Newsletter

July 2009

Content

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EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Word from the editors

Summer is upon us already! The activities of our network continue, individually and collectively. We kicked off the year with a conference in Amsterdam combining the efforts of two of the Inventing Europe projects, EUWOL and SOFT-EU. Early March the set up of TOE-IE book series was discussed during a workshop in Vught. EUROCRIT organized an inspiring meeting in Helsinki. Also two summer schools are planned in the coming months, one in France and one in Finland. The next joint ToE/Inventing Europe conference will take place in Sofia (Bulgaria) from 17-20 June 2010.

It is with profoundly mixed feelings (very happy for her, very sad for us) that we announce that Lidwien Hollanders, long time secretary of the Foundation for the History of Technology has departed from the 'nerve centre' of the Tensions of Europe for a post closer to home in Maastricht. Lidwien has been an intrepid and unflappable organizational force for many Tensions events, in addition to being heavily involved in the day-to-day running of the network from its very beginnings in Budapest. We will all miss her greatly! Sonja Beekers will take over the tasks of Lidwien.

As ever, if you have any additional news, please let us know – all the news that fits, we print!

News

In Memory of Karen J. Freeze

Johan Schot, Ruth Oldenziel and Jan Korsten

(Photo:http://www.arocha.org/in-memoriam/karen-freeze.html)

March 19, 2009 we received the message that our dear colleague Karen J. Freeze died after losing a courageous battle with cancer. Over the past years, Karen has been instrumental in broadening our perspective to include Eastern, Central, and South Eastern Europe in our work and in the network of Tensions of Europe scholars. She was responsible for all the early contacts with young scholars in the region, educating us about our preconceptions and biases, while bridging the scholarly divisions that for decades were created as a result of the Cold War.

Many new friendships and collaborations have been the result of her efforts. One was the memorable first Tensions of Europe conference in Budapest in 2004, where many of us met each other for the first time. Karen also laid the foundations for the PhD-program 'The Hidden Integration in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe' that was launched by the Foundation for the History of Technology in 2006. Traveling around Europe she prepared the collaboration of Charles University Prague (Czech Republic), the University of Plovdiv (Bulgaria) and Eindhoven University of Technology (the Netherlands). She was involved in selecting the four young scholars that were admitted to the program. End of February 2008 she was able to see the first results of her efforts to

stimulate the field of history of technology in the region during a workshop in Plovdiv.

As an American, she has been a true bridge builder in overcoming differences in Europe. We mourn the loss of a special dear friend and wonderful colleague. We wish her daughter, son, and mother all the strength in the difficult time ahead.

The Foundation for the History of Technology has taken the initiative to start the Karen J. Freeze Fellowship Fund, to encourage research in the field of history of technology in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe.
The Karen J. Freeze Fellowship Fund will seek to encourage scientific research and facilitate active participation of early career scholars in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe. More information will follow in one of the upcoming newsletters.

For more information visit www.tensionsofeurope.eu

First demonstration of ESF Inventing Europe Virtual Exhibit "Europe, Interrupted"

A very first version of the virtual exhibit was demonstrated by Brian Fuchs (Imperial College London) and Alec Badenoch (Foundation for the History of Technology) during the Book Series workshop in March.

(Photo: Jan Korsten SHT)

The Virtual Exhibit has been further extended and developed afterwards. At the end of June the website will go online. We will send you the link by e-mail in due time. Please visit the site when it is online and give us your comments.

Meetings

Oral History and Technological Memory: Challenges in Studying European Pasts
10–15 August 2009, University of Turku, Finland

The ESF EUROCORES program Inventing Europe and Tensions of Europe are organizing a summer school for doctoral students and junior scholars on oral history and technological memory, with a special emphasis the methodology of oral history within the framework of the history of technology. The Summer School will be hosted by the Department of Cultural History, University of Turku, Finland. It will take place at the University of Turku between Monday 10 August and Saturday 15 August 2009. The call for papers was distributed via e-mail earlier. The deadline for applications already passed. For more information visit www.tensionsofeurope.eu.

