Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The preparation of the ICHST/ICOHTEC conference in Rio de Janeiro is ongoing; for last news please visit the ICHST website, [http://www.ichst2017.sbhc.org.br](http://www.ichst2017.sbhc.org.br).

The conference report of this issue is dedicated to a subject in-between history of technology and urban history: de-industrializing cities are discussed.

Best wishes
Stefan Poser

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I. Conference Reports

The De-Industrializing City: Urban, Architectural, and Socio-Cultural Perspectives
German Historical Institute, London, December 2016

Pia Eiringhaus, Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr-Universität Bochum

In the late twentieth century, complex developments of de-industrialization and transformation, migration and multiculturalism, conflict and resilience, farewells and new beginnings re-shaped urban environments. In order to gain more insight in the many facets of the processes transforming former industrial cities and societies, Jörg Arnold (Nottingham), Tobias Becker (London), Simon Gunn (Leicester), and Otto Samuarez Smith (Oxford) organized the joint international workshop “The De-Industrializing City: Urban, Architectural, and Socio-Cultural Perspectives”, held at the GHIL, 12-13 December 2016. Experts from different disciplines were brought together to explore and debate late twentieth-century European cities as key sites of cultural and societal transformation from a comparative Anglo-German perspective.

Tobias Becker chaired the first panel, ‘Concepts of De-Industrialization and Multi-Culturalism: A New Master Narrative of Urban History?’, which aimed to investigate ways of conceptualizing theoretical approaches and bringing together the various social, cultural, societal, and economic aspects. Focusing on employment change, JIM TOMLINSON (Glasgow) approached de-industrialization processes by pointing out strengths and weaknesses, since neo-liberalism and the formation of information and knowledge-based societies went hand in hand with inequality, insecurities, and precarious job situations. In his paper, ‘De-Industrialization: Strengths and Weaknesses as a Key Concept for Understanding Post-1945 Britain’, he emphasized that de-industrialization had to be embedded in the larger processes that had already started in the 1950s. In their contribution, ‘From Fordist to Neo-Liberal Urban Spaces in Times of De-Industrialization: A Conceptual Frame for a Complex Relationship’, ARNDT NEUMANN and LUTZ RAPHAEL (both Trier) advocated an integrative theoretical approach that brings together various perspectives determining the complex process of de-industrialization, including different social, cultural, architectural, and demographic trends. Using the example of Hamburg, they showed that the city’s transformation was shaped by a variety of processes, from production to creativity, rationalization to digitalization, social security to precariousness, and suburbanism to the renaissance of the ‘inner city’. These trends could provide starting points for considering the temporal and spatial specificities of the prevailing cities. The relationship between de-industrialization and multi-culturalism was explored by ELIZABETH BUETTNER (Amsterdam) in her paper ‘Multi-Cultural Cities: Problems or Possibilities?’ by looking at changing perceptions of Indian restaurants. Multi-ethnic areas used to have a bad reputation as red-light districts with social problems and crime, but in the 1980s, the perception of Indian restaurants in particular changed. Since then, they have become popular objects of ‘white consumption’, as the example of London’s Brick Lane demonstrates, and Buettner emphasized the significant impact of de-industrialization on the perception of multi-culturalism in urban spaces. The following discussion made two main points. First, there is no ‘general concept’ to explain the transformation of ‘the former industrial city’, since every city follows individual temporalities. Secondly, there is no
single working class as a societal point of reference. It is no longer the main centre of attention, but one among others.

Jörg Arnold chaired the second panel, ‘Social Perspectives. Community, Conflict and Cohesion: The Urban Crisis Revisited’, which focused on the interconnections between politics, economic change, and cultural means of expression. Looking at the connection between teenagers’ expectations and attitudes towards work and the formation of a specific youth culture, FELIX FUEGH (Berlin) investigated the interplay between economic change and work/leisure relationships as expressed in the formation of a specific youth culture. In his presentation, ‘Teenagers’ Future: London’s Labour Market, the Youth Employment Service and British Youth Cultures in the 1960s’, he concluded that teenagers’ frustration was one of the most visible reactions to urban transformation. Emphasizing the importance of language for the process of constituting meaning, CHRISTIANE REINECKE (Leipzig) investigated changes in the political use of the term ‘ghetto’ from a comparative Franco-German perspective. In her paper, ‘Of Ghettos, Marginality, and Gentrification: Global Terms and local Imaginaries in West Germany and France’, she argued that the ‘ghetto’, formerly constructed as instrument for designating social and economic urban problems, has become a means to negotiate the chances and limits of integration. Starting from the significant question of how changes in urban cities are structured temporally, OTTO SAUMAREZ SMITH provided a critical approach to the Thatcher period, arguing that broader societal, economic, and political transformation processes since 1945 must be considered. In his paper, ‘The End of Urban Modernism’, he showed how Thatcher made political use of a predominantly negative image of Britain’s urban spaces as a spatial-material locus for what had gone wrong. The general tendency was to identify the dualism between metropolitan city centre and periphery as the essential problem, as it created power struggles between ‘the core and the rest’ that were negotiated in urban transformation politics.

The third panel, ‘City-Planning Perspectives. Urban Blight and Regeneration: The Case of Port Cities’, was chaired by Sebastian Haumann (Darmstadt) and focused on the multi-faceted processes by which maritime urban spaces were transformed. Based on specific examples drawn from the port city of Hamburg as it developed from the ‘poor house of Germany’ to an economic success story, CHRISTOPH STRUPP’s (Hamburg) paper emphasized the significant impact of broader geo-political events on the process of deindustrializing cities. In his paper, ‘Urban Economic and Planning Policies in an Age of Uncertainty: Hamburg in the 1970s and 1980s’, he reflected on the interplay between macro-historical developments and social, political, and economic processes at local level. Struggles between hope and reality shaped the processes of urban transformation. Using the example of the German city of Wilhelmshaven, JÖRN EIBEN (Hamburg) demonstrated the fatal consequences of politicians strongly promoting a utopian narrative of progress while ignoring both the critical voices of local actors and real economic trends. In the case of Wilhelmshaven, the discrepancy between hope and reality resulted in the city being publicly declared a ‘successfully industrialized city’—without attracting any companies. Both visuality and imaginary determine the perception of urban spaces. In his presentation, ‘“Behind the Imposing Facade of the Boulevards”: De-Industrialization, Society, and the Built Environment in Liverpool, 1968–1982’, AARON ANDREWS (Leicester) reflected on the impact of political and public discourses on Liverpool’s problematic areas. These were mainly shaped by the parallelism of images of urban and economic decline, and local improvement activities as
reflections of hope. Gentrification is not only a radical side effect of the de-industrialization of urban spaces, but is also determined by a multiplicity of trends, as ARNDT NEUMANN argued in his paper, ‘De-Industrialization and Gentrification: The Inner City of Hamburg, 1956–2010’. He analysed the complex interplay between population change, migration, the decline of industrial areas and job losses, new social movements and the increasing influence of students, the collapse of modernist urban planning, and the rise of a new generation of architects. In the following discussion, it was suggested that the process of de-industrialization has to be embedded in a longer continuity, opening up the perspective instead of limiting discussions to the Thatcher period. Further, the significance of versatile approaches was highlighted. Since urban transformation stands at the intersection between global developments and local/regional specificities, a differentiated investigation requires both the typical and the specific aspects to be integrated while considering the prevailing historical, economic, and social development of the particular city. This goes hand in hand with the claim that the investigation of de-industrializing cities requires a remodelling of the classic approaches of urban history.

Moritz Föllmer (Amsterdam) chaired the fourth panel, ‘Cultural Perspectives “Ghost Town”: The Late Twentieth-Century City in the Cultural Imagination’, which focused on the intersection between cultural and political factors. LUCY ROBINSON (Sussex) used the example of the British reggae singer Smiley Culture to emphasize the problematics of London as an urban space in the 1980s, including multi-culturalism, the emergence of new identities, and friction between race and class. ‘Smiley Culture: London’s Hybrid Voice’ showed not only the significance of language as a powerful instrument for criticizing racism, but also the dichotomy between state control and consumer society, which was negotiated behind the backs of ethnic minorities. Using the popular buzzword of ‘glocalization’, MALTE THIEßEN (Oldenburg) spoke about town twinning from a (national and EU) political, cultural, and social perspective. In his paper, ‘Coming to Terms with Glocalization: British Town Twinning in the Twentieth Century’, he identified town twinning as both a reflection of various social problems and developments, and a strategy for finding solutions. Seeing town twinning as a means to improve global understanding distracts from the fact that it also reproduces former colonial power structures in a decolonized world. A more detailed insight into specific actors, interests, and power constellations would have been desirable, especially in the context of ‘global town twinning’ with formerly colonized countries. Jörg Arnold emphasized the change in visual and narrative representations of industrial city landscapes in the process of de-industrialization, from the former imagery of ‘anti-organic’ landscapes of the 1980s to contemporary representations of a romanticized ‘cultural industrial landscape’. In this context, Arnold pointed out the problems of the construction and reproduction of a specific narrative of the industrial past, which combines mining areas with romantic rural imagery, and thus creates a clear contrast with the ‘rather sinful city of London’. In the following discussion, the ambivalence of town twinning was emphasized, alternating between elitist social practice and a means of socio-cultural exchange, which highlighted the need for a critical look. The question of whether Smiley Culture must be regarded as a London-specific phenomenon or whether his agency could be transferred to other spaces emphasized the complex tension between typical and specific aspects.

The round-table discussion, ‘The Late Twentieth-Century City in the Continuum of the Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Centuries’ was chaired by Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite (London).
Moritz Föllmer, Simon Gunn, Florian Urban (Glasgow), and Natasha Vall (Teesside) explored future issues in this field of research. Natasha Vall’s call to integrate gender into discussions of de-industrialization was very timely, as the pluralization of dominantly masculine discourses is overdue. The power of ‘male perspectives’ was also mirrored in the conference, which emphasizes the need to consider female experiences of de-industrialization. Florian Urban argued for a stronger focus on continuities and fractures in the formation of present-day urban spaces, considering that these cities arose out of the specific urban structures of industrial cities. Calling for dominant ‘master narratives’, Simon Gunn argued for the need to deconstruct the dual explanation of neo-liberalism and de-industrialization, as complex and pluralist developments shaped the transformation process and neo-liberalism is only one aspect.


II. Conference Announcements

18 – 20 May 2017

After Post-Photography 3. Cultural, historical and visual studies in photography
European University in St. Petersburg, Russia

Please find the program on www.hsozkult.de/event/id/termine-33953

19 – 21 May 2017

TU Braunschweig, Germany

Please find the program on https://gtg2017.wordpress.com

5 – 7 October 2017

Environmental History of Russia: the local measurements and perspectives of integral studies
Cherepovets State University, Russia
CFP – Deadline 1 June 2017

The Conference “Environmental History of Russia: the local measurements and perspectives of integral studies” which will take place at Cherepovets State University, Russia, on 5-7 October 2017 is aimed at summarizing the results of regional studies and developing new research
directions that allow us to comprehensively represent the historical experience of nature management and solving environmental problems in Russia. The conference, whose official languages are English and Russian, is organized by Cherepovets State University, Kazan Federal University, Surgut State Pedagogical University, and Russian Society for Intellectual History (Cherepovets Local Department).

Please find the call for papers on http://eseh.org/cfp-environmental-history-of-russia/

4 – 7 October 2017
4th International Conference on the History and Philosophy of Computing
Brno, Czech Republic
CFP – Deadline 15 May 2017

In their societal impact, computers have grown way beyond their roots in mathematics and logic. Their ubiquity since the late 20th century has increased the number and impact of several of the original questions raised by early computer scientists and practitioners: questions about their expected and intended behaviour, as Alan Turing did when asking whether machines can think; questions about their ontology, as John von Neumann did when asking what the computer and the human brain have in common; questions about their role in performing human tasks, as Norbert Wiener did when asking whether automatic translation is possible. With new technologies, the need for rethinking formal and technological issues is crucial.

