ToE NEWSLETTER – JULY 7, 2016

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Project News

New ToE flagship research program *Technology and the Making of Societal Challenges:*
Report kick-off workshop Vught (the Netherlands), March 10-11, 2016
In Vught, representatives from 13 out of currently 19 partner institutions in the Tensions of Europe /SHT Grand Challenges program met at a workshop in Vught (the Netherlands).

Participants of the ToE Vught Workshop

The workshop kicked-off the new flagship research program *Technology and the Making of Societal Challenges*. The idea: In response to the 1990s hype of EU widening and deepening, in 1999-2015 ToE developed a non-EU European history through the lens of technology and tensions. Today, tensions are everywhere: the hype is about crises and 'grand challenges'. So we explore how to use our ToE research experience to develop a narrative for our time, investigating the role of technology in societal crises and challenges. The program explores the historical questions we could/should ask, and how they could be researched. We hope to have our first answers by the time of the next ToE conference in Athens. Also, we want to identify funding options for actual in-depth research. In Vught a first list of possible research themes emerged: Resources and Colonialism, B/orders, Security, Migration, Cultures of Crisis, Science Diplomacy, Disruptive Technologies, Urban Challenges/Urban Mobility, Labour, Health, Financial Crisis, Energy. This list serves as starting point. Scholars and institutions are invited to get involved and join developing theme groups or propose new themes. For more information, read the workshop report here, or contact Erik van der Vleuten (e.b.a.v.d.vleuten@tue.nl)

Exploring possible collaborations with Asian scholars

At the SHOT annual conference in Singapore (June 22-26, 2016), ToE scholars explored possible collaborations with Asian scholars in the context of the ToE Technology and the Making of Societal Challenges program – since these challenges tend to be global in scope. Together with SHOT president Francesca Bray we organized a well-attended and exciting panel session on Making Modernity: Technology in Regional History, where Tensions of Europe was juxtaposed with the emerging Technology and the Making of Modern East Asia program (coordinated by Angela Leung, Hong Kong University). We also held a parallel workshop, where scholars working in/on Europe, Asia and Africa explored mutual interests and potential collaborations on technology & regional/global challenges.

Research and Teaching Program Sustainable Urban Mobility (SUM)

The international research and teaching program *Sustainable Urban Mobility, 1890-present* (SUM) started. This program is initiated by Eindhoven University of Technology and the Foundation for the History of Technology in collaboration with an international consortium of universities, government agencies, business, and social organizations.

In 2015 the Dutch Research Council (NWO) awarded a proposal to further develop an international network on the Cultural Politics of Sustainable Urban Mobility. Historians of technology from Europe, the U.S., China and South America are part of the network that among others will generate a book and that will identify funding opportunities. With the support of NWO, the Sorbonne University, the Deutsches Museum, the University of Goteborg, the University of Turku, and the History Institute of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences a series of seven workshops will be organized until 2018.

As part of SUM a PhD-program will start at Eindhoven University of Technology which will focus on the history of (Urban) cycling. More information on this PhD-program will be available in the Summer of 2016.

Sum will also participate in the ToE flagship program *Technology and the Making of Europe's Societal Challenges*. More information can be found here, you can also contact Ruth Oldenziel at Ruth@Oldenziel.com.

Collapsed empires, Post-colonial Nations and the Construction of Historical Consciousness. Infrastructures of Memory after 1917

ToE scholar José Faraldo (University of Madrid, Spain) is involved in the new international project 'Collapsed empires'. It focuses on the consequences of the imperial and state collapses after 1917 in spatial and chronological comparison, researching the changing of institutions that created narratives and representations of national memories. The effects of World War I in terms of creating or transforming institutions to keep or –re-imagining the collective memory of such states, were overwhelming. The Russian Revolution of 1917 exerted its influence all along the globe. The project wants to compare these processes with the post-world war II independencies and/or consolidation of post-colonial states (such as Morocco and Egypt) and with the independencies and recovery of full sovereignty after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989/91.

The project involves scholars and institutes from Spain, Russia, Germany, Azerbajdzan, Egypt, and Morocco. You can find more information here.

Conferences and meetings

8th Tensions of Europe Conference Athens (Greece), 7-10 September 2017: Call for papers

The 2017 Tensions of Europe Conference will have as its main theme the history of borders and technology. Central theme is 'Borders and Technology. The conference will be organized by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in collaboration with the Foundation for the History of Technology.

Paper proposals can be submitted until February 15, 2017. The organizers aim for papers studying the history of the relationship between national borders and transnational infrastructures, hidden technological linking and delinking that reinforced or challenged border delineations and demarcations, the relationship between borders and technologically-induced environmental crises and disasters, the virtualization of borders and the territories that they contain through the use of electronic and related technologies, geopolitics and technology, the redefinition of borders due to the use of technology (and vice versa), all the way from the production to the circulation and use of goods and commodities. One central aim is to cross-fertilize between disciplines. Therefore contributions from a wide variety of historical disciplines as well as from fields like Migration and Border Studies, Migration History, Mobility History, etc, especially in connection to borders and migrations from, to and within Europe are welcomed.

