

# **“Energy and Heritage”**

## **Third Summer School on the History of Energy,**

### **Paris July 2017**

This year, the Committee for the History of Electricity and Energy is running its third summer school on the history of energy, designed for young researchers affiliated with a research institution, either in Europe or beyond.

The previous two summer schools took place in Blois in 2013 and 2015. The next summer school will be held in Paris over three days, from July 10 to 12 2017, in two locations: EDF’s Historical Archives Center and the *Espace Fondation EDF*.

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.

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 on the research methods of historians. The summer school will also provide opportunities to visit key heritage sites in the Paris region, notably those linked with energy history.

#### **Why energy and heritage?**

Apart from organizing commemorative events, such as the seventieth anniversary of EDF’s founding, energy firms tend to take a distanced attitude to their history. Indeed, EDF provides a significant example of this tendency. On the one hand, the promotion of its often remarkable historical and heritage sites is underdeveloped (other than through occasional open days). On the other hand, for decades EDF has financed – and collaborated with – foundations such as the EDF Electropolis Museum or the EDF Hydrelec Museum. In general, energy firms have an ambivalent attitude to their heritage sites, which they view as part of their production capacity and hence to be developed without hindrance.

## **Several lines of inquiry will be explored:**

- Identification of the energy patrimony

The existence of an energy patrimony is by no means self-evident, whether in material or non-material terms. Scale is not in itself a criterion for defining a heritage site. Further, different energy sources differ in their construction of a patrimony. The identification, classification and preservation of the material and non-material energy patrimony requires renewed theoretical reflection on the industrial heritage.

- Identification of the actors who construct an energy patrimony

Whether it takes the form of buildings or artefacts, the energy patrimony entails a physical presence in the localities and lives of individuals. Recognition of the energy patrimony can be undertaken by energy companies (and their employees), public sector institutes, university researchers and NGOs. Whilst the heritage making process is typically a matter for the experts, we should not overlook the capacity of the public to construct a heritage by appropriating energy artefacts.

- Energy patrimony considered as an architectural heritage

Beyond its technical and engineering ramifications, the energy patrimony is also the domain of architects and designers. Seeking to produce a heritage that blends into the landscape while addressing technical, environmental and social needs, architects have created bold new designs. Thereby the recognition of a patrimony can be linked more to a creative process than to energy infrastructure per se. By the same token, the energy patrimony is legitimized by its association with an aesthetic heritage.

- The promotion of the energy patrimony

Promotion of the energy patrimony goes beyond communication exercises by energy companies and involves creative reappropriation, rehabilitation and renewal. We should therefore question the means, processes and goals of promotion undertaken by and for companies.

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.

**Keywords:** energy, heritage, architecture, design

**Location**

Espace Fondation EDF

6 rue Récamier

75007 Paris

France

**Finance:** Cost of living expenses will be covered by the organizers. Travel expenses will be paid by the participants. However, participants who cannot finance their travel can request a grant from the organizing committee.

**Application procedure:**

Applicants must email a file with:

- A proposal (500 words maximum) in French or in English, with the title of their presentation
- A short CV (1 page maximum)
- The application form below

Applications must be sent by April 21 2017 at the latest to the following address:  
[comite.histoire.electricite@gmail.com](mailto:comite.histoire.electricite@gmail.com)

The organizing committee will select the candidates. The list of selected candidates will be made public on May 15 2017 at the latest.

Selected candidates will have to send a two page summary of their presentation by June 12 2017 to the following address: [comite.histoire.electricite@gmail.com](mailto:comite.histoire.electricite@gmail.com)

**Organizing Committee:** Alain Beltran, CNRS, UMR Sirice, Président du Comité d'histoire de l'électricité et de l'énergie; Yves Bouvier, Université Paris-Sorbonne; Sandra Holgado, EDF Archives; Léonard Laborie, CNRS, UMR Sirice, Secrétaire scientifique du Comité d'histoire de l'électricité et de l'énergie; Renan Viguié, CEMMC, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, Secrétaire scientifique du Comité d'histoire de l'électricité et de l'énergie; Claude Welty, Directeur du musée EDF Electropolis.

Dates: July 10th to July 12th / Place: Paris - France

NAME:

First name:

Birth date:

Address:

E-mail adress:

Title of the presentation:

Title of the PhD thesis:

Supervisor:

Academic affiliation:

Brief summary of the PhD thesis: