

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

Nº190 July 2022

www.icohtec.org



Editor: Saara Matala, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

If you have something to announce, please mail to newsletter@icohtec.org.

Dear members and friends of Icohtec,

The Newsletter will be on summer vacation in August, and the next issue will be published in September. At this point, I would like to thank you for the previous year. As a kind reminder, don't hesitate to send the news to be published in the Newsletter. In particular, we are interested in the call for papers for relevant conferences, workshops, and special issues, the calls for applications for academic positions, and information about new open access publications.

Sincerely,

Saara Matala

Newsletter Editor

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1 Icohtec News

1.1 ICOHTEC 49th Symposium in Ostrava: remember to register

The International Committee for the History of Technology's 49th Symposium is hosted by the University of Ostrava, Czech Republic. Since it will take place online it is scheduled in two slots: 24th – 25th September and 15th – 16th October 2022.

The general theme is “Technology-based and Technology-generated decisions”. Whereas technology-based decisions have a long history, technology-generated decisions of so-called artificial intelligence, AI, are on the horizon since the turn of the 21st century and might gain decisive influence within the next years. Which decisions we are willing to hand over to technology? How to define ethical guidelines for this development? The symposium aims to contribute to this discussion, based on a transnational perspective of the history of technology.

Early Bird registration fees until **31 july**.

For more information, [visits the conference website](#).

1.2 Icohtec Membership

As a friendly reminder, please pay your annual fees to our account at: Commerzbank Bochum, “ICOHTEC“ at Commerzbank Bochum (Husemannplatz 3-4, D-44787 Bochum, Germany): IBAN: DE44 4304 0036 0390 2590 00; BIC: COBADEFFXXX. Thank you for your support!

Please send in the form on the last page of the Newsletter about your payment and renewed membership to the Treasurer Viktor Pál, [viktor.paal\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:viktor.paal@gmail.com) and Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC, [stefan.poser\(at\)kit.edu](mailto:stefan.poser@kit.edu), in order to update our list of members.

2 Conferences and seminars

2.1 Call for Papers: SHOT Early Career Group 2022 Workshop

SHOT Early Career Interest Group (ECIG) invites applications from graduate students to submit abstracts to participate in an intensive workshop at the Society for the History of Technology's annual conference, which will be held 10-13 November 2022 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The deadline for proposals is July 30th, 2022.

Accepted students will be asked to submit a short paper (roughly 2500-5000 words excluding footnotes), which will be pre-circulated and discussed in a seminar-style workshop. The workshop will provide graduate students with an opportunity to discuss their work in progress and to receive extensive feedback on their work from established scholars and their peers. The organizers of the workshop will connect workshop participants with mentors working on similar topics so they receive tailored commentary on their work and the opportunity to network with scholars in their field. We especially encourage early-stage research explorations and budding works in progress, including critical literature reviews, research excerpts from dissertation proposals, reworked class papers, or speculative research explorations. We also highly encourage papers exploring the themes of the conference, "Empire, Globalization, and Technological Change."

Each selected participant will have 10 minutes to present a summary of their paper, and to note key areas where feedback would be most valuable; followed by 15 minutes for questions and feedback from mentors, panel attendants, and the organizers. The workshop will be mediated by the ECIG representatives. This is an excellent chance to become familiar with SHOT's scholarly community before presenting as a candidate for the Robinson Prize.

Accepted students will need to register for the conference (lower registration rate for graduate students) Students will be eligible to apply for travel funding, through the SHOT website.

Please note that no individual can give more than one titled commentary or paper, including a paper in the Grad Student Workshop, at SHOT.

The deadline for proposals is July 30th, 2022. Accepted participants will be expected to submit their paper to the organizers no later than September 30st, 2022.

We are committed to making this event as accessible as possible for those unable to attend in-person. Therefore, please use [this survey](#) to indicate any accommodations that would help make this event accessible for virtual participants, and we will try our best to provide them.

Submission Instructions: [Submit proposals through this form](#) providing your name, email, affiliation details, paper title, abstract/description, short description of topic area, field/subfield, and broad literature conversation.

2.2 Travel funds available for the Annual Meeting of the Society of the History of Technology

Deadline for application: **15 August, 2022.**

Travel grant applications are now open for the Society for the History of Technology's annual meeting in New Orleans (10-13 November 2022). Below is information about travel grants from SHOT directly, the general travel grant page which reviews SHOT Travel Grants, SHOT-NSF Travel Grants, and additional options from Special Interest Groups Grants.

The Society for the History of Technology normally awards some grants to support travel to its annual meeting. The SHOT Travel Fund is focused on graduate students, independent scholars, young professionals just beginning their careers, and retired scholars, as well as SHOT International Scholars. Eligible members residing outside the US, Canada, and Western Europe are especially encouraged to apply. For US applicants NSF travel grants are available. If you are eligible for the NSF Grant, please use the NSF application form as soon as this becomes available!

