

## Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,  
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

### ToE Newsletter

May 2021

#### EDITO

## Tensions of Europe Digital Workshop Festival: join us from the 28th of June to the 2nd of July 2021!

As the 10th Tensions of Europe conference has been postponed until 6-8 July 2022 (see below the Call for Papers, just published), the ToE network has set up a promising Digital Workshop Festival, with a multitude of events from 28 June to 2 July 2021. This bottom up initiative was made possible thanks to colleagues who crafted exciting events, thanks also to the members of the management committee, who acted as programmer, and last but not least to the Foundation History of Technology (SHT), which provides a platform for a simple and safe access to the Festival.

Don't miss the three opportunities to meet all together: the plenary opening session (Monday, 28th of June, 16:00 CEST), during and after an early evening performance from the Tensions legendary band (Thursday, 1st of July, schedule to be confirmed) and a special Management Committee meeting open to all members of the network (Friday, 2nd July, 9:00 CEST). Please have a look at the full program below, visit the Festival's [website](#) to register, and use and follow the hashtag [@toe2021!](#)

I would like to end these few lines with a final thank you to Katerina Vlantonì, and also Falk Flade, with whom I prepared this and previous newsletters, that more and more of you are sharing. Enjoy reading it and see you soon,

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

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



#### Newsletter contents:

2021 Tensions of Europe digital workshop Festival  
Call for Papers for the 10th ToE Conference  
News from the ToE network  
Other news  
New publications

### 2021 Tensions of Europe Digital Workshop Festival

28 June - 2 July 2021  
Programme

Please be sure to register to the Festival's [website](#) in order to gain access to each event and to the plenary sessions (the links will become available in the protected members' space).

Date	Time (CEST)	Workshop title (main contact)
June 28	16.00-17.00	Opening Plenary: Welcome and Keynote Speech
	17.00-19.00	<i>Roundtable</i> : Imagining, Limiting, Militarizing: European Astroculture and Beyond Contact: Alexander Geppert (alexander.geppert@nyu.edu)
June 29	9.00-12.30	<i>Workshop</i> : Cold War Aerospace. A hypothesis of multi-layered historical approach to scientific diplomacy Contact: Mauro Elli (mauro.elli@unimi.it)
	09.00-16.00	<i>Workshop</i> : Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Algorithms, Internet of Things, Social Media, Automation, Robotics and Cybernetics: Historical and STS Perspectives from Mediterranean/Southern/Southeastern Europe. Contact: Giorgos Zoukas (gzoukas@phs.uoa.gr)
June 30	9.45-18.00	<i>Workshop</i> : "Telecrisis". Co-producing crisis and (tele-) communication technologies. Historical and STS perspectives on governance, design and use. Contact: Léonard Laborie (Leonard.LABORIE@cnrs.fr), Stathis Arapostathis (arapost@phs.uoa.gr) & Yannis Fotopoulos (iofot9@phs.uoa.gr)
	TBA	<i>Workshop</i> : Data as a new resource? Similarities and differences of data vs. material resources. Contact: Frank Veraart (f.c.a.veraart@tue.nl)
July 1	TBA	<i>Roundtable</i> : Technologies of State Socialism: Between Emancipation and Control.
	9.00-13.00	<i>Workshop</i> : Young scholars in the history of technology: surviving and thriving in academia Contact: Saara Matala (matala@chalmers.se)
	13.00-17.00	<i>Workshop</i> : Doing Energy History in Times of Transition Contact: Tensions Energy History Working Group (tensions.energy@gmail.com)
	19.00-21.00 (TBC)	<b>Tensions</b> early evening event Virtual social event @wonder.me
July 2	9.00-10.00	ToE Management Committee open meeting
	9.00-12.00	<i>Workshop</i> : Recent History of Technology, Mediterranean Studies, Environmental Humanities: An Encounter. Contact: Giorgos Velegrakis (gvelegrakis@phs.uoa.gr) & George L. Vlachos (georgios.vlachos@eui.eu)
	10.00-12.00	<i>Panel</i> : Web archiving of the COVID crisis in Europe. Infrastructures, agencies, challenges and tensions Contact: Valérie Schafer (valerie.schafer@uni.lu)
	13.30-16.00	<i>Panel</i> : Historicizing Media and Communication Concepts of the Digital Age. Contact: Valérie Schafer (valerie.schafer@uni.lu)
	TBA	<i>Workshop</i> : Entangling Technological Infrastructures, Material Flows and Modernities. Contact: Frank Veraart (f.c.a.veraart@tue.nl) & Stathis Arapostathis (arapost@phs.uoa.gr)

