

## **Call for Contributions – *Journal of Energy History* / *Revue d'histoire de l'énergie* Special Issue**

### **Eogan at 15: Energy Archives and the histories they tell**

There is hardly a sector of everyday life, or of society, that is not affected by energy infrastructures; as physicist Heinz Pagels put it, the visible world is the invisible organization of energy – in a material as well as symbolic interpretation. Particularly since industrialisation, energy history has come to the fore of historical analysis as a way to interpret the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and now 21<sup>st</sup> century; energy archives are more and more an indispensable tool for historians, providing researchers with the raw materials needed to reconstruct, interpret, and understand the past. Across all fields of history, archives that relate to energy issues offer invaluable insight into the social, political, and cultural forces that have shaped the human experience. As the world grapples with the urgent need for sustainable energy transitions, the records housed in energy archives offer not only a window into how societies interacted with, and were shaped by, fossil fuels; they also contain crucial information on how energy production, distribution, and consumption, have driven industrialization, shaped economies, and transformed communities. Energy archives offer essential clues to understanding the cultural and social dimensions of energy dependence, enabling historians to trace how energy practices have influenced every aspect of our world, from geopolitics to domestic life.

From an archival point of view, energy archives also offer unique challenges and perspectives on the job of the archivist, as they are at the intersection point of a vending graph that combines corporate interests, State interests, and societal interest. Energy companies were (and are) the subject of nationalisations, privatisations, divisions, mergers; their records are both private and public at the same time. Furthermore, they contain extremely heterogenous material, with highly sensitive information together with exceptional brand campaign material; records related to many different countries in the world, sometimes scattered into many different countries. At the same times, our definition of “energy archives” should not be reduced to corporate archives, but it should include all archival collections that contribute to shed a light on the relations between energy technologies, energy resources, and human life: from Government archives (such as Economics, Foreign Relations, and Research and Technical Bodies, such as National Research Centres), to personal archives of politicians, business people, other stakeholders in energy matters; from international energy organisations that give directions on global energy policies (eg, the OPEC archives), to the archives of local communities that dealt with energy access in their area.

The network Eogan (formerly the “European Oil and Gas Archives Network”, now only the Energy Archives Network) was established in 2009 by a group of archivists working for the energy companies, national archives, and energy museums, with the intention of bringing together records managers and historians working with energy history records, in order to promote a collective reflection on the usage, preservation, and long-term accessibility to energy archives. Over the years, the Eogan conferences have allowed researchers and archivists from all over the world to discuss issues of energy history as well as the challenges of records keeping in the energy sector.

With the occasion of its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this special issue wants to summarise the work of Eogan over the years, with an open call for papers that aims to explore the state of the art in energy history (broadly defined), as well as the importance of energy archives in

advancing historical research, as well as the conservation challenges that they present. We invite scholars from across disciplines, as well as cultural heritage practitioners, to submit work that reflect on energy sources, on the role of energy in history and in different subfield of historical research, and that engage with primary sources in an innovative way.

Topics to explore can include, but are not limited to:

- A history of Eogan;
- Methodologies that are specific to energy history archives;
- Presentation of archival collections related to energy history;
- The relationships between energy history and other social sciences;
- Analytical literature reviews on specific aspects of energy history;
- New frontiers of energy histories;
- Specific aspects of corporate archives;
- Historical archives at the intersection between private and state ownership;
- Global and glocal histories of energy as narrated in the archives;
- (Possible) uses of generative AI in both energy history and energy archives

The editors will accept **short papers** (between 3000 and 6000 words) and **full-length papers** (between 6000 and 12000 words). Please indicate in the abstract whether you want to submit a full or short paper.

The working title of the special issue is “Eogan at 15: Energy Archives and the histories they tell”. The editors of the special issue are Marta Musso (University of Roma Tre and University of Roma La Sapienza) and Giovanni Paoloni (University of Roma La Sapienza).

### **Time and work plan**

We ask for abstracts of max 500 words to be submitted by **15 February 2025**, to the emails [marta.musso@uniroma1.it](mailto:marta.musso@uniroma1.it), [giovanni.paoloni@uniroma1.it](mailto:giovanni.paoloni@uniroma1.it), and [jehrhe.journal@gmail.com](mailto:jehrhe.journal@gmail.com). We will notify contributors of accepted proposals in **early March 2025**; we will ask for a first draft to be submitted by **July 2025**.

### **Journal presentation**

*Journal of Energy History / Revue d'histoire de l'énergie (JEHRHE)* is an online and open access academic journal dedicated to all aspects of the history of energy. It is the first of its kind in French- or English-language academia, publishing articles in various formats in both of these languages, fully and immediately accessible (without embargo and without charge to the user or his/her institution). By shedding light on the role of energy in history, and reciprocally that of history in energy today, *JEHRHE* establishes a vital conversation between past and present. Energy related concerns have indeed taken on a global, complex, and even urgent nature, which calls for mobilizing all knowledge, particularly of the historical kind. Its open editorial space promotes the publication and appropriation of the key findings of historical research, along with discussion of its agenda.

*JEHRHE* focuses on the period from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present, in which energy was theorized in its modern sense, and consumed in considerably increasing proportions. It

nevertheless considers all historical contributions, regardless of chronology or the time period studied. For that matter, it is broadly open to the diversity of disciplines, as long as contributions take seriously the question of duration and change over time.

Its readership is primarily academic, although various sections, the “Out of the Box” section in particular, seek to reach a wider audience.

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