

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Our president Timo Myllytaus informs in his Greetings about our second next symposium: the Université Jean Monnet in Saint-Étienne, France, will host the ICOHTEC Meeting in 2018. It will be a great pleasure to meet you in Rio de Janeiro (23 – 29 July 2017) and Saint Étienne about one year later.

Best wishes
Stefan Poser

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I. ICOHTEC

Greetings from the President

The call for hosting ICOHTEC's 45th symposium in 2018 expired on 16 January of this year. The good sign was that this call attracted more attention than several earlier corresponding calls. Contacts and inquiries from different parts of Europe indicate that ICOHTEC is gaining a foothold among established organizations in the field of historical research. In addition, queries express confidence on our symposia, which are regarded as worth of hosting despite that the growing amount of versatile scientific meetings.

The summer 2018 is approaching and therefore we preferred to choose without a delay the host to our symposium next after the congress in Rio de Janeiro.



Université Jean Monnet in Saint-Étienne
<https://cercriid.univ-st-etienne.fr/fr/index.html>

As a result, the decision on the site of our next independent symposium was delegated to our Board. It made a unanimous resolution to choose Université Jean Monnet in Saint-Étienne, France, to host our 2018 symposium.

The main reason for the decision was the informative and professionally worked out application of more than a dozen pages, where the applicant team headed by Robert Belot had answered explicitly to practically all questions presented by the Board. In the background, there were also catalytic reasons, why our French colleagues were keen to host this particular symposium. In 2018, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of ICOHTEC's constitution which was signed in Paris in 1968. The French historians of technology had very important role in establishing our organization. Maurice Daumas, the great French historian of technology belonged in the four founding fathers of ICOHTEC, and he acted as our first secretary general, which is the key managerial post in our organization. Consequently, it is understandable that the French find it appropriate to pay homage to Daumas by organizing this anniversary symposium in their country. Definitely, what happened in 1968 had a great impact to the rise of France as one of the leading countries in our field. One might claim that the history of technology has as prominent position in France as economic history has in Sweden.



An impression of the universities' campus

http://www.letudiant.fr/static/uploads/mediatheque/ETU_ETU/3/2/464432-11-campus-roannais-de-l-universite-de-saint-etienne-dr-766x438.jpg

The city of Saint-Étienne is situated in one of the most famous French industrial areas, the centre of which is Lyon in the so called Rhone Alpes Region. Therefore, Saint-Étienne can be accessed via the international airport of Lyon Saint-Exepéry and then travelling about an hour by train or taxi to Saint-Étienne. Alternatively, one can fly to Airport Charles de Gaulle, Paris and make a journey of three hours to Saint-Étienne by train.

While Saint-Étienne is the only French city, which has been designated as the “UNESCO Creative City of Design”, it has several attractions for the historians of technology, innovation and design. The University of Jean Monnet is included in a consortium of the regional universities, which run a centre of excellence focused on industrial heritage as well as *The Heritage Campus at the Le Corbusier site* in Firminy in a historical classified monument. Saint-Étienne is an important hub of *French Tech* and its reputation is based on various institutions in this field. For us, *The Museum of Art and Industry* (Musée d’art et d’Industrie) is fascinating. The factory of Benoît Fourneyron, who invented the hydraulic turbine, has been preserved in the western suburbs of the city, and is an emblematic element of this industrial heritage unlike no other. Saint-Étienne is worth to visit, because roots of many technological ideas, which changed the world, are from this region.

Let’s start preparations of this significant anniversary symposium and create it as an unforgettable gathering in the history of ICOHTEC. We welcome ideas and proposals, how to make this symposium successful.

Timo Myllyntaus

(The author is responsible for publishing photos in his contribution to the Newsletter.)

II. Conference Reports

“Urban Peripheries?” Emerging Cities in Europe’s South and East, 1850–1945 Barcelona, September 2016

Ned Somerville, Centre d'història de la ciència, Universitat autònoma de Barcelona

“Knowledge and/in the city” has become a trending topic in recent historiography, both in history of science, technology and medicine as well as in Urban Studies. So far there has been a strong focus on the metropolis. Yet what about “peripheral” cities in Eastern and Southern Europe? Are they only smaller copies of London, Paris and Berlin? What is to be gained from studying how knowledge about engineering, urban planning and public health was appropriated and applied in “non-metropolitan” cities? So far these cities have been mostly described as being on the receiving end. Knowledge (in a broad sense) on how to modernize urban space was created and tested in the metropolis and then passed on. This postulates a transfer from the center to the periphery and hence a clear epistemological hierarchy.

The conference ““Urban Peripheries?” Emerging Cities in Europe’s South and East, 1850-1945”, that took place in Barcelona this past September 26-27 in 2016, wanted to question this assumption. It was organized by Eszter Gantner and Heidi Hein-Kirchner (Marburg) and Oliver Hochadel (Barcelona). The underlying assumption was that “peripheral” – or should we rather say “emerging” – cities understood that the experience of similar cities was often much more helpful in solving their concrete problems (e.g. sewage systems) than the metropolitan model. Therefore the conference wanted to reconstruct the mechanisms and strategies behind choosing certain “best practices”, i.e. urban models that serve smaller cities. This search for practical models should thus help to elucidate the networks between these urban spaces.

