



Newsletter

July 2010

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Word from the editors

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

We hope this message finds you well, with a productive academic year winding down and rewarding summer ahead. As many of you know first hand, we got the summer off to a good start with the Fourth Tensions of Europe Conference in Sofia 17-20 June. This issue of the newsletter is

devoted to reporting on the conference and discussing some of the issues it raised.

After three very successful conferences in Lappenranta, Rotterdam and Lisbon, - and especially after waiting two years since our previous meeting, expectations for the Fourth Tensions of Europe Conference were high, and the organizers rose to the occasion and created an event worthy of all we have accomplished so far. The city and university provided a fitting backdrop for the meeting: from the Roman arena in the hotel basement to the Soviet-soldiers'-memorial-cum-skate park across from the university, even the short walk to the venue showed off Sofia's long history and peculiar intermingling of national construction and transnational circulation. The grand halls of the university and the splendid oval lecture theatre also added a special air to the proceedings.

Perhaps more than previous meetings, this conference was marked as much by endings as beginnings. Along with the general conference, the conference was also the final meeting for the ESF-Eurocores "Inventing Europe" projects, which both came together in closed workshops on Thursday, as well as presenting research results openly in a number of the paper sessions (see the description by Helena Durnová from the program committee). With the closing of this phase of our common activity, it was also time to think about the future of the network as a whole, and what steps we can take from here. The meeting saw several important discussions on the

future of the network in both its research and educational roles (see Johan Schot's letter below).

The theme of new beginnings was brought very much to the fore with the announcement of the first Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowships for scholars to conduct research in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. Discussion of the *Making Europe* book series and virtual exhibit also highlighted new adventures in story.

We should also remember that for all of the major changes, both in evidence and in store, we should not overlook the continuities. With its focus on the role of technology in East-West relationships, the conference took up a theme that was placed on its agenda in Budapest in 2004 and has played an important role in many of the network's activities ever since. As ever, we have continued to attract new scholars, and especially young scholars into our fold, and provided an informal, helpful atmosphere for them to present their exciting new work.

And of course, we talked, we laughed, we dined and we *danced*.. as ever, and like never before.

We hope you will enjoy looking back – and forward – with us.

Livia and Alec

Sofia 2010

**Final ESF Inventing Europe conference & 4th Tensions of Europe conference
June 17-20, 2010, Sofia, Bulgaria**

Negotiating identities, parallel histories, alternative processes, blurred boundaries, contested approaches – these were the envisaged topics of papers at the conference in Sofia. The fact that the Iron Curtain had holes in it through which knowledge and even artefacts could travel has by now been well established. Luciano Segreto, in his keynote lecture 'East-West Trade in Cold War Europe. The Never Ending Dilemma: Business as Usual vs. Technological Strategic Control', showed this on the example of COCOM. On top of

it, the conference in Sofia also brought together contributions on the (power) relationships within the Soviet bloc, as in Pal Germuska's talk on the East-East military technology transfer. The rhetoric connected with technology also did not go unnoticed, for example by Heike Weber in the session on 'European ways of wasting'. In the session 'New Industrial Commons and the Making and Unmaking of Europe', the areas where negotiations took place across political borders, despite political disagreement, were explored.



Giant poster above the main entrance

Even before the conference was officially opened, we could all join the discussion on the future of Tensions of Europe. And the non-traditional tradition of Tensions of Europe conferences continued: apart from traditional papers, all participants were invited to join the discussion about the new book series on the history of Europe, Making Europe, and could comment on the virtual exhibit. The European dance festival, featuring Greek Roma dance, salsa, Midsummer Swedish dance, Argentinean tango, polka, and of course Bulgarian folk dance, was a pleasant way to close the conference.



