# 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 joint meeting of TICCIH, work lab, and ICOHTEC in Tampere will be attended by 330 participants (plus accompanying persons) from 40 countries. In total 270 presentations will be delivered in 70 sessions. Please find the final program and an electronic version of the book of abstracts on the conference main website <a href="http://www.tampere.fi/industrialpast2010/">http://www.tampere.fi/industrialpast2010/</a>

In order to inform the members about the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) and the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC) the Newsletter publishes short articles about both societies.

You might be interested to know about the development of the history of technology in Finland. Thus the newsletter offers a bibliography of Finnish books and articles in the history of technology, assembled by the *Finnish Society for the History of Technology*. In 2007 Timo Myllyntaus, Tiina Männistö, and Riikka Jalonen (University of Turku) published a report about the development of the history of technology in Finland in the ICOHTEC Newsletter; it is available on our website: <a href="http://www.icohtec.org/publications-reports.html">http://www.icohtec.org/publications-reports.html</a>. A brand new article on this subject will be included in the Tampere conference bags: the journal *Tekniikan Waiheita*, *Finnish Quarterly for the History of Technology*, has published a special issue 2/2010 under the title: "Finnish Research on the History of Technology". It includes an article

by Petri Paju on "The Finnish Society for the History Technology and its journal Tekniikan Waiheita: Milestones, 1980-2010", pp. 5-11.

The conference report of this newsletter is dedicated to a topic which was discussed on ICOHTEC meetings since many years: music, sound and technology. The conference "Hearing Modern History: Auditory Cultures in the 19th and 20th Century" took place at Berlin Free University in June.

It will be a pleasure to meet you in Tampere!
Best wishes
Yours Stefan Poser

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## I. What is the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, TICCIH?

The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, TICCIH, is an international society dedicated to the study of industrial archaeology and the protection, promotion and interpretation of the industrial heritage. It is ICOMOS' scientific committee for industrial heritage.

TICCHI's period of interest extends forward from the start of the Industrial Revolution and generally includes the material remains of industry - industrial sites, buildings and architecture, plant, machinery and equipment - as well as housing, industrial settlements, industrial landscapes, products and processes, and documentation of the industrial society. Members of TICCIH come from all over the world and include historians, conservators, museum curators, researchers, students, teachers, heritage professionals and anyone with an interest in the development of industry and industrial society.

TICCIH was founded after the *First International Conference for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage* in Ironbridge, England, in 1973. It holds a triennial conference of which

that in Italy in 2006 is the thirteenth. It is organized through a Board and the President who are chosen by the National Representatives of the various national committees or associated societies. It has both individual members and national societies such as the North American Society for Industrial Archaeology (SIA), the French Comité d'information et de liaison pour l'archéologie, l'étude et la mise en valeur du patrimoine industriel (CILAC) or the British Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA). Members receive the quarterly *TICCIH Bulletin* and a discount for the twice yearly journal *Patrimonie de l'industrial Patrimony*. TICCIH has been ICOMOS's specialist adviser on industrial heritage since 2000 and assesses industrial sites for the World Heritage List.

For more information please visit TICCIH's homepage <a href="http://www.mnactec.cat/ticcih/">http://www.mnactec.cat/ticcih/</a>

## II. What is the International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC?

In the turbulent year of 1968 ICOHTEC was founded to pursue primarily two tasks. The first task has been to promote research, teaching and publishing in the field of the history of technology and particularly to gain deeper understanding on the interaction of society and technology. The second task has been to encourage and increase international discussion on the history of technology, especially between countries with different kinds of political systems and divergent historical experiences. These are still relevant objectives even today, although 'iron curtains' or other barriers of the Cold War are no longer preventing the exchange of information between East and West. However, even globally historians of technology are such a small group that they have difficulties in keeping contacts with their scattered colleagues and pick up relevant data from the huge flow of information that is now buzzing round the world.

ICOHTEC spreads the word about the discipline, because the history of technology is not very well known by the general public. ICOHTEC has various advantages in order to serve as a vanguard in informing the public and students of various disciplines what the historians of technology are actually doing and what they are aiming at. The openness and flexibility of ICOHTEC give the organisation a chance to provide forums to fresh ideas and approaches as well as to novel tracks of research. Accepting the diversity of research has been one of ICOHTEC's founding premises. The diversity of approaches, methods and research themes is another advantage of our organisation.

