

Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

ToE Newsletter January 2024

EDITO

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

First, we send our warmest wishes for a happy new year to each one of you!

We also wish to express our gratitude to our institutional partners, whose support is key to our collaborations and the Tensions of Europe network. We invite you to [join us or renew your support](#).

We are also excited to share that preparations for the upcoming **11th Tensions of Europe Conference**, scheduled to take place in September 2024 at the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), are well underway. The enthusiastic response to the call is obvious in the submission of 45 individual proposals and 23 proposals for panels or panel series, featuring the participation of 187 researchers from around the world (with a predominant representation from Europe). The members of the ToE 2024 academic committee are currently reviewing these proposals, and notifications regarding acceptances and rejections will be sent in February 2024. We anticipate the registration process to start in February, too (the [conference website](#)).

In addition, the **ToE Early Career Scholars** network is actively preparing for the **Summer School** scheduled just before the conference. We encourage you to help spread the word about the call for participation (see below) that is open until February 4. The program is very promising and will offer a great and enriching experience for all participants.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please feel always free to share any news, calls, and publications with us, as this newsletter is yours.

Warm regards,

Valérie Schafer (C²DH, 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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Newsletter contents:

News from the Tensions of Europe network
CfPs
Open Positions
Lectures/Events
New publications

News from the Tensions of Europe network

Call for Participation: ToE Early Career Scholars Summer School 2024

The Tensions of Europe Early Career Scholars Committee is looking forward to seeing you at the Summer School “Transformations in/of the History of Technology,” organized in connection to the [11th Tensions of Europe Conference](#) “Transformations. Fundamental Change and Technology.” The summer school will take place at the

European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), September 16-19, 2024. It will be followed by the Tensions of Europe Conference (September 19-21, 2024).

The summer school aims at introducing PhD's and early career scholars to the Tensions of Europe network as well as to facilitate and encourage networking between young scholars across borders, while building their academic skills.

The summer school will also explore the main conference theme (transformations) in relation to **East/West transformative encounters (or lack thereof)**, and to the methodologies we can use to understand and describe them.

We will critically explore past and contemporary meanings of the categories "East" and "West" in the history of technology, from a **European as well as global perspective**. How did our understanding of these terms change over time? Which processes of inclusion and exclusion are implied in these categories? Which transformative encounters between West and East underline the blurred and unfixed nature of this divide? Which encounters (or missed encounters) contributed instead to materialize East/West divisions?

In order to promote network building, the summer school is organized to a large extent around **workshops and group discussions**. Participants will be asked to do some preparatory readings (3 to 5 papers); to write a short text on their research, which will be circulated before the summer school (300-500 words); and to prepare a very brief presentation on it (2-3 minutes). Additional information and materials will be provided after the notification of acceptance (March 2024).

We invite applicants to **submit a short bio and a short text (300-500 words each)** explaining their interest in the topics of the summer school and providing an example from their research which connects to the theme of East/West transformative encounters (or lack thereof, in the sense of "missed encounters").

Applications should be sent by February 4, 2024, through this form: <https://framaforms.org/tensions-of-europe-summer-school-2024-participation-form-1700572249>

Applicants will be notified of the results by March 15, 2024. If you have questions, you can reach out to [Genevra Sanvitale](mailto:Genevra.Sanvitale).

The participants of the summer school are expected to be **on-site**. Due to the highly interactive nature of most summer school sessions, we are unable to provide online participation.

[Read more](#)

Mentorship for Early Career Scholars: Fifth session on March 19, 2024

The Tensions of Europe network is organizing mentoring sessions that aim at supporting early career researchers (PhD students and post-doctoral researchers). **The fifth session, focused on the topic of Networking, will take place online on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, from 13.00 to 14.30 (CET)**. To participate in this meeting, please register by sending an email to Tirza Meyer (tirza@kth.se) until the 10th of March in order to get access to the link of the session.

[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 partnership rate for 2024 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

Early Scholars Spring School on Web Archives, 23-24 April 2024, Paris

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 WAC24 in Paris](#) may be perfect for you! It will be held from April 23 at 9.00 am to April 24 at 5.30 pm at the [Centre Internet et Société](#), CNRS, 59-61 rue Pouchet, PARIS. The concept of the Spring School on Web Archives emerged from the [RESAW conference held in Marseille in June 2023](#), in face of the engagement and enthusiasm of early scholars,

coupled with their questions. It prompted the idea of organizing an event exclusively for them. IIPC WAC24 was a natural next step to make this Spring School become a reality, spanning two days to minimize travel costs for early scholars and also providing a unique opportunity to facilitate discussion with major international stakeholders both in the academic and professional fields. The whole programme is currently under construction. Confirmed speakers include Nicola Bingham, Alex Thurman, Alexandre Faye, Ian Milligan, Frédéric Clavert, Valérie Beaudoin, Dana Diminescu amongst others. It also includes a unique opportunity to connect with practical aspects of web archiving, collections, and tools, through visits to the BnF Datalab and Ina THEQUE and a workshop on [ARCH by Internet Archive](#). The Spring School aims to create a dynamic and engaging environment, fostering knowledge exchange, and building connections among the next generation of scholars in the field of web archives.

Practical information: The language of the Spring School is English. Participation is free of charge for attendees and lunch is provided. Travel and accommodations are not included and at the participant's own expense. If you would like to participate, please send your short application (max. 2 pages) to emmanuelle.bermes@chartes.psl.eu and valerie.schafer@uni.lu (until 15 February 2024) including a bio, your topic of research and your use of web archives, as well as the elements and challenges you would like to discuss during the spring school.

