

Word from the Editors

Long time no newsletter! It seems events have been coming so thick and fast that keeping up has not always been easy. Added to that, our longtime editor, Donna Mehos, has now stepped down. As the new editors of the Tensions of Europe newsletter, we would like to start by paying tribute to Donna for all of the fun and important work she has done in developing these newsletters, as well as her advice in compiling this one. Her voice will be missed in these pages, but we will look forward to her presence (and maybe a few saxophone licks) in the Tensions community for years to come.

Much has happened since our meeting in Rotterdam last June, which saw the official launch of the four funded ESF-Eurocores Inventing Europe projects, as well as a few creative initiatives in the fields of food and music.... The many good things that were begun in Rotterdam are now beginning to bear fruit, and the (non-)theme of this issue is a reflection of that. It seems that – as planned – the Tensions of Europe agenda, as well as the Inventing Europe project, are bearing fruit in a number of different ways. In this issue, we will bring you up to date on some of these many goings-on. You will find news about our new website, working papers series, annual summer school (along with a report from the previous one), as well as new books that have taken shape within the Tensions network. On the "Inventing Europe" front, we have news from the individual projects (including those that were not funded) which are now underway, as well as the new working paper and book series.

In addition, there is information about the 2008 meeting, which will take place in conjunction with the annual SHOT meeting in Lisbon in October 2008 (10 October – 14 October).

There is much to look forward to – including our next issue, which will come out in September and will speak more about the upcoming meeting(s) as well as more Inventing Europe activities.

As ever, we are interested in your news. If you have information you think would be of interest to the Tensions community, please let us know!

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Donna Mehos:
scholar, editor, rock & roll legend.

News

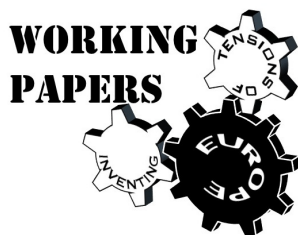
New website

The Tensions of Europe network recently launched its new website, www.tensionsofeurope.eu.

The new website offers a more thorough overview of the wide range of activities and interests within the network, including sections on Inventing Europe, (with links to the individual Inventing Europe projects) a calendar of events of interest to the network as a whole, as well as the new working papers series, about which see below. Many of the familiar features, including the who's who and news sections are still present, as well. And of course, if you navigate to the old address www.histech.nl/tensions, you will still get there. More information will be added as it comes in. Please check it out – and your feedback is always welcome.

An important part of the new website will be the:

Tensions of Europe & Inventing Europe Working Papers Series



The series has two related aims:

1. to provide an internet environment for the exchange of ideas and research findings among scholars in the Tensions of Europe Network and in the four projects "Inventing Europe" programme;
2. to provide an internet platform for intellectual debate between Tensions of Europe/Inventing Europe and the broader intellectual and policy-making community.

The editors of the working papers series accept contributions from scholars participating in the Tensions of Europe network and the Inventing Europe program and other scholars whose work addresses issues pertinent to Tensions of Europe/Inventing Europe.

The working papers website will be accessible by direct link from the home page of the Tensions of Europe website. The website will have four "spaces." Spaces 1 and 2 will be, respectively, an open, searchable database of titles and paper abstracts. Full texts will be placed either in space 3 (password-protected) or space 4 (unrestricted) according to agreement with the contributors.

Password-protected Space 3 will function as a protected niche to encourage scholarly communications within Tensions of Europe and Inventing Europe. Because this space is accessible only to researchers in Tensions of Europe/Inventing Europe, it can function as a nursery for novel and imaginative ideas and can provide a low-threshold opportunity to report on work-in-progress. This space could provide a useful opportunity to pre-publish articles ultimately destined for regular publication in scholarly journals. Space 4 will be an unrestricted space intended to foster scholarly communication between Tensions of Europe/Inventing Europe and the broader intellectual community. To the extent that they are submitted by scholars from within Tensions of Europe/Inventing Europe, they may also have a representative function for the projects as a whole. For this open space, the editors will strive to solicit papers that can fulfill this synthetic and representative task. This is also the space for external contributions and scholarly debate on the "making of Europe." To start with, we seek to introduce Inventing Europe

by publishing revised versions of the Eurocores proposals of the four funded IE projects, and two of the non-funded ones.

