as former 'socialist' modes of mobility such as public transport and bicycles have been marginalized and replaced by a culture of privately owned cars. The sudden rise in car mobility in these (former) socialist countries is still an underexplored topic, especially when it comes to understanding the social and cultural aspects of these transformations in the everyday life of post-socialist cities (Burrell and Hörschelmann, 2014; Siegelbaum, 2011). This workshop therefore seeks to advance our empirical and conceptual understanding of the post-socialist street.

The discussion is framed around two related phenomena: how the post-socialist street is the site of an unrivalled growth in car mobility but is also becoming the venue of renewed political engagements, where claims to shared public spaces and visions for urban futures are again articulated and contested against the background of the recent socialist past. Seen the large Critical Mass cycle protests in Budapest, Bucharest and other east European cities, the demand for alternative and more sustainable forms of mobility is on the rise, as it has been for some time already in traditional car dominated countries such as the USA, Germany, and Japan. The analysis and comparison of these transformations, interactions, intersections, and political engagements with regard to (car) mobility in post-socialist contexts, is what this workshop tries to achieve.

Three keynote speakers with strong expertise in the rise of car mobility in the 'traditional' car (and car producing) countries USA, Germany, and Japan will offer the historical and comparative framework needed: these countries had their own specific trajectories in terms of introducing, accommodating and domesticating cars in society and in public spaces. Accepted keynote speakers are Kurt Möser (Karsruhe Institute of Technology) discussing

Germany, Peter Norton (University of Virginia) the US and Joshua H. Roth (Mount Holyoke College, US) Japan. Following the keynote lectures we will extend the discussion around these specific historical cases to the post-socialist context.

The workshop seeks to address the following issues but is not limited to these: interaction in public spaces and on streets and conflicts between road users; the negotiation and regulation of differential speeds and flows; official and informal approaches to mobility and immobility, mooring and fixity; cultural perceptions of 'order' and 'chaos' in traffic; social identity and inequality in traffic; socialist and national path-dependencies of current traffic conditions; political and media discourses and their role in changing the parameters of public space and traffic interaction; the promotion and regulation of car ownership and mobility through legal provisions and forms of law enforcement; etc.

The workshop is open to scholars at all stages of career and we would encourage junior researchers to apply. We still have some places available in the workshop. If you are interested in participating, please send us an abstract of 250 words outlining your proposed paper and a short biography of maximum 150 words. Please send it to both Ger Duijzings (ger.duijzings@ur.de) and Tauri Tuvikene (taurituvikene@gmail.com) and also include your contact details and affiliation. The deadline for abstract submission is Thursday, 24 March 2016. We are happy to cover economy travel and accommodation costs for the selected workshop participants.

References

- Blomley, N. (2011) *Rights of Passage: Sidewalks and the Regulation of Public Flow* (Abingdon: Routledge).
- Burrell, K. & Hörschelmann, K. (Eds.) (2014) *Mobilities in Socialist and Post-Socialist States: Societies on the Move* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan).
- Edensor, T. (2004) Automobility and National Identity. *Representation, Geography and Driving Practice. Theory, Culture & Society*, 21(4–5), 101–120.
- Henderson, J. (2013) *Street Fight: The Politics of Mobility in San Francisco*. (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press).
- Katz, J. (1999) *How Emotions Work* (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press).
- Miller, D. (Ed.) (2001) *Car Cultures* (Oxford, New York: Berg).
- Siegelbaum, L. H. (Ed.) (2011) *The Socialist Car: Automobility in the Eastern Bloc* (Ithaca & London: Cornell University Press).
- Truitt, A. (2008) On the back of a motorbike: Middle-class mobility in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. *American Ethnologist*, 35(1), 3–19.

27 – 30 October 2016

Mobilities: Space of Flow and Friction. T2M Mexico City 2016 Conference

Mexico City

CFP–Deadline **18 March 2016**

Reminder: The International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T²M) invites proposals for panels and papers to be presented at our 14th Annual Conference to be held in Mexico City, October 27th-30th, 2016. Please find three calls for sessions below.

