

# ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

Nº198 April 2023

[www.icohtec.org](http://www.icohtec.org)



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

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

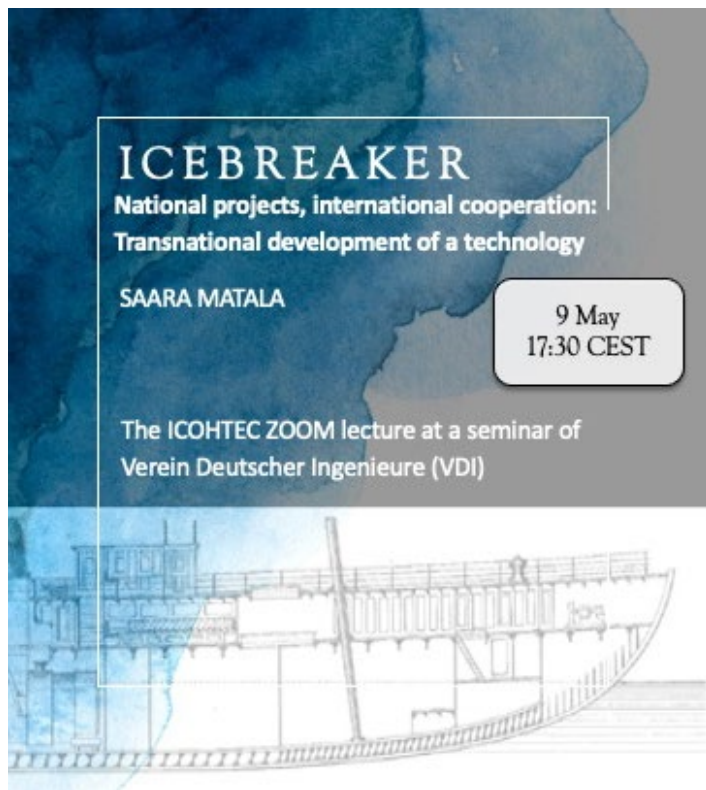
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## 1 Icohtec News

### 1.1 Icohtec Lecture 9 May: National projects, international cooperation

In 2022, ICOHTEC has launched a new initiative – online workshops and lectures that aim to stimulate a scholarly debate in between our Annual Meetings.



On Tuesday **9 May, at 17:30 (CEST)** Saara Matala will have a talk on transnational development of the icebreaker, 1890-1954.

The event is open for all, but please register on the [homepage of Verein Deutscher Ingenieure \(VDI\)](#).

Icebreakers are gigantic, sophisticated machines that carry a state flag and the fame of heroic missions. As tangible objects of competence and prowess, many of these ships have become symbols of technological nationalism. Their history is often narrated as a story of a national engineering feat.

This study follows the development and adoption of icebreaker innovations by analysing material artefacts and engineering networks. In specific, it focuses on three icebreakers: Ymer (1933), the first diesel–electric icebreaker, was a feat of Swedish electrical engineering, while the US 'Wind' class (1942–1946) icebreakers demonstrated the capability of the superpower to penetrate polar ice and the Finnish Voima (1954) marked the entrance of a peripheral country into the high-tech industry.

While all of these icebreakers were ships of national importance, the study shows that they resulted from international cooperation, close state-industry interaction, and widespread transnational networks of engineers. These networks were vital in the early development of these expensive and complex vessels when it was still impossible to test design ideas in ice model basins and simulations. In that way, the study

also explores the engineering profession as balancing old and new solutions: How to manage risk when aiming for a technical breakthrough?

This lecture is based on the co-written article: Aaro Sahari and Saara Matala. "Of a titan, winds and power: Transnational development of the icebreaker, 1890-1954." International Journal of maritime history 33, no. 4 (2021): 722-747. The [article has open access](https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/08438714211062493) and is available through the link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/08438714211062493>

**Please register** (without fees) on the [homepage of VDI](https://www.vdi.de/veranstaltungen/detail/national-projects-international-cooperation-transnational-development-of-the-icebreaker-1890-1954):

<https://www.vdi.de/veranstaltungen/detail/national-projects-international-cooperation-transnational-development-of-the-icebreaker-1890-1954>

## **1.2 Reminder: Turriano ICOHTEC Prize 2023 - Call for Submissions**

DL for submissions: **31 April 2023.**

[The Turriano ICOHTEC Prize](#) is an Early Career Prize for Books on the history of technology, sponsored by the [Juanelo Turriano Foundation](#) and consists of 2,500 Euro. The prize-winning book will be presented and discussed at a special session of the next ICOHTEC symposium.