ICOHTEC was founded as an international organisation, and it has grown from the West-East détente cooperator to an independent global actor with several international functions. This genuine international character is certainly one of ICOHTEC's strengths: no single country dominates it. In this respect it is unique in its field.

From its very beginning, ICOHTEC has been based on institutionalised transnational interface. Already in the early years, it gained a position as a Scientific Section within the Division of the History of Science of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST /DHST). It still has interaction with this UNESCO related network, which provides huge opportunities for contacts, information and activities. All of them have been necessary for developing ICOHTEC's transnational cooperation.

For decades the main activity of ICOHTEC has been organising its renowned symposia, which have taken place almost every year. They have been successful and able to attract new and loyal members. The attendance in these meetings has varied between 80 and 400 during the past three decades. All five continents are represented in our membership, while countries industrialised before 1939 constitute the overwhelming majority.

For a long time, ICOHTEC has been based mainly on individual membership, although it has institutional members as well. Annual subscription is 40\$ or 30€ for individuals and 100\$ or 75€ for institutions. Subscription includes the Newsletter on our website (12 volumes per annum) and the ICOHTEC's refereed year-book ICON, which is published as a printed volume of about 200 pages once a year and contains mainly, but not exclusively, revised versions of papers given at ICOHTEC symposia.

Forty years ago ICOHTEC was established to build bridges between the East and West. Still it is important to encourage the historians of technology in Eastern Europe and Asia, and support their work, participation in international meetings and cooperation with Western colleagues. Yet, in this globalised world we need contacts also with other continents – Americas, Africa and Australia – because we are interested in the history of technology of all continents.

ICOHTEC continues to be a forum for discussing the topics in the history of technology. In addition, it also hopes to devote special attention to the discussion of present-day problems of technology and their relationship to socio-economic, political, environmental, and cultural issues.

For more information please visit ICOHTEC's homepage http://www.icohtec.org/index.html.

## III. Bibliography of Finnish Histories of Technology

Tekniikan historian seura / The Finnish Society for the History of Technology / Teknikhistoriska Samfundet

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## IV. Conference Reports

## Hearing Modern History: Auditory Cultures in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Berlin Free University, June 2010, organised by Daniel Morat

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Proceedings of "Hearing Modern History," the 9th annual Blankensee Conference of the Berlin Wissenschaftskolleg, were occasionally interrupted by vuvuzela blasts coming through the open windows of the seminar rooms. Whether received as irony or irritant, this unignorable noise – then at the height of its prominence, early in the 2010 World Cup – neatly highlighted sound's place in the perceptual weave of everyday life and within broader social and cultural contexts. As a single 120-decibel note, or a low drone temporarily estranging media-aesthetic conventions, the vuvuzela's plastic Ur-honk is first and foremost a densely material sound, but it is more than simply an acoustic phenomenon. Impossible without contemporary modes of manufacture and distribution, the vuvuzela quickly became part of emergent practices of "public viewing." Its use and reception – both positive and negative – are informed on one level by fans' longing for sentimental experience, on another by notions of alterity and authenticity, on yet another by shrewd commercial calculation. (For FIFA, the vuvuzela sounded the coming of a provincialized Europe.) In other words, the vuvuzela is also and always already a historical phenomenon. The fact that it is a passing fad, intriguing in its global reach but likely soon forgotten, in no way lessens this historicity.

An appropriate accompaniment, thus, for a conference on the history and historiography of sound, which sought to connect recent interdisciplinary sound research with more established historical analyses and narratives. In his opening remarks, conference organizer DANIEL MORAT (Berlin) outlined the achievements and the limits of two decades of inquiry into "auditory culture." Alluding to tensions and disconnections between mainstream historiography and the diffuse field of "sound studies," he suggested that some investigations of listening practices, soundscapes and acoustic dispositives had suffered from a lack of historical perspective, inadequately connecting their objects to broader society-wide processes. That said, however, historians of sound could learn from methods of reconstruction and analysis in neighboring disciplines, whether media studies, musicology or cultural studies. Ultimately, a more thorough integration of sound into accounts of modernity and modernization could go beyond a sensory thickening of historical analysis, offering fresh perspectives and questions. Hence the main focus of "Hearing Modern History" was on the fifty years around 1900, a medial and sonic "Sattelzeit" characterized by new auditory technologies, the transformation of the urban soundscape and the emergence of new modes of listening in war, entertainment, science and medicine.

