

Tensions of Europe/ICOHTEC

Early Career Scholars workshop

August 1st, Porto

Practical information

Location

Sala de Reuniões I, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto, Via Panorâmica, s/n, 4150-564 Porto

Necessary equipment:

- * Laptop
- * Headset (also for on-site participants)

Wifi

- * Either use Eduroam;
- * Or connect to FLUPWIFI, password: flporto2015

For those who are presenting

We will provide a space for presentation including a projector. Please bring the appropriate converters. If you have any other particular needs for the presentation, please contact us and we will try to meet them. You each have 30 minutes at your disposal for your presentations and discussion. You can dispose them as you want, but the less time you talk, the more time we get for discussions. ☺ If you opt to send a paper in advance (until July, 25), you may choose not to present but instead start the discussion right away.

Papers that are sent in will have a commentator assigned to them. We urge all other participants to take a close look at the materials circulated in advance of the workshop.

Some presentations will take place virtually. Those who present virtually will do so over Cisco WebEx. You will get an invitation on beforehand. Those who present virtually should get in touch with Frank Schipper to do a technical trial for the presentation and connection on beforehand.

Food

We will have lunch together on site. Details will be communicated at the opening of the workshop.

Information about traveling to the airport

From the venue go to the Casa da Música station (a 7-minute walking distance). The Casa da Música station is next to the famed [Rem Koolhaas](#)

[building with the same name](#). Go to an *Andante* ticket sale point. Select the Z4 option and pay the 2,35€ tariff (trip plus ticket). Then take the subway from station Casa da Música to station Aeroporto. The trip should take approximately 20 minutes.

Program

09:00-09:15 [Welcome by the organizers](#)

09:15-12:00 [Roundtable: Tensions of Europe's New Research Agenda](#)
Technology and the Historical Shaping of (Europe's?) Societal Crises/Challenges: a Transnational History ca 1850-Today

[Luísa Sousa](#)

Overall introduction (Vught workshop and beyond)

[Tirza Meyer](#)

What's happening at SHOT?

[Anna Åberg & Karena Kalmbach](#)

Theory-building

[Elena Kochetkova](#)

Technology, natural resources and crises in the past and present of Europe and beyond

[Frank Schipper](#)

The Cultural Politics of Sustainable Urban Mobility

This program element includes a break, and an interactive 'what do you want to do within the themes of the research agenda?' round.

12:00-13:00 LUNCH

Provided as a courtesy of the CIUHCT.

13:00-14:00 [Energy and Challenges](#)

[Yannis Fotopoulos](#) " The natural gas industry in Greece: 1960s-today "

Commentator: Anna Åberg

[Roberto Cantoni](#) " Shale tales: Poland's energy security imperative between reality and propaganda "

Commentator: Marloes Dignum

14:00-14:30 Break

14:30-15:30

Jaume Valentines-Álvarez " Technology and violence: environment and armed resistances in Spain and Portugal, 1971-1982 " Commentator: Mats Fridlund

Catherine Radtka " Youngsters & Technology: Space & Beyond " Commentator: Isabel Zilhão

15:30-15:45 [Wrap-up by the organizers](#)

Abstracts

Roberto Cantoni

Ecole des Ponts ParisTech
Project proposal

Shale tales: Poland's energy security imperative between reality and propaganda

In 2011, a report by the US Energy Information Administration attributed to Poland Europe's largest reserves of shale gas. The report was welcomed by the government, which encouraged gas companies started to apply for exploration permits, over the background of a largely predominant media and political discourse: the energy security imperative. Such narrative focused on the need for Poland to acquire energy autonomy from Russia, from which the country imports most of its gas at high prices, and on the image of Poland as a new energy titan, a 'new Norway'.

However in the last two years fluctuating tax regimes, macroeconomic conditions linked to the oil price, and difficult geology, prompted foreign companies to leave Poland as swiftly as they had rushed there, and in late 2015 national companies have been left as reluctant masters of a game that does not seem easy to play, let alone win. In my paper I analyze a number of questions that stemmed from the analysis of the years of the shale gas frenzy, and by the current state of affairs: how critical is shale gas for Poland's security? What was the rationale behind the magnification of the security argument and the image of Poland as the 'new Norway', in the face of uncertain data from geology? I explore these issues through the analysis of a series of interviews carried out locally with leaders of governmental scientific institutions, oil companies, think tanks, and NGOs.

Yannis Fotopoulos

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Abstract The paper aims to provide a socio-historical study in the making of the Natural Gas industry in Greece covering the period from 1960s to the present days. It is a study within the transitions studies scholarship that aims to understand network technologies as complex socio-technical phenomena and as social constructs that involve the engagement of several actors with multiple and various interests and socio-cognitive priorities. At the center of analysis is the issue of governance of a network technology in Greece from the late 1960s to the present day. The paper covers a period of 50 years, a period that politically and socially Greece has changed dramatically and has passed from a militaristic dictatorship (1967-1974) to democracy and from state planning infrastructure policies to capitalism and liberalization of energy and technological networks. My study covers even the first 16 years of the 21st century and the years of the Greek financial crisis. In this changing socio-economic landscape I locate the transition of the natural gas network and try to understand the role of experts and their visions in shaping and driving the transition, the meanings that policy makers and users attributed on the technology, the political tensions and debates over the governance of the technology as well as over the planning and the design of the network. I looked at those activities as sociotechnical activities that changed over time the period of coverage. Crisis like the political crisis of a military dictatorship, or the energy crisis of the 1973 and 1979, or the current financial crisis will be studied as turning moments that reconfigured the politics of a critical infrastructure, the actors' visions and strategies, the state's policies as well as the agency and the performativity of relevant social groups. In this way the paper will unravel the hidden roles of actors in the making and governing a network technology in Greece. The paper is part of a recently finished master thesis in the History of Technology, while I aspire to continue researching, at a PhD level, the coproduction of society, politics and infrastructure technologies in periods of crisis.

