

NEW ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER

(ISSN 2070-8548)

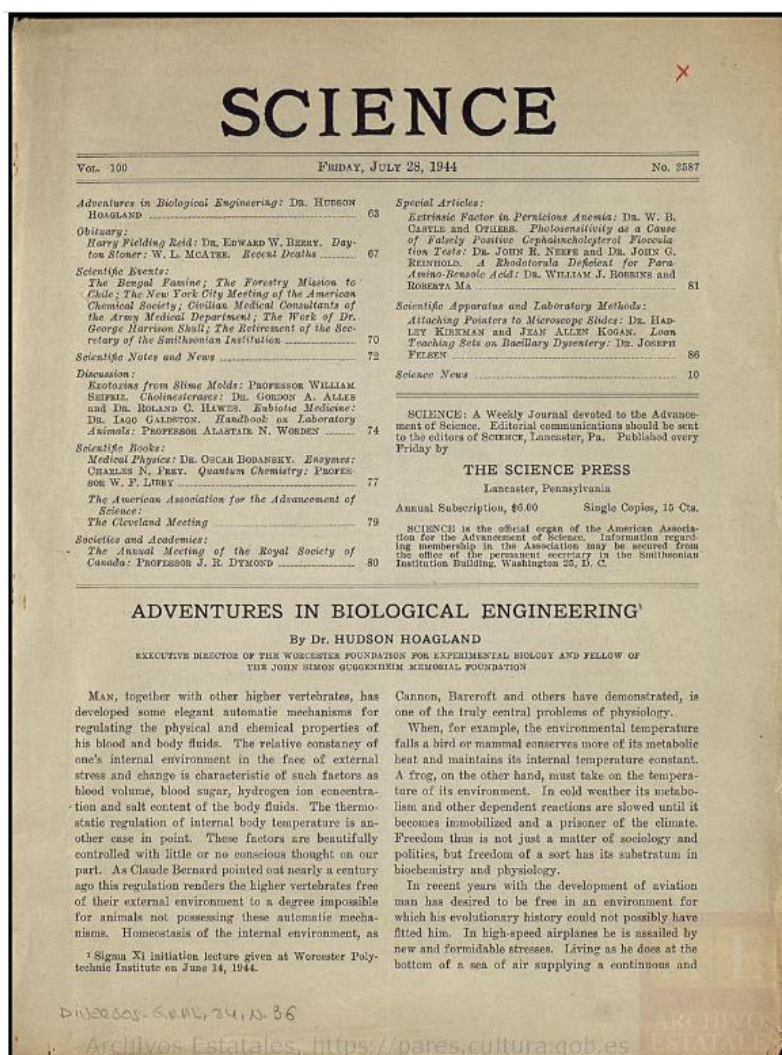
№232 June 2026

www.icohtec.org



Editor: Anna Batzeli, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece.

If you have something to announce please mail to: abatzeli@he.duth.gr



Revista "Science", volumen 100, número 2587, 1944-7-28. Nueva York (Estados Unidos).

Photo credit: [Archives Portal Europe](https://www.archives.gov/) and [Archivo Histórico Nacional](https://pares.cultura.gob.es)

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Newsletter editor wishes to acknowledge, with gratitude, the contributions of the following individuals to the current issue (listed in alphabetical order): Bettel Florian, Fari Simone, Matala Saara, Musso Marta, Pauer Erich, Poser Stefan, Roca Rosell Antoni.

1. ICOHTEC News

1.1 Interview with Antoni Roca Rosell



My university education was physics, but I move to history very soon. At that time, in Barcelona there was no formal studies on history of science and technology. Thus, my school was the practice of historical research. My brother Francesc was my early influence. I met some colleagues in my purpose to know and understand science and technology in Spain. First of all, in 1976 Guillermo Lusa organised the 125th anniversary of the set-up of the School of Industrial Engineering of Barcelona. I met him when he promoted a group to prepare the teaching of history of science for the engineers. In the same time, I met Thomas F. Glick and Víctor Navarro Brotons. Glick, professor of the Boston University, joined the group of José M. López Piñero and Navarro Brotons in the University

of València. They were designing a research project on the history of science and technology in Spain since the Scientific Revolution. Glick observed that the scientific middle class -teachers, engineers- played an important role in the diffusion and appropriation of new ideas.

1. You have collaborated with ICOHTEC for several years. Which experiences or aspects of your involvement with ICOHTEC have you found most valuable?

ICOHTEC, with its annual meetings, the Journal ICON, the prizes, and the newsletter, provide a very good opportunity to know the main lines of research in history of technology. ICOHTEC offers a true international viewpoint and the possibility to contact organised groups of research and also independent scholars. It should be remembered that ICOHTEC belongs to the International Division of History of Science and Technology, part of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, UNESCO. Thus, ICOHTEC is unique. In fact, I first participated in sessions of ICOHTEC included in the International Congress celebrated in Hamburg-Munich, 1989. The only society with a similar projection in our discipline

is the American Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), with which ICOTHEC maintains close relationship (with some shared meetings).

In addition, ICOHTEC is a very friendly entity, some of its leaders have created a very kind ambience, including the ICOHTEC jazz band, active for a long period. Unfortunately, for live reasons, this situation is changing, but I think that there is a consciousness for maintaining this fact, now with new persons and new situations. In this sense, let me mention some names: Hans-Joachim Braun, Robert and Brenda Buchanan, James Williams, Alexander Herlea ...

2. Your research bridges engineering, history, and cultural studies. In your view, what connects these fields? What advice would you give to graduate students interested in pursuing interdisciplinary historical research?

Early in my career, I was aware of the science and engineering should be understood in their historical and cultural context. This was a practical result of my research, but it had been stated by the founders of modern history of technology, Melvin Kranzberg, Donald S. L. Cardwell, Robert Buchanan, Arnold Pacey, Thomas P. Hughes, Maurice Daumas, etc. In fact, for the study of the Spanish process, it is absolutely necessary to analyse the technology in the social, economic, cultural context.

I think that every research is interdisciplinary. That means that, in a certain moment, it should be necessary to collaborate with other scholars. Nevertheless, it is important to read, to study our classics.

3. Much of your research examines the social and political role of engineers in Catalonia and Spain. In your view, what distinguishes these case studies from other European contexts?

One of my purposes was (and is) to explain the role of science and technology in my country, Catalonia, in the context of Spain and Europe. There is an old believe in relation with Catalan and Spanish scientific and technological inferiority. The cultural ambience of the Franco Dictatorship (1939-1975) seemed to confirm this sort of “peripherism”. In addition, in the economic aspect, industry was developed irregularly in the Spanish country. Engineering and technical activity was relatively concentrated in the industrial areas: Catalonia from the XVIII century, the Basque Country, Valencia and Andalusia during the XIX century.

In that sense, for some regions of Spain, the context is very similar with other regions of Europe. In my research, I would try to have a comparative point of view. This is particularly rich in questions such as technical education: most initiatives reveal the knowledge and adoption of the experiences in other regions or countries.

4. Looking ahead, what developments in the history of technology do you think will shape the field over the next decade?

History of technology is an open field of research. In certain aspects, it is necessary to begin in the basement: for example, gender and technology, with a very relevant number of studies dating from 40 or 50 years ago, but with many questions to study and analyse. For example, the apparent hostility for academic engineering (women has been very active in technology since the origin of humanity, but they don't go the schools!) Other fields of research: no-European technology before and after the enormous impact of European technology (including the USA technology) overall the world.

1.2 Maurice Daumas Prize (ICOHTEC Article Prize): Results

REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2026 MAURICE DAUMAS PRIZE

The Maurice Daumas prize was created in 2011 to award the best history of technology papers published by young scholars. It is sponsored by the Université de technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard (UTBM), in France. This prize attracts great interest among young researchers around the world. The papers presented show the dynamism and high standards of the young scholars.

In the 2026 appeal, 23 papers from scholars working in 13 countries were presented. The subjects deal with a number of interesting questions in several fields of history of technology, including social and political discussions: The questions of Deep Hawaiian Seawater and Pacific Archipelagic Futures after 1960; Global History and the Measures of Early Modern Technology in the Case of Smoothbore Ballistics; Office automation in the Swiss federal administration in the 1980s and 1990s; Leapfrogging India: Vikram Sarabhai and the developmental promise of geocentric spaceflight; Electric Discipline: Gendering Power and Defining; Animal Rescues and Greenwashing during the Brazilian Military Dictatorship's Dam-Building Boom, 1970s–1980s; Vernacular development, drought, and US technical assistance in postcolonial Lebanon; Electronics and the U.S. Military's Battle against Fungi in the Pacific War; Radio Technologies for the Fascist Alternative Modernity; Ice Breaking News: The Deutsche Seewarte (German Maritime Observatory) and Epistemic Shifts in the Ice Service in the Interwar Period; From distance(s) to civilization(s): (Extra) terrestrial intelligence(s) of (post-) Soviet Armenian astronomy; Wild horses: Tartar warfare and the history of civilization; Familial Love, Loss and (Re)connection in Nineteenth-Century Spiritualist Literature; Purity, Consistency, and Chemical. Engineers at the Origin of a New Visual Order, 1890–1930; Automobiles, Entrepreneurs, and Empire. Auto-Tourism in Interwar French North Africa; Flows of air, flows of electrons; Women's toilets take over the pavement. An architectural and engineering study of Parisian public restrooms (1872–1900); The Global Order of Thermonuclear Things. Actors and Scales for a Socio-Environmental and Material History of Diplomacy; Spectral sonics: Field recordings from an extractive zone; The Origins of Nuclear Expertise: The Formation of Nuclear Engineering Education in the US and Sweden (1950–1979); A Historical

Perspective on Traditional Herbal Medicine in Vietnam and Indonesia; Everyday Interpretations of Transitions to Electricity in Colonial Calcutta c. 1875–1940s; Promoting Environmental Protection or Prioritizing Economic Development? The Brazilian Position.