ICOHTEC, the International Committee for the History of Technology, is interested in the history of technology, focusing on technological development as well as its relationship to science, society, economy, culture and the environment. The history of technology covers all periods of human history and all populated areas. There is no limitation as to theoretical or methodological approaches.

Eligible for the prize are original book-length works in any of the official ICOHTEC languages (English, French, German, Russian or Spanish) in the history of technology: published or unpublished Ph.D. dissertations or other monographs written by scholars in the early stages of their career. Articles and edited anthologies are not eligible. If the work is a Ph.D. thesis, it should have been accepted by your university in 2021 or 2022; if it is a published work, the year of publication should be 2021 or 2022.

For the ICOHTEC Prize 2023, please send an electronic copy (PDF or Word) of the work you wish to be considered for the prize to each of the four Prize Committee members. (Note: Hard copies are only accepted for published works not available electronically.) Your submission must be emailed no later than 31 April 2023. Please also include an abstract of no more than a half-page in length. If your book is in Spanish or Russian, please also supply a summary in English, French or German of about 4,500 words. In that case, the prize committee will find additional members, who are familiar with the language in which your book is written.

The submission should be accompanied by a CV (indicating also the date of birth) and, if applicable, a list of publications. Applicants are free to add references or reviews of the work submitted.

Any materials sent to the prize committee will not be returned.

Send a complete application by email to each of the following Prize

**Committee members:**

- Dr. Darina Martykánová (Chairperson), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. [darina.martykanova@uam.es](mailto:darina.martykanova@uam.es)
- Dr. Irina Gouzevitch, École Normale Supérieure. [irina.gouzevitch@ens.fr](mailto:irina.gouzevitch@ens.fr)
- Dr. Klaus Staubermann, ICOM Germany. [k.b.staubermann@gmail.com](mailto:k.b.staubermann@gmail.com)
- Dr. Matti La Mela, Uppsala University. [Matti.lamela@abm.uu.se](mailto:Matti.lamela@abm.uu.se)
- Dr. Jacopo Pessina, Department of Civilisations and Forms of Knowledge. [japessina@tiscali.it](mailto:japessina@tiscali.it)

### 1.3 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.

## 2 Conferences

### 2.1 Tensions of Europe remote conference “Surprising Sources” – May 11, 2023

Do the historians gathered in the Tensions of Europe network have a particular relationship to archives, to sources, and to their research materials? What does being a historian of technologies, infrastructures, or networks imply, and is there a singularity regarding sources and archives? It is this relationship to the archives, to the sources, to the historical material at large, to the spatialities, and materialities as well, that this conference invites us to question.

The issue of “Surprising Sources” can be understood in two ways: first by reflecting on a source that is surprising in its form (use of a series of stamps, unpublished data, a natively digital archive, material traces like abandoned factory, pipes, etc.), and second by presenting a source that is surprising in its content, such as an unexpected discovery in a source that alters the meaning of the research, adds substance to it, or modifies it.

For more information, [follow the link](#).

## 3 Open positions

### 3.1 Post-Doctor in Energy history at KTH, Sweden

**DL for applications:** 5 May, 2023 11:59 PM CEST

School of Architecture and Built Environment at [KTH Royal Institute of Technology](#) in Stockholm calls for applications for a postdoctoral position in energy history.

#### **Job description**

The post-doc will be part of a dynamic research environment with a long track record in energy studies and in which historical studies are seamlessly integrated with studies with a more present-day focus.

Funded by the StandUp energy-strategic research programme ([www.standupforenergy.se](http://www.standupforenergy.se)), the post-doc will play an important part in strengthening the historical and societal dimension of KTH's energy-oriented research.

The post-doc will do research about the history of energy supply. Within this broad frame, the post-doc will have considerable flexibility in defining his or her own research focus.

The post-doc may also be asked to participate, on a smaller scale, in teaching and tasks of a more administrative character.

