

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

Nº218 February 2025

www.icohtec.org

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

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



Tiaroa Head with lighthouse, New Zealand. Photo source: Wikimedia Commons

Table of Content

1	Icohtec News	3
1.1	Icohtec 2025 in New Zealand.....	3
1.2	Maurice Daumas Prize – ICOHTEC’s Article Prize. DL 3 March.	6
1.3	Turriano ICOHTEC Prize 2025 - Call for Submissions	8
2	Conferences	9
2.1	CFP: SHOT annual meeting 2025 in Luxembourg 9-11 October 2025	9
2.2	CFP: Understanding Plastics, 5-7 November	12
3	Workshops.....	13
3.1	Tensions of Europe: Mentorship for Early career scholars starts again on 17 March. ..	13
3.2	DHST Early Career Scholars Workshop: Next meeting on Oral history.....	13
3.3	Workshop on Alternative Energy Histories (WAEH): Scenarios and Transitions	15

1 Icohtec News

1.1 Icohtec 2025 in New Zealand



Icohtec 27th 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.

Icohtec travel grants

Icohtec offers a limited number of grants to help defray some of the expenses of attending the **ICOHTEC Symposium** of the congress. The Grants will be made available largely thanks to a generous support from the [Juanelo Turriano Foundation](#) and the [Division of History of Science and Technology](#) (DHST).

Who is eligible?

In 2025, the ICOHTEC Travel Grants will be awarded up to **700 Euro** each – eligible for applying are graduates, post-graduates and early career scholars whose papers have been accepted for the scientific programme of our 2025 Symposium. Special preference will be given to participants from low-income countries, who are not able to receive sufficient financial support elsewhere. These travel grants are not intended to cover the full costs of attending the Symposium and may be used to bus/train/ferry/flight tickets, lodging and/or registration fee.

How do I apply?

The Travel Grant Application Form (see in the end of this Newsletter or consult www.icohtec.org) must be filled in and sent by **1 March 2025** as an e-mail attachment to **Nelson Arellano Escudero**, the Chair of

the Travel Grant Committee and Secretary General of ICOHTEC at **secretary-general@icohtec.org**. In addition to the information provided in the application form, please attach a short CV or bio, as well as an appropriate document proving your status (a scan of your student's ID or supervisor's/professor's letter if applicable). The reimbursement will be made after the accepted paper is presented in person by the Grantee at the Symposium. Please, note that all money transfers can be made only after the symposium. In addition, make sure you will save your original tickets and invoices to hand them over to the Treasurer at the meeting.

What is the time schedule?

The completed applications, along with applicable attachments, should be submitted by e-mail by **1st March**. The grants will be announced by **end of March 2025**.

Changes in registration and cancellations

The ICHST team is responsible for administrating the registrations. If you want to change your attendance from in-person to virtual, or the other way round, contact the Georgia Watson (georgia@conference.nz) or +64 3 352 8120.

Should you need to cancel your registration, you may reassign your registration to another person. Please notify Icohtec program committee (matala@chalmers.se) as well as ICHST organizers (georgia@conference.nz) in writing. If you are unable to arrange a replacement, a full refund less an administration charge of \$150.00 will be made providing notification is received by **Thursday 29 May 2025**. After this date, refunds will be at the discretion of the organizers.

Virtual attendance

Registering to the conference as a virtual attendance will include the following:

- Access to all Congress sessions
- Access to the Congress app
- Access to all session recordings for up to 3 months after the Congress - a link with the recordings will be circulated following the Congress

The ICHST organisers have informed us that all virtual presentations must be pre-recorded: there will be no live virtual presentations during the Congress. These pre-recorded presentations will be due one month before the Congress, and a link for uploading them will be provided closer to the deadline.

Registration open

The registration to the conference will be open from 11 July 2024 until **1 May 2025**. Early bird prices available until 23 April.