The thirteen papers were loosely organized into four thematic categories, the first of which was entitled “The Interurban Exchange on Urban Planning.” ANNA MAZANIK (Budapest) initiated the discussion with her paper on the circulation of knowledge and foreign models of urban reforms in Moscow. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the public discourse on modernization was rooted in the idea of Moscow's backwardness, particularly with regards to its sanitation system as compared with those of “European modernity”, which were viewed as the gold standard. This theme, along with those of “public good” and “municipalization”, mobilized modernization efforts, which, in one particular case, stretched all the way to Memphis, Tennessee, which was chosen as the model for the new sewage system installed in Moscow. This highlights the eclecticism of the sources of information and experiences that Moscow used as models, as well as the dialectic of knowledge exchange between larger and smaller cities. In practice, the most typical solutions for Moscow involved the synthesis of several models from both established and emerging urban centers.

CATHLEEN M. GIUSTINO (Auburn) spoke about urban planning in Prague, looking at case studies demonstrating both the embrace of and resistance to knowledge transfer. Whereas the pre-WWI urban reconstruction of the city’s Jewish quarter was viewed as a sort of Czech “catching up,” the post-WWI plans for redesigning the Castle environment were met with antagonism and did not succeed. As Giustino demonstrated, crucial to understanding the reasons for this is

pinpointing the various interest groups and constellations of power at place in the city, in this case the architects and art historians. Within these groups existed tensions between universalism and nationalism, as well as the question of how to develop the city while preserving historic roots.

The last speaker of the first section, GORAN HUTINEC (Zagreb), spoke about the urban modernization of post-Habsburg Zagreb. This was a story about a small town living in the shadow of Budapest which after 1918 underwent processes of expansion of municipal government and democratization, both acting as catalysts for development. The new bourgeois elites needed to prove themselves as modern while at the same time resisting the “Americanization” of the way of life of the Zagreb citizens. The search for “best practices” in urban planning shows once more an eclectic approach. The reformers tried to strengthen their ties with their “non-Hungarian”, Slavic neighbors as well as traveling to North Italy and Switzerland in order to learn from Western cities.

HARALD R. STÜHLINGER (Zürich) started off the second session “Technology Transfer between ‘Peripheries’” with his paper on “The book, the public space, and the manhole cover.” In 1865, Adolphe Alphand started a book project called “Les Promenades de Paris” which served as a sort of city planning reference guide, containing a treasure trove of illustrations, exact sections, plans and perspectives on how to improve the appearance and sanitation of parks and avenues in Paris. This book made its way all over the continent, and in one example its plans were copied in Vienna, where small iron fences were placed for the protection of trees along one of the avenues. Stühlinger used this story to bring up the concept not only of spatial periphery but also of a temporal one, that is, the existence of a time-lag in which the development of smaller cities occurred significantly later than that of Paris and London. In some cases, rather than being a limitation, this temporal periphery came with potential benefits. In the second part of his talk he interpreted manhole covers as a sort of media, not only revealing what lies underneath them, but also as iconic representations of the city.

Next, IGOR LYMAN (Berdyansk) talked about port cities along the Black Sea, following their specific modernization discourses and character. In his account, the contexts of frontierity, regionality, and imperial connection were fundamental in understanding these developments in the course of the nineteenth century. Especially of interest in his discussion of the perception of these cities by contemporaries, both locals and visitors from abroad, and how the cities were viewed as aligning, or not, with European standards.

BARRY STIEFEL’s (Charleston) paper on the early auto industry in Barcelona (1900–1950) marked the first contribution from the South of Europe. Stiefel argued that ‘emerging cities’ like Turin, Stuttgart, Detroit, and Barcelona played an important role in auto production. This case study also showed the possibilities of using actor-network theory as an analytical tool. In this instance, Stiefel was able to trace the construction, not only of physical cars but of symbolic cars as well, as they were presented to the public through advertisements. The argument prompted the group to think even more carefully about the numerous ways in which cities ‘emerge’ – not just physical expansion, but as (competing) forms of experience and imagination.

In the third session “Curing and Controlling: Public Urban Health” HEIDI HEIN-KIRCHER (Marburg) highlighted the inherent tensions in the efforts of the city of Lviv (Lemberg) to conceptualize and implement an urban policy of urban health. On the one hand the city councilors sought for “best practice models” from German towns (and not the Austrian-Hungarian empire which they were a

part of), and in an eclectic and pragmatic way. On the other hand the city council, dominated by ethnic Poles, pursued a nationalist agenda, to transform Lviv into a “Polish town”. As in many other Eastern European cities, the growing anti-Semitism manifested itself also in issues of urban planning, identifying problems of health and sanitation with the “filthy Jewish quarter.”