Opening the conference, WOLFGANG ERNST (Berlin) energetically took up the fundamental question of sound's historicity, arguing for an archaeology rather than a history of sound. He insisted that in many respects sound – heard, recorded or transmitted – was radically

ahistorical; its specificity could not be captured and subsumed by the logocentrism of traditional narrative historiography. Serious engagement with "the sonic" – sound as sound and sound as time – could open up access to a plurality of non-narrative temporalities, beyond history-writing's reliance on Gutenberg-era structures of printed language and narrative contextualization. Perhaps unsurprisingly, some of the historians present responded with reservations on this point, stressing the cultural context of sound's perception, production and consumption, and suggesting that sound history, as any other, should guard against the persistent chimera of unmediated access to the past.

In contrast to Ernst's pointed intervention, both HOLGER SCHULZE (Berlin) and MARK M. SMITH (South Carolina) stepped back to survey the existing field, highlighting theoretical lacunae and methodological problems. In a paper rich in conceptual coinages and compelling examples, Schulze reflected on fundamental questions of sound studies, interrogating its objects and methods and its epistemological and social function. Recent work on sound practices, he claimed, should be praised for its predominantly materialist and culturalist analyses. This body of work provided ballast against recurring idealist notions of sound as dematerialized, ahistorical or "angelic."

Where Schulze referred to work in media and cultural sciences, Smith's keynote address focused on the historiography of sound in a more narrow disciplinary sense. Extending the genealogy of sense-historiography further back than in most accounts, Smith located the roots of today's "historical acoustemology" in the Annales school and the classics of 1960s social history: their perspectives from below and their thickening of the web of social description, he claimed, had paved the way for a subsequent historiography of the senses. Turning to the present and future, he characterized the historical study of sound as both a field (specialized sound-historical research) and a habit (non-specialists paying attention to questions of sound). The true impact of sound- and sense-historiography, according to Smith, is increasingly to be found in textbooks, mainstream histories, and popular museum practice. This issue of museum sound was widely taken up in the subsequent discussion (appropriately, given the location in Berlin's highly mediatized Museum of Communication), raising questions of authenticity claims, acoustic architecture and the ethics of contextualization.

After the opening discussions of theory and discipline-formation, subsequent panels presented a series of detailed local studies. KARIN BIJSTERVELD (Maastricht) reported on the collaborative research program "Soundscapes of the Urban Past: Staged Sound as Mediated Cultural Heritage," an analysis of the staging and inscription of urban sound in historical documents and artistic works. Outlining a subsection of this program, ANNELIES JACOBS (Maastricht) pointed to one example of Dutch sonic specificity. Analyzing a broad range of Second World War diaries, she showed how the striking silence of wartime Amsterdam was integrated into a broader cultural-semiotic constellation, incorporating resistance, national identity and (de-)modernization.

In his comparative historical study of concert listening, SVEN OLIVER MÜLLER (Berlin) addressed a well-known but still startling transformation: the rapid nineteenth-century change in the behavior of audiences, who went, in the space of two or three decades, from unruly, noisy and interruptive to reverent, concentrated and silent. Comparing the experience in various European cities, Müller revealed patterns of transnational influence, uneven development and class antagonism underlying this radical change. Taking the question of urban specificity into the present day, PHILIP V. BOHLMAN (Chicago), LARS-CHRISTIAN KOCH (Berlin) and SEBASTIAN KLOTZ (Leipzig) used a series of analytical snapshots to introduce an ambitious project mapping sound's role in contemporary urban life. They focused in the first instance on Berlin, Chicago and Kolkota, cities where music and sound are key sites of negotiation in the formation of urban identities.

After soundscapes and cultural identity, a series of papers addressed the history of science and media. ANTHONY ENNS's (Dalhousie) study of early telephonic experiments centered on Alexander Graham Bell's use of dismembered human ears as the basis for prototypical telephones. Framed by theories of mediated perception (from McLuhan to Crary and Kittler), Enns' paper impressively marshaled a wide range of historical detail, from patent applications and legal disputes to the "Human Telephone," a vagabond vaudevillean with a telephone receiver permanently attached to his head. Staying with the late nineteenth century, ALEXANDRA HUI's (Mississippi State) paper addressed notions of "musical competence." She traced the recurrence of this topos across more than one context, showing how it connected German psycho-physiological debates with the critic Eduard Hanslick's polemics against cultural, sound-environmental and psycho-perceptual degradation, which he attributed to the turn-of-the-century "piano epidemic."