If you are a graduate student, we will need you to provide an endorsement from your advisor, certifying that you are enrolled in a graduate program. Your Advisor can upload the form through this link <https://shotsecretariat.wufoo.com/forms/travel-grant-endorsement/> Please request the file to be named “2022 [student name] Endorsement.”

For more information [see: https://www.historyoftechnology.org/about-us/travel-grants/](https://www.historyoftechnology.org/about-us/travel-grants/)

Deadline: The completed application (and the endorsement) must be submitted no later than 15 August 2022.

2.3 The Early Career Scholars Network and Reading Circle

[The Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars' Group](#) is a self-organizing network gathering PhD-students, post-doctoral scholars and non-tenured academics interested in history of technology. The group has been formed in Chios in October 2014 during the Tensions of Europe workshop “Quo Vadis?”, and contributed to discussing the future directions of the network.

The meetings have an agenda based on the wishes and needs of the participants. The group organizes meetings, seminars, and summer schools around contributions in any form, not restricted to traditional paper presentations, but including brainstorming around research ideas, commenting on project proposals, draft articles and course syllabi, holding workshops on academic skills and strategies, etc. Everyone is welcome to join!

The early career scholars group has a google group mailing list to share cfps, job opportunities, search for panelists for sessions, etc. If you would like to be added to the list, please email Jakub Mazanec [jakmazanec\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jakmazanec[at]gmail.com)

[The Tensions of Europe early career scholars monthly reading group](#) has started in spring 2021 and continues in the fall semester 2022. This is a friendly online meeting where early career scholars can get feedback on their own texts in a constructive and supportive

environment. The reading group takes place every 3rd Thursday of the month, at 10 am CET.

All early career scholars are welcome to participate. Free slots are available in the autumn semester! If you want to participate in the reading group or present a paper, please email:

Hanna Vikström: Hanna.1.vikstrom@ltu.se and Anna Petrova: aapetrova@hse.ru

2.4 Technology and Material Culture in African History: Challenges and Potentials for Research and Teaching, Tanzania

An international conference, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, January 4 – 8, 2023

Submission deadline 31 August 2022

The conference seeks to consolidate and foster the further development of history of technology and material culture in Africa. By gathering scholars from Tanzania and across Africa, as well as colleagues from other continents, the conference will demonstrate the discipline's high degree of relevance—to the research and teaching of history and adjacent fields, as well as to contemporary political agendas. The organizers wish to use this event to discuss how historians of technology and material culture may contribute to the writing of a “usable past” for further generations.

The organizers invite historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, geographers, sociologists, and urban scholars to discuss the potentials of interdisciplinary and international collaboration around present intellectual, social, technological, and environmental challenges in Africa and globally.

There have been growing initiatives to integrate Africa into the global history of technology and material culture, but such efforts rarely focus on issues of teaching. Considering the ongoing curricular review at African universities, it is a pressing concern to discuss the potentials of including the history of technology and material culture in Bachelor and Masters programs. The organizers are convinced that the discipline of history needs to include an African perspective and showcase Africa's contribution to global

history of technology and material culture. Therefore, the conference focuses on policies, practices, and use to rethink the historiographic role played by material artifacts and systems. We believe there is a certain urgency in researching, writing, and teaching the history of technology and material culture from a truly African perspective.

By giving participants an opportunity to discuss existing research projects and teaching programs, the organizers aim at laying the foundation for an international network of historians of technology and material culture in Africa. We thus ask interested teachers and researchers from Africa and beyond to contribute with standard workshop sessions and papers, roundtable discussions, and further innovative formats. Proposals may be on any thematic area in history of technology and material culture.

Submission deadline 31 August 2022

This unique event will be organized by the History Department at University of Dar es Salaam in collaboration with the ERC-funded research project “A Global History of Technology, 1850-2000” at the Technical University of Darmstadt in Germany, the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), and the Foundation for the History of Technology in the Netherlands.

3 Call for Contributions

3.1 CFP: Narrative Complexity in Recent Time-Travel Media

Deadline for application: **October 31, 2022.**

We are seeking contributors for an edited collection of scholarly essays on these recent changes in the complexity of time-travel media (film, television, gaming, or literature). Submissions that are interdisciplinary in theory and method are welcome, especially those in popular culture, science fiction, fantasy, genre studies, critical media studies, narratology, etc. Abstracts and papers discussing recent time-travel media, approximately within the last decade, may include but are not limited to research concerning narrative structure, theme, genre, reception, comprehension, and other relevant topics.