REGISTRATION TYPE	EARLY BIRD <i>until 23 April</i>	STANDARD <i>from 24 April</i>
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In-person attendance

Full Congress registration	\$699.00	\$869.00
Full Congress registration // Student / unemployed / independent scholar	\$499.00	\$649.00

Virtual attendance

Full virtual Congress registration	\$369.00	\$469.00
Full virtual Congress registration // Student / unemployed / independent scholar	\$249.00	\$349.00

More information and registrations [here: https://www.ichst2025.org/registration](https://www.ichst2025.org/registration)

1.2 Maurice Daumas Prize – ICOHTEC's Article Prize. DL 3 March.

DL for submissions: 3 March 2025

The International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC, welcomes submissions for the Maurice Daumas Prize, which aims to encourage innovative scholarship in the history of technology. ICOHTEC is interested in the history of technological development as well as its relationship to science, society, economy, culture, and the environment. There is no limitation as to theoretical or methodological approaches.

The prize will be awarded to the author of the best article submitted which deals with the history of technology in any period of the past or in any part of the world and which was published in a journal or edited volume from 2023 to 2025. Eligible for the prize are original articles published in (or later translated into) any of the official ICOHTEC languages (English, French, German, Russian or Spanish). Submissions are welcomed from scholars of any country who are currently in graduate school or have received their doctorate within the last seven years. Please send your submission and a brief (not to exceed one-page) cv to the chair of the Prize Committee (antoni.roca-rosell@upc.edu) no later than 3rd March 2025. The winner will be contacted in late May 2025.

The prize will be awarded at our 52nd Annual Meeting, will take place in Dunedin, New Zealand, in person and also virtually, from 29 June to 5 July 2025, as part of the 27th ICHST. The winner will receive a cash prize of 500€. Alongside the first prize, papers in the second and third-ranking positions would receive an honorarium/diploma award.

The Daumas Prize is sponsored by the Université de Technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard (UTBM), France.

MAURICE DAUMAS (1910 - 1984) – The French Trailblazer

The history of technology would never have become a prominent field of historical research without energetic pathbreakers. Maurice Daumas was one of them. One of his better known early works is: *Les instruments scientifiques aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles*, which was also published in English. Between 1962 and 1978, he edited a highly acclaimed history of technology, *Histoire générale des techniques*, in five volumes, which has been translated into English and Spanish, and used as a textbook in various countries.

In France, Daumas was also the pioneer of industrial archaeology. Daumas was the first secretary general of ICOHTEC and the host of its symposium at Pont-à-Mousson in 1970.

[For further information about Daumas.](#)

For information about ICOHTEC: <http://www.icohtec.org>

The Prize Committee

Antoni Roca-Rosell, Dr. [Prize Committee
Chairperson],

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1.3 Turriano ICOHTEC Prize 2025 - Call for Submissions

DL for applications: 31 April 2025

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 2023 or 2024; if it is a published work, the year of publication should be 2023 or 2024.

For the ICOHTEC Prize 2025, 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 2025. 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, Spain

darina.martykanova@uam.es

Dr. Klaus Staubermann

German Port Museum , Germany

k.b.staubermann@gmail.com

Dr. Kostas Chatzis

Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées – LATTs, France

chatzis@enpc.fr

Dr. Matti La Mela

Uppsala University, Sweden

Matti.lamela@abm.uu.se

Dr. Jacopo Pessina

University of Pisa, Italy

japessina@tiscali.it

2 Conferences

2.1 CFP: SHOT annual meeting 2025 in Luxembourg 9-11 October 2025

DL for applications: 5 April, 2025

Date and location: 9-11 October, 2025 in Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg)

Topic: Technologies of Migration

Migration has shaped the civilized world. The circulation of people, goods, and ideas is tightly connected to technologies, as is the monitoring, control or prevention of such movements. The deep history of human migration is characterized by several waves– caused by climatic changes, economic crises, or political forces. Due to globalization, cross-border flows have increased steadily since the 19th century, and technologies of transportation and communication have been essential in mass mobilization. The current discourses on migration illustrate the transformative role of digital technologies in planning, organizing, and realizing of difficult and often dangerous migratory movements around the world. Developments also highlight the inherent politics of migratory technologies in surveillance, border control, and the creation of machine-readable bodies.

Luxembourg for instance, whose foreign-born residents account for 51.2 % of the population and a share of 60.7% in employment in 2023, turned into a European hotspot of work migration with the birth of the local steel industry in the late 19th century. Foreign workers were attracted from neighbouring countries

first (especially France, Belgium, and Germany), around 1900 from the Italian peninsula, and young interwar states in Central and Eastern Europe afterwards. The post-WWII migration was characterized by a strong migration from Portugal (mainly in the building sector) and by highly skilled work migration in the financial sector and European administration since the 1970s. While official sources brand the Luxembourg migration history as a “success story”, the pivotal role of migrants in turning the country into one of the richest in the world is often unacknowledged. The 2025 SHOT conference draws inspiration from this history and offers an important opportunity to reflect critically on the hidden histories and archival silences of migration and technology from multiple perspectives.

