

Newsletter

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Word from the editors

Dear colleagues and friends

We hope the new year finds you well. Though the holidays (even Groundhog Day) are now behind us, the snow seems to be hanging on.

As a network, we can look back on several important accomplishments in 2009: two summer schools, a large and growing list of quality work in our working papers series, beginning work on a book series, the coming to fruition of a number of works in the Inventing Europe projects, as well as the launch of our virtual exhibit, 'Europe, Interrupted'.

2010 promises to be a year of endings and beginnings as the Inventing Europe projects round up and we think about how to move this network that has generated so much already into a new phase, and new generation, of its existence. A meeting in Prague was held in January as a first step in this process, and we will look forward to continuing the discussion (among many others) in Sofia in June.

Here at the Foundation, ToE's nerve centre, there is also an important change. We are pleased to announce the arrival of Livia Smits, who will be taking the reins of the Foundation's communication efforts, includin... well, she is in charge of communication: she can introduce herself...



Thank you, Alec... Well... (clears her throat!)

Dear ToE members,

Pleased to meet you! Some of you I have met in person during the Prague meetings end of January, but most of you I only meet now, and for the time being our relationship will be mostly virtual.

About me: I am 29 years old, born and bred in the southern regions of the Netherlands, and I currently live in Maastricht. Four days a week I commute between Maastricht and Eindhoven to work as a communication and PR manager at the Foundation for the History of Technology. So far, I am very enthusiastic about my new job. My favourite leisure activities are spending time with friends, sports (Pilates and Poweryoga), visual arts, reading books, and going to the Scouts (I'm a leader of the girl scouts).

In 2008, I completed my research master Cultures of Arts, Science and Technology at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, of Maastricht University. During and after my studies I worked as a research assistant for prof.dr.ir. Marjolein van Asselt, who holds a chair in Risk Governance. This job mainly involved doing additional research and editing and co-authoring (popular) scientific articles, and a book which is about to be published. Due to my academic background in Science and Technology Studies, I have a profound affinity for sociological as well as historical studies of technology. I am truly amazed and

impressed by the hard work and wonderful research output of The Foundation and the ToE network. By providing accurate and accessible information about such research, I seek to pass on our shared passion for your research to a wider public.

One of my main responsibilities will be the ToE newsletter. In the near future you can expect to receive the newsletter in a new, probably very different, format. In fact, this is the last ToE-newsletter 'old-style'. I hope that you are willing to every now and then lend a hand in my ongoing hunt for ToE news. And for now: Enjoy reading this newsletter!

Kind regards,

Livia

Sofia conference

The organization of the Inventing Europe and Tensions of Europe 2010 Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria (June 17-20, 2010) is well under way. A preliminary program has been assembled by the Programme Committee (chaired by Andreas Fickers). All practical arrangements will be made by the Foundation for the History of Technology and a local committee (chaired by Ivan Tchalakov and Dobrinka Parusheva). In the very near future you will receive a special Sofia-edition of the ToE newsletter, containing all details about the conference program and practical information, e.g. the address of the conference website and our online registration procedure. We will keep you posted and look forward to seeing you all in Sofia!

For now, we hope to 'whet your ToE appetite' with some major highlights of the program:

- Announcement of the winner of the Karen J. Freeze Fellowship
- Key note speakers: Lewis Siegelbaum and Luciano Segreto
- A European Dance Festival!!

Foundation for the History of Technology publishes English synthesis of its Dutch history of technology project

Technology and the Making of the Netherlands: The Age of Contested Modernization, 1890-1970 offers both an account of twentieth-century technology in the Netherlands and a view of Dutch history through the lens of technology. It describes the trajectory of modernization through technology in certain characteristically Dutch contexts, including the omnipresence of water, the pervasiveness of urbanization coupled with a high-tech agricultural sector, and the legacy of colonialism. At the same time it makes clear that Dutch struggles over technology choices, infrastructure development, mass production, and the role of government are comparable to the

experience of any Western industrialized country.

