

# Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,  
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

## ToE Newsletter October 2023

### EDITO

Dear colleagues, Dear friends,

It is with great enthusiasm and anticipation that we share with you the **Call for Papers** for our upcoming **11th Tensions of Europe Conference**, scheduled to take place in September 2024 at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder. Your participation and scholarly contributions have been key in fostering our vibrant scientific community, and we are confident that this conference will be no exception.

The chosen theme for this conference, "**Transformations. Fundamental Change and Technology**", while rooted in history, also speaks to the urgent challenges presented by our highly transformative age. We are eager to witness the diversity of perspectives and insights that our community is going to present, and we also encourage you to push the boundaries of conventional thinking. In this highly transformative age, our ability to bring forth new perspectives on change and transformation, especially in relation to the role of technology, is crucial.

The Call for Papers is open until November 30, 2023. As we envision the gathering in Frankfurt/Oder in September 2024, we anticipate a reunion of our extensive and engaged community to strengthen connections, foster collaboration, and inspire new directions in research.

We look forward to your active participation!

Warm regards,

Valérie Schafer (C<sup>2</sup>DH, 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

#### 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.

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#### ToE Management Committee

**We would like to inform you about the new members joining the Tensions of Europe Management Committee. We warmly welcome Yves Bouvier and Ginevra Sanvitale! The**

**Committee, as it stands now, is the following:**

Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg)  
Yves Bouvier (Université de Rouen)  
Falk Flade (European University Viadrina Frankfurt Oder)  
Alexander Gall (Deutsches Museum, Munich)  
(Secretary) Jan Korsten (Foundation for the History of Technology)  
Léonard Laborie (Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Paris)  
Tirza Meyer (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm)  
Ginevra Sanvitale (Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin)  
(Chair) Valérie Schafer (University of Luxembourg)  
Hanna Vikström (Luleå University of Technology)  
Katerina Vlantoni (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)  
Erik van der Vleuten (Eindhoven University of Technology/Foundation for the History of Technology)

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**Mentorship for Early Career Scholars:  
Fourth session on December 11, 2023**

The Tensions of Europe network is organizing mentoring sessions that aim at supporting early career researchers (PhD students and post-doctoral researchers). **The fourth session, focused on issues surrounding time management in academic work, will take place online on Monday, December 11, 2023, from 13.00 to 14.30 (CET).** To participate in this meeting, please register by sending an email to Tirza Meyer ([tirza@kth.se](mailto:tirza@kth.se)) until the 5th of December, in order to get access to the link of the session and the suggested readings.

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**News from the Early Career Scholars Network**

The Early Career Scholars (ECS) network is pleased to announce the next edition of the ToE summer school, which will take place on September 16-19, right before the beginning of the main conference programme. The ECS network is currently working on the programme, which will include hands-on sessions on how to survive and thrive in academia, as well as discussion sessions on the past, present and future of the History of Technology. An excursion is also planned as part of the summer school activities. The Call for Papers will be published in November 2023. If you have a suggestion for the programme, or would like to be involved in the organization, or are just interested in learning more about the ECS network, you are more than welcome to reach out to Ginevra Sanvitale ([sanvitag@tcd.ie](mailto:sanvitag@tcd.ie)).

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**The 11th Tensions of Europe Conference: Call for Papers**



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**The 11th Tensions of Europe Conference**  
**Conference theme: Transformations. Fundamental Change and Technology**  
**European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany**  
**19 – 21 September 2024**

**Deadline for proposals: November 30, 2023**

We live in a world of constant change. There are periods, however, of accelerated change in the political, economic, social or technological sphere. Usually, these spheres are closely interrelated and entangled. If this change is of fundamental character, scientists usually speak of 'transformations'. Common examples are the political and economic system changes, i.e. transformations, in Latin America, Southern Europe or Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in the past decades. The aim of the conference is to shed light on technological, but also political, societal and environmental sides of these transformations in Europe and other regions in past and present. Technology can be a major factor to enhance, slow down or ease such transformations. Processes of circulation and appropriation of knowledge, ideas and artefacts provide a broad field of research to better understand aspects of political,

societal or environmental transformations in connection with technology. Special attention can be paid to the following themes: (1) technologies as a driver of political, societal or environmental changes or as an obstacle, (2) technological “revolutions”, transitions and “transformations” and their impact on politics, societies and environment, (3) discourses on (technological) changes, especially with regard to sustainability.

