

November 2010

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Word from the editors

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

A few colourful leaves are still hanging from the trees, and the clocks are freshly turned back, and your intrepid editors are writing to you once more to tell you about new fruits of the academic season and the seeds that have been planted.

Appropriately for the season of change, we will begin with a (quite lovely) ending: the ESF has prepared its final evaluation of the Eurocores theme “Inventing

Europe”, which was granted an overall evaluation of “very good”. Especially the networking activities were singled out for praise – something we not only enjoy but can be very proud of.

Some of this message is being written in wooded surroundings of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS), where the new Making Europe book series and virtual exhibit are slowly taking shape. A number of authors from the Tensions network are staying in Wassenaar, in South Holland, enjoying good food, and the company of a wide range of international scholars while they work on the six volume book series.



Picture: Dindy van Maanen (NIAS)

One particular part of this initiative, the virtual exhibit, has also made exciting new steps in recent weeks. On October 29, a first meeting between book authors and museum professionals took place in Leiden to discuss how we can bring the stories of the Making Europe volumes to life for a general audience using the collections of museums throughout and beyond Europe. We will bring you some news now, and a

special edition of the newsletter soon which describe this exciting new initiative. And speaking of online things, steps are also underway to revamp the web presence of the Tensions network, with a whole new website that will be better able to capture the dynamic nature of the network and its new initiatives.

As ever, there is much to be proud of, and much more afoot...

Alec Badenoch & Livia Smits

News

Final Evaluation of *Inventing Europe* 'very good'

We proudly announce that the Review Panel of the EuroCORES programme *Inventing Europe* awarded the programme an average rating of 3 +, or 'very good'. In its very positive assessment, which is based on the "impressive" final reports of the four Collaborative Research Projects and the Chair of the Scientific Committee, the Review Panel expresses its appreciation of the results of the programme, in terms of the research highlights, networking, training and dissemination.

With respect to research the Review Panel acknowledges the success of using the lens of technology in studying the making of Europe and affirms that "the *Inventing Europe* teams have successfully managed to establish Europe's place as a world-leading centre for the history of technology." According to the Review Panel, all four projects have produced valuable results, which in view of the rather limited research funding available is considered a substantial achievement. The Review Panel does, also points, however, to the need to extend the programme, as it feels that not "all of the

expectations from the original research ideas" have been fulfilled yet.

Moreover, again acknowledging the limited financial resources, the Review Panel praises the "high level" of networking activities (e.g. seminars, conferences, workshops and visits of experts). In this context, the reviewers also applaud the "energised team-spirit amongst participants" as witnessed by the two Panel members who attended the final conference in Sofia in June 2010. Likewise, the Review Panel commends the innovativeness and academic quality of the papers presented at this conference.

What is more, the learning activities of the programme, i.e. the summer schools for early career scholars are rated (also by the participants themselves) as successful and helpful in terms of the younger scholars' "capacity building". Within the restraints of the available financial resources and the short time span of the programme, the Review Panel highly values the achievements of this particular aspect of the programme.

An exceptional achievement of the programme, according to the reviewers, is the successful engagement of researchers "from all over the European peripheries" (e.g. Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, and the Iberian Peninsula), which is also one of the main aims of the Tensions of Europe network. The "outstanding organisational capabilities of the Chair and his talent for securing additional funding", which is a precondition for successful networking, are also explicitly mentioned.

One of the points of improvement mentioned in the report is a wider, international dissemination of the research results of the programme, as so far (in terms of articles) mostly national journals have been served. The Review Panel however recognizes the major attempt to reach a wider, also non-

academic, audience by means of the Making Europe book series and the accompanying Virtual Exhibit.

All quotes come from the Consensus Statement which is part of the final report of the Review Panel. The final report will be published by the end of this year and will be available at www.esf.org/inventingeurope.

Under construction: new websites

The Foundation for the History of Technology and a professional web developer are busy developing three new websites, one for the Tensions of Europe network, the second for the *Making Europe* book series and, the third for the Foundation itself. As the interim results look promising, we hope to start the year 2011 with the launch of those brand new websites. We will keep you posted on the progress and in the meantime you can, of course, regularly find new and refreshed content on our current, somewhat outmoded but informative, websites. You find them at www.tensionsofeurope.eu and www.histech.nl.

