

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

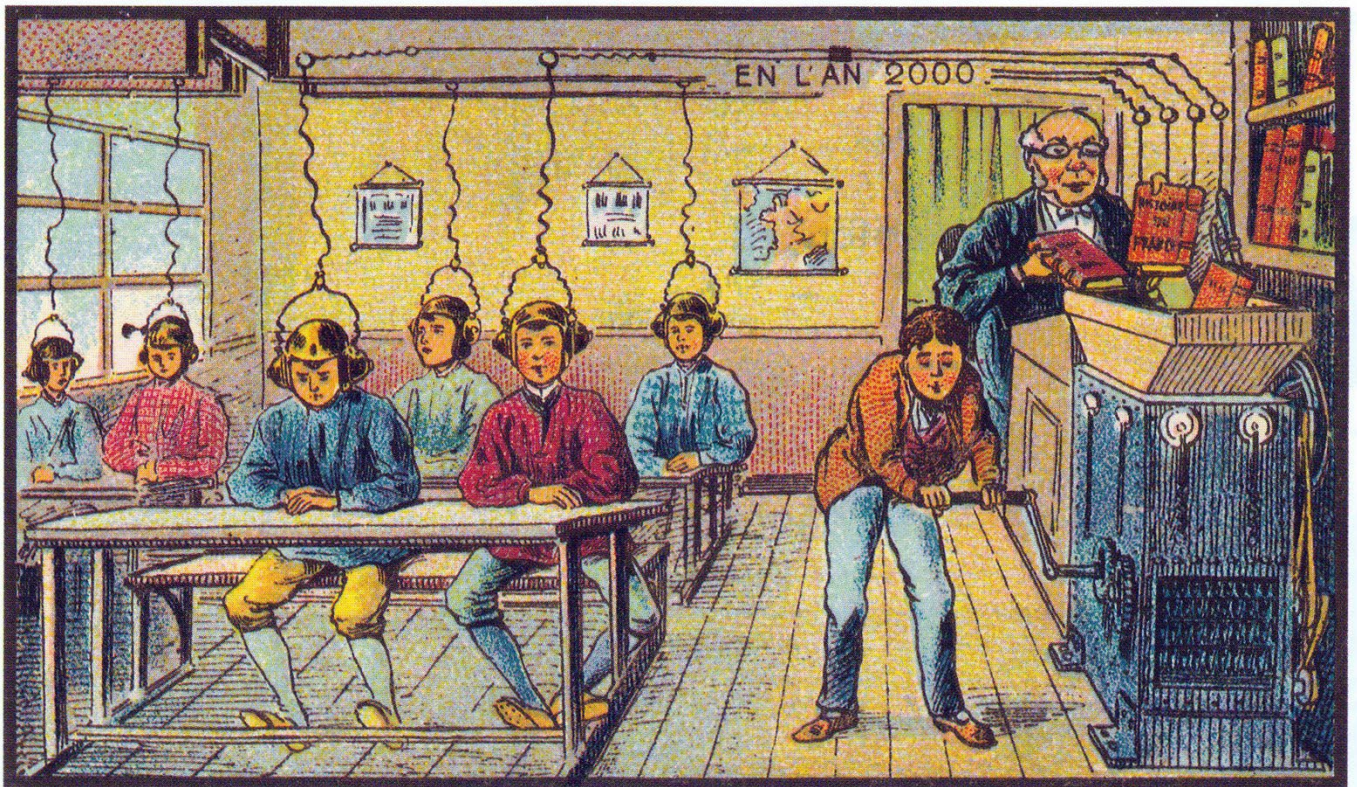
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Editor: Saara Matala, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

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



At School

France in XXI century. Jean-Marc Côté in the early 20th century. Reproduced. [Public Domain Domain](#).

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1 Icohtec News

1.1 Icohtec lecture by Animesh Chatterjee on Electricity in Colonial Calcutta, 22 May, 2024

Animesh Chatterjee from University of Stavanger in Norway, will give an ICOHTEC Lecture online on **Wednesday 22 May, 17.30 CEST**. The participation is free but please register on the homepage of the hosting Association of German Engineers, VDI, using the link: <https://kit-lecture.zoom-x.de/j/6884631281?pwd=R3ZwaXVvQWhEaG5MTmlrdytTUXFPUTog>

Electrical Objects and Stories of Change: Everyday Interpretations of Electricity in Colonial Calcutta

Building on fragmented archives of esoteric sources as applications, bills, literary texts, and the occasional treatise on health and hygiene, this lecture explores the effectual interactions and engagements with electrical technologies in public and domestic spaces of colonial Calcutta. It focuses on the introduction of battery-operated and mains-powered electric supply and technologies in Calcutta and aims to show how the encounter with new means of lighting and power simultaneously enabled hopes and dreams, and introduced new senses of concern. Through the vocabularies of consumption, perception, taste, and the formation of identities, varied historical actors inscribed their own understandings, meanings and interpretations into electricity and electrical objects, accompanied by assumptions, imaginations and scrutiny of their possible uses and futures.

