

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

Nº220 April 2025

www.icohtec.org



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

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



Ice and moraine on Spitzbergen. Photo credit: Saara Matala.

Table of Content

1	<i>Icohtec News</i>	3
1.1	Icohtec General Assembly and elections, 2 July 2025.....	3
1.2	In Memory of Bruce Sinclair.....	4
1.3	ALLEA Statement on Threats to Academic Freedom and International Research Collaboration in the United States	5
1.4	Icohtec 2025 in New Zealand: Latest updates.....	6
2	<i>Conferences and workshops</i>	8
2.1	Tensions of Europe mentorship program: archival research.....	8
2.2	DHST Early Career Scholars Workshop: book proposals and grant writing	9
3	<i>Open positions</i>	10
3.1	PhD & Postdoc positions in (computational) social science, University of Tartu	10
4	<i>Scholarships, Grants and Prizes</i>	13
4.1	John Scholes Transport History Research Essay Competition, 2025	13
4.2	SHOT Prizes and fellowships. DL 15 May	14

1 Icohtec News

1.1 Icohtec General Assembly and elections, 2 July 2025.

The General Assembly constitutes the highest organ of ICOHTEC. All members of the association will be invited to take part in the next GA that will be held in conjunction with the ICHST conference in New Zealand on Wednesday 2nd July 2025. The meeting invitation and agenda will be distributed to the members before the meetings.

An important part of the meeting will be the election for positions in the Icohtec governing bodies. According to the [Icohtec Statutes](#), “the Executive Committee will consist of the seven officers (Article 17), the immediate past president, the immediate past secretary general, and twelve other members. The seven officers are to be elected by ballot of the membership every four years and three of the other twelve members are to be elected by ballot of the membership every year”.

We are inviting nominations and self-nominations or proposals to the following positions:

1) Three members of the Executive Committee.

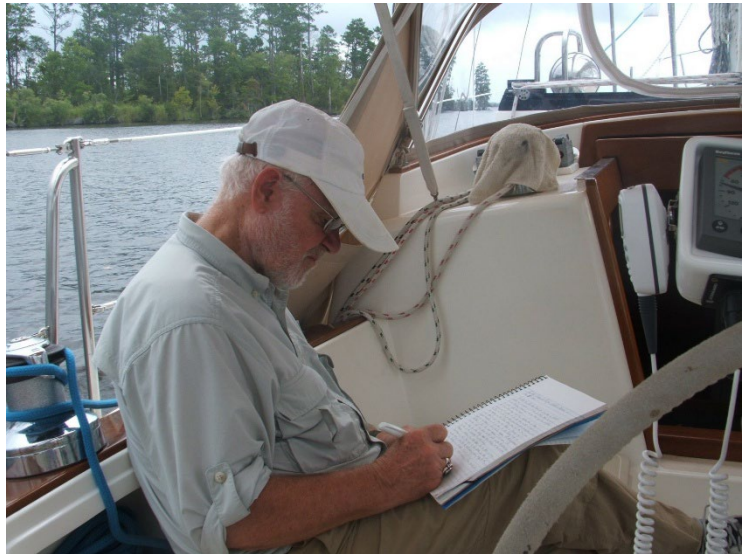
2) Officers

- President
- Vice-president
- Secretary-General
- Treasurer
- Journal Editor-in-Chief
- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster

If you want to know more about Icohtec governing bodies, contact the outgoing President Stefan Poser (stefan.poser@kit.edu).

1.2 In Memory of Bruce Sinclair

Bruce Sinclair, who represented Canada in the early days of ICOHTEC, passed away in March 2025 at his home in northern California. Born in 1929 in the American state of New Mexico, Bruce received his B.A. in 1956, was a fellow at the Hagley Foundation from 1957-1959, and received his Ph.D. at Case Institute of Technology in 1964. He was the director of the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum in Massachusetts, taught at Kansas State



University from 1964-1968, and then joined the faculty of the University of Toronto in 1969, where he became the director of the university's Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. 1988 was a banner year for Bruce. He married Gail Ann Cooper and joined the Georgia Institute of Technology as its first Melvin Kranzberg Professor of History, guiding the development of their new program in the history of technology.

Bruce's scholarship was wide-ranging. His often-reprinted article on the standardization of screw threads and his Dexter Prize winning book Philadelphia's Philosopher Mechanics: A History of the Franklin Institute, 1824-1865, are landmarks in the history of technology. Similarly, his Technology and the African American Experience broke new ground, and his Centennial History of the American Society of Mechanical engineers: 1880-1980 became a model in the world of public history.

