View in browser

Tensions of Europe
RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

ToE Newsletter
October 2026

EDITO

Dear Tensions of Europe friends,

We want to thank all of you who participated in our 12th Tensions of Europe meeting in July at Eindhoven Technical University, as well as in the preceeding summer school in Dordrecht. You all helped make this into a wonderful meeting, by joining and organizing both regular paper sessions and more experimental sessions in the "Making and doing HoT"- track. We appreciate your creativity and engagement! Of course, the warmest thank you goes to the organising group, led by Frank Veraart, who handled a quick change of premises and exhibition spaces as well as all other issues with grace and flexibility. Thank you for making it such a welcoming and inspiring meeting!
We are now looking forward to next meeting, which will be held 6-8 September 2028 at the Politecnico di Torino, with a preceeding summer school. Make sure to save the date already!

Warm regards,
Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology), chair of the Tensions of Europe Management Committee (2025-2029)

*If you want to **share information** in the next edition of the Newsletter, contact us at tensionsofeurope[at]gmail.com.*

***Follow TensionsOfEurope@BlueSky**: @tensionsofeurope.bsky.social*

Newsletter contents:

News from the Tensions of Europe network
CfPs
Jobs/Fellowships/Prizes
New publications

News from the Tensions of Europe network

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

The 12th Tensions of Europe Conference was held at the campus of Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e) from 8-10 July, 2026. It was 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. The Conference theme was: ***The meaning of the past in sustainable futures***.
For the first time, the 2026 Tensions of Europe Conference included ***Micro Workshop* sessions** and ***Making & Doing* sessions**. The conference was preceded by a **summer school** for early career scholars in Dordrecht, organized by the Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars Network.

Read more

Making & Doing Sessions at the 12th ToE Conference

Making and Doing History: an experiment worth continuing
At the 12th Tensions of Europe Conference in Eindhoven, we tried something new. Throughout the conference, the Making and Doing History programme created space for comics, museum objects, walking, creative writing, photography, digital experiments, dialogue and dance alongside more conventional conference formats. This track made visible the wide variety of experimental work that happens by members of the Tensions of Europe community, but which is nevertheless rarely presented as historical scholarship at Tensions conferences. By developing the Making and Doing program, we – organizers and all contributors – wondered what would happen if we gave this work a shared space within the conference and treated formats such as walks, workshops, objects and dialogues as ways of producing historical knowledge. How could this help us think about the role of historiography in contemporary global and interconnected challenges, experiment with how history becomes active, and generate insights, methods and materials that participants could take back into their own work?
Read the full report by the Making & Doing sessions' organizers: Evelien de Hoop (VU Amsterdam), Jonas van der Straeten (Eindhoven University of Technology), Sjamme Van De Voort (VU Amsterdam)

Read more

ToE Early Career Scholars Network

The Tensions of Europe Summer School, held in Dordrecht, the Netherlands, on 6–7 July 2026, brought together early career researchers working in the history of technology to discuss ongoing research and develop new academic skills. The summer school began with short research presentations by participants, who discussed their research challenges with experienced scholars and fellow early-career researchers. The programme then featured thematic sessions on various topics related to history of technology as well as about aspects of navigating academic life. It also included a vibrant cultural and social programme. The summer school was co-organised by members of the Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars Network (Filippo De Chirico, Siegfried Evens, Joe Litobarski, Lara Marziali, Tijana Rupcic, and Ginevra Sanvitale) with the support of the Tensions of Europe 2026 local team (with special thanks to Frank Veraart for coordinating the logistics and cultural programme) and the Tensions of Europe Management Committee. Read the full **report** here.
If you missed the opportunity to attend the summer school, no worries! The Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars Network runs online-based activities throughout the entire academic year, and it is always open to new members. The group currently hosts a monthly reading group, informal gatherings to discuss research updates and challenges, and a mentorship programme in collaboration with the ToE Management Committee. For more information and/or joining the group, you can get in touch with Ginevra Sanvitale.

Read more

ToE Management Committee

Longtime member of the Management Committee, Erik van der Vleuten (Eindhoven University of Technology / Foundation for the History of Technology) has left the MC and will be replaced by Frank Veerart. As members of the ToE network, we are all deeply grateful to Erik for his long-standing service on the MC as well as his profound engagement in the network at large.
The MC also warmly welcomes Isabella Consolati and Roberto Lalli from the Politecnico di Torino, who will be organizing the upcoming 13th ToE Conference.
We are also delighted that Anna Åberg has agreed to extend her term as Chair of the MC until 2029!
See the current composition of the MC, here.

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

Call for Submissions: STAND Conference 2027 – "Asymmetries of Power in Science Diplomacy"
Lisbon, 21-23 July 2027

International relations have entered an "age of disruption," as it was termed by the Royal Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in their 2025 joint report on science diplomacy. In this context, the potential of science diplomacy solely as a tool of cooperation is being increasingly questioned in the face of divisive nationalisms, destabilizing technologies, and mounting geopolitical competition.
Recent historical research has shown that when experts, politicians, diplomats, activists, and other actors come together, they bring national and local interests that must be negotiated with the ideals and practices of global cooperation. Moreover, these negotiations do not take place on neutral ground, and historical research has demonstrated how asymmetries of power and hierarchies of knowledge fundamentally shape the international arena. Historical approaches can provide context for contemporary tensions in the discourse on science diplomacy, providing nuanced and critical perspectives for scholarship and policymaking.
The Commission on Science, Technology, and Diplomacy (STAND) of the Division of History of Science and Technology (DHST/IUHPST) wishes to discuss these matters in its next international conference on Asymmetries of Power in Science Diplomacy, which is jointly organized with the NOVA University of Lisbon, in a partnership between the Interuniversity Center for the History of Science and Technology (CIUHCT) at NOVA School of Science and Technology (NOVA FCT), and the Portuguese Institute of International Relations (IPRI) at NOVA School of Social Science and Humanities (NOVA FCSH). It will take place at NOVA FCSH, Campolide Campus, in Lisbon, Portugal, from 21 to 23 July 2027.
Deadline for applications: October 30, 2026.