More information and the call for papers can be found on the conference website.

ToE-Workshop "Technology, natural resources and crises in the past and present of Europe and beyond", October 21-22 2016:

The National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE), Aarhus Univerisity, and SHT are organizing the workshop "Technology, natural resources and crises in the past and present of Europe and beyond". The meeting takes place at HSE in Saint-Petersburg (Russia), October 21-22, 2016.

The workshop is designed to explore the crossroads between the history of technology, environmental history, the history of exploitation of natural resources in the past and present. The geographical scope of the workshop will cover Europe, its neighboring countries, and countries further afield that have been shaped by European markets and technology.

The workshop is part of the process that should result in a Tensions of Europe research group on environment and technology. It is envisaged as the first in a series of workshops to develop a future research program within the ToE network.For more information see here or contact Elena Kochetkova (len.kochetkova@gmail.com).

ICOHTEC – Annual Meeting Porto: July 26-30, 2016

The Annual Meeting of ICOHTEC takes place July 26-30, 2016 in Porto (Portugal). The conference is entitled: "Technology, Innovation, and Sustainability: Historical and Contemporary Narratives.' More information can be found here.

T2M – Annual Meeting Mexico City: October 27-20, 2016

The 14th T2M annual conference takes place October 27-30, 2016 in Mexico City (Mexico). It is the first time that T2M meets in Latin America. The conference is entiteld: "Mobilities: Space of Flows and Friction." More information can be found here.

Cosmobilities Network Conference – Stuttgart/Bad Boll: November 30-December 2, 2016
The 12th Cosmobilities Network conference takes place in Stuttgart/Bad Boll (Germany), November 30-December 2, 2016. The conference is titled "Sharing Mobilities: New Perspectives for Societies on the Move." Find more information here.

News from the ToE Management Committee

Management Committee meeting in Frankfurt Oder
The ToE Management Committee met at May 20-21, 2016 at Viadrana University in Frankfurt Oder (Germany). On the agenda were the new flagship program *Technology and the Making of Europe's Societal Challenges*, possible new international research collaborations, the 2017 ToE conference in Athens, and the renewing or the ToE website.
In case you want to contact the Management Committee please contact the chair, Nina Wormbs, at nina.wormbs@abe.kth.se.

News from the ToE Early Career Scholars Network

Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars Workshop in Porto (Portugal) and online, August 1, 2016
In connection to the ICOHTEC conference in Porto this summer, the ToE Early Careers Scholars group will arrange a one-day workshop. The main part of the program will be dedicated to the developing ToE research agenda *Technology and the Making of Europe's Societal Challenges*. In the second part of the workshop draft articles, funding proposals, presentations, course syllabi etcera will be commented.
You can find all information here.
Send your proposals to f.schipper@tue.nl no later than July 8th, 2016.

Received book announcements

Ruth Oldenziel, Martin Emanuel, Adri Albert de la Bruhèze, Frank Veraart (editors), *Cycling Cities: The European Experience. Hundred Years of Policy and Practice* (Foundation for the History of Technology and LMU Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society 2016)
From London and Paris to Barcelona and Berlin, authorities seek to boost cycling and make their cities more livable. Some cities have managed to create a lasting result. In others, urban cycling is barely increasing. *Cycling Cities* brings us over a hundred unique photos and maps, richly illustrating why only some capitals and business centers became real cycling cities. Covering a century of cycling policy and practice in 14 European cities in nine countries, this work shows how policy makers, activists, and ordinary citizens make—and have made—a difference.
        Cycling Cities is the first outcome of the international research and teaching program *Sustainable Urban Mobility, 1890-present* (SUM). This program was initiated by Eindhoven University of Technology and the Foundation for the History of Technology in collaboration with an international consortium of universities, government agencies, businesses, and social organizations. More information is available here.

Simone Fari, Massimo Moraglio (editors), *Peripheral Flows. A Historical Perspective on Mobilities between Cores and Fringes* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2016)

The main purpose of the eleven contributions to this volume is to reconsider and re-assess the role of cores and peripheries in shaping modern socio-technical systems. From this perspective they explore a terrain of highly complex systems mainly operating on the so-called Western model: Railways, telegraphs, motor vehicles and airports were, in fact, all born in classic cores areas in the West and then spread out into the peripheries. The approach in itself is not new, but this volume has managed to bring out interestingly innovative elements and viewpoints. The contributors are not content with the traditional definitions of peripheries and flows, but tend to put them to the test, revise them and eventually offer critiques. The result is a tempering of the monolithic and traditional concept of a one-way transfer. No longer, therefore, a simple and linear act of adoption, but a recourse to adaptation – changes in meaning, use and perception. The volume is a starting point for future explorations on the subject of science and technology studies and takes part in a wider discussion of globalisation, global and transnational history. Find more information [here](#).