A long-time member of SHOT, he served as its president from 1986-1988, and in 1995 was awarded the society's Leonardo Da Vinci Medal for his distinguished work as a scholar, teacher, and museum professional. Moreover, Bruce was a friend and mentor to many, many young scholars.

Bruce and Gail spent much of the early 2000s in Pennsylvania, where Gail was a Professor of the History of technology. After retiring from Georgia Tech, Bruce focused on his passion for sailing. I had the good fortune of Bruce's company as my first mate when I sailed my boat from Annapolis to Oriental, North Carolina, and I still have his hand-written log of that trip. There was nothing finer, thought Bruce, than

“messaging about on boats,” and after he and Gail moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, he continued his love affair with the sea and with sailboats. He especially loved his two Bay boats, Pretty Penny and The Shadow, and winning an important race in the Lipton Cup Series for the Vallejo Yacht Club at the age of 80 gave him a lot of pleasure.

Gail survives Bruce, and along with family members, he will be fondly missed by colleagues and sailors everywhere.

James Williams, Punta Gorda, Florida, USA

1.3 ALLEA Statement on Threats to Academic Freedom and International Research Collaboration in the United States

Icohtec Executive Committee has decided to sign the statement of European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, [Allea](#), on Threats to Academic Freedom and International Research Collaboration in the United States (DOI: 10.26356/ALLEA-ACADEMIC-FREEDOM-STATEMENT).

“Recent restrictions on science and scholarship by the new U.S. Administration’s executive orders freezing billions in federal research funding and censoring research on topics such as climate change and gender has prompted ALLEA to respond with this statement calling for our members, partners, and like-minded organisations, and urging national governments and international institutions in the U.S., Europe and beyond to remain vigilant and strengthen ongoing efforts to safeguard academic freedom and the autonomy of scientific institutions.” (www.allea.org)

The statement and the list of institutional signatories can be found on [Allea’s website](#).

1.4 Icohtec 2025 in New Zealand: Latest updates.



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.

Program updates

While the final program has not yet been published, we have got some preliminary information regarding the scheduling of the papers. The papers in the Icohtec Symposia have been provisionally set in the Congress schedule for Monday June 30, Tuesday July 1, and Wednesday July 2. The Wednesday 11:00 time slot is reserved for the ICOHTEC annual general meeting.

For any questions, contact the Icohtec Program Committee (matala@chalmers.se). For changes regarding your submission, contact the ICHST digital coordinator, Georgia Watson (georgia@conference.nz) or +64 3 352 8120

The **preliminary outline of the program** is available at the ICHST website: <https://www.ichst2025.org/program-outline>

Early bird registration

For more information and registrations, visit the ICHST website: <https://www.ichst2025.org/registration>

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.

REGISTRATION TYPE	EARLY BIRD <i>until 14 April</i>	STANDARD <i>from 15 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)

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.

2 Conferences and workshops

2.1 Tensions of Europe mentorship program: archival research

[The Tensions of Europe network](#) is starting the second edition of its mentoring programme, that aim 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 second session will focus on archival research and will take place on **May 21, from 13:30 to 15:00 (CET)**. The session will be hosted by Valérie Schafer (C2DH - University of Luxembourg) and Katerina Vlantoni (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens).

If you would like to participate, please register [through this form](#) by **May 18**. You will receive the link to attend the session after the deadline.

2.2 DHST Early Career Scholars Workshop: book proposals and grant writing

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 meetings will be on **15 May** and **29 May**.

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.

CONTENT AND SUBMISSION OF BOOK PROPOSALS (15 May)

Topics: Should I turn my dissertation into a book?; How to find the right press; how to approach editors; how to outline a book proposal; collective authorship and editing; why book series?

Speaker: W. Patrick McCray is Professor at the History Department at the University of California Santa Barbara, USA, and a series editor for Johns Hopkins University Press.

Time: 15 May, 10:30-12 pm Beijing, 4:30-6pm CET, 11:30am-1pm Brasilia, 7:30-9am PDT

GRANT WRITING MASTER CLASS (29 May)

Topics: Think big questions and frame them well; crafting your grant; personal experience.

Speakers: Gerardo Ienna is postdoctoral researcher at the University of Verona, Italy, and a Marie Curie global fellow (Grant Number 101026146); Simone Turchetti is Professor in history of science and technology at the Manchester University, UK, and PI of the ERC research project “Newworldata”.

Time: 29 May, 8-9:30 pm Beijing, 2-3.30pm CET, 9-10:30am Brasilia, 5-7:30 am PDT

CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS & OUTLOOK (later on 29 May)

Topics: What was good and what could be changed; take-homes; networking opportunities.