Information for authors:

Papers to be submitted as Word (.doc) documents for eventual publication as pdfs in electronic form. Deadlines will be negotiated with individual authors.

Papers should be submitted in acceptable English, i.e. such that language does not cause confusion. Editors will make only minor corrections for password-protected papers. Free-access papers (space 4) will be more rigorously edited and possibly subjected to review.

For further details, contact the editors:

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ToE Summer School 2008

***Europeanization, Globalization,
Americanization, Sovietization...
Conceptual Tools in Framing the
History of Technology in Europe***

**8-13 September 2008, Deutsches
Museum, Munich**

Professors Helmuth Trischler and Karin Zachmann will convene the ESF Eurocores Inventing Europe/Tensions of Europe Summer School at the Deutsches Museum in Munich. The theme is "Europeanization, Globalization, Americanization, Sovietization... Conceptual Tools in Framing the History of Technology in Europe" and will feature a wide range of topical and conceptual discussions

as well as skills development. The full call for papers is available for download at:

<http://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/pdf/MunichSSchool.pdf>

The deadline is June 13, 2008

Future ToE meetings

This year's Tensions of Europe meeting will take place in connection with the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) meeting in Lisbon 10-14 October 2008. There will be no separate Tensions paper sessions, but there will be two special events for the Tensions of Europe:

1. Reception on Saturday October 11
2. Meeting during breakfast/lunch as a special interest group. If you want to join, please email fhaan@shotlisbon2008.com

Check out SHOT's website <http://www.shotlisbon2008.com/> (and check back in on the ToE website as more becomes known) for more details. In addition to the reception, the Inventing Europe projects will be holding workshops in the days leading up to the panel (see also the attached CFP).



There will be more about the **2009** meeting in the coming newsletters, but now we are also pleased to announce that the location has now been announced: sunny **Sofia** will be the next venue, and if the good times we have had with our Bulgarian colleagues are any indication, there will be much to look forward to.

IE Book Series Workshop

European Science Foundation workshop at the European University Institute in Florence (Italy), 3-5 July 2008.

One part of the Inventing Europe programme is the development of a book series along the themes of the ESF Inventing Europe agenda. To this aim, selected participants will meet in Florence in July to discuss the possibilities. The program has ambitious aims in terms of its deliverables. Not only does it seek to nurture a number of large and genuine international research collaborations, it also aims at bringing together the results in a jointly produced coherent book series and a virtual exhibit for a general audience. To make this possible the program will pursue an intensive networking and dissemination strategy, collaborating with the Tensions of Europe Network, and other research networks, and with individual scholars in the social sciences and humanities who share its concerns. During the Florence workshop, participants will discuss the approach, nature and scope of book series; the structure of the book series/ and content of each book; Process of planning and development of the book series (partly be done in a smaller group). Stay tuned for more news.

Workshop Announcement/Call for Papers:

Airy Curtains in the European Ether: Broadcasting and communication technologies in East/West-relations during the short 20th century
10-11 October 2008, Lisbon

The European research team "Transmitting and Receiving Europe" (TRANS), is organizing a workshop focusing on the role of broadcasting and communication technologies in East/West-relations during the short 20th century. Broadcasting infrastructures played a crucial role in the material, institutional and symbolic integration and fragmentation of Europe as a communication space. We would like to invite papers dealing with one of the following topics, preferably in a comparative geographical and historical perspective:

- Spill over: regional interferences of nationalized broadcasting spaces
- Institutions and peoples as mediating gateways between East and West
- The technopolitics of transnational radio and television infrastructures (frequency allocations, transmission networks)
- Crossing borders: transnational radio and television programme exchanges
- Technologies of fragmentation: jamming and standards wars
- Media amateurs, civil disobedience or practices of resistance in the Cold War

In addition to the ToE focus on the history of technology, we would like to encourage proposals from other disciplines like international relations, political history or media studies, approaching the topic from alternative perspectives. It is envisaged to publish a selection of the most substantial and interesting papers in an edited volume.

