

# Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,  
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

## ToE Newsletter December 2020

### EDITO

#### Horizon 2021

In recent years the European Union's framework programme for research funding has made 2020 the horizon. And in countries such as France, where students are rated out of 20, this 20/20 horizon had an air of perfection. Broken promises. Many of us look forward to 2021. As in every crisis, our relationship with time changes. It may even be this change in our collective relationship with time that can ultimately define the crisis. In any case, the "horizon d'attente" has become shorter. May your hopes, our hopes be fulfilled in the new year to come.

Prudence has caused us to postpone our next ToE 10 biannual conference from 6 to 8 July 2022. In the meantime, please note that we will be able to meet online, for a unique series of digital workshops during the last week of June. More information on this opportunity and on the network's news below. See you in 2021!

Léonard Laborie (CNRS, UMR Sirice, Paris), chair of Tensions of Europe's management committee (2019-2021)

*Please contact us if you want to share information in the next edition of the Newsletter, at [tensionsofeurope\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:tensionsofeurope[at]gmail.com).*

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### Call for proposals: Tensions of Europe digital workshop Festival

#### From the 28th of June to the 2nd of July 2021: Join A Unique Series of Online Event

*Contact:* [Foundation for the History of Technology](#) (SHT)

*Organizers:* Tensions of Europe network (you, if you like!)

*Deadline:* 31st of January for open session proposals; 28th of February for fully-fledged events

*Date:* 28 June - 2 July 2021

*Place:* Online (platform: to be decided)

#### ***Tensions of Europe Digital Workshop Festival, 28 June-2 July 2021***

Dear all,

The ToE network is planning a digital workshop Festival (28 June-2 July 2021), filling the gap caused by postponing the 10th biennial ToE conference to 6-8 July 2022. The organization will be bottom-up; if you would like to plan, or are already planning, relevant international ToE-related events around that time, please consider connecting them to this initiative!

Please note that you are free to decide the date and slot, theme within Tensions' scope, format, participants, preferred platform in case you have one. For the sake of coherence, connections between and promotion of all initiatives, the management committee will act as programmer of this decentralized festival. We will supply a web environment and promotion of these bottom-up initiatives which will make up the 2021 Tensions of Europe digital workshop Festival.

**Please submit your proposal [online](#)** (one to two pages document listing the date and slot, theme-rationale, format, participants, preferred platform in case you have one):

- before the 31st of January 2021 for open events (when you don't have a complete list of speakers)

- before the 28th of February 2021 for fully-fledged events (with a complete list of speakers)

*Colleagues whom are not members of the network are kindly asked to register to its website ([www.tensionsofeurope.eu](http://www.tensionsofeurope.eu)) before submitting their proposal.*

[Read more](#)

## News from the ToE Network

### The Energy Challenge in Historical Perspective Group

The Energy Group within Tensions of Europe has enlarged its steering group. Odinn Melsted (Maastricht University) has joined Ute Hasenöhr (University of Innsbruck) and Jan-Henrik Meyer (MPI for European Legal History, Frankfurt).

Energy history remains a booming topic in Europe, with projects and publications related in many ways to the pre-history of current energy transitions:

At the Rachel Carson Center Stephen Milder has started the DFG-funded research project "[Making Green Germany: The Emergence of Climate Politics amidst German Reunification and the Post-Cold War Transformation of Europe](#)".

At Maastricht University, the NWO Vici Grant Project "[Managing Scarcity and Sustainability: The Oil Industry, Environmentalism, and Alternative Energy in the Age of Scarcity](#)" led by Cyrus Mody seeks to explore the history of oil industry involvement in the resource scarcity debate and development of alternative energy during 1968-1986. Within the project, Cyrus Mody (PI) will focus on biotechnology and computing, Odinn Melsted (postdoc) on forecasting techniques and oil actors' participation in debates about resource scarcity and environmentalism, Michiel Bron (PhD) on the oil industry's involvement with nuclear energy and Jelena Stankovic (PhD) on solar energy.

Oral history features centrally in the nuclear history research project led by Astrid M. Kirchhof (Humboldt University Berlin) on "[Eye witnesses and multi-media memory of the Wismut - thirty years after](#)", intended to preserve more than just the physical heritage of East German uranium mining under Soviet rule. In the 1970s, the West German state tried to win the hearts and minds of its citizens. Jan-Henrik Meyer co-leads a new research project on [citizens' dialogue on nuclear energy](#) studying this past experience of public engagement.

