

Tensions of Europe

RESEARCH NETWORK ON HISTORY,
TECHNOLOGY AND EUROPE

ToE Newsletter February 2025

EDITO

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

A new year has started, and we want to wish you all the best for 2025. As the new Chair of the ToE Management Committee, I look forward to working with you the coming years. In light of current world events, we need to support each other and the network more than ever.

We want to thank all of you who participated in our 11th Tensions of Europe Conference organized by the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder as well as the ToE Early Career Scholars Summer School that preceded the Conference, making it a wonderful and inspiring meeting. The biggest thank you goes to the amazing organising team, who, on top of the usual conference woes, had to handle flooding, border controls and train troubles. A heartfelt thank you to Falk Flade, Dagmara Jajeśniak-Quast and Jan-Hendrik Passoth and the rest of the team for your great work!

The next Conference in 2026 will take place in the Netherlands, we are already looking forward to it!

We also want to express our sincere gratitude to Valérie Schafer for having guided the Network through the past couple of years. Valérie has been instrumental in setting up the mentoring program, organising an online workshop on sources, keeping the MC in check and much more. We are glad that you are staying on to support us in the MC, Valérie!

The mentoring sessions for PhDs and postdocs will continue the coming year, the next date can be found below. To those of you who are senior scholars: PhDs and postdocs do not need to have participated previously in ToE activities in order to join the mentoring, so please make sure to communicate the mentoring sessions to your junior colleagues. For the network to grow, we need your help to enrol new members also in the years between our conferences.

Finally, in order to expand our activities, provide greater support for early career researchers, organize pre-conferences and intermediate networking events, as well as cover our modest but necessary operating costs, the Tensions of Europe Network has instituted institutional partnerships. Please consider becoming an institutional partner, the information can be found below. Our network will of course continue to remain open to individual participation, free of charge for colleagues, and as inclusive as we have always intended it to be. Finally, the newsletter depends on receiving your news to spread. Remember to send in your news and activities to Katerina so she can include them in the next one.

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).

Follow TensionsOfEurope@BlueSky: [@tensionsofeurope.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/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](#)

Report for the 11th Tensions of Europe Conference (ToE24), held September 19-21, 2024, at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

The [11th Tensions of Europe Conference](#) “Transformations. Fundamental Change and Technology” (ToE24) was held at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) and Słubice 19 - 21 September 2024. The conference preceded the ToE Early Career Scholars’ summer school that took place 16 - 19 September. Falk Flade, member of the ToE Management Committee and of the local organizing committee, provided us a short account about the Conference.

The aim of the conference was to shed light on technological, but also political, societal and environmental sides of transformations in Europe and other regions in past and present. Technology can be a major factor to enhance, slow down or ease such transformations. Processes of circulation and appropriation of knowledge, ideas and artefacts provide a broad field of research to better understand aspects of political, societal or environmental transformations in connection with technology.

ToE24 was opened by the round table “Co-Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe in Past and Present” and closed by the key-note speech “Writing Transformative Envirotech History in the Anthropocene: Provocations and Opportunities” held by Helmuth Trischler (available to watch on-line, [here](#)).

132 researchers from all over Europe attended ToE24 in person, 22 colleagues presented online. Contributions were given in 39 panel sessions. 15 young scholars participated in the preceding summer school. The conference dinner was held at the conference building directly next to the Oder river and, as always, included a live band and dancing. We received very positive feedback from a whole range of participants. Thank you for coming here! We are looking forward to seeing you all again at the next ToE conference in the Netherlands.

You may also read the report for the 11th ToE Conference Report by Michal Ďurčo (Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of History), [here](#).