Given that the papers presented were published in peer-reviewed journals, and books, the standard of all of them is high.

On 22th June 2026, after the corresponding deliberations, the committee has decided to award the ICOHTEC Maurice Daumas Article Prize 2026 (the sixteenth) to:

Boyd Ruamcharoen for his paper “Tropicalizing the Portable Radio: Electronics and the U.S. Military's Battle against Fungi in the Pacific War”, *Technology and Culture*, Volume 65, Number 2, April 2024, pp. 497-529.

Boyd Ruamcharoen is a postdoctoral Fellow in the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History (Harvard University). He is a historian who brings together environmental history, the history of science and technology, and the history of the U.S. empire in the twentieth century. He also engages with science and technology studies (STS) and media studies.

His paper analyses a case study, the use of radio and other electronics devices by the US army during the Second World War in the Tropics. With a very rich set of resources, the author uncovers the importance of climate proofing to the history of electronics miniaturization and many other subjects related to “tropicalization” in technology.

The jury appreciates a Diploma to:

Hyeok Hweon Kang for the paper “Global History and the Measures of Early Modern Technology: Europe, East Asia, and the Case of Smoothbore Ballistics”, *Journal of World History*, Volume 36, Number 2, June 2025, pp. 169-204.

Hyeok Hweon Kang is Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures Affiliate Faculty, Comparative Literature and Thought Affiliate Faculty, Department of History. Kang is currently completing

his first book, *Artisanal Heart*, under contract with the University of Chicago Press. The book examines how artisans and “ingeniators” (leaders of artisans) shaped a vibrant culture of material design and knowledge-making in partnership with the Chosŏn Korean (1392–1910) state.

His article presents a very interesting piece of analysis with a variety of data and its conceptual interpretation. The study contributes well to the history of military technology, the history of science, and material culture.

MAURICE DAUMAS PRIZE COMMITTEE 2026

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

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain

Rodrigo Booth, Dr.

Universidad de Chile, Chile

Guillermo Guajardo Soto, Dr.

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México

Bertrand Guillaume, Prof.

Université de technologie de Troyes (UTT), France

Laurent Heyberger, Dr.

Université de technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard (UTBM), France

Cecilia Ibarra, Dr.

Universidad de Chile, Chile

Sarah Qidwai, Dr.

University of York, United Kingdom

Thomas Schuetz, Dr.

University of Stuttgart, Germany

Liliia Zemnukhova, Dr.

Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany

1.3 Become a Member

Annual membership renewals / registration of new members

Being a member of ICOHTEC means joining a global community dedicated to the history of technology. Your membership supports our activities and provides you with exclusive benefits.

Member Benefits: Voting rights at ICOHTEC elections (online or in person). A paper copy of our journal ICON, appearing once a year (including special issues). Full access to the online repository of ICON back issues. A monthly Newsletter delivered directly to your inbox..

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: 25 € (or equivalent) per year
- An institution. Rate: 100 € (or equivalent) per year

Tick the years of membership to be paid: 2026 2027 2028

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:

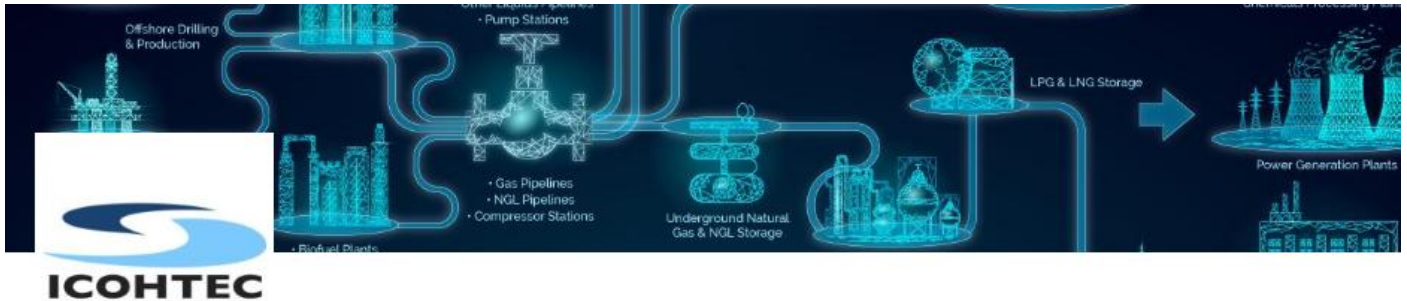
“ICOHTEC“ at Danske Bank in Finland, IBAN: FI53 8146 9710 2287 75, BIC: DABAFIHH

The address of the bank is: Danske Bank A/S, Saltoniškių str. 2, LT-08500 Vilnius

Through paypal by clicking this link <https://www.icohtec.org/a-homepage-section/join-or-renew-icohtec/>

After filling the form, please send by email to Florian Bettel at treasurer@icohtec.org (ICOHTEC Treasurer) and to Nelson Arellano, President of ICOHTEC at president@icohtec.org

1.4 Follow us on LinkedIn



International Committee on the History of Technology - ICOHTEC

ICOHTEC was founded in 1968 with the intent to provide an international forum of scholars for the Technology History

[linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)

2. ICOHTEC 53rd Annual Meeting

2.1 Early bird registration deadline has been extended until June 30

Conference Fees

Registration fees for ICOHTEC 2026 are structured according to the registration period and mode of participation.

<p>Early Bird Registration 320 EUR</p> <p>Until 10 June 2026 Extended: 30 June 2026</p>	<p>Late Registration 400 EUR</p> <p>Until 15 July 2026</p>	<p>Virtual Participation 250 EUR</p> <p>Limited places available Until 10 June 2026 Extended: 30 June 2026</p>
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What does the conference fee cover?

1. Access to all scheduled talks, panels, and workshops
2. Conference materials (program, badge, bag, and memento)
3. Book of Abstracts (with DOI)
4. Food and refreshments (coffee breaks and light snacks)
5. Complimentary transportation to and from Alexandroupolis city center and the conference venues
6. Special accommodation discounts (a list of participating hotels offering discounted rates for conference attendees has been published on the [conference website](#))
7. Special offers for participation in guided tours and workshops organized by the [Ethnological Museum of Thrace](#)
8. Access to networking sessions
9. Coverage of staff and venue costs

2.2 Special accommodation discounts available

The following hotels in Alexandroupolis offer special rates for participants of ICOHTEC 2026. **Prices are per room per night. Participants are advised to contact hotels directly for reservations and to mention their participation in ICOHTEC 2026 where applicable:**

Hotel Name	Single Room Price	Double Room Price	Notes
Aggelos Hotel Alexandroupolis	€95 per night	€105 per night	Prices include breakfast & accommodation tax
Nefeli Hotel	€72 per night	€85 per night	Prices include breakfast + 3% accommodation tax per night
Ramada Plaza	€80 per night	€90 per night	Includes breakfast / Additional €15 accommodation tax per night
Athina City Hotel	€65 per night	€75 per night	Includes breakfast + €2 accommodation tax per night
Okeanis	€65 per night	€80 per night	Includes breakfast + €2 accommodation tax per night
31 Doors Hotel	€75 per night	€90 per night	Includes breakfast + €5 accommodation tax per night

2.3 How to Get to Alexandroupolis

The venue (Democritus University of Thrace premises at Alexandroupolis, [duth](#)) is located in Alexandroupolis, which is well-connected by air, sea, and land:

Connection by:	
Plane	There are regular flights connecting Alexandroupolis with Athens (4-5 flights per day). Democritus International Airport also offers flights from/to Thessaloniki and the following islands: Skiros, Crete (Sitia Airport) and Lesvos (Mytilene Airport).
Car/Bus	<p>Alexandroupolis is easily accessible by car via the Egnatia Highway. Below are the distances between Alexandroupolis and nearby major cities. In some cases, these routes are also served by bus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alexandroupolis - Athens: 800 Km ▪ Alexandroupolis - Thessaloniki: 301 km ▪ Alexandroupolis - Kavala: 149 km ▪ Alexandroupolis - Sofia (Bulgaria): 403.7 km ▪ Alexandroupolis - Burgas (Bulgaria): 340.8 km ▪ Alexandroupolis - Istanbul (Turkey): 304 km ▪ Alexandroupolis - Edirne (Turkey): 140.1 km
Taxi	Transfers to/from Democritus International Airport to/from Sofia Airport (Bulgaria) and other Bulgarian cities, are available through taxi services.