The book synthesizes findings originally presented in a series of seven volumes published in the Netherlands and uses the idea of contested modernization as an overarching concept for understanding Dutch technological history. The modernizers of Dutch society—including engineers, management consultants, architects, and others—did not always agree on how to modernize. Moreover, the unruliness of specific practices often derailed or redirected implementation. Tensions between top-down and bottom-up modernization, and between scale-enlargement and more flexible arrangements of mutual coordination and cooperation shaped Dutch history. The chapters examine such topics as attempts to create an industrial nation, materially connected through infrastructure, the conflicts that came with the arrival of mass production and the emergence of a consumer society, and land-use planning in a low-lying country.

The book is edited by Johan Schot, Harry Lintsen, and Arie Rip and is a co-publication of MIT Press and Walburg Pers, the Netherlands.

ToE books

Any opportunity to bring the Tensions' books to your attention is a good one! The fruits of our collaborative labor, so far:

Land, Shops and Kitchens: Technology in the Food Chain in Twentieth-Century Europe.

Edited by Sarasua, Carmen, Peter Scholliers, Leen van Molle. CORN Publication Series. Brepols (Turnhout), 2005.

Networking Europe: Transnational Infrastructures and the Shaping of Europe, 1850-2000.

Edited by Erik van der Vleuten and Arne Kaijser. Sagamore Beach, MA: Science History Publications, 2006.

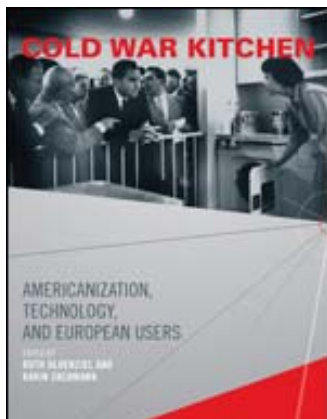
Urban Machinery: Inside Modern European Cities.

Edited by Mikael Hård and Thomas J. Misa. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008.

Cold War Kitchen: Americanization, Technology Transfer, and European Users.
Edited by Ruth Oldenziel and Karin Zachmann. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009.

We kindly request you to check if these publications are available in your university library. If we want to disseminate the output of our collaborative research efforts as widely as possible, a start is to make sure that they are (at least!) available on the shelves of our own university libraries. If the books are not yet in your library's catalogue, please recommend the book titles to the person or committee in your research department who is responsible for the collection management.

Cold War kitchen published
The joyful fact that *Cold War Kitchen: Americanization, Technology Transfer, and European Users*, edited by Ruth Oldenziel and Karin Zachmann, has been published certainly deserves mentioning here.



Richard Nixon and Nikita Khrushchev's famous "kitchen debate" in 1958 involved more than the virtues of American appliances. Both Nixon and Khrushchev recognized the political symbolism of the modern kitchen; the kind of technological innovation represented in this everyday context spoke to the political system that produced it. The kitchen connects the "big" politics of politicians and statesmen to the "small" politics of users and interest groups. *Cold War Kitchen* looks at the kitchen as material object and symbol, considering the politics and the practices of one of the most famous technological icons of the mid-twentieth century.

Defining the kitchen as a complex technological artifact as important as computers, cars, and nuclear missiles, the book examines the ways in which a range of social actors in Europe shaped the kitchen as both ideological construct and material practice. These actors—from manufacturers and modernist architects to housing reformers and feminists—constructed and domesticated the technological innovations of the postwar kitchen. The home became a "mediation junction" in which women users and others felt free to advise producers from the consumer's point of view. In essays illustrated by striking period photographs, the contributors to *Cold War Kitchen* consider such topics as Soviet consumers' ambivalent responses to the American dream kitchen argued over by Nixon and Khrushchev; the Frankfurter Küche, a European modernist kitchen of the interwar period (and its export to Turkey when its designer fled the Nazis); and the British state-subsidized kitchen design so innovative that it was mistaken for a luxury American product. The concluding essays challenge the received wisdom of past interpretations of the kitchen debate.

Contributors: Esra Akcan, Liesbeth Bervoets, Cristina Carbone, Greg Castillo, Irene Cieraad, Shane Hamilton, Martina Hessler, Matthew Hilton, Julian Holder, Ruth Oldenziel, Susan E. Reid Kirsi Saarikangas, and Karin Zachmann.

There are plans to release a paperback edition of the book. For *Urban Machinery* a paperback version will soon be on the market.

Other forthcoming books from the Tensions family include:

Materializing Europe: Transnational Infrastructures and the Project of Europe, Alexander Badenoch and Andreas Fickers, eds. Forthcoming Palgrave 2010. This book brings together research from the TIE project in Eindhoven (www.tie-project.nl) together with a number of researchers from the Tensions Network to explore the ways in which transnational infrastructures have mediated ideas and visions of European unification.

Entangled Geographies

The anthology *Entangled Geographies: Empire and Technopolitics in the Global Cold War*, edited by Gabrielle Hecht, is about to round up the current collection of ToE books. It is the latest product of Tensions of Europe Phase I. Contributing authors are Gabrielle Hecht, Itty Abraham, Ruth Oldenziel, Sonja Schmid, Donna Mehos, Suzanne Moon, Lars Denicke, Toby Jones, Clapperton Mavhunga, Peter Redfield, Martha Lampland. *Entangled Geographies* will be published in 2011 by MIT Press.

Making Europe book series

The coming years will witness the publication of a new history of Europe. The project, entitled *Making Europe: Technology and Transformations, 1850-2000* takes the form of an accessible book series aimed at a broad scholarly community, ranging from historians, to social scientists, and engineers, officials and policy makers, students, and those who are simply fascinated by European history. A virtual exhibit accompanies the book series and opens up the research results to an even wider audience.

Making Europe comes at an opportune time. The future of European integration is a prominent issue on the political agenda yet seems to be fully restricted to the European Union. But Europe goes far beyond that, which is why the time has come to place the history of its integration within a broader context.

Experiencing Europe

How did people build, explore, communicate and oppose 'Europe' over the past century and a half, and how did their actions contribute to Europe's future? To find the answers to these questions the authors of the book series have analysed the emergence of various economic, political and cultural European spaces while avoiding the traditional state or nation-centred modes of analysis. This approach allows them to place the history of European integration within a much deeper and broader history of various 'Europes' since 1850.

Technology as an agent of change

Technology – and the skills and knowledge that make it work – has operated as an agent of change in the creation of European spaces. Technological change is understood as a political, economic and social process involving people and institutions. Using this definition as a starting point, the book series examines how various groups have contested, projected, performed and reproduced 'Europe'. In particular, the authors will focus on network technologies, knowledge intensive technologies, consumer technologies and large scale technological European projects.

The book series is edited by Johan Schot and Philip Scranton and consists of six co-authored volumes:

Maria Paula Diogo, Dirk van Laak, and Matthias Middell *Europe in the Global World*

How Europe was imagined and experienced in colonial, developmental, and other global circulations and exchanges

Arne Kaijser, Erik van der Vleuten and Per Høgselius, *From Nature to Networks: the Infrastructural Transformation of Europe*
How Europe (and its landscape) was constituted by the construction and use of transnational communication, energy and transport infrastructures

Mikael Hård and Ruth Oldenziel, *European Technological Dramas: Histories of Consumption and Use*

How European transnational spaces emerged in the process of producing, distributing and using a range of consumer goods.

Andreas Fickers, and Pascal Griset, *Eventing Europe: Electronic Information and Communication Spaces in Europe*
How Europe was experienced in the production and use of (mass) media

Helmuth Trischler and Martin Kohlrusch, *Knowledge Societies, Expert Networks and Innovation Cultures in Europe*

How Europe became articulated through efforts to construct European standards, expert knowledge, networks – from city

planning to computer science – and large-scale projects and artefacts

Wolfram Kaiser, Johan Schot and Dagmara Jajeśniak-Quast, *Governing Europe: Technology, Experts and Networks*
How the emergence of multiple European transnational spaces since 1850 shaped the European integration process. This volume will focus explicitly on a reinterpretation of the European integration process.

The funding of the book series is well under way. In March, the authors of the book series will meet for a workshop in Wassenaar (see 'Meetings').