As for recent publications: Karena Kalmbach's (Eindhoven University of Technology) history of the "[Meanings of a Disaster. Chernobyl and its Afterlives in Britain and France](#)" has just come out with Berghahn. New publications on nuclear history in Austria and Germany are discussed in Jan-Henrik Meyer's new [review essay](#) in NTM.

[Read more](#)

### Governing Technology in an Age of Global Challenges Group

H2020 project InsSciDE (Inventing a shared science diplomacy for Europe) enters its last phase in 2021. Three papers on Environmental and Security Diplomacy are already accessible through its [library portal](#).

Other recent InsSciDE contributions include:

[Ocean SD for a greener Blue Economy](#) - InsSciDE provided feedback to the DG for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries on their roadmap for increasing sustainability on the oceans. The statement outlines how ocean science diplomacy can support an internationally coordinated approach to fulfilling EU ambitions of a sustainable, profitable and equitable Blue Economy.

[Nanoscientists in Diplomacy: Power of Many Individual Acts](#) - An in-depth report on a SD training workshop held during the NanoSAFE'20 Conference provides insights into the lessons shared from nanoscientists at the nexus of science and international policy making. It was organized by Claire Mays and included speakers from InsSciDE, S4D4C and the EU NanoSafety Cluster.

[Day against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property](#) - InsSciDE provided an overview of the role of SD, the EU and UNESCO in cultural heritage preservation as part of first International Day against Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property.

[Read more](#)

### ToE Early Career Scholars network

The ToE Early career scholars core group has went through some exciting changes this year. A new generation of early career scholars has taken over from the original organizers and we want to thank our predecessors for the work they have put into keeping this group alive. The new group consists of seven early-career scholars with varied backgrounds. We are planning some activity starting with a monthly reading and writing group in the spring semester 2021 and we will get back with more information on the reading group and additional events next year.

New ToE Early career scholars core group members:

Michal Ďurčo, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of History, Bratislava, Slovakia

Saara Matala, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden

Jakub Mazanec, Faculty of Arts, Charles University Prague, Prague, Czech Republic

Tirza Meyer, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway

Anna Petrova, Higher School of Economics University, S:t Petersburg, Russia

Hugo Pereira, Interuniversity Centre for the History of Science and Technology, Lisboa, Portugal

Ginevra Sanvitale, Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, Netherlands

Hanna Vikström, Luleå Technological University, Luleå, Sweden

[Read more](#)

**Please update your individual page on the ToE website**

The information we share on the website is valuable if it is updated, for example, with the latest relevant publications. You can update your personal profile by logging in the ToE website. This [page](#) might serve as a model.

[Read more](#)

## Other News

### 2021 St Andrews Article Prize in European Environmental History

The European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) welcomes submissions for the [2021 St Andrews Article Prize in European Environmental History](#). The prize rewards innovative and well-written article-length research in the field of European environmental history. Articles (or book chapters that are to be read as a stand-alone work) published in 2019 or 2020 on any subject in European environmental history, including Europe's (post)colonial impact on the global environment, and in any European language, are eligible. We welcome applications from senior and junior scholars from all over the world, though some preference may be given to junior scholars.

The winner will receive a monetary award of EUR 500 as well as a travel grant (if needed) to attend the 11th ESEH Conference from 5-9 July 2021 in Bristol, United Kingdom. In case you need financial travel assistance to come to Bristol, please inform us in your submission.

Additionally, environmental historian and cartoonist Tomasz Samojlik has offered to sketch a 'scientific cartoon', a witty graphic summary of the winning article, given the authors' consent.

In line with the diversity of interdisciplinary environmental history, we accept both single- and multi-authored manuscripts. In case of the latter, submitters must notify all co-authors of the submission. Nominations are limited to one article per main author. However, you can appear as a second or third author on other submissions. You can nominate articles by other authors but only if the authors agree to the nomination. Please note that the financial award is a fixed amount, independently of the number of authors.

**Deadline for submissions is January, 15, 2021.** Applicants are asked to submit their published article by email as a PDF to [K. Kalmbach](#). If the language of publication is not English, applicants should include a one-page summary in English. The winner will be notified by the end of April 2021.