Working Paper Series: News and Callo for Papers

The conference *Technology & East-West relations: Transfers, parallel histories, and the European laboratory* held in Sofia (Bulgaria) in June this year has shown that there are still many places to explore on the map of Europe, especially in its Central and Eastern part. The history of technology narratives have come well over the 'nuts and bolts' accounts, but they mostly still depend on one country. Tensions of Europe and Inventing Europe Working Paper Series offer you a place where you can share your findings and think pieces with other Tensions of Europe members as well as with the

outside world, since the access to the papers is not restricted.

Tensions of Europe/Inventing Europe Working Papers Series has a moderate, but regularly visiting audience: most papers get downloaded twice a week, which is a promise of potential comments from your peers. Since the series is web-based, there are no strict deadlines, but there is a general rule on having the papers published: first in, first out.

Many of the papers presented at the Sofia conference have been available on the website already before the conference. Since the Sofia conference, Aristotle Tympas and his team (Krishna Chandramouli, Roberta Turra, Giorgio Pedrazzi, Ph.D., Foteini Tsaglioti, Vaso Aggelopoulou, Akrivi Katifori, Nadzeya Kiyavitskaya, Costas Morfakis, Giannis Binietoglou, Spyros Tzokas, Katerina Vlantoni, Theodore Lekkas, and Hara Konsta) agreed to have the Papyrus' session published and M. Luísa Sousa revised her contribution on the development of automobile culture in authoritarian Portugal.

It's now almost exactly two years since the first Tensions of Europe / Inventing Europe working papers were published. Without the help of Roeslan Leontjevas, Vincent Lagendijk, and Livia Smits, the three subsequent website administrators, the papers would not have made it to you, the readers; thank you!

Since the start of the series until now, two of us, Nil Disco and I, have been sharing the editors' duties. Nil Disco brought in his wisdom, expertise, and sense of humour. It is no exaggeration to say that without him, the ToE/IE Working Paper Series would not be what it is. It goes without saying that I regret that Nil's work load does not allow him to continue as editor. I feel really honoured for having had the opportunity to work with him.

Helena Durnová (editor)
helena.durnova at mail.muni.cz
(please see Information for authors at
www.tensionsofeurope.eu for more
details)

Pictures of Sofia conference online

Cold and rainy autumn days may in fact be the best time to remind you of the great time we had during the conference in sunny Sofia last spring. The conference pictures are online now. You can find them in the password protected area of our conference website at <http://www.conference2010sofia.com>

You can enter this area by scrolling down the home page and by entering the login information provided in advance of the conference. To remind you: your login information is your email address and your last name (mind the capital letter). In case you fail to log in, please contact me (l.smits at tue.nl) for assistance.

For ToE members who did not attend the conference but are just curious, please make sure to attend future meetings of the ToE network, and contact me for login information.



The Future of ToE: work in progress...

In the July edition of this newsletter you found a summary of the agreements that have been made concerning the future of our network. Now, four months later, it is time to take stock of the state of the art of the action items that followed from the mentioned list. Instead of a point by point overview of the advancements, we will have to content ourselves, at least for the moment, with a general impression. In all areas, slow but steady progress has been reported. Things are moving and developing, and the various dimensions of the Future of ToE are gradually taking shape. For substantial news on the exact shape of things, we just will have to wait a bit. We did, however, receive a hopeful news flash from our Greek friend and capable foreman of one of the 'Future of ToE' construction sites:

“The EUROPE, TECHNOLOGY, HISTORY educational initiative that grew out of ties developed through the TOE network is moving forward, with a draft of its webpage available at www.europetechnologyhistory.eu. ”

For more information on the progress of this initiative, feel free to contact Aristotle (Telly) Tympas (tympas at phs.uoa.gr).

We expect to fill the pages of future editions of this newsletter with exciting news from all the other construction workers as well!

TO BE CONTINUED...