An observant audience during the opening



Keynote speaker Luciano Segreto

At the launch of the ESF EUROCORES' programme Inventing Europe Technology and the Making of Europe, 1850 to the present in Rotterdam three years ago, four collaborative research programmes were presented: European Ways of Life in the American Century (EUWOL), led by Ruth Oldenziel, Europe Goes Critical (EUROCRIT), led by Arne Kaijser, Software for Europe (SOFT-EU), led by Gerard Alberts, and Water, Road, and Rail (WRR), led by Jordi Marti-Henneberg. In Sofia, at the final conference of the programme, these projects presented their results to each other and to all the participants of the conference. Those who feel that they had missed something in the full conference programme will have a chance to learn more in the forthcoming books.

Helena Durnová
Brno University

On behalf of the Programme Committee

Earlier this year, we announced the new Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship, sponsored by the Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT) and the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), for scholars in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe to conduct and disseminate research in the history of these areas.

In this year, we are happy to announce that two such fellowships were awarded. One to Spyros Tzokas and Momir Samardžić. A third, special fellowship was awarded to Steřka H. Hristova. Congratulations! Below, one of the awarded scholars, Momir Samardžić, describes his research.

Karen Johnson Freeze Fellow 2010: Momir Samardžić

During the ToE/IE Sofia conference, June 2010, the Selection Committee of the Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship Fund awarded me with a 2010 fellowship to support my future research. The main topic of research for my MA and my PhD was the Serbian railway in the context of the Serbian government's foreign political struggle to construct territory of the country. However, the awareness of the role of technology and of the influence of the idea of technological change on political and social processes led me after the PhD towards a combined domestic/foreign policy approach and to research of the role of the idea of the railway construction on Serbian politics in the second half of the 19th century. The first results of this research, a book *Roads to Europe: Serbian Politics and the Railway Issue 1878-1881*, will soon be published by Edizioni Plus, Pisa within the Doctoral dissertation series of the FP6 project Cllohres.net.



Momir Samardžić

An important obstacle to conducting a deeper study of all the problems concerning Serbian railway construction was the lack of archival sources from the Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv (Verkehrsministerium, Handelsministerium, Außenministerium) in Vienna. Austria-Hungary was in many ways interested in establish a connection between Vienna, Budapest and the Ottoman capital. Therefore, Austrian state archives are full of important documents connected with the development and the resolution of railway construction in the Balkans, and

especially its neighbor Serbia. The Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship will enable me to do thorough, financially demanding research in HHSA, which will improve the quality of future research on Serbian railway construction. Hoping that this research will lead to important new results, I can only once more express my gratitude for this support.

Momir Samardžić
University of Novi Sad, Serbia

'outrageous myth' that Johan Schot, our highly esteemed Chair, danced on sexy high-heeled shoes with SHOT's President, Arne Kaijser!



View from the terrace



One of the Making Europe book series sessions

These, to be sure, are only some of the highlights of our very pleasurable *diner dansant* in the National Palace of Culture in Sofia; an illustrious piece of Communist architecture with a splendid view of the Vitosha Mountain!



Impression 1: The Bulgarian dance

The European Dance Festival

No ToE conference is without a spectacular closing event, at least, so the story goes. Time and again I have heard thrilling tales about exquisite theatre plays in Budapest (2004), exciting stories about exuberant mid-summer night parties in Lappenranta (2006) and outright culinary legends about the European Taste Festival in Rotterdam (2007). I am convinced that the European Dance Festival we enjoyed in Sofia in the spring of 2010 will meet with the same fate. Within ten to twenty years, seasoned ToE members will tell the young at length about wild, exalted academics acting like 'little frogs', performing exotic Swedish ringdances, daring Roma bellydances, tantalizing Tangos, sparkling Salsas, pioneering Polkas and fresh Bulgarian folk. Moreover, the brilliant essays of the dance instructors, concisely explaining the unique European spirit of the dances, will by then be obligatory reading for prospective ToE members. And for sure, within one or two decades, no longer will anyone believe the



Impression 2: The Tango



Impression 3: The Greek dance

Some warm words of thanks (in random order) to our unsurpassed organizer of the event, Emiliya Karaboeva, our great hosts and presenters, Dobrinka Parusheva and Ivan Tchalakov, our eager and talented dance instructors, our witty and eloquent jury, and last but not least the Company for International Congresses Ltd (CIC). It was an invaluable and memorable closure of a successful conference! Thanks to all of you!

