

## Tensions of Europe mini workshop

27-28 January 2015

Organizers: Anna Åberg (FMSH, CERCEC-EHESS, Paris) & Frank Schipper (Eindhoven University of Technology)

Location: 190 Avenue de France, 13<sup>th</sup> arr.

Metro Quai de la Gare or

Bibliothèque Nationale Mitterrand.

Further info @ <http://www.fmsch.fr/>

Participants: Tensions of Europe participants & beyond

### Technical information

- We will have in-the-room and virtual participants;
- All participants will use Google Hangout (only possible when you have a Gmail account!);
- An essential feature of these programs is that they offer the possibility to share screens for presentation;
- For effective participation, make sure you have a headphone with a microphone (this is necessary especially for on-site participants, otherwise there will be interference, and/or irritating echos);
- Each session will have a chair, to prevent the virtual and actual meeting room from sliding into a cacophony.

The Tensions of Europe network is a community of researchers trying to understand (primarily 20<sup>th</sup> century) European history, broadly defined, through the lens of technology. This meeting is an informal & experimental gathering, first of its kind, in between Tensions renowned conferences, which take place once every 2-3 years.

In organizing this event, we attempt 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. 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 has been tailored towards those who have expressed the willingness to participate.

### Tuesday 27 January

#### 11.15-11:30

Introduction by the organizers, Anna & Frank.

We will present the idea behind this mini-workshop/work-in-progress meeting.

#### 11.30 -12:30

Anna Åberg

#### Project presentation:

Nuclear fusion and the utopia of endless energy: The role of the Soviet Union/Russia in the ITER project.

**Commentator:** Vincent Legendijk

**12:30-13:00**

Elitsa **Stoilova**

**Research idea presentation**

Traditional and Modern Practices for Transfer of Indigenous Technological Knowledge

**On-site participants:** Frank, Maria, Anna

**Virtual participants:** Katerina; Vincent; Elitsa; TBA

**13:00-14:30 Lunch**

We will get lunch from the canteen in the building of the FMSH.

Cost: approx. 12 euros

**14:30-16:00 Panel on Communications**

Maria **Rikitianskaia**

**Project presentation:**

European Wireless, 1903 - 1927: A transnational perspective & methodological approaches to telecommunication history

ABSTRACT: Telecommunication as long distance communication couldn't be restricted to geographical or national borders, therefore transnational approach is absolutely relevant for the field of media & telecommunication history but reveals new methodological problems. More specifically, the definition of Europe in European history requires clarification. What we actually mean by European telecommunication - the communication in Europe, the communication with Europe? How can we limit European media history when the great impact on telecommunication development was caused by external actors (such as the USA)? How it is possible to define Europe and different states in Europe when the political borders were actually moving during the war and telecommunication was spreading?

I analyze several established traditions to answer these questions and their application to our research project in terms of telecommunication.

**Commentator:** Larissa Zakharova

Larissa **Zakharova:**

**Project presentation** & current research

« The Soviet Telegraph during the inter-wars period: networks, users and alternative modernity ».

**Abstract:**

This presentation will be devoted to telegraph as a tool of government and of personal communication in emergency situations in Soviet Union between WWI and WWII. I will analyse the changes in the networks configurations and the decisions made by Bolsheviks to rely upon foreign private enterprises during the formative stage of telegraph, as well as their stubborn reliance on telegraphic communication at the time of the rapid spread of telephonic networks in the West. To understand these choices, the attempts of Soviet economists and engineers to measure and improve the rationality of communication by comparing its various versions will be examined. The study of practices of telegraph communication will help to follow the social biography of telegraph in the USSR.

**Commentator:** Maria **Rikitianskai**

**On-site participants:** Anna, Frank, Larissa, Maria

**Virtual participants:** Elena; TBA

**16:00-16:30 coffee**

**16:30-17:30**

Elena **Kochetkova**

**Paper presentation**

"Soviet innovations and continuous pulp cooking, 1940s-1950s

**Commentator:** Anna Åberg

**On-site participants:** Anna, Frank, Maria, Larissa,

**Virtual participants:** TBA

**19:00 Dinner**

**Wednesday 28 January**

**9:00- 10:30 Panel on Mobility**

Arnaud **Passalacqua**

**Project discussion**

The *imaginaire* of decision makers in the field of railways.<sup>1</sup> Discussion on the research as well as on the practical problems and advantages of conducting research in an international project group.

### **Project Presentation**

French team P2M (Passé-Présent-Mobilité) working on history and public policies of mobility in France. Overview of the projects and actions in Paris in this field.

**On-site participants:** Anna, Frank, Maria, Arnaud, TBA

**Virtual participants:** TBA

### **10:30-11:00 coffee**

### **11:00-12:30 Panel on Mobility (continued)**

Frank **Schipper:**

#### **Paper presentation**

“Responsible recreation: Mastering mobility and leisure in the Netherlands in the 20th century”

Discussion on session proposals for Tensions of Europe, Stockholm & T2M, Naples, September 2015

**On-site participants:** Anna, Arnaud, Frank, Maria

**Virtual participants:** Alexia; Luísa

### **12:30-14:00 Lunch**

We will get lunch from the canteen in the building of the FMSH.

Cost: approx. 12 euros

### **14:00-15:30 Research agenda discussion:**

Léonard **Laborie**

Brief report on behalf of the Management Committee of Tensions of Europe

Katerina **Vlanton**

Short reflection on the outcomes of the Chios workshop and proposition for possible funding possibility from the COST networking programme.

General discussion:

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://imaginetrains.forumviesmobiles.org/>, which gives an impression of the project.

- How can we work better together at a distance?
- What are the next steps on our road to Stockholm?

**On-site participants:** Anna, Frank, Maria, Leonard

**Virtual participants:** Elena; Elitsa; Luísa; Katerina