## The 10th Tensions of Europe Conference Aarhus University, Denmark 6-8 July 2022

### Call for Papers

The **10th Tensions of Europe Conference** will take place in Aarhus University, Denmark, 6-8 July 2022. The conference theme is "**Technology, Environment and Resources**".

The 10th Tensions of Europe Conference will as usual be open to all topics and themes. The special theme of this conference will be the history of interactions between technology, the environment and resources. It aims to explore connections between aspects such as scientific exploration, technological development, resource exploitation and use, resource markets and environmental change by investigating both scientific and technological practices as well as narratives and perspectives related to natural resources and environmental issues. The conference places particular emphasis on processes of circulation and appropriation of knowledge, ideas, technologies and resources across space and time in all historical periods and at local, regional and global scales.

Visit the [Conference website](#) to see the full Call for Papers.

Deadline for proposals: 31 October 2021.

[Read more](#)

## News from the ToE Research Groups

### The Energy Challenge in Historical Perspective Group

ToE Energy History working group coordinators (Ute Hasenöhr, Odinn Melsted, Jan-Henrik Meyer) set up a newsletter in May 2021. You may find its contents below.

To subscribe and share your news, contact: [tensions.energy@gmail.com](mailto:tensions.energy@gmail.com).

#### • Research projects

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 explores the oil industry's engagement with the resource scarcity debate, environmentalism and alternative energies during 1968-1986. Within the project, Cyrus Mody (PI) will focus on biotechnology and computing, Odinn Melsted (postdoc) on forecasting techniques, resources 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.

#### • Recent Publications

Yale University has a new and free [website](#) with resources for teaching U.S. and global

energy history.

*Technology of Culture* published the forum “History and Technology in an Age of Grand Challenges” about the ToE Flagship Research Program, which includes [“The Energy Challenge in Historical Perspective”](#) by Ute Hasenöhr and Jan-Henrik Meyer.

Karena Kalmbach’s 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*.

Jan-Henrik Meyer’s article [“To trust or not to trust? Structures, practices and discourses of transboundary trust around the Swedish nuclear power plant Barsebäck near Copenhagen”](#) in the *Journal of Risk Research*.

Julie Cohn, Matthew Evenden, and Marc Landry published [“Water powers: the Second World War and the mobilization of hydroelectricity in Canada, the United States, and Germany”](#) in the *Journal of Global History*.

H-Diplo published a [roundtable review](#) of Garavini’s *The Rise and Fall of OPEC in the Twentieth Century*.

The *Journal of Energy History* recently published the special issues [“Historicising Flexibility”](#) and [“Transitions in Energy History: History in Energy Transitions”](#).

Several articles on nuclear energy can be found in a special issue of *Business History* [“The atomic business: structures and strategies”](#).

- **Calls and Events**

The Berlin-Brandenburg [Colloquium](#) is held online in spring/summer 2021 and includes a diverse set of presentations in environmental history, including energy history.

The conference [“Energy Transitions and International Cooperation in the 20th Century”](#) by the Leibniz-Center for Contemporary History Potsdam will take place online on June 10-11. To register please contact Rüdiger Graf ([graf@zzf-potsdam.de](mailto:graf@zzf-potsdam.de)) and Henning Türk ([tuerk@zzf-potsdam.de](mailto:tuerk@zzf-potsdam.de)) by June 4.