1st "Cité des Télécoms" Doctoral Summer School: History of electronic images: a long term perspective.
14-18 September 2009, Cité des Télécoms, France

The summer school aims at providing doctoral students with an overview of relevant research results and of innovative tools and methodologies in the field of communication history. It is organised jointly by the *Cité des Télécoms*, the Paris-Sorbonne University and the Maastricht University. During the summer school, students will present and discuss their PhD research with leading international scholars in the field of media history and innovation studies. The conference language will be English. The call for papers was distributed via e-mail earlier. The deadline for applications already passed. For more information visit www.tensionsofeurope.eu.

Conferences

4th Tensions of Europe Plenary Conference & Closing ESF Inventing Europe Conference
June 17-20, 2010, Sofia University, Bulgaria

The European Science Foundation (ESF) and the Foundation for the History of Technology in the Netherlands are jointly organizing the final and closing conference of the ESF EUROCORES program *Inventing Europe* and the bi-annual conference of the *Tensions of Europe network* (ToE).
Inventing Europe and *ToE* strive, through collaborative research and coordinating efforts, to promote studies of the interplay between technical change and European history. Instead of focusing on national histories, the emphasis of both initiatives is on *transnational* technological developments that have shaped and are shaping Europe.
The main theme of the conference is *Technology & East-West relations: Transfers, parallel histories, and the European laboratory*. The theme applies to papers, which treat processes of circulation and ap-propriation of technologies between Eastern and Western Europe as an entry point into the contested practice of Europeanization. The call for papers will be distributed early July 2009 by e-mail, the deadline for paper abstracts is December 18, 2009.
For more information visit www.tensionsofeurope.eu.

Reports

'Appropriating America, Making Europe', European Science Foundation Workshop. Royal Dutch Academy of the Sciences. Amsterdam, Jan. 15-17, 2009

Report by
Adri Albert de la Bruhèze (University of Twente, The Netherlands).
Frank Veraart (Technical University Eindhoven, The Netherlands)

Cold and dark January always provides an excellent moment to warm up intellectually during an intensive workshop. This year we were lucky to take part in such an exciting event: the workshop Appropriating America, Making Europe, organized within the context of the ESF funded Inventing Europe Collaborative Research Project. The Appropriating America workshop was organized in Amsterdam by Ruth Oldenziel, project leader Inventing Europe-EUWOL (European Ways of Life in the American Century), and Gerard Alberts, project leader Inventing Europe-SOFT-EU (Software for Europe), in collaboration with the Foundation for the History of Technology (Eindhoven, The Netherlands). Also involved was the Inventing Europe- EUROCRIT (Europe goes Critical. The Emergence and Governance of Critical Transnational European Infrastructures) project, and the EUROCOMMONS project. Conference venues were located in Amsterdam, at the Trippenhuis of the Royal Dutch Academy of Science, and at the Manuscript Collection of the University of Amsterdam. The hotels hosting the conference participants were all nicely located in the centre of (swinging) Amsterdam, and at walking distance of the conference venues.

Theme, questions, and dissemination

America and Americanization are center stage in the EUWOL and SOFT-EU research programs on the making of Europe. They focus on how representations of America, both in positive and negative senses, became part of the cultural scripts embedded within technological design, how European users and consumers resisted, appropriated, and reworked American models or collaborated with their American counterparts trying to tweak U.S. soft and hard power.

In order to map the extent and ways in which European and U.S. actors 'manufactured' 'U.S.' and 'European' technological designs, the central conference questions were whether – and if so, how – American actors 'Americanized' Europe in the twentieth century and to what extent American actors became 'Europeanized' in the process of Americanization.

The conference brought together a number of case study oriented projects both within and outside the ESF-EUROCORES *Inventing Europe*-program in order to give insight in the role of technology in the making of the discursive and material space of Europe. To link EUWOL and SOFT-EU perspectives to the study of Americanization in the post-war era, a number of specialists Americanists were invited as keynote speakers, commentators to foster cross-disciplinary encounters, and Dutch historians and sociologists of Science, Technology and Society.

The workshop: organization, purpose, and contributions

The three day workshop had two parts, a general conference part and an internal EUWOL and Soft-EU part. The general conference consisted of three layers, key note opening lectures given by specialist scholars, parallel paper sessions, and plenary panel discussions. During the general conference 50 papers were being presented, commented, and discussed. All in all 91 researchers participated in the lively and exciting workshop.

The purpose of the general workshop was to discuss with EUWOL participants, SOFT-EU participants and leading American Studies Scholars the extent to which U.S. actors shaped technological and societal trajectories in twentieth century Europe.