Train	There is a regular train connection between Alexandroupolis and Thessaloniki. It is also possible to travel to Alexandroupolis from Athens by train with a single ticket, though you will need to change trains in Thessaloniki.
Sea	Alexandroupolis has a daily ferry connection to Samothrace Island.

Useful links:

- Municipality of Alexandroupolis: Information for Visitors: <https://alexpolis.gr/visitalexpolis/visit-alexandroupolis/>
- Alexandroupolis (Democritus) International Airport: <https://alxd.gr/>
- Intercity Bus Connection: <https://ktelevrou.gr/en/index.html>
- Hellenic Train: <https://www.hellenictrain.gr/en>



Figure 1: Alexandroupolis on map



Figure 2: View of Alexandroupolis seaside



Figure 3: Alexandroupolis city center

2.4 Follow the Conference Website and Social Media for Updates

<https://icohtec2026.hs.duth.gr/>

[Facebook](#)

[bsky](#)

[x](#)

For all enquiries please contact:

icohtec2026@gmail.com



3. ICOHTEC Newsletter

3.1 Cover Page

Continuing our collaboration with Archives Portal Europe (archivesportaleurope.net), this issue highlights the front page of Science journal Volume 100, Number 2587, which was published on July 28, 1944. This document belongs to the specialized José Giral collection within the Archivo Histórico Nacional (under shelfmark DIVERSOS-JOSE_GIRAL,24,N.36) and is now fully accessible to researchers worldwide through the digitized repository on the PARES Platform.

The Portal de Archivos Españoles, widely known as PARES, is the official digital platform created by Spain's Ministry of Culture to preserve and disseminate the country's vast Historical Document Heritage. This centralized network provides free, open access to over 40 million digitized images and 5.6 million descriptive records sourced directly from major Spanish state repositories, including the prestigious Archives of the Crown of Aragon. The platform covers an immense historical and geographical scope, making it an invaluable resource for researching administrative, colonial, and genealogical records spanning centuries. To make these historical materials more accessible, PARES incorporates advanced artificial intelligence through its specialized Handwritten Text Recognition search tool, which helps researchers transcribe and navigate complex archaic manuscripts. Furthermore, the portal maintains global interoperability standards, seamlessly syncing its massive cultural datasets with Europe's collective heritage database via Europeana.

Explore PARES here:

<https://pares.cultura.gob.es/inicio.html>

3.2 ICOHTEC Newsletter Past Issues: A Glimpse to ICOHTEC History

ICOHTEC 18 years ago

ICOHTEC newsletter No. 41 (editor: Stefan Poser) outlines the organization's milestones, structural reviews, and recent academic contributions. Part I focuses on organizational updates and conference planning, noting the passing of long-standing executive committee members **Tatsuya Kobayashi** and **Michael Mende**. The committee celebrated its **40th anniversary** since its 1968 founding by hosting the **35th annual symposium at the University of Victoria in Canada**. Centered on the theme of crossing borders in the history of technology, this event marked **ICOHTEC's first independent meeting held outside of Europe**, featuring specialized sessions on military, aviation, and sports technologies alongside the traditional Kranzberg Lecture delivered by **Robert Post**.

Part II provides a comprehensive **review of the history of technology as an academic and institutional discipline in Sweden**. Author **Thomas Kaiserfeld** notes inter alia that while the field is intellectually vibrant, it is highly fragmented across various universities, museums, and national agencies.

Of particular interest is Part IV, which catalogues a diverse collection of **recently published books authored by ICOHTEC members**. The publications cover a broad chronological and thematic spectrum, including historical biographies, and the industrial achievements of Isambard Kingdom Brunel in South Wales. Several anthologies investigate the evolution of specific technical infrastructures, tracing the homogenization of modern European cities, the historical intersections of medicine and technology, and the development of structural mechanics from the Renaissance to modern computational systems. Other specialized volumes delve into the cultural and architectural dimensions of industrial heritage, examining the legacy of German mining architects, the history of Trappist abbey breweries in Belgium, and the artistic representation of artificial women and androids throughout history.

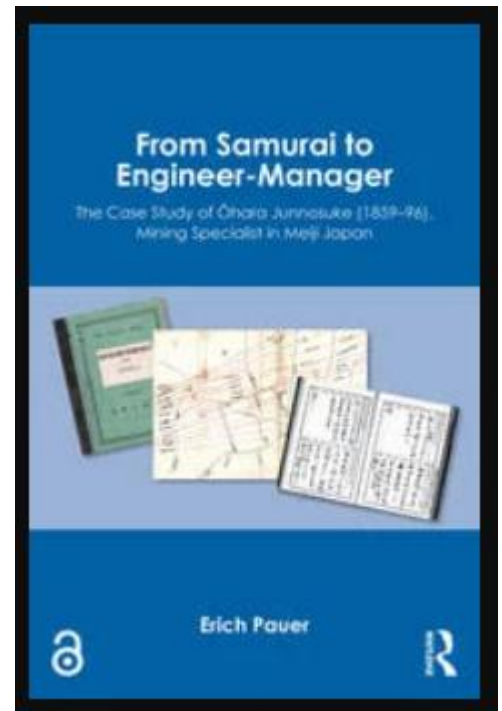
Read the newsletter [here](#).

3.3 *From Samurai to Engineer-Manager: The Case Study of Ōhara Junnosuke (1859–96), Mining Specialist in Meiji Japan* By Erich Pauer

Dear colleagues

I'm pleased to announce the publication of my new book by Routledge, Oxon and New York, 2026

(<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/oa-mono/10.4324/9781003696186/samurai-engineer-manager-erich-pauer>) *From Samurai to Engineer-Manager. The Case Study of Ōhara Junnosuke (1859–96), Mining Specialist in Meiji Japan.*



This book reconstructs the life and work of the Japanese mining engineer, Ōhara Junnosuke, during the early decades of Japan's industrialisation.

Although Japan's political and socio-economic development during the Meiji period has been extensively researched, the technological and technical foundations that were crucial to its success have remained largely obscure. Drawing on unique sources, mostly handwritten, including lecture notes, internship and work experience reports, travelogues, diaries, and so on, this book illustrates the beginnings of modern engineering education in Japan and how it was intertwined with the subsequent professional career of the protagonist. Born in 1859 into a samurai family in rural Japan, Ōhara studied mining at the Imperial College of Engineering (ICE, Kōbu-Daigakkō) in Tokyo for six years, from 1878 to 1884. Founded in 1873, the ICE was the first higher technical school in Japan, comprising eight different technical divisions. In 1886, it became the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Tōkyō. At the ICE, all classes were taught in English by Scottish teachers from Glasgow University. Students were trained in both engineering and management, which were exactly the skills needed by a country on the brink of industrialisation at that time. After graduating with distinction from the ICE, Ōhara first worked for the Ministry of Public Works and then joined the private mining company Fujita Gumi. He became the manager of the large Ōmori Ginzan silver mine in Iwami, which is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There, he oversaw the construction of a modern silver production plant. Unfortunately, his promising career as one of the earliest engineers and managers in the field of mining in Japan ended prematurely with his death in 1896.

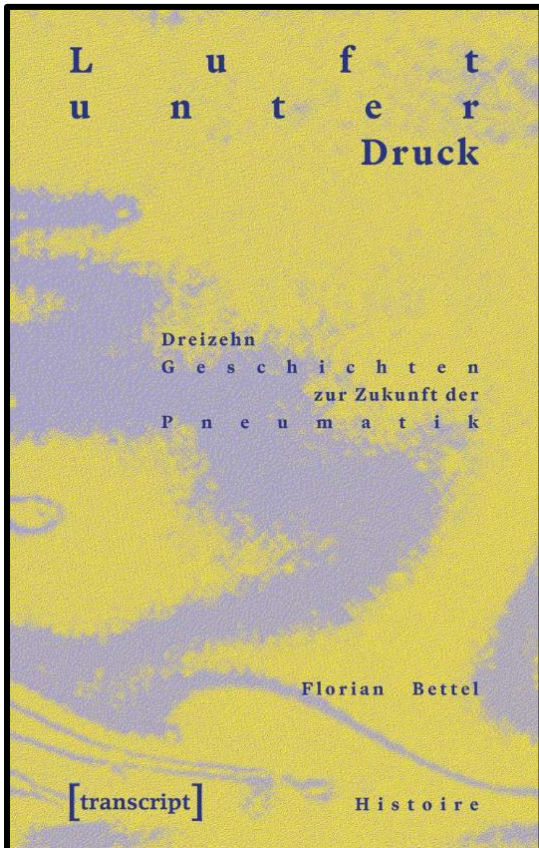
The education and professional career of Ōhara, analysed in this study, are in many ways typical of the emerging technical elite in Japan and their contribution to the country's modern industrialisation in the nineteenth century.