Overall, in braiding strands from the material world with the cultural, and encompassing human actions, affects and electricity's agency in one dynamic tapestry, the lecture will argue for the place of personal and vernacular archives, a shift in focus from "technology" to "material culture", and for approaches that give voice to different actors and perspectives within the history of technology.

The lecture is based on Chatterjee's upcoming article "Everyday Interpretations of Transitions to Electricity in Colonial Calcutta c. 1875-1940s" in *Regeneration*, and research for his upcoming book manuscript *The Social Life of Electricity in Colonial Calcutta, c.1875-1945* with Routledge.

1.2 Icohtec-SHOT 2024 in Chile update: registration is open



The registration for the joint ICOHTEC-SHOT 2024 meeting is open. For the link to the registration and instructions for how to do it right, [visit the conference website](#).

1.3 ICOHTEC-SHOT Winter PhD School - Santiago de Chile, 8-9 July 2024

DL for application: May 31, 2024

The first joint ICOHTEC-SHOT Winter PhD School, held in Santiago de Chile, will combine the Joint Annual Meeting of ICOHTEC and SHOT in Viña del Mar (Chile), 9-14 July 2024, with a two-day intensive seminar, geared to PhD students and young post-doctoral scholars.

The Winter PhD School brings together seminars/tutorials for the students and the participation in the ICOHTEC-SHOT Symposium. The topic of the Winter School is:

“Reparando / Repair en la Historia de la Tecnología” / “Reparando / Repair in the History of Technology”

The school enhances students’ skill to comprehend and study versatile relationships between society and technology. In particular, the Winter School aims to deal with these questions:

- What are the main thematic implications of the theme technology and reparar/repairing?
- Which theoretical concepts and methodological approaches are most suitable dealing with it?
- What could a new and original approach to the theme look like?

Theme

Intuitively, the phrase “Reparando / Repair en la Historia de la Tecnología” / “Reparando / Repair in the History of Technology”, refers to technological environments that require continual repair and maintenance in order to function. Yet the people on whom such repairs rely—along with their knowledge and labor— too often remain unseen and undervalued, becoming visible only in cases of infrastructural breakdown or spectacular disaster. The routine invisibility of repair facilitates grand proclamations of technological solutionism, distracting from the requirements for living equitably in an increasingly fragmented and fragile world.

How does our understanding of the history of technology change when we center repair and maintenance? Such a shift involves highlighting users and experiential knowledge. It opens up conceptions of what counts as technological knowledge and who counts as technological actors. Such themes have lurked in our field for some time, mounting in scale and significance over the last decade. Repair is now part of our vocabulary, here to stay. The time has come to make it the thematic core of our annual meeting & the Winter School aims to study relationships between technology and reparación /repairing from broad and many-sided viewpoints. It is open to versatile approaches and traditions.

Description

The Winter PhD school ICOHTEC will be held in [the Precolumbian Museum](#) in Santiago de Chile Monday 8 and Morning Tuesday 9 July.

The Winter PhD School will take place in a bilingual environment of **English and Spanish**. This does not mean that every participant may use both idioms but that using one of them is enough to participate.

ICOHTEC can support 2 days of accommodation in Santiago de Chile (Sunday 7th, and Monday, 8th July). This does not include travel tickets or food. Please note that the maximum number of participants is 15 PhD students or recent PhD graduates.

Apply

PhD students and recent PhD graduates (2 years before) are invited to present their interest to participate. The selected participants have the opportunity to get comments and suggestions by senior researchers about their research in progress.

Please send a CV, the title of your proposed presentation, a summary of 300 words, and a letter of recommendation of your PhD supervisor to Nelson Arellano, Secretary-General of ICOHTEC (secretary-general@icohtec.org). Applications can be submitted until **31 May 2024**.

1.4 ICHST in New Zealand, 2025: Call for individual papers



Deadline for submissions of Icohtec symposia proposals passed on **1 March 2024**. The Icohtec program committee received 50 paper submissions from five different continents. After the reviewing process, we have submitted the proposal for the Icohtec symposium to the program committee of [International Congress of History of Science and Technology ICHST](#) which will make its decision in July, 2024. The Icohtec program committee will inform the applicants about the acceptance/rejection after that. The registration to the conference will be open from 11 July 2024 until 1 May 2025.

If you missed the Icohtec call for papers, **the ICHST has opened an opportunity to submit a stand-alone paper** directly to the ICHST organisers. **The DL for proposals will in on December 1, 2024.**

For more information and the submission system, [visit the conference website](#).

Key Dates:

Call for stand-alone papers closes: **1 December 2024**.