As a part of the conference, there will be held a **summer school for early career scholars** in the days before the conference. Besides of discussing texts relevant for the current topic, meetings with established researchers as well as an excursion is planned.

We welcome contributions on topics related to these themes as well as on general themes in the history of technology and neighbouring fields of interest to the Tensions of Europe network such as trans-border flows, common resources, conflicting interests, hidden integration and cultural practices.

The format of proposals should be as follows:

- Proposals for whole panels in traditional or alternative formats (panel title, theme description with max. 300 words, abstracts of papers with max. 150 words each, name, affiliation, short biography of participants) (pdf-format)
- Proposals for individual papers (title, abstract, affiliation, short biography of applicant)
- Proposals for contributions to a “My PhD in 10 minutes” session (abstract, affiliation, short biography)

Please name your file with your surname. Beside of traditional panel-sessions with a number of papers and a commentator, we also encourage different formats and new ideas. The programme committee will not prioritize between formats if the suggestions promise constructive, stimulating and engaging discussion.

The organisers invite applicants to submit proposals by the end of November 2023 to [toe24@europa-uni.de](mailto:toe24@europa-uni.de). We will inform applicants by 1 March 2024 whether their contribution has been accepted. There will be available a limited number of reduced participation fees.

The 11th Tensions of Europe Conference will be organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies (<https://www.zip.europa-uni.de/en>) and the European New School of Digital Studies (<https://europeannewschool.eu/>). Both are part of the European University Viadrina, which is located in Frankfurt/Oder – a town and region marked by fundamental political, economic and social changes in previous decades and centuries.

**Welcome to Frankfurt (Oder) in September 2024!**

**The programme committee (Dagmara Jajeśniak-Quast, Jan-Hendrik Passoth, Susanne Orth, Falk Flade)**

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## **Open positions**

### **PostDoc position on Quantifying Dutch Historical Sustainability Trade-offs, Eindhoven University of Technology**

Are you fascinated by sustainability issues created by Dutch import of natural resources and how these came about? You could be our Postdoc who analyses transnational sustainability trade-offs. Are you enthusiastic about combining long term historical insights with contemporary sustainability challenges then apply for this Postdoc position at the TU/e in collaboration with Statistics Netherlands (CBS). How should we understand the immense effects in global sustainability trade-offs of the Netherlands? The huge Dutch imports of raw materials and goods have been causing profound impacts in economic, social, and ecological developments elsewhere on the planet. These trade-offs have historical origins. Your postdoc research is part of the [Sustainability Trade-offs in the Netherlands' Entangled Modernisation 1900-2020](#) project, funded by the Dutch Research Council NWO. You will study how transnational production chains developed and how these mutually changed the social, economic, and environmental relations both in the Netherlands and abroad, from the nineteenth century onwards. Your tasks are to develop databases on Dutch global trade from 1900 to the present, including reconstructions from archival material; and connect these data to sustainability measurement indicators. Databases on material flows and sustainability developments in the entangled regions will be developed in consultation with experts from Statistics Netherlands (CBS).

Deadline for applications: October 15th, 2023

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### **Tenure Track Assistant Professor in "History of Technology", Technical University of Munich (TUM)**

The Technical University of Munich (TUM) invites applications for the position of Tenure Track Assistant Professor in "History of Technology" at the level of W2 Tenure Track Assistant Professor (initially limited for 6 years, converted into a permanent W3 position after positive tenure evaluation) with an envisioned start date as soon as possible. The professorship will be part of the Department of Science, Technology and Society (STS) at the TUM School of Social Sciences & Technology (SOT). It will be co-located at the Deutsches Museum in Munich, Europe's largest technical museum and a member of the Leibniz Association, a group of 96 non-university research institutions. We are looking for an internationally recognized candidate in the field of history of technology with experience in collaborating with other social science fields, the natural sciences, and engineering. In particular, we are looking for scholars whose interests in research and teaching can contribute to, and benefit from, TUM's rich environment of technical research. We expect that the professorship will continue and expand our TUM's strong ties with the Deutsches Museum, where the professorship will be co-located through collaborative initiatives. Other tasks include research, teaching, the support and promotion of early-career scientists, and contributions to institutional initiatives as part of the STS Department and the School of Social Science and Technology. Teaching responsibilities include courses in the university's undergraduate and graduate programs, and particularly in the department's two Masters' programs "Science and Technology Studies" (STS) and "Responsibility in Science, Engineering and Technology" (RESET).

Deadline for applications: October 25th, 2023

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