The symposium [“Fusion Research Through the Eyes of Social Scientists and Humanities Scholars”](#) will be held online on June 18, 2021, 1.30pm – 6pm CET (see the detailed program and register to receive the Zoom link).

The journal *energies* has an [open call for a special issue](#) entitled “Energy—History and Time Trends”, submissions are due 21 November 2021.

And last but not least, our own energy transitions workshop on July 1, 2021, part of the the Tensions Digital Workshop Festival, visit the workshop [website](#).

[Read more](#)

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

H2020 project InsSciDE (Inventing a shared science diplomacy for Europe) has pushed its end-date to June 2022, affording more time to engage and communicate finding to the EU science diplomacy community. Several published case studies are now available on its [library portal](#), spanning topics of Environment and Security Diplomacy as well as on the multifaceted identity of ‘Science Diplomats’.

Other recent InsSciDE contributions include:

[Global Challenges Under Multipolarity. #SciDipNet2021](#) InsSciDE was a contributing stakeholder at H2020 project S4D4C’s Final Networking Conference #SciDipNet2021. An InsSciDE panel provided an overview of the history of EU ‘joint’ diplomacy and insights into the EU network of Science Counsellors. B. Fägersten discussed science diplomacy as a strategy for EU foreign policy goals, in anticipation of a forthcoming InsSciDE publication on SD strategy.

[EU Science Diplomacy Alliance Launched!](#) The EU Science Diplomacy Alliance is a new collaborative initiative intended to keep growing the networks fostered in the Horizon 2020 Science Diplomacy projects S4D4C, InsSciDE and EL-CSID and to continue generating impact beyond the projects’ lives.

[Warsaw Science Diplomacy School](#): The second edition of WSDS is coming in June 2021, where we’ll dive even deeper into the skills, systems and practices lining the path from Wissenschaft to Statecraft. The live event is restricted to admitted students, but some content will be released after the school’s completion. You can learn more about the case studies at the heart of this year’s curriculum [here](#).

[Read more](#)

### ToE Early Career Scholars network

Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars is an informal and friendly group for doctoral students and postdocs across Europe. The purpose of the group is to create connections between scholars and to organize educational events the participants find useful. We organize monthly reading seminar, where participants can present their work in progress and receive feedback, and summer schools and seminars in conjunction with Tension of Europe conferences. This summer, we will have [Digital Gathering for Early Career Scholars](#) at the Digital Workshop Festival 2021, July 1st 9am to 13pm (CET).

*Reading Group*: The last [reading group](#) meeting this spring is on Thursday May 20, at 10 CET. Saara Matala will present an article manuscript titled “National Security, Security of Supply, Finland and international energy cooperation 1973-1992”. We will also discuss the future schedule of the seminar. If you are interested in joining us, or perhaps want to present your paper in the fall, please send an email to [Anna Petrova](#) or [Hanna Vikström](#).

[Read more](#)

## Other News

### **New project: A history of online virality (HMI)**

Do you still remember the [“Leave Britney Alone!”](#) video’s tearful pleas, which moved thousands of people in 2007 but also inspired parodies? What about “I kiss you”

(1999), a [personal webpage](#) created by a Turkish man which attracted 12 million visits over five years, or the [Million Dollar Homepage](#) launched in 2005, featuring a million pixels which were put up for sale? Were you among the Instagram, Twitter or Facebook users fascinated by “[the dress](#)” and its colour in 2015? How about 2013’s [Harlem Shake](#), when thousands of videos of the dance were being uploaded to YouTube every day, or the urban legend [Momo](#) (2018), which terrorised an entire generation of teenagers on WhatsApp? Or have you already forgotten all of these digital phenomena, which while immensely influential at the time, ultimately proved ephemeral? Entitled “A history of online virality” (HIVI), this project (2021-2024), which is led Valérie Schafer at the [Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History \(C²DH\)](#) / [University of Luxembourg](#) and supported by the Luxembourg National Research Fund (C20/SC/14758148), aims to reveal and historicise the heritage of viral content. HIVI will develop a historical framework that informs the analytics of virality and rumours and improves our understanding of current phenomena, some of which are strongly related to past digital cultures. It will explore the history of virality by combining a general narrative with European case studies (in Luxembourg, France, Denmark and UK) dedicated to precise viral phenomena and their dissemination through time and space, in order to better contextualise them. Drawing on a broad corpus of born-digital heritage, which is maintained online and in Web archiving institutions, HIVI also provides an opportunity to test and deepen digital methods and to refine digital hermeneutics.

