

Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

ToE Newsletter

October 2022

EDITO

Looking back and forward

Like many other networks and research communities, Tensions of Europe has faced challenges in recent years because of the pandemic. But the 10th anniversary of ToE, celebrated in Aarhus in June 2022, was a reminder of its continued dynamism throughout this period. ToE was able to continue its activities, to adapt and to find opportunities to bring our community together, for example with the ToE Digital Festival organised in June 2021 with the support of the Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT), the regular virtual seminar run by the Early Career Scholars network and the activities of the research groups. We want to extend our sincere thanks to Léonard Laborie, chair of the Tensions of Europe Management Committee (2019-2022), for his ongoing efforts to keep the network so alive.

However, meeting in person at Aarhus University was also very energising and underlined how face-to-face contact is important from an academic and human point of view. Our sincere thanks to Matthias Heymann and the whole team who helped him make this event a success.

The ToE Management Committee has now been nominated for a new term, and we would like to thank Per Lundin, who is stepping down, and welcome Anna Åberg as a new member. We want to continue our commitment to the ToE community by adopting a hybrid approach, taking full advantage of both remote and in-person meetings. We are happy to announce the launch of a Twitter account, "TensionsOfEurope", which will help us regularly disseminate (your) news and announcements (@TensionsOf). The virtual seminar run by the Early Career Scholars network will also continue through this academic year. Finally, we will organise a remote meeting in summer 2023. Although less ambitious than the ToE Digital Festival, this will give us an opportunity to meet and discuss the challenges and issues facing our research – and for which our research can offer some answers –, at what is a highly challenging time for Europe. We will also be supporting the organisation of the 11th ToE Conference, which will take place at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder, Germany, from 19 to 21 September 2024, coordinated by Dagmara Jajeśniak-Quast and Falk Flade. The call for papers will be coming soon. Stay tuned and follow us! Take care,

Valérie Schafer (C²DH, University of Luxembourg), chair of the Tensions of Europe Management Committee (2022-2024)

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).

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News from the Tensions of Europe network



The 10th Tensions of Europe Conference

Aarhus University, Denmark, 29 June - 1 July 2022

This summer the 10th Tensions of Europe Conference “**Technology, Environment and Resources**” took place at Aarhus University with a delay of one year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A number of 161 colleagues participated (including 19 online participants who could not travel to Denmark to give their presentations). Conference participants included 70 senior and 91 junior scholars from 30 different countries. Contributions were given in 41 panel sessions (up to five parallel sessions) and 4 keynote plenary sessions. The quality of contributions and discussions was excellent. The conference was again preceded by a 2-day summer school with 16 early scholars and 4 teachers. Both conference and summer school went very well and were great fun. As usual, one highlight of the conference was the conference party that included dinner, a fantastic singing competition of four participating groups, a rock band and, of course, lots of dancing.

For the program and further details of the conference, please take a look at the [conference website](#). We are very much looking forward to meeting again in two years in Frankfurt/Oder!

Matthias Heymann,
Aarhus University

Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars' Summer School Aarhus University, Denmark, 27 - 28 June 2022

The ToE Early Career Scholars' Summer School preceded the conference and took place in Aarhus University, on 27-28 June 2022. It was the 10th meeting organized by the ECS group and 16 early career scholars participated in it. The theme was “**Surviving and Thriving in the Academia**”. You may read more about it in the [report](#) prepared by Saara Matala, Tirza Meyer, Jens Millkrantz, Ginerva Servitale and Hanna Vikström (names in alphabetical order).

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Tensions of Europe in Aarhus

The theme of the conference party in Aarhus reflected our wish to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Tensions of Europe Conferences! To do that, conference participants split in four teams in order to adapt four songs into ToE cover songs. In addition to that, the teams' performances had to live up to the expectations of the past competitions (and for sure, they did!). As a way both to honor and to keep in mind the ToE spirit and all that it brings from the past as well as our views toward the future, we would like to share the lyrics of the songs. We thank all the participants and the organizers for their best effort. You may find the lyrics (and sing along in your break) [here](#).

ToE Early Career Scholars Reading Group

The Tensions of Europe early career scholars monthly reading group started in spring 2021 and continues this year. This is a place where early career scholars can get feedback on their own texts in a constructive and supportive environment. All early career scholars are welcome to participate.

[Read more](#)

Job announcements

Tenure-track appointment: Assistant Professor of the History of Technology and/or Medicine in the Global South, Union College

The History Department at Union College invites applications for a tenure-track appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor of the History of Technology and/or Medicine in the Global South, with a preference for expertise in South Asian history. The time period is open. Preference will be given to candidates with a record of, or demonstrated potential for, successful research and publication. This position will begin in Fall 2023. Union College is a leading national liberal arts college deeply committed to undergraduate education.