SEAN BRADY (Dublin) spoke on the topic of the mobilization of Sicily's numerous towns and cities against an influenza epidemic in 1918-19. At this time, 60 Percent of the Sicilian population lived in cities of 10,000 or more, and over ten urban centers had populations of over 30,000. Brady's case study drew parallels between this and the wartime scenario: both characterized by mass death and mobilization which created friction. The cost of both of these handicapped the island for years to come. The object of Brady's study was quite unique, focusing on the contours of meaning regarding this event which Sicilians shared, or not, and which often resulted in these frictions. At stake were perceptions of urbanity, jealousy, and conflicts with suspicious peasants, other doctors, etc. The paper also demonstrated the need to think about the scale and concentration of urban areas. Whereas some case studies may have treated ‘the city’ as the primary unit, Brady's study relied on the relations between cities and towns in Sicily as a whole.

Starting off the second day of presentations, CLARA FRYSZTACKA (Frankfurt an der Oder) spoke on the topic of urban poverty as a symptom of urban modernity in Polish Warsaw. Her investigation involved a discourse analysis of magazines targeted to the upper and emerging middle class, where the new narrative of urban poverty was connected with urbanization processes and framed according to discourses concerning the imagined nation and the global Western modernity. In this way, the press contributed to the “modern” construction of Warsaw by speaking of its “dark side”. For example, during the cholera epidemic the press highlighted that the illness was typical also in other cities, thus divorcing it from the contexts of the nationalist and socialist Polish movements.

Speaking to the South European case, CELIA MIRALLES (Lyon) traced the design and construction of a modern tuberculosis dispensary in Barcelona in the mid-1930s. This project was undertaken by the GATCPAC, a group of Catalan modern architects. In their discourse they rejected the models of Northern Europe and turned to the “Mediterranean” model. In practice, the architectural models at the service of health followed and adapted came more from the “periphery”, the Soviet Union and, surprisingly, Italy, given the political situation at the time (the leftist Spanish Republic and Mussolini's fascist state). In this account, discourses of “catching up” were mixed with the avant-garde discourses of innovation, and the realized construction echoes many of the aesthetic values of the modernist movement in architecture.

The final session “How to build a Modern City: Avant-Garde Architecture in the 'Periphery'” began with a talk by ESZTER GANTNER (Marburg) regarding the case of Géza Maróti, the young artist awarded for designing the Hungarian pavilion for the 1906 World Fair in Milan. Later, he would go on to work in Budapest, Milan, and Detroit. The focus of her paper, therefore, was on reconstructing how “best practices” traveled between these cities. Methodologically, Gantner proposed a series of coordinates with which to describe emerging cities, and these involved concepts of nationalization, national and global trends, experts, urbanization, and the goals of increasing the importance of the city. The account of Maróti also was a great reminder of the

importance of relationality in the interurban network. Reconstructing these social networks is an important step in understanding the spread of ideas.

TAMARA BJAZIC KLARIN's (Zagreb) paper on urban planning in Zagreb in the interwar period highlighted the importance of international competitions. They clearly served as a platform for knowledge exchange but at the same time raised questions of expertise and authority. Who is qualified to sit on those boards and to take decisions? How do you avoid corruption and how can they remain unbiased? Last but not least, LUCILA MALLART (Nottingham) spoke on the collaboration of two prominent art historians and politicians, Josep Puig i Cadafalch from Barcelona and Nicolae Iorga from Bucharest. The resulting academic exchange between these two cities in the following years presents a case of what Mallart calls “transnationally produced national history”. Puig contributed to Romania's national history writing, and Iorga drew on Catalan archives to study the medieval crown of Aragon. This paper clearly showed what a fruitful topic the knowledge exchange between “peripheries” can be and how little it has been studied so far.

Already the conference title had put the term “periphery” in quotation marks and added a question mark. The 13 papers, showing the multidirectional exchange and above all appropriation – and not mere reception – of knowledge related to urban planning and public health, thoroughly deconstructed any remaining vestiges of the periphery-center model. What emerged instead were interurban networks through which knowledge was created and rather than disseminated, eclectically assembled and adapted to local needs. In the final discussion Eisenstadt's concept of “multiple modernities” was proposed as a possible solution.

These questions will be pursued further in early May 2017 at a second conference at the Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe, Marburg, where the speakers will present revised versions of their papers. The Barcelona conference was funded by the Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung (Germany).

Organizer: Eszter Gantner / Heidi Hein-Kirchner, Herder-Institute Marburg; Oliver Hochadel, Institució Milà i Fontanals – CSIC, Barcelona

For more information please visit www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/tagungsberichte-6945

III. Conference Announcements

2 – 3 March 2017

Frontiertechnologien – Technik in extremen Umwelten. Technikgeschichtliche Jahrestagung des VDI / Technology in Extreme Environments. Annual Conference of the History Group of the Association of German Engineers, VDI

Bochum, Germany

Please find the program on <http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/ws/images/banners/pdf/tagungsankuendigungen/Programm-und-Tagungshinweise-2017.pdf>

Please contact Lars Bluma, German Mining Museum, lars.bluma@bergbaumuseum.de

17 – 19 May 2017

Ecosystem Services in European Floodplains

Padua, Italy

CFP – Deadline **28 February 2017**

The International Conference on Environmental History “Ecosystem Services in European Floodplains”, which will be held at the Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World – DiSSGeA of the University of Padua, Italy on 17-19 May 2017, will provide a venue for all researchers interested in interdisciplinary research on ecosystem services in European floodplains from ancient time to the contemporary age. The conference will welcome also papers addressing the issue of the ecosystem services from a critical point of view. Ecosystem service topics in this conference will not be limited to the following themes in the geographical context of floodplains.

