

# ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

Nº194 December 2022

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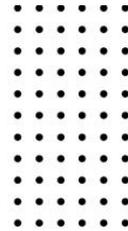
Editor: Saara Matala, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

If you have something to announce, please mail to [newsletter@icohtec.org](mailto:newsletter@icohtec.org).

CALL FOR PAPERS:

## INTERDEPENDENCIES

FROM LOCAL MICROSTORIES TO GLOBAL  
PERSPECTIVES ON THE HISTORY OF  
TECHNOLOGY



DEADLINE FOR  
SUBMISSIONS:  
15 JANUARY 2023



View of Tallinn from St. Olaf's church, by Diego Delso, [CC-BY-SA](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:View_of_Tallinn_from_St._Olaf's_church). *Wikimedia commons*.

## Table of Content

<b>1</b>	<b>Greetings from the President of Icohtec .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Icohtec News .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Meet the Icohtec Turriano Prize Winners 2022: Waqar L. Zaidi and Sébastien Pautet..	4
2.2	Reminder: ICOHTEC 50 <sup>th</sup> Conference in Estonia, August 14-18, 2023 .....	6
2.3	Icohtec Membership.....	7
<b>3</b>	<b>Conferences .....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1	CFP: 43rd History of Technology Conference of the Iron Library.....	7
3.2	CFP: Histories of technology acceptance in the 20th century, October 5-6, Berlin.....	10
3.3	CFP: “Achieving ‘a single postal territory’: A global promise – Past and present”, February 2, 2024, Berne	13
3.4	CFP: A social science and humanities conference on sustainability. Trondheim, 27-28.09.2023	16
3.5	Report from the 6th Plastics Heritage Congress PHC 6 in Naples .....	17
<b>4</b>	<b>Open positions.....</b>	<b>19</b>
4.1	Reminder: 5 PhD Positions in the International Max Planck Research School.....	19
4.2	Reminder: PhD position in History of Technology and Industry, Gothenburg, Sweden	19

## 1 Greetings from the President of Icohtec

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Due to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, this year was very bad for the development of civilisation and especially for Europe. In spring, we published a statement against this war, underlining that it is violating international law.

Apart from consternation concerning the war and its horrible effects, it was a good year for ICOHTEC: thanks to our treasurer Viktor Pál, and to Michaela Závodná, the deputy director of the Center for Economic and Social history of Ostrava University, our virtual symposium 2022 was hosted by the University of Ostrava, Czech Republic. 80 participants contributed to lively discussions on the general theme *Technology-based and Technology-generated decisions*, as well as on the Anthropocene-discourse and environmental crises, energy supply, and the transformation of industrial areas after de-industrialisation – to mention some other core themes. Maria Paula Diogo, Lisbon University, delivered an inspiring Kranzberg Lecture on *Time and Human Agency: how can historians of technology contribute to present day debates?*

Our 50<sup>th</sup> symposium is dedicated to ***Interdependencies: From Local Microstories to Global Perspectives on the History of Technology***. It will take place in two really attractive Estonian cities, Tallinn and Tartu (14-18 August 2023). Peeter Mürsepp, our new editor of ICON since the beginning of 2022, kindly invited us. **Mikael Hård, TU Darmstadt, will deliver the Kranzberg Lecture.** You are warmly invited to join our first symposium in the real world after three years of online-meetings. Deadline of the call for papers is **15 January 2023.**

ICOHTEC's Secretary General, Nelson Arellano-Escudero, kindly invited us to **Santiago de Chile in 2024** and the General Assembly decided on this attractive venue. In doing so, we extend our outreach to another continent: we will learn more about approaches and themes of Latin American historians and hope to promote history of technology in South America. The Santiago symposium will be organized as a joint conference with SHOT; after a break of about 30 years this a nearly new and fruitful undertaking.

Best wishes for Christmas – if celebrated – and for a Happy New Year to you and your families!

Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC

## 2 Icohtec News

### 2.1 Meet the Icohtec Turriano Prize Winners 2022: Waqar L. Zaidi and Sébastien Pautet

The **Turriano ICOHTEC Prize** for books on the history of technology written by early career scholars is sponsored by the [Juanelo Turriano Foundation](#) of Madrid, Spain. This year winners were published in the previous Newsletter, but in this issue, we wanted to present the winning scholars in a bit more personal way.

#### **Dr Waqar Zaidi: who are you and how did you get interested in history of technology?**

I am a historian of technology and international relations. My current work focuses on aviation during the Cold War, though I am interested in other topics as well. I am an Associate Professor in history at the Lahore University of Management Sciences in Pakistan - perhaps the only historian of technology in the country!

I was at one time working in finance on Wall Street, and wandered into *Strand Books* and discovered some popular histories of nuclear weapons. That led me to history of technology, and eventually my PhD. My background in physics (I have an undergraduate degree in the subject) helped as well.

#### **The same question for you, Dr Sébastien Pautet, how did you get interested in history of technology?**

My interest in the history of technology started as a kid with a fascination for Leonardo's machines and stories of my father who was an engineer. It turned later into a master dissertation dedicated to 18<sup>th</sup> century French engineers. However, my doctoral research really started more than eight years ago, when I worked in the science and technology department of the French Consulate in Shanghai, China. There I observed Franco-Chinese cooperation in the field of technology. One of the central issues of that department was the transfer of knowledge and skills for the benefit of the French and Chinese economies. At that time, Kenneth Pomeranz's breakthrough book on the *Great Divergence* had just been published in French, and gave a major boost to studies on China in the fields of economic history, global history and so many other areas. Surprisingly, techniques were not very present in this renewed interest for connections between China and Europe. Yet "transfers of techniques" are a commonplace in the

history of international exchanges and Chinese techniques have been studied by the huge international scientific literature. A whole new research was possible!

**Could you describe your PhD thesis in 2 sentences?**

**Dr Zaidi:** My thesis, completed at the Centre for the History of Science and Technology at Imperial College under Prof. David Edgerton, explored internationalist proposals for the international control of aviation and atomic energy between 1920 and 1950.

**Dr Pautet:** My PhD thesis focuses on the European fascination with Chinese techniques and their influence on political, economic and scholarly thought in eighteenth-century France. I study how the discovery of the sophistication of Chinese technical culture, the refinement of its material culture, the organisation of its factories or the planning of its territory challenged the perception that Europeans had of their own modernity. My purpose is to understand how it gradually led French governments to make China a source of technical expertise through multiple surveys commissioned to agents based in China.

**Your favorite memory from Icohtec?**

**Dr Zaidi:** Some of the people I admire the most are involved in ICOHTEC.

**Dr Pautet:** As a young researcher, I have been fascinated by the reading of books and articles by many members of the Icohtec. I attended the digital congress with great interest for panels and speakers.

**Dr Zaidi, how would you advise early career scholars when they are planning to transform a PhD thesis into a book?**

Don't leave it too late - start working on the book as soon as possible after finishing the PhD. But also take the time to add additional research and new perspectives - publishers and readers will appreciate that. Get as many different views as you can from trusted colleagues and friends on your book project.

**Dr Pautet, how would you advise doctoral students when they are writing their thesis?**

The thesis is a winding path that does not always follow a well-defined plan. I think we have to trust in our ability to make chapters or parts of chapters as small isolated bricks that will eventually build a complete building (that will have to be patched up again and again). It took me personally some time to find a way to unite these bricks into a structured narrative. And when the building is more or less

complete, we have to face the hardest part: accepting that, despite its probable imperfections, the dissertation is finished and can be submitted to the scientific community.

