

**The 48th ICOHTEC Symposium in 2021** in conjunction with  
*The International Congress on the History of Science and Technology (ICHST)*  
in Prague, the Czech Republic, 25–31 July 2021.  
See: <http://www.icohtec.org/w-annual-meeting/prague-2021/call-for-papers/>

## *Call for Papers to the Transport History Session*

# **Solving Problems or Creating Bottlenecks?**

## **The Role of Technology in the Development of Transportation**

For millennia, transportation has been a vital sector of human societies that has met the demand for moving people, raw materials, products, precious metals and money as well as information, knowledge and pieces of art between places. Making long journeys has always been troublesome, and people have devoted a lot of time and effort to overcome obstacles for travelling and transporting.

This session focuses on the role of technology in making transportation easier, faster, and more efficient and reliable. Transportation has always required technological solutions. Moving people and goods from one place to another has frequently faced various challenges and obstacles, and to surpass them, humans have relied on technology. In the course of centuries, some solutions quickly became problems or brought about new difficulties that jammed or even blocked further developments. In other occasions, there occurred phenomena that Thomas P. Hughes called reverse salient, failures in planning which hindered a technological system from achieving some of its original objectives.

Technological solutions applied to transportation have shaped local communities, regions, countries and even civilisations. A research question for the session is how decisive transportation technology has been in outlining societies in different parts of the world. How influential transportation has been in various historical epochs?

The scope of the sessions includes road-, rail-, water- and airborne transportation (railways, tramways, trucks, buses, ships, ferries, planes) as well as elevators, escalators and funiculars, etc. We welcome presentations addressing any of these means of transportation in sundry time periods and geographical settings and using different methodological approaches. The main goal is to analyze what kinds of challenges have emerged and how were they solved.

Co-authored paper proposals are welcome. At least one of the authors has to be personally present in the session and deliver the paper. Online presentations (via any video-conference software) will not be accepted. Applicants should submit a paper abstract of 250 words at maximum and a one-page CV (of each author). Both documents should be in English. Please, send them in MSWord or rtf format to Timo Myllyntaus ([timmyl@utu.fi](mailto:timmyl@utu.fi)) and Hugo Pereira ([hugojose.pereira@gmail.com](mailto:hugojose.pereira@gmail.com)) by **Wednesday 8 February 2020**.