ICOHTEC Call for Articles: Maurice Daumas Prize 2011

ICOHTEC, the International Committee for the History of Technology welcomes

submissions for its new article prize, the Maurice Daumas Prize, which aims to encourage innovative and superbly written research in the history of technology. ICOHTEC is interested in the history of technology focusing on technological development as well as its relationship to science, society, economy, culture and the environment. The history of technology covers all periods of human history. There is no limitation as to theoretical or methodological approaches.

The Maurice Daumas Prize will be awarded to the best submission of an article on the history of technology published in a journal or edited volume in 2009 or 2010. Submissions are welcomed from junior and senior scholars of any country, and they can focus to study the technological past of any part of the world.

Eligible to the prize are original published articles in any of the official ICOHTEC languages (English, French, German, Russian or Spanish). If the language of publication is not English, applicants should include a three-page English summary.

For the Maurice Daumas Prize 2011, please send your submission to each of the four Prize Committee members. Your submissions must be postmarked no later than 24 January 2011.

The submission should be accompanied by a CV and, if applicable, a list of publications. Applicants are free to add references or reviews on the work submitted. The winner will be contacted in mid-June 2011.

The prize will be awarded at our 38th Symposium, 2 – 7 August 2011 in Glasgow, UK. The winner will receive a money prize worth of Euro 500 as well as travel grant of Euro 300 (if needed) to attend the ICOHTEC Symposium of 2011.

Send a complete application by regular mail services or electronically as a pdf-file attachment to each of the following Article Prize Committee members:

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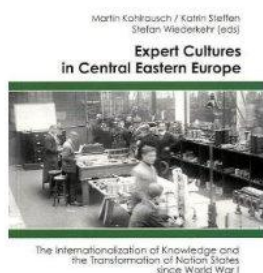
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Book release I

Expert Cultures in Central Eastern Europe
By Martin Kohlrausch, Katrin Steffen,
Stefan Wiederkehr



We are proud to announce that the edited volume on the ESF Exploratory Workshop “The International Community of Experts and the Transformation of the Fatherland. Central Eastern Europe in the European Context since World War I”, is now out under the title *Expert Cultures in Central Eastern Europe: The Internationalization of Knowledge and the Transformation of Nation States since World War I*. All articles of the volume (table of contents below) are also available on [perspectivia.net](http://www.perspectivia.net), the international cross-epochal online publication platform for the institutes of the "Foundation of German Humanities Institutes Abroad"(DGIA) and their respective cooperation partners, based on the open-access principle:
http://www.perspectivia.net/content/publikationen/ev-warschau/kohlrausch-steffen-wiederkehr_cultures

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IV. Reconsidering the Iron Curtain: Experts between East and West after 1945

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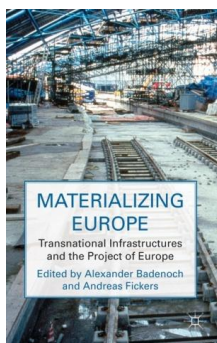
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Book release II

Materializing Europe: transnational infrastructures and the project of Europe
By Alexander Badenoch and Andreas Fickers (eds).



We are pleased to announce the publication of *Materializing Europe: Transnational Infrastructures and the Project of Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). This book, which grew out of the Transnational Infrastructures in Europe (TIE) project, funded by the Dutch Research Organization (NWO) and led by Johan Schot at the Technical University of Eindhoven, is based on two workshops held at Rolduc Abbey in 2006 and in Eindhoven in 2007.

It will be formally presented at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in Wassenaar on 16 November 2010.

Transnational infrastructures have long been an integral part of projects to unite Europe. From the first ceremonial train of the European Coal and Steel Community to the new border signs that have replaced checkpoints along motorways, such technologies of connection have served as powerful symbols of European unification. But what role have they actually played in integrating - or fragmenting - Europe?

In interpreting infrastructures as mediating interfaces of European projects, this book aims to analyze the complex histories of network technologies in their material, institutional and symbolic aspects. Taking material networks as the focal point of study allows the authors to tell a truly transnational history, broadening fruitfully our perspectives on a number of historical narratives. It expands the time frame for exploring European integration by pointing to the longer processes of international connection and co-operation. These broadened spatial and temporal horizons allow to de-centre the processes of formal integration surrounding the EU after WWII to reveal a broader range of actors and forces in European history. Besides longer case-study chapters, the book also provides a series of short 'biographies' of things, people and ideas that make complex dynamics of infrastructures apparent.

