

Notes from the Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars' on-line meeting (January, 10th, 2017)

Organised by Tirza Meyer, Anna Åberg and M. Luísa Sousa

List of participants (17)

Alexia Sofia Papazafeiropoulou, sofialex.papazafeiropoulou@gmail.com
Ana Duarte Rodrigues, anaaurelio@gmail.com
Anna Åberg, anna.aberg@chalmers.se
Elena Kochetkova, len.kochetkova@gmail.com
Elitsa Stoilova, elitsastoilova@gmail.com
Frank Schipper, F.Schipper@tue.nl
Hanna Vikström, hanna.vikstrom@abe.kth.se
Ivaylo Hristov, ivaylohrystov78@gmail.com – Was not able to attend, but his proposal was presented by Tirza Meyer
Jaume Valentines-Álvarez, jva@fct.unl.pt
Johan Gärdebo, gardebo@kth.se
Karena Kalmbach, K.Kalmbach@tue.nl
Malin Nordvall, malin.nordvall@chalmers.se – Was not able to attend, but her proposal was presented by Tirza Meyer
M. Luísa Sousa, luisacoelhosousa@fct.unl.pt
Roberto Cantoni, realecomplesso@gmail.com
Saara Matala, saara.matala@aalto.fi
Stevienna de Saille, s.desaille@sheffield.ac.uk
Tirza Meyer, tirza.meyer@ntnu.no

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Overview agenda & topics

13:00-14:00 CET: Discussion on the Tensions of Europe current activity and future agenda

14:00-15:00 CET: Conference participations during 2017 (discussion of panels and papers)

15:00-15:30 CET: Organization of workshops

15:30-16:00 CET: Miscellanea and wrap up

Session 1: 13:00-14:00 CET

Discussion on the Tensions of Europe current activity and future agenda

Chair: M. Luísa Sousa

Anna Åberg, Frank Schipper, Report on what is going on in the different Work Packages/research themes (future agenda of ToE)

(List of research themes: Resources and Colonialism; B/order; Security; Migration; Discourses of Crisis; Science Diplomacy; Disruptive Technologies; Urban Challenges/Urban Mobility; Labour; Health; Financial Crisis; Environment)

For more information: [Report kick-off workshop Technology and the Making of Europe's Societal Crises/Challenges, a Transnational History ca 1850-Today.](#)

Anna, Elena and Frank presented four of the eleven research themes, because these were the ones they are involved with or know about. The themes were the following:

- Resources and colonialism: this research theme was presented by Anna and Elena. They have reported on the workshop “Technology, natural resources and crises in the past and present of Europe and beyond”, co-organised by Elena, which took place in St. Petersburg in October 2016.

Elena informed that a draft abstract is being discussed with the ideas that came out of the final roundtable, which raised questions on period, scales of analysis, and research questions. This abstract will be further circulated to be submitted as a proposal for the 8th ToE Conference in Athens (format still to be decided: panel session; roundtable; general discussion). The aim is to produce a more focused research agenda.

Two more workshops are being considered (but not yet confirmed), one in Aarhus (Denmark), and the other in Lisbon (Portugal), both probably in 2017.

It is also being considered the publication of outputs, namely a special issue in the journal *History and Technology*, with a focus on resources and empires.

Still, a difficult question is the funding, which is still being discussed.

- Science diplomacy: Anna reported on this theme, informing that a proposal, coordinated by Léonard Laborie and Pascal Griset is being submitted in the coming weeks (February 2017) to Horizon 2020, and therefore, they are not taking more people on board at this stage. Roberto is part of this application. This proposal includes security and migration issues. This group had already two workshops.
- Discourses of Crisis: Anna and Karna are working on this theme and are willing to prepare a proposal of a panel session for the 8th ToE Conference in Athens.
- Urban Challenges/Urban Mobility: Frank reported on the Cultural Politics of Sustainable Urban Mobility, 1890-Present (CPSUM) research network, coordinated by Ruth Oldenziel, and also of the teaching program that is taking in the Eindhoven Technical University, with four PhD candidates working on Sustainable Urban Mobility. Frank and Luísa are both members of the CPSUM research network.
He also mentioned that CPSUM also has Asian partners (from China), which resonates with the contacts that are being made by ToE with Asian scholars, in order to develop a kind of “Tensions of Asia” network.
One of the main questions of the research network is what type of policy relevance can historians have?
It is planned that the CPSUM research network will organise seven workshops. The fourth workshop will take place, in February 2017, in Paris, and will start the preparation of a book on concepts, methodologies and public outreach issues regarding sustainable urban mobility. This book is expected to be published by Berghahn in the book series “Explorations in mobility”. At least two more workshops are planned, one in Gothenburg (October 2017), and the other (the final one) in Eindhoven (June 2018). The final aim of the CPSUM research network is to get a solid funding.