## 2.2 Reminder: ICOHTEC 50<sup>th</sup> Conference in Estonia, August 14-18, 2023

The Icohtec 50<sup>th</sup> Conference will be organized by [Tallinn University of Technology](#) and [the University of Tartu](#), August 14-18, 2023 with the theme “Interdependencies. From Local microstories to global perspectives on the history of technology”.

**Kranzberg lecture** will be delivered by [Mikael Hård](#)

For more information and submission system, follow [this link](#).

DL for submissions **15 January 2023**.



FIGURE: TARTU UNIVERSITY BY IVAR LEIDUS, CC BY-SA 3.0. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Destination Estonia

Estonia is located in the Gulf of Finland by the Baltic Sea. In addition to international flights to Tallinn, it can also be reached by buses from Central Europe and ferries from Finland and Sweden. More information about Estonia, and more specifically on Tallinn and Tartu, as a travelling destinations can be found in the following sites:

Visit Estonia central site, Estonia as a traveling destination: <https://www.visitestonia.com/en>

Estonia, destination for conferences <https://www.ecb.ee/destination/>

Visit Tallinn: <https://www.visittallinn.ee/eng/visitor>

Visit Tartu: <https://visittartu.com/>

## 2.3 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(at)gmail.com) and Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC, [stefan.poser\(at\)kit.edu](mailto:stefan.poser(at)kit.edu), in order to update our list of members.

## 3 Conferences

### 3.1 CFP: 43rd History of Technology Conference of the Iron Library

Submission DL: **February 28, 2023.**

On **November 17 and 18, 2023**, the 43rd History of Technology Conference of the Iron Library (TGT) will take place at the **Klostergut Paradies in Schlatt near Schaffhausen (Switzerland)**. Since 1978, it has provided an outstanding platform for exchange between research, teaching, and industry. The speakers and the invited guests come from universities, libraries, collections and museums or contribute their business and industrial experience. The conferences are renowned for the breadth and topicality of the papers pre-sented. Information on previous conferences can be found at: [www.eisenbibliothek.ch](http://www.eisenbibliothek.ch).

The event is organized by the Iron Library (Eisenbibliothek), Foundation of Georg Fischer Ltd. Responsibility for the content of the conference is in the hands of the scientific advisory board, whose members include Prof. Dr. Gisela Hürlimann (TU Dresden), Prof. Dr. Friedrich Steinle (TU Berlin) and Prof. Dr. Marcus Popplow (KIT).

We invite interested persons involved in research, teaching and practice to apply to present a paper.

### **Good, Durable, Safe. Quality and Safety Requirements of Technology in History**

In addition to functionality and aesthetics, quality and safety are central goals of technological development and production. Quality and safety are just as relevant for the manufacturing process of technical equipment and products as for their use. This applies to the materials used and the manufacturing processes as well as to the end products: from buildings to vehicles, machine elements or computer chips to foodstuffs or active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Even in pre-industrial trade, guilds sought to comprehensively ensure the quality standards of products. In the course of the Modern Period, it was not only manufacturers and companies who were concerned with questions of quality and safety; rather, these were increasingly negotiated by society. Governmental and state actors assumed control and regulatory functions that were institutionalized, standardized and legally fixed. In this way, they also responded to the complaints and claims of users and consumers. Scientific actors produced damage assessments as well as test procedures for individual technologies. The scope of such measures has expanded in the historical process: While the initial focus was on accident prevention, ensuring efficient production processes and customer satisfaction, in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the demands expanded to include environmentally relevant aspects. Discussions about environmental legislation, the safety of nuclear technology or autonomous driving also dealt with questions of product liability and its limits. In all of this, massive disparities are apparent in different types of operations and industries, but especially in a global comparison. The current question is to what extent established standards for the operation and use of technology need to be renegotiated in view of the climate crisis.

