

Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

ToE Newsletter

December 2025

EDITO

Dear Tensions of Europe friends,

In this last newsletter of the year, we want to take the opportunity to thank all of you for the past year and wish you all the best for the coming one.

Since we do not want to cut too much into your what is hopefully your vacation, we have decided to postpone the deadline for proposals to the upcoming Eindhoven meeting to **16 January 2026**.

Remember that we are open for non-traditional sessions, and if you have ideas that you are not sure if they fit with the categories proposed in the call, do not hesitate to contact us about it. We look forward to receiving your exciting papers, workshops, PhD-presentations, and other contributions, and even more look forward to seeing all of you next year!

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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News from the Tensions of Europe network

Call for Papers: 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 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 **16 January 2026**. All sessions 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. We are very happy that Tomáš Nigrin has recently joined the MC!

[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](#).

[Read more](#)

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 yearly partnership rate 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: ICON Special Issue “Plastic Environments”

ICON (ICOHTEC's peer-reviewed journal) is preparing a special issue titled “Plastic Environments” and invites paper proposals exploring plastics and their environmental, social, economic, and cultural dimensions from historical perspectives. Contributions are welcomed across a wide range of topics, including (but not limited to) plastic production and recycling, consumer cultures, intended and unintended impacts, and heritage/museum contexts.

Deadline for applications: January 5, 2026.

[Read more](#)

CfP: Citizen Practices in Producing and Preserving the Past, Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH), 11-12 May 2026

Who produces history, and under what conditions? While historical knowledge has long been shaped within academic and institutional frameworks, the involvement of non-professional actors in historical research and heritage preservation has a much longer and richer history than what is often assumed. From historical societies and heritage clubs to community archives and activist associations, citizen historians, often defined as amateurs in a pejorative perspective, have contributed significantly to the production, preservation, and interpretation of the past.

This conference seeks to examine both the historical trajectories and contemporary practices of citizen involvement in history and heritage. Rather than focusing solely on narratives or memory discourses, the organisers aim to explore the processes, methodologies, and collaborations through which citizens engage in historical work and heritage preservation: how they collect, classify, preserve, and interpret the past, and how these practices shape the broader historiographical field.

By bringing together scholars, practitioners, and representatives of historical associations, the organisers intend to foster dialogue on the evolving role of citizen participation in historical knowledge production, from the nineteenth century to the digital age.

Deadline for submissions: December 20, 2025.

[Read more](#)

Call for the Early Scholars Spring School on Web Archives 2026, Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH)

Are you an early scholar (PHD or Master student) interested in web archives? Would you like to engage in a dynamic discussion with peers as well as experienced researchers and professionals? This Spring School taking place just before the IIPC WAC26 in Brussels may be perfect for you!

Dates: 20 April 2026

Location: KBR, the Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels

Expected attendance: 15 master's and PhD students (also open to post-doctoral researchers who just started to work with web archives)

Topics & activities: keynotes, roundtable discussions and collective brainstorming, Q&A session, and lightning talks by PhD students.

Deadline for submissions: January 15, 2026.

[Read more](#)

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

The call for abstracts is now open for EASST2026. Abstracts may be submitted to accepted panels of both types, Traditional Open Panels and Combined Format Open Panels.

Deadline for submissions: February 28, 2026.

[Read more](#)

CfP: 53rd Annual Meeting of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), Alexandroupolis, Greece, 8-11 October 2026

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC) will take place in Alexandroupolis, Greece, from 8-11 October 2026. Hosted by Democritus University of Thrace in collaboration with the Laboratory of Technologies, Research & Applications in Education and the Ethnological Museum of Thrace, the conference brings together researchers from around the world to explore the role of technology in shaping human societies.

This year's theme, "Engaging the History of Technology. Bridging Disciplines and Perspectives for Global Challenges" invites critical reflection on how technological histories intersect with today's global challenges — from climate change and environmental injustice to political polarisation and artificial intelligence. By bridging methodologies, disciplines, and perspectives, the conference aims to highlight how understanding technological pasts is essential for navigating contemporary issues.

Deadline for submissions: January 31, 2026.

[Read more](#)

CfP Sustainable Energy Choices of the Past (Panel Series at Tensions of Europe 2026)

At previous Tensions of Europe conferences, our **energy history group** has organized multi-panel series, which have in our experience facilitated a whole conference day of inspiring presentations and discussions devoted to the history of energy. We would like to continue this tradition and invite you to send us abstracts for a panel series at the next Tensions of Europe conference in July 2026 in Eindhoven. In line with the conference theme ("The meaning of the past in sustainable futures"), we seek to bring together conference papers with case studies that inform an over-arching focus on **Sustainable Energy Choices of the Past**.

Recent research in energy history, including our own discussions in the Tensions group, has tended to emphasize transitions and transformations in energy history, as well as the role of infrastructures, conversion technologies and users of energy technologies. In all those discussions, particularly about transitions, questions of environmental sustainability in past and present (and future) are usually part of the research and discussion, and sometimes even the main reasons why we choose to study energy in the first place. But often sustainability remains in the background, which is why we want to bring it to the foreground and devote a panel series to sustainability perspectives specifically. Please send your paper abstract of 150 words max, as well as name, affiliation, a short biography, to tensions.energy@gmail.com.

Deadline for submissions: January 9, 2026.