The Open Access version of this book has been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives (CC BY-NC-ND) 4.0 license.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003696186>

Erich Pauer

3.4 *Luft unter Druck. Dreizehn Geschichten zur Zukunft der Pneumatik*, by Florian Bettel



Florian Bettel: *Luft unter Druck. Dreizehn Geschichten zur Zukunft der Pneumatik*. Transcript, Bielefeld 2026.

Open access:

<https://www.transcript-verlag.de/978-3-8376-7899-4/luft-unter-druck/?number=978-3-8394-2939-6>

Florian Bettel's new book explores more or less futuristic ideas in modern transport dating back to the 19th century: he analysed concepts for using compressed air for propulsion and for generating kinetic energy. In the early decades of the 19th century, pneumatic systems were discussed as an alternative to steam engines for railways; later, the pneumatic tube system was inaugurated, and in the 1870s, plans were drawn up to transport the deceased to Vienna's Central Cemetery. Today, pneumatic systems for extraterrestrial vehicles are under discussion. This truly interesting and highly recommendable book has been published in an unusually appealing layout.

3.5 Open call for contributions

ICOHTEC Monthly Newsletter invites contributions from scholars and practitioners in relevant fields. Submissions may include announcements of events, descriptions of ongoing projects, reflections, or news items of interest. Contributions should be sent to: Anna Batzeli, Newsletter Editor at: abatzeli@he.duth.gr

In addition, we welcome short blog-style essays (up to 800 words).

The purpose of the Newsletter is to inform members and affiliates of current developments and emerging discussions within the field.

We accept contributions in all official ICOHTEC languages (English, French, German, Russian or Spanish).

4. ICON, Journal of ICOHTEC

4.1 Submit your Paper

ICON, the bi-annual journal of ICOHTEC founded in 1995, publishes essays, research articles, research briefs, review essays and book reviews on all aspects and periods of technological history by members and non-members. It devotes special attention to the discussion of contemporary problems of technology in their socio-economic and cultural settings. The journal's goal is to foster scholarship by providing timely review and circulation of ideas to an international audience. Please submit your manuscript for consideration (article and abstract) at peeter.muursepp@taltech.ee

ISSN: 1361-8113

eISSN: 2806-4208

Indexes and databases

ICON is available via JSTOR as well as ICOHTEC's website. Articles appearing in ICON are included in SCOPUS, America: History and Life, Current abstracts, Francis, Historical abstracts, PubMed, TOC premier, listed in the European Reference Index for the Humanities.

ICOHTEC members have access to all volumes on ICOHTEC's homepage:

<https://www.icohtec.org/icon/>

4.2 Throwback: ICON Volume 9 (2003)

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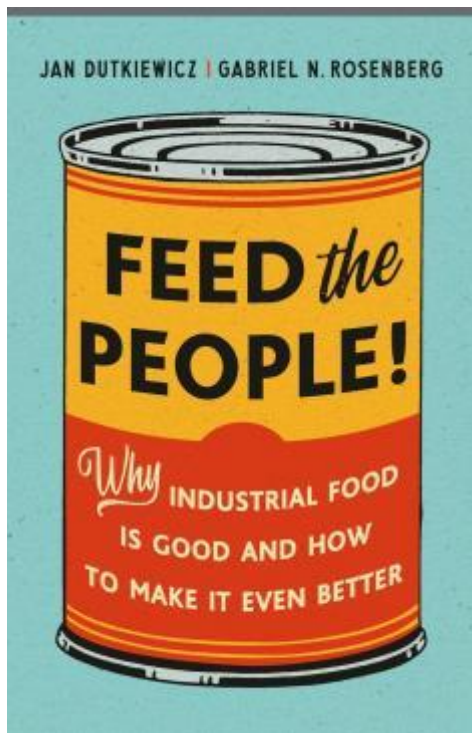
5. Recently Published

An indicative list of recently published books, book reviews and research papers

5.1. Books

Feed the People! Why Industrial Food Is Good and How to Make It Even Better

Book Dutkiewicz, Jan



The food industry is a major driver of climate change, pollution, obesity, animal suffering, and workplace exploitation. Many food writers blame the industrial food system and tell individual eaters to fix these problems by buying local, artisanal food from small farmers—a solution most Americans can't afford.

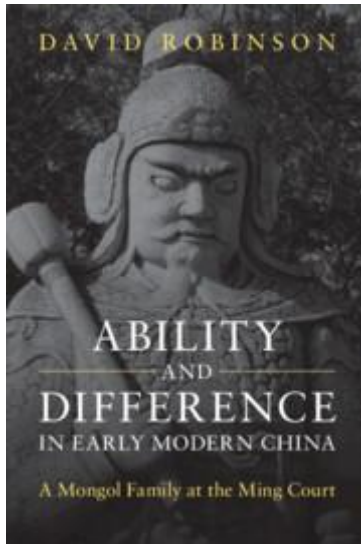
But, as food-policy experts Jan Dutkiewicz and Gabriel Rosenberg remind us, modern technology has made food more affordable, abundant, varied, and tastier than at any other time in history. In *Feed the People!*, they argue that modern food pleasures like Waffle House waffles, and the industrial systems that make them possible, are actually good. With smart technology and commonsense policies, we can make them even better.

Dutkiewicz and Rosenberg have traveled around the United States to find the people changing the way we make and eat food, from the innovators behind plant-based burgers to the cooks serving free school lunches to the labor organizers unionizing fast food joints. They show that building a food system that works for everyone will take more than just eating your vegetables.

mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Ability and Difference in Early Modern China: A Mongol Family at the Ming Court

David M. Robinson



In 1405, a family left their home in the Mongolian steppe and moved to China. This daring decision, taken at a time of dramatic change in eastern Eurasia, paved the way for 250 years of unlikely success at the Ming court. Winning recognition for military skill and loyalty, the family later known as the Wu gained a coveted title of nobility and became members of the capital elite until the dynasty's collapse in 1644. By tracing the individual fortunes of a single family, David Robinson offers a fresh and accessible perspective on the inner workings of Ming bureaucracy. He explores how the early-modern world's most developed state sought to balance the often contradictory demands of securing ability and addressing difference, a challenge common to nearly all polities. mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Adventures in archaeological science. Jena: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

Warinner, C., & Hendy, J. (Eds.). (2017).



Learn how archaeologists and scientists work together to answer questions about the human past! Join us as we explain who we are and what we study, from the origins of humans to medieval plagues. Learn about ancient migrations and radiocarbon dating. See how scientists reconstruct ancient diets from microscopic plant remains. Unearth domestication fun facts and the science behind dairy foods. Explore ancient diseases and epidemics and discover the ancestral human microbiome:

pure.mpg.de

5.2. Book Reviews

<p>'Working and knowing in the history of science, technology and medicine'. Essay review of: Pickstone, John V.: Ways of knowing : a new history of science, technology and medicine. Manchester: Manchester Univ. Press 2000</p>	<p>pure.mpg.de</p>
<p>Cultures of Knowledge: Technology in Chinese History. Edited by Dagmar Schäfer. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2012. vii + 394 pp., €133.00; \$182.00. ISBN 978-90-04-21844-4</p>	<p>princeton.edu</p>
<p>'Working and knowing in the history of science, technology and medicine'. Essay review of: Pickstone, John V.: Ways of knowing : a new history of science, technology and medicine. Manchester: Manchester Univ. Press 2000</p>	<p>pure.mpg.de</p>
<p>[Book review] Moving and mixing : Book review of: Mapping Human History by Steve Olsen</p>	<p>pure.mpg.de</p>
<p>Reviewed for H-Environment by Zachary R. Hernandez</p> <p>Baugh, Amanda J.. _Falling in Love with Nature: The Values of Latinx Catholic Environmentalism_. New York University Press, 2024. 244 pp. \$30.00, ISBN 978-1-4798-2405-2.</p> <p>Review - http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=62325</p>	
<p>Reviewed for H-Environment by Jeffrey B. Webb</p> <p>Williams, Ellen W.. _Raven and Crow: The Mythology, Art and Science of Our Favorite Black Birds_. MacFarland, 2025. Illustrations. 278 pp. \$39.95, ISBN 978-1-4766-9500-6.</p> <p>Review - http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=62418</p>	
<p>Reviewed for H-Environment by Laura Pustarfi</p>	

Lowman, Margaret; Hérem, Thibaud. *Tree Day: A Story of 24 Hours and 24 Arboreal Lives*. University of Chicago Press, 2025.

Illustrations. 256 pp. \$18.00, ISBN 978-0-226-83396-5.

Review - <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=62500>

Reviewed for H-Environment by J. Matthew Ward

Hoffer, Williamjames Hull. *Sick Chicken Case: The US Supreme Court and the New Deal, The*. University Press of Kansas, 2025.

