

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

Nº203 October 2023

www.icohtec.org



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

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



PHOTO CREDIT JAKOB TSCHANDL, FROM THE ICOHTEC CONFERENCE TOUR TO NORTH-EAST ESTONIAN HISTORICAL OIL-SHALE INDUSTRIAL REGION.

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1 Icohtec News

1.1 Past-President Hans-Joachim Braun – 80th Birthday

Professor Hans-Joachim Braun was the President of Icohtec (2005-2009). The Icohtec Officers, and other colleagues and friends, want to congratulate Professor Braun on his 80th birthday.

Warm congratulations by ICOHTEC and thank you for your outstanding commitment to ICOHTEC, dear Hans! ICOHTEC would be another, less attractive society without all your contributions!

Warm wishes and all the best for your new decade!

Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC

Icohtec Executive Board

1.2 Reminder: Nominations for the ICOHTEC General Assembly and Elections, Nov. 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 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: Icohtec 52th Annual Meeting in 2025, New Zealand

Deadline for submissions of Icohtec symposia proposals is **1 February 2024**.

Time and place: **29 June - 5 July 2025**, Dunedin, New Zealand.

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the [International Committee for the History of Technology](#) (ICOHTEC) will be part of the 27th [International Congress of the History of Science and Technology](#) (ICHST), to be held at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, 29 June – 5 July 2025.

The theme of the Congress, “**Peoples, Places, Exchanges, and Circulation**” encourages exploring local knowledges, practices, and histories of science, technology, and medicine in both site-specific and global contexts. It asks how local and global contexts might be related? Do local histories change if they are analyzed using a different scale of analysis, for example, through a regional or global framework? What is the role of circulation across borders in local and global histories? Have encounters (both welcome and problematic) and exchanges of knowledge, techniques, texts, peoples, and material objects between regions, cultures, or societies resulted in new configurations in the history of science, technology, and medicine? What roles have local actors played as mediators, between different knowledge systems or between producers and consumers around the world? Contributions that explore the unacknowledged

agency and contributions of Indigenous peoples and underrepresented groups in the history of science, technology, and medicine are especially welcome.

ICOHTEC 52nd Annual Meeting: Call for Papers

The ICOHTEC Programme Committee invites proposals for symposium presentations exploring the ICHST theme "Peoples, Places, Exchanges, and Circulation" from diverse historical and historiographical perspectives on technology in all historical periods and geographical areas. Scholars working at the intersection of history of technology and other fields, including anthropology, design studies, film and media studies, gender studies, social sciences, philosophy, political science, ethnic and indigenous studies, are welcome to share their perspectives and analyses. We encourage presentations exploring multidisciplinary approaches, paradigms, research methods, and theories related to technology.

The Programme Committee invites proposals on topics in keeping with the ICHST theme, such as:

- **People:** visible and invisible in science and technology
 - technology from the perspective of the colonized
 - technology, history, and emotions
 - science and technology empowering/disempowering
 - repairers and maintainers

- **Places:** space, society, and technology
 - (portals of) globalization
 - re-location and de-location of industry
 - diseases and medicine in the history of cities
 - technological sites and the management of disasters

- **Exchange:** transfer of knowledge
 - "vehicles" in science and technology (trains, cars and lorries as well as books, journals, and photography)
 - technological nationalism vs. transnational science
 - teaching the history of technology

- **Circulation:** material and immaterial histories of technology
 - object biographies to product lifecycles
 - digitizing Science and Technology collections and archives
 - Large Language Models (LLMs) and their impact on concepts and problematizations
 - natural resources from upstream to downstream and from use to waste or recycling

The program committee strongly encourages proposals for **pre-constituted sessions** in both **traditional formats** (3 to 4 presenters and a chairperson) as well as **non-traditional formats**, including work-in-progress sessions, roundtables, panel discussions, PechaKucha-type presentations, flash-talks, unconference sessions, poster sessions, and interactive workshops.

Individuals and groups seeking potential collaborators to join an organized session are encouraged to propose session topic(s) and communicate with interested individuals through the ICOHTEC Newsletter (send the call to: newsletter@icohtec.org] H-NET, or social media networks, such as ICOHTEC facebook group.

In keeping with ICHST's aim to bring together as many scholars as possible, participants will be limited to one presentation. For more details, see [ICHST's Guidelines on Symposia](#).

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

ICOHTEC seeks to expand our membership base and to extend the scope of those who participate in our annual meeting. As such, those assembling organized sessions, whether based on a traditional or open session proposal, are encouraged to take a proactive stance in including individuals such as:

- Graduate students; early career scholars; independent scholars; emeritus faculty
- Scholars from underrepresented groups including, but not limited to race, class, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, age, neurodivergence, (dis)ability, or geographic location
- Scholars from different regions of the world, including places where History of Technology scholarship is still emerging as a recognized field of study
- Scholars and practitioners exploring the practical, policy, and social action implications of historical scholarship

Submission guidelines for ICOHTEC Symposium proposals

Please pay close attention to submission instructions, including the word limits for required documents. All components of submitted proposals must be written in English. Submit complete proposals via the [ICOHTEC online submission system](#) at <https://www.icohtec.org/w-annual-meeting/dunedin-2025/>

Proposals for traditional sessions of 3 or 4 papers with a session chair must include:

- Session title.
- Name(s) of organizer(s) and their title, affiliation, and e-mail address(es).

