

Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

ToE Newsletter

February 2023

EDITO

Best wishes!

We are thrilled to start the new year with two exciting projects for early career scholars. The ToE Early Career Scholars Reading Group will continue to provide a constructive and supportive environment where they can get feedback on their own texts. Additionally, we are creating a space for regular dialogue between early and advanced scholars through mentorship sessions, with the first session planned for March.

Besides, we are issuing a call for participation for a remote day dedicated to sources and archives, scheduled for May 2023. We are looking forward to receiving innovative proposals! We couldn't wait until the 11th ToE Conference in September 2024 at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder to see all of you again!

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).

Follow TensionsOfEurope@Twitter: [@TensionsOf](#).

Newsletter contents:

News from the Tensions of Europe network
Conferences-CfP
New publications

News from the Tensions of Europe network

ToE remote conference "Surprising Sources"

May 11, 2023

Call for contributions

The relationship of the historians to archives and sources is unique. It has been the subject of descriptions that have become classics, such as Arlette Farge's *Goût de l'archive* (*The Allure of the Archives*, 2013, 1st ed. 1989), but also of reflections on the relationship to "new sources", and notably digital ones (Müller and Clavert, ed., 2017).

Do the historians gathered in the Tensions of Europe network have a particular relationship to archives, to sources, and to their research material more generally? What does being a historian of technologies, infrastructures, or networks imply and is there a singularity with regards to sources and archives? It is this relationship to the archives, to the sources, to the historical material at large, to the spatialities and materialities as well, that this conference invites us to question. It aims to bring together the members of the ToE network around the question of "Surprising sources". This issue can be understood in two ways: it is a matter of presenting and thinking about a source that is surprising in its form (use of a series of stamps, of unpublished data, of a natively digital archive, of material traces - abandoned factory, pipes, etc.) or in its content (an unexpected discovery at the turn of a source that moves, surprises, modifies the meaning of the research, gives it flesh, etc.).

We invite historians who recognize themselves in the central themes of Tensions of Europe to discuss their sources, to put them in perspective and to surprise us. Interventions will be 15 minutes long and the day will leave plenty of room for discussion and exchange. **Proposals (500 words max) and short biographies are welcome until March 15, 2023** and to be sent at valerie.schafer@uni.lu. We hope to see many of you at this event, which will be dedicated to the core of our approaches and activities.

[Read more](#)

Mentorship for Early Career Scholars First session on March 9, 2023

The Tensions of Europe network has been considering for a while how it could welcome and contribute to support early researchers (PhD students and post-doctoral researchers). It has already accomplished this over the years thanks to the early career scholars' summer schools, organized before the ToE conferences, or through regular meetings during the course of the year.

The network's offer is now enriched by a **mentoring proposal**, to be co-constructed by Anna Åberg, Yves Bouvier and Valérie Schafer with the participants to fit their needs (may it be related to institutional issues, organizational ones, publications, international conferences, communication about their research, etc.). The first session, which is general in its approach, will help define expectations and build a program. It will take place online on March 9, 2023, from 12.30 to 2.00 pm. To participate in this meeting, please register by

sending an email to tirza@kth.se until March 3, 2023. In your message, please specify in 5-6 lines your research theme and your affiliation, as well as your expectation/hopes for the first mentorship meeting.

[Read more](#)

ToE Early Career Scholars Reading Group

The Tensions of Europe early career scholars monthly reading group started in spring 2021 and continues in 2023. 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](#)

Conferences - CfPs

CfP: History Section of the IAMCR, IAMCR 2023 Conference

The History Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) invites proposals for IAMCR 2023, to be held in Lyon, France, from 9 to 13 July (Lyon23) with an Online Conference Papers (OCP23) component from 26 June to 5 July. This year's theme is "Inhabiting the planet - Challenges for media, communication and beyond".

Deadline for submissions: February 9th, 2023.