Discussants: everyone, please join us one last time!

Time: 29 May, 9:45-10:15 pm Beijing, 3:45-4:15 pm CET, 10:45-11:15am Brasilia, 7:45-8:15 am PDT

3 Open positions

3.1 PhD & Postdoc positions in (computational) social science, University of Tartu

DL for applications: 15 May 2025 & June 15, 2025

The ERC Consolidator project [“Rise and Demise of Industrial Modernity”](#) (RiDe) at the University of Tartu (Estonia) is looking to fill 2 fully funded PhD positions and 1 postdoctoral position, broadly in environmental studies/social science, particularly in sustainability transitions studies.

The project is based on the Deep Transitions framework from the sustainability transitions field. It seeks to develop a new theory about the acceleration, crisis and possible transformation of industrial modernity: a set of ideas, institutions and practices related to the natural environment and technoscience currently blocking the deep sustainability turn. The project is led by Laur Kanger, Professor of Sustainability Transitions and co-author of the Deep Transitions framework.

PhD positions

Expected starting date: 1 September 2025

Duration of employment: 48 months (until 30.08.2029)

Working time: 100% (40 hours per week)

International application submission deadline: 15 May 2025

For applicants with an MA from an Estonian university: June 15 2025

We are seeking applicants with a Master's degree or equivalent qualification with a background in one of the following fields: digital humanities, computational social science, data science, sustainability transitions studies, science and technology studies, innovation studies, sociology (e.g. economic, political, environmental, historical), environmental governance, political science, economics (e.g. economics of innovation, ecological economics), political science, history (e.g. economic, environmental, intellectual, science and technology), sustainability science (or a related field). Alternatively, a master's degree in another field combined with a strong and proven interest in sustainability issues also constitutes a good fit. For more info on the positions, main tasks and requirements, see the links below.

Topic 1: “Ideational continuities and ruptures of industrial modernity in G20 countries”

The purpose of the PhD project is to map the long-term evolution of different ideas about environment and technoscience (e.g. belief in societal progress through science and technology, rising environmental awareness) in G20 countries from 1900 to 2025 based on digitized newspaper corpora and using state of the art machine learning methods, including large language models.

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/336902>

Topic 2: “Blocking mechanisms of industrial modernity”

The PhD project aims to identify how dominant technoscientific ideas, institutions, and practices hinder the adoption of transformative environmental solutions. The work will draw on theoretical and historical literature to uncover key mechanisms—such as reliance on future technological promises or solving old problems with new technologies—that delay sustainable change. It will also examine how these mechanisms interact and manifest in real-world cases like solar geoengineering or climate modelling.

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/336901>

Postdoctoral position on measuring the long-term acceleration and crisis of industrial societies

Expected starting date: 1 September 2025

Duration of employment: 36 months (until 30.08.2028), with a possibility of extension up to the end of the project (30.04.2030)

Working time: 100% (40 hours per week)

Application deadline: 15 June 2025

The purpose of the postdoctoral research project is to map the long-term evolution of different institutions and practices related to the natural environment and technoscience (e.g. institutional tendency to react to the consequences of technological innovation, reliance on fossil fuels and minerals as key inputs) in G20 countries from 1900 to 2025 through the combination of different databases (e.g. party platforms, material use, scientific publications, patents). The results are expected to contribute to 1) a typology of industrialization pathways developed by the research team; 2) an index comparing the historical legacy of industrial modernity in different countries.

Preference is given to candidates with a background and prerequisite skills in one of the following fields: sustainability transitions studies, science and technology studies, innovation studies, sociology (e.g. economic, political, environmental, historical), political science, economics (e.g. economics of innovation, ecological economics), history (e.g. economic, environmental, science and technology), sustainability science (or a related field). Alternatively, a PhD degree in another field combined with a strong and proven interest in sustainability issues also constitutes a good fit. For more info on the position, main tasks and requirements, see: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/337755>

Why study or work in Estonia?

Estonia offers Nordic quality of life, a strong academic environment and convenient digitized services—all while maintaining a reasonable cost of living that supports comfortable student life. The University of Tartu, founded in 1632, ranks among the top 1% of the world's most cited universities and actively fosters sustainability and intersectoral collaboration, having produced numerous successful startups. Estonia itself ranks #1 in startups per capita in Europe. As a member of the EU and NATO, Estonia is internationally minded, and English is widely spoken. Estonia's digital infrastructure streamlines official procedures, as everything from contracts to taxes can all be handled online in minutes by citizens and residents alike.