Proposals should not exceed 500 words and should be accompanied by a short cv (max. 1 page). While we cannot cover all costs, we do have a limited amount of funding available to help with travel and accommodation for some participants. Please let us know when you submit your abstract if you will require additional assistance. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **June 15th 2008**. Please send them to Andreas Fickers: A.Fickers@lk.unimaas.nl

Successful workshop Technology and the making of Europe

The ancient Bulgarian town of Plovdiv hosted the inspiring and fruitful workshop *Technology and the Making of Europe, South East European Perspectives*. The workshop took place from February 28 until March 1 2008 in the framework of the EUROCORES program *Inventing Europe, Technology and the Making of Europe, 1850 tot the Present*. The workshop was organized by the Paissiy Hilendarski University of Plovdiv in collaboration with the Institute of Balkan Studies and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. ESF sponsored the meeting.

The organizers managed to bring together a group of 44 scientists from all over Europe and the USA. Besides researchers from Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, USA and Sweden, researchers of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Macedonia, Poland and Serbia actively participated. It was gratifying to see that quite a number of young scholars from Central- and Southeastern Europe took part. Overall the presence and active participation of researchers from Southeastern and Central Europe marked the appearance of history of technology as a new research field in the social sciences and humanities in these parts of Europe. For the future development of the field the embedding of research and

researchers in both EUROCORES *Inventing Europe* and the broader *Tensions of Europe* network is crucial. In order to further extend the collaboration with Central- and Southeastern Europe it was decided that the 2009 joint *Inventing Europe / Tensions of Europe* meeting will take place in Sofia (Bulgaria).

The *Inventing Europe* research agenda proved to be a fruitful background that facilitated the discussions and structured the collaboration. The Plovdiv workshop started with a provocative public lecture of the American scientist Paul Josephson about the totalitarian style of governing large technological projects in the former Eastern Bloc countries. He compared his findings with developments in Western Europe that took place simultaneously.

The South East and Eastern European perspective was a characteristic feature in the content of the entire workshop. Ongoing regional research in projects related to two *Inventing Europe* themes, consumption and infrastructures, was discussed. Young scholars from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Greece got the opportunity to present their research designs and research results. The last part of the workshop was used to explore the opportunities of transnational historical research and the way this kind of research can be developed in the region. In order to be able to draw conclusions about the role of technology in the making of Europe – the aim of *Inventing Europe* – this kind of research is crucial.

Jan Korsten, Dobrinka Parusheva,
Johan Schot and Ivan Tchalakov



Recent activities in brief

The **EUROCRIT** programme recently held its workshop 'Transnational infrastructures: Coping with scarcity and vulnerability' in Stockholm, 21-24 May 2008. Further information can be found on their website www.eurocrit.eu.

The **EUWOL** project held a workshop in Tours earlier in the year, and is now committed to an anthology that will be edited by Thomas Kaiserfeld, Milena Veenis, and Per Lundin and a synthetic book by Ruth Oldenziel and Mikael Hård

Hot off the press (and still warming...)

First off, two new edited volumes from MIT that have grown out of Tensions of Europe networks:

Mikael Hård and Tom Misa (eds), *Urban Machinery: Inside Modern European Cities* (MIT Press, 2008)

The book announced in the last newsletter has now appeared! The book takes as its point of departure the apparent similarity of European cities, to explore the dynamics between homogenization, in the form of technological and cultural circulation, and sources and agents of critical distinction that have sought to retain their historically specific character since the mid-19th century. The book's 12 historical essays trace technologies from automobiles and waterways through to steelworks and atomic research plants, as well as social and cultural forces from modernist planning to tourism that have operated through European cities. Taking a view of Europe that stretches from 'Portugal to Poland' (and beyond in all directions), the book provides novel insights into the places and technologies that are becoming increasingly similar, and yet compelling different.

Ruth Oldenziel and Karin Zachmann (eds) *The Cold War Kitchen. Americanization, Technology, and Users* (MIT press, forthcoming 2008)

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 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.

Also stemming directly from the Tensions of Europe is the new **Foundation for the History of Technology & Aksant Academic Publishers *Technology and European History Series*** which has begun with Ruth Oldenziel and Johan Schot as series editors.

The Technology and European History series seeks to present scholarship about the role of technology in European history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The series focuses on how technical communities, nation-states, businesses, social groups, and other actors have contested, projected, performed, and reproduced multiple representations of Europe while constructing and using a range of

technologies. The series understands Europe both as an intellectual construct and material practice in relation to spaces inside as well as outside Europe. In particular, the series invites studies focusing on Europe's (former) colonies and on the two new superpowers of the twentieth century: the United States of America and the Soviet Union. Interdisciplinary work is welcomed. The series will offer a platform for scholarly works associated with the Tensions of Europe Network to find their way to a broader audience.

