

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

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www.icohtec.org



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



Guided tour and the Gala Dinner at the Estonian National Museum in Tartu. Photo: Photo by Mana Kaasik

Table of Content

1	<i>Icohtec News</i>	3
1.1	Glimpses of the Icohtec 2023 in Estonia	3
1.2	Nominate candidates: ICOHTEC General Assembly and Elections, November 16th	3
1.3	Save the date: Icohtec/SHOT 2024 in Chile.....	4
1.4	Save the date for DHST in New Zealand 2025	4
1.5	Icohtec Membership	5
2	<i>Conferences and Seminars</i>	5
2.1	CFP: Tensions of Europe in Frankfurt/Oder 19-21 September 2024	5
2.2	CFP for a panel series on technology and natural resources in ToE 2024	7
2.3	Tensions of Europe Early Career Online mentoring meeting: Publications and Reviews	8
2.4	Baltic Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, Tartu 2024.....	9
2.5	CFP for a panel in BASEES: East-West Cooperation in Science and Technology.....	10
3	<i>Open positions</i>	12
3.1	Tenure Track Assistant Professor in History of Technology in Munich.....	12

1 Icohtec News

1.1 Glimpses of the Icohtec 2023 in Estonia

The Local organization committee of the Icohtec 2023 conference in Estonia have downloaded the photos taken during the conference opening session, Kranzberg lecture, tour to North-East Estonia and Gala dinner on the conference webpage: <https://taltech.ee/en/icohtec2023>



1.2 Nominate candidates: ICOHTEC General Assembly and Elections, November 16th

The Icohtec General Assembly and Elections will take place online in November Thursday 16th, 14:00-17:00 CET. The link will be circulated closer to the event via the membership list.

Statutes Modernization Committee will have a proposal on changes in statutes to be voted in the GA that will be held during the joint Icohtec/SHOT conference in Chile 2024.

Nominations for candidates

The Icohtec board invites for nominations for candidates for new members in the Executive Committee elections. Self-nominations are encouraged. Please send your nomination with a short bio to Secretary General Nelson Arellano, (secretary-general@icohtec.org) at the latest **31st October**.

The names and bios of the candidates will be published on the Icohtec webpage www.icohtec.org. The vote will take place during the GA meeting on November 16th.

Three new members will be elected for a term of four years.

The function of the EC is to govern and advice the Icohtec Executive Board and its role is described in the [Icohtec Statutes](#).

1.3 Save the date: Icohtec/SHOT 2024 in Chile

The next ICOHTEC meeting will be organized together with [the Society for History of Technology SHOT](#) in Viña del Mar, near Santiago de Chile, **July 8-14, 2024**: This will be the first time that either society meets on the South American continent.

The CFP and more information will be published and circulated in the fall, 2023.

1.4 Save the date for DHST in New Zealand 2025

Every fifth year, the Icohtec annual meeting is organized as a part of the International Congress of History of Science and Technology. In 2025, the [27th International Congress of History of Science and Technology](#) will take place in University of Otago, Dunedin, in New Zealand **29 June - 5 July 2025**.

The Call for Papers will be published later this year.

1.5 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 and Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC, stefan.poser(at)kit.edu, in order to update our list of members.

2 Conferences and Seminars

2.1 CFP: Tensions of Europe in Frankfurt/Oder 19-21 September 2024

DL for proposals: 30 November 2023

Confirmations: 1 March .2024

Conference theme: Transformations. Fundamental Change and Technology

More information: https://www.zip.europa-uni.de/en/4_veranstaltungen/toe24/index.html

We live in a world of constant change. There are periods, however, of accelerated change in the political, economic, social or technological sphere. Usually, these spheres are closely interrelated and entangled. If this change is of fundamental character, scientists usually speak of ‘transformations’. Common examples are the political and economic system changes, i.e. transformations, in Latin America, Southern Europe or Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in the past decades.

The aim of the conference is to shed light on technological, but also political, societal and environmental sides of these transformations in Europe and other regions in past and present. Technology can be a major factor to enhance, slow down or ease such transformations. Processes of circulation and appropriation of knowledge, ideas and artefacts provide a broad field of research to better understand aspects of political, societal or environmental transformations in connection with technology.

Special attention can be paid to the **following themes**:

- (1) technologies as a driver of political, societal or environmental changes or as an obstacle,
- (2) technological “revolutions”, transitions and “transformations” and their impact on politics, societies and environment,
- (3) discourses on (technological) changes, especially with regard to sustainability.

As a part of the conference, there will be held **a summer school for early career scholars** in the days before the conference. Besides of discussing texts relevant for the current topic, meetings with established researchers as well as an excursion is planned.