Further details are available on <http://eseh.org/wp-content/uploads/ICEH-Padova-2017.pdf>

7 – 9 June 2017

The Future of STI – The Future of STI Policy: New practices and models of research and innovation as a challenge for STI policy

Vienna

CFP – Deadline **13 February 2017**

We would like to invite you to submit paper proposals for the 2017 Annual Conference of the Eu-SPRI Forum: “The Future of STI – The Future of STI Policy”. The conference is organised by the Center for Innovation Systems & Policy of AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and takes place on 7-9 June 2017, in Vienna, Austria.

In the 2017 conference we want to pay special attention to changing practices and patterns of science, technology development and innovation (STI). Not least because of the influence of ICT-enabled novel methods, new ways of doing research and innovation have been established over

the past years, and will continue to do so in the next years. They will change the relationship between citizens and science, decision-makers and stakeholders and redraw the landscape of research and innovation actors. The value networks of existing industries will be transformed and the industrial landscape changed, with emerging economies expected to play a much more significant role than today. Furthermore, research will address questions of global significance, and multi-disciplinary communities are increasingly driven by the need to find solutions to such global issues and challenges. For STI policy research, these upcoming changes will undoubtedly bring about new requirements and challenges. Therefore, the conference also aims to trigger a debate about the future of the discipline(s) of STI policy research.

Please find the whole call on <http://euspri-vienna2017.org/call-for-papers/>

Further information and updates: <http://euspri-vienna2017.org>

Please contact Dana Wasserbacher & Florian Hainz via email info@eusprienna.at

13 – 15 July 2017

Wissen Macht Technik. Frühjahrstagung der Sektion Wissenschafts- und Technikforschung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie / Knowledge, Power, and Technology. Symposium of Science- and Technology Group of the German Society of Sociology

Darmstadt

CFP – Deadline **6 March 2017**

Please visit [http://www.gtg.tu-](http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/ws/images/banners/pdf/cfp/CfP_WissenMachtTechnik_FrhjahrstagungWuT-2017_final.pdf)

[berlin.de/ws/images/banners/pdf/cfp/CfP_WissenMachtTechnik_FrhjahrstagungWuT-2017_final.pdf](http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/ws/images/banners/pdf/cfp/CfP_WissenMachtTechnik_FrhjahrstagungWuT-2017_final.pdf)

Please contact technikmachtwissen@ifs.tu-darmstadt.de

18 – 20 September 2017

Post-Colonial Studies Convention – Special Topic: Globalisation

University of London

CFP – Deadline **28 February 2017**

The 2017 PSA Convention will be held at the School of Advanced Study, Senate House, University of London, from 18 to 20 September 2017. The Special Topic of the 2017 Convention is Globalisation. Proposals for panels and papers on this theme are particularly encouraged. Proposals are invited from academics, scholars and postgraduates with research interests in any area of postcolonial studies from any disciplinary, cross- or interdisciplinary perspective.

Full details are available in the <http://eseh.org/wp-content/uploads/PSA-2017-CFP.pdf>

Please contact psaconference@postcolonialstudiesassociation.co.uk

28 – 30 September 2017

Famine Stories and Survival Legends: Legacies to the Following Generation

Uppsala University, Sweden

CFP – Deadline **28 February 2017**

The transnational research project *Comprehending the Core by Peeling the Concepts: Analyzing Famines in their Historical Contexts (COMPOT)* invites individual paper and session proposals for its forthcoming thematic workshop. This will be the third in our series of workshops, which form part of the research project funded by NOS-HS.1 Famines have been a recurring strain on humanity throughout history. In this workshop we will, by means of historical research and memory studies, focus on experiences, values and meanings of events and phenomena related to famines rather than on factual written documentation of them. Sources of memory studies, which include interviews, diaries, letters, memory-based prize essays, autobiographies etc., provide aspects of events and phenomena conveying subjective experiences and attitudes of eyewitnesses and other contemporaries.

A key feature of researching memories is enhancing further the polyphony of the past rather than highlighting causal chains or factual accuracy. Memory studies can bind the past to the researcher's own contemporary world. For example, oral history has transmitted famine memories from past to present generations. Fascinating questions which arise in this context include: why are stories on famines still told, and why do these stories tend to be more popular in some communities than others? We can approach memory-based knowledge from three viewpoints. Firstly, it can be used either as a data source on peoples' approaches to their past. Secondly, memory-based knowledge can be regarded as the object of the research and lens through which to examine methods, structures, and layers of constructing memories. Thirdly, memory-based knowledge can be used as a method for collecting material and information on the past. For example, interviewing informants is an established research method. In sum, in our third workshop we define memory studies sufficiently broadly to include, in addition to traditional interview studies, the examination of legacies and layers of famine research, collective memory history from below, counterfactual speculation on "alternative histories", as well as researchers' role in creating famine legends. The main goal of this multidisciplinary workshop will be to discuss various traditions of famine reminiscence, their persistence over time as well as their significance and legacies for the present day. The project COMPOT concentrates on famines in Estonia, Finland, Iceland, India, Ireland and Sweden. However, the programme committee is inclined to consider famines of other countries as well. Cross-country comparisons are especially welcome. Famines of any time period and any geographical extent are eligible.