The computerisation of our lives can hardly leave anyone without opinion. HaPoC’s appeal to historical and philosophical reflection is an invitation to all: designers and manufacturers, computer practitioners, users and artists, logicians and mathematicians, and with the increasing ubiquity of the machine every citizen, with her own experience of the computer.

HaPoC conferences aim to bring together researchers exploring the various aspects of the computer from historical or philosophical standpoint. With Nathan Ensmenger we may say that facts do not change, but our understanding of them does.

The series aims at an interdisciplinary focus on computing, rooted in historical and philosophical viewpoints. The conference brings together researchers interested in the historical developments of computing, as well as those reflecting on the sociological and philosophical issues springing from the rise and ubiquity of computing machines in the contemporary landscape. Past editions of the conference have successfully presented a variety of voices, resulting in fruitful dialogue between researchers of different backgrounds and characteristics. Celebrating the revolutionary exhibition Computer Graphic held in Brno in the spring of 1968, HaPoC emphatically extends the invitation to its fourth international conference to reflections on computers and art.

For HaPoC 2017 we welcome contributions from logicians, philosophers and historians of computing as well as from philosophically aware computer scientists and mathematicians. We also invite contributions on the use of computers in art. As HaPoC conferences aim to provide a
platform for interdisciplinary discussions among researchers, contributions stimulating such discussions are preferable. Topics include but are not limited to:

- **History of computation** (computational systems, machines, mechanized reasoning, algorithms and programs, communities of computing and their paradigms,...)
- **Foundational issues in computer science and computability** (models of computability, Church-Turing thesis, formal systems for distributed, cloud and secure computing, semantic theories of programming languages, ...)
- **Philosophy of computing** (computer as brain / mind, epistemological issues, ...)
- **Computation in the sciences** (computer experiments and simulations, computer-aided systems for teaching and research, ...)
- **Computer and the arts** (temporality in digital art; narration in interactive art work, speculative software, programming as a deferred action, computing and affect, performativity of code, eristic of HCI, ...)

We cordially invite researchers working in a field relevant to the main topics of the conference to submit a short abstract of approximately 200 words and an extended abstract of at most a 1000 words (references included) through EasyChair at [https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=hapoc2017](https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=hapoc2017)

Accepted papers will be presented in 30 minute slots including discussion. Abstracts must be written in English. Please note that the format of uploaded files must be in .pdf. Submissions without extended abstract will not be considered.

A selection of revised contributions to the Conference will be published in a Special Issue of *Philosophy & Technology* (Springer). A second special issue, which focuses more on historical aspects, will be announced later.

Please visit [https://hapoc2017.sciencesconf.org](https://hapoc2017.sciencesconf.org)

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**13 – 14 October 2017**  
Annual Conference of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine Network Ireland. In Association with the RDS Library and Archives  
CFP – Deadline 26 May 2017

We are pleased to announce the call for papers for the annual History of Science, Technology and Medicine Network Ireland Conference, which will be held at the RDS Library & Archives. A goal of the network is to establish a forum for academics at all career levels. Proposals for papers from established, early career, postgraduate, undergraduate and researchers without institutional affiliation are welcome.

Abstracts addressing all aspects of science, technology and medicine are welcome. Papers need not necessarily have a wholly historical focus nor be centred on Ireland. Potential areas would include (but are not limited to):
• History of medicine and health
• Archival Material relating to Science, Technology and Medicine
• The body
• Military and maritime science and technology
• Philosophy of science, technology and medicine
• Medical humanities
• History of psychology, psychiatry and emotions
• Computing history
• Ethics surrounding science, technology and medicine
• Oral history of science, technology and medicine
• Gender and science, technology and medicine
• History of engineering
• History of earth sciences
• History of communication technology
• Medieval science, technology and medicine
• Science, technology and medicine in education

Abstracts of 250 words for a twenty minute presentation and a short biography should be sent to hstmnetworkireland@gmail.com on or before 26th May 2017.