Historically, time-travel films and television (TV) shows relied on science-fiction (sci-fi) tropes and storytelling devices to convey atemporal narratives. More recently, an increasing number of time-travel media have begun incorporating a variety of non-sci-fi elements to create new, increasingly complicated spins on well-worn tropes. The rapidly evolving landscape of technological advancements in our world today have made narratives dealing with the exclusive science/mechanics of time travel less of an imaginative possibility. Many viewers today seem receptive to the recycling of science-fiction time-travel tropes in many of these more traditional sci-fi narratives. However, more authors have begun creating unique adaptations on tropes such as time travel to engage audiences' narrative understanding in new ways, and the audiences want to see and be entertained by them. Whether this is seen as a component of hybrid genre or structural complexity, more recent time-travel media have purposefully complicated their narratives by reconditioning audiences to expect the unexpected and require audiences to learn how to engage with the story to better understand the narrative on multiple levels.

This edited collection will demonstrate that time-travel media is more complicated now than ever before, but also that newer time-travel media has expanded into the “mainstream” of multiple narrative genres that, prior to, were predominantly superhero, fantasy, thriller, etc. Time travel now has grown into a tried and true crossover of these genres and many more, taking the necessity of “science” out of time travel, thus constructing a fresh cultural trope that can be used by any author writing in any genre. This exploration of how a staple trope strongly tied to a single genre, like time travel was to science-fiction media, can successfully become mainstream adds to the current conversation surrounding interdisciplinary studies in areas such as critical media, genre, narrativity, and more. This exploration also aims to reveal the interdependent relationship of the time-travel trope and its malleability, the authors and their ability to make said trope believable, and the audience and their ability to suspend their disbelief and accept the use of the trope in new media and genres.

Abstracts, up to 300 words, should present research intentions, the research's original contribution, and how the focus aligns with the main "theme" of narrative complexity in this collection. All papers should be approximately 10-25 double-spaced pages following the current 9th ed. MLA style with in-text citations and Works Cited page at the end. We are currently in conversations with leading publishers and will provide more concrete publication deadline information as those decisions are finalized.

Please submit abstracts and drafts by the new deadline, **October 31st, 2022**. Final paper drafts deadline is now tentatively set for **August 31st, 2023**.

Please direct all abstracts, papers, and inquiries to TimeTravelCFP@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you and learning more about your contributions.

Contact Info: Liz Trepanier (Eastern Florida State College), Luke Leonard (Eastern Florida State College), and Emory O'Malley (Independent), editors

Contact Email: TimeTravelCFP@gmail.com

4 Open positions and fellowships

4.1 Associate Professor in Environmental Humanities with historical orientation, Sweden

The [Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH](#) now welcomes applications for an Associate Professorship in Environmental Humanities with historical orientation. DL for application **August 31, 2022 11:59 PM CEST**,

Subject field

Environmental Humanities with historical orientation.

Subject description

Environmental humanities is the collective name for an emerging field of research where humanistic and social science methods and theories are applied to ask and answer

questions about the environment, nature and climate and their use and representation in society and culture. The multidisciplinary field includes historical perspectives on the changing relationships between humans and their natural environments.

Duties

The duties include research, and the associate professor is expected to actively apply for research funding. Duties include teaching in courses that the division provides at undergraduate, advanced and postgraduate level at KTH and in collaboration with other universities, nationally and internationally. Course development and pedagogical work are an important part of the teaching responsibility. Duties include supervising doctoral students if available in the subject area and in other ways participating in the doctoral program. Moreover, duties include collaborating with the surrounding society.

The duties may also include leading larger or smaller groups within the division in special initiatives or larger research projects. The associate professor is expected to participate in interdisciplinary collaborations in adjacent areas of the humanities and social sciences, such as critical geography, postcolonial studies, geopolitics, climate, migration and development studies.

Eligibility

Those qualified for appointment as an associate professor are persons who have:

- been awarded a PhD or has the corresponding research competence or some other professional expertise that is of value in view of the subject matter of the post and the duties that it will involve , and
- demonstrated teaching expertise.

Grounds of assessment

The assessment criteria for appointment as an associate professor at KTH shall be the degree of expertise required as a qualification for employment. In addition, the assessment criteria stated in the KTH appointments procedure, section 1.2., apply in relation to the employment profile laid down.

Of highest importance is that the applicant has research expertise in the subject field.

Of second highest importance that the applicant has teaching skills in the subject field, the ability to pursue third-stream activities and also provide information about research and development work; interpersonal skills, and administrative expertise.

It is also important that the applicant has expertise to develop and lead activities and staff. This includes knowledge of diversity and equal treatment issues with a particular focus on gender equality.

Application

Your application should follow [KTH's CV template](#) for employment of teachers. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete according to the requirements in the ad and CV template.

Your complete application must be received at KTH no later than the last day of application, midnight CET/CEST (Central European Time/Central European Summer Time).