Decision on accepted symposia announced: **19 July 2024**

Registration opens: **11 July 2024**

Programme published online: **1 May 2025**

ICHST Congress opens: **29 June 2025**

Icohtec 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 **Icohtec submission process** to the Chair of the ICOHTEC programme committee, Dr. Saara Matala, via email (matala@chalmers.se).

For inquiries regarding the submission of **stand-alone papers** to the ICHST, contact directly the organisers: <https://www.ichst2025.org/contact-us>

1.5 Icohtec membership fee: Paypal and the old way

We are happy to announce, that it is now possible to pay the Icohtec membership fee also using the Paypal service. The receiver is @icohtectreasury or the email icohtectreasury@gmail.com.

Annual membership fee is 40 Euro or US Dollars for individuals, 20 Euro or US Dollars for students (billed biannually), 75 Euro or US Dollars for institutions. The membership benefits include:

- a vote at ICOHTEC elections, either online or in person at the meetings
- a paper copy of our journal ICON appearing once a year (plus any special issues)
- access to the online repository of the back issues of ICON
- a monthly Newsletter delivered to member's e-mail address

It is also possible to pay the 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.

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

Thank you for your support!

2 Call for Papers

2.1 New Book Series: Disability in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine

[Johns Hopkins University Press](#) now has a new book series, "Disability in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine" with Jaipreet Virdi, Mara Mills and Wayne Tan as Series Editors.

About the Series

Disability has always been part-and-parcel of human experience. Within the past twenty years, disability history has rapidly emerged as a subdiscipline with an analytical framework for examining the lived experiences of disabled people, across time and place, alongside the structural barriers that construct how disability is experienced and understood.

Medical historians have examined how disability is historically contingent to scientific and clinical ideas about the body and health, while rethinking disease histories in the context of disability. Historians of technology have unraveled the roles disabled people play as creators, users, and redesigners of consumer products and scientific apparatuses. Historians of science have explored disability expertise, disability epistemologies, and the distinct ways research settings forge entangled histories of disability, labor, and knowledge in the laboratory, industry, and beyond.

Disability in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (D+HSTM) is a new book series for scholars bringing disability theory into conversation with HSTM. This includes intersections with applied forms of the social sciences—demography, economics, anthropology, archeology, linguistics, music—as well as standard branches of medical science—pharmaceutics, insurance, surgery, physiology, healthcare.

The editors are interested in works that look at science as practiced within institutions that house or employ disabled people, the technologies and political systems used to categorize and classify disabled bodies, as well as stories of disabled professionals and lay experts working as experimenters or producers of scientific knowledge. They especially encourage proposals on non-Western and Global South histories of disability in HSTM. While books in this series will engage with historical methods, the editors encourage scholarship that overlaps with innovative and intersectional methodologies, such as “design justice” or “crip technoscience,” and we welcome work in the subfield of disability and Science and Technology Studies (STS).

Submission Guidelines and more information:

Contact Email: disabilityhstm@gmail.com

For more information: <https://disabilitystudies.nyu.edu/jhu-book-series-disability-in-the-history-of-science-technology-and-medicine/>

2.2 CfP: Artefacts XXIX: New Digital Practice for Science and Technology Collections

Date: October 13, 2024 - October 16, 2024

Location: Science Museum Research Centre, London

Application DL: June 1, 2024

[The Artefacts Consortium](#) is an international network of museum professionals and scholars of the history of science, technology, and medicine who promote the use of objects in research. Annual Artefacts meetings, each organised under a pertinent theme, provide a collegial venue to gather to discuss exciting work being done with collections in museums and universities across the globe.

How are digital techniques changing museum practice: for objects, for museum workers, for audiences? With digital approaches: Is it becoming easier for the objects and documents within collections to be found, researched and displayed? Is the texture of day-to-day museum practice changing? Are visitors and researchers enabled to have new kinds of experience in museums or online, or use collections in new ways?

This year's Artefacts conference will be held **October 13th-16th at the Science Museum Research Centre**, London, back-to-back with the final conference of the Museum's Congruence Engine digital collections-linking research project.

Artefacts

The organisers are inviting contributions on the theme **of new digital practice in science and technology museums**. They are looking for contributions (papers, panels, demonstrations, etc) that reveal the ways in which science museums internationally are embracing the affordances of new digital techniques. For example:

- Collections as data
- Uses of machine learning (ML) and other artificial intelligence (AI) techniques with catalogue data
- Online complements to exhibitions
- Novel uses of new media -visual or sonic - in exhibition and gallery contexts
- Virtual- and augmented-reality techniques
- Digital means to enable access to reserve collections
- How museum work is changing because of digital techniques
- Histories of electronic, digital and new media practice in museums

Please submit an outline of up to 300 words per individual paper or up to 1000 words for whole sessions by 1st June to: research@sciencemuseum.ac.uk We plan to send acceptances no later than mid-August.

For more information, visit: <https://www.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/our-work/research-public-history/artefacts-consortium/>

Contact Email: research@sciencemuseum.ac.uk

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: ☐ **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)