First day.
The conference was opened by Professor Robert Dijkgraaf, President Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, The Netherlands. Keynote presentations were given by Professor Rob Kroes (University of Amsterdam), Professor Giles Scott Smith (Roosevelt Study Centre) and Professor

Ruth Oldenziel (TU Eindhoven) on the subject of *soft and hard power: hegemony at work*.

All keynote speakers stressed that America and American images served as a way to develop a European identity. This process became especially noticeable during periods of war, crises, and tensions. In those periods Europeans started to define their identity by creating images of the U.S. But what is 'the U.S.'? Was it postwar military and political power? Was it technology? Was it American (blended) culture? Does the similar melting pot character of American and European culture show the importance of global history, i.e. the irrelevance of geographical identity?

The key-note presentations were meant as introduction to the subsequent parallel paper sessions. Fifteen papers were divided into 5 themes; Seductive Modernities, The soft power of the Irresistible Empire, Resistance, Third Way: Close encounters with hegemony, and Distant encounters.

The first day ended with a plenary discussion about personal views on Appropriating America. Contributions were given by Professor Robert Dijkgraaf, Professor John Grin (University of Amsterdam), and Professor Ruth Oldenziel.

Second Day.
Keynote presentations were given by Professor David Nye (Odense University) and Professor Mary Nolan (New York University) on *sound and vision.* David Nye addressed the issue of 'Creolization', i.e. the ways in which both positive and negative U.S. images and symbols were created and appropriated in both the U.S. and Europe. Mary Nolan stressed the usefulness of the (contested) concept Americanization as an analytical category. Despite the fact that what America stood for in both American and European images, changed over time, global dominance and hegemony was an explicit U.S. strategy. Because this strategy entailed technology, production, consumption, culture, politics, soft and hard power, and values like democracy, Americanization as global process is analytically more powerful than for instance 'Germanification' that entails less elements.

These key-note papers served as introduction to the subsequent parallel

paper sessions. Fifteen papers were divided into 4 themes; Appropriation as Domestication, Seductive Modernities, Third Way: Autonomous European Answers, and Transnational mediators.

After lunch there was a plenary session *Vision and Sound. Analysis of Images,* with a keynote presentation by Dr. Jaap Kooijman (University of Amsterdam) followed by a roundtable discussion with Dr. Andreas Fickers (Maastricht University), Dr, Gerard Alberts (Univeristy of Amsterdam), and Dr. A. Badenoch (Universiy of Utrecht).

Jaap Kooijman sketched how the creation of mythic America, containing both reality and hyper reality, for instance embodied in route 66, emphasized the role of language and technology. Gerard Albers showed how IBM images changed over time. Alec Badenoch, told about the making of Europe by means of a virtual exhibition organized with the Inventing Europe Project. This plenary was continued after lunch with workshops on sound and vision given by the (keynote) presenters.

(Photo:http://dd.dynamicdiagrams.com/category/business)
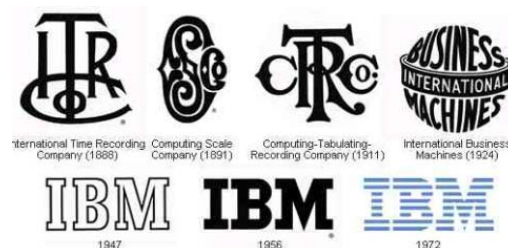
Third Day.
Keynote presentations were given by Prof. David Ellwood (University of Bologna) and Prof. Matthias Kipping (Schulich School of Business) on *Money and Meaning: Corporate America.* David Ellwood stressed that specific philosophies of modernization were underlying the Marshall Plan. In his view the MP primarily involved a philosophy of modernization debate connected to the different priorities the US and European countries had set themselves. Matthias Kipping problematized existing Americanization studies. He pleaded for concrete evidence of U.S. power, such as money and capital flows, and to distinguish between policy intentions and concrete policy outcomes. According to Kipping more attention should be given to receiving and reworking European actors, to different U.S. and European frames of meaning and meaning

giving, to the role of cultural actors like film industries and music business, and to pay more attention to 'scripting' of U.S. cultural, political and technological products, all ''selling' the American dream. These last keynote papers served as introduction to the subsequent parallel paper sessions. Twenty papers were divided into 5 themes; The Geography of Business Dreams, Tinkering with Hegemony, Reworking America, American Appeals through the Iron Curtain, and Seductive Modernities.