The papers of STEFAN GAUSZ (Berlin) and CHRISTINE EHARDT (Vienna) examined the intersection of sound, technology and material culture in the first decades of sound's technical reproducibility. Refusing the term "technological media" as theoretically problematic, Gauß sought to redescribe the early history of the phonograph and gramophone – which he called "phonoobjects" – in terminology drawn from recent cultural theories of objects and things. Focusing on the lesser-known Austrian context, Ehardt's cultural history of the early auditory headset traced the device from live opera transmissions at Vienna's 1883 International Electricity Exhibition – when it was known as the "Telephonhaube" – to the iconography of headphones in the context of early radio.

Referring to sound theorist Douglas Kahn's concept of "worldly sound," CAROLYN BIRDSALL (Amsterdam) examined renderings of the urban soundscape in interwar radio productions and early sound film documentary. In close readings of works including Walter Ruttmann's early sound film "Melodie der Welt," she demonstrated the tension between the use of documentary sound material and the metaphysical imaginary of a "global soundscape." In the same period, but with an emphasis on listening rather than sound, AXEL VOLMAR (Siegen) sketched an archaeology of early radio listening, arguing that modes of mid-1920s wireless listening represented a continuation of the acute acoustic attention of wartime experience, and – more distantly – of medical auscultation. JOHN M. PICKER (MIT)

likewise honed in on the cultural significance of the stethoscope. Mapping late-Victorian culture's modes of audition via close readings of literary texts and early phonographic performances, he suggested that a new and intense acoustic-haptic perception, first appearing with the stethoscope, ultimately underlay broader cultural anxieties about noise, technology and the disembodiment of the voice.

JAMES MANSELL's (Manchester) impressive paper blended intellectual and cultural history to investigate how noise and sound were lent cultural significance in early twentieth century Britain. Sound was a key trope, Mansell argued, in conceptions of the self, as well as in the formation of identities of place, nation and faith. Addressing the esoteric sound-philosophy of the Theosophical Society, he plotted its surprising cultural impact in best-selling self-help manuals, but also less directly in the musical commemoration of the Great War. Theosophy, he indicated, formed part of a third, dialectical standpoint towards sound and modernity, existing alongside futurist celebrations of noise and culture-critical animus against the din of the modern.

Reflecting the recent prominence of art-as-research, the conference's closing session took an alternative format, supplementing scholarly approaches with the work of broadcasters and artists. UTA KORNMEIER's and GABY HARTEL's (Berlin) sound documentary work used interviews and field recordings to reflect on London's auditory psychogeography. In a local context, VALERIA MERLINI and OLAF SCHÄFER (Berlin) presented an experimental rescoring of Ruttmann's 1927 film "Berlin: Die Sinfonie der Großstadt." The new version juxtaposed Weimar-era images with contemporary Berlin street noise, posing questions, not least, of the changing nature of ambient urban sound.

Introducing the concluding discussion, VEIT ERLMANN (Austin) again reflected on the wider state of sound studies, contextualizing the conference — with its emphasis on North Atlantic modernity — in terms of wider issues and global networks of sound scholarship. Much remained to be done, Erlmann suggested, sketching a future agenda and diagnosing blind spots in the study of auditory cultures. He pointed out, for example, the need for more transnational analysis, as well as for sustained theoretical and methodological reflection. In other words: there is more to learn about sound and its history, although it remains an open question whether the discussion will primarily take place — to borrow Mark Smith's terms — as a diffuse habit or within a discrete field.

See: Hearing Modern History: Auditory Cultures in the 19th and 20th *Century.* 17.06.2010-19.06.2010, Berlin, in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 13.07.2010, <a href="http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3196">http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3196</a>.

#### V. Conference Announcements

#### 22 October 2010

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Plains Radio History Symposium

CFP - Deadline 18 August 2010

A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Manhattan

This year's symposium will present a special plenary session on an important feature in the development of rural Midwestern radio: the radio homemaker. It will also feature a tribute to Richard "Dick" Ward Fatherley, former Storz Broadcasting program executive and co-founder of the Great Plains Radio History Symposium, who died on March 8, 2010 at the age of 69.

As in past years, we're looking forward to presentations from a mix of academic scholars and broadcast professionals, sharing their research into the history of radio in the Great Plains region. This year, the submission deadline of proposed presentations/papers will be Wednesday, Aug. 18. Acceptance notices will be distributed by Wednesday, Sept. 8. Each presentation should run about 25 minutes, including a few minutes for questions and comments.