[Read more](#)

Positions (PhD and PostDoc) in project “SOY STORIES”

Three new positions in the new project *SOY STORIES: Connected sustainability histories and futures of the global Soyacene*, a collaboration of the History Lab (TU Eindhoven), Athena Institute (VU Amsterdam), and the Soy Observatory (UFFS Brazil):

1. PhD position: “SOY STORIES: Brazilian histories and futures of soy & (un)sustainability”
2. PhD position “SOY STORIES: Dutch histories and futures of soy & (un)sustainability”
3. Postdoctoral position “Innovating transdisciplinary research: the historical and transnational dimensions of sustainability challenges”

About the project:

Different regions across the globe face grave sustainability challenges that may be at once highly diverse and highly interconnected. Since the 1970s, accelerating soy production in Brazil has been associated with large-scale deforestation, land-grabbing, child labor and more. Meanwhile soy-based intensive animal farming in the Netherlands came with a 4-decades-long national nitrogen crisis (currently a key public controversy), public health hazards, greenhouse gas emissions and animal welfare problems. Yet regional sustainability histories and futures are predominantly studied in geographical isolation. The research project SOY STORIES investigates how we can study these region's sustainability histories as connected, and draws implications for thinking about (likewise connected) inclusive sustainability futures.

Deadline: October 28th, 2022.

[Read more](#)

PhD position in platform studies, Utrecht University

The department of Media & Culture Studies at Utrecht University recruits a PhD student for a research project on "Platform infrastructures and the shaping of public education" which is part of the larger Spinoza-funded research program Governing the Digital Society, chaired by prof. dr. José van Dijck.
Deadline: November 15th, 2022.

[Read more](#)

C²DH Visiting Researcher Fellowships 2023

The Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH) offers several fellowships for visiting researchers: for PhD candidates, Post-Docs and Senior Researchers. C²DH is the University of Luxembourg's third interdisciplinary research centre, focusing on high-quality research, analysis and public dissemination in the field of contemporary history. It promotes an interdisciplinary approach with a particular focus on new digital methods and tools for historical research and teaching.

To promote international exchanges and collaborations in the field of contemporary and digital history, the C²DH offers 4 fellowships for visiting researchers: for PhD candidates, Post-Docs and Senior Researchers. Applicants are expected to pursue their own research. However, applicants whose interests relate to the research priorities of the C²DH, will be preferred. Fellowship holders will be assigned to one of our Research departments and asked to present their current project in a seminar or colloquium.
Deadline: October 30th, 2022.

[Read more](#)

Other news

Virtual exhibition "Minett Stories"

The REMIX team around Stefan Krebs officially launched the virtual exhibition "Minett Stories", produced in the framework of European Capital of Culture Esch2022. The Minett is a region in southern Luxembourg that has been strongly influenced by its industrial past: by the mining of "minette" iron ore and by iron and steel production. The new virtual exhibition, Minett Stories, investigates the multiple – and sometimes contested – histories and identities of the region, as well as those of the people who lived and worked there.

Through 22 stories the exhibition describes the various transformations of landscapes, places and people, from the region's rapid industrialisation in the late 19th century to the steel crisis of the 1970s and the subsequent gradual deindustrialisation. Instead of focusing on the narratives of the large ironworks and steel barons, the stories narrate the lives of ordinary people, the "Minettsdäpp".

Minett Stories uses different means of transmedia storytelling to inform a wide audience about the history of the Minett. You can for instance listen to a radio play about riots in Esch at the end of World War One, discover graphic novels about Italian communists or the history of air pollution, watch documentaries and videos, explore interactive maps and read historical essays. In addition, you can delve into a huge collection of historical sources from the Minett.

[Read more](#)

CfP: ICOHTEC 50th Symposium, Tallinn/Tartu, Estonia 14-18 August 2023

The ICOHTEC 50th Symposium will take place in Tallinn and Tartu, Estonia, from 14 to 18 August 2023, hosted by Tallinn University of Technology and the University of Tartu. The main theme of the symposium will be **"Interdependencies. From Local Microstories to Global Perspectives on the History of Technology"**, but as usually will be open to a wide array of topics. The 2023 ICOHTEC annual conference invites scholars to reflect on the complex, mutual relations between technology and the environment, culture, and politics, as well as the ways in which they are entangled at the local, regional, transnational, and global levels.

Deadline for submissions: January 15th, 2023.

[Read more](#)

CfP: IAMHIST Conference 2023 "FUTURE [of] ARCHIVES" Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada, 20-22 June 2023

IAMHIST is the International Association for Media and History, an organization of scholars, filmmakers, broadcasters and archivists dedicated to historical enquiry into film, radio, TV and other media. Archives have always played a considerable role for research and creation, especially in film and media studies. By virtue of their form and content, archives put at the forefront questions of possible and alternative historiographies and the shaping of memories and invites reflection on forgetting. Ranging from censorship

to emancipation, archives are often source and reason for debate, powerplays and struggles as they can be object of censorship, but also sources and ways of emancipation. They are not only sites of memory, but also sites and signs of social and cultural change. There has been an increased scholarly interest in archives since the arrival of digital tools and the Web, and the concept of the archive itself has been questioned, discussed, and redefined. This conference aims to revisit these archival transformations by bringing into focus archives' blind spots, notably in relation to their accessibility and ecological dimensions. How do existing archival institutions, associations or private collectors and archivists address technology and media transformations? What are the current and future challenges of archive research? Use? Configurations? What type of 'new' archives can be imagined and created in relation to technology and media transformations?