At noon the conference was closed by Prof. Ruth Oldenziel and Dr. Gerard Alberts.

Evaluation.

As workshop participants we witnessed lively, exciting, and productive interactions between Euwol and SOFT-EU members, Dutch Americanists, Dutch historians, and Dutch. In our view the workshop succeeded in contributing to a cross CRP learning process and to a rapprochement with American Studies in the Netherlands. Many conference participants acknowledged they had learned about the work and approaches applied in the other CRPs and within American Studies. American Studies representatives were thrilled to participate in and to learn from this new and exciting field of exploring Americanization through the lens of technology.

Also the discussions in between the sessions and during the meals were lively and very productive. The conference diners encouraged these interactions as a result of their location and the quality of the food served. At the end of the first day we dined at *1ste klas* located in the Amsterdam Central Railway Station. The second day we dined at *Wilhelminadok* located in the Northern part of the city for which we had to cross the IJ by ferryboat. In *Wilhelminadok* we enjoyed rich and variegated American regional cuisine based upon suggestions and recipes from Ruth and her partner!

Intellectually warmed and satisfied we left Amsterdam, convinced that this very well organized conference provided the right kick off for the EUWOL and SOFT-EU groups to start working towards their end products.

Professor David Ellwood of the University of Bologna, whose plenary address 'The Marshall Plan and the "Revolution of Rising Expectations" kicked off the third day of the conference, has kindly offered us his reflections on the workshop, and in particular the notion of Americanization.

It was right that Amsterdam should host the latest encounter between historians of technology and scholars of the impact and reception of America's myths and models in Europe. No city has done more to promote American studies in general in Europe. In the person of Rob Kroes, long-time director of the Amerika Institute, - but not only he - the Dutch tradition of concentrating on cultural factors in European-American relations has, over the years, provided a vast mass of facts and arguments which every specialist in this area must come to terms with.

The conference was organized on the premise that technology is also culture. In other words, the adoption or application of technology in any specific society or situation depends as often as not on attitudes, inspirations, values and norms produced by realities which are not by any means sure to be technological in origin. Where big new technologies rise up - the assembly line, television, jet engines, microprocessors, the Internet, whatever – inherited attitudes and experiences invariably dictate the way they are taken up in practice. The why's and wherefore's of this historical reality were demonstrated time and again in specific research papers, which for the first time on any scale, extended the scope of the research to the European countries of the former Soviet bloc.

The word 'Americanization' was much in the air once more. Social scientists and historians have been arguing for at least 25 years over whether to take this concept/notion/model/metaphor seriously, and if so how. Under Rob Kroes's supervision, a study group at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies a few years ago produced a fully-fledged declaration on the topic (published in Rob Kroes et al (eds.), *Cultural Transmissions and Receptions*, Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1993), but that didn't stop the arguments continuing, even intensifying as the notion became more and more caught up with its terrible twin 'anti-Americanism', especially in the years since 2003. Most conference-

goers, it seems to me, would probably have settled for a definition which accepts 'Americanization' as a useful shorthand expression, applicable to those processes of transformation which allegedly occur when other societies (or firms, groups, generations etc.) take over – usually under the imperative pressure of choice – innovations in social practice first see in the United States. Wisely the conference and its organisers chose not to go down the route of conceptual argument, concentrating instead on specific historical experiences.

The question remains, though: why do we focus so intensely on one particular national/spatial/ideal source of the changes we are constantly immersed in. There are, after all, many other sources of contemporary innovation: local ideas of progress, the economy, mass communications, social developments, 'Europe', and of course our own science and technology. What comes out of America interacts with all this in a manner which is usually dis-orderly, sometimes conflictual, even producing 'anti-Americanism' at times (think of fast-food, with all its technological under-pinnings, to take a fashionable example.) In this part of the world we live between two main ideal or idealized conceptions of the future - 'Europe' and 'America' – yet the conference reflected the fact that at the margins of innovation, it's America's hegemony we must come to terms with most often, no matter how fuzzy it might appear. It's a hegemony which most clearly recognizes that legitimacy is a source of power (cf. Fareed Zacharia, *The Post-American World*, New York: W W Norton, 2008, Ch.7), and a key component of that legitimacy derives from the success of its technology.