The accepted papers are to be distributed in advance, and oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes. The project aims to publish a selection of papers after peer-reviewing. The language of papers and presentations is English. The workshop will be hosted by Uppsala University and facilities are provided by its Dept. of Economic History, <http://www.ekhist.uu.se/?languageId=1>. Individual paper proposals should include an abstract of 250–500 words and one-page CV. Session proposals should contain a session abstract of 250–500 words, abstracts of three or four papers along with brief CVs of their authors. All these documents should be submitted by 28 February 2017 to the chair of the programme committee, Timo Myllyntaus [email: timmyl@utu.fi], via email in Word or RTF format.

Please visit <http://eseh.org/wp-content/uploads/Uppsala-2017-Workshop-CfP-v5Ab.pdf>

Please contact Timo Myllyntaus, timmyl@utu.fi

18 – 21 October 2017

ReUSO, V Congreso Internacional sobre documentación, conservación y reutilización del patrimonio arquitectónico y paisajístico /5th International Conference on Documentation, Conservation and Restoration of the Architectural Heritage and Landscape Protection
Granada School of Architecture, Spain

The congress will address methodological, technical, academic and design-related issues in connection with the documentation, conservation, reuse and recovery of the architectural heritage, including urban planning and the questions of the protection of the landscape.

Please find the program on <http://www.reusogranada.com/en/program/>

Please contact secretaria@reusogranada.com

26 – 29 October 2017

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

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

CFP – Deadlines **15 March 2017** (open session proposals)

31 March 2017 (traditional session proposals and individual papers)

The Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) is an interdisciplinary and international organization concerned not only with the history of technological devices and processes but also with technology in history and society. We explore the production, circulation, appropriation, maintenance and abandonment of technology under specific historical circumstances. And we scrutinize the epistemic, economic, social, cultural and political conditions of this development. Our approaches are informed by a broad concept of technology encompassing knowledge resources, practices, artefacts and biofacts, i.e. artefacts in the realm of the living. Accordingly, the Program Committee invites paper and session proposals on any topic in a broadly defined history of technology, including topics that push the boundaries of the discipline. Submitters are encouraged to propose sessions that include a diverse mix of participants: multinational origins, gender, graduate students and junior scholars with senior scholars, significantly diverse institutional affiliations, etc.

To pay tribute to the venue of the 2017 annual meeting - Philadelphia, where the Declaration of

Independence and the Constitution were signed - we want to encourage proposals that engage topics related to technology, democracy and participation. The birthplace of the oldest participatory democracy is the ideal setting for reflecting on, and interrogating, the overlapping subjects of technology, democracy, and participation. Philadelphia was not only the first capital of the United States, but also an early capital of industrialization and the accompanying transformations of work, skill, creation and maintenance, all of which continue to shape modern participation in the world. Commercial systems, slave economies, and immigration patterns developed locally alongside complex technologies of production and infrastructure in Philadelphia. Industrialization also led to an era of increased human intervention in the environment, now referred to as the Anthropocene. City and region participated in the cyclical expansion and contraction of global trade and supply chains of commodities, labour, and cultures. As other urban and rural, industrialized and agricultural polities have historically contended with similar forces of change, and transnational networks have carried the impacts of modernization agendas to both willing and unwilling communities, the cultural embrace of technology, notions of democracy, and ideologies of participation have played out in myriad ways around the world. These cultural commitments and their interactions, as seen in Philadelphia's history and across a wide range of other global settings, thus form an appropriate theme for the 2017 SHOT meeting.

For the 2017 meeting the Program Committee welcomes proposals of three types:

* Traditional sessions of 3 or 4 papers, with a chair and a commentator. Deadline: March 31, 2017.

* Unconventional sessions, with formats that diverge in useful ways from the typical 3 or 4 papers with comment. These might include round-table sessions and workshop-style sessions with pre-circulated papers. Deadline: March 31, 2017.

* Open sessions: Individuals interested in finding others to join panel sessions for the Annual Meeting may propose Open Sessions, started January 20, with a final deadline of March 15. Open Sessions descriptions, along with organizer contact information, will appear as soon as possible on the SHOT website. (The earlier the proposal, the earlier it will be posted to the website.) To join a proposed panel from the Open Sessions list, contact the organizer for that panel, not the Program Committee. Open Session organizers will then assemble full panel sessions and submit them to SHOT by the end of the regular call for papers on March 31, 2017. The Program Committee will review the resulting fully formed session proposals, whether traditional or unconventional, for quality and adherence to SHOT standards of gender, geographic, and institutional diversity.

* In special cases, proposals for individual papers will be considered, but the Program Committee will give preference to organized sessions, either Traditional or Untraditional. Those scholars who might ordinarily propose an individual paper are instead requested to propose Open Sessions themselves or to join an Open Session that is posted between January 15 and March 15.