Livia Smits
On behalf of SHT

The future of ToE

Dear ToE members,

Anyone who attended the Sofia conference will have noticed that Tensions of Europe is an inspiring and flourishing network. In Sofia, as a follow-up to an earlier meeting in Prague, two meetings were dedicated to discussing and envisioning a new future for ToE. It was agreed that ToE should continue when the current chair steps back in 2012. ToE will continue to nurture similar activities as in the past. The aim is to start a new cycle of exploring, networking, agenda setting, researching and publishing results. Moreover, it was acknowledged that the network needs some form of institutionalization, without losing its unique informal character, its flexibility and its openness to newcomers. The following more concrete agreements were made:

1. The next ToE conference will be held in Paris in June 2013 with Pascal Griset as

main organizer. Pascal proposes 'Technology & Democracy' as a central theme.

2. A preparatory event will be organised at the SHOT conference in fall 2012 (one day before or on Sunday when SHOT's Special Interest Groups usually meets) by the SHT in collaboration with Lars Heide, but only if SHOT decides to come together in Copenhagen.

3. The next ToE summer school will be organised in Portugal in 2011 by Maria Paula Diogo.

4. Other summer schools organised by ToE members can also be labeled as ToE (for the moment to be decided by your chair, Johan Schot). Pascal and Andreas are planning one for next year.

5. We will use Erasmus/Socrates agreements to set up a ToE educational initiative (to be connected to the summer schools). Undergraduates, graduates and faculty from participating institutions could be exchanged using bilateral Erasmus agreements. In September, Telly Tympas will launch a website to communicate the initiative which will focus on the combination of 'Europe, Technology, and History'. Interested ToE colleagues can contact Telly. He will soon circulate a document with more information.



Book display

6. We confirmed our commitment to building a new ToE program. We decided to work on two scenarios simultaneously. First, several new collaborative research initiatives which fit the current intellectual agenda (with a focus on Europe, a transnational approach and the use of the lens of technology) can be accommodated and pooled under the umbrella of ToE. They can get a separate page at the ToE website. Second, Andreas Fickers, Valentina Fava, Helena Durnová and others will organise an inventory of

possible future themes and challenging questions. This will be an open process, allowing input from ToE members as well as newcomers (other networks). In 2011 we will organise a meeting to discuss results.⁷ The new ToE program needs a



Registration desk

involves lead time for seeking funding, the following was agreed: after consultation with the chair several, ToE members can submit proposals to generate funding provided that the funding allows money to cross borders and that the financial agreement is flexible in terms of what shape a future ToE will take. The future secretariat should be able to play a similar

secretariat. The current chair will talk to several institutions that might be willing to set up such a secretariat and report on options to the Tensions of Europe Management Committee. Since institutionalizing is a pressing issue, an role as the SHT (or alternatively be able to fund the current SHT activities).



Future of TOE meeting in Sofia

8. For the coming period the SHT will maintain the ToE website and take care of other communication activities.

ToE is alive and kicking!

Johan Schot
Chair of the ToE Network
July 1, 2010

Update ToE database

PLEASE ASSIST US WITH UPDATING THE TENSIONS OF EUROPE DATABASE!

To stay in touch with each other and to give you regular updates on our network, it is crucial to have accurate contact information of all members. However, information changes fast these days, so some effort to keep our database up to date is needed! Please assist us and fill in your current contact details below:

SURNAME:

FIRST NAME:

AFFILIATION:

DEPARTMENT:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

ZIP CODE:

COUNTRY:

PHONE and/or FAX:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

NOT YET A MEMBER OF TENSIONS OF EUROPE? JOIN US!

SURNAME:

FIRST NAME:

AFFILIATION:

DEPARTMENT:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

ZIP CODE:

COUNTRY:

PHONE and/or FAX:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

Please return this form to toe@tue.nl or to:

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