The history of technology has continually paid attention to the historical development of quality control, materials and material testing and the establishment of corresponding control procedures. Emphasis has been placed on industrial production, occupational health and safety, and civil engineering. With a view

to long-term utilization processes, the reaction to accidents and technological catastrophes is investigated in a society-wide perspective, when standards for quality and safety have proven to be insufficient. Currently, research on reuse and reparability is also raising questions about the quality and safety of technology. Such topics are addressed in a broad and interdisciplinary field of research that includes the history of science as well as the history of construction technology or historical risk research.

The 2023 TGT focuses on the genesis and implementation of quality and safety requirements at the interface of technical production and use and invites discussion of the following questions: How did control and testing procedures develop in the historical *longue durée* and from which groups of actors did impulses for corresponding measures come? What role did developments play in technical practice from shipbuilding to daring architectural projects and transport infrastructure on the one hand, and in sciences such as chemistry, strength of materials and materials science on the other? How did companies act in the area of conflict between quality assurance measures and economic objectives? What role did quality and safety play in corporate culture and marketing? How did corresponding demands affect the design of work processes or the search for new raw materials and materials? How did informal technical standards become established in craft enterprises or in the absence of official control? What interactions become visible at the intersection of companies, politics, and the public? And what role did quality and safety standards play in the globalization of production processes? Case studies from all historical epochs and world regions are welcome, as are overarching theses and discussions of methodological issues. Contributions from different disciplines of the historical sciences and from the museum sector are equally welcome.

### **Format**

The presentation time is 20 minutes. Presentation languages are English or German (with English slides). Conference proceedings with English abstracts of all papers will be prepared by the organizers. Conference papers will be published in the journal *Ferrum*, a journal published by the Iron Library.

### **Synopsis and timelines**

Applicants are invited to send their exposé of max. 3'000 characters (or 400 words) in English or German with a current CV to Franziska Eggimann ([franziska.eggimann@georgfischer.com](mailto:franziska.eggimann@georgfischer.com)), Head of the Iron Library, by **February 28, 2023**. Speakers will be selected by the end of April 2023.

## Organizational matters

The Iron Library will cover the travel expenses of the speakers as well as the costs for accommodation and meals during the conference. We expect speakers to attend the entire conference.

### Contact person

Franziska Eggimann, Head Iron Library and Corporate Archivist Georg Fischer Ltd  
[franziska.eggimann@georgfischer.com](mailto:franziska.eggimann@georgfischer.com)

## 3.2 CFP: Histories of technology acceptance in the 20th century, October 5-6, Berlin

### DL 10 February 2023.

The Division of History of Technology at TU Berlin invites proposals for a two-day historical workshop taking place on **5–6 October 2023**. The workshop will feature a keynote by Ortwin Renn, Scientific Director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam.

The public acceptance of technological innovation is seen as a decisive factor in current technology-related issues and debates, be it around the transition to renewable energies or the reshaping of mobility and food systems. In short, it's integral to a number of fields linked to the grand challenges that our contemporary societies face. The concept of “technology acceptance” has frequently been critiqued on several grounds: 1) It naively assumes acceptance of technological innovation as the norm. 2) It thus renders critique, resistance, or even reluctance as deviant and thereby only worthy of attention because of said deviance. 3) It conceptualizes the public as well as local stakeholders as passive, giving the term a technocratic tinge. Despite these critiques, “technology acceptance” served and still serves as a pivotal concept in public debates, policy advice, and in social science research on issues such as infrastructure projects, NIMBY-ism, participatory planning processes, the role of prosumers in socio-technological transitions, or in more general assessments of public attitudes towards innovation.

In light of the critiques levelled at “technology acceptance,” the aim of this historical workshop is twofold: On the one hand, it will carve out the history of concepts and knowledge practices related to what is today called “technology acceptance.” On the other hand, it will historically enrich the current critique by spelling out the political and ideological implications of concepts of “technology acceptance.”