Please address presentation proposals, questions and comments to:
Steve Smethers, Associate Director, <a href="mailto:smethers@ksu.edu">smethers@ksu.edu</a>, or Kristin Copeland, Admin. Asst., <a href="mailto:kmc6644@ksu.edu">kmc6644@ksu.edu</a>; A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Manhattan.

### 3 - 5 March 2011

### Technotopologien - räumliche Perspektiven und Praktiken

DFG-Graduiertenkolleg ,Topologie der Technik' TU Darmstadt, Germany

CFP - Deadline 15 October 2010

The conference of the interdisciplinary DFG Graduate School 'Topology of Technology' is dedicated to interdependencies of technology and space.

Please visit <a href="http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com">http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com</a> content&task=view&id=96

Please contact Julika Griem, Institut für Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft TU Darmstadt griem@linglit.tu-darmstadt.de and

Dieter Schott, Institut für Geschichte, TU Darmstadt, schott@pg.tu-darmstadt.de

### 3 - 4 March 2011

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on path dependence

Freie Universität Berlin School of Business and Economics CFP – Deadline 15 November 2010

The theory of path dependence is attracting increasing attention. A considerable number of scholars have been using the theory for the study of historical imprints, escalating dynamics and organizational inertia in different fields and on different levels. The conference is organized by the Path Dependence Research Centre (Pfadkolleg) of the *Freie Universität Berlin*. It aims at providing a platform for the discussion of most recent path-related research. The discussions are expected to focus on issues of extending path theory as well as studies of path-dependent phenomena. Conceptual as well as empirical papers from different fields are welcome: organization theory, organizational behaviour, strategic management, human resource management, marketing, innovation and entrepreneurship. Apart from the field of business studies, the organizers encourage contributions from related disciplines, such as economics, geography, sociology or business history.

The organizers invite you to submit a paper to the conference. Papers are due by November 15, 2010. Please email your submission to <a href="mailto:pfadkolleg@wiwiss.fu-berlin.de">pfadkolleg@wiwiss.fu-berlin.de</a>. Please submit a full paper of a maximum of 9000 words, including an abstract of 200 words.

Conference Organizers: Georg Schreyögg, Freie Universität Berlin Albrecht Söllner, Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt /Oder Jörg Sydow, Freie Universität Berlin

For further practicalities and additional information please visit <a href="http://www.pfadkolleg.de">http://www.pfadkolleg.de</a> or send us an e-mail: pfadkolleg@wiwiss.fu-berlin.de

31 March 1 April 2011
Leisure, Pleasure and the Urban Spectacle. Urban History Group
Annual Conference
Robinson College, University of Cambridge, UK
CFP – Deadline 29 October 2010

This conference theme broadly explores the pursuit of "pleasure" in the context of the history of towns and cities. The conference organisers are interested in investigating the significance of specifically urban forms of pleasure and leisure for understanding the historical dynamics of social, economic and cultural relationships. Towns and cities have historically offered an array of pleasures to cater for ever larger concentrations of people. The types of leisure activities available to urban populations have never remained static; indeed, changing social and economic conditions have transformed popular leisure patterns over time as well as across urban space. The pursuit of pleasure, both licit and illicit, has adapted with the changing relationship between work and leisure. As working hours became increasingly rigid

during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, so too did leisure time. The lack of free time was further exacerbated by growing pressures on land use. Thus, the pursuit of pleasure was increasingly set aside for specific buildings (inns, brothels, theatres, music halls and, more recently, fitness centres) or clearly delineated spaces (botanical gardens, public parks, public walks, gated communities and even the internet) where access could, in theory, be carefully managed. Cities, seaside towns and holiday resorts were also developed to specifically cater for a variety of tastes and pleasures. Once it was recognised that there was money to be made out of the pursuit of pleasure, cities became intertwined with the business of leisure and began to market themselves as centres of tourism, heritage and culture.

Some issues that the conference seeks to consider include:

- What do we understand by the terms 'pleasure' and 'leisure' in an urban context?
- How has the pursuit of pleasure differed between towns and cities, across national borders and over time?
- How has leisure been regulated, managed and delivered to urban citizens? How has regulation and service delivery differed between public and private authorities?
- How has urban pleasure been produced, marketed and consumed?
- How has this changed in light of the rise of mass tourism and the heritage industry?
- What is the relationship between leisure and place identity?
- In what ways have specific leisure activities (organised sport, for example) strengthened local identities where others might have weakened them?
- How have urban identities been conditioned by their relationship with defined pleasurable spaces and/or communities?
- To what extent has access to these spaces led to the exclusion of particular social groups or minorities?
- What contribution has the business of pleasure made to the spectacle of urban modernity?
- In what ways can the pursuit of pleasure be theorised in an urban historical context?
- How has urban leisure been represented culturally (through literature, film, television, etc.)?
- Has this influenced the diffusion of specific types of leisure internationally?