We welcome contributions on topics related to these themes as well as on general themes in the history of technology and neighbouring fields of interest to the Tensions of Europe network such as trans-border flows, common resources, conflicting interests, hidden integration and cultural practices. The format of proposals should be as follows:

- Proposals for whole panels in traditional or alternative formats (panel title, theme description with max. 300 words, abstracts of papers with max. 150 words each, name, affiliation, short biography of participants) (pdf-format)
- Proposals for individual papers (title, abstract, affiliation, biography of applicant)
- Proposals for contributions to a “My PhD in 10 minutes” session (abstract, affiliation short biography)

Please name your file with your surname. Beside of traditional panel-sessions with a number of papers and a commentator, we also encourage different formats and new ideas. The programme committee will not prioritize between formats if the suggestions promise constructive, stimulating and engaging discussion.

The organisers invite applicants to submit proposals by the end of November 2023 to toe24@europa.uni.de. We will inform applicants by 1 March 2024 whether their contribution has been accepted. There will be available a limited number of reduced participation fees.

[The Tensions of Europe Conference](#) is organised biennially by an interdisciplinary community of scholars who study the historical shaping of Europe through the lens of technology and material culture. We

encourage constructive interactions between historians of technology and scholars from all other fields of the humanities and social sciences.

The 11th Tensions of Europe Conference will be organized by the [Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies](#) and the [European New School of Digital Studies](#). Both are part of the European University Viadrina, which is located in Frankfurt/Oder – a town and region marked by fundamental political, economic and social changes in previous decades and centuries.

2.2 CFP for a panel series on technology and natural resources in ToE 2024

DL for proposals: 15 November 2023

Theme: Towards sustainability of global resources, fair trade and global justice? Experiences, challenges and narratives of transformation

Date and place: [Tensions of Europe Conference](#), Frankfurt/Oder, 19-21 September 2024

Climate change, rising resource competition and global inequality pose tremendous challenges to contemporary societies around the globe and urgently require fundamental processes of transformation to sustainable practices and global justice. Proxy and local wars as well as numerous political and economic tensions make modern development even more risky and complicated. These transformations require significant technological, institutional and cultural innovations and the creation of societal acceptance to such innovations. Historical research contributes valuable knowledge about the complexities, conflicts and impediments of such transformations as well as experiences of successful cases and best practices.

This panel will offer historical research about cases and examples in all relevant domains around the globe. Topics of interest comprise historical cases of technology and transformation in resource extraction, distribution, availability and consumption, for example in the development and use of natural resources, energy transition, mobility turnaround, shifts in production, changes in consumption etc. The panel has goal to enable comparative discussion of local and global narratives about this transformation and the versatile roles of technology in it.

The panel series specifically aims at connecting and integrating the following themes:

The problem fields in question – sustainable development, resource security and global justice – are closely linked, but usually investigated separately, often in different disciplines. It is one goal of the panel series to integrate discussion and encourage the development of cross-disciplinary research approaches.

For successful transformation on global scales, perspectives of the Global South and the Global North need to be negotiated and developed together. Hence, the organisers aim at inviting scholars around the world to this panel series and share and discuss perspectives from different world regions, cultures and experiences of transformation.

To better understand the challenges of transformation, the organisers wish to cover and combine a broad range of research approaches ranging from material histories of change and innovation to investigations of values, narratives and symbolic representations of transformation.

Interested scholars of all relevant fields are invited to contribute.

For more information and submissions: Please send your paper proposals (abstracts of papers with max. 150 words, name, affiliation, short biography of participants) until **15 November 2023** to matthias.heyman@css.au.dk.

2.3 Tensions of Europe Early Career Online mentoring meeting: Publications and Reviews

Date: September 28, 2023, from 13.00 to 14.30 (CET)

DL for registration: September 26, 2023

[The Tensions of Europe Early Career network](#) is organizing mentoring sessions (online) that aim at supporting early career researchers (PhD students and post-doctoral researchers).

The third session will address the topic of publications (strategies, choices of journals and topics, reviews, etc.). It will take place online on **September 28, 2023**, from 13.00 to 14.30 (CET).

To participate in this meeting, please register by sending an email to tirza@kth.se until September 26, 2023, in order to get access to the link of the session and the suggested readings.

2.4 Baltic Conference on the History and Philosophy of Science, Tartu 2024

Date and location: University of Tartu, Estonia, 13-15 June 2024

Theme: Scientific Instruments in History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine

DL for proposals: 25 January 2024.