Elena Kochetkova, Discussion on our aims/expectations from being part of the ToE (and report on the activities of the Management Committee)

For more information: ToE's [Intellectual Agenda](#), and [Management Committee](#).

Elena reported on the ToE Management Committee main topics of discussion: to develop a new program to revive ToE as a network; to develop the research themes (see above) and a new research agenda. Other discussion topics are: to be more visible in academy and to revive the website.

The MC is expecting ToE ECS group to bring in new ideas; to be involved in the sub-projects of the ToE new research agenda; to be more visible; to apply for the 8th ToE Conference in Athens.

Elena asked the participants what they thought was the aim of the ToE ECS group: to keep the idea of being a supportive network, for the sharing of materials, publications, establish collaborations, etc.? Since the Stockholm summerschool in September 2015, when a googlegroups e-mail was created, there was a definition of some aims that related to this idea of a supportive network but, however, after a while, according to Elena, there were few messages and calls exchanged via the ToE ECS googlegroups and the group should be more active.

There were several interventions regarding this, which might serve as **feedback from the ToE ECS group to the MC:**

Luísa and Anna did not agree that the ToE ECS is not active enough, since it fulfils its function of being a supportive network, of bringing in new people for the ToE network, and of organising an event each 6 months (the next one will be the Athens summerschool, prior to the conference).

Also, they both mentioned, as well as Stevie, that the communication between the MC on the preparation of the future research agenda and its research themes should be more informative and clear. The ToE ECS group has been promoting the research themes: since the Vught workshop (March 2016), this has been done in the Porto workshop (July 2016), in this virtual meeting (January 2017), and it is also on the draft for the Athens summerschool (September 2017). However, besides the research themes in which people from the ToE ECS group are directly involved with or know something about, there is no more information that can be given to the participants in the group events, besides saying that the ideas for these research themes exist.

In order to the promotion of the research themes be more effective, to involve more early career scholars in these “sub-projects” of ToE, the MC has to provide more information, such as: leader of the research theme and contact; abstract of the research theme; activities that are planned; aims.

On the question of being visible, Anna said that one of the issues was the current ToE’s website, which was not helping, and asked what is happening with the webpage, which was supposed to have already been restructured. She also said that we are visible in the newsletter, for which we contribute with updates on our activities (and the last newsletter, for which the group has sent materials, and that was supposed to come out in late December, didn’t come out).

Tirza proposed that the ToE ECS could contribute to the discussion on funding opportunities and possibilities of applications.

Stevie asked what could the MC do for the ToE ECS, namely in terms of funding. Besides asking about the communication lines, that sometimes don't work (she is interested in the science diplomacy theme and cannot participate now in the proposal that is already being submitted, because she was not aware of it), she questioned the status of being "early career" (until when?, and when was there going to be a transition?) and that the ToE ECS group and the main ToE network worked in different levels.

Elena answered to all these questions stating that:

- 1) Research themes and communication: the development of some of the research themes is the beginning, and also the leading persons are still being defined, and it takes time. But communication should be improved (although it is difficult to define to whom it should be communicated, at each stage of the project development).
- 2) Website: the website is in progress. There is an on-going discussion on funding and design of the website.
- 3) Funding from the MC: there is not centralised money from the part of ToE; there is no funding for research, for instance.
- 4) Sharing information about funding opportunities is the most important thing right now and the ToE ECS group should be active about it.

Session 2: 14:00-15:00 CET

Conference participations during 2017 (discussion of panels and papers)

Chair: Tirza Meyer

8th Tensions of Europe Conference (7-10 September 2017, Athens). Call for papers deadline: 15 February 2017. See <http://8toe2017.phs.uoa.gr>

The Society for the History of Technology (26-30 October 2017, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), <http://www.historyoftechnology.org/>

Hanna Vikström – Resources, scarcity and technology

Discussion of a panel to be submitted either for ToE or SHOT on this theme.

Ivaylo Hristov – Borders and power

Discussion of a panel on this theme, to be submitted to ToE, which could include 3-4 papers on electricity, nuclear power, gas and(or) renewable energy historical surveys. [This proposal was presented by Tirza Meyer.](#)

Elitsa Stoilova – "Food technologies and technological transfers"

Discussion of a panel on this theme, to be submitted to ToE.

