

**ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER**  
Nº213 September 2024  
[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).



*Icohtec-SHOT 2024 at the Viña del Mar campus of Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (UAI). Photo credit: Saara Matala*

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## 1 Icohtec News

### 1.1 Icohtec 2025 in New Zealand as a part of ICHST



Icohtec 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is going to take part as the [International Congress of History of Science and Technology ICHST](#) in New Zealand in the summer of 2025. The ICHST program committee has now accepted the ICOHTEC Symposia proposal, and the Icohtec program committee has informed the applicants about the acceptance or rejection of their papers and session.

**If you have submitted a proposal, but have not received an email from the program committee,** please contact your session's organisers or the committee chair Saara Matala ([matala@chalmers.se](mailto:matala@chalmers.se)).

Because the ICHST organizers take care of the conference, but the ICOHTEC program committee manages the Icohtec symposia program, please note that you need to confirm your participation to both.

- 1) Registration in the conference. The registration to the conference will be open from 11 July 2024 until 1 May 2025. More information and registrations [here](https://www.ichst2025.org/registration): <https://www.ichst2025.org/registration>
- 2) Upload the abstract in the conference system. More information will be send to the applicants via email.
- 3) Confirm your participation to the Icohtec program committee ([matala@chalmers.se](mailto:matala@chalmers.se)).

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](mailto: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>



## 2 Open positions

### 2.1 Two fully funded PHD positions in Gothenburg, Sweden

**DL for application:** October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Preferred starting date:** January 1st, 2025

**Link to announcement:** [here](#)

[The Division of Science, Technology and Society \(STS\)](#) at [Chalmers University of Technology](#) is announcing two PHD candidates to join the division. One of the PhD candidates will focus on energy and environmental history, the other one on history of technology with the focus area of infrastructures.

The positions require excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and some knowledge of Swedish. If Swedish is not your native language, Chalmers offers Swedish courses.

**PhD position in Energy and Environmental History:** The PhD candidate will work in a cross-disciplinary setting to consider the possible future role of hydrogen in the Swedish energy system from a historical perspective. The position is funded by the Swedish Energy Agency through the programme Research School Energy Systems and within the framework of the position you participate in the Research School Energy Systems' activities (read more at [foes.se](#)). The project also aligns with the division's new research program on infrastructures in the modern and contemporary world.

The research will take place in close collaboration with a PhD student and supervision team with engineering backgrounds at Linköping University, including co-writing articles and participating in common supervision meetings and workshops. Applicants are invited to propose their own research project within this framework focusing on hydrogen.

Possible topics to be studied could include: historical infrastructure development and use, historical attempts to introduce new energy technologies into an existing system, visions and expectations of a future energy system, user acceptance and resistance to new energy technology, social, spacial,

sustainability and justice aspects of new energy technology introduction. Applicants are encouraged to discuss their choice topics with Anna Åberg, the project's main supervisor.

**PhD position in History of Technology:** The PhD project will be part of the division's new research program on infrastructures in the modern and contemporary world. Infrastructure is broadly understood as the material and immaterial systems needed to operate a society or enterprise. Applicants are invited to propose their own research project within this openly defined program.

Possible topics include: historical case studies of transport, urban or digital infrastructures, critical infrastructures, dismantling of infrastructures, infrastructural transitions, maintenance of infrastructures, or political economy of infrastructures. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the choice topics with Professor Per Lundin, the project's main supervisor.

### Read more about the division and the department

[The Division of Science, Technology and Society \(STS\)](#)

[The Department of Technology Management and Economics](#)

**Chalmers offers** a cultivating and inspiring working environment in the coastal city of [Gothenburg](#). Read more about [working at Chalmers](#) and our [benefits](#) for employees. Chalmers aims to actively improve our gender balance. We work broadly with equality projects, for example the [GENIE Initiative on gender equality for excellence](#). Equality and diversity are substantial foundations in all activities at Chalmers.