The question of public acceptance of technology has a long tradition in the history of technology. Indeed, during the last few decades, historians of technology and scholars from adjacent fields have tried to move away from a top-down model of “technology acceptance” and have developed strong heuristic tools to investigate the public and social negotiations around technological innovations and their success, failure, or modification. Concepts such as the “cultural appropriation” of technology (Hård and Jamison 2003), the “co-construction” of technology and society (Oudshoorn and Pinch 2005), or, more recently, “public technologies” (Trischler and Bud 2020), have highlighted the impact of users and the public in the shaping of technology. In practice, however, concepts of “technology acceptance” have not lost their appeal to public policy makers and remind us of the power dynamics and hierarchies inherent in historical and current innovation processes. Historical studies have furthermore investigated numerous public conflicts around new technologies or infrastructure projects, and they have described public discourses of technophobia (Sieferle 1984) as well as technophilia (Segal 1985) and their variants (Nye 1994, Rieger 2003). We thus have a relatively good theoretical and empirical basis for assessing past public attitudes towards technology. What we lack, however, is a second-degree history, a history of concepts, discourses, and knowledge production about what is today called “technology acceptance” and of how this knowledge has been put into practice as a social engineering tool.

This is where this workshop wants to focus. We invite scholars – particularly early career researchers – working in the history of technology, STS, environmental history, economic history, history of consumption, history of knowledge, history of science, or any other field with a historical interest in issues of technology acceptance to submit paper proposals for a two-day international workshop taking place at **Technische Universität Berlin on 5–6 October 2023**.

We are looking for contributions concentrated on – though not limited to – 20th century Western Europe and that investigate the following questions: How did various stakeholders in innovation processes conceptualize acceptance of technology in the past? How did they develop strategies for fostering acceptance and how did they put them into practice in specific contexts? How did the addressed audiences resist, appropriate, and reformulate these calls for acceptance? And how did they enact positions of what we might call “non-acceptance”?

In sum, we are looking for contributions which follow one or several of the following three closely interlinked lines of investigation:

- *Concepts.* As an analytical term in social science, “acceptance of technology” came into use in the 1980s (Williams and Mills 1986), along with parallel developments in other languages (such as the German Technikakzeptanz, see Rothenhäusler 2018). A nuanced genealogy of the concept has to closely consider these terminologies and needs to go beyond explicit formulations of “acceptance” to trace the development of various discourses around the acceptance of technology – of “adapting to” new technologies, of “conforming to” technology, of “adopting” technology, etc. It also must extend its investigation to before the 1970s and 1980s, as those decades are marked by a fundamental shift in public attitudes towards technology. Such a long-term perspective will shed light on the deeper history of the concept and highlight changes as well as continuities of a linear model of innovation that is as implicit in past notions of “adapting to technology” as it is in current notions of “acceptance.”
- *Actors.* We are interested in case studies of the role institutions, associations, or individuals played in conceptualizing technology acceptance. This encompasses: a) actors aiming to foster acceptance, such as engineering associations, specific corporations and their marketing, human resources, and public relations departments, etc.; b) actors resisting and appropriating these claims, such as alternative research institutes, local protesters, or critical journalists and intellectuals; and c) actors mediating between the two positions, such as the actors in Technology Assessment, consumer associations, or in some cases, state institutions.
- *Practices and media.* Finally, we are interested in the practices and the media formats and contents that facilitated the production and circulation of knowledge related to technology acceptance. These encompass practices and media that can be roughly categorized into three fields: a) popularization: marketing, advertisement, public relations, industrial fairs, technological education in schools; b) the fields of applied sciences concerned with exploring and fostering acceptance and identification with technology in various contexts, such as industrial psychology, human factors, or market research; and, finally, c) the field of participation formats developed since the 1970s at the latest, such as the various forms of citizens’ juries and conferences, but also more spontaneous forms of public protest.

The funding application for this event is pending. If successful, travel and accommodation costs for the invitees will be covered. We envisage a publication of the contributions in a special issue. Speakers are invited to present in English; contributions should not exceed 10 minutes as the discussions will concentrate on pre-circulated papers.