[Read more](#)

Tensions of Europe Management Committee

During the 11th Tensions of Europe Conference, the Management Committee held a meeting to celebrate the conclusion of the 2-year term during which Valérie Schafer (University of Luxembourg) served as the Chair of the Committee. We wholeheartedly thank Valérie for her dedication and we are very pleased that she continues to be a member of the MC. For the current term, Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg) serves as the Chair of the Management Committee. We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to Leonard Laborie (Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Paris), whom after serving for a long term the ToE network, decided to step down from the MC. The members of ToE Management Committee, as it stands now, are:

- (Chair) Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg)
- Yves Bouvier (Université Paris-Sorbonne)
- Falk Flade (European University Viadrina Frankfurt Oder)
- 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)
- Katerina Vlantoní (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
- Erik van der Vleuten (Eindhoven University of Technology/Foundation for the History of Technology)

[Read more](#)

Mentorship for Early Career Scholars - First session (2nd ed.), March 17, 2025

The Tensions of Europe network is starting the second edition of its mentoring programme that aims at supporting 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 first session will focus on academic publishing and will take place on March 17, from 14:00 to 15:30 (CET). Topics for discussion will include (but are not limited to) how to write your first academic article, what are the main journals in the history of technology and STS, how to handle peer review. The session will be held online, with the participation of Anna Åberg (Chalmers University of Technology), Valérie Schafer (C2DH, University of Luxembourg) and other guests.

To participate, please register by March 10 through this [form](#).

[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 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: SHOT Annual Meeting “Technologies of Migration - Migrating Technologies”, October 9-11, 2025, Luxembourg

Migration has shaped the civilized world. The circulation of people, goods, and ideas is tightly connected to technologies, as is the monitoring, control or prevention of such movements. The deep history of human migration is characterized by several waves- caused by climatic changes, economic crises, or political forces. Due to globalization, cross-border flows have increased steadily since the 19th century, and technologies of transportation and communication have been essential in mass mobilization. The current discourses on migration both witness of the transformative role of digital technologies in planning, organizing, and realizing of difficult and often dangerous migratory movements around the world and highlight the inherent politics of migratory technologies in surveillance, border control, and the creation of machine-readable bodies.

Luxembourg for instance, whose foreign-born residents account for 51.2 % of the population and a share of 60.7% in employment in 2023, turned into a European hotspot of work migration with the birth of the local steel industry in the late 19th century. Foreign workers were attracted from neighbouring countries first (especially France, Belgium, and Germany), around 1900 from the Italian peninsula and young interwar states in Central and Eastern Europe afterwards. The post-WWII migration was characterized by a strong migration from Portugal (mainly in the building sector) and by highly skilled work migration in the financial sector and European administration since the 1970s. While official sources brand the Luxembourg migration history as a “success story”, the pivotal role of migrants in turning the country into one of the richest in the world is often unacknowledged. The 2025 SHOT conference draws inspiration from this history and offers an important opportunity to reflect critically on the hidden histories and archival silences of migration and technology from multiple perspectives.

Technologies not only facilitate transfer of people and goods, but are also epistemic objects that carry gender and race inscriptions, embody practices of knowledge, and symbolic meanings that change and can be re-appropriated in unpredictable and creative ways in a complex process of translation. Migrating technologies enable knowledge transfer and shape the social construction and symbolic enrichment of material objects, infrastructures, and complex technological systems. How do processes such as the migration of data formats, the adaptation of infrastructures, or the translation of technical knowledge shape historical trajectories of technologies? Can technologies themselves be seen as “migrant”, as they shift from one technological or social ecosystem to another?

In this context we invite a critical appraisal of concepts, strategies, and narratives of migration when analyzed through the lens of technology. How does technology frame the experiences of migration and how have “technologies of memory” produced individual or networked forms of family narratives? How can we address questions of human rights and inequalities in a paradoxical temporality characterized by the global competition for talents and the growing inequality of wealth and financial resources? How do normative and legal regimes impact on “official” and “clandestine” use of migration technologies? What data driven methods are available for historians of technology and migration to study and analyze complex flows of people, goods, and ideas at different scales and in a long-durée perspective?

As always, SHOT anticipates a vibrant and interesting meeting that explores the **theme** of migration as well as other important **topics**. The Program Committee welcomes **proposals of several types**.