## **Requirements**

A doctoral degree (or an equivalent foreign degree) in history, history of technology, environmental history, STS, or a related field. This eligibility requirement must be met no later than the time the employment decision is made.

- Research expertise
- Collaborative abilities
- Independence
- Very good English skills are a must, since the post-doc will be working in a multi-cultural research environment and be expected to publish in English language.

## **Preferred qualifications**

- A doctoral degree or an equivalent foreign degree, obtained within the last three years prior to the application deadline
- Earlier experience of energy-historical research is a plus.
- Awareness of questions of diversity and equality with a special focus on gender equality and equal opportunities.

Great emphasis will be placed on personal competency.

## **Application**

[Log into KTH's recruitment system](#) in order to apply to this position. You are responsible to ensure that your application is complete according to the instructions in the ad.

The application must include:

- CV including relevant professional experience and knowledge.
- Copy of PhD diploma

- List of publications
- Brief research statement with description of your research so far and future research goals and interests
- Names and addresses of two or more reference persons

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

### **About the employment**

The position offered is for, at the most, two years.

A position as a postdoctoral fellow is a time-limited qualified appointment focusing mainly on research, intended as a first career step after a dissertation.

For more information, [follow the link](#).

## **3.2 Lecturer on the History of Science at Harvard**

**DL for applications:** May 8, 2023

**Position Description:** The Department of the History of Science at Harvard University seeks applications for a one-year lectureship in the history of science, medicine and/or technology starting in the fall of 2023. Candidates will be expected to teach a mix of lecture and discussion-based undergraduate courses, and to be an active presence in the department community. The field of focus is open, and the position will be full-time. Strong preference for candidates with a previous successful track record in developing compelling undergraduate curricula.

The position is for one year with a start date of July 1, 2023, and an end date of June 30, 2024.

**Basic Qualifications:** Doctorate in history of science or closely related field is required by the time the appointment begins.

**Additional Qualifications:** Evidence of excellence in undergraduate teaching is desired.



**Special Instructions:** Please submit the following materials through [the ARleS portal](http://academicpositions.harvard.edu) (<http://academicpositions.harvard.edu>). Candidates are encouraged to apply by May 8, 2023; applications will be reviewed until the position is filled. 1 Cover letter 2. Curriculum Vitae 3. Brief abstracts of possible courses at the undergraduate level. Names and contact information of 3 referees. The committee will ask for letters on behalf of short-listed candidates.

For more information, [follow the link](#).

## 4 Awards and scholarships

### 4.1 SHOT: Leonardo da Vinci Medal

The deadline for nominations is **30 April**.

The highest recognition from the [Society for the History of Technology](#) is the Leonardo da Vinci Medal, presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the history of technology, through research, teaching, publications, service to the Society, and other activities. Andras Beck (formerly of the Hungarian Academy of Arts) designed the medal, the face of which shows Leonardo's head modeled after the artist's self-portrait. The reverse design shows (in the words of the sculptor) "the basic sources of energy: water, wind, and fire." The prize consists of a medal and a certificate.

SHOT invites members to nominate candidates for the Leonardo da Vinci Medal. To put forward a person's name for consideration for the award, please upload a letter of nomination, describing the person's outstanding contributions to the history of technology, to [SHOT's online submission system](#). Please note that nominations will be considered for the 2023 Leonardo da Vinci Medal.

Please note that there is no standard format for a letter of nomination. Current members of SHOT's Executive Council cannot be considered as a Da Vinci medalist.

The nominations will be reviewed by the Da Vinci Medal Committee. This committee comprises all SHOT prize committee chairs. It is chaired by the immediate SHOT past-President for two consecutive years.

**For more information**, please contact Jan Korsten, SHOT Secretary, [SHOT.Secretariaat@tue.nl](mailto:SHOT.Secretariaat@tue.nl).

## 4.2 Melvin Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship

The deadline for applications is **30 April**.

[The Melvin Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship](#) is presented annually to a doctoral student engaged in the preparation of a dissertation on the history of technology, broadly defined.

The \$4,000 award is unrestricted and may be used in any way that the winner chooses to advance the research and writing of his or her dissertation. Possible uses include underwriting the costs of travel to archival collections; photocopying or microfilming; translation of documents; and so on. The award may not be used for university tuition or fees.