Organised by: Margaret Buckley (HSTM), Senan Healy (RDS Library and Archives) & the HSTM Committee

For information about the HSTM Network, please see: www.hstmnetworkireland.org
For information about the RDS Library & Archives, please see: www.rds.ie/library
Please contact the organisers by hstmnetworkireland@gmail.com

16 – 17 October 2017
/ Humanisation of Work – Conflicts in the Working Environment of the 20th Century
Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Germany
CFP – Deadline 15 June 2017

Please visit http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/ws/index.php/tagungen/call-for-papers/642-cfp-

Please contact Nina Kleinöder, Universität Düsseldorf, nina.kleinoeder@uni-duesseldorf.de and Karsten Uhl, Helmut Schmidt Universität, Hamburg, uhlk@hsu-hh.de
The first hundred days of Donald Trump’s presidency have fuelled the deep feeling, on both sides, of a profound cultural difference between the United States and Europe. At the same time, new and unexpected commonalities have been created with the development of a “populist international” or an “anti-globalist alliance” on both sides of the Atlantic, the rise of anti-immigration feeling in both the US and in Europe, alongside a re-intensification of racial tensions, and questions about inclusion, exclusion, and ethnicity, in France, the Netherlands, Eastern Europe, and the US.

The conference Constructing America - Defining Europe invites scholars to take these developments as a starting point to consider how the mutual perceptions of “America” and “Europe” have evolved in the twentieth century. America’s political and cultural influence has generated controversy and resistance as well as inspiring emulation and adaptation. However, since the late 1990s, the widespread perception of an “Americanization” of Europe, to which many scholars subscribed, has been replaced by a focus on cultural interaction and local appropriation. This shift in outlook, with its emphasis on the complexity and hybridity of cultural interaction has opened new areas of study. This conference follows this shift and investigates the way cultures on both sides of the northern Atlantic perceived, represented, interacted with, and changed each other. It does so by drawing attention to cultural perceptions and to the overarching patterns, domestic functions, and geopolitical contexts of those constructions. We also welcome contributions that compare transatlantic connections with perceptions from other parts of the world, offering a comparative global perspective.

We invite scholars to examine how understandings of European culture, and American culture, have been formed, have influenced each other, and how references to America and Europe have circulated transnationally. How have groups involved in transatlantic exchanges innovated cultural practices or identities by adapting or rejecting features attributed to the other? How have such transnational exchanges and relations created hybrid identities, cultural objects, structures, institutions? We welcome contributions from the fields of American studies, cultural history, transatlantic studies, and interdisciplinary approaches, applying concepts such as reference cultures, transnationality, entangled history, and cultural transfer. These examinations will build a richer understanding of the long history of the relationship(s) between America and Europe in the twentieth century, and of how that relationship has evolved in a globalized and globalizing century.

The conference will focus on the following three domains. Proposed papers and panels should indicate how they connect to one of the following three domains although the organizers will consider papers that fit the general theme but do not fit precisely into one of these areas:

- Mass Media and Popular Culture: From the banning of German-American newspapers during WWI to the “Jazz invasion” of Europe in the 1920s and the “British invasion” of the US in the 1960s, popular culture – and the way it was disseminated – has always been a contentious field of
transatlantic relations. Which role did perceptions of the transatlantic other play in contemporary debates about popular culture? How has the development of modern mass media, from tabloid newspapers to the internet, changed the mutual perceptions of Europe and America? How did these perceptions influence the development of media technologies themselves? How did they shape the evolution of formats and genres, such as soap operas, romantic comedies, news, or reality tv? How have new and interactive modes of viewing and consumer selection (Netflix, live tweeting, and binge-watching) become part of a transnational cultural exchange and how have they shaped perceptions of America and Europe in popular culture? What are the historical continuities and discontinuities in these cultural exchanges and developments?

- Economics and Society: From the beginnings of the modern welfare state to the neoliberal reconstruction of Eastern Europe after 1989, both ideal and negative images of “Europe” and “America” have sparked vigorous debates about economics and society. How did the rise of welfare politics during the twentieth century influence mutual perceptions on both sides of the Atlantic? To what extent did America and Europe serve as a utopia or dystopia in debates about public policy issues such as health care, race, drugs policy, and social welfare? How did changes in the economy – for example, periods of high unemployment, stock market fluctuations, technology booms and busts, and the outsourcing of jobs – interact with cultural exchanges and perceptions?

