

Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

ToE Newsletter October 2025

EDITO

Dear Tensions of Europe friends,

I am very excited that this newsletter includes the Call for Papers for our next Tensions of Europe Conference, which will take place in Eindhoven 8-10 July 2026. The theme is “The meaning of the past in sustainable futures”. Many of us are struggling right now, both personally and professionally, with the multiple crises that surround us. It is getting increasingly difficult to envision ecologically and socially sustainable futures. I attended an event this week where one of the discussions evolved around research on activism without hope, that is, how people find motivation to be active and struggle while feeling that there is little or no hope to stop for example an environmental collapse or continuing violence. One conclusion was that those who continue to be active often find hope in the action itself and in the people around them instead ([ref.](#)). Taking this with me, my hope is to see as many as possible of you in Eindhoven next year, and that we can inspire each other and use our historic research to find new ways of envisioning possible futures.

Already this coming week, the SHOT Conference takes place in Luxemburg, and looking at the program, there will be a strong presence of Tensions of Europe scholars. This is an excellent opportunity to start discussing panels and especially non-traditional sessions for the ToE 2026 Conference. While we welcome traditional sessions and papers, Tensions of Europe has since the start been a network for doing research together, trying to understand complicated historical processes and develop new collaborative ways of doing history. Why not take the opportunity at the next ToE conference to organise a micro-workshop around a project application, or to start a new thematic network? Or present and/or develop new, interesting ways of disseminating and doing research interactively in our “Making and doing history” sessions? Many of us travel less these days and do not attend conferences as often as before, making it even more important that when we do meet, we take the time to do things that we cannot do as easily online.

At SHOT, the ToE Early career scholar's group has also arranged a mentorship session on Thursday 9th October on "Academic conferences and networking." It will be hybrid, with attendants both on site in Luxemburg and online. There are still places left, so please spread the word to doctoral and postdoctoral scholars around you.

Looking forward to seeing some of you already next week, and many of you next year in Eindhoven!

Warm regards,

Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology), chair of the Tensions of Europe Management Committee (2025-2027)

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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Call for Papers: 12th Tensions of Europe Conference
Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, 8-10 July, 2026

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 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 scholars 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.

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.

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](#) part of Technology Innovation and Society research group of TU/e in collaboration with the [4TU History of Technology center](#), uniting Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology, the University of Twente, and Wageningen University & Research.

Read the [full Call for Papers](#) to find out how to submit your proposal!

[Read more](#)

Tensions of Europe Management Committee

In recent months, the Tensions of Europe Management Committee has been excited to welcome new members. At the same time, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Falk Flade (European University Viadrina Frankfurt Oder) and to Yves Bouvier (Université Paris-Sorbonne) for their dedicated service to our network, as they have now stepped down. The members of ToE Management Committee, as it stands now, are:

- (Chair) Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg)
- Simona Casonato (Museo Nazionale Scienza e Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci, Milan)
- Gemma Cirac Claveras (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
- Alexander Gall (Deutsches Museum, Munich)
- (Secretary) Jan Korsten (Foundation for the History of Technology)
- Tirza Meyer (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm)
- Ginevra Sanvitale (Trinity College Dublin) - ToE early career scholars' network
- Valérie Schafer (University of Luxembourg)
- Ole Sparenberg (Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, KIT)
- Frank Veraart (Eindhoven University of Technology / Organizing Committee of the 12th ToE Conference)
- Katerina Vlantoni (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
- Erik van der Vleuten (Eindhoven University of Technology/Foundation for the History of Technology) - *on leave*

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The Tensions of Europe network is holding the second edition of its mentoring programme that aims to support early career researchers. The sessions are held online and open to PhD students and post-doctoral researchers in the history of technology and neighbouring fields.

The **third** session will focus on academic conferences and networking and will take place on **October 9, from 10:30 to 12:00 (CET)**. The session will be hosted by Valérie Schafer (C2DH - University of Luxembourg), Anna Aberg (Chalmers University of Technology), Thomas Haigh (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) and other guests to be announced.