Deadline for paper and panel submissions: April 5, 2025

[Read more](#)

**Annual conference of the Viadrina Center of Polish and Ukrainian Studies,
May 22 - 23, 2025, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany**

The VCPU Annual Conference 2025 "Between Hope and Reality. Modernization and Transformation in Central and Eastern Europe" addresses current challenges in Polish and Ukrainian studies and is dedicated to the research project "Mod-Block-DDR." Both areas are framed by the concepts of "modernization" and "transformation." The presentation of research findings on socialist modernization in the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland, including their achievements and obstacles, will serve as a stimulus for discussing the political, economic, social, and cultural transformations in Central and Eastern Europe.

All researchers from disciplines such as (but not limited to) economic history, the history of science, or sociology are invited to participate. At the Viadrina Center of Polish and Ukrainian Studies, we aim to place special focus on Ukraine as a new sphere of modernization processes (e.g. migration, the opening to western Europe, and integration with the European Union) and socio-economic transformations initiated by the outbreak of Russia's War of Aggression. These focal points highlight the diverse theoretical and methodological potential of the Viadrina Center of Polish and Ukrainian Studies: interdisciplinarity that integrates historical, political, economic, and cultural studies and fosters transnational cooperation between scholars.

Deadline for submissions: February 23, 2025

[Read more](#)

Open call: Summer School in Anthropocene Histories, August 25-28, 2025, Center for Anthropocene History at KTH and the European Society for Environmental History (Stockholm, Sweden)

The European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) and the Centre for Anthropocene History at KTH Royal Institute of Technology are inviting applications for the 2025 ESEH Summer School to be held in and around Stockholm on the topic of *Anthropocene Histories*. The Anthropocene is not just a geochronological epoch to be defined by the International Commission on Stratigraphy. It is a state of the world where the human and the natural intersect so profoundly that it has started to impact the workings of our planet. The anthropogenic environmental changes have acquired historical agency on the planetary level. Thus, exploring and writing Anthropocene histories is a call and attempt to mend the longstanding separation between human and Earth history and engage seriously with the natural and the material in various ways and formats. While science can identify geophysical and biogeochemical changes, it is history that connects the rapid planetary changes with the explanatory dynamics of human societies and asks how and why such geological records have emerged in the first place.

This Summer School is intended for doctoral students in history, STS, philosophy, sociology, and neighboring humanities disciplines working on the history of *anthropogenic environmental changes that have impacted Earth processes on a planetary scale* without necessarily confining themselves to the geological definitions of the Anthropocene.

Deadline for submissions: February 28, 2025

[Read more](#)

CFP: Eogan 2025 - Energy Archives conference, June 1, 2025, Fondazione Dalmine, Italy

The network Eogan (formerly the "European Oil and Gas Archives Network", now only the Energy Archives Network) was established in 2009 by a group of archivists working for the energy companies, national archives, and energy museums, with the intention of bringing together records managers and historians working with energy history records, in order to promote a collective reflection on the usage, preservation, and long-term accessibility to energy archives.

The annual EOGAN conference is a meeting place for people to share ideas and develop valuable international links across the energy research and archives sectors. The conference language will be English. The theme for the 2025 Conference is 'Energy Transportation', and the role of services companies and of infrastructures around energy production and transportation. Transportation is a key element of any energy production/consumption relation; at the same time, each type of energy that we consume requires radically different transportation modes, which define the ways in which energy is both produced and consumed, and fundamental geopolitical, social, economic relations around the type of energy used.

Deadline for submissions: March 16, 2025

[Read more](#)

CfP: Workshop on Alternative Energy Histories (WAEH): Scenarios and Transitions, October 20-21, 2025, Maastricht University

Between 1974 and 1977, the MIT professor, science organizer and Club of Rome executive committee member Carroll L. Wilson organized the international Workshop on Alternative Energy Strategies (WAES). Assembling energy experts from academia, specialized agencies and particularly oil companies, the three-year workshop series explored alternative scenarios for the future of energy demand and supply. The WAES final report, *Energy: Global Prospects 1985-2000* (1977) presented scenarios that pointed to an inevitable oil shortage before the year 2000. It therefore recommended the immediate expansion of capacity to draw more power from nuclear energy wherever politically and technologically feasible. The report also promoted a sharp increase in coal consumption, in combination with emission control technology, to provide a temporary "bridge" until other synthetic fuels and renewables could take over in the 21st century. Oil companies of the 1970s, both those involved in WAES and others, invested heavily in alternative energy, particularly coal, nuclear, solar and geothermal energy. Those investment decisions were often based on expectations shaped by scenarios produced by oil firms' own planning departments as well as by external groups such as WAES. Thus, scenarios of an alternative energy future had at least some performative effect on the real-world energy constellations of the 1970s.