The first in the series is **Judith Schueler, *Materialising identity: The co-construction of the Gotthard Railway and Swiss national identity*** (available from June 24, 2008)

In Swiss society today, references to the Gotthard myth are multifaceted and omnipresent. They evoke images of a technological railway project, Swiss history, alpine nature and national identity. Whereas the relationship between the Gotthard Mountains and the Swiss national identity has received ample scholarly attention, the role of the Gotthard Railway in this myth remains largely unexplored. This historical overview offers insight into the multiple roles that technology plays in the construction of a sense of national identity as well as illustrating how identity has an effect on the appropriation of a technological railway project, between the 1870s and the 1940s.

Further volumes, including dissertations from the Transnational Infrastructures in Europe (TIE) project in Eindhoven are planned for the autumn and beyond.

Summer school report

In and Out of Place

A journey through the 2007 Interdisciplinary Summer School 'Technologies and Their Environments'

The PhD summer school 'Technologies and their Environments: The Circulation of Materials, People and Knowledge in the 20th Century Europe' brought together students from all around the world, spread around no less than sixteen disciplines ranging from Philosophy and Literature all the way to Economics and Civil Engineering. Traveling in early July to the beautiful vineyard landscape of Saint Jakobsberg monastery where the event took place, I feared I would feel out of place at the one-week summer course. My background in media studies seemed at first to have little in common with the research of my future summer school fellow colleagues introduced in the pre-circulated reader, and even less in common with the reading materials provided in preparation of the course. Little did I know back then, that 'out of place' was just the right place for me to be upon my embarking on the 'Technologies and their Environments' summer school.

At a summer school dealing primarily with technology and more specifically with spatial dimensions of technology, interdisciplinary was a good way to go about all that. Throughout the lectures given by the teachers - Sabine Barles (France), Cornelis Disco (Netherlands), Mikael Hård (Germany), Wilhem Urban (Germany), Dieter Schott (Germany), and Heike Weber (Germany) - lectures that touched on fields such as history, sociology or engineering, it became clear that the materiality of technology is strongly interrelated with cultural, social or economic environments and that contextualization is in fact the key. Under these circumstances,

technology revealed itself as a multi-layered *dispositif* calling out for a variety of approaches to detangle it. Indeed, many approaches to technology were demonstrated throughout the students' presentations and the teachers' lectures at the summer school. The topic of technology was integrated in discourses pertaining to history, sociology, civil planning, anthropology and geography, information technology, architecture, philosophy or environmental studies. The common thread throughout the presentations was maybe related to *space* and the ways technologies mediate the construction of different spaces. *Space* was discussed in terms of the material versus the abstract, the real versus the virtual, the local versus the global, the natural versus the social, the urban versus the private, the public versus the personal, the visible versus the invisible, the national versus the transnational. Although my own research deals also with the construction of space through the mediation of television, I was challenged to get out of the theoretical frameworks of my own research and face rather unknown territories that spoke of hygiene, public health, trash, water and material flows as mediators of complex, often hybrid and ambivalent spatial constructions. At times like that I still felt out of place, however a concept like *space* that I thought was a common denominator with my own research gave me the hope that I would fall right back into place by the end of the 'Technologies and their Environments' summer course.

Few other concepts echoed behind the lectures, presentations and student discussions held at the summer school. *Circulation* and *metabolism* were among them. Again, these were concepts that were initially introduced within discourses related rather to civil engineering, urban planning or social history and little did I feel I had in common with them. Here, it was the