Log into [KTH's recruitment system](#) in order to apply to this position online.

5 Publications

In this section of the Newsletter, we collect information about recently published articles, books, and lectures relevant to the field of the history of technology. In particular, we would like to spread the news of open access publications. If you want to share your work, please send the news to: newsletter@icohtec.org.

5.1 Special Issue: Science, Technology & Socio-ecological Change in the Postcolonial Anthropocene

[Global Environment](#) is a thrice-yearly journal published by The White Horse Press focused on ongoing studies on the environment and world history, especially modern and contemporary topics.

The recent issue (Volume 15, Number 2) is a special issue brings together specialists on histories of technology & the environment in various continents.

The articles are available [here](#).

Content

INTRODUCTION

Historicising Entanglements: Science, Technology and Socio-Ecological Change in the Postcolonial Anthropocene Evelien De Hoop, Aarthi Sridhar, Claiton Marcio Da Silva, Erik Van Der Vleuten

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Sustainability Knowledge Politics: Southeast Asia, Europe and the Transregional History of Palm Oil Sustainability Research Evelien De Hoop, Erik Van Der Vleuten

Bio-anthropophagy, or the Anthropocene in the Making: the Caboclo Peoples in the Construction of Modern Brazil (1889–1939) Claiton Marcio Da Silva, Claudio De Majo

The Expansion of the Railway and Environmental Changes: The Modern Configuration of the Argentine Pampas, c. 1870–1930 Ana Marcela França De Oliveira, Adrián Gustavo Zarrilli

Imagining the Nile: Knowledge–Power Nexus in the 19th Century Anthropocene Abeer R.Y. Abazeed, Yasmine Hafez

From National to Cosmopolitan Hydrocarbons Resource Space: Hydrocarbons, Transnational Politics and the State in Greece Yannis Fotopoulos, Stathis Arapostathis

Catalysing Socio-Ecological Change: The Extraction and Processing of Edible Oils, 1910–1940 Frank Veraart

BOOK REVIEWS

Simone Schleper, Planning for the Planet. Environmental Expertise and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources 1960–1980 Jan-Henrik Meyer

5.2 Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine: Perspectives

Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine has an interesting online library of podcasts, videos, and essays called [“Perspectives”](#). Visit the or find some examples of the podcasts and interviews below:

[Chinese History of Industrialization: Eugenia Lean](#)

In this episode of Perspectives, professor of Chinese History Eugenia Lean tells about how Chen Diexian (1879–1940), a man of letters, transformed Chinese industry in the early 20th century. Funding his business ventures with the profits from his romance novels, Chen tinkered, experimented, translated, copied and marketed his cosmetic and home pharmaceutical products to become a titan of industry. By analyzing how Chen created his Butterfly Toothpowder, patented fire extinguisher foam, and built local supply chains for his powder-based cosmetics, Lean shares a history of modern industry that tells a different story from the factory-based production in the US and Europe. Moreover, Lean explains how knowledge production and technological innovation can work together with poetry, “how-to column” journalism, and cultural translation and how innovation is not necessarily mutually exclusive from imitation.

[Early Modern Sex Ed: Professor Mary Fissell](#)

Professor Mary Fissell discusses her research on Aristotle's Masterpiece, a late 17th century sex, midwifery, and childbirth manual popular in England and America from its publication until well into the 20th century.

Dr. Fissell explores the ways in which readers used their copies of the book to record births and vows of love and companionship, performing a similar function to the family Bible. Dig into the similarities and differences between copies of the *Masterpiece* held at Kislak Center for Special Collections at the University of Pennsylvania, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and the Institute of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University.

**Form for annual membership renewals
and registration of new members**



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

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

- An individual. Rate: (30€ or 40 \$ or equivalent) per year*
- A student. Rate: (30 € or 40 \$ or equivalent for two years)*
- An institution. Rate: (75 € or 100 \$ or equivalent) per year*
- A library. Rate: (Europe: 36 €, Overseas 39 € or 52 \$) per year*

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“ICOHTEC“ at Commerzbank Bochum (Husemannplatz 3-4, D-44787 Bochum, Germany):

IBAN:DE44430400360390259000; BIC: COBADEFFXXX

If your bank requires to fill the address of the account holder, use: Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT), Department für Geschichte, Neuer Zirkel 3, D-76131 Karlsruhe, GERMANY

- Through a cheque. Send the check with the appropriate sum made out to “ICOHTEC“ and send to:

Stefan Poser, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT), Department für Geschichte, Neuer Zirkel 3, D-76131 Karlsruhe, GERMANY

After filling the form, please send by email to Viktor Pál, ICOHTEC Treasurer, at [viktor.paal\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:viktor.paal(at)gmail.com) and Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC at [stefan.poser\(at\)kit.edu](mailto:stefan.poser(at)kit.edu).