Tartu is a lively university town known for its cozy atmosphere, vibrant student life, bike and walking friendly spaces, and scenic riverside. It has been named the UNESCO City of Literature, and the European Capital of Culture in 2024. The city is well connected to Europe and the world, but also offers easy access to nature, with nearby vast networks of forest hiking trails, excellent winter sports opportunities, and the charm of four distinct seasons.

4 Scholarships, Grants and Prizes

4.1 John Scholes Transport History Research Essay Competition, 2025

DL for nominations: 30 September 2025

The John Scholes Prize is awarded annually to the writer of a publishable paper based on original research into any aspect of the history of transport and mobility. The prize is intended to recognise budding transport and mobility historians. It may be awarded to the writer of one outstanding article, or divided between two or more entrants. Typically, the prize is awarded for research completed as part of a PhD.

This year the prize will consist of:

- * vouchers up to the value of £150 to be spent on SAGE publications
- * a year's membership of the [International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic & Mobility](#) (T2M) (worth €90)
- * €250 in cash.

Publication in the Journal of Transport History will be at the discretion of the Editor and subject to the normal refereeing process. The prize is named in memory of John Scholes, the first Curator of Historical Relics at the British Transport Commission. It is funded by SAGE (publishers of the Journal of Transport History), and T2M – www.t2m.org.

Eligibility

Entry is limited to researchers who, at the time of submission, are not yet in or have just commenced a permanent / tenured academic (or equivalent) position, and who are just starting to publish research.

Entries

Essays (in English, double-spaced) should not exceed 8,000 words (including footnotes). Sources must be documented fully. Entries must be submitted electronically, to arrive no later than 30 September 2025. They must not bear any reference to the author or institutional affiliation. Senior scholars will judge entries against criteria of originality, thoroughness and excellence of argument, source use, composition and illustration. The process is 'double-anonymised'. The judges will not enter into correspondence.

A cover letter and a one-page CV must demonstrate eligibility for the prize.

Entries for the prize should be sent to the JTH Editor at editor.jth@gmail.com. The subject line of the message must read 'John Scholes Prize entry 2025'. In the body of the message please indicate how you found out about the Prize.

4.2 SHOT Prizes and fellowships. DL 15 May

The Society for History of Technology SHOT has announced calls for several awards and fellowships in the field of history of technology.

The DL for applications is 15 May, 2025.

For more information and detailed submission guidelines, [visit SHOT website.](#)

[Leonardo da Vinci Medal:](#) The society's highest honor, presented to an individual who has greatly contributed to the history of technology through research, teaching, publications, service to the Society, and other activities.

[Melvin Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship](#)

Awarded annually to a doctoral student preparing a dissertation in the history of technology, broadly defined. It concerns a \$4,000 award. This fellowship is in memory of the co-founder of SHOT, and honors Melvin Kranzberg's many contributions to developing the history of technology as a field of scholarly endeavor and SHOT as a professional organization.

[Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship](#)

An award of \$10,000 in support of a scholar at the beginning of their career. The fellowship honors the contribution of Brooke Hindle to the work of the SHOT.

[Sidney Edelstein Prize](#)

Recognizing outstanding scholarly work in the history of technology. The prize consists of an award of \$3,500 and a plaque. The books should be received by the prize committee no later than 15 May 2025.

[Sally Hacker Prize](#)

Established in 1999 to honor exceptional scholarship that reaches beyond the academy toward a broad audience. The prize consists of an award of \$2,000 and a plaque.

[Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize](#)

For an original essay in the history of technology that examines technology within the framework of social or intellectual history. The prize consists of an award of \$300 and a certificate.

[Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize](#)

For the best article in the history of electro technology-power, electronics, telecommunications, and computer science. The prize consists of an award of \$1,000 and a certificate. In addition, IEEE will provide a travel subsidy (max. \$750 domestic, \$1,000 international) to allow the winner to attend SHOT's annual meeting.

[Martha Trescott Prize](#)

Given annually for the best published essay in one of two areas: In even-numbered years (2024, 2026), the prize will be awarded to an outstanding published historical essay in the area of women in technology. In odd-numbered years (2025, 2027), the prize will be awarded to an outstanding published essay in the area of social responsibility of engineers in history

[Race and Histories of Technologies Prize](#)

A prize for outstanding scholarship that explicitly explores the multiple intersections and junctures between race/ethnicity and the history of technology. The prize is part of a collective commitment for

addressing systemic and epistemic racism at SHOT and in the global intellectual field it represents. The prize is intended for junior scholars and new entrants to the profession worldwide.

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: _____

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