Catherine Radtka

(postdoctoral fellow in history of the CNES, hosted at the ISCC, Paris, France)

Oldenziel & Hård (2013) included an analysis of the signification of children toys and games. They insisted on the middle-class parents' interests and prospects when they encouraged their boys to play with Meccano toys and on the different attitudes girls and their mothers might adopt regarding the Barbie dolls (especially regarding the way

some of them did not accept the role of passive consumers Mattel expected them to adopt). In the introduction, they also mentioned the formation in Europe of youth clubs and of the figure of Leonard de Vries. They suggested that an important evolution (regretted by some actors of the time as de Vries) took place in the 1960s as corporate toys became more common in Europe. Even though this evolution is not to be refuted I would like to propose to pursue the study of the places and structures that allowed young Europeans to play with technology in the second half of the 20th Century.

Indeed, as my research focuses on youngsters' enthusiasm for space activities in general and rocketry in particular, I have come across numerous youth clubs that started their existence in the 1950s-1960s with the project of building rockets. In France, links were soon established with the French space agency and with movements of popular education (the rocket clubs were even the core of the establishment of a movement focusing on techno-scientific activities). Some clubs also developed within a movement called "Jeunes Science" which was modeled on American movements. Many of these structures were linked with some of their counterparts in other European countries: they permitted to some youngsters to visit science fairs abroad or to travel and discuss with other Europeans interested in science and technology. In the case of space activities, such contacts led to the organization of "European Youth and Space Conference" (the first event of this kind took place in 1972).

I would like to take the opportunity of this workshop to propose the establishment of a working group on youngsters and technology. Are there other researchers who are currently working on this subject or who would be interested in it? If so, we could think about proposing a session for the 8th Tensions of Europe Conferences.

Jaume Valentines-Álvarez

Interuniversity Center for the History of Science and Technology (CIUHCT), Universidade Nova de Lisboa

"Technology and violence: environment and armed resistances in Spain and Portugal, 1971-1982"

Many socio-environmental changes have to be regarded in relation to political transformations -particularly, changes of political regimes-, which can involve resistances that are expressed as well by different forms of violent action (Coates et al, 2011). Armed groups have been usually entangled with different environmental struggles in heterogeneous tension with other social groups at stake, experts, values and ways of scientific regulation (Gaudillière, 2006). In fact, violence as a form of scientific negotiation or governance has not been treated extensively in history of science and technology (Bauer,

1995). At the same time, when dealing with extreme political violence, political and social history have not paid much attention to environmental conflicts (Ferreira and Casanellas, in press).

This paper will focus on different environmental conflicts that were shaped by the discourses and practices of nationalist armed groups in Spanish and Portuguese provinces (including “overseas provinces”) during the 1970s and 1980s, that is, around the fall of the Iberian dictatorships in 1974 and 1977. In particular, the paper will deal with the struggles around three huge engineering projects: the Cahora Bassa dam in Zambezi river and the Mozambique Liberation Front-FRELIMO, the Lemoiz nuclear plant and ETA (Basque Country), and the Vandellós nuclear plant and Terra Lliure (Catalonia). The paper will study these topics from the point of view of the history of science and technology that can provide theoretical tools and languages to the historical political ecology (and vice versa), in order to widen (or to overcome) some tight disciplinary boundaries (Davies, 2009).

List of participants

Who?	Presence	Affiliation
Anna Aberg	on-site	Chalmers Univeristy
Roberto Cantoni	on-site	Ecole des Ponts ParisTech
Marloes Dignum	on-site	Delft University of Technology
Yannis Fotopoulos	virtual	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
Mats Fridlund	virtual	Aalto University
Johan Gärdebo	on-site	Environmental Humanities Laboratory, Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm
Jira Janac	on-site	Charles University, Prague
Ivo Louro	on-site	research fellow CIUHCT - Interuniversity Centre for the History of Science and Technology, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
Karena Kalmbach	virtual	Eindhoven University of Technology
Elena Kochetkova	on-site	National Research University Higher School of Economics-Saint-Petersburg
Catarina Madruga	virtual	CIUHCT - Interuniversity Centre for the History of Science and Technology, Universidade de Lisboa
Tirza Meyer	on-site	NTNU Oceans Deep sea mining pilot, Trondheim
Alexia Papazafeiropoulou	virtual	National Technical University of Athens
Hugo Pereira	on-site	CIUHCT (U. Nova Lisbon); IRS (U. York).
Catherine Radtka	virtual	Post-doctoral fellow of the French space agency (CNES)
Aaro Sahari	virtual	PhD project Finnish technopolitics

Frank Schipper	on-site	Eindhoven University of Technology
Luísa Sousa	on-site	CIUHCT - Interuniversity Centre for the History of Science and Technology, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
Elitsa Stoilova	on-site	University of Plovdiv, Ethnology Department
Nora Thorade	on-site	Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg; completing PhD thesis on industrialization of small coal mining regions in Germany
Jaume Valentines-Álvarez	on-site	CIUHCT - Interuniversity Centre for the History of Science and Technology, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
Isabel Zilhão	virtual	CIUHCT - Interuniversity Centre for the History of Science and Technology, Universidade de Lisboa
