

**SHOT – ICOHTEC, Viña del Mar, Chile, 9-14 July 2024**

## **Earth repair? Global Perspectives on Technologies and Narratives of Sustainability**

Climate change along with rising resource competition and global inequality pose tremendous challenges to contemporary societies around the globe and urgently require fundamental processes of transformation to sustainable practices. Historical research contributes valuable knowledge about the complexities, conflicts, and impediments of such transformation processes as well as experiences of successful cases and best practices.

This panel invites scholars to study and discuss resource exploitation, technological change, production and consumption in the context of sustainability goals and narratives to examine the interplay between technology, society and the environment. The panel has the scope to investigate cases and analyze narratives about experiences, challenges and impediments of sustainable transformation across the globe and discuss different perspectives and narratives across disciplinary and geographical borders. It is a major goal of the panel to approach sustainability from a global perspective and go beyond Western-focused narratives. We aim at integrating scholars, cases, and narratives of the Global South and the Global North and bring them into constructive exchange and conversation.

The term sustainability is ambiguous and has been given different meanings. Most commonly it refers to an economic behavior and the use of technologies that respect environmental limitations and avoids resource depletion and destructive pollution, such as the accumulation of greenhouse gases. In this session, we employ a broad conception of sustainability that includes economic, social and environmental sustainability, whether or not this term was explicitly used in historical cases.

Themes to be explored include the role of indigenous knowledge, technologies and practices in sustainable living, the impact of industrialization on ecological systems, the attempts to overcome non-sustainable practices, the barriers and challenges of sustainability, the negotiations and conflicts it poses and the development, shaping and invention of sustainable technologies and livelihoods.

Questions the panel aims to raise include:

- What can regional histories tell us about global sustainability, and vice versa?
- How did global sustainability discourse and local development interact?
- Which technologies and practices have been related to sustainable livelihoods?
- How did sustainability ideas, practices and technologies change in time?
- What was the role of transnational connections and interactions in making or destroying sustainability?
- Which perceptions, narratives and meanings of sustainability have been negotiated?

Interested scholars of all relevant fields are invited to contribute. Please send your abstract (title, 200-300 words, plus your affiliation and e-mail address until 11 December 2023 to [matthias.heymanncss@au.dk](mailto:matthias.heymanncss@au.dk). This panel is organized by the Tensions of Europe Research Group Technology, Environment and Resources. We aim to find extra funding for scholars from the Global South, which we however cannot promise.