Why ? Because it's a technology which is so often market-oriented and hence in a way democratic. It's a technology that meets the dreams of popular culture, where fantasies turn into the real thing. It's a democracy of consumption, of course, presuming wealth, health and know-how. But as the birth and progress of the Internet demonstrate, there is an inherent *openness* about much technological development in the US which constitutes a challenge to the existing ways of doing things in much of the rest of the world, an implicit invitation to participation and competition which beyond a certain point, becomes impossible to refuse.

Corporations, computers and cars: these were three themes which came up repeatedly. The golden era of IBM was evoked on several occasions, which required a real effort of historical imagination, since no-one under the age of 40 or so could remember a time before Apple and Microsoft, before personal computers, when the myth and reality of IBM appeared to so dominate the frontier of innovation in the nascent computing world (for a telling glimpse of this era, nothing is better than Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreibr's *The American Challenge* of 1967. The author, a glamorous Parisian media entrepreneur, was very prescient on the relationship between technology and the future of 'Europe.' He was wrong on the import of atomic energy and supersonic air travel, but entirely right on information technology). IBM brought a new level of sophistication not just to its products, but also to the image and presence in the world of the great American corporation.

No wonder the Soviet bloc was totally over-awed, as various papers demonstrated. In that sphere, the basic line on technology had been laid down in the 1930s by Stalin – who else? – and it decreed that a not ruble should be dedicated to original research and development, everything was to go to the industrial development effort. Where the West had the best, then it could be imported, copied, stolen or otherwise appropriated. (the Curtain was never as Iron as it was made out to be). This political line apparently survived until the end of the Soviet Union, since the technological inheritance it left appears to be negligible (except in the arms industry ?). Outside the USSR, other eastern bloc nations did develop a significant body of technological know-how. The GDR experience and the Skoda story in Czechoslovakia are particularly interesting. This is an asset which has stood those countries in good stead since 1991. It's one reason why Western car and car component manufacturers have flocked to the East since then.

Housing, tourism and food were three other sectors which attracted much attention from the new generation of researchers in Amsterdam, perhaps because they are all areas where the encounter between technological

development and local practices and preferences is particular evident, and realtively easy to document. Food is fast turning out to be one of great fault lines of globalisation (along with language, cinema, attitudes to women's rights, climate change, market liberalisation et al.). After Coca-Cola, McDonald's took up the role of supreme symbol everywhere of the Americanisation some hate and many love, and Americans themselves began to ask whether a brand could and should stand in for a nation, and whether so-called 'anti-Americanism' was in fact a sort of brand backlash. For sure food issues seem to exacerbate every sort of contemporary concern about sovereignty, modernity and identity, and call forth protectionist impulses from all levels of government in the Old World (and elsewhere ?). This probably means that the old divisions that the American challenge has long opened up in Europe are probably widening. The Slow Food movement born in Italy flourishes commercially and culturally, as its presence at the Berlin Film Festival of 2009 demonstrates. But so does McDonalds, which plans to open 240 new restaurants in 2009, in the 40 (sic) countries where it operates in Europe, the region in the world where the company makes most profit.

Does regular presence at a McDonald's imply a pre-disposition to support the foreign policies of American governments, as Joseph Nye's celebrated theory of 'soft power' would have us believe? Put this way, the question looks absurd. What has the world-wide diffusion of pizza, pasta and cappuccino done for Italy's standing as a nation, let alone its foreign policies ? But looking at the 'national standing' question through the lens of technology provides a different perspective. Technology in its American incarnation is hard *and* soft power. Its producers expect its consumers to know English, for example; not so, obviously, with Japanese hardware manufacturers and Japanese. More generally, the spin-of effects of a myth such as IBM's once was have been taken for granted by governments and high tech corporations ever since, in and out of the US. Wikipedia now lists the countries and places around the world which have tried to emulate Silicon Valley (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_techno logy_centers).

Nations, generations, companies and individuals are free to choose whether they follow this sort of path, but choose they must *if* they wish to stay in the race for modernity, or more specifically, to compete in the game of defining what *is* the leading model of modernity. That is the soft power game. It may not help Barack Obama solve the problems of the credit crunch. But its legacy over the years, including the technological variety, certainly helps explain why Europeans found themselves united in November 2008 - along with much of the rest of the world - in rediscovering how much faith they had invested over the years in American democracy's ability to re-invent itself, and so provide a resource of hope for all.