Deadline for applications: February 15th, 2024

[Read more](#)

Call for Abstracts: EASST-4S Conference 2024

The 2024 quadrennial joint meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology ([EASST](#)) and the [Society for Social Studies of Science](#) (4S) is hosted by the [Athena - Research and Education Institute](#) at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam), July 16-19, 2024. The Program Committee invites panels, presentations, making & doing contributions, and other events that explore the role of STS in making and doing contributions to transformations in an era of grand societal challenges.

Deadline for applications: February 12th, 2024

[Read more](#)

Open positions

2 Postdoctoral positions in Contemporary History, Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH)

1. The Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (University of Luxembourg) announces a two years Post-Doctoral position in Contemporary History, starting June 1st, 2024. The post-doctoral researcher will join the CD-Hist project, funded by the FNR and aiming at reconstructing the history of CD-ROMS - as both a storage tool in the late 1980s and an entire branch of digital culture in the 1990s. This approach encompasses technical, economic, cultural, and social dimensions and embeds this "object biography" into the longer history of digital storage, interactivity, mediated interactions, consumption, and practices. The CD-Hist project is led by Prof. Valérie Schafer.
2. The Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (University of Luxembourg) announces a 18 Months Post-Doctoral position in Contemporary History, starting in November or December, 2024. The post-doctoral researcher will join the CD-Hist project, funded by the FNR and aiming at reconstructing the history of CD-ROMS - as both a storage tool in the late 1980s and an entire branch of digital culture in the 1990s. This approach encompasses technical, economic cultural and social dimensions and embeds this "object biography" into the longer history of digital storage, interactivity, mediated interactions, consumption and practices. The CD-Hist project is led by Prof. Valérie Schafer.

Deadline for applications: February 10th, 2024

[Read more \(1\)](#)

[Read more \(2\)](#)

Lectures/Events

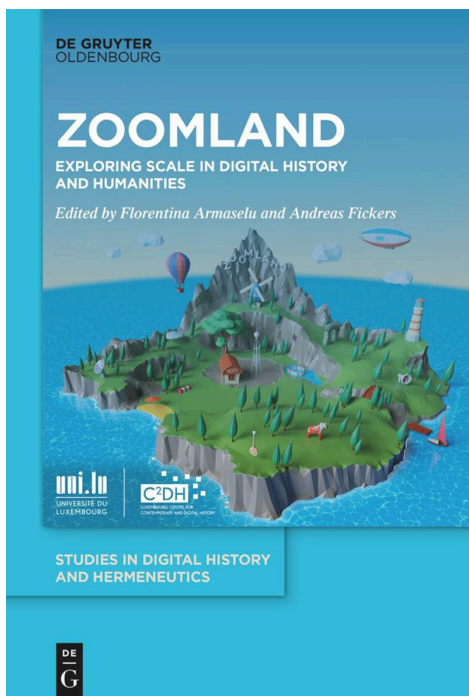
NYU Space Talks: History, Politics, Astroculture - Spring 2024

Inaugurated in the spring of 2021, **NYU Space Talks** is a lecture series convened by Alexander C. T. Geppert at NYU's Center for European and Mediterranean Studies and NYU Shanghai with the Department of History in New York City. Each semester, established and upcoming scholars present the latest research on the history and politics of outer space, extraterrestrial life and astroculture, both in Europe and around the globe.

All NYU Space Talks are held on Zoom. Everybody is welcome but advance registration is required.

[Read more](#)

New publications



Florentina Armaselu & Andreas Fickers (eds). *Zoomland. Exploring Scale in Digital History and Humanities*. De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2024. (Open Access)

Despite a variety of theoretical and practical undertakings, there is no coherent understanding of the concept of scale in digital history and humanities, and its potential is largely unexplored. A clearer picture of the whole spectrum is needed, from large to small, distant to close, global to local, general to specific, macro to micro, and the in-between levels.

The book addresses these issues and sketches out the territory of *Zoomland*, at scale. Four regions and sixteen chapters are conceptually and symbolically depicted through three perspectives: *bird's eye*, *overhead*, and *ground view*. The variable-scale representation allows for exploratory paths covering areas such creative use of scale in new digital forms of analysis, data organisation, interfaces, and argumentative or artistic expressions. *Zoomland* provides a systematic discussion on the epistemological dimensions, hermeneutic methods, empirical tools, and aesthetic logic pertaining to scale and its innovative possibilities residing in humanities-based approaches and digital technologies.

[Read more](#)

JEH
RHE
Journal
of Energy
History
Revue
d'Histoire
de l'Énergie

#10

SPECIAL ISSUE Pervasive Petrocultures



Rémance des pétrocultures

DOSSIER

Anna Åberg, Susanna Lidström & Kristoffer Ekberg (eds). **Special Issue: “Pervasive petrocultures: histories, ideas and practices of fossil fuels”**. *Journal of Energy History / Revue d'histoire de l'énergie (JEHRHE)* no. 10, 2023. (Open Access)

The special issue focuses on the concept of petroculture and its relationship with energy history and energy humanities. The contributions explore many facets of oil, including far-reaching impacts of petroleum on identities and practices as well as the role of economic, geopolitical and cultural factors in maintaining the use of fossil fuels despite efforts to transition to renewable energy systems. Our aim is to bridge petrocultural studies and energy history, exploring diverse geographical perspectives and historical contexts. We believe that further integration of these fields can help strengthen understanding of how petrocultures resist attempts to decrease the use of oil across modern societies.

[Read more](#)

NUMBER 10 July 2023

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