group discussions following every lecture that helped immensely. Split up into small groups, we had the possibility to digest on our own the concepts and ideas circulated through the lectures. The student groups were diverse, comprising of about five students, each coming from different disciplines. The constituency of the groups stayed the same throughout the week; it was only the teacher that changed with every group discussion. At times like that, we had the freedom to question, challenge, struggle with or translate concepts and discourses presented at the lectures into our own research frameworks. Something that was in many cases hard to do, but I personally tried nevertheless to relate the contents of the lectures and discussions to my own research. Although there were concepts not directly translatable to our own disciplines, it was interesting to see that each one of us could reflect on the lecture from the theoretical perspectives of his/her own discipline. That helped me to identify better some of the media historical discourses that I use in my own research in relation to television technology, but it also showed me the importance of taking distance from such discourses and looking for inspiration in other disciplines. I found the group discussions greatly inspiring indeed, because it was at such occasions that we tried to process to our own use the information gathered throughout the lectures. In most cases the teachers acted out as simple participants, rather than leaders of these discussions and that was stimulating to us. It was thus, at the group discussions that I started slowly by slowly to feel I was falling back into place at the 'Technologies and Their Environments' summer school.

The social networking played a big part in my starting to feel in the right place on the interdisciplinary territory of the summer school. Students and teachers bonded with each other at the St. Jakobsberg Monastery that

offered no other social outlet except for the bonding with the fellow summer school participants. We learned about each other's research projects in an informal way, about each other's struggles with the research or writing process of a PhD thesis and we learned about each other's interests. By the end of the summer school, a couple of students had the idea to create a networking board – a board where we could address suggestions, ideas or questions related to the research projects of our fellow summer school colleagues. This initiative went slightly further by the end of the course, when a networking site was created by and for the 2007 'Technologies and Their Environments' summer school participants, aimed at maintaining contact with the other ones' research activities and potentially finding grounds for collaboration with one another in the future. The activities that Mikael Hård mysteriously announced from the beginning as 'group dynamics' also helped with the informal bonding of the participants and with adding a touch of amusement to the otherwise intense pace of the summer school course. A mock debate and what I would call a 'manual labor' competition were organized at the end of the day – quite in line with the topics of the moment, I might add - and we all had our share of good times. A visit to St. Goar's Rheinfels Castle and a boat trip on the Rhine constituted relaxed opportunities of getting to know each other outside the academic environment of the summer school. By the end of the course, I felt we did lay down the foundations of a 2007 'Technologies and Their Environments' community. Hopefully, the channels of future collaboration and of keeping up with each others' research endeavors will be kept open in the future as well.

The summer school gave me the occasion of a genuine journey. I started out feeling an outcast within the interdisciplinary of the course, I

often struggled to come to terms with my fellow colleagues' presentations that introduced me to brand new discourses and approaches, I questioned many times the relation between the knowledge I was assimilating and my own research, I felt at times out of place and estranged from the frameworks of my own research, but I have learnt on the way that that was what it took for me to truly find my way and my own place within the newly found community. I have traveled together with concepts from one discipline to another, and I have learnt that concepts such as *circulation* have different connotations in environmental studies or urban planning, than they do in history of technology; that a metaphor such as 'metabolism' cannot be found in media technology discourses, but that I could think up of a term such as 'appropriation' that I was more familiar with and that could also hint towards a potential 'colonization of everyday practices by technology', of course in a different way than the concept of *social metabolism* would refer to the 'colonization of nature by the city'. I have struggled to 'bridge borders' – a term that Mikael Hård used in his own lecture at the summer school – and even though I felt some borders were not directly to be bridged, it was those borders that cast new perspectives and new challenges to the use of discourses in my own research. I have also learnt that concepts travel through time, through history and in doing that, they alter their meanings. I thought back of my own research and of the 'longue-duree' approach that I use, and it occurred to me that I ought to pay great attention in my PhD project to the way certain concepts have altered historically. And of course, the summer school confirmed and strengthened my belief that technologies remain crucially embedded in their environments and that they mediate complex spatial constructions that cross disciplinary borders and call for diverse perspectives of analysis.

I may say at the end that my participating at the summer school was an intense, demanding one-week journey, but that eventually I managed to find my place again and this time, it was a place enriched by other disciplinary approaches to technology and at the same time, strengthened by a (re)defined outlook on my own research. It now feels rewarding that what started out as an 'out of place' feeling for me, turned out to benefit me greatly.