Members of the 2021 St Andrews Article Prize in European Environmental History committee: Karena Kalmbach (chair), TU Eindhoven (Netherlands); Santiago Gorostiza, Centre d'Histoire de Sciences Po (France); Charles-François Mathis, Centre d'Etude des Mondes Moderne et Contemporain (CEMMC), Université Bordeaux Montaigne (France).

### Call for thematic dossiers: HoST - Journal of History of Science and Technology (2022)

[HoST - Journal of History of Science and Technology](#) is an open access, on-line peer-reviewed international journal devoted to the History of Science and Technology, published in English by a group of Portuguese research institutions and De Gruyter/Sciendo. HoST encourages submissions of original historical research exploring the cultural, social and political dimensions of science, technology, and medicine (STM), both from a local and a global perspective.

Past thematic issues have dealt with topics as diverse as circulation, science communication or the relation between science and politics. Future issues might deal with both established and emerging areas of scholarship.

The editors of HoST are looking for **proposals** for two thematic dossiers to be published in 2022 (HoST volume 16, issues 1 and 2). Each thematic dossier should be prepared by the guest editor(s) and include four research papers along with an introduction.

*Proposals should include the following items:*

1. An abstract describing the topic for the thematic dossier and its significance (500 words);
2. A list of the contributors along with the titles and abstracts (300 words) of the four research papers;
3. Brief CVs (300 words) of the guest editor(s) and authors.

*The guest editor(s) and the contributors must be prepared to meet HoST's publication schedule:*

- Abstract and titles submission: 30 December 2020
- Submission of complete research papers: 30 July 2021 (Issue 1); 30 December 2021 (Issue 2)
- Publication: June 2022 (Issue 1); December 2022 (Issue 2)
- Proposals will be subject to approval by the Editorial Board and the outcome will be known to the authors by January 2021.

Submissions should be sent as an e-mail attachment (preferably in one single .doc, .docx, .rtf or .odt file), to the chief-editor: [chiefeditor@johost.eu](mailto:chiefeditor@johost.eu).

### Journal of Digital History

The Journal of Digital History (JDH) has just launched its first [call for article proposals](#). JDH is edited by de Gruyter, with Andreas Fickers as editor-in-chief and Frédéric Clavert as managing editor, both at University of Luxembourg. According to its editors, as an international, academic, peer-reviewed and open-access journal, the Journal of Digital History will set new standards in history publishing based on the principle of multi-layered articles. It aims to become the central hub of critical debate and discussion in the field of Digital History by offering an innovative publication platform, promoting a new form of data-driven scholarship and of transmedia storytelling in the historical sciences.

We are introducing a new section in the ToE newsletter in order to include new publications of relevance to research on History, Technology and Europe. We are inviting you to share with fellow ToE members your new publications (books, monographs, edited volumes) published within the past year by sending an email to [tensionsofeurope@gmail.com](mailto:tensionsofeurope@gmail.com).



### 'Technikemotionen' (TechnoEmotions)

Martina Heßler, ed., *Technikemotionen*. Paderborn: Schöningh, 2020 (ISBN: 978-3-506-70345-3, p. 397, 89.00 €).

'Technikemotionen' (TechnoEmotions) were focused by the annual meeting of the Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte in 2018 and now they form the title of the resulting volume. Edited by Martina Heßler, it has been published this year and brings together seventeen contributions that approach the hitherto rarely focused co-construction of technology and emotions under five major perspectives. The first part examines 'Emotions in Technological Discourses'. The contributions here analyse how emotional debates about technology could become - especially when one side claimed to have a 'purely objective' relationship to technology. In the second part, the focus is on 'Emotional TechnoExperiences'. From the contributions gathered here, it becomes clear how intensively emotional experiences were repeatedly linked to the use or even the observation of technology. In a third part, 'Anthropomorphisation and Animation of Technology' is brought to the fore, and it is probably no coincidence that the automobile is at the centre of the examples of humanization after an annual conference of the German society for the history of technology. In the fourth part of the book, 'TechnoLove', technically mediated love, is at the core, while the fifth and final part of the book focuses on 'Machine Emotions' - emotional and sexual relationships with machines. The contributions cover the period from the 19th century to the present and, in addition to a German focus, also take other Western countries into account. They are complemented by an introduction placing them within the broad and changing field of the history of TechnoEmotions and the research into them.

[Link](#)

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