Half a century later, our conference will explore the history of oil and alternative energy through the lens of scenarios. *Alternative energy histories* has a double meaning: we will discuss both *histories of alternative energy* (e.g., solar, nuclear, geothermal, etc.) as well as, and more literally, *alternative energy histories* (e.g. the use of scenarios and other forecasting tools, expectations of the energy future, what other energy futures were possible, etc.). As the

concluding conference of the NWO-Vici project “Managing Scarcity and Sustainability: The Oil Industry, Environmentalism and Alternative Energy in the Age of Scarcity, 1968-1986,” (VI.C.191.067) this workshop seeks to discuss completed and ongoing research as well as explore avenues for further research.
Deadline for submissions: April 4, 2025

[Read more](#)

Doctoriales de l'énergie 2025 (Summer school, July 1-4, 2025, Grenoble, France)

The **Committee for the History of Electricity and Energy** is running its sixth summer school on the history of energy, designed for young researchers affiliated with research institution, either in Europe or beyond. This next summer school will be held in Grenoble from July 1st to 4th 2025.

The summer school provides a multidisciplinary environment for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers in the humanities and social sciences having specialisms in the history of energy. It will enable them to deepen their knowledge of the field, as well as to network with established researchers and collaborate in workshops. This event aims to create links between researchers and students from different countries and different backgrounds so as to enable them to meet each other outside any disciplinary barriers.

Following a number of themed meetings (*energy and empire* in 2015; *energy and heritage* in 2017) the 2025 issue will survey the field more broadly. What are the major interests and issues explored in energy studies? Which general trends have emerged over recent years?

The summer school will be divided into a series of panels, each of which will start with a paper given by an established researcher. Participants will then present their work, and their preliminary findings, sources will be discussed. A workshop on the use of archives will stimulate reflection about the historian method. The summer school will also provide opportunities to visit key heritage sites, notably those linked with energy history.

The sessions will be held in **French and English**. Please note that solid skills in these two languages are necessary to be fully engaged in the sessions and visits organized during the summer school.

Deadline for submissions: April 14, 2025

[Read more](#)

Jobs/Fellowships/Prizes

2025 Maurice Daumas Prize

The **International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC)** welcomes submissions for the *Maurice Daumas Prize*, which aims to encourage innovative scholarship in the history of technology. ICOHTEC is interested in the history of technological development as well as its relationship to science, society, economy, culture, and the environment. There is no limitation as to theoretical or methodological approaches.

The prize will be awarded to the author of the best article submitted which deals with the history of technology in any period of the past or in any part of the world and which was published in a journal or edited volume from 2023 to 2025. Eligible for the prize are original articles published in (or later translated into) any of the official ICOHTEC languages (English, French, German, Russian or Spanish). Submissions are welcomed from scholars of any country **who are currently in graduate school or have received their doctorate within the last seven years**. Please send your submission and a brief (not to exceed one-page) cv to the [chair](#) of the Prize Committee **no later than 3rd March 2025**. The winner will be contacted in late May 2025. The prize will be awarded at our 52nd Annual Meeting, will take place in Dunedin, New Zealand, **in person and also virtually, from 29 June to 5 July 2025**, as part of the 27th ICHST. The winner will receive a cash prize of 500€. Alongside the first prize, papers in the second and third-ranking positions would receive an honorarium/diploma award.

Deadline for applications: March 3, 2025.

