

Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

ToE Newsletter

May 2023

EDITO

Join us in May and June!

Following the previous editorial and newsletter from February 2023, announcing a call for participation and a conference dedicated to Surprising Sources, we are pleased to share the program with you. We hope that many of you will join us online on May 11 to participate in these discussions, which will allow us to discover unusual advertisements, seemingly impenetrable films, nostalgia parties, as well as explore the use of pins, mugs, stamps, and many more materials as historical sources.

Continuing from the previous newsletter, we would like to thank all the participants in the first mentoring session and are thrilled to organize the second session on June 9, specifically dedicated to postdoctoral researchers who have expressed specific needs and concerns. Of course, we have not forgotten about PhD students, and upcoming sessions will be dedicated to them as well.

We hope that this conference and this mentoring program will be an opportunity for all of us to exchange ideas and share our knowledge, expertise, and experiences in a spirit of collaboration.

Finally, in order to expand our activities, provide greater support for early career researchers, organize pre-conferences and intermediate networking events, as well as cover our modest but necessary operating costs, we are pleased to announce the introduction of institutional partnerships. We extend our sincere gratitude to any institutions who are interested in supporting us. Our network will of course continue to remain open to individual participation, free of charge for colleagues, and as inclusive as we have always intended it to be.

We look forward to seeing you online and wish you all the best!

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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Newsletter contents:

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News from the Tensions of Europe network

ToE institutional partnerships

Tensions of Europe has always been an open, inclusive network, supporting early career researchers and allowing scholars to participate and join as an individual. The management committee remains convinced that this is a path to be pursued and that it is one of the strengths of our network.

In order to develop its activities and to further support the organization of pre-conferences for early career researchers, intermediate networking events or to cover modest but real operating costs, we are introducing institutional partnerships that will allow us to continue our development.

The partnership rate for 2023 is 500 euros.

As an institutional partner you will support the missions and goals of the network:

- To develop our transnational scholarly network as a hub for transnational research, education and outreach initiatives on history, technology and Europe.
- To foster discussion and cooperation among historians, through the ToE conferences, building collaborative research agendas, and activities, such as the remote day, summer schools, mentorships, etc.
- To encourage and support early scholars' participation to our activities.
- To disseminate news of interest in the topics at the core of the ToE network.

As an institutional Tensions of Europe partner, you would be associated with the institutions supporting the ToE conference (with your logo on the programme) and mentioned on our website. We sincerely thank you in advance for supporting our activities.

[You can join as an institutional ToE partner here.](#)

Administratively the Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT) will manage the institutional partnerships. SHT is a non-profit organization and is one of the founders of Tensions of Europe Network.

[Read more](#)

ToE remote conference "Surprising Sources"

May 11, 2023

Program and link

Do the historians gathered in the Tensions of Europe network have a particular relationship to archives, to

sources, and to their research materials? What does being a historian of technologies, infrastructures, or networks imply, and is there a singularity regarding 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.

The issue of "Surprising Sources" can be understood in two ways: first by reflecting on a source that is surprising in its form (use of a series of stamps, unpublished data, a natively digital archive, material traces like abandoned factory, pipes, etc.), and second by presenting a source that is surprising in its content, such as an unexpected discovery in a source that alters the meaning of the research, adds substance to it, or modifies it.

To join the conference, use this [link](#).

PROGRAMME (13:00-18:30)

13.00 Welcome

13.15-14.00, Session 1, Chair: Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden)

Socio-Economic Characteristics as Determinants in the Job Market: The Case of Piedmont in Italy (1867-2005), by Matteo Calabrese (C²DH, University of Luxembourg)

OCR generated digital newspaper archives: Usefulness and limitations for the study of history, by Jørgen Burchardt (Museum Vestfyn, Denmark)

14.00-15.15, Session 2

Jumping into unexpected venues of advertisement research, by Matthias Höfer (C²DH, University of Luxembourg)

Operation Crossroad's Flickering Image: On the (Im)Possibility of Researching Useful TV, by Anne-Katrin Weber (Unil, Switzerland)

Four ways of looking at a satellite earth station, by Lars Lundgren (Södertörn University, Sweden)

15.15-15.30 Break

15.30-16.45, Session 3, Chair: Valérie Schafer (C²DH, University of Luxembourg)

Surprising encounters in anarchist archives. On the many lives of historical sources about politics and computing, by Ginevra Sanvitale (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)

On Nicola Pellow's notebook, or: some practices of writing a web browser in 1992/1993, by Sebastian Gießmann (Siegen University, Germany)

Exploring the Hidden Gems of the World Wide Web Logo: Uncovering its Historical Significance and Untapped Marketing Potential through CERN Archive, by Deborah Barcella (Università della Svizzera italiana, Switzerland)

16.45-17.30, Session 4

Can Social Media help reconnect with the past? The case of party.lu, by Carmen Noguera (C²DH, University of Luxembourg)

After Wear and Tear: Working with Archival Materials That Show No "Look of Age", by Johan Fredrikzon (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, & University of California, USA)

17.30-17.45 Break

17.45-18.30 Keynote speech

Unconventional sources found during the ENIAC in action project, by Thomas Haigh (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, USA & Siegen University, Germany)

[Read more](#)

Mentorship for Early Career Scholars Second session on June 9, 2023

The Tensions of Europe network is organizing mentoring sessions that aim at supporting early career researchers (PhD students and post-doctoral researchers). **The second session targets postdoctoral researchers and their needs. It will take place online on June, 2023, from 13.00 to 14.30 (CET). To participate in this meeting, please register by sending an email to tirza@kth.se until June 5, 2023**, in order to get access to the link of the session and the suggested readings.

