

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE WORKING GROUP

Dear All,

A EHLN working group on “Industrial Heritage” would aim at the exchange of international bibliographies and of knowledge about industrial heritage sites around the world as well as the establishment of an interdisciplinary network to discuss industrial heritage from historical, cultural studies and social science perspectives.

Against the backdrop of the growing importance of urban movements and the desire for direct participation in the transformation of urban landscapes on the one hand, and dramatic changes and relocation of heavy industries on the other, I would suggest to begin a discussion on the following, broad question from a historical perspective: what role do the historically evolving categories of “local identity”, “social class”, “political ideology” and “aesthetic judgement” play in the making and preservation of industrial heritage sites?

The Institute for Social Movements at the Ruhr-Univ. Bochum (RUB) is currently involved in a project on “industrial heritage” and we are planning a workshop for 2015, where the industrial heritage of the heavily industrialised and polycentric Ruhr region will be discussed in comparison to similar regions around the world, with a particular focus on coal and steel production.

Moving the Social – Journal of Social History and the History of Social Movements, moreover, offers the opportunity to publish a special issue on Industrial Heritage, which could possibly be jointly organised by the INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE-group of the EHLN network.

Any further suggestions are more than welcome!

All good wishes,

Christian

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