Please submit your application (abstract of about 400 words and a short academic CV) by **10 February 2023**, to Fabian Zimmer ([fabian.zimmer@tu-berlin.de](mailto:fabian.zimmer@tu-berlin.de)). The applicants will be notified in February 2023. If accepted, a paper of 10–15 pages shall need to be submitted by 31 August 2023.

### **3.3 CFP: “Achieving ‘a single postal territory’: A global promise – Past and present”, February 2, 2024, Berne**

DL for submissions: **31 March 2023**

For more information about the themes and conference, [follow this link](#).

Since its inception, the **Universal Postal Union** (UPU) has had the objective of achieving a global “single postal territory”, to cite article 1 of the Convention signed at Berne in 1874. The genesis of this promise of global communication, the way in which it accompanied the expansion of the colonial powers, the uninterrupted pursuit of this goal over the decades and its reformulations, but also its diverging interpretations and ever incomplete realization, deserve the close attention of historians of contemporary societies and their globalization. However, compared with the International Telecommunication Union, long considered its twin, the UPU has remained in the shadows. Fascinated by the advent of electronic communication, historians have generally neglected the economic, social, cultural, and thus political, importance of postal networks in modern times. Absolutely central in the 19th century, postal networks have remained present, evolving throughout the 20th and 21st centuries up to the rise of e-commerce.

As an organization, the UPU is a fascinating aspect of global history, whose remarkable longevity merits reflection. Its creation was not straightforward. Confronted with Heinrich von Stephan, who was promoting a complete reform of the rules for international postal exchanges from Berlin, the head of the French Post condemned the fact that the Prussian had “undertaken to play politics with the Post” – in which he was not wrong, except in considering that he himself was not doing so by taking this position.

To have or not to have a Universal Postal Union: this would make a marked difference for postal organizations, their employees and all postal service users. Moreover, there was enthusiastic support for the proposed reform in France, and its implementation was heralded in many countries as a great step forward because it made cross-border exchanges easier, but also, on another level, because it revealed, for the first time or close to it, humanity's capacity to give itself common rules. The Union's rapid expansion to include member countries on all continents struck contemporaries, as did its subsequent attachment to the UN system, as decided in 1947. The crisis that began in 2018 when the United States announced it was leaving the organization, which did not ultimately happen, was paradoxically an opportunity for the UPU to showcase its work and value. It also brought to the fore its limitations and underlying tensions.

Although the Union may not have prevented wars, as some optimists might posit, it has up until now always survived them. How has it coped with armed conflict and other economic, financial and health crises? In what way has it been a means of mitigating the effects or repairing the damage? More broadly, what does the Universal Postal Union tell us about globalization or about the globalization regimes of modern times, about the inequalities of wealth and power rivalries, and about the ability to bridge or overcome them? The UPU, as a platform for negotiating standards and settling disputes, is a space for exchanging and sharing on the one hand, and for delineating and differentiating on the other. How has a balance been struck and how has that balance shifted? Has the organization's global promise been received and applied differently in the different member countries?

**We are inviting researchers in the humanities and social sciences to bring the Universal Postal Union out of its academic shadow,** to exchange their views, and to renew our knowledge on the occasion of a colloquium that will be held in Berne in the first quarter of 2024. The celebration of the 150th anniversary and the location of the colloquium at the UPU International Bureau headquarters should foster an exchange and mutual enrichment among researchers and attendees.