Dana Mustata,
Utrecht University

Tensions of Europe Summer School, August 27th-September 1st, Chios, Greece, and Izmir, Turkey
Conveners **Aristotle Tympas** (Greece) and **Yaprak Gulcan** (Turkey)

The ToE summer school on Cold War Technologies in Europe was by all accounts a great success. Here are a few photos of the formal and less formal parts of the proceedings. More photos and information can be found at

<http://www.hpst.phs.uoa.gr/SummerSchool/SS2007.html>



TRANS Archival Workshop, Geneva, 11-13 February 2008

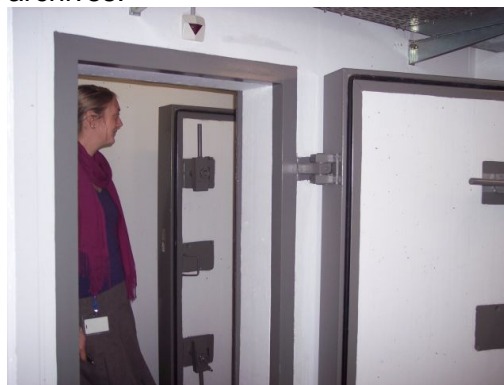
11 February. I wake up in my hotel room near the wonderful lake of Geneva. I am in Switzerland, the sun is shining. 'A bright start of the TRANS project' I think when I get up to get ready. As the fifth Inventing Europe proposal behind the four that were funded, the participants of the *Transmitting and Receiving Europe* project have decided to join forces anyway. The enthusiasm of the group, which consists of Andreas Fickers (PL, Maastricht University), Karin Bijsterveld (Maastricht University), Nina Worms (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Christian Henrich-Franke (University of Siegen), Fritz Hausjell (University of Vienna), Alexander Badenoch (Eindhoven University of Technology), Andy O'Dwyer (BBC, Audiovisual Archives) and myself, combined with the actual funding of many of the individual proposals by their national science organizations forms the basis for fruitful cooperation. Furthermore, ESF has kindly rewarded TRANS by providing funds for networking. The TRANS Archival Workshop is warmly hosted by the European Broadcasting Union, the transnational organization representing all public broadcasting organizations in Europe



and beyond since its predecessor, the International Broadcasting Union, was established in 1925. A suitable site to launch research that studies broadcasting in Europe.

In the Mont Blanc room at the EBU the TRANSists get together. After a first word of welcome by Eric Piroux who is

in charge of the EBU archives, the workshop kicks off with an initial session where the state-of-the-art of the various projects is discussed. I am happy to see TRANS continue. Before lunch Alec Badenoch and I give a short tour through the archives, since we are both familiar with them. The archives, which are situated in the EBU basement and air raid shelters are a true attraction for historians. The private archive (about 500 meters) contains all sorts of documents from the International Broadcasting Union (1925-1950), the Eastern European *Organisation Internationale de Radio et Télévision* (1946-1993), and the European Broadcasting Union (1950-present) including the Eurovision archives.



After a lovely lunch at the EBU restaurant, Eric Piroux gives his presentation "Where we are" on the state-of-the-art of the EBU archives, the future of which remains uncertain today. Eric Piroux has encouraged the workshop participants to submit an official proposal to EBU for making concrete recommendations about the future of the archives. EBU is still considering the various proposals, of which the TRANS proposal is one, and we hope to further inform you of the outcome in a later newsletter. After a short break to discuss informally the exciting direction of the workshop, Andy O'Dwyer gives a stimulating presentation about an EU-funded project 'Video Active – Creating access to Europe's televisual heritage' which will lead to the online accessibility of television programs from many countries. More information

on the Video Active project can be found on www.videoactive.eu. We end the first day with a fantastic cheese fondue at Restaurant Les Armures, a true must for everyone who visits Geneva.

fondue at Restaurant Les Armures, a true must for everyone who visits Geneva.



The second and third day consist almost entirely of archival research, accompanied by a tour for those interested through the Eurovision News Exchange Headquarters, and discussions about future TRANS activities. All participants enjoy themselves very well. The archives are a true treasure chamber!



The next TRANS Workshop will be held in Lisbon, 9-10 October 2008. The Workshop 'Airy Curtains in the European Ether: Broadcasting and Communication Technologies in East/West relations during the short 20th Century' will work towards an edited volume planned for the end of 2009.

It is Wednesday evening, the workshop is over and the sun sets over Lake Geneva. I am looking back at some very stimulating days, and I am looking forward to Lisbon. TRANS is on its way.

Suzanne Lommers,
Technical University of Eindhoven