

Patents in the Service of War and Peace

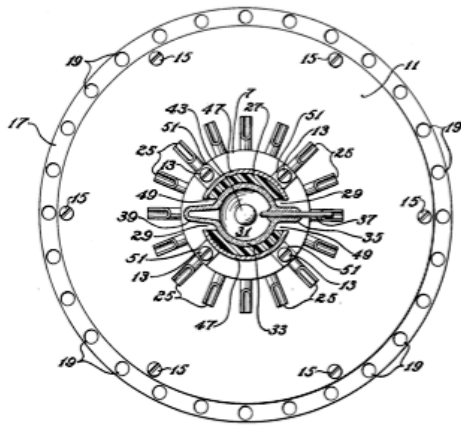


Fig. 2

We invite contributions to the 3rd workshop of the project PASSIM (Patents as Scientific Information, 1895–2020), in collaboration with The International Society for the History and Theory of Intellectual Property (ISHTIP).

Dates: May 16–18, 2022

Venue: Norrköping, Sweden

Call closes: October 30, 2021

Proposal format: 500 Word proposal/200 Word bio

Submit to: 2022workshop@passim.se

Questions? Contact: johanna.dahlin@liu.se

Although legal historians and humanities scholars have studied patent law and its histories beyond their economic effects, it is surprising that they have devoted less attention to their military entanglements. The workshop welcomes papers on patents, relating to the theme of ‘war and peace’. In this sense, patents are understood as both legal documents and property rights, and conceptualised in a variety of disciplinary ways, ranging from legal tools to secure economic monopolies, to ‘weapons’ protecting national interests. In so doing, the workshop aims to explore patents as devices that create and redistribute power, and as active protagonists fuelling and constituting so-called “patent wars”. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- What is the historical relationship between patents and ‘war and peace,’ or international crises or periods of détente?
- How do these events shape the discourse about patents, their legitimacy, and the way they are represented in the media?
- To what extent does the relationship between files and secrets; patents and licensing, show that patents are also part of a cultural and political history of diplomacy, where public relations and media representations turn out to be as relevant as their legal validity?

We invite papers from PhD students as well as senior scholars. PASSIM will cover the travel and accommodation cost of the selected participants. If necessary, we will make adjustments for remote participation. Successful candidates can expect to present their research in a stimulating and generous milieu, consisting not only of the PASSIM team but of specially invited, experienced researchers in the field: Egle Rindzeviciute (Sociology, Kingston University), Gabriel Galvez-Behar (Economic History, Université de Lille), Michael Birnhack (Law, Tel Aviv University).

PASSIM is a five-year (2017–2022) project funded by an ERC Advanced Investigator Grant to Professor Eva Hemmungs Wirtén, Linköping University, Sweden. PASSIM focuses on the “openness” aspect of patents, considering their role as technoscientific documents in the history of information and intellectual property. For more information, send us an e-mail: contact@passim.se, follow us on twitter @passimproject or visit our website www.passim.se.