- Politics and Policy: The concept and practice of American democracy, rooted in European Enlightenment debates but strongly identified with consumerism and populist appropriation, has simultaneously been perceived as appealing and fragile. This has resulted in strongly divergent assessments of its civic culture and political institutions. How have perceptions of American democratic virtues and pitfalls influenced debates about democracy and citizenship in Europe? How have they been perceived, received and transformed in transnational engagements? Which role did the image of “Europe” play in the development of American political culture? These questions are all the more pressing in light of recent political developments, such as the rise of populism, reactions to the European refugee crisis, and claims of outside interference in national elections. Scholars are invited to engage with these issues as they develop their submissions for this conference.

Confirmed keynote speakers include Mary Nolan and Thomas Bender. Limited funding is available to subsidize the travel and accommodations of those presenting at the conference. We plan to publish selected papers as an edited volume or special issue of a journal.

Please send a 300 word abstract and a 2-page CV to constructingamerica@uu.nl, by 12 May 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Jochen Hung at j.b.hung@uu.nl or Rachel Gillett at r.a.gillett@uu.nl and include “Constructing America, Defining Europe” in the subject line. Authors of accepted proposals will be contacted by 1 July 2017.

Please visit http://translantis.wp.hum.uu.nl/conferences/2017-conference-constructing-america-defining-europe/

Please contact Jochen Hung, Utrecht University, j.b.hung@uu.nl
9 – 13 July 2018
6th International Congress on Construction History, 6th ICCH
Brussels
CFP – Deadline 15 June 2017


The call for abstracts is open! We invite researchers and practitioners from all aspects of the history of construction to submit a 400-word abstract before June 15, 2017. More information on the open and thematic sessions and the submission procedure can be found on www.6icch.org. If your abstract is selected for a paper presentation at the congress, you will be notified by September 15, 2017. The deadline to submit full papers is December 1, 2017. Papers presented at the congress will be published in proceedings available at the congress. All papers and presentations must be in English. If you have questions related to this procedure or if you experience any problems in submitting your abstract, please contact the congress secretariat at info@6icch.org.

We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels next year,

On behalf of the organising committee,

KU Leuven (Krista De Jonge)
Universiteit Antwerpen (Michael de Bouw)
Université Catholique de Louvain (Patricia Radelet-de Grave, Denis Zastavni)
Université Libre de Bruxelles (Rika Devos, Bernard Espion)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Inge Bertels, Stephanie Van de Voorde, Ine Wouters)

Please visit www.6icch.org
Please contact the 6ICCH Secretariat: info@6icch.org

III. Recently Published Books


The authors analyse the development of British country houses from 18th to 20th centuries. Their key question is, how new technology was integrated and how much it contributed to living standards and comfort.
IV. Join ICOHTEC

An ICOHTEC membership makes you a member of the scholarly network of the UNESCO-based International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC.

The membership includes:

- Reduced fees for ICOHTEC’s conferences
- ICOHTEC’s reviewed journal ICON (published annually, ca. 200 pages)
- Electronic access to back issues of ICON (published since 1995)
- ICOHTEC’s electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)
Please share this form with a colleague who is not yet a member or ask your library to subscribe.

Form for annual membership renewals / registration of new members

Annual membership includes subscription to ICOHTEC’s refereed annual journal ICON, access to all back issues of ICON in electronic form via the ICOHTEC website, a monthly Newsletter, and special registration rates at the annual ICOHTEC symposium.

I wish to renew my membership / to become a new member in ICOHTEC. (Tick below the appropriate description/rate):

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  Dr. Lars Bluma Otmarstrasse 5, D-45131 Essen, Germany.

After filling the form, please scan and send by email to Dr. Yoel Bergman, ICOHTEC Treasurer at yoelb@protalix.com or, send a hardcopy by regular mail to Yoel Bergman, 20 Haatzmaut St., Herzliya 46789, Israel. Your filled form will facilitate sending ICONs and allocating access privileges.