[Read more](#)

CfP: Histories of technology acceptance in the 20th century Workshop, Berlin, 5-6 October 2023

The Division of History of Technology at TU Berlin invites proposals for a two-day historical workshop "Histories of technology acceptance in the 20th century", taking place on 5-6 October 2023. The workshop will feature a keynote by Ortwin Renn, Scientific Director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Potsdam.

Deadline for submissions: February 10th, 2023.

[Read more](#)

CfP: Black and Green? Towards an Environmental History of the Oil Industry Workshop, LMU Munich, 15-16 June 2023

With accusations against the international oil industry's contribution to environmental degradation and anthropogenic climate change on the rise, oil companies have reacted by advertising their investments in renewables, pollution control, and more recently "net-zero" efforts. Among concerned publics like environmental activists, however, these counter-narratives are often perceived as "greenwashing"—i.e., superficial efforts intended to confuse rather than sincere steps toward needed change.

Bringing together scholars working on various aspects of oil (and gas) and environmental histories—black and green—this workshop aims to unpack the concept of "greenwashing." It aims to engage with the existing literature on the environmental history of oil, while opening future directions for research collaborations on the environmental strategies pursued by oil companies themselves. The workshop is jointly run by the NWO-funded Vici project "Managing Scarcity and Sustainability: The Oil Industry, Environmentalism and Alternative Energy in the Age of Scarcity, 1968-1986" (PI Cyrus Mody, Maastricht University) and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich.

Deadline for submissions: February 20th, 2023.

[Read more](#)

CfP: 43rd History of Technology Conference of the Iron Library (TGT), Schlatt, 17-18 November 2023

On November 17 and 18, 2023, the 43rd History of Technology Conference of the Iron Library (TGT) will take place at the Klostergut Paradies in Schlatt near Schaffhausen (Switzerland). The event is organized by the Iron Library (Eisenbibliothek), Foundation of Georg Fischer Ltd. Responsibility for the content of the conference is in the hands of the scientific advisory board, whose members include Prof. Dr. Gisela Hürlimann (TU Dresden), Prof. Dr. Friedrich Steinle (TU Berlin) and Prof. Dr. Marcus Popplow (KIT). The organizers invite interested persons involved in research, teaching and practice to apply to present a paper.

Conference topic in 2023: Good, Durable, Safe. Quality and Safety Requirements of Technology in History.

Deadline for submissions: February 28th, 2023.

[Read more](#)

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

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. The theme is "Interdependencies. From Local Microstories to Global Perspectives on the History of Technology".

Deadline for submissions (EXTENDED): March 1st, 2023.

[Read more](#)

CfP: Achieving 'a single postal territory': A global promise - Past and present, Berne, 2 February 2024,

On the occasion of its 150th anniversary, the Universal Postal Union together with La Poste France and the CNRS (Sirice research unit), will host a conference under the theme: Achieving "a single postal territory": A global promise - Past and present (Berne, 2 February 2024). Publication(s) will follow shortly after the conference. (Contact: Léonard Laborie, CNRS).

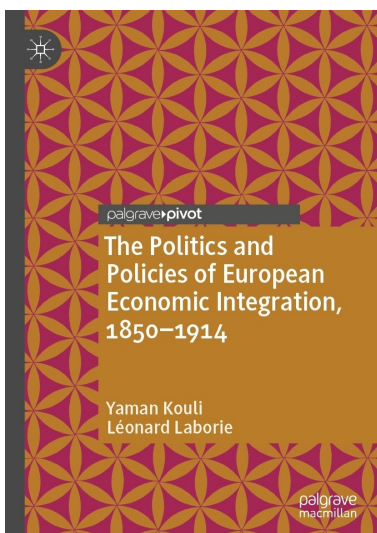
Deadline for submissions: March 31st, 2023.

[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.