EUWOL

- December 2009 Euwol Leisure Group workshop to work on special issue Danish Journal of Modern History. Contact: a.a.delabruheze@utwente.nl
- Accepted and in production special issue Home Cultures of the Euwol Housing group contact: e.m.l.bervoets@uva.nl

EUROCRIT

Two new publications from the Inventing Europe EUROCRIT program ('Europe goes critical: The emergence and governance of European transnational critical infrastructures', www.eurocrit.eu) just became available:

Erik van der Vleuten and Vincent Legendijk, Transnational infrastructure vulnerability: The historical shaping of the 2006 European "Blackout". Energy Policy, Volume 38, Issue 4, Pages 2042-2052

Abstract: The "European Blackout" of 4 November 2006 is a key reference in current debates on transnational electricity infrastructure vulnerability and governance. Several commentators have observed that to understand what happened, one must look at history. Our paper answers this call and demonstrates how historical choices, path dependencies, and ways of dealing with these afterwards, have shaped Europe's electric power infrastructure and its vulnerability geography. We show that the decentralized organization of transnational electricity infrastructure and governance, often blamed for present-day power grid

fragility, was informed by reliability considerations that still count today. We also address the (meso)regional logic of the failure, foregrounding how stakeholders from different parts of Europe historically chose to collaborate in different ways, with due consequences for the 2006 disturbance and other recent blackouts. Finally, the paper observes that today's notion of transnational electricity infrastructure vulnerability, supposedly demonstrated by the 2006 blackout, is highly contested as many stakeholders find the system extremely reliable.

- Erik van der Vleuten and Vincent Legendijk, Interpreting transnational infrastructure vulnerability: European blackout and the historical dynamics of transnational electricity governance. Energy Policy, Volume 38, Issue 4, Pages 2053-2062

Abstract: Recent transnational blackouts exposed two radically opposed interpretations of Europe's electricity infrastructure, which inform recent and ongoing negotiations on transnational electricity governance.

To EU policy makers such blackouts revealed the fragility of Europe's power grids and the need of a more centralized form of governance, thus legitimizing recent EU interventions. Yet to power sector spokespersons, these events confirmed the reliability of transnational power grids and the traditional decentralized governance model: the disturbances were quickly contained and repaired. This paper inquires the historic legacies at work in these conflicting interpretations and associated transnational governance preferences. It traces the power sector's interpretation to its building of a secure transnational power grid from the 1950s through the era of neoliberalization. Next it places the EU interpretation and associated policy measures against the historical record of EU attempts at transnational infrastructure governance. Uncovering the historical roots and embedding of both interpretations, we conclude that their divergence is of a surprisingly recent date and relates to the current era of security thinking. Finally we recommend

transnational, interpretative, and historical analysis to the field of critical infrastructure studies.

Virtual Exhibit

As we announced in November, the virtual exhibit 'Europe, Interrupted' is now live on www.inventingeurope.eu. This prototype uses web 2.0 technologies to bring together the stories of Inventing Europe researchers with the online collections of five different science and technology museums. Please have a look and let us know what you think if you have not already. We are also looking to expand our coalition of participating museums. If you have contacts at a museum that might be interested, please put them in touch with Alec Badenoch: a.w.badenoch@tue.nl

Partners currently involved in building the prototype

Science Museum (London, United Kingdom)

Deutsches Museum (Munich, Germany)

Norsk Tekniskmuseum (Oslo, Norway)

Museum Vaipirikki (Tampere, Finland)

Technisches Museum (Vienna, Austria)

Imperial College (London, United Kingdom)

Kick-off Transnational Rhine Network

During a Transnational Rhine Conference in Wereld Museum, Rotterdam (November 12-14, 2009), the establishment of a new research network was announced. The ambition of the *Transnational Rhine Network* is to explore various aspects of the long-term development of the Rhine economy, by focusing on two of its main actors, i.e. (trans)national firms and governments. The central research question is how and why the Rhine economy developed into one of the most competitive economic regions in the world. Historians of technology and economic and business historians will join forces and analyze the long-term development of the Rhine economy from a geographical, macro-economical, institutional, business historical, as well as a technological perspective.