[Read more](#)

3-year postdoctoral position in Energy History (“Society - Knowledge - Environment”), Department of History, University of Bielefeld, Germany

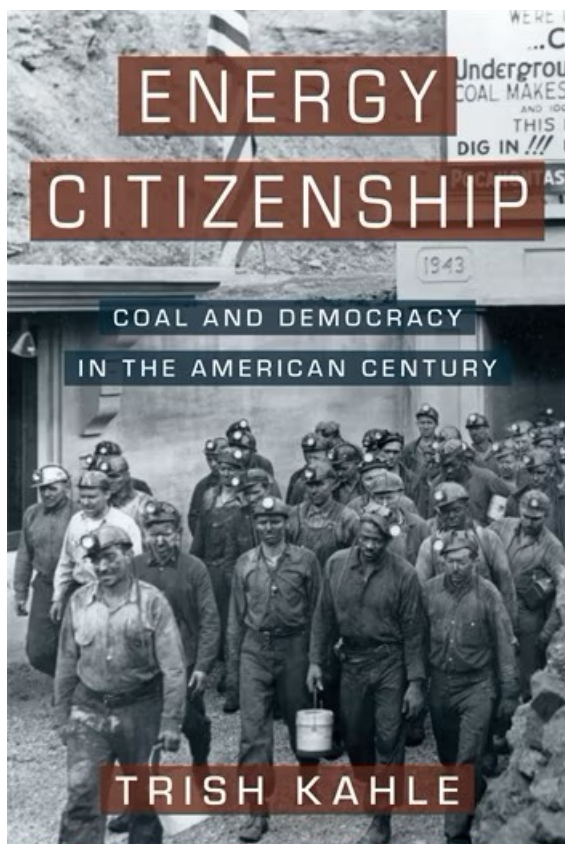
As of April 1, 2025, the Department of History of Modern Societies (Prof. Martin Lutz) at the Department of Department of History, Faculty of History, Philosophy and Theology a position as research assistant for a period of 3 years. The department understands contemporary social history as a social history inspired by cultural history in close exchange with the social sciences, which takes into account the political and economic framework conditions of societies. It not only focuses on structures and dynamics at the macro level, but also deals with the social meso level (such as communities, organizations, companies) and micro perspectives on individual actors. The focus of the advertised positions is on the broad social references of energy (energy history, energy humanities) in the modern age.

The research area is part of the profile area “Society - Knowledge - Environment” (GWU). This profile area emerged from the former research areas History of Modern Societies, Economic History, History of Science and Ibero-American History. As part of a reform process, the Department of History at Bielefeld University has moved away from the chair principle and instead established profile areas in which academics from different status groups teach and research together without being directly assigned to a professorship. This allows us to offer an innovative working environment with flat hierarchies. At the same time cooperative and dedicated supervision of qualification projects by the professors

in the profile area is guaranteed. Profile area includes several research associations and networks that support international research and networking, and in some cases also finance it..
Deadline for applications: February 19, 2025.

[Read more](#)

New publications



Trish Kahle, *Energy Citizenship Coal and Democracy in the American Century*. Columbia University Press, 2024.

The history of the modern United States is the history of coal—and of coal miners. Trish Kahle reveals miners as forgers of a coal-fired social contract that was contested throughout the twentieth century as Americans sought to define the meaning of citizenship in an energy-intensive democracy.

Energy Citizenship traces the uncertain relationship between coal and democracy from the Progressive Era to the election of Ronald Reagan, examining how miners' democratic aspirations confronted the deadly record of the country's coal mines. Miners and their communities bore the burdens of energy production while reaping far fewer of the benefits of energy consumption. But they insisted that death in the mines, far from being inevitable, was a political choice. Kahle demonstrates that coal miners' struggles to democratize the workplace, secure civil and social rights, and obtain restitution for the human toll of progress reshaped U.S. laws, regulatory administrations, and political imaginaries. Energy policy in the twentieth century was about not only managing fuels but also negotiating the relationship between coal miners and the rest of the country, which depended on the electric power and steel produced with the coal they mined.

Placing coal miners at the center of a sweeping new history of the United States, this book unmask the violence of energy systems and shows how energy governance cuts to the heart of persistent questions about democracy, justice, and equality..

[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](#)