Students from institutions of higher learning anywhere in the world who are working on projects in the history of technology are eligible to apply; doctoral candidates from outside the United States are especially encouraged to submit application materials. Applicants must have completed all requirements for their doctorate except for the dissertation by September 1 of the year the award is made. (Students from outside the United States, whose programs of study may follow a different pattern, are encouraged to contact the committee chair to review their standing and discuss their eligibility for the Kranzberg Fellowship.)

### **An application should include the following:**

- A curriculum vitae (all applications must be in English).
- A 3-5 page (750-1250 word) summary or abstract of the proposed dissertation. In this summary, applicants should describe how their research contributes to the history of technology.
- A 1-2 page (250-500 word) description of how the applicant intends to use the funds;
- A letter of recommendation from the student's dissertation director. This letter should also attest that the student is currently enrolled and in good standing at a recognized university graduate program, and will complete all requirements for the doctorate except the dissertation by 1 September.

For more information and submissions, [follow the link](#).

### 4.3 The Levinson Prize for an unpublished essay in the history of technology

The deadline for submissions is **30 April**.

The Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize is awarded each year for a single-authored, unpublished essay in the history of technology that explicitly examines, in some detail, a technology or technological device or process within the framework of social or intellectual history. It is intended for younger scholars and new entrants into the profession.

Manuscripts already published or accepted for publication are not eligible. In order to be considered, manuscripts must be in English and of a length suitable for publication as an article in *Technology and Culture*—approximately 7,500 words (not including notes) and 100 notes. The winning manuscript will be considered for publication in *Technology and Culture*.

To nominate an essay, please upload it to the online submission system, in MS Word or PDF format. The judging will be blind, so authors should take care not to self-identify in the text of the article. The SHOT Secretariat will forward the nominated essays to the committee.

For more information and submissions, [follow the link](#).

### 4.4 The Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize for the best paper in electrotechnology

Deadline for nominations is **30 April**.

The Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize (formerly the IEEE Life Members' Prize in Electrical History) is supported by the IEEE Life Members' Fund and administered by the Society for the History of Technology.

The prize is awarded annually to the best paper in the history of electrotechnology—power, electronics, telecommunications, and computer science—published during the preceding year. Any article published in a learned periodical is eligible if it treats the art or engineering aspects of electrotechnology and its practitioners. The article must be written in English, although the journal or periodical in which it appears may be a foreign language publication. The prize consists of a cash award of \$1,000 and a certificate. On request IEEE can provide a travel subsidy (up to max. \$750 domestic, \$1,000 international) to allow the

winner to attend SHOT's annual meeting, and SHOT can waive the basic registration and awards-event fee for the winner.

For more information and submissions, [follow the link](#).

#### **4.5 The Martha Trescott Prize for an essay on social responsibility of engineers in history**

The deadline for nominations is **30 April**.

The 2023 Martha Trescott Prize will be awarded to an outstanding published essay in the area of social responsibility of engineers in history.

Martha Trescott was one of the pioneering spirits behind Women in Technological History (WITH). She wished to honor Frances McConnell Moore, Carroll Pursell, and Edwin T. Layton, Jr., with this prize.

Essays published in any of the four years preceding the award will be eligible; that is, for the 2023 prize, eligible essays will have to been published in 2019, 2020, 2021 or 2022. "Published essay" is understood to be a scholarly article, chapter in a published book, or other 'long-form' essay contribution. An essay can be nominated for the prize by a colleague or by the author.

To nominate an essay for the prize, please submit the nomination materials to the established prize portal on the SHOT website. A valid nomination will consist of a complete citation to the published essay, a scanned or downloaded PDF copy of the essay, and a brief 100-200 word description of its worthiness for that year's prize.

For more information and submissions, [follow the link](#).

#### **4.6 The Ferguson Prize for an outstanding reference work or resource**

The deadline for nominations is **30 April 2023**.

The Eugene S. Ferguson Prize is awarded biennially by SHOT for an outstanding reference work or resource that supports research and teaching in the history of technology. The Prize consists of a plaque and a cash award.