If you would like to participate, please register through this [form](#) by October 6th.

[Read more](#)

ToE Early Career Scholars Network news

The Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars Network is looking for new members! The group is a self-organizing network gathering PhD-students, post-doctoral scholars and non-tenured academics within Tensions of Europe. It organizes meetings around contributions in any form, not restricted to traditional paper presentations, but including brainstorming around research ideas, commenting on project proposals, draft articles and course syllabi, holding workshops on academic skills and strategies, etc. Currently, the group hosts an informal monthly meeting, to discuss developments and challenges in research work as well as how to navigate academic life; and a monthly reading group, in which participants provide feedback on work-in-progress articles or chapters. If you would like to join the group or learn more about its activities, please get in touch with [Ginevra Sanvitale](#).

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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 2025 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](#)

CfPs

CfP: International Seminar on "Material Culture in the History of Physics", Deutsches Museum Munich, 23-27 February 2026

Proposals are invited for the next international seminar on "Material Culture in the History of Physics", funded by the Wilhelm and Else Heraeus Foundation. The workshop consists of a self-organized theoretical part and an attendance part, which will take place from February 23 to 27, 2026 at the Deutsches Museum in Munich.

The seminar is aimed at M.A. and Ph.D. students in the history of science and physics as well as physics education. We would also like to encourage trainees in science and technology museums including respective university collections to apply.

Deadline for applications: November 15, 2025.

[Read more](#)

CfP: Technostalgia - Afterlives of 80s-90s' Digital Technologies, June 19, 2026, Luxembourg

While digital technologies are dominated by acceleration, constant upgrades and equally irreversible obsolescence, nostalgia for past technologies is at the same time increasingly present and productive. Nostalgia persists - and even thrives - as a site of imagination, memory, cultural production, creativity and maintenance. This one-day conference seeks to explore how digital and computing pasts are remembered, revived, and reimagined. Technostalgia stands at the

intersection of personal memory and collective practices, intertwining affects, communities, cultures, heritage, markets and ideologies.

To analyse the specificities of technostalgia when related to IT, computing and digital artifacts of the 80s and 90s, proposals are welcomed from researchers, artists, archivists, designers, curators, and practitioners engaging with its multiple dimensions and addressing one or several of the topics under question.

Deadline for submissions: November 30, 2025.

[Read more](#)

CfP: “Recycling in the Cold War Era: Capitalist and Socialist Waste Regimes” Workshop, TU Berlin, 9-10 July 2026

Throughout most of human history, waste and its reuse have played a central role in economic activity. During the Cold War, rivalry between the Eastern and Western blocs extended beyond the arms race and ideological confrontation. Competition for economic and technological supremacy also encompassed waste recycling—shaping resource flows, production and consumption systems, and later, environmental protection. In both capitalist and socialist economies, recycling was integral to resource governance, embedded in efforts toward efficiency, self-sufficiency, modernization, and international leadership. The two-day, international workshop, organized by Tatiana Perga and Heike Weber, aims to bring together different perspectives on recycling in the Cold War era.

Deadline for submissions: December 1, 2025.

[Read more](#)

CfP: Workshop “‘...never neutral’: Practices, concepts and methods of evaluating technology over the last 50 years”, Deutsches Museum München, 18-19 June 2026

The Verein Deutscher Ingenieure (VDI) (Association of German Engineers) and the Gesellschaft für Unternehmensgeschichte (GUG) (Society for Business History) are jointly hosting the Workshop “‘...never neutral’: Practices, concepts and methods of evaluating technology over the last 50 years” from June 18 to June 19 2026 in Deutsches Museum München. The workshop aims to explore the often invisible and informal practices, concepts, models and methods that engineers, businesses, politicians and other actors used for evaluating technology, and to discuss the relationship of this form of evaluation to institutionalized, political forms of Technology Assessment – both past and present.

Deadline for submissions: December 10, 2025.