Key note speakers were Patricia Clavin (Jesus College Oxford) and our own Johan Schot (Eindhoven University).

The Programme Committee of the conference consisted of: Dr. ralf Banken and Prof.dr. Werner Plumpe (Goethe University Frankfurt am Main), and Prof.dr. Hein A.M. klemann and Dr. Ben Wubs (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Various

The German Society for the History of Natural Science, Medicine and Technology (DGGMNT), together with the German Society for the History of Technology (GTG) would like to invite papers and panels for their combined annual conference on the theme of:

Nutrition, Eating and Drinking in the History of Medicine, Science and Technology

September 24-26, 2010 in Maastricht

The organisers are seeking contributions that discuss the role of science and technology in the research, analysis, production, preservation, transport, distribution, consumption and disposal of foodstuffs. Besides exploring these more instrumental relationships between science, technology and food, we are further interested in how eating and drinking habits have changed in the course of the scientification, mechanization, and industrialization of our food cultures, and the medical, scientific and dietetic debates that have shaped and/or criticized these processes.

Proposals for individual papers or panels of 3- 4 people (2 papers, 1 commentator and 1 chair, or 3 papers and 1 chair) are welcome. Abstracts (max 1 page for individual papers, plus a short general description for panels) should be sent by 31 March, 2010 to: PD Dr. S.

Schleiermacher

E-mail: sabine.schleiermacher@charite.de.

For further information see:

www.dggmnt.de.

The Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM), Vienna, refers to the following call for application

2nd Young Scientists Forum (YSF) on Central and South East Europe on: »Cultural Changes in Central- and South East Europe after 1989«

Until February 22, 2010, young scientists dealing with Central and South East Europe in the fields of cultural studies, history, comparative literature, European ethnology, media studies, political sciences, geography and sociology can send their application to Ms. Gejsi Plaku via g.plaku@idm.at

For more information, contact Ms. Gejsi Plaku (Tel.: +43/1/319 72 58-24), or check http://www.idm.at/projekte/young_scientists_forum_ysf/

Meetings

Making Europe Workshop

From March 11-13, 2010 the authors of the *Making Europe* book series will come together at The Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS) in Wassenaar, The Netherlands, to discuss their work in progress.

Euwol Food Workshop

The food pillar of the EUROCORE-project "European ways of life in the American century" will hold a workshop at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway from March 12-14, 2010. The topic of this workshop is "Food, Technology and Trust – Exploring European Foodways in the American Century".

The industrialization of the food system inevitably led to an increasing distance between the field and the fork. This in turn threatened and changed the connections between food and identity because local communities and cuisines no longer worked for the identification of food in order to differentiate in what is edible and what is not. Beginning in the late 19th

century but especially since the post-World War I period, the identification of food gradually shifted from smaller, regional or ethnic communities to the state, big business, and science.

Science, food laws and technological standards for food processing and packaging as well as food marketing, new forms of retailing and new ways and places of food consumption took over the task of identifying foods and thus of establishing the trustworthiness in food. Even though foods are more regulated and monitored than ever – the consumers' trust in food safety did not increase but remained to be renegotiated again and again.

The paradoxical and ambiguous relation between food standardization, technological development and societal transformation is the main focus of our session. We are especially interested in learning how the transatlantic transfer of knowledge, technology and culture shaped the connection between food, technology and trust and thereby reshaped European foodways in the American Century.

The workshop organizers are Per Østby, professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Karin Zachmann, professor at the Munich University of Technology and Marc de Ferriere de Vayer, professor at Université Francois Rabelais, Tours. The outcome of the workshop will be published. For more information, please contact per.ostby@hf.ntnu.no

Sofia Conference June 17-20, 2010, Sofia University, Bulgaria

The European Science Foundation (ESF) and the Foundation for the History of Technology in the Netherlands jointly organize the final and closing conference of the ESF EUROCORES program *Inventing Europe* and the bi-annual conference of the *Tensions of Europe network* (ToE).

Inventing Europe and *ToE* strive, through collaborative research and coordinating efforts, to promote studies of the interplay between technical change

and European history. Instead of focusing on national histories, the emphasis of both initiatives is on *transnational* technological developments that have shaped and are shaping Europe.