219 pp. \$29.99, ISBN 978-0-7006-3816-1.

Review - <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=62635>

Reviewed for H-Environment by Jessica Carson

Hess, Earl J.. *War Underground: A History of Military Mining in Siege Warfare*. University Press of Kansas, 2025. Illustrations.

355 pp. \$54.99, ISBN 978-0-7006-3841-3.

Review - <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=62755>

Reviewed for H-Sci-Med-Tech by Devi Khajishvili

Romaniello, Matthew P.. *Europe's Laboratory: Climate and Health in Eighteenth-Century Russia*. Cornell University Press, 2025.

263 pp. \$54.95, ISBN 978-1-5017-8392-0.

Review - <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=62940>

Reviewed for H-Sci-Med-Tech by Andrew J. Bielecki

Dati, Gregorio; Beneš, Carrie; Ingallinella, Laura; Morreale, Laura; Agostini, Caterina; Black, Winston; Brizio, Elena; Keane,

Monica, eds.. _La Sfera/The Globe: Cosmology, Science, and
Geography in the Fifteenth-Century Mediterranean_. Italice Press,
2025. Illustrations, maps. 171 pp. \$99.98, ISBN 978-1-59910-481-
2.

Review - <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=62983>

5.3. Research Papers

Technical Leaflet 308: AI for Local History Organizations	learn.aaslh.org
Charting the Shattered Sea: Maritime Geopolitics and Transnational Oceanography in East Asia, 1984–2007	pure.mpg.de
Menneskeskabt intelligens (AI) i Kina: Human-created intelligence (AI) in China	pure.mpg.de
Four Dreams from the Meanwhile of Mexican History	pure.mpg.de
The Association between Go Experience and Sustained Attention in Young Adults	pure.mpg.de
La route de la soie scientifique de la Chine et l'avenir de la science mondiale	pure.mpg.de
Lusatia, Germany. Punkt Null (Point Zero): An Ecological Substrate Begins Anew	pure.mpg.de
History of Technology in Latin America	pure.mpg.de
Technology in Latin American History: Perspectives, Scales and Comparisons	pure.mpg.de
Making Technology History. Chinese Concepts on the Origins of Things	pure.mpg.de
Technology Encounters: Locating Experts in the History of Globalisation	pure.mpg.de
Computational History: Challenges and Opportunities of Formal Approaches	pure.mpg.de

Climate history of Byzantium at the crossroads	pure.mpg.de
Technology and Globalisation: Networks of Experts in World History	pure.mpg.de
Technology and innovation in global history and in the history of the global	pure.mpg.de
Technology: Critical History of a Concept	pure.mpg.de
The Early History of Weighing Technology from the Perspective of a Theory of Innovation	pure.mpg.de
A new research on the wood bellow : technology: history, heritage, and the culture diversity	pure.mpg.de
Making History: Technologies of Production and the Estate of Knowledge in East Asia	pure.mpg.de
The 1931 London Congress: The Rise of British Marxism and the Interdependencies of Society, Nature and Technology	pure.mpg.de
Royal photographs in Qajar Iran : writing the history of photography between Persian miniature painting and Western technology	pure.mpg.de
Nolan's Oppenheimer and the History of Science and Technology	pure.mpg.de
Symbolic technology politics	pure.mpg.de
Digital Perspectives in History	pure.mpg.de
Energy, History, and the Humanities: Against a New Determinism	pure.mpg.de
Learning by the Book: Manuals and Handbooks in the History of Science	pure.mpg.de

Experimental history of science	pure.mpg.de
Why Historians Need to Research High Street SMEs	retailhistory.wordpress.com
Grounding Reparations	ehc-amsterdam.nl
Explaining Divergence in Ocean Freight Rates and Passenger Fares, 1863-1913	econpapers.repec.org
When technology levels: the cost of arms and wealth inequality in the ancient world	econpapers.repec.org
Liberation Technology? The Impact of the Sewing Machine on Women	econpapers.repec.org

6. Featured Events

6.1 Il potere delle machine: Umanità, ambiente, tecnologia nel Trentino del Cinquecento



La prima metà del Cinquecento è un'epoca in cui l'ingegno meccanico e l'innovazione tecnologica influenzano profondamente l'economia, la società e l'ambiente. Il percorso espositivo ti accompagna alla scoperta delle molteplici implicazioni, spesso ambivalenti, di questi profondi cambiamenti.

Dall'invenzione della stampa all'esplorazione astronomica, dalle mappe agli oggetti di uso quotidiano, dalla medicina all'agricoltura: un itinerario tematico attraverso le sale del Palazzo delle Albe, dove oggetti originali, volumi rari e strumenti antichi raccontano storie centenarie di trasformazione, innovazione e resistenza.

La mostra temporanea rientra nel programma dell'Euregio Anno dei musei 2025 / Euregio Museum Jahr 2025, nato in occasione del cinquecentesimo anniversario dei moti contadini del Tirolo. Un anno di iniziative culturali, a cura di oltre 70 istituzioni dei tre territori, per riflettere sul ruolo della tecnologia nella costruzione delle società moderne e sulle tensioni che essa ha generato, ieri come oggi.

<https://www.muse.it/eventi/il-potere-delle-macchine-umanita-ambiente-tecnologia-nel-trentino-del-cinquecento-2025/>

6.2 Tensions of Europe 2026



The 12th Tensions of Europe Conference

Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

8-10 July, 2026

Conference theme: The meaning of the past in sustainable futures

The meaning of the past in sustainable futures

In seeking to understand the pluralistic and multidimensional global challenges of our time, long-term perspectives appear more relevant than ever. Shifting geopolitical dynamics are reshaping Europe's positioning, self-image, and its ambitions in a global context. These shifts require historians to critically revisit established narratives of how – within and beyond Europe – its material culture has shaped and re-shaped livelihoods; how its infrastructures and trade networks have connected and disconnected localities; or how transnational elites, businesses, users, and local practices co-produced Europeanness.

At the 12th Tensions of Europe (ToE) Conference, we would like to explore and discuss what it means for European and non-European scholars to write 'European' histories of 'technology' in a pluriverse world. From

such an engagement, we want to co-develop fresh ideas on how a European historiography of technology can inform and contribute to current agendas for inclusive and green transitions. In what ways do aspirations for equitable and inclusive relations intersect with legacies of the past?

This evokes questions about the role of migration, local knowledge, formal and informal networks, both within and beyond Europe. What are the legacies of Europe's diverse historical trajectories and its influence on relationships within and beyond its borders? How did transnational dependencies and evolving relationships shape the current crises within and outside Europe? Which alternative perspectives on eco-modernist approaches to sustainability can help forge the agenda for a just and green transition?

Special attention will be paid to the following themes: (1) Infrastructures as drivers or obstacles to social and ecological changes. (2) Equality and equity for various societal groups involved and affected by technological changes in and beyond Europe. (3) Digital and other global network technologies in (re)shaping power, knowledge, production and consumption.

At the 2026 Tensions of Europe conference, we will have two keynote speakers:

Prof. Johan Schot

Johan Schot is co-founder of the Tensions of Europe Network. He is professor of Global History and Sustainability Transitions at Utrecht University Centre for Global Challenges. As one of the founders of the Sustainability Transitions research field he will give a keynote talk on The Promise of a Second Deep Transition. The abstract can be found [here](#).

Prof. Edward Jones-Imhotep

Edward Jones-Imhotep is historian of the social and cultural life of machines.

He is professor and director of Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto.

He is author of the prize-winning book *The Unreliable Nation: Hostile Nature and Technological Failure in the Cold War*.

In his keynote talk he will explore the failing of technology and its wider understanding further.

As a part of the Conference, a [Summer School](#) for early career scholars will precede it, co-organized with the ToE Early career scholar network. The Summer School includes discussing texts relevant for the current topic, research in progress with established researchers and an excursion.

The 12th Tensions of Europe Conference will be held at the campus of Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e). It will be organized by the Eindhoven History Lab (www.eindhovenhistorylab.nl/) part of Technology Innovation and Society research group of TU/e in collaboration with the 4TU History of Technology center (<https://www.4tu.nl/history-of-technology/>), uniting Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology, the University of Twente, and Wageningen University & Research.

Welcome to Eindhoven in July 2026!

Program

Below you find a short overview of the program. A detailed (draft) program (version 10 June) can be found [here](#).

Wednesday July 8th

10.00 – 18.00 Registration

12.00 – 12.30 Opening of Conference

12.30 – 17.45 Parallel sessions

18.00 – 19.00 Keynote Presentation

19.00 – 20.30 Opening Reception

Thursday July 9th

9.00 – 12.15 Parallel sessions

12.15 – 12.45 My PhD in 10 minutes

13.30 – 15.00 Parallel sessions

15.15 – 16.15 Keynote Presentation

16.30 – 20.00 Excursions

Friday July 10th

9.00 – 12.15 Parallel sessions

12.15 – 12.45 ToE Open Management Meeting

12.45 -13.15 My PhD in 10 minutes

14.00 – 17-15 Parallel sessions

18.30 Social Event

Saturday July 11th

11.00-16.00 Day Excursion



Parallel sessions consist of Panel sessions, Individual papers, Making & Doing sessions, Micro Workshops and Book Podcast sessions.