**Some of the avenues worth exploring and related questions posed by the organizers at this stage include:**

- A pioneer of multilateralism
- Governance and power in an organization that is intended to be apolitical
- Missions and services
- Shocks and challenges
- Towards a transnational history of stamps and philately

The colloquium will take place on **2 February 2024 at the UPU International Bureau in Berne**. Speakers present will be able to be reimbursed, at least partially, for their transportation and accommodation expenses, according to the available budget. Speakers may also participate remotely. **For this colloquium, the UPU will provide full access to its archives in Berne.**

**Proposals must include, in a single Word file:**

- About 500 words presenting the content and disciplinary background of the presentation;
- A short bibliography including up to five references;
- A biography of the speaker (maximum five lines).
- Proposals should be prepared in English or French (the colloquium languages), and e-mailed by **31**

**March 2023** to:

Léonard Laborie (French National Centre for Scientific Research – CNRS, Paris): [leonard.laborie@cnrs.fr](mailto:leonard.laborie@cnrs.fr)

Sébastien Richez (La Poste Historical Committee, Paris): [sebastien.richez@laposte.fr](mailto:sebastien.richez@laposte.fr)

**The organizing committee comprises:**

- Olivier Boussard, Administration and Cabinet Director, UPU
- Elisabeth Massonnet, Deputy Director, European and International Relations, La Poste Groupe

- Kayla Redstone, Communication and Outreach Expert, UPU
- José Anson, Economist, UPU
- Muriel Le Roux, CNRS, Institute of Modern and Contemporary History (IHMC), La Poste Historical Committee

The results will be communicated in early **May 2023**.

### 3.4 CFP: A social science and humanities conference on sustainability. Trondheim, 27-28.09.2023

- **Website for more information:** <https://www.ntnu.edu/web/energy/society/team-society-conference>
- **Deadline abstract Submission:** 15th of March
- **Notification of acceptance:** 31<sup>st</sup> of May
- We also welcome proposals to [organize alternative format sessions](#)
- Questions: [contact-teamsociety@energy.ntnu.edu](mailto:contact-teamsociety@energy.ntnu.edu)

**Beyond crisis/Beyond normal** will be an essential meeting place for SSH scholars broadly working under the umbrella of sustainability. The conference comes at a crucial juncture for contemporary societies. On the one hand, immediate crises and war color key debates. On the other hand, one must re-think what new normals we might produce on the other side of these crises.

The conference recognizes the need to move beyond mere technological solutionism, to fundamentally probe what it could mean to live in just and sustainable societies and how these can be achieved. This entails grappling with difficult questions such as how societies should be organized, why it is so difficult to break out of extractive fossil fueled capitalism, how to deal with and make sense of controversies and trade-offs, as well as probing what justice might entail.

The conference will explore aspects of sustainability across everyday life, politics, technology, art, and innovation through a broad range of disciplinary and cross-disciplinary perspectives. The conference seeks to enable new academic conversations, strengthen ties between SSH communities, and increase the collective impact of SSH research, perspectives, and conversations on broader societal developments.

## Session themes:

Participants are asked to submit an abstract to one of the following sessions through [this portal](#). Details on session organization and calls for papers can be found [here](#).

- The Past, Present, and Future of Ocean Governance: Can we sustainably organize the ocean?
- Geographical perspectives on just and sustainable transitions
- Energy Narratives
- Towards a better conceptualization of agency and coalitions building in sustainability transitions
- Justice game - interactive session on energy justice
- Land use challenges: Sustainability, governance, and social and political responses
- Real sustainable mobility innovations - disrupting/breaking with the techno-economic paradigm
- Bridging concerns for justice and speed: the dilemmas and tradeoffs of accelerated transitions
- Changing to remain the same? The relationship between preservation and change in innovation
- Soul searching the flexibility concept
- Environmental behavior spillover
- The politics of decarbonization/Net Zero
- Transitions in tension: public engagement, social justice and conflict
- Low-income groups and the super-rich in sustainability transitions
- A postcapitalist world is possible: A postcapitalist world is now
- Nordic renewable energy success stories
- Philosophical and ethical perspectives on the ocean economy
- Multi-sectoral transitions: mechanisms, processes and agency
- Automated mobility: transition enabler or disabler
- Anthropology and the New Energy Complex: Critical Infrastructure, Sustainable Futures, War
- Biodiversity – politics, knowledge, practice'
- Building capacity for climate change adaptation through involving citizens

### 3.5 Report from the 6th Plastics Heritage Congress PHC 6 in Naples

This year, the sixth Plastics Heritage Congress PHC 6, organised by **PHEA** and hosted by the **Plart** in collaboration with the School of Restoration was situated with the historic **Naples Academy of Fine Arts**, located in the historic city of **Naples**.

