

Title of open panel: Historical models of modern technological change: a global perspective.

Edisson Aguilar Torres (edisson.aguilar_torres@kcl.ac.uk), Shankar Nair (shankar_sunil.nair@kcl.ac.uk), Francisca Valenzuela-Villaseca (francisca.valenzuela_villaseca@kcl.ac.uk).

PhD researchers @ [Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine](#), King's College London.

Panel description

How have historians conceptualised technological change in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries? What role have they accorded technology in history, and how has this transformed our understanding of the importance of technological change across space and time? Much of the history of technology today is based on a critique of meta-theories or 'models' of technological change, used to condemn an uncritical and evolutionary understanding of technology outside the Western world like the "diffusion model," technology transfer," and "technological determinism". Instead, this historiography proposes alternative frameworks such as "circulation", "hybridity", and "resistance" to correct the supposed Eurocentrism of earlier approaches. This panel aims to investigate the nature of this critique, its theoretical moorings, and its significance for studies of technological change and indeed, broader historical scholarship. This SHOT panel invites contributors, especially PhD researchers and early career scholars, to explore the validity and usefulness of these methodological critiques in their own research area.

We invite empirically based research and historiographical papers focused on historical models of technological change to discuss those methodological frameworks and concepts. We invite papers that study technology in modern history in a global context that engage with historical processes such as (but not exclusive to) production, trade, state formation, community development, globalisation, and imperialism.

Procedure

Those interested in proposing contributions for this session please email Francisca (francisca.valenzuela_villaseca@kcl.ac.uk), with the following information:

- Word document stating: (1) full name & institutional affiliation, (2) 150-200 words abstract, (3) one brief paragraph that generally presents an overview of the PhD thesis or research project to which the paper relates.
- Include in the email: (1) preferred format of attendance (in person or online), (2) intention to be nominated for the Robinson Prize (more info [here](#))