SHOT allows paper presentations at consecutive meetings but rejects submissions of papers that are substantially the same as previous accepted submissions. Submissions covering the same fundamental topic should explain the difference(s) with the prior presentation.

The SHOT Executive Council is formulating its response to US Presidential measures to restrict access to the United States for select foreign nationals, including to our annual meeting. Please keep an eye open for this statement and, if possible, do not be discouraged from submitting a paper by the current situation.

For more information on preparing and submitting a proposal please visit the SHOT website at www.historyoftechnology.org

Please contact Jan Korsten, Society for the History of Technology, Secretary,
j.w.a.korsten@tue.nl

27 – 28 October 2017

Environmental History of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey – Workshop

TürkeiEuropaZentrum (TEZ) and Asien-Afrika-Institut, Universität Hamburg, Germany

CFP – Deadline **1 April 2017**

The TürkeiEuropaZentrum (TEZ) of Universität Hamburg will host a two-day academic workshop to examine new approaches to the environmental history of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey. Environmental history is an emerging field in Ottoman and Turkish studies. Contrary to the growing number of environmental historical studies in North America, Europe, and other parts of the world, the number of studies in this burgeoning subfield in Ottoman and Turkish studies still can be counted on the fingers of one hand. This workshop is an invitation to historians, sociologists, political scientists, geographers, environmental and natural scientists, and all other researchers, both early career and experienced, identifying themselves or showing an interest in the field of Ottoman/Turkish environmental history.

The workshop aims to provide an interdisciplinary forum, and therefore, is open to a wide range of subjects, topics, approaches, and methodologies. We invite researchers from any disciplines working on projects related to Ottoman/Turkish environmental history to submit proposals for individual papers or panel sessions. The chronological scope is from the foundation of the Ottoman Empire to the present day.

Possible topics of submissions include, but are not limited to:

1. Changing relationship between the people and their environments in the Ottoman Empire and Modern Turkey
2. Urban environmental history: cities and their socio-ecological contexts
3. City-country relations in a historical context
4. Mining and environmental change
5. Renewable, chemical, fossil, and nuclear energies and environmental change

6. Water history, water and history
7. Climate history, climate and history
8. Forest history
9. History of consumption and waste
10. History of conservation and management
11. History of commons, commons in history
12. Industrial and post-industrial environmental history
13. Environmental conflicts, environmental movements, and environmental activism
14. Theories, methods, approaches, and sources in Ottoman/Turkish environmental history
15. The historical construction of land and waterscapes and ideas about Ottoman/Turkish natures
16. Histories and theories of literature and the environment

Paper Proposals: please submit short paper proposal of no more than 400 words together with personal information of presenter(s) including full name(s), institutional affiliation(s), and contact information to Dr. Onur Inal, TürkeiEuropaZentrum, University of Hamburg (Tuerkei-Europa-Zentrum@uni-hamburg.de) and Dr. Selçuk Dursun, History Department, Middle East Technical University (dselcuk@metu.edu.tr) no later than 1 March 2017. Accepted proposals will be notified by 1 April 2017.

Depending on the funding, we hope to be able to cover the accommodation costs for all or most of the participants coming from outside of Hamburg. Please indicate whether you need this kind of support when submitting your paper proposal. Language of the workshop: the workshop languages are English and German. Non-English participants are expected to join discussions in English. Post-workshop publication: we aim to publish selected articles in an edited volume in 2018. Submission deadline will be 31 December 2017. Articles submitted for publication will be subject to the peer-review procedure.

Please visit <https://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/tuerkeieuropa/veranstaltungen/workshops/environmentalturkey2017.html>

Please contact Onur Inal, TürkeiEuropaZentrum, University of Hamburg, Tuerkei-Europa-Zentrum@uni-hamburg.de, and Selçuk Dursun, History Department, Middle East Technical University, dselcuk@metu.edu.tr

1 – 2 November 2018

World War I and its Immediate Aftermath. 10th Blount Postal History Symposium

Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington D.C.

CFP – Deadline **15 June 2017**

The Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, D.C. published a call for proposals for the 10th Blount Postal History Symposium that will take place November 1-2, 2018. The symposium is titled *World War I and its Immediate Aftermath*.

Please visit

http://www.historyoftechnology.org/media/news_2017/CFP_national_postal_museum_2017.pdf

Please contact NPMResearchChair@si.edu

IV. Scholarships and Summer Schools

Scholar in Residence Program of the Eisenbibliothek/Iron Library, Schaffhausen, Switzerland

The Iron Library offers twice a year a scholar the possibility of intensive study of its holdings as Scholar in residence (SiR). The program is addressed to both established researchers and younger scholars or advanced students from Switzerland and abroad.

Aim of the Program

In keeping with the Iron Library's specialization, preference will be given to applications from scholars with research projects on the history of metallurgy and mining and the history of technology and materials science, which are the focal points of the Iron Library's collection. Topics from the history of chemistry, the history of science or industrial history and culture will also be given consideration. Innovative research projects that draw on the Library's historical holdings in depth are particularly welcome. Research on the history of the Georg Fischer Corporation is especially welcome because projects that are based wholly or in part on the Corporate Archives of Georg Fischer Ltd will also be supported by the SiR Program.