The conference committee invites proposals for individual papers as well as for individual sessions of up to three papers. Sessions that seek to draw comparisons across one or more countries, or open up new vistas for original research, are particularly encouraged. Abstracts of up to 500 words, including a title, name, affiliation and contact details should be submitted to the honorary conference organiser and should indicate clearly how the content of the paper addresses the conference theme outlined above. Those wishing to propose sessions should provide a brief statement that identifies the ways in which the session will address the conference theme, a list of speakers and paper abstracts. The final deadline for proposals for sessions and papers is 29 October 2010.

In addition, the conference will again host its new researchers' forum. This is aimed primarily at those who are at an early stage in a research project and who wish primarily to discuss ideas rather than present findings. New and current postgraduates working on topics unrelated to the main theme, as well as those just embarking on new research, are particularly encouraged to submit short papers for this forum.

Graduate students can obtain a bursary to offset some of the expenses associated with attending the conference. Please send an e-mail application to Prof. Richard Rodger at Richard.Rodger@ed.ac.uk and ask your PhD supervisor to also send a message confirming your status as a registered PhD student. The Urban History Group would like to acknowledge the Economic History Society for its support for these bursaries.

Please visit <a href="http://www.history.ac.uk/news/2010-06-23/call-papers-urban-history-group-annual-conference-leisure-pleasure-and-urban-spectac">http://www.history.ac.uk/news/2010-06-23/call-papers-urban-history-group-annual-conference-leisure-pleasure-and-urban-spectac</a>

For further details please contact:

Shane Ewen (hon. conference organiser) School of Cultural Studies, Leeds Metropolitan University, <u>s.ewen@leedsmet.ac.uk</u> and

Rebecca Madgin, Urban Studies Research Fellow, Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow, r.madgin@lbss.gla.ac.uk.

#### 31 March – 1 April 2011

Chemical Weather and Chemical Climate: Body, Place, Planet in Historical Perspective. Gordon Cain Conference on the history of atmospheric chemistry Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia, PA CFP – Deadline 1 November 2010

The atmosphere is as intimate and personal as a breath of air; it also manifests in particular ways in particular locales and as global phenomena with international social, political, and economic dimensions. The phrase "chemical weather" invokes the temporal and spatial variability and complexity of atmospheric chemical processes. Air quality forecasts indicating expected levels of pollutants such as smog, ozone, pollen, and suspended particulate matter are one example of this; etiological studies of air pollution and health are another; military and security concerns over poison gas and aerosol attacks represent yet a third area of focus. "Chemical climate" refers to large scale and long-term interactions also known as biogeo-chemical cycles, their changes, and their social import.

The 2011 Gordon Cain Conference seeks papers and posters that present original research, examine historiographical issues, and/or pursue historical syntheses in the field of atmospheric chemistry (broadly defined). Special consideration will be given to contributions addressing issues of scale—for example lungs, locales, and trans-boundary issues—and exploring interdisciplinary perspectives involving literature, art, architecture, and related

fields. Papers may also involve case studies of chemical industries, governance, regulation, and litigation. Presenters are encouraged to emphasize the social relevance of their research and to communicate the results of their research in forms accessible to the interested public.

The conference is planned for 30 participants, including approximately 12 paper writers and an equal number of commentators. Papers will be pre-circulated. At the conference, each paper will be introduced by a commentator and discussed with the author in a 45-minute session. Proposals for 90-minute thematic panels involving two or three presenters are also welcome. The first session is scheduled for early afternoon on Thursday, March 31. This will be followed by a keynote address and public reception where research posters will be on display. Paper sessions continue Friday, April 1, with the posters discussed mid-day and a final session ending by 6:00 pm. Participants, including selected poster presenters, will be asked to revise their contributions for possible publication.

Students and scholars from all nations and at all stages of their careers are encouraged to apply. Travel, accommodation, and meals for participants will be arranged by CHF. Please send your paper or poster title, abstract of 250 words or less, and a 2-page c.v. to James R. Fleming, STS Program, Colby College, Waterville, Maine, USA, <a href="mailto:jfleming@colby.edu">jfleming@colby.edu</a>.