Technologies not only facilitate transfer of people and goods, but are also epistemic objects that carry gender and race inscriptions, embody practices of knowledge, and symbolic meanings that change and can be reappropriated in unpredictable and creative ways in a complex process of translation. Migrating technologies enable knowledge transfer and shape the social construction and symbolic enrichment of material objects, infrastructures, and complex technological systems. How do processes such as the migration of data formats, the adaptation of infrastructures, or the translation of technical knowledge shape historical trajectories of technologies? Can technologies themselves be seen as “migrant”, as they shift from one technological or social ecosystem to another?

In this context we invite a critical appraisal of concepts, strategies, and narratives of migration when analyzed through the lens of technology. How does technology frame the experiences of migration and how have “technologies of memory” produced individual or networked forms of family narratives? How can we address questions of human rights and inequalities in a paradoxical temporality characterized by the global competition for talents and the growing inequality of wealth and financial resources? How do normative and legal regimes impact on “official” and “clandestine” use of migration technologies? What data driven methods are available for historians of technology and migration to study and analyze complex flows of people, goods, and ideas at different scales and in a long-durée perspective?

Suggested topics

As always, SHOT anticipates a vibrant and interesting meeting that explores the theme of migration as well as other important topics. Below are a few suggested topics and themes intended to stimulate the interest of potential contributors:

- The ethics, aesthetics, and politics of migration and migrating technologies
- Migratory tactics and strategies and the role of technology in facilitating / preventing cross-border flows
- Invisible labor, infrastructures of support, and networks of diaspora
- Geographies of migration, from the local to the global
- The role of migration in environmental and climate (in)justice
- Indigenous knowledge and processes of knowledge transfer in migration
- Societal tensions and identity politics
- The role of conservation, preservation, and archives in understanding the past and present of migration, including oral history and public history initiatives
- Migration of technologies themselves across systems, times, and contexts, from the repurposing of infrastructures to digital preservation

While we especially hope to prompt conversations around such matters, we also welcome proposals on other topics in the history of technology. We warmly welcome proposals from the wide range of fields that study such questions, including STS, Anthropology, Economic and Business History, Historical Sociology, Communication & Media Studies, Gender & Cultural Studies, Indigenous & Area Studies, Philosophy, Political Science. We especially encourage early scholars as well as scholars in African, Asian, and Latin American Studies.

The deadline for all paper and panel submissions is **5 April 2025**.

Please consult the conference website (www.historyoftechnology.org) for detailed submission guidelines.

2.2 CFP: Understanding Plastics, 5-7 November

DL for proposals: 28 February 2025

Date and location: 5-7 November, 2025. São João da Madeira, Portugal.

In the framework of the project “*The Plastics Metamorphoses - the reality and the multiple approaches to a material*”, focussed on the multidisciplinary approaches to these materials, we invite all interested partners to submit papers, posters and communications to the incoming congress “*Understanding Plastics: From Heritage to Controversy and Beyond*”.

This congress aims to explore the inherent tensions that plastics present across various domains, including their indispensable role in modern life and their significant environmental impact.

Topics could address well-known antinomies, such as:

- Luxury – Ubiquity
- Durability – Degradation
- Innovation - Imitation
- Natural – Artificial/synthetic
- Handmade - Mass production
- Collection - Disposal
- Recycling/Recovery – Littering
- Environmental friendliness -pollution

The congress aims to foster a dialogue that spans disciplines such as history, anthropology, conservation, design, environmental studies, and engineering. Also, contributions that address the historical evolution of plastics, their socio-economic implications, the environmental paradoxes they embody as well as the abovementioned antinomies within plastic materials culture are particularly encouraged.

All proposals must be in English. For advice on preparing your submission and the conference presentation, please consult the congress guidelines at the [conference website](#).

Please submit your proposals electronically as a Word document to Maria Elvira Callapez (mariaelviraacallapez@gmail.com), the chair of the program committee, and to mopraproject@fc.ul.pt.

After the conference, contributors will be encouraged to submit full-length versions of their papers.

