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NEWSFLASHES

Call for Initiatives: the future of *Tensions of Europe*

With the closing of the ESF Inventing Europe research programme in Sofia (Bulgaria) in June 2010, the future of the Tensions of Europe network appeared on the agenda. During meetings in Sofia as well as in Wassenaar (The Netherlands) in May 2011, we confirmed our commitment to build a new Tensions of Europe programme, and discussed various potential future initiatives. [Read more.](#)

Call for papers: Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), 2012 Annual Meeting, 4-7 October, Copenhagen, Denmark

The Society for the History of Technology will hold its annual meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark from 4-7 October at the Copenhagen Business School. The Program Committee invites paper and panel proposals on any topic in the history of technology, broadly defined. [Read more.](#)

Call for papers: Economic Entanglements in East-Central Europe and the COMECON's Position in the Global Economy (1949-1991)

On 14-16 November 2012, a conference on the theme of Economic Entanglements in East-Central Europe and the COMECON's Position in the Global Economy (1949-1991) will take place in Leipzig. Abstracts for papers can be submitted until 15 March 2012. [Read more.](#)

2012 ESST European Award for Aspiring Undergraduates in Science, Technology and Society (STS)

The European Masters Programme in Society, Science and Technology (ESST) is sponsoring an award of € 1,000 for the best undergraduate paper or essay related to Science, Technology and Society (STS). Undergraduates of all fields studying at any European university are eligible to apply. [Read more.](#)

AGENDA

European Social Science History Conference (April 2012)

The aim of the ESSH Conference (in Glasgow, from 11-14 April 2012) is bringing together scholars interested in explaining historical phenomena using the methods of the social sciences. Please note it is no longer possible to send in a paper or session proposal. You can still register as listener. [Read more.](#)

European Studies Conference 2012 (June 2012)

From 28-30 June, 2012 the Centre for European and International Studies Research organizes a three-day international conference at Portsmouth University. The event will bring together academics and practitioners from a broad range of disciplines including sociology, politics/IR, history, linguistics and gender studies. [Read more.](#)

ICOHTEC symposium Barcelona 2012 (July 2012)

The 39th ICOHTEC Symposium will be held in Catalonia from 10-14 July 2012. The main theme of the meeting will be Technology, the Arts and Industrial Culture. The aim is to examine technology in a multidisciplinary framework. [Read more.](#)

Workshop 'Knowledge in a box: how mundane things shape knowledge production' (July 2012)

Scholars in the history of science, technology, and medicine, science and technology studies, the humanities, visual and performing arts, museum and cultural studies and other related disciplines are invited to send in proposals for a workshop on the uses and meanings of mundane things such as boxes, packages, bottles, and vials in shaping knowledge production. [Read more.](#)

Fifth Tensions of Europe conference in conjunction with SHOT Annual Meeting (October 2012)

The fifth Tensions of Europe conference will take place on Wednesday and Thursday 3-4 October, 2012, prior to the Annual Meeting of SHOT in Copenhagen, Denmark (4-7 October). The Foundation for the History of Technology will organize the event, in collaboration with Lars Heide, this year's organizer of the Annual Meeting of SHOT. [Read more.](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Material Fantasies: Expectations of the Western Consumer World among the East Germans

This study of East German fantasies of material abundance across the border, both before and after the fall of communism, shows the intricate relation between ideology and fantasy in upholding social life. In 1989, news broadcasts all over the world were dominated for weeks by images of East Germans crossing the Berlin Wall to West Germany. [Read more.](#)

Statistical Atlas on European infrastructures

In the context of the Tensions of Europe / Inventing Europe program a statistical atlas has been produced by Hans Buitter (Eindhoven University of Technology) and Andreas Kunz (Institute of European History in Mainz). This atlas presents the development of the European rail and motorway networks between 1825 and 2000 as well as the development of the telegraph traffic between 1860 and 1930. [Read more.](#)

The Logistic Revolution by Richard Vahrenkamp

In *The Logistic Revolution* (Eul publisher Cologne 2012), Richard Vahrenkamp discusses the political and economic factors which have led to the rise of logistics in Europe in the context of the mass consumption society. Not only does he show the ascent of truck transport in the 1920s to satisfy consumer needs and the importance of the European motorway infrastructure for the development of modern logistics. [Read more.](#)

SCHOLARS

Work in progress: Karen Johnson Freeze Fellow 2011, Dora Vargha

In November 2011, I traveled to the United States to conduct additional research in the libraries of Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania; the former holds a large collection on Cold War Eastern Europe, while the latter holds international proceedings and WHO material. I also presented my latest completed chapter. [Read more.](#)

MUSEUMS

Science Museum London

Hidden Heroes – The Genius of Everyday Things

Could you be bothered to brew leaf tea five times a day or fish the beans out of your morning coffee? Hidden Heroes shines the spotlight on the overlooked inventions we couldn't live without. The inventions are presented alongside original sketches and drawings by their inventors, patent specifications and original adverts. The exhibition reveals the efforts made to establish each product, as well sharing quirky titbits of information such as Napoleon's role in the evolution of the tin can and the connection between a descending plane and bubble wrap. [Read more.](#)

Museum Boerhaave

Museum Boerhaave is the Dutch National Museum for the History of Science and Medicine. In 1931 it opened its doors. Since 1991 Museum Boerhaave is located in the former Caecilia Hospital, in the centre of Leiden. In terms of the history of science and medicine, the collections in Museum Boerhaave are among the most important in the world. [Read more.](#)

For more news and information please visit the Tensions of Europe [website](#).



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