[Read more](#)

Conferences - CfPs

CfP: 4S 2023 Conference, Honolulu, November 8-11, 2023

4S 2023 Conference organizers invite submissions for papers, closed panels, and Making & Doing sessions that align with the conference theme. They are interested in proposals that expand our understanding of how technology, knowledge, and science, understood to be contentious and contested ideas themselves, shape social, political, cultural, environmental, and economic dynamics. They embrace 4S's long-standing commitments to social and environmental justice across overlapping and diverse intellectual communities to encourage innovative contributions attentive to the problems of dwelling in polluted waters, colonized landscapes, and militarized spaces; of airborne transmission and breathing in asphyxiating economies; or of speaking through undersea cables, underground data centers, and online systems. We welcome STS insights into technoscientific practice and knowledge, the nature of expertise, and whose knowledge claims count and how. beyond".

Deadline for submissions: May 26th, 2023.

[Read more](#)

CfP: 9th Norwegian Conference on the History of Science, Trondheim, Norway, November 29 - December 2, 2023

The 9th Norwegian Conference on the History of Science, November 29 - December 2, 2023 will take place at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. The conference theme is "Short Years, Long Years, and Round Years: Anniversaries in the History of Science". The organizers invite papers on any aspect of the history of science, technology or medicine and particularly welcome papers engaging with the issue of anniversaries, broadly defined.

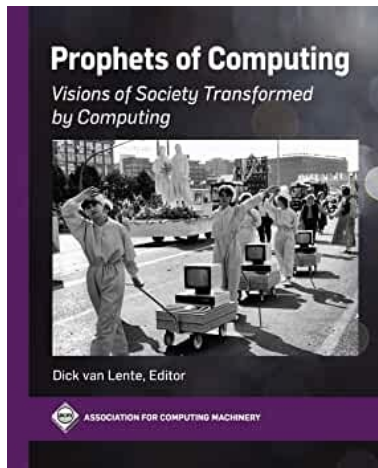
Deadline for submissions: June 1st, 2023.

[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



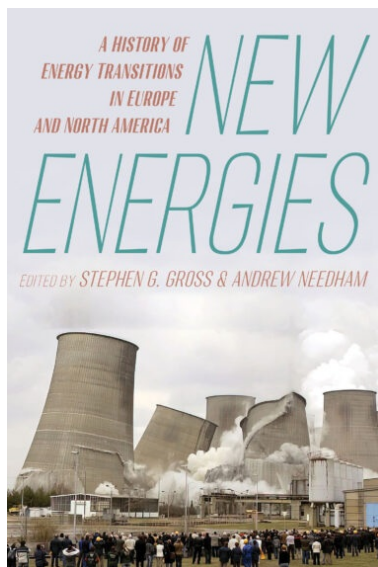
Dick van Lente (Ed.). *Prophets of Computing: Visions of Society Transformed by Computing* (1st. ed.). ACM Books, Vol. 50. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3548585>

When electronic digital computers first appeared after World War II, they appeared as a revolutionary force. Business management, the world of work, administrative life, the nation state, and soon enough everyday life were expected to change dramatically with these machines' use. Ever since, diverse prophecies of computing have continually emerged, through to the present day.

As computing spread beyond the US and UK, such prophecies emerged from strikingly different economic, political, and cultural conditions. This volume explores how these expectations differed, assesses unexpected commonalities, and suggests ways to understand the divergences and convergences.

This book examines thirteen countries, based on source material in ten different languages—the effort of an international team of scholars. In addition to analyses of debates, political changes, and popular speculations, we also show a wide range of pictorial representations of “the future with computers.”

[Read more](#)



Stephen G. Gross, Andrew Needham (Eds.). *New Energies. A History of Energy Transitions in Europe and North America*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2023.

Over the past 250 years, energy transitions have occurred repeatedly—the rise of coal in the nineteenth century, the explosion of oil in the twentieth century, the nuclear utopianism of the 1950s and 1960s. These transitions have been as revolutionary as any political or economic upheaval, and they required changes in infrastructure and behavior. Yet new energies never wholly replace old ones. This volume historicizes energy production and consumption while demonstrating how energy use has reshaped everything from social life and economic organization to political governance. It foregrounds the importance of energy for big historical questions about capitalism, democracy, inequality, the environment, and identity, and it argues that energy systems themselves merit attention as key agents of historical change. Given the urgency of climate change, and the central position that energy plays in causing and potentially solving global warming, this volume engages history as a discipline in the debate over what may be most monumental energy transition of all time: the shift away from fossil fuels.

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