What the Iron Library offers

The Iron Library, located in the former Clarissan convent Paradies, is an attractive place for focused research and creative writing. The research period may last from two to three weeks, and the precise dates and modalities will be arranged individually with the successful applicants. The Iron Library will assume the costs of a hotel for the SiR near the Library during the research period, will pay an allowance for the cost of meals during this time and will make a one-time contribution to the costs of travel to and from the Iron Library. The employees of the Iron Library will assist the SiR in his/her research work and in obtaining the relevant literature. The SiR Program is expressly not a full scholarship; any further claims on the Iron Library are excluded.

What we expect from the Scholar in Residence

It is expected that the SiR will work intensively with the Library holdings during the period of research and will take up residence near the Library. The research period may come at the beginning of a research project or may serve to complete an existing project. The results of the

research period must be incorporated into a publication (print or online) and/or a degree (master's, Ph.D. or "Habilitation"), in which the use of the Iron Library is mentioned expressly. When the publication has been completed, the SiR will send the Iron Library two copies without being requested. The SiR undertakes, in addition, to write a short report on the research period in the Iron Library and gives his/her consent for this report to be published on the Iron Library's website, in its Annual Report and, if appropriate, elsewhere (e.g. social media). The same shall apply to the abstract of the research project (see below).

Applications

Applicants are requested to submit the following documents:

- an abstract describing the research project (maximum 150 words);
- a curriculum vitae (resume);
- a detailed description of the project that makes it clear which holdings in the Iron Library are to be consulted (maximum 1000 words).

The application documents may be written in English or German and may be submitted by mail or by e-mail. The Management of the Iron Library will decide on the selection of the Scholar in Residence.

Application deadlines

Applications may be submitted at any time.

Please address any questions and your application to:

Franziska Eggimann, Head Iron Library and Corporate Archivist Georg Fischer Ltd
Klostergut Paradies, 8252 Schlatt, Switzerland, franziska.eggimann@georgfischer.com

Natural and Cultural Heritage under Different Governments. Summer School, 4 – 7 July 2017

Zadar, Croatia

Deadline for application **1 April 2017**

The Department of Geography at the University of Zadar, in cooperation with the Department of Geography and that of History at the University of Zagreb, with the support of the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH), is pleased to announce a four-day thematic summer school: Natural and cultural heritage under different governments. The school will take place in Zadar, Croatia, from 4 until 7 July 2017 (immediately after the ESEH 10th International Conference in Zagreb, 28 June – 2 July 2017).

Further details are available in the http://eseh.org/wp-content/uploads/Summer_school_1_st_call_January_9_2017.pdf

V. Call for Contributions

Objects and Museums: Biographies, Narratives and Identity Bonds

Call for Papers MIDAS – issue 8 – deadline **15 March 2017**

MIDAS – *Museum Interdisciplinary Studies* is launching a call for papers for issue 8 for publication in June 2017. This issue is a thematic dossier under the theme “Objects and Museums: Biographies, Narratives and Identity Bonds” with Alice Semedo (University of Porto), Olaia Fontal (University of Valladolid) e Alex Ibanez (University of the Basque Country) as guest editors.

All accepted articles will undergo a double peer-review. Articles should not exceed 6 000 words (without bibliography) or ca. 40 000 characters (with spaces). It must follow the classical structure of an academic paper. Articles should include abstract, keywords and the biography of the author(s). More information at: <http://midas.revues.org/390?lang=en>

Deadline: **March 15th**, 2017. Send your text to: revistamidas@gmail.com

Note: In March de 2017 MIDAS launches a new call for papers for issue 9 (*Varia*) for publication in 2017 and a call for papers for proposals for thematic issues (for publication 2018).

Objects and Museums: Biographies, Narratives and Identity Bonds

Objects are returning to contemporary social theory with renewed strength. Whether it be in the form of commodities, communication technologies, artwork or even urban spaces, a new world of materiality and objectivity is now emerging with a sense of urgency that transforms them into new places for questioning and reflection. While the most radical poststructuralist and constructivist views tended to liquefy everything solid, today it is precisely the solidity that surrounds us which captures our attention and leads us, for example, to focus on the sensory immediacy of the objects we live, work and speak with — the objects we love and hate. Materiality thus regains a central position in the museological and heritage-related discourse and practice, which in this way are constantly re-imagining what constitutes such materiality.