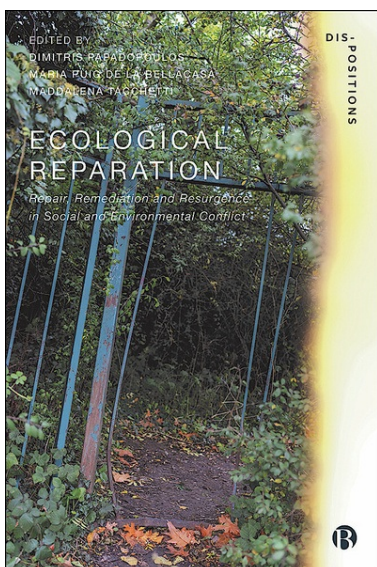
We are inviting you to share with fellow ToE members your new publications (books, monographs, edited volumes) published within the past year by sending an email to tensionsofeurope@gmail.com.



Yaman Kouli, Léonard Laborie. *The Politics and Policies of European Economic Integration, 1850-1914*. Palgrave Macmillan, Palgrave Studies in Economic History, 2022, 169 p.

This book asks anew whether there really was European integration before 1914. By focussing on quantitative (economic indicators) and qualitative data (the international regulation of patents, communication networks, social policy and plant protection), the authors re-evaluate European integration of the time and address the politics of seemingly a political cooperation. The authors show that European integration was multifaceted and cooperation less the result of intent, than of incentives. National polities and international regimes co-shaped each other. The result is a book that achieves two things: offer stand-alone chapters that shed light on specific developments and -these read altogether - develop a bigger picture. It will be of interest to researchers and students of economic history, as well as those interested in the history of internationalism and globalisation.

[Read more](#)

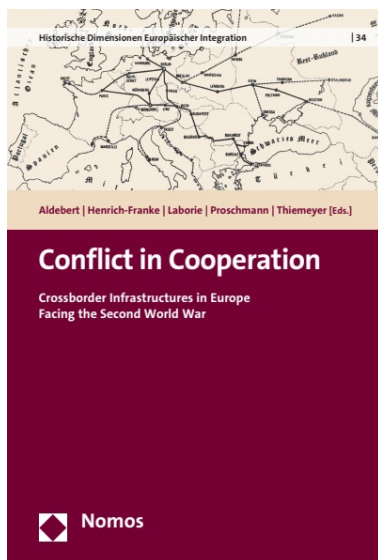


Dimitris Papadopoulos, Maria Puig de la Bellacasa and Maddalena Tacchetti (eds.). *Ecological Reparation. Repair, Remediation and Resurgence in Social and Environmental Conflict*. Bristol University Press, 2023.

How do we engage with the threat of social and environmental degradation while creating and maintaining liveable and just worlds? Researchers from diverse backgrounds unpack this question through a series of original and committed contributions to this wide-ranging volume. The authors explore practices of repairing damaged ecologies across different locations and geographies and offer innovative insights for the conservation, mending, care and empowerment of human and nonhuman ecologies. This ground-breaking collection establishes ecological reparation as an urgent and essential topic of public and scholarly debate.

[Read more](#)

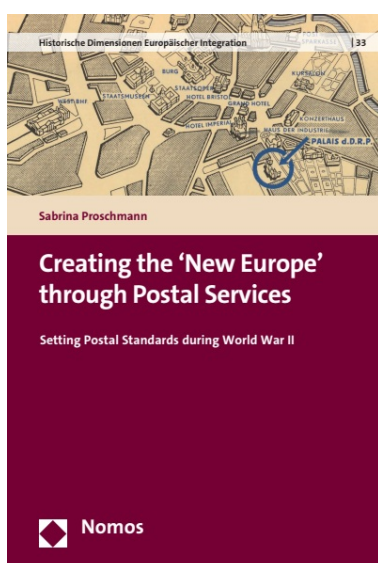
Valentine Aldebert, Christian Henrich-Franke, Léonard Laborie, Sabrina Proschmann and Guido Thiemeyer (eds.). *Conflict in Cooperation. Crossborder Infrastructures in Europe Facing the Second World War*. Baden-Baden, Nomos, 2022, 257 p.
Open access



This volume deals with cross-border infrastructural cooperation during the Second World War. It compares the development of postal services, telecommunications, railways and shipping, and places its findings in the context of the long-term developments of European integration. It therefore calls into question the hitherto dominant assumption that the Second World War signalled a caesura in international cooperation. At the same time, the study shows that cross-border initiatives were undertaken not only in spite of the war, but sometimes precisely because of it. The individual contributions thus also intervene in the debate on 'New Europe'.

