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## ToE NEWSLETTER JUNE 5, 2015

Dear Tensions of Europe participant,

The 7<sup>th</sup> Tensions of Europe Conference **Technology – Nature – Environment** is approaching. For a preliminary program see <http://www.kth.se/abe/inst/philhist/historia/tensions-of-europe>. We hope to see many of you there!

Also, we would like to congratulate Albert Presas Puig, Karl-Erik Michelsen, and the large consortium of no less than twenty-four partners (many of which from the *Tensions of Europe* network) with their Horizon 2020 project on the History of Nuclear Energy and Society (HoNESt). Note that the reviewers explicitly praised the track record of collaboration in *Tensions of Europe* and nuclear history networks. We would like to encourage ToE researchers to collaborate in such consortia, and exploit ToE – as an umbrella for international collaboration with a good track record – as a competitive advantage.

In this newsletter, you will find other announcements, news from the ToE management committee, CfP's and upcoming conference information, an invitation to apply for ToE's Karen Freeze fellowship, and conference and workshop reports.

Please send any items you wish to have included in the next newsletter to [ToE@tue.nl](mailto:ToE@tue.nl)

Sincerely Yours,

Frank Schipper  
Erik van der Vleuten

## NEWSFLASHES

### News from the Management Committee

The ToE management has met Stockholm in January (besides several meetings in cyberspace).

Elena Kochetkova, former Karen Freeze Prize winner, kindly accepted an invitation to join the Management Committee as representative for the emerging ToE early career scholar network. If you want to join that network, please contact her at [len.kochetkova@gmail.com](mailto:len.kochetkova@gmail.com).

The MC decided, amongst many other things, on a division of labour regarding communications (Andreas Fickers), funding (Hans Weinberger), research agenda (Erik vd Vleuten), Stockholm conference (Nina Wormbs), conferences/ summer school issues (Leonard Laborie, Dagmara Jajesniak-Quast), outreach & education (Telly Tympas), finances & administration issues (Jan Korsten, Foundation SHT), and support for early career scholars (Elena Kochetkova).

We are applying for network funding to facilitate new initiatives in Tensions of Europe. At the Stockholm conference, we will organize a plenary about ongoing developments and the future of the ToE network. There will also be sessions to explore future collaborations.

Erik van der Vleuten (Chair)

## VARIOUS CALLS

### **Call for Nominations: Karen Freeze Fellowship**

Deadline: 19 June 2015



The Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship Fund invites young and early career scholars in the field of history of technology in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe to apply for funding. The fund is an initiative of the Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT) and the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT).

The Fund seeks to encourage scientific research and facilitates active participation of early career scholars in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe, in particular in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, the Ukraine, and Turkey.

#### *Karen Johnson Freeze*

The fund was established in memory of Karen Johnson Freeze, who broadened the perspective of the history of technology through the inclusion of Eastern, Central, and South Eastern Europe. She was responsible for the early contacts with young scholars in the region and pointed out existing preconceptions and biases, while bridging the scholarly divisions created as a result of Cold War politics. Through her efforts, the history of technology has begun to develop as a field in Central and Eastern Europe. Within Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), she served as a very active chair of the International Outreach Committee.

### *Who should apply?*

The Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship Fund supports early career scholars preferably working in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe in their pursuit of either pre- or postdoctoral research in the field of history of technology. The award may be used for travel and/or small stipends to provide a basic income for a few months. Through the fund, early career scholars will be allowed to attend international conferences or visit distant archives.

### *What are the Conditions?*

A Karen Johnson Freeze Fellow will be granted an award of a maximum of €2,000.--. The expenses will be paid directly to the fellow after submission of a statement of expenses and the original receipts. In emergency cases, an advance payment may be available. Expenses are refunded in accordance with the [regulations](#) of the Foundation for the History of Technology.

Fellows are required to publish a report/article in the Tensions of Europe Newsletter and the SHOT Newsletter. Additionally, the Fellows will be offered the opportunity to publish their report in the Tensions of Europe Working Paper series.

### *Selection Committee*

Fellows are selected by a committee consisting of Prof. dr. Luda Klusakova (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic), Prof.dr. Ruth Oldenziel (Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands), Dr. Dobrinka Parusheva (University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria) and Prof.dr. Steve Usselman (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA).

For more information, please, contact dr. [Jan Korsten](#), Business Director of the Foundation for the History of Technology. [Read more.](#)

## **Call for participants: Summer School “Crises and Grand Challenges in European Past and Present”**

Deadline: **1 August 2015**

*\*\*\*If you are interested to participate or contribute, but are not yet sure whether you will be physically present in Stockholm, do drop Anna and/or Elena a line. Email addresses underneath. \*\*\**

The Summer School is an initiative of the group of early career scholars in the Tensions of Europe network established in 2014. It is planned as a part of the 7th Tensions of Europe Conference to be held in Stockholm in September, 2015.