This international conference aims to bring together scholars researching various areas in history and philosophy of science and medicine to the beautiful city of Tartu (Dorpat), Estonia. The year of 2024 has an important place in the history of the University of Tartu as we will be celebrating 200 years since the arrival of world's best telescope – the Great Dorpat Refractor which was used by astronomer and geodesist Friedrich G. W. Struve to make many important discoveries and studies for 19th century science. Thanks to the contributions of Struve and other researchers, the Tartu Old Observatory is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as it was the starting point for measuring the Struve Geodetic Arc.

The main aim is to discuss the scientific instruments and their historical and philosophical implications. However, the organisers also kindly welcome analyses from other fields of history and philosophy of science, technology and medicine from the Baltic region and beyond.

Abstracts for individual 20-minute paper proposals must include: (1) the presenter's name, email address and job title; (2) the title of the paper; (3) an abstract (max. 300 words).

Pre-constituted panels of 3 or 4 papers must include: (1) an abstract of the panel theme (max. 300 words); (2) a list of presenters (incl. their name, email address, job titles) and their paper titles; (3) name, email address and job title of the session chairperson; (4) abstracts for each paper (max. 300 words each).

Please submit all session and individual paper proposals to Anu Rae (anu.rae@ut.ee) by 25 January 2024. Accepted contributors will be notified by 15 February 2024.

The conference will take place on site from 13-15 June 2024 in Tartu, Estonia, the European Capital of Culture for 2024. The working language is English.

2.5 CFP for a panel in BASEES: East-West Cooperation in Science and Technology.

Date and location: 5-7 April 2024, Cambridge

DL for paper proposals for the panel: September 25, 2023

Panel theme: East-West Cooperation in Science and Technology: Actors, Actions, and Intelligence Gathering

[The British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies \(BASEES\)](#) invites proposals for panels, roundtables, and papers for its 2024 annual conference. BASEES 2024 is being held in-person from the 5-7 April at Robinson College, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

This is a call for participants for a panel on **the relationship between intelligence gathering and science and technology at the BASEES conference in Cambridge, 5-7 April 2024**. The organisers welcome proposals for papers that address international relations, STS, or science and technology diplomacy and methodological issues to be dealt with.

Technology and science were crucial in breaking down ideological boundaries during the Cold War. Scientists and experts from both sides of the Iron Curtain were able to interact because science and technology both produced a neutral working environment. The Geneva "Atoms for Peace" conference first paved the way for improved East-West collaboration in 1955. But the technological rivalry between the blocs greatly boosted competitiveness. Therefore, politicians' strategic interest in science and technology stemmed not only from their capacity to maintain relations in situations where it was difficult for politicians to cooperate but also from the need for both blocs to maintain leadership in the field of scientific and technical advancement.

Especially during the Cold War, science became a matter of national prestige. The shock of Sputnik, which shook not only American society, became the main driver of scientific and technological progress in the 1960s and 1970s, both in Western Europe and especially in the USA. Thanks to the increased mobility of scientists, intelligence gathering has become part of their everyday practice. Particularly in certain fields,

there has been a great deal of interest in intelligence gathering. They include for example nuclear proliferation or disarmament, environmental risks, and issues of environmental security.

With respect to international collaboration during the Cold War, the organisers are particularly interested in how scientists, as providers of knowledge and expertise, have been perceived by their own states and by foreign powers. How was their 'action' defined in relation to intelligence gathering, and to what extent were they bound by various obligations to their state when traveling? Did scientists participate in due diligence exercises? How?

Apart from Actors, what actions should be considered intelligence gathering? For which type of intelligence gathering were scientists most often used: diplomatic reporting, traveller debriefing or espionage? What do we know about their actions in the field of GEOINT (Geospatial intelligence), MASINT (Measurement and signature intelligence), OSINT (Open-source intelligence), SIGINT (Signals intelligence), or TECHINT (Technical Intelligence)? Since cooperation across the blocs was motivated not only by political but also economic interests, the role of economic intelligence in science and research is therefore another possible topic for this panel.

Regarding the practical agenda, the organisers would like to know what sources are available to historians working on these questions. What obstacles are currently placed in their way by the state - or by the experts themselves since some of them often refuse to comment on their role in the past?

In this panel, the organisers would like to focus not only on East-West relations but also on relations between the Global North and the Global South. The organisers therefore particularly welcome papers that take into account theories of decolonization and offer a new approach to understanding the question of intelligence gathering and knowledge circulation. Early Career Researchers are particularly welcome.