Please visit <http://www.t2m.org>

Please contact Julia Hildebrand, T2M Secretary, secretary@t2m.org

27 – 30 October 2016

The Price of the Mobilities: Transport rates and Transport costs (18-20th centuries)

Session proposal – 14th T²M Annual Conference in Mexico City

CFP – Deadline **14 March 2016**

In recent year renewed attention has been paid to the transport prices and their role in promoting economic growth and the increase of the mobilities. The price of the distance is now a standard variable in most new economic geography models to understand how location choices and trade dynamics may be affected. Nowadays a fundamental feature is to determine in what extent and under which conditions transport pricing may be effective in reducing polluting transports and in promoting sustainable ones. If the environmental concerns have become crucial, one of the main challenge was for a long time to lower transport prices to serve economic end. Economic historians have documented how technological changes (the railways and the steam navigation) led to substantial reductions in shipping costs allowing the global economy to disperse. It was presumed that large investments in improving road infrastructure would reduce transport prices. The objective of this session is to examine, identify and assess the main determinants of transport prices and their incidence of the traffic. Understanding the changes in transportation prices turns out to be very complex. Traditionally the friction of distance is considered as a determinant variable. The rates are affected by others factors (the choice between transport modes, the relative speed of locomotion, the role of technical innovations, the structure of the transport supply, the levels of competition between service providers...). In addition what are the policy options for addressing the external costs, as the wear and tear of the thoroughfares, to the freight haulers, the shippers or the consumers? It depend also if they are fixed by a

political decision or are subject to a competitive pressure for freight transportation and many forms of passenger. If it is important to understand the significant explanatory variables in prices formation, it should be also explored how the transport prices determine the areas of transit and the scope of the mobilities.

Proposals on one or more of the following topics will be strongly encouraged :

- Various transport-pricing policies
- Variations with speed and time
- Acceptability of transport pricing
- Pricing system (tariff equalization or marginal cost pricing)
- Measurement of the transport prices in long term
- Impact on the market areas and the scope of the mobilities at different scales
- Factors of concentration or dispersion
- The relative productivity of the transport means

We especially encourage transnational, comparative and interdisciplinary approaches, and welcome proposals exploring theoretical or methodological issues as well as those of a more empirical nature. We invite recent entrants to the profession and graduate students to submit proposals.

Proposals for papers should include the title, the author's name and affiliation, a brief abstract (no more than 500 words) and a short biography, and be sent to anne.conchon@univ-paris1.fr by 14 March 2016.

27 – 30 October 2016

Narcomobility, Transportation & Crime

Session proposal – 14th T²M Annual Conference in Mexico City

CFP – Deadline **14 March 2016**

Panel organizer: Victor Marquez

From a historical point of view, one of the most intriguing aspects of transportation technologies is the way they have been adapted by users in order to create, reform and rethink new machines that solve specific problems of society. In this same line of analysis, but from the standpoint of social anthropology and S&TS, the fact that users tinker so much with "designed artifacts" only evidences the strong forces of socio-human interaction in the production of what we now call technological. Users will play out these "intervened devices" in obscure worlds in where actors and context are hard to identify and understand. The interests of actors that perform these modifications is so wide and multilayered, that deeper

hypothesis about the complex, inner-mechanisms of a networked society that is triggering them, are certainly necessary.

Among many possible scenarios, it is perhaps within the world of illegality where these theories may become more visible. Delinquents and terrorists (and the gradient within) are eventually forced to face established degrees of order that oblige them to think counterclockwise. Is the inventive of resistance the logic behind criminal creativity?