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European Civil Aviation in an Era of Hegemonic Nationalism: Infrastructure, Air Mobility, and European Identity Formation, 1919-1933; E.Kranakis

Meetings

TRANS workshop

The EUROCORES “ shadow project” Transmitting and Receiving Europe will holds its last workshop 19-20 November “ Airy Curtains in the European Ether”. Hosted by Christian Henrich-Franke at the University of Siegen, and sponsored by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, the workshop will explore the complex ways in which broadcasting – both sending and receiving – generated and fragmented spaces in Cold War Europe. The workshop will form a key step in producing the edited volume *Airy Curtains in the European Ether: Broadcasting and the Cold War* under consideration with NOMOS Verlag, and edited by Christian Henrich-Franke, Andreas Fickers and Alexander Badenoch.

Reports

'History of Software, European Styles' (workshop report)

Lorentz Centre, Leiden, NL, 13-17
September 2010

As the Inventing Europe programme draws to a close, members of the Software for Europe project met at the Lorentz Centre in Leiden in mid-September for the final discussion of the edited volume that will encompass the most notable achievements of the project. The book, edited by Gerard Alberts, with the tentative title *Computing in many languages: European practices and identities in the early Cold War era*, covers aspects as diverse as postwar policies of European governments to appropriate the new computing technology, early attempts of international cooperation in computing, role of US corporations in promoting the circulation of knowledge in Europe, or the relevance of local practices of computer programming to understand the emergence of software as a separate entity.

The workshop brought together the contributors to the volume and their 'critics'. Senior historians of computing and technology Martin Campbell-Kelly, Eda Kranakis, Nathan Ensmenger, Helmut Trischler, and Hannu Salmi supplied valuable comments on the book content and design. Not only that, they presented their own recent research in keynote speeches on Victorian data processing (Campbell-Kelly), on the short-lived pan-European computing company Unidata (Kranakis), on the historical role of experts in promoting innovation cultures in Europe (Trischler), and on how human computer operators were replaced by operating systems (Ensmenger).

Besides, contributed papers were devoted to early research results by Jos Peeters on the first software houses in the Netherlands, Hennie Kok on software production at Philips, and Gauthier Vandenhove on Dutch computer scientist Edsger W. Dijkstra's contributions to computing science.

The youthful promise of future research conquered the room in a special session of contributed papers on counterculture and the reception of the PC in Europe. Histories of hardware cultures and home computing in Poland, Czech Republic, Greece, and, Yugoslavia, in the 1980s and beyond were presented in fascinating talks by Patryk Wasiak, Johan Söderberg, Theodoros Lekkas, and, most engaging of all, Bruno Jakic.

On Wednesday, the workshop opened to the public. In a special day at the Museum Boerhaave, the National Museum of the History of Science and Medicine, the participants convened to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first full implementation of the programming language ALGOL by the team led by Edsger W. Dijkstra and Jaap Zonneveld of the Mathematisch Centrum in Amsterdam (August 1960). The celebration featured talks by computing historian Mark Priestley and computer scientist Jan van Leeuwen on ALGOL contribution to the emergence of computer science as a scientific discipline. In the evening, the celebration opened to a broader audience, with the presence of Dutch Nobel prize winner in physics Martinus J.G. Veltman and a public interview with Dutch software pioneers Jaap Zonneveld, Frans Kruseman Aretz, and Dirk Dekker by journalist Herbert Blanckesteijn and Gerard Alberts.

Finally, the organizers of the workshop wish to publicly acknowledge the support of the following institutions: Lorentz Centre, Museum Boerhaave, University of Leiden, University of Amsterdam, the

Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), the Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (FOM), European Science Foundation, Foundation for the History of Technology (Stichting Historie der Techniek), the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), and the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science.

David Nofre Mateo, University of Amsterdam

Gerard Alberts, University of Amsterdam

Helena Durnová, Masaryk University, Brno