Micro Workshop sessions are open to all participants, have pre-circulated papers..

Making & Doing sessions consist of historical work and experimental practices that are presented interactively.

Book Podcast sessions are live podcasts discussing recently published books. The podcasts will be shared through <https://newbooksnetwork.com>. If you want to participate and have a new book you want to discuss, mention this at registration.

Registration

Go to the [online registration form](#)

<https://www.eindhovenhistorylab.nl/toe-2026/>

6.3 XXVIII International Conference on Industrial Heritage: From Factory to Project



The 28th Conference is configured as an international congress and forum for interdisciplinary debate , aimed at analyzing the transversality of industrial heritage from thematic axes that dialogue with each other, among others:

- *Industrial tourism and cultural itineraries ,*
- *scientific and technical heritage ,*
- *industrial heritage as a driver of city projects ,*
- *relationship between industry, football and sport in general*
- *heritage, environmental sustainability and progress indicators*
- *Building Networks: A Meeting on Ibero-American Industrial Heritage*
- *associationism, conservation and defense of heritage.*

The objective is to overcome a sectoral view of heritage and the analysis of specific cases , to place it at a local level and share it within a global world as part of our history, collective memories and work cultures, preserving and valuing a cultural, social and territorial asset , capable of generating identity, social cohesion, sustainable development with citizen participation.

Conference webpage:	https://jornadas.incuna.es/
Conference Program:	https://jornadas.incuna.es/programa/

Organiza



Colaboran



6.4 Screens and Streams in the Age of Climate Crisis



What are the planetary burdens of media technology? What cultural and aesthetic frameworks shape how nature is depicted on screen?

The international symposium media/environment: Screens and Streams in the Age of Climate Crisis confronts the question of how media both represent and materially transform the natural environment in a warming world.

Prominent speakers from three continents will present the latest research on topics ranging from the materiality of film and the finitude of resources to images of extraction, film archives, the colonial and environmental history of photochemical cinema, media's role in the environmental transformations of the Great Acceleration, and the ecological footprint of digital screen culture and artificial intelligence.

A roundtable brings together perspectives from the media industry, cultural institutions, and archives on how these sectors are responding to the concrete environmental challenges of media tech.

In collaboration with Rialto VU Griffioen, the symposium also features a short film program exploring the extractive history of celluloid, food production, and oceanic dead zones.

Are you interested in media studies, environmental humanities, science, technology, history, or the arts? Whether you are a scholar, student, practitioner or simply curious, this symposium invites you to join us in rethinking media's planetary footprint from the archive to the algorithm, from screen to stream.

<https://mediaenv.ehc-amsterdam.nl/>

7. Featured Calls

7.1 Tagung: Technikhoffnungen, Hypes und Enttäuschungen/ Conference: Technological Hopes, Hypes, and Disappointments

Tagung: Technikhoffnungen, Hypes und Enttäuschungen

Technologische Entwicklungen in der Moderne waren schon immer mit Hoffnungen und Versprechungen verbunden, nicht nur für Entwickler*innen, sondern auch für Vermarkter*innen und Nutzer*innen. Die Erwartungen, die mit der Entwicklung und Einführung neuer Technologien einhergehen, sind eng mit deren potenziellen sozialen, kulturellen und politischen Rollen verknüpft. Begeisterte Erwartungen und technologische Hypes sind ein immer wiederkehrendes historisches Phänomen und stehen in einem komplexen Zusammenhang mit Erfolgen, Misserfolgen und Enttäuschungen. Während die derzeitige Faszination für KI als prominenter technologischer Hype verstanden wird, waren solche Trends und Prozesse ein fester Bestandteil einer Vielzahl von Technologien des 19. bis 21. Jahrhunderts.

Anlässlich ihres 100-jährigen Bestehens beabsichtigt die Georg-Agricola-Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte und Industriekultur e.V. in Zusammenarbeit mit der Technischen Universität München und dem Deutschen Museum das Thema der Geschichte technologischer Hoffnungen, Hypes und Enttäuschungen zu untersuchen. Die gleichnamige Konferenz, die am 16. November 2026 im Auditorium des Staatlichen Museums Ägyptischer Kunst in München stattfindet, zielt darauf ab, die historischen und zeitgenössischen kulturellen Mechanismen zu beleuchten, die dem Phänomen technologischer Hypes und Trends zugrunde liegen. Die Konferenz wird zudem das hundertjährige Jubiläum der nach ihrem Namensgeber Georg Agricola (1494–1555) benannten wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaft feiern.

Wir laden Interessierte ein, Beiträge für die Konferenz einzureichen. Diese Beiträge sollten sich mit der Natur technologischer Versprechen und Enttäuschungen auseinandersetzen. Besonders willkommen sind Vorschläge, die sich mit folgenden Fragen befassen:

- Welche Hypes gab es, und wie wurden Technologien konstruiert, verstanden und vermarktet, um politischen, wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Zielen zu dienen – aber auch, um sich zu verkaufen?
- Was waren Fallstricke, Enttäuschungen und Misserfolge?
- Inwiefern wich die Umsetzung der Technologie von den Erwartungen ab, und welche Folgen hatte diese Abweichung?
- Welche Rolle spielen Hype, Hoffnungen und Rückschläge bei der Bewahrung des industriellen Erbes? Wie und warum beeinflussen sie die Wahrnehmung und den Wert, der diesem Erbe beigemessen wird?

Im Rahmen der Konferenz sollen sowohl Vorträge zu Arbeiten der Technikgeschichte vorgestellt werden, die sich auf bestimmte Hype-Phänomene konzentrieren, als auch solche, die das Thema in seiner Gesamtheit beleuchten. Beiträge, die sich damit befassen, wie solche Hoffnungen, Hype-Phänomene oder das Desinteresse sowie deren Zusammenhang mit dem letztendlichen Erfolg oder Misserfolg institutionalisiert wurden oder seitdem im industriellen Kulturerbe an Bedeutung gewonnen haben, sind ebenfalls willkommen.

Wir laden zu Einreichungen von Abstracts ein, die sich mit den Hauptthemen aus verschiedenen disziplinären Perspektiven (z. B. Geschichte, Kulturwissenschaften, Soziologie usw.) befassen. Gerne berücksichtigen wir auch Ergebnisse von Studierenden in den frühen Phasen ihrer akademischen Laufbahn. Alle Vorschläge müssen eine kurze Zusammenfassung (max. 250 Wörter) und einen kurzen akademischen Lebenslauf enthalten.

Tagungssprache ist Deutsch. Beiträge sind aber auch in englischer Sprache willkommen.

Die Vorschläge sind bis zum 24. Juli 2026 an die Geschäftsstelle der Georg-Agricola-Gesellschaft einzureichen; Ansprechpartner: Norbert Gilson (info@georg-agricola-gesellschaft.de).

Nachdem ein Ausschuss die Vortragsvorschläge geprüft und die Themen ausgewählt hat, werden die Referent*innen vom Sekretariat benachrichtigt. Referent*innen sind von der Teilnahmegebühr befreit. Bei Fragen oder für weitere Informationen wenden Sie sich bitte an die Geschäftsstelle (www.georg-agricola-gesellschaft.de).

Conference: Technological Hopes, Hypes, and Disappointments

Technological developments and change have always been associated with hopes and promises, not only for developers but also for designers, marketers, and users. Expectations that emerge with the development and introduction of new technologies are deeply connected to their potential social, cultural, and political roles. Enthusiasm and technological hypes are a reoccurring historical phenomenon, one that has a multifaceted and non-obvious relation to success, failures, and disappointments. While the current fascination with AI has been understood as a prominent technological hype, such trends and processes have been integral to a variety of kind of technologies of the 19th-21st century.

To mark its 100th anniversary, the Georg Agricola Society for the History of Technology and Industrial Culture (e.V.) intends to explore the topic of the history of technological hopes, hypes, and disappointments. The identically named conference, which is organized in collaboration with the Technical University of Munich and the Deutsches Museum, will take place on November 16, 2026, at the Auditorium of the Staatliches Museum Ägyptischer Kunst in Munich. The conference aims to shed light on the historical and contemporary cultural mechanisms underlying the phenomenon of technological hypes and trends, but also to celebrate the centennial of the scientific society named after its eponym, Georg Agricola (1494-1555).

We invite interested parties to submit papers for the conference. These papers should examine the nature of technological promises and disappointments. We particularly welcome proposals that address the following questions:

- What are technological hypes, and how have technologies been constructed, understood, and marketed to serve political, economic, and social goals—but also, to sell?
- What were the pitfalls, disappointments, and failures?
- How has the realization of technology deviate from expectations, and what were the consequences of that difference?
- What role do hype, hopes and setbacks play in the preservation of industrial heritage? How and why do they influence perceptions of and the value attributed to this heritage?