It is without doubt that I can say that the Congress has been a great success, with three full days of activities and a one-day **PHC School** at PLART in the museum dedicated to plastic objects, their care and display.

The Congress witnessed 32 conference papers from all over the globe representing multiple subjects covering the Congress themes of Hipom's history, Hipom's heritage and Hipom's in art and design, chaired by 6 keynote speakers: Suzan de Groot, Silvia Garcia Fernandez-Villa, Maria Joao Melo, Brenda Keneghan, Heinz Stahlhut, Elisa Storace. The **Programme Committee**, chaired by Günter Lattermann, established the tracks for the first day providing rich material for the audience of well over 100 participants. The second day focussed on Hipoms in conservation science and covered many topics illustrating developments in technical and practical outcomes across a broad range of object types. The third day looked at application of treatments and the culture of collecting through museums, where again many topics were shared, and new processes revealed.

The 29 posters which were displayed throughout the congress provided food for thought and discussion during breaks and lunches as well as the allotted poster sessions. The poster topics ranged from Hipoms heritage, through museum collections, conservation science and treatments. The quality of the posters whilst varied in presentation style was of a very high quality. The **Kartell Museo Poster Awards** were given as 1st Prize (250 €) to Eva Mariasole Angelin, Lisbon, as 2nd Prize (150 €) to Alexandra Papis, Oświęcim, and as a 3rd Prize (100 €) to Francesca Modugno, Pisa/München.

We (the Scientific Committee, chair: Jake Kaner) are processing the short articles that are being submitted by contributors which will form a post congress publication. This will allow the excellent content from the congress to be captured and disseminated for reference.

Beyond the presentations and posters was excellent fringe activities and this included visits to heritage sites and the PLART museum. We must also not forget the notable cuisine all kindly organised by the Naples Academy of Fine Arts and the Plart museum, all coordinated by Alice Hansen, chair of the **Organising Committee**, Giovanna Cassese, chair of the **Honorary Committee**, and Maria Pia Incutti, president of the Plart Foundation.

Overall, the congress was a great success, and we thank Plart, the Academy of Fine Arts and the city of Naples for being such super hosts.

Once again, the congress has helped to move the topics associated with plastics heritage forward raising new challenges and sharing research successes. The story of plastics heritage continues to grow and take on new experiences.

The Plastics Heritage European Association PHEA is currently deciding upon the next venue for PHC 7 in 2024. We look forward to seeing you there.

4th December 2022,  
Jake Kaner  
PHEA Vice chair  
Chair of the PHC Scientific Committee

## 4 Open positions

### 4.1 Reminder: 5 PhD Positions in the International Max Planck Research School

Deadline for applications: **January 15, 2023**

[The International Max Planck Research School](#) “Knowledge and Its Resources: Historical Reciprocities” (IMPRS-KIR) invites applications for 5 doctoral positions, to begin on September 1, 2023. Each position will run for 3.5 years, with the possibility of extending once by six months.

For information, [click here](#).

### 4.2 Reminder: PhD position in History of Technology and Industry, Gothenburg, Sweden

Application deadline: **January 10th, 2023**

[The Division of Science, Technology and Society \(STS\)](#) at Chalmers University of Technology, will hire a PhD student in **History of Technology**, with a specialisation in industrial transformation in the 20th Century. Applicants are invited to propose their own research project within this specialisation. Possible topics might be the relationship between nation-states and business, industrial growth and de-growth, or development of certain technologies such as maritime technologies or energy infrastructure.

More information and submission portal [here](#).

## **Form for annual membership renewals / registration of new members**



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