

Tourism, Technology and Heritage

an approach from history of technology and conservation studies

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Stefan Poser, Dr., is a historian of technology at the Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg, Germany, vice chair of the history group of the Association of German Engineers, VDI, in Berlin and Secretary General of the UNESCO-based International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC. His main fields of research are the societal handling of technology-based risks and the playful approach to technology. His new project is dealing with the history of technology of tourism. Recently published: ICON's special issue on playing with technology, dedicated to sports and leisure (guest editor together with Hans-Joachim Braun) published in 2014 (ICON, vol. 19), and a monograph on playing with technology in the 19th and 20th centuries "Glücksmaschinen und Maschinenglück" 2016.

The workshop analyses the history of tourism and the technology behind traveling as well as questions of cultural heritage and conservation: which technologies are connected to traveling itself and which were important for tourists? How to describe tourism as a technology-based system? Influenced their experience in a foreign place and the feeling of vacations the tourist's appropriation of technology? If technical artefacts become attractive sites for tourists – what does this say about the societal impact of technology? How tourist regions are shaped by tourism? What's to do with remaining artefacts from earlier periods of tourism as hotels dating back to the 1950s and 1960s? Are they already part of the cultural heritage?



Boat train at Victoria station. Before the Channel Tunnel was opened in 1994, the boat train from Victoria to Dover, using "4-CEP" corridor electric multiple units, was the quickest way for rail passengers between London and Paris. A backpacker sets off on an Interrail holiday in 1985 © Stephen Craven