#### 26-27 April 2011

**Key Moments in Human Space Flight 1961 – 1981**NASA History Division and the National Air and Space Museum
CFP – Deadline **15 October 2010** 

The NASA History Division and the National Air and Space Museum's Division of Space History invite proposals for presentations to be held at its joint symposium, "1961/1981: Key Moments in Human Spaceflight," at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., on 26-27 April 2011. This symposium reflects on 50 years of human spaceflight using these two key dates in time as an entrée for broader investigation and insight. The symposium coincides with four significant anniversaries in the history of human spaceflight: Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's inaugural human orbit of the Earth on 12 April 1961; the U.S.'s first human spaceflight with American astronaut Alan Shepard on 5 May 1961; the announcement on 25 May 1961 of the U.S. decision to go to the Moon by the end of the decade; and the Space Shuttle's first flight into orbit on 12 April 1981. All four events resulted from a unique set of ideas, circumstances, and geopolitics which established a trajectory for future human operations in space. Although there will be a few invited speakers, most presentations will result from responses to the call for papers.

Accordingly, scholars from all disciplines, fields, and subject areas are invited to propose individual papers on aspects of the 1961/1981 theme. We especially invite graduate students and scholars newly entering the study of the history of spaceflight. The symposium will focus on new analytical insights and fresh scholarly analyses from a variety of social science and humanistic perspectives. Individual presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes each and

grouped by the conference organizers into thematically coherent panels that leave ample time for audience discussion.

Key questions of special interest to the symposium's organizers include the following:

- What were the political, economic, social, and cultural factors that help explain the situation concerning human spaceflight in 1961? In 1981?
- What did it mean to be an astronaut or a cosmonaut in 1961, in 1981, and how has this changed over time from social, cultural, transnational, and institutional perspectives?
- What geopolitical factors have affected the manner in which various nations have approached the issue of human spaceflight?
- What does it mean for nations to be part of an elite "club" of human spacefarers?
- What goals in human spaceflight existed at various moments in the history of the space age? Have these changed over time and why?
- How might transnational historical themes, rather than nationalist perspectives, be deployed to understand these moments in time?
- What cultural influences (such as fiction, advertising, literature, art, music, labor movements, and globalism) help to explain these experiences?
- What technological developments drove the seizing of the two moments in 1961 and 1981to take human spaceflight in directions not achievable before?
- How have national approaches been different from each other in terms of their treatment of launch vehicles, human factors in space, selection and training of astronauts, cultural treatment of astronauts, and the like?
- What are the social, cultural, and political ramifications of these 1961/1981 moments in time and the place of fifty years of human spaceflight?
- What is the legacy of human spaceflight?
- What new insights might we explore about the different approaches that the U.S., the U.S.S.R./Russia, and China have taken to human spaceflight?
- What have we learned about national space agencies versus transnational consortia such as the European Space Agency versus private sector investment in human spaceflight capabilities?

Proposals may address any area of human spaceflight history related to the 1961/1981 theme. Proposals should be relatively brief (1-2 page abstracts would be fine) and should include a c.v. Proposals are due by 15 October 2010, with a decision made about selection for presentation by 31 December 2010.

Please send proposals to: Roger D. Launius and Steve Garber, <u>launiusr@si.edu</u> and Stephan J. Garber, <u>stephen.j.garber@nasa.gov</u>.

31 May – 4 June 2011 Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting Falmouth Jamaica CFP – Deadline 13 September 2010 The Vernacular Architecture Forum invites paper proposals for its Annual Meeting in Falmouth Jamaica May 31 – June 4, 2011. Papers may address vernacular and everyday buildings, sites, or cultural landscapes worldwide. Submissions on all vernacular topics are welcome, but we encourage papers that explore topics related to the conference themes of heritage tourism as the new colonialism; climate and vernacular design; creolization, hybridity, acculturation and other models for cultural engagement; and race, slavery, and place. Papers should be twenty-minutes in length, although proposals for complete sessions, roundtable discussions, or other innovative means that facilitate scholarly discourse are also welcome.

Proposals must be one-page, fewer than 400 words, and include paper title, author's name, and email address. Please state clearly the argument of the paper and explain the methodology and content. Papers should be theoretical or analytical in nature, rather than descriptive. Attach a one-page CV to your proposal submission. The deadline for proposals is September 13, 2010.