'Technology and European History. A Transnational perspective' - Tensions of Europe & Inventing Europe Book series workshop – Vught-Eindhoven-Wassenaar (The Netherlands) March 6-8, 2009

Phil Scranton, book series co-editor

For two days in the early spring, about two dozen participants in the Tensions of Europe/Inventing Europe project met at a conference site in Vught, The Netherlands, to review and critique book series proposals revised since their initial Florence workshop (summer 2008). Those assembled also discussed the concept of transnational history (in relation to the new *Palgrave Dictionary of Transnational History*, Pierre-Yves Saunier, co-editor), and reviewed the first phases of the virtual exhibition project. A preliminary document provided nearly 100 pages of proposal (and author) details, which all those attending reviewed. As so often in Tensions/Inventing, discussions proved intense and at moments, quite sharp. Yet as usual, the quality of the debates and of commentators' analyses remained highly professional.

The format was simple. Each of the six jointly-authored book proposals received close review by a designated commentator, then session chairs opened the floor for up to an hour's further discussion. In addition to thirteen (of fourteen) authors present, participants in the virtual exhibition process attended

(Robert Bud, Hans Weinberger, Alec Badenoch, Brian Fuchs), along with this writer and several invited guests, including Pierre-Yves Saunier, Jan Korsten from the Dutch History of Technology Foundation, and on the second day, several Foundation trustees. Each proposal was reviewed in relation to the series' seven core guidelines and in view of the need for 'serialization' (i.e., coherence among the volumes). The workshop goal was to develop, insofar as possible, a set of shared ideas, while preserving each team's voices and perspectives.

(Photo: Jan Korsten SHT)

The first discussion featured Ruth Oldenziel's response to the "Europe in a Global World" proposal (Matthias Middell, Maria Paulo Diogo, Dirk van Laak). The authors stressed that their work was headed in two directions, needing harmonization: 1) asking who is defining what can be understood as Europe in interactions with peoples and nations elsewhere (focusing on specific places of contact); and 2) investigating the forms of such interactions and how they served to format Europe for others and for Europeans. Oldenziel replied that the proposal remained Eurocentric for the most part, that technology had been marginalized (not used as a lens for perceptions), and that though colonialism was present, the anti/post colonial dimensions remained underdeveloped, while the US and Soviet Union were missing. Saunier argued that the project as yet had incompletely developed two aspects: assessing varied characterizations of Europe, and figuring out how to work technology into the narrative/analysis. He emphasized the value of using "places of entanglement" and connecting flows (of goods, people, ideas) to specific technologies. Middell indicated that the series purpose wasn't quite clear: is it about European or World

History? Does a transnational history of Europe focus chiefly on Europe? Who constitutes the actor(s) in such a story? Also, as their project is dealing with the Americanization issue, this deeply involves technology.

Mikael Hård and Ruth Oldenziel next introduced their study of technologies and European consumption, tentatively titled "From Orient Express to GSM Roaming". Hard emphasized Brian Pfaffenberger's technological dramas approach (from anthropology) as offering a tough-minded alternative to "Irresistible Empires" convergence arguments. In response Andreas Fickers applauded the well-worked interdisciplinary approach and the differentiation between users, consumers, & citizens. Still, he questioned the clarity of "drama" as an organizing principle, was dubious about the title's utility (along with others), and wondered whether mass consumption without mass production needed fuller development. Middell asked whether poor people were part of consumption history here, and how the collectivization of consumption in Soviet-era Europe would be engaged. Others expressed concern about the logic of selection for the TOC chapters, about the thematic approach, in which each section runs from 1850 to 2000, and about whether questions of 'how use changed over time' would be addressed in narrating the introduction and extension of consumption.

Starting Day Two, the group turned to Arne Kaiser and Eric van Vleuten's "Nature to Networks" infrastructures proposal, the arc of which describes a transition from dominant natural geographies to societies and spaces built on network geographies. They will combine thematic and chronological presentations, and will discuss in each section an emblematic event, before moving to explore background structures and relations. Pascal Griset's comments noted the proposal's sound articulation of infrastructure's significance for network and global history, the presence of a clear, animating question (Why and by whom is infrastructure made?), and the effort to develop spatialized history. He remarked that the communications segment seemed the least developed, whereas energy and transport aspects worked smoothly. Again further work on the title was urged. Middell noted that national, transnational

and imperial initiatives all challenged "communal infrastructures," complicating the envisioned narrative, and Fickers urged that EUROCRIT perspectives on failure, fragmentation and disconnects be linked in, along with people's lived experience of infrastructures, not just engineers' designing practices.