The main theme of the conference is *Technology & East-West relations: Transfers, parallel histories, and the European laboratory*. A call was sent out for papers, which treat processes of circulation and appropriation of technologies between Eastern and Western Europe as an entry point into the contested practice of Europeanization. The organization of the conference is well under way. You will soon receive a link to the conference website, which contains all information about the conference program and the online registration procedure.

Reports

Prague meetings ToE

How lucky was I to complete my first working week at the Foundation for the History of Technology in a freezing cold and beautifully snow covered Prague?! Here I was warmly welcomed by a small delegation of ToE 'family members'. In my brand new function of communication and PR manager of the Foundation, I attended meetings of ToE's management committee and the program committee of the Sofia conference. The future of ToE was the topic of a vibrant brainstorm in the first group's meetings and working dinner. For your information: Johan Schot will soon circulate a statement about the issues discussed in Prague, plus an invitation to prepare a manifestToE about the future of the network, to be discussed in Sofia.



What struck me most during this meeting and the rest of the weekend was the agreeable atmosphere and the lively engagement and participation of the people present. During the second group's meetings the program of the upcoming conference in Sofia was discussed and established. Overwhelmed by the huge amounts of information and stimuli, I nevertheless very much enjoyed my stay in Prague. Thank you for welcoming me. I hope to see you all in Sofia!

Livia Smits



SHOT Annual Meeting 2009

From October 15-18, 2009 the SHOT Annual Meeting was held in Pittsburgh, USA. During a lunch session in King's Garden North, about 20 ToE members rewardingly discussed the state of art and explored several possible futures of the ToE network.

Summer School "Oral History and Technological Memory" Turku, Finland

From August, 10-15, 2009, the University of Turku hosted the summer school "Oral History and Technological Memory: Challenges in Studying European Pasts." Finland was a perfect destination for such activity, as the weather was nice; it stayed light until late, and people could taste delicious gigantic blueberries. Oral history is an increasingly popular activity in the history of technology, because it so often deals with the recent past. The summer school's main aim was to introduce theoretical, methodological and practical considerations of how oral history might

be included as a useful method in research in the field of history of technology.

The instructors' lineup included Thomas J. Misa (Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota), Hannu Salmi (University of Turku), Anna Green (University of Exeter), Isabelle Dussauge (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Thomas Haigh (University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee), and Per Lundin (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm).

In their lectures, the instructors addressed theoretical and methodological issues of oral history, integrating a pre-circulated reader into their talks. The presentation of instructors' former scientific experience next to the theoretical issues offered a good basis for discussion.

Hannu Salmi discussed cultural history and technological memory, and Anna Green posed the question: "Can Memory Be Collective?". Thomas Misa problematized the evolution of different approaches to oral history. He offered an insider's view of the Charles Babbage Institute and presented its rich collection of oral history interviews, preserved in the archive of the Institute.

Thomas Haigh talked about his research on computer engineers, showing how crucial it is for an oral historian to be competent in the subject of investigation, dedicated to the project, well organised, but also quick-witted when needed. Haigh gave excellent examples of how archival materials might be integrated into an oral historian's work, to find the relevant actors, to verify the information received during an interview, but also to stimulate the interviewee's memories.

Isabelle Dussauge and Per Lundin presented how a series of witness seminars might be used to document the use of computers in society between 1950 and 1980. The witness seminar is a type of group interview developed in the Centre for Contemporary British History (CCBH). It is not a very common, but really interesting method of collecting oral history data. Those seminars stimulate participants to remember things, and to

recreate social relations of the past, by promoting group integration and joint memory. In witness seminars, historians and the participants co-create history. Per Lundin defined it as both "event" and a "method". According to the presenters, the most important things for a successful witness seminar is planning: a well defined theme (artefact, debate, environment, event, project), finding the right 'witnesses', finding a moderator with knowledge on the theme, and so on. Dussauge and Lundin also presented the difficulties of organizing and leading a big project based on interviews and witnesses' seminars. They showed how the collaboration between the involved parties, historians, archival organisations, and the specialists in the field, was accompanied by constant negotiations about methods, theories, and the focus area.