### Application

- When you submit your application, you will be asked to indicate whether you are interested in both positions or only one of them.
- The application should be written in English .

- The application should include following documents:
  - CV
  - Two references that we can contact.
  - Personal letter
  - Copies of bachelor and/or master's thesis.
  - Attested copies and transcripts of completed education, grades and other certificates, e.g. TOEFL test results.

For more information, submissions, and instructions for the application, visit [Chalmers Vacancies](#).

**For questions, please contact:**

PhD position in Energy and Environmental History:

[Anna Åberg](#), Senior Reseracher in the History of Technology, STS

[Francis Lee](#), Head of Unit, STS

PhD position in History of Technology:

[Per Lundin](#), Professor in History of Technology, STS

[Francis Lee](#), Head of Unit, STS

## 2.2 PhD Fellowship in Energy history, Aarhus University, Denmark

**DL for applications:** November 1<sup>st</sup>

**Link to the announcement:** [here](#)

**Preferred starting date:** February 2025 or later

Applications are invited for a PhD fellowship/scholarship at Graduate School of Natural Sciences, Aarhus University, Denmark, within the mathematics programme (science studies programme). The position is available from February 2025 or later.

**Title:**

Energy Lives! Infrastructural Citizenship in Nordic Energy Transitions

Subproject: Citizens for District Heating in Denmark

**Research area and project description:** The project Energy Lives! scrutinizes the conjoined lives of energy and people in the Nordic countries. It seeks to understand how publics and communities emerge around ways of living with and through energy transitions and how such publics shape and constrain energy transitions over long time periods. The project applies the concept of infrastructural citizenship to uncover mechanisms of agency, appropriation, and resistance in energy transitions, distributed among people, politics, and infrastructures.

The project is a cooperation of researchers in Norway (coordinators), Sweden and Denmark funded by Nordforsk. The Danish subproject covers the history and governance of district heating in Denmark with a particular focus on how Nordic stakeholders and citizens transitioned from heating with coal and oil to district heating (DH) with a mix of increasingly sustainable energy carriers. Contrary to common representations, the project explores the idea that DH infrastructures were not merely top-down projects with passive citizens. Many local questions needed to be answered and problems solved. The project argues that citizens played a pivotal role, as their willingness to transition from controlling their own heating systems to relying on a centralized infrastructure for heat distribution was crucial.

The project aims at putting the agency of citizens in the focus to gain knowledge about opportunities and challenges for the urgent future energy transitions to fully sustainable and emission free energy use. It includes the organization of an academic workshop focusing on governance of energy transitions, a field trip with project partners and an Infrastructural Citizen Week.

The PhD candidate will pursue historical research including literature studies, archival studies, oral history interviews among others in an interdisciplinary setting of history and community-based participatory research.

**Qualifications and specific competences:** The candidate ideally has a master and relevant experience in history or anthropology or in any relevant historical discipline and is fluent in Danish.



## Application:

For more information, detailed instructions how to apply and submissions, see the [Application Guide](#) and the [Call for Applications](#) at the Aarhus University website.

## Contacts:

Applicants seeking further information for this project are invited to contact: Professor Matthias Heymann, [matthias.heyemann@css.au.dk](mailto:matthias.heyemann@css.au.dk) or Associate Professor Kristian Hvidtfelt Nielsen, [khn@css.au.dk](mailto:khn@css.au.dk)

## 2.3 Postdoctoral position in the history of energy infrastructures

**DL for application:** October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Preferred starting date:** January 1st, 2025

**Contract term:** Full-time employment for two years

**Link to announcement:** [Here](#)

[The Division of Science, Technology and Society \(STS\)](#) at [Chalmers University of Technology](#) is seeking a postdoctoral scholar in energy history to research relations between humans, infrastructures, and energy in an independently developed project.