Read more

Call for Proposals: International Seminar on Material Culture 2026/2027
Deutsches Museum in Munich, 22-26 February 2027

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, an essay part, and an attendance part, which will take place from February 22 to 26, 2027 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. The organizers would also like to encourage trainees in science and technology museums including respective university collections to apply. Accommodation will be covered for five nights as well as travel expenses up to 100€ for participants from Germany, up to 300€ for students from Europe and up to 1000€ for students from overseas.
Deadline for applications: November 15, 2026.

Read more

Call for Abstracts: "…never neutral": Practices, concepts, and methods of assessing technology over the last 50 years
TATuP - *Journal for Technology Assessment in Theory and Practice Special topic*, issue 36/3 (2027)

This TATuP Special topic will add to the self-understanding and evaluation of TA and related approaches by providing an historical perspective of the way technology had, has and is assessed – including those attempts left out as well as the question of why certain technologies had become a topic of interests while others did not. Such a comparative and long-term perspective on technology assessment is still missing. It can help to illuminate the ways in which TA emerged within a specific political, institutional, cultural and technical context. It illustrates the wide range of stakeholders as well as TA practitioners and their approaches. It can help to provide a basis for discussing TA´s specific channels of influence and preconditions for political change, technological adoption, or public awareness.
Deadline for submissions: December 3, 2026.

Read more

Jobs/Fellowships/Prizes

Call for applications: Scholarship for early career researchers in Technology and Social Change
Linköping University

The Catharina Högbom and Michael Cocozza Foundation for Research and Cultural Purposes in the Municipality of Linköping is offering a scholarship in Technology and Social Change (Tema T) with a focus on historical research. The scholarship recipient will be affiliated with one of the research environments at Tema T, Department of Thematic Studies, Linköping University. The scholarship is intended for early career researchers. To be eligible, applicants must have been awarded their doctoral degree no more than five years before the application deadline. If there are special circumstances, the doctoral degree may have been awarded earlier. Such circumstances may include leave due to illness, parental leave, elected office in a trade union, service in the Swedish total defence system or other similar

circumstances.
Deadline for applications: November 1, 2026.

Read more

Call for applications: Fellowships (postdoctoral to senior level) on the topic of “Historical Reflections on Science Studies”, Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Cultures of Research

The Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Cultures of Research (c:o/re) is an international center for advanced studies for history, philosophy, and sociology of science and technology at RWTH Aachen University. It is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space. The center invites applications from scholars from the humanities and social sciences, as well as from natural, life, and technical sciences. The focus of the center’s work is on the manifold research cultures within the sciences, their commonalities and differences, and how they are transformed through interdisciplinary discourse. We are particularly interested in exploring the concepts of ‘digitality/complexity’, ‘globality/varieties of science’ and ‘historicizing science studies’ together with international fellows.
For the year 2027/2028, KHK c:o/re’s research will be centered around the topic of “Historical Reflections on Science Studies.” Proposals may address:
-Historical reflections on the philosophy, sociology, and history of science and technology.
-Historical reflections on Science and Technology Studies (STS).
-Studies in the history of related fields influencing the philosophy, sociology and history of science and technology and STS, e.g. Gestalt-theory, behaviorism, precursors of AI, etc.
Methodological approaches and challenges for historical reflections on science studies.
Deadline for applications: November 30, 2026.

Read more

Call for Submissions: STAND Early Career Prize 2027

STAND Commission’s annual early career scholars (ECS) prize recognises outstanding essays addressing the history of science, technology and medicine in their diplomatic contexts. The award aims to provide support and recognition for fresh voices in the field. Topics might include, but are not limited to: science diplomacy, international negotiations and cooperation in science, technology or medicine, the transnational circulation of technoscientific and medical knowledge, materials, and expertise, and the intersection of that circulation with diplomacy, international relations, and their history and practice.
Candidates must have been awarded a PhD within the previous 8 years, or must be enrolled in a PhD program. Particularly encouraged are submissions from groups and regions underrepresented in the aforementioned research themes/areas.
Deadline for submissions: January 10, 2027.

Read more

New publications



Kazem Afradi and Ruth Oldenziel (2026). *Cycling Cities: The Tehran Experience*. Stichting Historie der Techniek.

The ancient, walled city of Tehran appealed to many nineteenth-century adventurers—including those who rode around world on bicycles. Around 1885, during the reign of Naser al-Din Shah, Tehranis first saw bicycles, known as "iron horses," in the hands of tourists and foreign embassy staff in the alleys and markets. Since then, the phenomenon of cycling in Tehran has experienced ups and downs along with the political, social, and physical changes in the city. Through an analytical study of history that sheds light on the way forward, the Cycling in Tehran project aims to strengthen the position of cycling in the transportation system of Tehran and then in other metropolises, especially in Muslim, Middle Eastern, and developing countries.

For past and forthcoming publications of "Cycling Cities", click here.

Read more

Tensions of Europe
RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE
https://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/

This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }}
You received this email because you are registered with Tensions of Europe

Unsubscribe here

Sent with Brevo