In addition to an interesting array of papers and lectures, the organizers managed to stage an immensely enjoyable and flourishing event: a practical part of the summer school, named the Oral History Laboratory. The Oral History Laboratory was held outside the city of Turku at the pleasant Villa Rauhala at the island of Hirvensalo, just at the coast of the Baltic Sea. We were introduced to the field by preparing and conducting interviews, and by also being the interviewee in oral history research. Divided into four groups, each group was responsible for conducting a different type of oral history project, dedicated to a common theme: The Use of Audio Technologies. The four groups generated various types of oral history interviews: a group interview, an individual interview, a questionnaire, and a witness seminar. The trickiest part was that the informers were the participants from some of the other groups; each group interviewed but was also interviewed, getting the experience of being on the other side. After an intensive and very productive Oral History Laboratory, the participants enjoyed the traditional Finnish sauna and most brave of them refreshed in the water of the Baltic Sea.

As the previous summer schools organised by ToE and ESF, one of its most valuable achievements was the stimulated and

informal communication between the students and the teachers.

Elitsa Stoilova, University of Plovdiv

In addition, Elitsa conducted a brief 'oral history' among some of her fellow students, Anna Åberg and Ivaylo Hristov:

What was the most impressive moment at the summer school?

Anna: The afternoon trip to the "countryside". Sauna first and then swimming in the Baltic sea and watching the large boats pass.

Ivaylo: The most impressive moment at the summer school was the individual work for my particular working group at the oral history experiment.

Which were the most useful topics/lecture/discussions at that summer school?

Ivaylo: The most useful discussions were after the group experiments in which all of the participants shared their experience with the others. In this way we were able to talk about difficult moments weak and strong sizes of the conducted experiments.

Anna: The feedback on our own work on oral history, and the oral history workshop.

What have you learned about the methodology of oral history?

Anna: I have gotten several practical suggestions on how to handle the practical problems of conducting interviews and using the material. Most importantly, though, I learned different ways of incorporating oral material into my work.

Ivaylo: I have learned how to order my questionnaire for individual interview: what kinds of questions are appropriate for the beginning of the interview and which to leave as closing questions.

Which oral history experiment were you involved in? What did you learn from that experience?

Anna: I was involved in arranging a witness seminar. I learned that it is very difficult to find a fruitful topic and the right questions to pose at the seminar. I also learned that a witness seminar probably is not something I should use in my research. I was also interviewed, and that experience showed me how hard it is to talk about your memories in an honest way.

Ivaylo: I was involved in making individual interview with another participant. From this experience I have learned that well ordered questionnaire should include not only particular questions but also topics related to different parts of interviewer's interests.

Did you find the summer school a good forum for interaction and learning?

Anna: Yes. The teachers were very good, and there was a lot of time for interesting discussions.

Ivaylo: Yes, definitely. The summer school had pleasant atmosphere for learning and making a lot of useful contacts.

Summer School History of electronic images: a long term perspective

The first summer school on the electronic image, organised by professors Pascal Griset (Paris-Sorbonne University) and Andreas Fickers (Maastricht University) in the shade of the famous Radome of the Cité des Télécoms of Pleumeur-Bodou, brought fifteen doctoral candidates of thirteen different nationalities together from 14 to 18 September 2009. Organised in half-day sessions introduced by a lecture of internationally renowned researchers (Isabelle Veyrat-Masson, CNRS; Ib Bondebjerg, Université de Copenhague; Patrice Flichy, Université de Marne la Vallée; James Schwoch, Northwestern University), the twentysome expositions allowed to look anew at the history of television, telecommunication, and informatics from the 1950s to today and to mix various methodological approaches.



The event has also given occasion to useful encounters between young colleagues from different origins and horizons and allowed to forge the foundations for an international research network around the history of communications and its present-day challenges, symbolized perfectly by a visit to the Orange Labs where the closing session of the summer school has taken place.

Pascal Griset

P.S. from Livia: Frank Schipper is warmly thanked for being so generous to translate this piece from French into English *during his holidays in Gran Canaria*. Frank, I owe you! ☺