Several approaches within the spheres of Museology, anthropology, geography, material culture, science and technology studies, design, sociology of consumerism and culture — to name but a few — point towards an understanding of the performative and integrative capacity of objects in helping build that which we call society. New approaches related to material and visual culture, the study of artefacts and the collections of interwoven narratives regard the museum as a laboratory, and museum collections as research technology. Major interdisciplinary projects resort to collections as a means to approaching broader questions concerning art, culture, history or even the environment. Methods drawn from the field of literary studies, for example, are used to design approaches for the analysis of objects of memory that reveal a hunger for new ways of questioning and tackling these issues. Such an approach — closer to literary discourse — becomes more evident in many recently published works, including *A History of the World in 100 Objects* (MacGregor 2014), *The Hare with Amber Eyes* (De Waal 2010), *Evocative Objects: Things We Think With* (Turkle 2007), *Paraphernalia: The Curious Life of Magical Things* (Connor 2011), *Cod – A*

Biography of the Fish That Changed the World (Kurlansky 2003) or *Biographies of Scientific Objects* (Daston 2000). Applying the biographic approach to objects raises important methodological questions concerning their narrative, structure and chronology, the representation of change, their influence on the lives of humans, the communities and their material history and, above all, their interpretation and visibility in museums. The biographical study of objects has opened up extremely productive and innovative areas of academic research, including the work of Bill Brown on «Thing Theory» (2001); Chris Gosden's, Frances Larson's and Alison Petch contribution (2007) in connection with the Pitt Rivers Museum's collections; and, of course, the essays included in the already classic volume edited by Arjun Appadurai in 1986, and more particularly those on the value of objects and their exchange. By narrowing its focus on the social life of objects and their expressive effects, both in retroactive terms and in their capacity to challenge human activity, the latest issue of MIDAS aims at including transversal views across the several "new materialisms" while at the same time forging critical links with more classic topics and subjects in the history of Museology.

On the other hand, and through the incorporation of the intangible (historical, emotional, spiritual) and relational aspects (ownership, belonging and identity) of objects in museums, new avenues of inquiry are opened up which make it possible to call into question educational approaches that represent the museum as a heritage container. Heritage, therefore, is regarded as the relationship capable of connecting cultural assets with the society they belong to and the time that inherits such assets. Within this logical framework, objects somehow become the carriers of an identity embodied in narratives, biographies or artistic constructions that present themselves as manifestations of the bond formed between cultural assets and people. On the other hand, the creation of such bonds does not simply take place inside the museum's physical space, but additionally — and more and more — in other spaces (including virtual ones). All these relations constitute different manifestations of what is actually the same approach: the generation of identity-based ties between individuals or groups and heritage assets.

Another topic which we would like to include in the forthcoming issue of MIDAS refers to the relationship between objects and learning in museums. It is often stated that objects facilitate learning through the development of observation and questioning skills, which in turn allows for emotional connections and for complex ideas to become comprehensible. In this regard, we encourage discussions on these concepts on the basis of research work inspired, for example, by case studies.

The forthcoming issue of the MIDAS results from the current emphasis on bringing together several perspectives (museological, curatorial, technical) on the place of objects in museums — all with a view to critically mapping this domain. In short, the point is to stimulate reflection and present a number of relevant examples that make it possible to develop a new take on the theory concerning objects in museums as carriers of not just social, but also individual meanings, thus enabling heritagization/identity-construction processes to play an exploratory role from the standpoint of education. The topics and issues proposed partially overlap and should allow for the confrontation of several perspectives, both theoretical and methodological, as well as the production of diversified materials.

Topics

Three major lines of analysis are preferably suggested:

1. *Individual stories: narratives, biographies, artistic constructions around musealized objects*
Submitted articles may for example provide biographical narratives about particular objects; texts discussing the methodology of object biographies or introducing existing projects in connection with the life of objects; texts exploring the relationships between the curatorial and auto / biography on the basis of objects; the history of the museum (the museum as artefact); and any other aspect of the topic that is duly justified.
2. *The Internet and the social networks as spaces where identity-based subject/object ties can be generated and shared*
Through the Internet, museums have transformed the way in which they interact with the public. Synergies are thus generated which promote a greater autonomy in the visitors and create new spaces for interaction. What are the new forms of subject-object spaces, virtual museums and social networks that have been brought into play? Does this kind of “relational extension” of museums allow us to reflect on the kinds of bonds that are being nurtured? Which are the new ways of story-telling that have emerged and, along with them, the voices that are being listened to in the new relational settings? Does the intimate, the personal, the micro acquire here a more important dimension by multiplying and building deeper connections with regard to heritage?
3. *The privileged object-learning relation in museums*
What is the “added value” of object-based learning? What approaches are being currently used in museums and which evidences are being presented? How can education experts help museums engage in a discussion on object-based learning? How can museums use objects in a more creative way? And why is it that such approaches differ from others in terms of knowledge production? What are the impacts, the opportunities and the challenges involved in using digital technology in this context? What could be the impact, for example, of 3D printing of objects aimed at object-based experience? Which technological powers will be available to us in the future? Against this background, further issues may still be explored.

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Turkle, Sherry, ed. 2007. *Evocative Objects: Things We Think With*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

VI. Recently Published Books

Modi, Ishwar and Kamphorst Teus J. (eds.): Mapping Leisure: Studies from Australia, Asia and Africa. Rawat Publications, Jaipur 2016.

This volume addresses the rich and varied thoughts, concepts, approaches and leisure practices in sixteen countries of three continents in historical and contemporary perspective. Information is provided on the development of leisure in: Australia and New Zealand for the continent Australia; China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, The Philippines and Turkey for Asia; and, Africa (a summarizing article), Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria and South Africa for the African continent.

VII. 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.

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