**About the project:** The project is positioned at the intersection of history of technology and energy history. The person employed will be working closely with an international research project funded NORDFORSK that aims to analyse how people and communities have lived with, through and shaped energy transitions throughout history. Applicants are invited to propose their own research project within this framework focusing on large energy infrastructures, such as oil refineries, district heating, energy buildings and infrastructure afterlives. The Postdoctoral project will benefit from synergies with the division's new research program on infrastructures in the modern and contemporary world.

**Major responsibilities:** Your main responsibilities will be to pursue your research (80% of full-time) and to carry out teaching (20% of full-time), which consists primarily of courses such as history of technology, history of science or technology and society.

Another important aspect involves collaboration within academia and with society at large. The position is meritorious for future research duties within academia as well as industry/the public sector.

### Qualifications

- Completed a Phd by the start date. Relevant educational fields are history, political sciences, science and technology studies, and sociology, although other fields can also be relevant.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and comprehensive knowledge of Swedish. The applicant needs to have enough knowledge of Swedish from the start of the position to read and analyse Swedish source material. If Swedish is not your native language, Chalmers offers Swedish courses.
- Some teaching experience.

### We offer

Chalmers offers a cultivating and inspiring working environment in the coastal city of [Gothenburg](#). Read more about [working at Chalmers](#) and our [benefits](#) for employees.

Chalmers aims to actively improve our gender balance. We work broadly with equality projects, for example the [GENIE Initiative on gender equality for excellence](#). Equality and diversity are substantial foundations in all activities at Chalmers.

### Application

- The application should be written in English
- The application should include following documents:
  - CV
  - Personal letter
  - Attested copies of completed education, grades and other certificates.

- Copy of phd thesis
- Copies of up to 3 other relevant publications

For more information, detailed instructions for the application and submissions, visit [Chalmers Vacancies](#).

### 3 Research funding and grants

#### 3.1 Committee for the History of Electricity and Energy grants 2024/2025

**DL for application:** October 23

**Language of applications:** English and French

**The application form:** [available here](#)

The [Committee for the History of Electricity and Energy](#) offers grants varying from 1,500 to 3,000 euros to graduate students. Applications can be written in French or English.

Since its foundation in 2001, the Committee has two objectives: to conduct or foster scientific research, and to share and impart knowledge on the history and heritage of electricity and energy. In these perspectives, it offers grants varying from **1,500 to 3,000 euros to graduate students**.

**Language and subject conditions:**

Applications can be written in French or English. The thesis or dissertation may be written in the language chosen by the student. However, a summary in French or English will be submitted to the Committee for the History of Electricity and Energy for theses or dissertations written in any other language, after their completion.

The project must deal, at least partly, with the history of electricity or energy in France, Europe or elsewhere in the world.

**Administrative conditions:**

- academic affiliation (university/school) in European Economic Area

- residence in European Economic Area
- bank account in European Economic Area

### **Selection:**

Selection will be operated by the members of the Committee. It will be based on the following criteria: originality of the subject, preparation and quality of presentation of the project.

### **The application will include:**

- the application form
- a letter in which the candidate requests a grant, gives the precise subject of his/her research, as defined
- with his/her supervisor, and binds him/herself to respect an agreement if he/she is selected (as payment of the grant will be conditional upon signature of an agreement);
- a presentation of the research project mentioning the sources, the methodology, the questions to be raised,
- a short bibliography (6-10 p.);
- a detailed curriculum vitae;
- a letter of recommendation from the research supervisor, appreciating the candidate and approving the
- project;
- a photocopy of the student card or an attestation of research delivered by the university or research centre with which the candidate is affiliated.

The application must be sent attached to an email stating the name, the surname, the postal address, the phone number and the email address of the candidate, **by October 23, 2024.**

E-mail: [comite.histoire.electricite@gmail.com](mailto:comite.histoire.electricite@gmail.com)

## **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):*

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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 and to Stefan Poser, President of ICOHTEC at stefan.poser(at)kit.edu