3 Workshops

3.1 Tensions of Europe: Mentorship for Early career scholars starts again on 17 March.

[The Tensions of Europe network](#) is starting the second edition of its mentoring programme that aims at supporting early career researchers. The sessions are held online and open to PhD students and post-doctoral researchers in the history of technology and neighbouring fields.

The first session will focus on academic publishing and will take place on March 17, from 14:00 to 15:30 (CET). Topics for discussion will include (but are not limited to) how to write your first academic article, what are the main journals in the history of technology and STS, how to handle peer review. The session will be held online, with the participation of Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology), Valérie Schafer (C2DH, University of Luxembourg) and other guests.

To participate, please register by March 10 through this [form](#).

3.2 DHST Early Career Scholars Workshop: Next meeting on Oral history.

In 2025, the [Division for the History of Science and Technology \(DHST\)](#) will offer a series of free online workshops to foster the worldwide integration and inclusion of early career scholars. The next two meetings will be on **6 March** and **27 March**.

The full program can be downloaded [here](#).

Workshop registration: <https://forms.gle/1emZJa75FLzbN7PPA>

Please address any questions to the organizers via email: workshops@iuchpp.org.

BEST PRACTICE IN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW AND ANALYSIS (6 March)

Topics: What is oral history; limits and (dis-)advantages; biases; lessons from the practice; what to consider when producing and analyzing interviews; good technologies.

Speaker: **David Zierler** is the Ronald and Maxine Linde Director of the Caltech Heritage Project, USA. Previously, Zierler directed the Oral History Program at the American Institute of Physics.

Time: 6 March, 11:30 pm-1 am Beijing, 4:30-6pm CET, 12:30am-14pm Brasilia, 7:30-9am PST

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON JOURNALS AS A MEANS OF SHAPING THE PRODUCTION & DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE (27 March)

Topics: How to find suitable journals; how to respond to reviews; the role of journals in academic discourse; policies and politics of journals.

Discussants: **Silvia Figueirôa** is Professor at the University of Campinas, Brazil, and has edited several collective volumes; **Joseph D. Martin** is Associate Professor at Durham University, UK, chair of the editorial board of *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, editor-in-chief of *Physics in Perspective*, and book reviews editor for the *British Journal for the History of Science*. **Doubavka Olšáková** is Senior Researcher in History at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and deputy editor of *Centaurus*; **Tiago Saraiva** is Full Professor of History at the Drexel University, USA, co-editor of *History and Technology* and a member of the Cambridge History of Technology editorial team.

Time: 27 March, 9 pm-10:30

3.3 Workshop on Alternative Energy Histories (WAEH): Scenarios and Transitions

Date and location: 20-21 October 2025, Maastricht University

Deadline for abstracts: 4 April 2025

Between 1974 and 1977, the MIT professor, science organizer and Club of Rome executive committee member Carroll L. Wilson organized the international Workshop on Alternative Energy Strategies (WAES). Assembling energy experts from academia, specialized agencies and particularly oil companies, the three-year workshop series explored alternative scenarios for the future of energy demand and supply. The WAES final report, *Energy: Global Prospects 1985-2000* (1977) presented scenarios that pointed to an inevitable oil shortage before the year 2000. It therefore recommended the immediate expansion of capacity to draw more power from nuclear energy wherever politically and technologically feasible. The report also promoted a sharp increase in coal consumption, in combination with emission control technology, to provide a temporary “bridge” until other synthetic fuels and renewables could take over in the 21st century. Oil companies of the 1970s, both those involved in WAES and others, invested heavily in alternative energy, particularly coal, nuclear, solar and geothermal energy. Those investment decisions were often based on expectations shaped by scenarios produced by oil firms’ own planning departments as well as by external groups such as WAES. Thus, scenarios of an alternative energy future had at least some performative effect on the real-world energy constellations of the 1970s.

Half a century later, our conference will explore the history of oil and alternative energy through the lens of scenarios. *Alternative energy histories* has a double meaning: we will discuss both *histories of alternative energy* (e.g., solar, nuclear, geothermal, etc.) as well as, and more literally, *alternative energy histories* (e.g. the use of scenarios and other forecasting tools, expectations of the energy future, what other energy futures were possible, etc.). As the concluding conference of the NWO-Vici project “Managing Scarcity and Sustainability: The Oil Industry, Environmentalism and Alternative Energy in the Age of Scarcity, 1968-1986,” (VI.C.191.067) this workshop seeks to discuss completed and ongoing research as well as explore avenues for further research.



TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION FORM

52th Symposium in Dunedin, New Zealand, 29 June to 5 July 2025

Please, fill in and send back to Dr. Nelson Arellano-Escudero,
Chair of the Travel Grant Committee, at secretary-general[at]icohtec.org

SUBMIT NO LATER THAN 1st March 2025. Answers are expected by end of March 2025

NAME:

POSTAL ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

CATEGORY (underline the one that applies to you): graduate student / post-doc / independent young scholar

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION:

THE ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Travel		Euro
Registration fee		Euro
Accommodation costs		Euro
Total:		Euro
Requested (max 200/700 € - check your eligibility in the announcement)		Euro

PAYMENT INFORMATION TABLE

If you prefer payment through PayPal, please write the email address, to which your PayPal account is registered		
If you prefer a bank transfer, please write the following:		
	1. Personal address (which you gave in your bank)	
	2. Bank name	
	3. Bank address (typically it is not your branch, but a headquarter – please ask in your bank)	
	4. Account number in international format (IBAN)	
	5. BIC/SWIFT code	

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AT SYMPOSIUM

Title of session:

Title of paper or poster:

Other duties in the symposium (e.g. chairing a session):

TRAVEL GRANTS FROM OTHER SOURCES

ICOHTEC Travel grant cannot be combined with an equivalent support from the Society for the History of Technology, SHOT, or the Local Organizing Committee. If such a support was granted to you, please notify us as soon as possible so we could offer the amount to another candidate from our backup list.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The ICOHTEC Board will make available a limited number of grants to help defray some of the expenses of attending the symposium. The Grants will be made available largely thanks to a generous support from Juanelo Turriano Foundation.

ELIGIBILITY

In 2025, the ICOHTEC Travel Grants will be awarded up to 700 Euro each – eligible for applying are graduates, post-graduates, and early career scholars whose papers have been accepted to the scientific program of our 2025 Symposium. Special preference will be given to participants from low-income countries who are not able to receive sufficient financial support elsewhere. Participants with special needs are invited to contact us for support directly. These travel grants are not intended to cover the full costs of attending the Symposium and may be used to bus/train/ferry/flight tickets, lodging and/or registration fee.

PROCEDURE

The Travel Grant Application Form should be downloaded from our website (<https://www.icohtec.org/w-annual-meeting>), filled in, and sent as an e-mail attachment to Nelson Arellano-Escudero, the Chair of the Travel Grant Committee. In addition to the information provided in the application form, please attach a short CV, as well as an appropriate document proving your status (a scan of your student's ID or supervisor's/professor's letter, if applicable).

The reimbursement will be made after the accepted paper is presented in person by the Grantee at the Symposium. The stipend sum will be transferred to the Grantee's bank or PayPal account (please mark the desired form of payment in the form. In exceptional cases, the grant may be given in cash at the congress (please explain the reason to the Treasurer while sending the application). Please note that all transfers can be made only after the congress. Whatever way of payment you choose, please make sure you save your original tickets and invoices to hand them over to the Treasurer at the congress.

DEADLINE

The completed applications, along with applicable attachments should be submitted by e-mail by March 1st, 2025. The grants will be announced by end of March.

Dr Nelson Arellano-Escudero

Secretary General and Chair of the Travel Grant Committee

secretary-general[at]icohtec.org

Annual membership renewals / registration of new members



Form for annual membership renewals / registration of new members

Annual membership includes subscription to ICOHTEC's refereed bi-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: 50 € (or equivalent) per year

☐ A student. Rate: 50 € (or (equivalent) for **two** years

☐ An institution. Rate: 100 € (or equivalent) per year

☐ A library. Rate: Europe and Overseas: 40 € per year

Tick the years of membership to be paid: ☐ 2024 ☐ 2025 ☐ 2026 ☐ 2027

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 Danske Bank in Finland, IBAN: FI53 8146 9710 2287 75, BIC: DABAFIHH

☐ Through paypal by clicking this link https://paypal.me/icohtec?country.x=FI&locale.x=en_US. The receiver is @icohtectreasury or the email icohtectreasury[at]gmail.com

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