The conference will feature presentations of both works in the history of technology focusing on specific hypes and works that examine the topic hopes and hypes as a whole. Presentations on how such hopes, hypes, or disinterest, as well as the relation to their ultimate success or failure, have been institutionalized or have since acquired significance in industrial heritage are also welcome topics for contributions.

We invite proposals for presentations that address the main themes from various disciplinary perspectives (e.g., history, cultural studies, sociology, etc.). We are also happy to consider contributions from students in the early stages of their academic careers. Proposals must include a short abstract (max. 250 words) and a brief academic CV.

The conference language is German, but English presentations are also welcome.

Proposals should be submitted by July 24, 2026, to the office of the Georg Agricola Society; contact person: Norbert Gilson (info@georg-agricola-gesellschaft.de).

After a committee has reviewed the presentation proposals and selected the topics, the speakers will be notified by the office. Speakers are exempt from the conference registration fee. For questions or further information, please contact the office (www.georg-agricola-gesellschaft.de).

7.2 The Early Reception of Quantum Mechanics and Its Philosophical Legacy: Historical and Systematic Perspectives

We are pleased to share a Call for Papers for the Special Issue The Early Reception of Quantum Mechanics and Its Philosophical Legacy: Historical and Systematic Perspectives, to be published in the Journal for General Philosophy of Science.

The Special Issue explores the reception of quantum mechanics in the first decades of the twentieth century and its continuing relevance for contemporary debates in the philosophy of science. We welcome contributions that explore the conceptual, epistemological, methodological, and ontological implications of quantum theory, with particular attention to the relationship between historical reconstruction and systematic philosophical analysis.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- Historical receptions of quantum mechanics in the 1920s–1940s
- Interpretations of quantum mechanics and their philosophical foundations
- Scientific realism and anti-realism in quantum theory
- Measurement, objectivity, and subjectivity
- Underdetermination and theory choice
- Neo-Kantian, phenomenological, and logical empiricist approaches to quantum mechanics
- Historical epistemology and conceptual change in modern physics.

Further information and submission instructions can be found on the Special Issue webpage:

<https://link.springer.com/collections/hgfbfjcdhd>

<https://www.societastoriadellascienza.it/index.php/it/component/jevents/dettaglievento/1579/-/the-early-reception-of-quantum-mechanics-and-its-philosophical-legacy-historical-and-systematic-perspectives?Itemid=101>

Submission deadline: 15 January 2027

7.3 Mineral Expertise: The Rules of Knowing Earthly Matter in the Early Modern World

Minerals have been extracted as resources, traded as commodities, ingested as medicine, and examined for knowledge across the early modern world. Their lifecycle was structured by mineral expertise rooted in tradition and trained bodies – a bezoar pulverised by a town apothecary, ore assayed by a company metallurgist, gemstones authenticated by a court jeweller. Minerals were key to medicine, metallurgy, alchemy and magic and thus a site to negotiate and legitimate forms of knowledge. Precisely because so much was at stake – both the value of objects and the reputation of people – mineral expertise was subject to scrutiny by peers and official regulation.

A central concern of the workshop is to critically assess the concept of expertise. Before the emergence of modern credentialing and professional licensing, claims to mineral knowledge were fluid and contested. We therefore approach expertise as a context-dependent process of negotiation and legitimation. It emerged when actors combined specialised skills with claims to generalisable knowledge and obtained some form of formal acknowledgment for it. Yet we are interested not only in those who have come to be recognised as experts, but in the broader topography of knowledge within which such recognition was negotiated. Which empirical practices cut across distinctions of status, and which ones did not? How did expertise relate to shared knowledge (common knowledge, the period eye, a well-indexed archive)? What distinguished experts from experienced state officials, skilled artisans, or shrewd market-goers? What were the rules of knowing earthly matter in the early modern world?

This workshop aims to compare mineral expertise from different angles. We are interested in contributions from historians of science, technology and medicine, economic historians, archaeologists and archaeometallurgists working on the period between c.1450 and c.1850 CE. By using minerals as a boundary object both of historical actors and historians who study them, we aim for a richer account of how early modern people engaged the mineral world. We aim for a history of mineral expertise that is attentive to local practices and alert to the broader structures of knowledge/power and value-making in which these practices were embedded.

The workshop will take place on 4-6 February, 2027 at the University of Bologna. We aim to discuss approximately 12 pre-circulated article-length papers (6.000–8.000 words) over two days. Decisions regarding the publication of the papers in a special issue will be made after the workshop. We welcome creative contributions that engage with, but are not limited to, the following questions:

What was mineral knowledge?

What distinguished expertise in minerals from other kinds of earth-related knowledge (e.g. that of a farmer) and expertise in other materials (e.g. plant matter)? How were historical distinctions asserted, contested, and institutionalised?

How was expertise valorised and employed in sites of labour — the mine, the home, the office, the laboratory, the museum? How did artisanal or vernacular knowledge validate or contradict expertise?

How was expertise valorised and employed in imperial expansion and long-distance trade? How did different traditions of mineral knowledge interact or clash, adapt or become marginalised in contexts of empire and colonisation?

When did specialist knowledge matter decisively? When did social networks, local experience, or consensus prove equally or more powerful?

How was mineral knowledge regulated?

How did legal and bureaucratic frameworks — testing sites, law courts, guilds, tax regimes — shape the conditions under which expertise was recognised and gain public authority?

What role did archives, records, and formal procedures play in transforming knowledge into expertise, or expertise into public information? What do administrative sources reveal — and conceal — about the range of actors involved in the making of mineral expertise?

How were conflicts over mineral expertise adjudicated, and what do such disputes reveal about competing epistemologies and claims to authority?

Which moral values were invoked in policies seeking to regulate medical, commercial, and occupational practice (e.g. peace, cosmic order, the common good, thrift, charity, godliness, justice)? Whom did experts claim to serve — and whom did they actually serve — when they worked in the ambiance of the state?

We welcome papers from all parts of the world and approaches that engage with cross-cultural encounters and wide-ranging knowledge exchange, as well as those that drill deep into a specific place and time. Since early modern categories were fluid and diverse, we are interested in both objects recognized as “minerals” today and more expansive understandings or boundary cases.

The workshop is co-organized by Monica Azzolini, Sebastian Felten and Sarah Seinitzer, as a collaboration between the SCARCE project (ERC StG, Grant number 101076422) and the Department of Philosophy (History of Science) at the University of Bologna. Potential contributors should send an abstract of no more than 250 words and a 200 word bio to scarce.geschichte@univie.ac.at by 10 July 2026. Limited funding is available to cover travel and accommodation in Bologna. Please indicate if you have other funding sources to cover your travel expenses.

<https://www.societastoriadellascienza.it/index.php/it/component/jevents/dettaglievento/1574/-/deadline-cfp-mineral-expertise-the-rules-of-knowing-earthly-matter-in-the-early-modern-world?Itemid=101>

7.4 Naples Workshop on the History of Logic

The 2nd Naples Workshop on the History of Logic will be held on October 6-7, 2026, in Naples. The Workshop will take place at the Società Nazionale di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and at the Accademia Pontaniana. The Workshop is held under the auspices of the Department of Humanities at the University of Naples Federico II.

This is a call for the submission of contributed abstracts. The contributed talks can concern any topic and period in the history of logic. The deadline for submitting the abstract is 1 July 2026. The results will be communicated by 31 July 2026.

The abstract must be written in English, must be no longer than 3000 characters (including bibliography, excluding spaces) and must be anonymous. It should be accompanied by a separate document indicating author's (or authors') name(s), affiliation(s), and email address(es). The abstract and separate document should be sent to the following e-mail address: historyoflogicnapoli@gmail.com.

The title of the e-mail should be 2nd Naples Workshop on the History of Logic - Submission.

<https://www.societastoriadellascienza.it/index.php/it/component/jevents/dettaglievento/1512/-/naples-workshop-on-the-history-of-logic?Itemid=101>

8. Funding & Job Opportunities

▪ **Wolf Humanities Center - Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, 2027–28:**

<https://networks.h-net.org/jobs/70085/wolf-humanities-center-mellon-postdoctoral-fellowship-humanities-2027-28>

▪ **University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources - Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Advisor Serving San Diego and Imperial Counties (AP 22-05):**

<https://networks.h-net.org/jobs/70095/university-california-division-agriculture-and-natural-resources-cooperative-extension-4>

▪ **Job: Educational Testing Service - Become an Advanced Placement (AP) Reader:** <https://networks.h-net.org/jobs/69493/educational-testing-service-become-advanced-placement-ap-reader>

Become an Advanced Placement (AP) Reader: Would you like the opportunity to earn additional money (\$30 per hour) and to apply your knowledge in grading Advanced Placement (AP) exams over the summer? Graduate students and part-time or adjunct faculty may be considered for appointment, as long as they have taught at least one semester of the equivalent course within the past three years. There are no degree requirements. The Advanced Placement Program (AP) Reading is an annual event where AP teachers and college faculty score millions of responses from AP Exams administered to students each May. The Reading takes place for the first two and a half weeks of June at five AP Reading sites; we also offer an at-home scoring option for all AP subjects. Continue reading: networks.h-net.org

▪ **Northern and Western European Regional Funds Committee Open Call:** The Northern & Western Europe (NWE) Regional Funds Committee is looking for new members. The committee partners with the Wikimedia Foundation's Community Resources team to review applications to the General Support Fund and to make funding decisions for communities and affiliates across the region. Members bring their own knowledge and judgement to that conversation; the program officer does the analytical groundwork and facilitation, so the committee can focus on deliberating together. It is a community-led body: members are there to weigh what makes sense for the movement, not to represent any one organisation. For the committee's role, our approach to grantmaking, eligibility, and the general terms of service, please read the general open call. The information below is specific to Northern & Western Europe. meta.wikimedia.org To be considered in the current round, please apply by Sunday, **26 July 2026**.