CfP Networks: Energy and Data in 20th Century Europe (Panel at Tensions of Europe 2026)

Energy and the computing industry are the two most strategic industries of the 20th century. The debates and attempts to build European-level infrastructures have been a key component of the process of European integration. Amongst the long-lasting challenges are the design, construction and operation of electricity networks, (natural) gas and oil pipelines, as well as computing and telecommunication infrastructures (hardware, software, information highways). The development of know-how, markets, organisations, cultures, and specific economic policies have been instrumental in the roll-out of these projects.

While energy and computing are generally considered separately, this panel aims to provide a framework to study the similarities between these two strategic networks, as well as the process of co-integration that can be identified in recent decades. The panel addresses issues raised by these technology projects in the realm of multilevel governance, international and geopolitical relations, political economy and broader questions about democracy; it aims to reflect on strategic infrastructures in Europe and the collaborations both amongst States, and between States and private actors. Focusing on the time from 1950 to the present, the presentations will cover questions such as the role of the entrepreneur state (and its retreat), state capitalism, private-public collaborations, financialisation.

This CFP aims to form a comparative panel on energy and the computing industry that reflects on the aforementioned ideas, to be presented at the Tensions of Europe conference on the 8-10 July 2026, at Eindhoven University (NE). The panel will include the presentation of each individual paper, followed by a roundtable discussion between presenters and the audience.

We welcome papers that present reflections and/or examples on energy and computing industry projects in Europe, with a wide approach to both energy and computing infrastructures: all energy sources are welcome (nuclear, oil, gas, renewables, etc), and all aspects of the IT industry (software, hardware, data analysis). Examples of papers we would like to include, but not limited to:

- Energy fluxes (grids, pipelines, etc)
- Digital infrastructures (international IT ventures)
- Knowledge and technology exchanges
- Negotiations and contracts between energy and computing actors
- Intersections between computing and energy technologies
- Glocal approaches to strategic energy / computing infrastructures
- the digitalisation of the energy industry and energy needs of the computing industry

Please send a short abstract (250 words max) to Marta Musso (Sapienza University), marta.musso@uniroma1.it; Séveric Yersin (European University Institute), severic.yersin@eui.eu; Filippo De Chirico (Università Roma Tre), filippo.dechirico@uniroma3.it.

Deadline for submissions: January 8, 2026.

Jobs/Fellowships/Prizes

STAND Early Career Prize 2026

The Commission on Science, Technology and Diplomacy (STAND) recognizes outstanding papers by early career scholars addressing the history of science, technology and medicine in their international contexts. Since the inaugural award was announced in 2022, the annual STAND ECS award aims to provide support and recognition for fresh voices in the field.

Topics might include, but are not limited to: science diplomacy, international cooperation in fields related to science, technology or medicine, and the transnational circulation of technoscientific and medical knowledge, materials, and expertise. The annual STAND ECS award aims to provide support and recognition for fresh voices in the field.

Candidates must have recently been awarded a PhD (within the previous 8 years) or must be enrolled in a PhD program. We particularly encourage submissions from groups and regions underrepresented in the aforementioned research themes/areas.

Deadline for applications: January 12, 2026.

[Read more](#)

Vossius Fund for Research Fellows 2026

The Vossius Center offers funding for Research Fellows. Applicants are invited to submit a proposal for obtaining a subsidy for research fellows. Meant for inviting top researchers for 1-3 months to the UvA. There are two kinds of fellowships: a) A Junior Fellow carries out research in the field of history of humanities and/or sciences, and presents her/his work at a colloquium at the Vossius Center, public lectures or/and research seminars. We encourage that the junior fellow's work lead to a funding application. b) A Senior Fellow, in addition, establishes or consolidates a concrete collaboration with one or more members of the Vossius Center preferably leading to a joint project proposal.

Candidates should have a clear affinity with the history of humanities and/or sciences. Fellows are expected to participate in the activities of the Vossius Center whenever possible.

Deadline for applications: April 30, 2026.

[Read more](#)

Trevor Levere Best Paper Prize

Competition for the 2026 Trevor Levere Prize (*Annals of Science*) is now open. This prize is awarded annually to the author of an original, unpublished essay in the history of science, technology, or medicine, which is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. The prize, which is supported by Taylor & Francis, is intended for those who are currently doctoral students, or have been awarded their doctorate within the past four years. The winning essay is published in the Journal, and the author awarded US\$1000 and a free subscription to the *Annals of Science*.

Deadline for applications: January 31, 2026.

[Read more](#)

New publications



COMMUNICATION MAINTENANCE IN *LONGUE DURÉE*

Edited by
Gabriele Balbi and Roberto Leggero



Balbi, G., & Leggero, R. (Eds.). (2024). Communication Maintenance in *Longue Durée* (1st ed.). Routledge.

This interdisciplinary volume focuses on the politics, economics, technologies, uses, and cultures of maintenance of different forms of communication over long time or in *Longue Durée*.

Throughout the chapters, contributors from a wide range of fields explore transversal and trans-temporal issues of communication maintenance. Among these are the struggles to keep communication infrastructures functioning, the hidden work of maintenance done by both experts and non-experts such as everyday users, the political significance of maintaining communications (or not maintaining them), and the different habits and significance of maintenance in different times and world regions. The forms of communication covered include broadcasting, telecommunications such as the telegraph and telephone, digital and popular media as computers and mobile phones, mostly forgotten media like pneumatic tubes, transportation infrastructures, maps as used as tools to politically control land, the clock as a medium and a material artifact, and many more.

This book will be of interest to students and scholars of communication and media studies, the history of science and technology, general history, geography, maintenance studies, and other related disciplines.

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