Malin Nordvall – Gender and Engineering

Proposal of an individual paper submission to SHOT, and eventually of being part of a panel session or a roundtable on the theme. [This proposal was presented by Tirza Meyer.](#)

Ana Duarte Rodrigues – "Water Technology and Landscape Politics: Tensions between Portugal and the EU"

Proposal of an individual paper submission to ToE, and eventually of being part of a panel session on the theme
M. Luísa Sousa – "Modernising Angola and Mozambique during the colonial wars: discourses, practices and road engineering at the service of the war effort"

Paper proposal accepted for the 25th International Congress of History of Science and Technology (July, 23-29, 2017, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), on the session "Science, modernization and colonialism in the age of decolonization".

Discussion on a possible submission to ToE.

Hanna presented the idea of a panel on "Resources, scarcity and technology", either for ToE or SHOT. Roberto stated his interest in collaborating on this proposal and will contact Hanna directly. Elena also mentioned the abstract that the research theme "Resources and

colonialism” is preparing and is going to send it out, so maybe a collaboration might also happen there.

The proposals of Ivaylo and Malin were both presented by Tirza. Those who are interested to know more about the proposals were asked to contact Ivaylo and Malin directly for more information since they couldn't partake in the discussion.

Ivaylo sent in a paper proposal on “Borders and power” which could include 3-4 papers on electricity, nuclear power, gas and(or) renewable energy historical surveys.

Malin asked Tirza to announce that she is planning on going to the SHOT Conference in Philadelphia and that she would be interested to know if there was anything planned on gender and engineering. She would also be willing to be part of organizing a panel session or roundtable on the theme if anyone else is interested.

Luísa presented her abstract on “Modernising Angola and Mozambique during the colonial wars: discourses, practices and road engineering at the service of the war effort” and got feedback from Elena and Stevie. Elena said she would send contacts from people at her university working on Soviet projects in Angola.

Ana presented her interest in submitting a proposal (either an individual paper or a panel) to the ToE conference on the tensions between environmental EU policies and the local needs and landscape (such as the case of certain crops in the South of Portugal, Algarve, which don't consider the water scarcity of that region).

There were other proposals that were not in the initial schedule that were discussed:

Elena proposed a panel (already mentioned above) on the research theme “resources and colonialism” to be submitted to ToE conference.

Stevie proposed a panel to be submitted to ToE conference on “Science advice across borders”, and the question was raised whether this could fit themes of colonialism and neo-colonialism. Luísa and Stevie will continue to discuss this after this meeting.

Anna and Karena also presented an idea for a panel proposal to be submitted to ToE conference on methodological and theoretical aspects on discourses of crises. Stevie is also interested in this proposal.

Stevie also presented a call for a book proposal (+ workshop) on the political economy of technology and innovation that is being prepared by a network that studies “responsible stagnation” and asked if someone is interested. They are looking for historical examples of responsible stagnation, such as those in the energy theme (the example of Thatcher's policy regarding coal is an example of irresponsible stagnation).

Elitsa's proposal on a panel on “Food technologies and technological transfers” for ToE conference had to be read by Tirza, because although Elitsa was attending the meeting and listening everyone, due to unknown technical problems, no one could hear her. She got feedback from Luísa on the issue of secularisation, mentioned in the end of the abstract.

It was accepted the proposal of circulating all these panel proposals via the ToE ECS googlegroup, and to invite people attending the meeting that are not part of the group to join.

Sessions 3 and 4: 15:00-15:30 CET; 15:30-16:00 CET

Organization of workshops

Miscellanea and wrap up

Chair: Elitsa Stoilova (replaced, for technical reasons by Anna Åberg)
Saara Matala & Johan Gärdebo – Transnational history of technology
Proposal to organize a workshop on this theme in conjunction with the SHOT conference.
M. Luísa Sousa, Elena Kochetkova – Borders, crisis, and technology
Presentation of the summer school in preparation that is expected to take place before the 8th Tensions of Europe Conference (5-7 September 2017, Athens)
Tirza Meyer – Writing workshop
To discuss the organisation and aims of this workshop.

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Saara and Johan presented their proposal of both organising a workshop and a panel on the theme of transnational history of technology, and the difficulties of working in several archives (not just national archives). Regarding the proposal, Anna suggested they could include important references of the work produced within the ToE's network on that. Tirza showed her interest in joining a proposal for a panel to be submitted to the ToE conference.

Luísa and Elena presented the draft of the summerschool that is being planned to happen from the 5th to the 7th September, prior to the ToE conference, and discussed the idea that is behind it (to combine the theme of the conference with the discussion of ToE's future research agenda and research themes: borders, technology and crises), the tentative schedule (and the issue of how to combine it with the Delphi pre-conference meeting that will take place on the 6th September), and the limited amount of travel grants available for conference participants (to which summerschoolers might apply to, if they will also attend the conference).