▪ **2026 Nuncius Prize. Announcing the 3rd Nuncius Essay Award:** Nuncius is a peer-reviewed and international journal devoted to the history of the material and visual culture in science. Published three times a year by Brill and under the auspices of the Museo Galileo in Florence, Nuncius explores the material sources of scientific endeavor, such as scientific instruments and collections, and the specific settings of experimental practice, as well as the visual cultures of science and interactions between sciences and arts. The materiality of science is a fundamental source for the understanding of its history, and the visual representation of its concepts and objects is equally crucial. Founded in 1976 by Maria Luisa Righini Bonelli (1917-1981), Nuncius was originally published as *Annali dell'Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza*. The 2026 Nuncius Prize, which is supported by Brill, will be awarded to the best original essay related to the material and visual history of science, technology and medicine in any period. The editors of Nuncius have established this prize with the aim of encouraging, recognizing and promoting highquality research among graduate and early career scholars. The winning entries are chosen using the journal's standard criteria for selection. Entries will be judged by a scientific committee. The award is free to enter, and no purchase is necessary. The Award The winner will receive a cash prize of €500 and the open-access publication in Nuncius. Three honourable mentions (€100 of Brill book tokens each) will also be provided. Entries will be published as articles in Nuncius pending peer review. Non-winners submissions may be considered for publication in Nuncius. How to submit: The opening date for entries is 00.01 (CET) on 30 November 2025. The closing date of the Prize is 23.59 (CET) on **31 August 2026**. Continue reading and find out how to apply at: societastoriadellascienza.it

▪ **MPIWG fellowships (Deadline 15 Sept):** The MPIWG awards a limited number of fellowships with stipends to guest scholars from all over the world to contribute to one of the Institute's departments or research groups and use the Institute's Library. The program serves to enrich scholarly dialogue and to establish and consolidate international collaboration. In contrast to positions with an employment contract, stipends are not subject to social insurance contributions. The amount of the stipend is based on the rules of the Max Planck Society. All fellows receive support to carry out their research at the Institute. Among other things, the Institute provides co-working spaces. Funding is provided by the departments and research groups. Fellows are invited to participate actively in the academic and social life of the Institute. Applications for fellowships must be made for a particular department or research group and submitted electronically in German or English through our application portal. It is possible to apply at any time; applications are considered by a stipend committee (deadlines: January 15 and September 15). Please bear in mind that a fellowship can begin four months after the deadline at the earliest (i.e. June 1 and February 1 for applications in 2026). If a visa is required, this run-

up period will be several months longer. All applications will only be evaluated after the deadline; an earlier application does not bring any advantages. Find out more at: mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

▪ **Fellowship: US Library of Congress, Kluge Fellowships in Digital Studies (Deadline 15 Sept):**

<https://www.loc.gov/programs/john-w-kluge-center/chairs-fellowships/fellowships/kluge-fellowships-in-digital-studies/> About the Fellowship: The Kluge Fellowship in Digital Studies provides an opportunity for scholars to utilize digital methods, the Library's large and varied digital collections and resources, curatorial expertise, and an emerging community of digital scholarship practitioners. Interdisciplinary and cross-cultural research is particularly welcome in the Kluge Digital Studies program. The fellowship is open to scholars from all disciplines. The Digital Studies Fellowship supports a wide array of academic work that encompasses digital scholarship, digital humanities, data science, data analysis, data visualization, and digital publishing that utilize digital collections, tools, and methods. Fellows will have the opportunity to engage with various digital departments in the Library of Congress while pursuing and sharing their research. Find out more at: networks.h-net.org

9. Calls for papers

- **Dietro le quinte di un museo WINTER SCHOOL DI STORIA DELLA SCIENZA, Museo Galileo:** Le domande devono essere inviate entro **le ore 24:00 CET del 15 luglio 2026:** Il Museo Galileo – Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza rappresenta una delle principali istituzioni a scala internazionale attive nella museografia scientifica, nelle attività di documentazione e di ricerca e nella realizzazione di iniziative per la diffusione della cultura scientifica. La Winter School, giunta alla sua seconda edizione, intende offrire ai suoi partecipanti una full immersion nella vita dell'istituzione fiorentina, con focus sulle collezioni museali e librerie del Museo Galileo e sulle attività di ricerca e di diffusione della cultura storico-scientifica dell'Istituto di Storia della Scienza. Curati dagli studiosi del Museo Galileo, gli incontri approfondiranno le principali linee di ricerca dell'Istituto, illustrando i collegamenti fra le attività del Museo, della Biblioteca, del Laboratorio Multimediale, dell'Unità Didattica e del Settore Mostre. Continue reading at: societastoriadellascienza.it
- **Scientific bubbles: definitions, context, and approaches: 15 Luglio 2026:** È aperta una call for papers sulla nozione di "bolla". In questa special issue cerchiamo di indagare la rilevanza del concetto di “bolla” per spiegare e valutare episodi ed eventi nel campo scientifico. Da una parte economisti e altri studiosi sono da tempo affascinati - e stimolati - dai fenomeni simili alle bolle che si verificano nei mercati, che secondo i principi economici standard appaiono irrazionali e necessitano di una spiegazione. Non è un mistero che lo sviluppo tecnologico sia stato spesso analizzato come un fenomeno di bolla e, che anche la scienza stessa possa essere soggetta a fenomeni simili. Come nei casi economici, i campi scientifici possono mostrare un rapido aumento dell'attività su un determinato argomento, che sembra coinvolgere qualcosa di simile alla speculazione, seguito da un crollo relativamente rapido di tale attività. A prima vista, le bolle nella scienza rappresentano una sfida, in quanto sembrano rappresentare un fallimento della scienza e comportano costi complessivi per la società. Find out more at: societastoriadellascienza.it
- **SALUS E CURA: FORME, PRATICHE, IMMAGINARI: 25 Luglio 2026:** La terza edizione del Convegno Internazionale delle dottorande e dei dottorandi del Corso di Dottorato in Patrimoni Storici e Filosofici per una Innovazione Sostenibile dell'Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro propone una riflessione transdisciplinare sul tema della salute pubblica. Il Convegno si rivolge a dottorande e dottorandi, ricercatori e ricercatrici che abbiano conseguito il dottorato da non più di 5 anni interessati a confrontarsi sulle forme che la salute pubblica può assumere nelle sue declinazioni storiche e filosofiche. Continue reading at: societastoriadellascienza.it

- **Call for Papers: Supply Chain Criticism symposium (closes 3 August 2026):** This symposium invites contributions from researchers and practitioners interested in skillshares on supply chain criticism and in extending the resources we bring collectively to the communities in which we seek to nourish solidarities. Moving beyond the safety of diagnostic criticism, this symposium insists that we consider the propositional norms embedded in actually existing and emerging supply chains, and deliberate together over the norms by which we might instead seek to provision the matter of social reproduction. Continue reading at: ehc-amsterdam.nl

10. In the Loop

ERC

- **Advanced Grants 2025: Examples of projects:** erc.europa.eu

Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine

- **2025-2026 Year in Review:** chstm.org

ArchXAI project

- **Unlocking Hidden Stories: How AI Is Opening Up Central Baltic Archives:** centralbaltic.eu

Europeana & Euroclio

- **Survey:** The survey is part of an ongoing collaboration between Europeana and EuroClio to enhance the collaboration between Cultural Heritage Institutes and the educational sector. As part of this collaboration, we are conducting research to better understand the needs and challenges of Cultural Heritage Institutes (CHIs) when it comes to offering educational programmes and developing educational materials.

The survey aims to understand what are the needs and challenges of the Cultural Heritage Institutes and will be completed with document analysis and interviews to further explore the issues and topics raised. The responses to the survey will be used to draft the scripts for the interviews. survey.zohopublic.eu

Special Book Award of China

- **Dagmar Schäfer Receives 19th Special Book Award of China:** mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH)

- **Producing history from a public perspective:** c2dh.uni.lu

British Academy

- **British Academy Early Career Researcher Network:** networks.h-net.org



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