This panel sought for papers, research or any academic work analyzing the relationship between activities such as drug trafficking, illegal immigration, fraud, smuggling, guerrilla, organized crime, gang activity, kidnapping or arm trafficking, hijacking and terrorism. Along history unlawful acts have been facilitated, related or performed by transportation devices. These technologies often have been tinkered, adapted or modified in order to counter react against the forces of order. Often too, utilitarian technologies have been turned as deadly weapons of all sorts.

In specific we are looking for those unique ways delinquents have seen, used and modified transportation devices in history; we are interested in papers that wish to explore the relationship between transportation and crime, but at the same time also wish to theorize about the causality and consequence of the larger social constructions that lay behind.

Details and Submissions

We sought for transnational and interdisciplinary approaches, and welcome proposals exploring theoretical or methodological issues as well as those of a more empirical nature. We invite recent entrants to the profession and graduate students to submit proposals.

Proposals for papers should include the title, the author's name and affiliation, a brief abstract (no more than 500 words) and a short biography, and be sent to vom2@cornell.edu by 14 March 2016.

27 – 30 October 2016

Trans-border Mobilities. Rethinking past, present and future regions and nations.

Session proposal – 14th T²M Annual Conference in Mexico City

CFP – Deadline **16 March 2016**

The emergence of the Nation-state in the second half on the 19th century was a major shift in political relations between states. States involved the establishment and maintenance of borders, police power, laws and the management of economic, social and cultural lives. Since then the flow or the restriction of it through borders varied regarding the type of

mobility and it was shaped by the political context. The last decades of the 20th century regional integration experiences (NAFTA, EU, MERCOSUR) emerged questioning the bond between State and sovereignty.

As a general characteristic, commercial, touristic, migration and local flows of mobility cross borders. However, the circulation of people was handled different from the flow of goods and capital. These mobilities are not only multiscale but also multipurpose; they involve social inequities and redefine network geographies. Moreover, in the last two decades socio-space transformations have proven the existence of new power relations; mobilities of capital are redefining the relation between governments and civil societies, States and citizens and the networks they were contained.

More and better studies on borders and cities are needed to explore how flows are interrelated, creating complex networks of neighbors, works, traders and tourist, as well as "illegal" mobilities. Also, more attention is needed to be paid to the existence of global mobilities of capital and good throughout the borders. Those flows of mobilities pose several questions around the meaning of traditional borders and sovereignty.

In short, trans-border mobilities involve a wide range of topics such as transport infrastructure, different (legal, illegal, uneven) practices of crossing borders, the tension between regulation policies and the real politics of controlling and surveying the borders. We propose to encourage the discuss through the following questions: 1) which public and private actors are involved in trans-border mobilities, which are their dynamics and how do they relate to transport infrastructure; 2) which are the local, national and regional impacts of this kind of mobilities; and 3) how do trans-border mobilities affect the understating and practices of borders.

Please send abstracts for this panel to alejandrascovan@gmail.com by March 16, 2016.

11 – 12 November 2016

**Annual Conference of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (HSTM) Network
Ireland in Association with Celsius**

Dublin City University, Ireland

CFP – Deadline **17 April 2016**

HSTM Network Ireland and Celsius will host this year's conference at Dublin City University, on 11 and 12 November, 2016. Professor Peter Bowler will deliver the keynote address entitled 'Prophets of Progress? Predicting the future of science and technology from H. G. Wells to Isaac Asimov'. The meeting will bring together researchers across disciplines in the sciences, humanities and social sciences. We welcome proposals of papers addressing

Science, Technology and Medicine in the context of history, society, culture, ethics or the law. Papers do not necessarily need to be historical nor do they need to have Ireland as their subject. Proposals of thematic sessions and roundtables are also welcome. Individual papers will be twenty minutes in duration, with an additional ten minutes for questions and answers. To propose a paper please send a 200 word abstract by email to hstmnetworkireland@gmail.com with the subject line 'Conference abstract'. Session proposals should include a short abstract on the session as a whole as well as paper abstracts (c. 100 words). The deadline for abstracts is Monday, 17 April, 2016.