[Read more](#)

EASST2026 'More than now. Exploring resilient futures', Kraków, 8-11 September 2026

The call for panels and other formats for EASST2026 in Krakow is now open. Proposals can be of the following formats: Traditional Open Panels; Workshops; Roundtables; Combined Format Open Panel; Making & Doing; and, Meet-Ups. The Call for Abstracts/Papers will open at December 15, 2025.

Deadline for submissions: October 31, 2025.

[Read more](#)

CfP: 2026 Joint Meeting of the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS) and History of Science Society (HSS), 13-16 July 2026, University of Edinburgh

The History of Science Society and the European Society for the History of Science are delighted to announce their first joint meeting will be held from 13-16 July 2026 in Edinburgh, Scotland, with the support of the British Society for the History of Science. Against the backdrop of a city steeped in Enlightenment legacy, scientific innovation, and their reestimation, this global gathering of our three communities will foster transnational collaboration and dialogue among historians of science, technology, and medicine. Edinburgh is a spectacular city, rich in history, culture and humanistic enquiry: join us, to reflect on the past while shaping the future of our discipline.

Submissions are welcomed on any topic in the history of STM and aim for an ensemble of contributions on diverse geographical, thematic and methodological perspectives. We are particularly keen to receive submissions that engage with our theme “**Shifting Perspectives: Plural Worlds, Contested Sciences,**” which encourages reflection on how shifting perspectives on histories of the sciences might better account for marginal voices, contested truths, and epistemic disobedience. By emphasizing plurality—in forms of knowledge, in worldviews, and in disciplinary approaches—we aim to encourage a scholarly practice that resists reductive narratives of linear progress and singular authority. This thematic focus is particularly resonant for our host city, Edinburgh, whose clear contributions to Enlightenment thought and science are entangled with imperial legacies. In this spirit, the conference seeks conversations that are historically grounded yet critically attuned to the present, encouraging proposals that not only explore the multiplicity of scientific worlds—across different times, places, epistemologies, and communities—but that also reflect on what it means to write histories of the sciences in plural.

Deadline for submissions: December 1, 2025.

[Read more](#)

The Scholar in Residence Program of the Deutsches Museum (2025 Applications)

The Deutsches Museum in Munich has several attractive scholarships to offer research scholars interested in working for 6 months on projects. Applicants are invited to base their projects on the collections of the Deutsches Museum and to cooperate closely with museum staff on site when formulating their research proposals. Projects involving innovative approaches to artefact-oriented research are especially welcome. During their stay, visiting scholars will have daily contact with the museum's curators, archivists and librarians (approx. 50 staff members) as well as members of the [Munich Center for the History of Science and Technology](#).

Scholarship holders will have their own workplace with a desktop computer, and the opportunity to reside temporarily in subsidized apartments of the museum complex insofar as these are available. They will present their research projects to colleagues at the beginning of their stay and will be expected to participate regularly in the museum's and the Munich Centre's Monday colloquium series and workshops. The scholarship is expected to be carried out in presence. Scholars at any level of seniority (pre-doctoral and post-doctoral) are eligible to apply, provided they have at least one university degree (Master or PhD / BA is not sufficient). There are no restrictions regarding nationality.

The ability to read German is a prerequisite for the application (passive language skills).

Deadline for applications: October 15, 2025.

[Read more](#)

Postdoctoral position in digital humanities and history/philosophy/sociology of science (ERC-project, Berlin)

The ERC-funded project "Network Epistemology in Practice" (NEPI) is seeking a research assistant in the Digital Humanities with a strong interest in the history, philosophy, and/or sociology of science. NEPI investigates digital communication within the ATLAS collaboration at CERN, one of the world's largest experiments in particle physics. The project aims to uncover how knowledge is generated in large scientific collaborations by applying methods from social network analysis, large language models (LLMs), and knowledge graph technologies.

As part of a small, supportive research team, you'll have the opportunity to shape your own research profile while contributing to an ambitious interdisciplinary project. Continuation in follow-up projects is envisioned.

Deadline for applications: October 13, 2025.