Tirza presented the idea of organising a writing workshop, the choices regarding the kind of writing outputs we are most interested in working out (articles to newspapers, to scientific journals, or monographs), the platforms that we want to reach (she argues that there are enough platforms already; we just have to choose the relevant ones), and the issue of how to get funds to organise such a workshop.

Hanna, Anna and Luísa stated that this was a very good idea. Anna would like to have a workshop on how to write as a method (on how to work through writing).

Roberto suggested that members of the ToE ECS group started to use that affiliation in the articles they write for journals and newspapers. It was discussed that this would give visibility to the group and would do justice to the importance of this group in one's work. However, in newspapers' articles it might be difficult to mention this kind of affiliation, unless it is an opinion piece or if one is invited in a specific quality (as a scholar) to write a piece. But it might be mentioned in journals articles, at least in the acknowledgements.

In the closure of the meeting there was a general discussion on how to combine these three workshops, and specially how to make a different proposal for the Athens summerschool that will take place prior to the conference. There suggestions were the following:

- that the summerschool should be used as a network building exercise and not to be a kind of mini-conference (Stevie);
- that the summerschool could integrate the other two workshops here proposed (Luísa);

- that what was discussed in the Stockholm summerschool (September 2015) on the different ways of studying crisis should be picked up and developed in the Athens summerschool (Stevie). Regarding this topic, maybe a time slot could combine this and the discussion on discourses of crises (Anna - and Karena);
- that a time slot should be reserved for discussing funding opportunities and be more dedicated to practical things (such as organising workshops) (Elena);
- that a time slot to prepare and plan a writing workshop (with some exercises that could focus on the writing process, but which would serve also as a way to get people knowing each other's work, also in case there will be new people to integrate in the network) (Tirza and Anna);
- a time slot to discuss ToE's future research agenda and the work being done in each research theme (Luísa).
- a time slot for people's presentation (even to integrate the new people coming – new to ToE and the ECS group – for this matter, short bios should be pre-circulated with the aims of attending the summerschool) (Stevie).

In the end, there seemed to be a consensus on the need to make a new draft for the Athens summerschool call, which would take on board these suggestions.

Regarding the relation between ToE ECS and the MC, suggestions have been made that the MC should support more the ToE ECS, namely giving more travel grants to conference participants (Stevie), and financing the organisation of workshops (Tirza), which would make easier for the group to correspond to the MC expectations.

Feedback on the meeting software

The Adobe Connect software was provided by Anna's university and worked quite well, with few exceptions:

- Ana did not have a very good internet connection, and for that reason she had, sometimes, difficulty in listening others (but the others were listening her well);
- Elitsa, for unknown reasons, could listen to others, but others could not listen to her.

Lisbon and Trondheim 12 January 2017

M. Luísa Sousa and Tirza Meyer

Two images of the meeting

Support Meeting [audio icons] [video icon] [help icon] Help

Video (13) [Step icon] [grid icon] [close icon]

Attendees (13)

Presenters (0)

Participants (12)

- Stevie
- Alexia Sofia Papazafiroπούλου
- Ana Rodriguez
- Elena
- Elina Ståhlina

Chat (Everyone)

Lulu Sousa: Stevie - after Roberto

Lulu Sousa: sorry, after Tizze

Anna Åberg: Sorry Johan, jag ghar smattat dig nu

Johan Gårdebo 2: tack!

Anna Åberg: Du måste dela din camera med oss genom att klicka på bilden och dela

Johan Gårdebo 2: Just boarding train, so switching connection, back in 15 min

Ana Rodriguez: Now, I have a battery problem, but I will come back as soon as possible

Anna Åberg: ok!

Everyone

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Support Meeting [audio icons] [video icon] [help icon] Help

Video (13) [Step icon] [grid icon] [close icon]

Attendees (14)

Presenters (0)

Participants (13)

- Lulu Sousa
- Alexia Sofia Papazafiroπούλου
- Ana Rodriguez
- Elena
- Elina Ståhlina

Chat (Everyone)

Ana Rodriguez: Anna, I will talk after Elina in this session, isn't it?

Tizze Meyer: I will say some quick words about Malin's proposal first, Ana

Ana Rodriguez: Ok, I hope to recharge the battery and go to that previous location because here I cannot hear you

Johan Gårdebo: tack!

Frank: Karina Kalmbach has joined me

Anna Åberg: great!

Stevie: check the mic volume on your machine

Everyone