Presenters must deliver their papers in person and be VAF members at the time of the conference. Speakers who do not register for the conference by April 1, 2010 will be withdrawn. Please do not submit an abstract if you are not committed to attending the papers session on June 4. Presenter Fellowships to offset registration costs are available to students and recent graduates. For more information on Presenter Fellowships see <a href="http://www.vafweb.org/awards/presenter.html">http://www.vafweb.org/awards/presenter.html</a>.

Electronic submissions of proposals and CVs in Word format are preferred. Please send email proposals to Andrew Dolkart, Columbia University School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, at <a href="mailto:assd3@columbia.edu">assd3@columbia.edu</a>.

A word about the cost of the Jamaica conference. The cost of this conference will be similar to that of recent VAF conferences. Registration will be \$150, with the Friday tour and an optional Sunday tour costing \$125 each. The conference will be held at a resort costing approximately \$450.00 for five nights, including all meals, drinks, and resort activities. Check for airfares flying into Montego Bay (do NOT fly into Kingston).

For general information about the Jamaica meeting contact Louis Nelson at <a href="mailto:ln6n@virginia.edu">ln6n@virginia.edu</a> or <a href="mmc@gwu.edu">mmc@gwu.edu</a>.

## 11 – 14 August, 2011

Call for papers for a half-day session at the 27th Congress of Nordic Historians in Tromsø, Norway:

Flows of Food, Folk, and Thought: Environmental Histories of the Nordic Countries CFP – Deadline 1 September 2010

Situated at the Northern edge of the world, the environment has posed unique challenges to the Nordic countries throughout history. The session takes environmental historian William Cronon's hinterland concept as its starting point. He used the concept to demonstrate how a metropolis like Chicago included ever larger areas in its influence, gathering resources and exerting change on the environment of these areas. The Nordic countries do not possess the same gravity, yet they are also intimately connected to areas and environments across the globe. Rather than a model with the Nordic countries either in the center or in the hinterland, we understand these countries to be nodes in an ever-changing network.

We are interested in how the movement of food, people, and ideas into, out of, and within the Nordic countries has affected the local and global environment. Potential subtopics within this session include:

- The transfer of environmental knowledge (both specific "how-to" knowledge and ideological belief systems) over space and time
- The effect of material flows on cultural and/or biological diversity
- The effect of food networks on the environments of the Nordic countries and throughout the commodity chain
- The environmental consequences of the movement of people into, out of, and within Nordic countries

If you are interested in participating in this session, please send an abstract of 250-300 words outlining your topic, argument, and sources, before September 1, 2010. We aim to publish all or parts of the session as a collected volume after the conference. All abstracts should be submitted to <a href="mailto:tromso2011@nehn-nordic.org">tromso2011@nehn-nordic.org</a>.

Each paper will be allocated 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion; those papers that are selected for publication will need to be submitted to the organizers as full-length articles after the conference.

#### Organizers:

Eva Jakobsson, University of Stavanger, <a href="mailto:eva.jakobsson@uis.no">eva.jakobsson@uis.no</a> (contact person) Laura Hollsten, Åbo University Academy, Finland. Dolly Jørgensen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway. Finn Arne Jørgensen, Umeå University, Sweden. Unnur Birna Karlsdóttir, University of Iceland. Bo Poulsen, Roskilde University Center, Denmark.

## VI. Miscellaneous

The European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage launched the idea of an *European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year*. A memorandum was written out which could be signed by organisations and individual persons. Please visit <a href="http://www.e-faith.org/EITHY/EITHY">http://www.e-faith.org/EITHY/EITHY</a> ENG.htm to find the memorandum.

Please contact the association by <a href="mailto:secretariat@e-faith.org">secretariat@e-faith.org</a>.

## **VII. Recently Published Books**

**Balz, Viola:** Zwischen Wirkung und Erfahrung - eine Geschichte der Psychopharmaka. Neuroleptika in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, 1950-1980. transcript, Bielefeld 2010.

The book of a historian of medicine is dedicated to the history of psychotherapy by the help of psychotropic drugs, inaugurated in the 1950s. This development is regarded as a great success of psychotherapy, but those medicaments still bring serious problems to sick persons. This was the reason for Balz to investigate the creation of the medicament's success story.

**Hunt, Bruce J.:** Pursuing Power and Light. Technology and Physics from James Watt to Albert Einstein. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore 2010.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, science and technology developed a close and continuing relationship. The most important advancements in physics – the science of energy and the theory of the electromagnetic field – were deeply rooted in the new technologies of the steam engine, the telegraph, and electric power and light. Hunt here explores how the leading technologies of the industrial age helped reshape modern physics.