The purpose of the Summer School is to bring PhD students and early career scholars together to discuss crises and challenges in European history from the perspective of technology. As Beck and Giddens showed, technology and science are shaping our lives, creating risks and unintended consequences for the environment, our health and wellbeing making explicit the role of technology in the rising global uncertainty. It sets a question if the innovative capacity of the modern/postmodern society can be a continuous carrier of future growth in Europe.

We invite contributions to consider different crises and critical points through the history of such phenomena as climate change and use of energy resources, transport and mobility, public health, migration, and demography, among others. One of key concepts to be discussed is sustainability and its possibilities and limits in overcoming crises in the historical perspective. The role of technology is crucial in solving all the crises and technology provides the ground for a continuous search for new sustainable solutions. Learning about technology and its role in overcoming the crises brings a valuable approach and helps analyze all the problems together. In this respect we assume that analyzing the historical roots and developments of crises as well as attempts to find solutions in the

historical perspective will bring more opportunities for the politics of sustainability and meeting future needs. We are suggesting each issue to be approached as a continuous phenomenon in order to show where the problem is rooted, who took measures to develop solutions to challenges, what expertise and resources were attracted in the process, etc. In short, the role of technology is crucial in solving all the crises and technology provides the ground for a continuous search for new sustainable solutions.

We expect cases that study primarily Europe, but not exclusively. Many crises show its connections with other parts of the world and enable us to examine global ramifications in, for example, transfers of resources or labor migration as well as to colonial and post-colonial histories. Which spaces have been in crisis under which circumstances and at which times? What has the role of technology been in these different crises, as well as the proposed solutions? How have the crises enforced existing social, economic and cultural structures, and/or created new ones? The School will consist of different forms of activities. We invite presentations of current research both in face-to-face form as well as virtually. The contribution might be in any form, not restricted by a traditional paper presentation. It might be research project presentation or draft article as well as other profound pieces you would like to discuss and receive a comment. In addition, we plan general sessions by guest speakers and place for discussion on future prospects of young scholars` group as well as possibilities of launching sub-projects within the group. Although crises and challenges will be the main topic of discussion, we also welcome contributions on other themes.

The summer school will take place in Stockholm directly before the Tensions of Europe conference 1-3 September. There will be possibilities to attend virtually as well as on site.

If you are interested in joining us, please send an email to us before 1 August 2015. The email should include  
a short biography, and

- 1) a short proposal of no more than two paragraphs outlining your contribution/presentation to the workshop and the way it connects to the general theme of the workshop.

Send your applications and questions to:

Anna Åberg: [anna.katarina.aberg@gmail.com](mailto:anna.katarina.aberg@gmail.com)

Elena Kochetkova: [lana-kochetkova2008@yandex.ru](mailto:lana-kochetkova2008@yandex.ru)

Further practical details will be forthcoming. We look forward to seeing you in September,

Anna Åberg  
Elena Kochetkova,  
Elitsa Stoilova  
Frank Schipper  
Luisa Sousa

## **16 – 21 August 2015 ICOHTEC's 42nd symposium in Tel Aviv**

Please find the preliminary program on the homepage: <http://icohtec-histelcon.tau.ac.il/index.php/icohtec/2015/schedConf/program>.

## **25 – 26 September 2015 Environmental History of Underground**

### **Spaces**

Deadline: **30 July 2015**.

Vasylivka-Zaporizhia, Ukraine

Vasylivskiy Historical-Architectural Museum-Reserve “Popov’s Country Seat”, Ya.Novytskyi Zaporizhia Scientific Society and Historical Department of Zaporizhia National University are pleased to announce a two-day conference in environmental history of underground spaces, which will take place in Vasylivka-Zaporizhia, Ukraine, on 25-26 September 2015.

Please find the call for papers on <http://eseh.org/cfp-underground-space-development-explorationsecondary-use/>

## **WORK DONE: REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS**

### **ToE early career scholars workshop Chios**

A group of early career scholars within the ToE network was formed as the result of a workshop held by the ToE in Chios, Greece in October, 2014. This group has since continued to work on a research proposal and a contribution to the research program of the ToE. The work has taken place to a large extent virtually, through meetings by Skype, Google Hangouts and Adobe Connect and this has helped to strengthen the research cooperation between young scholars in different countries. One of the meetings was based in Paris as well as online and formed social and work bonds by putting young and established researchers from Bulgaria, Portugal, Russia, and the Netherlands in contact virtually.

This meeting discussed personal research as well as paths of future cooperation, and it also shaped the aim of the group: to develop cooperation through examining cases of crises in a historical perspective and in dialogue with other research groups, in particular within the ToE. The group aims to build sustainable research networks that will keep up cooperation without traveling in between the bi-annual ToE meetings. The group, thus, intends to develop different activities to encourage active discussions using virtual communication technologies.

If you are an early career scholar (regardless of age), and interested in taking part in or even helping to organize future events that are arranged for this group, such as virtual or real –life workshops, summer schools, or just get information about job and funding opportunities, we would be happy to hear from you, so that we can include you on our mailing list.