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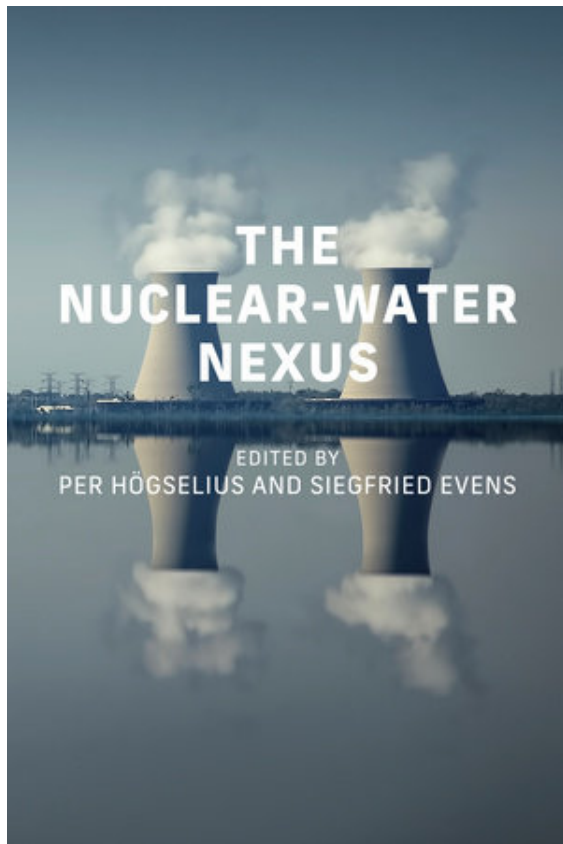
Postdoctoral Researcher in History of Culture and Technology, KWI - Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities in Essen at University Duisburg-Essen (UDE)

The ERC Synergy Grant project "The Cultures of the Cryosphere. Infrastructures, Politics and Futures of Artificial Cooling" ([CultCryo](#)) at KWI Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) is seeking to fill a position at the next possible date as a Postdoctoral Researcher in History of Culture and Technology (f/m/d), (salary group 13 TV-L, 100%, ~60 months).

Description: Postdoctoral Researcher (f/m/d) with expertise in modern and/or contemporary history of technology to study the historical dynamics and spatial features of the planetary cryosphere and its connected values and practices. The ideal candidate has a strong profile in historical research with qualifications in comparative analysis and archival research as well as a proven record of engaging with concepts and theories of technology and space. The research will primarily concentrate on the spatial dynamics of artificial cooling since the Cold War, including mappings of cold chains for food and biomedicine as well as air conditioning and IT infrastructures.

Deadline for applications: November 17, 2025.

[Read more](#)



Per Högselius, Siegfried Evens (Eds.). *The Nuclear-Water Nexus*. MIT Press, 2025. (open access)

An edited collection that takes a deep dive into the complex interactions between nuclear energy and water. Splitting atoms is a water-intensive business. To operate efficiently and safely, a standard nuclear reactor needs around 50 cubic meters (13,000 gallons) of water *per second*—equivalent to the flow of a mid-sized river or large irrigation canal. In *The Nuclear-Water Nexus*, Per Högselius and Siegfried Evens bring together 25 authors from 12 countries to explore the resulting entanglements between society, technology, and nature, to show how nuclear energy’s dependence on water has shaped the atomic age in decisive ways.

Water has been the key factor in forging a global nuclear geography, as the water needs of nuclear facilities require them to be located near the sea, major rivers, canals, or lakes. As an unintended consequence of such locations, nuclear facilities have become vulnerable to droughts, floods, erosion, and climate change—with much higher stakes than most other energy installations. Consequently, the “wet” geography of nuclear energy translates into threats to the wet environment, in the form of both radioactive contamination and thermal pollution. Water has, over the years, generated social conflicts—and cooperation—between nuclear energy and other water-intensive activities, such as agriculture, fisheries, navigation, military activities, hydropower production, drinking water supply, landscaping, leisure and tourism—and even fossil fuel extraction. This book examines these processes through a set of in-depth case studies.

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