[Read more](#)

### **New project: Material World of Late Soviet Society in the Cold War: Technological Innovations in Production and Representation of Mass Consumer Products**

This research project focusses on new approaches to material history of the Soviet society and the Cold War through the history of technological innovations. It examines the activities of scientists, designers and engineers who have contributed to the development Soviet consumer goods technology and produced consumer goods (milk, bread, beer, clothing, personal protective equipment) and the so-called symbolic products such as caviar, champagne and Finnish cheese. Particular attention is paid to the role of technological transfers for the Soviet industry; the problem of industrial implementation of engineering developments; the problem of supply and consumption of products related to a wide range of food security issues; the question of how to represent and promote Soviet technologies and products in the domestic and international markets, and their importance for both domestic consumption and for the formation of exports. The project is hosted by HSE University and received funding from the Russian Science Foundation.

Contact: [Elena Kochetkova](#)

[Read more](#)

### **4th RESAW conference (17-18 June 2021), online**

The 4th RESAW conference (17-18 June 2021), organised online by the C²DH at the University of Luxembourg, is part of a Web archiving week starting on 14 June 2021, which will involve a series of RESAW pre-conference workshops in parallel to the IIPC General Assembly, followed by the [IIPC conference](#) organised by the BnL (Bibliothèque nationale du Luxembourg) on 15-16 June 2021.

The main topic of the RESAW2021 conference is “Mainstream vs marginal content in Web history and Web archives”.

*Registration and more information are available at: <http://www.resaw2021.net>*

With a view to promoting the establishing of a collaborative European research infrastructure for the study of archived web materials the RESAW network — A Research Infrastructure for the Study of Archived Web Materials — was established in late 2012.

## **New publications**

**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).**



### **Militarizing Outer Space: Astroculture, Dystopia and the Cold War (2021)**

Geppert, Alexander C.T., Brandau, Daniel, Siebeneichner, Tilmann (Eds.). Militarizing Outer Space: Astroculture, Dystopia and the Cold War. Palgrave Studies in the History of Science and Technology, 2021 (Heßler, ed., Technikemotionen. Paderborn: Schöningh,

2020 (ISBN 978-1-349-95851-1).

*Militarizing Outer Space: Astroculture, Dystopia and the Cold War* explores the dystopian and destructive dimensions of the Space Age and challenges conventional narratives of a bipolar Cold War rivalry. Concentrating on weapons, warfare and violence, this provocative volume examines real and imagined endeavors of arming the skies and conquering the heavens. The third and final volume in the groundbreaking *European Astroculture* trilogy (consisting of *Imagining Outer Space: European Astroculture in the Twentieth Century*, 2nd edn 2018, and *Limiting Outer Space: Astroculture after Apollo*, 2018), *Militarizing Outer Space* zooms in on the interplay between security, technopolitics and knowledge from the 1920s through the 1980s. Often hailed as the site of heavenly utopias and otherworldly salvation, outer space transformed from a promised sanctuary to a present threat, where the battles of the future were to be waged. Astroculture proved instrumental in fathoming forms and functions of warfare's futures past, both on earth and in space. The allure of dominating outer space, the book shows, was neither limited to the early twenty-first century nor to current American space force rhetorics.

[Read more](#)

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