With contributions by Valentine Aldebert, Claire Aslangul-Rallo, Julia Eichenberg, Pascal Griset, Christian Henrich-Franke, Jiří Janáč, Léonard Laborie, Martinal Libera, Sabrina Proschmann and Guido Thiemeyer.

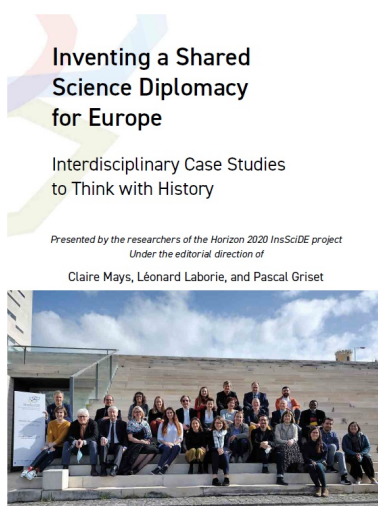
[Read more](#)



Sabrina Proschmann. *Creating the 'New Europe' through Postal Services. Setting Postal Standards during World War II. Baden-Baden, Nomos, 2022. Open access*

This thesis analyses the European Postal and Telecommunications Union, founded in Vienna in October 1942 under the leadership of the Axis powers. Both technocratic internationalism and the propaganda term 'New Europe' found points of contact there. The German postal administration authority used the union to extend Germany's domestic postal system to intra-European postal services and to ensure German supremacy in the new postal Europe. After the war, a respective regional postal organisation was founded in both the Eastern and Western European blocs in the late 1950s. The content of the standardisation envisaged through this measure did not differ much in both blocs, but the way in which the standardisation was carried out did.

[Read more](#)



Claire Mays, Léonard Laborie, Pascal Griset (eds.). *Inventing a Shared Science Diplomacy for Europe. Interdisciplinary Case Studies to Think with History. Zenodo, 2022. Open access*

The H2020 InsSciDE project created a community of historians and archaeologists, science-technology-society scholars, political scientists, and communication and training specialists. Together we have illuminated how science diplomacy has taken shape and played out and could develop in Europe. Our case studies range across 250 years, several continents, and five thematic areas: heritage, health, security, environment and space. InsSciDE also looked at two cross-cutting themes: power with science diplomacy, and the identities and practice of science diplomats themselves.

Our interdisciplinary collection of more than two dozen cases shows how science diplomacy springs from different sources. It is planned or unplanned, and sometimes perceptible only when looking back to track the processes and events set into motion by a dense multilevel field of competing desires and demands. Science diplomacy sometimes grew from the curiosity and ambition of scientist-explorers, or from pragmatic acts of managing transborder crisis. It emerged when actors at a diversity of levels each angled across time for a role and the power to foster scientific, national, or common-good objectives. We show how science diplomacy can happen without planning, and how it is sometimes the context and the product of great struggles: to define futures in the image of sociotechnical imaginaries; to rise in scientific and technological competence; to compete for primacy in innovation; to establish dominion, symbolic or territorial; to subvert and reconfigure geopolitical order; to defeat neocolonialism and restore voice to a range of actors, human and non-human. We show how infrastructure such as data systems, or how social media, or how other diplomatic objects such as a research nuclear reactor or a space vehicle are enlisted, with or without success, to channel influence.

[Read more](#)

<https://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/>

This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }}

You received this email because you are registered with Tensions of Europe

[Unsubscribe here](#)

