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Call for Papers

The 12th Tensions of Europe Conference

Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

8-10 July, 2026

Conference theme: The meaning of the past in sustainable futures

In seeking to understand the pluralistic and multidimensional global challenges of our time, long-term perspectives appear more relevant than ever. Shifting geopolitical dynamics are reshaping Europe's positioning, self-image, and its ambitions in a global context. These shifts require historians to critically revisit established narratives of how – within and beyond Europe – its material culture has shaped and re-shaped livelihoods; how its infrastructures and trade networks have connected and disconnected localities; or how transnational elites, businesses, users, and local practices co-produced Europeanness.

At the 12th Tensions of Europe (ToE) Conference, we would like to explore and discuss what it means for European and non-European scholars to write 'European' histories of 'technology' in a pluriverse world. From such an engagement, we want to co-develop fresh ideas on how a European historiography of technology can inform and contribute to current agendas for inclusive and green transitions. In what ways do aspirations for equitable and inclusive relations intersect with legacies of the past?

This evokes questions about the role of migration, local knowledge, formal and informal networks, both within and beyond Europe. What are the legacies of Europe's diverse historical trajectories and its influence on relationships within and beyond its borders? How did transnational dependencies and evolving relationships shape the current crises within and outside Europe? Which alternative perspectives on eco-modernist approaches to sustainability can help forge the agenda for a just and green transition?

Special attention can be paid to the following themes: (1) Infrastructures as drivers or obstacles to social and ecological changes. (2) Equality and equity for various societal groups involved and affected by technological changes in and beyond Europe. (3) Digital and other global network technologies in (re)shaping power, knowledge, production and consumption. We also welcome contributions on topics related to general themes in the history of technology and neighboring fields of interest to the Tensions of Europe network (<https://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/network/>) such as histories of trans-border flows, common resources, energy, finance, ICT, mobility, circularity and waste, conflicting interests, hidden integration, and cultural practices.

As a part of the Conference, a Summer School for early career scholars will precede it, co-organized with the ToE Early career scholar network. The Summer School includes discussing texts relevant for the current topic, research in progress with established researchers and an excursion.

We want to stimulate discussion and interaction. Beyond the regular panels we introduce three types of special sessions. First, we would like to encourage informed debates in a *Micro-Workshop* setup, i.e. session with short presentations and discussions on pre-circulated papers with an informed audience. Sessions are open to all conference participants, have short 5-minute presentations and require preparation from participants. Papers to be discussed in these sessions will be accessible via the conference website. Second, we introduce *Making & Doing History* sessions, which acknowledge contribution of historians reaching out to wider audiences in non-conventional ways. These sessions consist of historical work and experimental practices that are best presented interactively. This includes work beyond the regular journal- and book format, such as re-enactment experiments, interactive contributions, film- or documentary productions, collaborations with artists, performances, and more. These can also focus on sharing and using historical knowledge beyond academic settings. Lastly, we will provide space to early career scholars in *My project in 10 minutes* session(s) to share and present their ideas. These sessions will have dedicated places in the program.

The formats of proposals should be as follows:

- Proposal for whole panels with a *Micro-Workshop* setup i.e. pre-distributed papers discussed at the conference. Proposals requirements: panel title, theme description (max. 300 words), abstracts of papers with (max. 150 words each), name, affiliation, short biography of participants and/or commentators. Please note papers for these sessions should be accessible through the conference website before 1 July 2026. Upload here your [Mico Workshop proposals](#).
- Proposals for contributions to the *Making & Doing History of Technology* sessions. Proposals requirements: title, description of activity (max. 400 words), name, affiliation, short biography of participants and/or other prerequisites. If you are unsure or in need of developing your idea please contact our curators via conference e-mail (TOE2026@tue.nl). Upload here your [Making & Doing HoT](#) proposal
- Proposals for contributions to a *My project in 10 minutes* session. Proposals requirements: title, abstract of max. 300 words, affiliation and short biography. Upload here your [My project in 10 min.](#) proposal
- Proposals for whole panels in traditional or other alternative formats. At least 30 minutes per session should be reserved for an interactive part and proposals must include a set of overarching questions that connect the papers and will guide the discussion. Proposals requirements: panel title, theme description (max. 300 words), abstracts of papers (max. 150 words each), name, affiliation, short biography of participants and/or commentators. Upload here your [panel proposal](#).
- Proposals for individual papers. Proposal requirements: title, connection to mentioned themes, goals and/or overarching question, abstract (max. 300 words), short biography. Upload here your [Individual paper](#) proposal.

The organizers invite applicants to submit proposals by **4 January 2026**. All session can have a hybrid setup, please mention this in your proposal. The program committee will have dedicated spaces for non-conventional formats. Contribution with constructive, stimulating and engaging discussions will be prioritized. We will inform applicants by 1 March 2026 whether their contribution has been accepted.

The [Tensions of Europe](#) Conference is organized biennially by an interdisciplinary community of scholars who study the historical shaping of Europe through the lens of technology and material culture. We encourage constructive interactions between historians of technology and scholars from all other fields of the humanities and social sciences.

The 12th Tensions of Europe Conference will be held at the campus of Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e). It will be organized by the Eindhoven History Lab (www.eindhovenhistorylab.nl/) part of Technology Innovation and Society research group of TU/e in collaboration with the 4TU History of Technology center (<https://www.4tu.nl/history-of-technology/>), uniting Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology, the University of Twente, and Wageningen University & Research.

More information about registration, conference fees, travelling and other conference updates can be found at the conference website: www.eindhovenhistorylab.nl/toe-2026/.

Welcome to Eindhoven in July 2026!