(Photo: Jan Korsten SHT)

Andreas Fickers and Pascal Griset sketched the core themes of "Eventing Europe," which treats European development of mass communications. Fickers explained that the concept of "dispositif" (drawn here from film studies) was helpful, in that it links the production of meaning to users of technology. Current research centers on locating Europe and identifying its meanings in broadcasting, et al. Griset highlighted the project's tripartite structure, each segment blending theme and chronology, with the driving forces at the outset being nations and toward the present being individuals. Commentator Kaiser noted a gap between the narrative proposal and the TOC, as the structure of interpretation didn't materialize in the chapters. Scranton added that the second half of the 19th century seemed to be absent, and Saunier suggested that treating the Press would be a way to bring the 19th century into relation with later mass communications technologies. He also suggested that the dispositif got lost in the TOC. Hard encouraged attention to the telegraph and the spread of news after 1850. Again the title was questioned.

(Photo: Jan Korsten SHT)

"Knowledge Societies" followed on the agenda, outlined by Helmut Trischler and Martin Kohlrausch. After critiques in Florence, this team started over, working on the project narrative exclusively, hence offered a bare-bones TOC here. They are planning to use European institutions and expert networks as anchors for dynamic processes, while recognizing that their plurality links to European knowledge fragmentation. Case studies of significant groups and related technologies will be the goal, not an attempt at a comprehensive treatment. Wolfram Kaiser, in commenting, affirmed that much of this proposal's emphasis on people and on the communicative and cultural aspects of knowledge societies is missing from the literature. He also asked that the authors be explicit about the importance of the 1850s' dynamic internationalization of scientific and technical discourse, a key element in setting a start-point, and similarly to explore what experts (outside policy making) are actually doing. Also, what are the core stories here, especially given that the team wants to make claims about long term change? Diogo underscored the key role of Paris as a center for expertise development and as a hub for links to peripheral clusters attempting to assert expertise elsewhere. Middell wanted to know how universities would be integrated and Hård asked why the society in the title was so thinly present in the proposal – how does expert creation of models and standards contribute to transforming societies?

Last Wolfram Kaiser, Johan Schot and Dagmara Jajesniak-Quest's "Governing Europe" came under scrutiny. Schot's introduction spoke to placing European integration history in the context of developing "Eurogovernance" along with large project for creating (an) European order (e.g., fascism, liberal democracy). Exposition will focus on transnational

governance in three quite different sectors: heavy industry (steel), transportation and agriculture. Middell commented that literatures on Eastern Europe in these areas are thin (How does Russia enter in, especially before 1945?), and that the political science emphasis on governance is both recent and tricky to apply to earlier periods. Imperial forms of regulation (given the 1850 start date) need to be recognized, as do issues of intellectual property rights across the three sectors. Fickers suggested this research area lacked people, conflict, and technology, as presented. Perhaps it would be good to "start from problems" (how to make tractors or steel and the consequent construction of policy). Weinberger inquired whether it would be helpful to assess how policy makers use technologies, as well, as foci for their actions, and how the relation between politicians and experts (each enlisting the other) evolves.

This summary indeed has had to exclude the vast majority of the discussion points raised in Vught; what's here is just a sample of the rich intellectual stew served up on two days last March. Author teams are presently fashioning final proposal revisions, due in early summer. The co-editors are interviewing possible publishers in May, in the US and the UK, aiming to select a press by the fall – under the tentative series title: "Making Europe, Technologies and Transformations, 1850-2000." This, like the volume titles, is subject to revision. A further series workshop is planned for the Netherlands early in 2010, as authors commence their writing collaborations, and a series of roundtable presentations, delineating each of the studies, will be presented at the Sofia conference next June. Writing residencies at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study for many of the authors are envisioned, with completed manuscripts expected in 2012, ready for referees and revising, and finally, publication in 2013-14. There is much work ahead, certainly, but the process of delivering findings from nearly a decade's research on technology and the making of modern Europe is moving along steadily.