- Session description (200-400 words).
- Individual paper abstracts (200-400 words).
- Name, title, affiliation, e-mail address, and bio (250 words max.) of each presenter and chair.

Proposals for unconventional sessions must include:

- Session title.
- Name(s) of organizer(s) and their title, affiliation, and e-mail address(es).
- Session description (200-400 words)
- Name, title, affiliation, e-mail address, and bio (250 words max.) of each presenter/panelist.
- Name, title, affiliation, e-mail address, and bio (250 words max.) of chair or discussant (if any).
- Any relevant information regarding session format or requirements.

Proposals for individual papers must include:

- Paper title.
- Paper abstract (200-400 words).
- Name, title, affiliation, e-mail address, and bio (250 words max.) of presenter.

Travel grants

ICOHTEC encourages and welcomes proposal submissions from graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and early career researchers and their participation in the symposium. Limited travel grants will be available. Applications received by **15 January 2024** will be given priority consideration.

Key Dates:

Deadline for submissions of proposals to the ICOHTEC Symposia: **1 February 2024.**

Decision on accepted symposia announced: **1 June 2024**

Registration opens: **11 July 2024**

Programme published online: **1 May 2025**

ICHST Congress opens: **29 June 2025**

Programme Committee

Saara Matala (Sweden)
Elena Kochetkova (Norway)
Frank Edward (Tanzania)
Hugo Pereira (Portugal)
Jethron Akallah (Kenya)
Jan Hadlaw (Canada)
Leticia Galuzzi (Brazil)
Min Fanxiang (China)
Sławomir Łotysz (Poland)

Please direct any queries regarding submission process to the Chair of the ICOHTEC programme committee, Dr. Saara Matala, via email (matala@chalmers.se).

More information

For practical information regarding the ICHST conference, follow updates at the conference website: <https://www.ichst2025.org/>

For updated information regarding the ICOHTEC call for symposia, subscribe to the Icohtec Newsletter (Newsletter@icohtec.org) or follow the Icohtec website: <https://www.icohtec.org/>.

2.2 SHOT/Icohtec 2024 in Chile. Save the DATE: July 8-14, 2024

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, of 2023.

2.3 CFP revision: Tensions of Europe, 19-21 September 2024

DL for proposals: 30 November 2023

Confirmations: 1 March .2024

Time and Place: European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany

Conference theme: Transformations. Fundamental Change and Technology

More information: <https://www.zip.europa-uni.de/toe24>



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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, short 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 (<https://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/>). 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 (<https://www.zip.europa.uni.de/en/index.html>) and the European New School of Digital Studies (<https://europeannewschool.eu/>). 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.

Welcome to Frankfurt (Oder) in September 2024!

The programme committee (Dagmara Jajeśniak-Quast, Jan-Hendrik Passoth, Susanne Orth, Falk Flade)

3 Workshops

3.1 Mentorship for Early Career Scholars, December 11, 2023

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

The fourth session, focused on issues surrounding time management in academic work, will take place online on **Monday, December 11, 2023**, from 13.00 to 14.30 (CET). To participate in this meeting, please register by sending an email to tirza@kth.se until the 5th of December, in order to get access to the link of the session and the suggested readings.

3.2 Workshop on oil markets 1860s-1939 in Trondheim, Norway, February 2024

Date and place: Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim **19.-20. February 2024**

Deadline for paper proposals: **November 31, 2023.**

Oil was the most important commodity of the twentieth century. It fundamentally changed societies, markets, and the relationship between states and companies. Oil is a business with high fixed costs, encouraging companies to seek economies of scale and market domination. From the start of the modern industry in the 1860s, the international oil markets within a few decades came to be dominated by a few large vertically integrated global companies. The oil majors at times competed vigorously but mostly colluded in international cartels. This meant that a few large companies tightly controlled the market for the product that societies became increasingly dependent on. All over the world, states had to find a way to deal with the market power of the dominant oil companies. The question of whether and how the

authorities should regulate the oil markets became a burning political issue that brought about a diverse array of national strategies.

The aim of this workshop is to discuss the role of firms and states in creating international markets for oil. We are encouraging contributions focusing on different national cases that examine the development of market power, cartels, political reactions to market power, and the emergence of state oil companies or other forms of state regulation of oil markets. By covering cases from different continents and different countries, the workshop will serve as a starting point to discuss the global and comparative history of the development of the international oil markets.

There is extensive literature discussing the relationship between the oil majors and the oil-producing states, but the literature has mainly focused on the extraction stage of the industry. By focusing on the market stage, where the companies made their profits, the workshop papers will contribute to broadening our understanding of the history of the most important commodity in the contemporary era.

We aim to publish (a selection of) the papers either as an edited volume or a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal. We welcome proposals of maximum 500 words, along with current CVs.

The workshop dinners and lunches are complimentary. We will also cover accommodation costs. For contributors without recourse to travel funds, there are some funds to support travel costs. For any queries related to the workshop, contact Espen Storli at espen.storli@ntnu.no

Organisers: Saara Matala (Chalmers University of Technology), Pål Thonstad Sandvik (NTNU), and Espen Storli (NTNU)

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: _____
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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@gmail.com and to Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC at stefan.poser@kit.edu