

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,

This issue of the Newsletter contributes to a topic which is near to ICOHTEC's research agenda: it gives a report of a conference on *Acoustic Communication and Soundscape Design*, organized by Hans-Joachim Braun and Barry Truax in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Best wishes
Stefan Poser

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I. Conference Reports

Hans-Joachim Braun & Barry Truax (Organizers): ACOUSTIC COMMUNICATION AND SOUNDSCAPE DESIGN. Conference at Green College, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, September 14, 2013.

This was the third in a series of annual conferences at Green College on acoustic communication and soundscape design. Barry Truax, Murray Schafer's collaborator and successor in the famous World Soundscape Project, gave a review of the soundscape project and looked at its history, critique and evolution. In his presentation "From Observation to Composition: Soundwalking and the Work-Concept" Tyler Kinnear discussed recent pieces dealing with soundwalking which made creative uses of recording technology and performance on found objects. Helga Sawatzky in her "Unfolding the Spaces of Mobile Listening" considered ways in which mobile listening mediated the lived experiences of space. Vincent Adrisani talked about "The Song of Sweetness: Music, Urban Space, and the Sounds of the Ice Cream vendor in Havana". He made clear that the case of the Havana ice cream vendor serves as a rich and captivating example of the evolving sound of a mobile street vendor and its relationship to the prevailing social, political, and economic climate ranging, historically, from capitalism to communism and back to capitalism. In "The Aesthetics of Place: The Making of a Radio Documentary" Nathan Clarkson talked about a radio piece which looked back on the history of the World Soundscape Project, while Miles Thorogood dealt with the issue of how contemporary database models could benefit soundscape research.

The series of talks in the afternoon was started by Hans-Joachim Braun who gave a brief survey of the present state and future perspectives of sound studies with special reference to developments in Europe and particularly in Germany. Ralph Jordan talked about soundscape research with special reference to Larry Kent's movie "Hastings Street", a busy street close to Vancouver Harbor. Alexander Fisher went further back in history and dealt with "Sound, Space, Identity: Historical Soundscapes and Acoustic Communication in Early Modern Religious Culture", focusing on recent research on the Catholic duchy of Bavaria, which mounted a concerted campaign of religious persuasion, propaganda, and coercion to stem the tide of the Protestant Revolution, ca. 1550 – 1650. In this the mediation of spatial experience and the definition and control of space played an important role ; sound was an especially powerful medium for the production of that space.

Ozgun Eylul Iscen, reflecting on her own experience, dealt with "In-Between Soundscapes of Vancouver: The Convergence of Soundscape Studies and Ethnography" and, "soundwise", tried to analyze her personal experience moving from Turkey to the Canadian West Coast. Sandra Dancer tried to answer the question "What constitutes an eroticism of sound" referring to a Prague exhibition, an educational program and a listening salon in "decadent listening". Finally, Pietro Sammarco presented some thoughts on recording with garbage, dealing with the issue of what would happen if we were to build a recording studio using only equipment that had been thrown in the dump.

The speakers, associated with Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia, joined in a lively discussion on aspects of a field which has gained increasing interest during the last two decades. It became clear that research on acoustic communication and soundscape design, not least

on its historical aspects, has become more and more diversified during recent years and there is reason to expect that it will keep up the momentum it has gained.

II. Conference Announcements

10 – 13 October 2013

Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, SHOT

Portland, Maine

Please visit http://www.historyoftechnology.org/portland/portland_meeting.html

Please contact the organizers by shot@virginia.edu

12 – 13 October 2013

INSIST (Interdisciplinary Network for Studies Investigating Science and Technology / Interdisziplinäres Nachwuchsnetzwerk für Wissenschafts- und Technikforschung), Kick-off Meeting

Bielefeld University, Germany

Please visit <http://insist-network.com/>

Please contact info@insist-network.com

25 – 27 October 2013

Endangered Industrial and Technical Heritage – Campaigning to Save it. 7th European Industrial Heritage Weekend, E-FAITH 2013

Neuchâtel and La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland

On October 25-27th 2013 we will have the 7th European Industrial Heritage Weekend in Neuchâtel and La Chaux-de-Fonds (Switzerland). The theme of this year's meeting is Endangered industrial and technical heritage - campaigning to save it.

Exchanging ideas is the very essence of these Industrial Heritage Weekends organised by the European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage (E-FAITH). The Weekend this October is being held in Switzerland and will provide enterprising volunteers and their associations with an excellent opportunity to promote their restoration project, whether work in progress or finished, to like-minded volunteers from all over Europe.