Further details of the conference can be found at the HSTM Network Ireland website (<http://hstmnetworkireland.org/>)

Please contact Adrian James Kirwan, Department of History, Maynooth University, Irish Research Council, Adrian.Kirwan@nuim.ie

III. Call for Contributions

Industrial architectural heritage. Special issue of the journal *Cuaderno de Notas*

The deadline for submitting papers is **15 April 2016**

The forthcoming issue of the journal *Cuaderno de Notas*, published by the Madrid School of Architecture's (ETSAM) Composition Department, will be devoted entirely to the industrial architectural heritage.

Please visit http://composicion.aq.upm.es/webcnotas/index_en.html

IV. Miscellaneous

Humanities Open Book Project of the Society for the History of Technology, SHOT, and the American Council of Learned Societies, ACLS

Deadline 1 May 2016

SHOT has teamed up with the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) to help promote the ACLS's Humanities Open Book Project. The **ACLS is seeking nominations of out-of-print books** for possible inclusion in the project, with a deadline of May 1.

The Humanities Open Book project is an opportunity for scholarly authors to reach new audiences through the electronic publication of previously published works no longer in

print. The project, sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, will offer a set of open access titles. The ACLS Humanities E-Book collection has joined with this effort and invites scholarly authors who have retained or regained the publication rights to their titles to propose their inclusion in this new national collection.

The new project focuses on out-of-print works as "a huge, mostly untapped resource of remarkable scholarship going back decades that is largely unused by today's scholars, teachers, students, and members of the public, many of whom turn first to the Internet when looking for information. The Humanities Open Book pilot grant program aims to "unlock" these books by republishing them as high-quality electronic books that anyone in the world can download and read on computers, tablets, or mobile phones at no charge." ACLS has partnered with SHOT to alert the Society's members to the opportunity to have their out-of-print works republished as part of a signal national initiative to widen the circulation of humanities scholarship. You can learn more about the Humanities Open Book initiative at <http://www.neh.gov/news/press-release/2015-12-17>.

ACLS Humanities E-Book (HEB) is one of ten publishers and aggregators selected to build the Humanities Open Book list. HEB is an online collection of approximately 4,000 books of high quality in the humanities, accessible through institutional and individual subscription. These titles are offered by the ACLS in collaboration with thirty-one learned societies, over 100 contributing publishers, and the Michigan Publishing division at the University of Michigan Library. HEB is the only publishing program maintained by ACLS on a continuing basis in-house. This project is distinctive in being a digital collection selected by scholars, not publishers.

While most of the HEB collection is available through subscribing college and university libraries, the titles selected for Humanities Open Book will be made available on an open access basis. Authors who have retained or regained rights to their publications will sign a non-exclusive agreement with ACLS that will include the provisions of one of two Creative Commons licenses: "Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (BY-NC-SA) and "Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (BY-NC-ND)". Both licenses protect the integrity and recognition of their works.

ACLS will carry out the conversion of print titles to Epub formatting, place the new works in both the HEB and HOB collections, and publicize their availability.

Authors interested in this opportunity should consult

<http://www.humanitiesebook.org/news-blog/HOB.html>, where can be found a list of FAQs and a questionnaire regarding the candidate title.

Nominations should be sent to HEBHOB@hebook.org by May 1. ACLS will consult with a SHOT committee and a panel of ACLS reviewers in the selection of titles for inclusion.

V. Recently Published Books

Shifrin, Malcolm: Victorian Turkish Baths. Historic England, Swindon 2015.

The author gives a material-related history of Victorian Turkish baths. He focusses on architecture, technology and the social life in these bathes.

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):

- 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 €, Overseas 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: _____

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Tick the method of your payment:

- Through the PayPal option on ICOHTEC website
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“ICOHTEC” at Commerzbank Bochum (Husemannplatz 3-4, D-44787 Bochum, Germany):
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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.