By September 25, 2023, proposals written in English should be sent to **Doubravka Olšáková** olsakova@usd.cas.cz and **Matěj Bílý** bily@usd.cas.cz. Please include the title of your talk and a short abstract (no more than 300 words) in your email. Don't forget to include your full name, affiliation, brief CV and your email address. Please let us know as soon as possible if you want to go to the Conference in person or remotely (online).

3 Open positions

3.1 Tenure Track Assistant Professor in History of Technology in Munich

DL for application: October 25, 2023.

[The Technical University of Munich](#) (TUM) invites applications for the position of Tenure Track Assistant Professor in »History of Technology« at the level of W2 Tenure Track Assistant Professor (initially limited for 6 years, converted into a permanent W3 position after positive tenure evaluation) with an envisioned start date as soon as possible.

Scientific environment

The professorship will be part of the Department of Science, Technology and Society (STS) at the TUM School of Social Sciences & Technology (SOT). It will be co-located at the Deutsches Museum in Munich, Europe's largest technical museum and a member of the Leibniz Association, a group of 96 non-university research institutions.

The SOT brings together an international, interdisciplinary community of researchers and educators from the fields of governance, educational science, and science & technology studies (STS). Launched in October 2021, the School's mission is to enhance the role of social sciences research and teaching as integral part of TUM's integral commitment to Human-Centered Engineering. The new School offers a unique intellectual environment with a commitment to the public interest, social justice, and an inclusive culture of learning and exploration in an interdisciplinary setting to understand, evaluate, and shape some of the world's biggest societal challenges and their interaction with technological transformations.

The STS department is dedicated to understanding the larger social, political, ethical, historical and legal dimensions of science and technology. Embedded in TUM's unique innovation ecosystem, we are committed to enabling a more reflexive, responsible and sustainable engagement with science and innovation through social science research, teaching and public dialogue – often in collaboration with partners from technical fields. The TUM STS community strives to provide new critical-reflexive intellectual and practical resources for dealing with the challenges of highly technologized societies, and

to train future leaders with a unique sensibility for the critical interface between science, technology and society.

Responsibilities and Profile

We are looking for an internationally recognized candidate in the field of history of technology with experience in collaborating with other social science fields, the natural sciences, and engineering. In particular, we are looking for scholars whose interests in research and teaching can contribute to, and benefit from, TUM's rich environment of technical research. We expect that the professorship will continue and expand our TUM's strong ties with the Deutsches Museum, where the professorship will be co-located through collaborative initiatives. Other tasks include research, teaching, the support and promotion of early-career scientists, and contributions to institutional initiatives as part of the STS Department and the School of Social Science and Technology. Teaching responsibilities include courses in the university's undergraduate and graduate programs, and particularly in the department's two Masters' programs "Science and Technology Studies" (STS) and "Responsibility in Science, Engineering and Technology" (RESET).

Qualifications

We are looking for candidates who have demonstrated excellent achievements in research and teaching in an internationally recognized scientific environment, relative to the relevant career level (please see www.tum.de/en/faculty-recruiting-faq/ for further information). A university degree and an outstanding doctoral degree or equivalent scientific qualification, as well as pedagogical aptitude, are prerequisites. Substantial research experience abroad is expected. We strongly welcome expertise in collaborating across institutional boundaries, for example in research-intensive museum or exhibition environments.

Our Offer

Based on the best international standards and transparent performance criteria, TUM offers a merit-based academic career path for tenure track faculty from Assistant Professor [through a permanent position as Associate Professor, and on] to Full Professor. The regulations of the TUM Faculty Recruitment and Career System apply.

TUM provides excellent working conditions in a lively scientific community, embedded in the vibrant research environment of the Greater Munich Area. The TUM environment is multicultural, with English

serving as a common interface for scientific interaction. TUM offers attractive and performance-based salary conditions and social benefits.

The TUM Munich Dual Career Office (MDCO) provides tailored career consulting to the partners of newly appointed professors. The MDCO assists the relocation and integration of new professors, their partners and accompanying family members.

Your Application

TUM is an equal opportunity employer and explicitly encourages applications from women. The position is suitable for disabled persons. Disabled candidates with essentially the same qualifications and scientific performance as other candidates will be given preference. Application documents should be submitted in accordance with TUM's application guidelines for professors. These guidelines and detailed information about the TUM Faculty Recruitment and Career System are available at www.tum.de/faculty-recruiting. Here you will also find TUM's information on collecting and processing personal data as part of the application process.

Please send your application no later than **25. October 2023** to the Dean of TUM School of Social Sciences & Technology, Prof. Dr. Urs Gasser, via the recruitment portal: www.recruit.tum.de

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

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: _____

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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)