Please visit: <http://www.e-faith.org/home/?q=content/2013>

Please contact the organizers by 2013@e-faith.org

7 – 9 February 2014

Workshop for the History of the Environment, Agriculture, Technology and Science, WHEATS

University of Kansas, Lawrence

CFP – Deadline **15 November 2013**

The University of Kansas' Department of History is pleased to be hosting WHEATS in Spring 2014. Now in its tenth year, the Workshop for the History of Environment, Agriculture, Technology, and Science (WHEATS) brings together graduate students studying the history of the environment, agriculture, science, or technology. WHEATS is open to submissions from any discipline with interests in these fields. Papers — generally 25-30 pages — are circulated in advance to all participants, and at the workshop papers receive feedback from participants and senior scholars through a roundtable discussion. This format is well suited for works in progress, and the workshop will have sessions on professional development as well as opportunities to meet and engage other scholars in the KU community.

Due to logistical constraints, papers must be in English. KU plans to provide housing, food, and some funding to help defray travel costs. Potential participants should submit a one-page abstract (200 words) and a short curriculum vitae by 15 November 2013. Submit proposals at <https://history.drupal.ku.edu/call-proposals>. All submissions will be acknowledged by e-mail. Acceptance will be confirmed by 1 Dec. 2013.

Please visit <http://history.drupal.ku.edu/wheats/>

Please contact Nicholas Cunigan, njcunigan@ku.edu

29 April – 3 May 2014

Framing Nature: Signs, Stories, and Ecologies of Meaning, EASLCE/NIES Conference 2014

Tartu, Estonia

CFP – Deadline **1 October 2013**

The dates for the EASLCE/NIES conference “Framing Nature: Signs, Stories, and Ecologies of Meaning”, to be held in Tartu, have been changed. The conference will now take place between 29 April and 3 May 2014.

Please visit http://www.ut.ee/SOSE/conference/2014_framing_nature/

This is also a reminder that the call for papers is still open until 1 October 2013. See the link above for further details.

3 – 6 September 2014

REMINDER: Cities in Europe, Cities in the World. 12th International Conference on Urban History, EAUH

Lisbon, Portugal

CFP – Deadline **15 October 2013**

You are warmly invited to take part in the 12th International Conference on Urban History in Lisbon, Portugal.

The sessions of the Conference will take place in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

The official languages of the conference are French and English.

Please visit:

<http://www.eauh2014.fcsh.unl.pt/index.php?conference=conference&schedConf=eauh2014>

10 – 14 September 2014

New Directions, Examining the Past, Creating the Future. Textile Society of America's Biennial Symposium

Los Angeles

CFP – Deadline **1 October 2013**

TSA's Biennial Symposium will take place in Los Angeles, California on the campus of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). To encourage the maximum amount of scholarly interchange, TSA has devised a new format for 2014, and plans to hold two days of multiple, concurrent sessions at UCLA as well as a full day of plenary sessions at LACMA on the last day. In addition to the sessions, there will be a series of dynamic pre- and post-conference workshops and study tours to local and regional art institutions and collections, receptions, special programs and awards ceremony.

Online submission process opens 1 May 2013. Deadline for submission 1 October 2013

The theme of TSA's 14th Biennial Symposium, *New Directions: Examining the Past, Creating the Future* will explore change and innovation in textiles in the past while looking at the state of the field of textiles, textile study, production and creativity, today and for the future. Where have we been and where are we going? What are the moments that encapsulate change? What are the shifts in direction for cultures, technology, creativity and knowledge? And how do these effect our understanding of textiles?

TSA seeks presentation proposals from all textile-related disciplines and interdisciplinary areas, including but not limited to anthropology, archaeology, art, art history, conservation, cultural geography, design, economics, ethnic studies, history, linguistics, marketing, mathematics, political science, and theater, among others. Participation of international and U.S. scholars, researchers,

artists, museum professionals, and others is welcome. Submission of abstracts is open to TSA members.

Further information may be found at <http://textilesocietyofamerica.org>. Submissions will be accepted from 1 May through 1 October 2013.

Please contact: Newdirections@textilesociety.org

III. Miscellaneous

The second ESEH/RCC Turku Book Award was conferred at the 7th biennial ESEH Conference, 21-24 August 2013 to Patrick Kupper for his book *Wildnis schaffen. Eine transnationale Geschichte des Schweizerischen Nationalparks*. Haupt Verlag, Bern 2012. His book *Creating Wilderness* gives a transnational history of national parks in Switzerland.

IV. 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)

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