G. Sgueo, *Beyond Networks - Interlocutory Coalitions, the European and Global Legal Orders* (Springer 2016)

This book explores the activism promoted by organized networks of civil society actors in opening up possibilities for more democratic supranational governance. It examines the positive and negative impact that such networks of civil society actors – named "interlocutory coalitions" – may have on the convergence of principles of administrative governance across the European legal system and other supranational legal systems. You can find more information [here](#).

Ruth Oldenziel and Helmut Trischler (editors), *Cycling and Recycling: Histories of Sustainable Practices* (Berghahn 2015)

Technology has long been an essential consideration in public discussions of the environment, with the focus overwhelmingly on creating new tools and techniques. In more recent years, however, activists, researchers, and policymakers have increasingly turned to mobilizing older technologies in their pursuit of sustainability. In fascinating case studies ranging from the Early Modern secondhand trade to utopian visions of human-powered vehicles, the contributions gathered here explore the historical fortunes of two such technologies—bicycling and waste recycling—tracing their development over time and providing valuable context for the policy successes and failures of today. Find more information [here.](#)

Journals

ICON, the annual journal of ICOHTEC is open for submission of articles

[ICON](#), the annual journal of ICOHTEC publishes papers covering all aspects and periods in the history of technology. ICON includes articles, review essays and book reviews on all aspects and periods of technological history by ICOHTEC members as well as non-members. It encourages research of a transnational character focused on global technologies and seeks to encourage cooperation between scholars across national or political boundaries.

ICON welcomes submissions from non-ICOHTEC members as well as members, and particularly encourages submissions from authors for whom English is not their first language. All papers are chosen by peer review, using a double blind process, and authors will be given editorial assistance to improve clarity and vigor of written expression.

You can find the guidelines for contributors here. You can also contact ICON's editor Hermione Giffard at hgiffard@gmail.com for more information.

Vacancies

13 Early Stage Researchers (PhD candidates) in Digital History and Hermeneutics – University of Luxembourg

The Historical Institute / Center for Contemporary and Digital History University of Luxembourg has obtained a large grant from the Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg in the framework of the so-called PRIDE-program. This grant enables the creation of a Doctoral Training Unit (DTU), therefore the institute opens up to 13 positions for Doctoral candidates (PhD students) in the field of digital history and hermeneutics*.

Aim is to create an experimental trading zone for the reflection on the epistemological and methodological challenges of doing digital history / humanities research in an interdisciplinary setting. All PhD students will have to conduct their research within the conceptual framework of the DTU. Participation in the collectively organized skills trainings on digital literacy as well as active participation in the planning and organization of thematic workshops of the DTU will be required.

The application deadline is **September 1, 2016.** More information can be found here.

12 PhD positions at – TU Darmstadt (Germany)

Das von der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft an der Technischen Universität Darmstadt neu eingerichtete, interdisziplinäre Graduiertenkolleg (GRK): Kritische Infrastrukturen: Konstruktion, Funktionskrisen und Schutz in Städten schreibt 12 Stellen als Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin/Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter aus. Das GRK erforscht städtische Techniksysteme, aber auch die Wechselwirkungen von Technik und (Stadt)Gesellschaften in Geschichte und Gegenwart. Es geht also um technische und damit verbundene politische, soziale und kulturelle Fragen städtischer Sicherheit. Im Mittelpunkt stehen Systeme der Ver- und Entsorgung, der Kommunikation und des Transports, die zum Nervensystem moderner Städte geworden sind. Ihre Störung kann daher dramatische Krisen auslösen. Hintergrund ist die wachsende Verwundbarkeit moderner Städte infolge externer Bedrohungen der Infrastruktursysteme (z. B. Naturkatastrophen, Terroranschläge und Cyberangriffe), aber auch infolge wachsender Komplexität und Vernetzung der Systeme selbst. Ziel ist es, diese komplexen Systeme in ihren räumlichen und zeitlichen Zusammenhängen zu verstehen und zu erklären und Praktiken der Planung, Vermeidung von Funktionsunterbrechungen bzw. der Vorbereitung auf diese zu analysieren.

Application deadline **July 10, 2016**. Find more information here.

Appointments
- Andreas Fickers has been appointed as director of the Institut für Zeitsgeschichte. This new interdisciplinary research centre at Luxemburg University focusses on the history of Luxemburg, the history of European integration, and digital history.
- Miriam R. Levin has been appointed to the Henry Eldridge Bourne Professorship in History at Case Western Reserve University (United States).
- Summer 2015 Erik van der Vleuten has been appointed professor of History of Technology at Eindhoven University of Technology's (the Netherlands) School of Innovation Sciences. Since October 2015 he is also the new Scientific Director of the Foundation for the History of Technology (the Netherlands).

For more news and information please visit the Tensions of Europe website.