### **Tensions of Europe work-in-progress mini-workshop (27-28 January 2015)**

On January 27-28, Anna Aberg (Centre d'études des mondes russe, caucasien et centre-européen CERCEC-EHESS, Paris) and Frank Schipper (Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands) organized a small experimental workshop for early career scholars in the Tensions of Europe network in Paris at the Fondation de Maison des Science de l'Homme and on-line. Altogether 13 participants joined, both on site and virtually through Google Hangouts. This meeting was an informal & experimental gathering, first of its kind, with the goal of providing meeting spaces for early career scholars in between the Tensions renowned conferences, which take place once every 2-3 years.

In organizing this event, we attempted to create an opportunity for scholars that feel connected to Tensions of Europe to have a sound board available to discuss a paper, test a research project proposal, discuss collaborative project such as joint conference sessions and receive feedback on it.

**ToE NEWSLETTER JUNE 5, 2015 - page 5**

Particularly for young scholars it provides an opportunity to discuss career paths and how to plan them in the Age of increased Flexible Labor Relations. The program was tailored directly towards those who expressed the willingness to participate. The participants could themselves choose what they wanted to present, in which format and, insofar as possible, at what time during the two days. As expected, we did experience a few technical problems, especially in the beginning of each session when everyone needed to get connected and all sound and images tried out, but the overall experience of the participants was that once everything was in place and the presentations and discussions started, the exchanges were fruitful, and that these kinds of events and spaces are a good way to entertain and develop connections within the network.

## **Conference *New Directions in the History of Infrastructure* (26-28 September 2014)**

On 26 – 28 September, 2014, the Danish Post & Tele Museum in Copenhagen hosted an international conference titled *New Directions in the History of Infrastructure*. It was organized as a joint venture between the museum and the Department of Culture and Global Studies at Aalborg University. The conference took its point of departure in the notion of a material turn within the humanities, and brought together 33 historians and cultural researchers from all across the globe: Europe, Asia and the USA. Fourteen research papers were presented by the participants, divided into four thematic sessions: Borders & Identities, Flows of Information, Meaning through Materiality and Politics & Power. The opening key-note lecture was delivered in tandem by Dr Léonard Laborie (CNRS, Paris) and Dr Alexander Badenoch (University of Utrecht): “The Tangled Web of Europe and Infrastructures: Shinning Futures and Dead Ends”. Professor Lars Thue (Norwegian Business School) gave the second keynote: “From History of Infrastructures to the History of Logistics.” The programme also included a special session where Dr Erik van der Vleuten (Eindhoven University) and Professor Arne Kaijser (KTH, Stockholm) gave a sneak preview of their coming book (with Per Högselius) *Europe’s Infrastructure Transition: Economy, War, Nature*. A number of the conference papers have been selected for publication in an edited volume, which will appear in print during the autumn or early winter of 2015. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

## **SPECIAL ISSUE**

**Thomas Zeller (ed.), special issue of the *Journal of Transport History* “Histories of Transport, Mobility and Environment” (Volume 35, Number 2, December 2014)**

In his editorial, Thomas Zeller (University of Maryland, US) sketches one of the general ideas behind this publication, namely that “whenever new modes of transportation entered the competition with existing ones and when their nascence depended on new transportation routes (canals, bicycle lanes, rails, roads, airports), critics pointed out that existing ensembles of technology and the environment were altered for the benefit of a new mobility regime. New landscapes emerged.” In seven papers, this special issue of the *Journal of Transport History* contributes to a common conversation between environmental history and the history of transport and mobility. [Read more](#).

## **BOOKS**

**Wolfram Kaiser & Johan Schot, *Writing the Rules for Europe: Experts, Cartels, International Organizations* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014)**

This is the third volume of ‘Making Europe: Technology and Transformations, 1850-2000’. The authors of the book, Wolfram Kaiser (??) and Johan Schot (SPRU, United Kingdom), pose the question how Europeans have navigated cross-border technology issues in the past one-and-a-half centuries. They portray the people and institutions involved in a continuous writing - and rewriting -

of technology's rules of engagement. Thus they analyze the processes of how the work of integrating Europe was well underway long before the EU took shape. [Read more.](#)

**Per Lundin & Thomas Kaiserfeld (eds.), *The Making of European Consumption: Facing the American Challenge* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)**

This edited volume published as part of the Palgrave Macmillan Transnational History Series, is an outcome of the EUWOL project (European 'Ways of Life' in the American Century: Mediating Consumption and Technology in the Twentieth Century). The editors, Per Lundin (Chalmers University, Sweden) and Thomas Kaiserfeld (Lund University), have put together a set of contributions that depict how American ideals and models feature prominently in the master narrative of post-war European consumer societies. Some claim that the American way of life ultimately gained hegemony in Europe. The authors of this book assert that a crucial dimension is missing from the claim of American hegemony - namely, the realities of European power, and the often-complex actions taken by Europeans. The themes of the chapters range from food and industrial to travel and tourism. [Read more.](#)