The IAMHIST Conference will be particularly interested in proposals dealing with media archives (film, radio, video, television, Web, photographs, etc.) but also warmly welcomes archives that use media and technology institutionally (museums, associations, vernacular archives etc.).

Deadline for submissions: January 16th, 2023.

[Read more](#)

CfP: European Energy Shortages during the Short Coal Age (1860-1960) An online workshop at KTH Royal Institute of Technology

The workshop will target the period of repeated fuel shortages in Europe from roughly 1860 to 1960 – the century during which coal supplied more than 50 % of all energy in Europe. Coal consumption and prices show big fluctuations in European coal markets during this period, creating a classical “shortage” situation. Yet researchers have so far not addressed the nature of European coal shortages sufficiently. In both scholarly and recent public debates coal shortages remain largely overshadowed by the oil shocks of the 1970s. This gap calls for interdisciplinary cooperation in order to assess the story of repeated energy crises in Europe. The workshop is planned for 1 February 2023 and it is going to be held online. We invite scholars to reflect together upon coal shortages, their manifold faces and outcomes, during the centenarian apogee of King Coal's rule in Europe. The event aims to bring together researchers with different disciplinary backgrounds, such as history, energy studies, international relations, the technological and environmental humanities, geography, economics, media studies and anthropology. After the workshop, we plan to turn its papers into a special issue for a major peer-reviewed academic journal, or, alternatively, into an edited volume.

Deadline for submissions: November 15th, 2022.

[Read more](#)

CfP: International Summer School “Oral History Meets European Studies. Sources, Tools and Methods in the Digital Age”, Maison Schuman, Luxembourg City

The Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH), together with the European University Institute (Florence, Italy) and the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History (Frankfurt, Germany), organises a Summer School to be held at the Maison Robert Schuman in Luxembourg City from 3 to 6 July 2023. The Summer School invites students to explore methods of oral history and to test digital tools, while it pays attention to how digital sources may shape narratives in contemporary European history. The Summer School is geared at PhD candidates as well as early career scholars (postdoctoral students) specialising in European History / European studies, who use oral history in their research. The programme will tackle the main stages in the production, uses, and archiving of oral history interviews through a set of transversal workshops, presentations, and roundtable discussions with experts. The Summer School will be enriched by hands-on activities, in which participants will test the discussed tools and methods. Students will have the opportunity to present their research projects and to receive feedback from their peers and experts.

Deadline for submissions: January 31st, 2023.

[Read more](#)

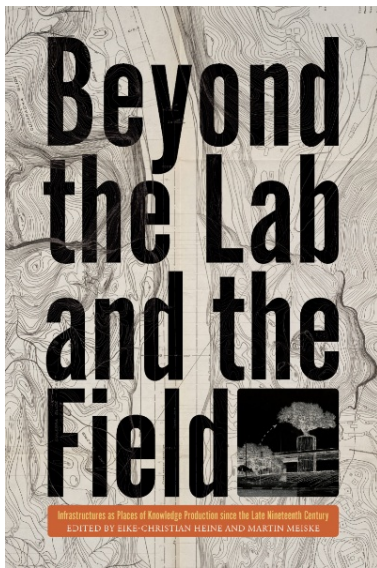
New publications

We introduced a 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.

Eike-Christian Heine and Martin Meiske (eds.), *Beyond the Lab and the Field: Infrastructures as Places of Knowledge Production Since the Late Nineteenth Century*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022.

Beyond the Lab and the Field analyzes infrastructures as intense sites of knowledge production in the Americas, Europe, and Asia since the late nineteenth century. Moving beyond classical places



known for yielding scientific knowledge, chapters in this volume explore how the construction and maintenance of canals, highways, dams, irrigation schemes, the oil industry, and logistic networks intersected with the creation of know-how and expertise. Referred to by the authors as “scientific bonanzas,” such intersections reveal opportunities for great wealth, but also distress and misfortune.

This volume explores how innovative technologies provided research opportunities for scientists and engineers, as they relied on expertise to operate, which resulted in enormous profits for some. But, like the history of any gold rush, the history of infrastructure also reveals how technologies of modernity transformed nature, disrupting communities and destroying the local environment. Focusing not on the victory march of science and technology but on ambivalent change, contributors consider the role of infrastructures for ecology, geology, archaeology, soil science, engineering, ethnography, heritage, and polar exploration. Together, they also examine largely overlooked perspectives on modernity: the reliance of infrastructure on knowledge, and infrastructures as places and occasions that inspired a greater understanding of the natural world and the technologically made environment.

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