Resources and works published in English and in the four calendar years prior to the year of the award are eligible for consideration. Publication date shall be interpreted as the year in which the work to be considered first appeared (i.e., first printing, first accessible to the general public on the internet, etc.) It is expected that creators of non-printed works and virtual resources receiving this award will work with an institutional partner (such as Stanford University's Digital Repository) to provide for appropriate and permanent preservation of their recognized contribution.

Resources and works published in English and in the four calendar years prior to the year of the award are eligible for consideration. Publication date shall be interpreted as the year in which the work to be considered first appeared (i.e., first printing, first accessible to the general public on the internet, etc.) It is expected that creators of non-printed works and virtual resources receiving this award will work with an institutional partner (such as Stanford University's Digital Repository) to provide for appropriate and permanent preservation of their recognized contribution.

For more information and submissions, [follow the link](#).

#### **4.7 Reminder: APE research grants for archival studies**

Next DL: **30 June 2023**.

[Archives Portal Europe](#) supports archival research for historical research projects with grants up to 500 EUR to assist scholars (with a special focus on early career researcher, but not exclusively) with research in archives that are APE content providers, that is, listed in the Directory of Archives Portal Europe:

<https://www.archivesportaleurope.net/find-an-institution/>

The awardees will also enjoy in-kind support in their research from APE and its network, for up to 20 hours in total during the solar year of the grant, with support on archival research, drafting of an academic paper, and/or other kind of help needed by the awardees for their research.

The grant assists with travel, accommodation expenses, and working hours incurred in the undertaking of research into any aspect of history, with preference for:

- Comparative research (e.g., women lives in rural villages in the 16th century in Sweden, Malta, and Portugal)

- International research (e.g., the correspondence of the nobility across Europe during the Napoleonic wars)
- Research where archival collections from archives in different countries is used and compared (e.g., the revolutions of 1848 as narrated in archival collections from Hungary, Denmark, and France)
- Research where archival collections are used to show new points of view (e.g., the unification of Italy and Germany analysed through Spanish archives)

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

There are two deadlines for this grant: 15th March 2023 and 30th June 2023.

Each successful application will award 500 EUR.

In order to apply:

- Fill in the application form [at this link: https://forms.gle/41d9J57dM4csVxAi6](https://forms.gle/41d9J57dM4csVxAi6)
- Send a copy of your academic CV (in English), completed with publication list, at [info@archivesportaleurope.net](mailto:info@archivesportaleurope.net)

## OUTPUT

Upon being awarded the prize, the recipients of the grant will be immediately reimbursed for their archival trip(s) upon completing it/them, as long as they take place no later than July 2023 (for the March deadline) or November 2023 (for the June deadline).

The remaining amount of the grant will be paid upon submission of the required outputs on part of the grant recipient:

1. A draft copy of an academic paper (or book chapter) based on the archival research conducted, to be submitted within 6 months from the completion of the archival trip(s)
2. A short blog post (800/1000 words) describing the research projects and the documents analysed for it, including preliminary results, to be submitted within 2 months from the completion of the archival trip(s)

Please note that Archives Portal Europe should be mentioned on all drafts and working copies of the papers, as well as in the acknowledgment section of any journal submission undertaken by the grant recipients or their colleagues.

Please note that grants recipients will be asked to act as volunteers for Archives Portal Europe (APEF ambassadors) for the period in which they are working on the research proposal, with a light commitment. Tasks will include help in communication, help in research, and other activities decided together with the awardee. You can read more about [the ambassadors scheme here](#):

[https://www.archivesportaleurope.net/uploads/images/2023/02/APEF\\_AMBASSADORS\\_CALL.pdf](https://www.archivesportaleurope.net/uploads/images/2023/02/APEF_AMBASSADORS_CALL.pdf)

For more information please contact us at [info@archivesportaleurope.net](mailto:info@archivesportaleurope.net)

## **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):*

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

*Tick the years of membership to be paid: ☐ **2022** ☐ **2023** ☐ **2024** ☐ **2025***

I submit the total amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Your first name and surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

*Tick the method of your payment:*

☐ Through international money transfer: Make international money transfer to:

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

IBAN:DE44 4304003603902590 00; BIC: COBADEFFXXX

☐ 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 to Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC at [stefan.poser\(at\)kit.edu](mailto:stefan.poser(at)kit.edu)