



International Committee of Historical Sciences
Comité international des sciences historiques

NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

This editorial is written shortly before the end of the year 2021 and thus much later than originally planned, as if the year had run by without leaving any deeper traces. In view of the many cancelled scientific events, one might actually get the idea that this is a year that has been erased from the calendar or the collective memory. But of course it is not, and anyone taking stock of this year will recall an astonishing number of adaptations to the new reality of the pandemic that we have made individually and collectively. The International Historical Committee has had to postpone its Congress again, scheduled for August 2021, but unlike in 2020, it has not simply decided on another delay, but has held a General Assembly to take important decisions that will determine its future.

This General Assembly has decided on changes in the office of President and General Secretary, thanked the previous incumbents and noted with approval the plans of the new ones. It has held the necessary elections for new members of the Board, reflecting the usual changes in the historiographical orientations represented there. It has determined the location of the next Congress, to be held on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CISH in 2026. And it has opened up the programme of the Poznan Congress to new, complementary proposals, thereby reflecting that historiography has naturally evolved, chosen new foci and tried out new procedures since the selection of major and minor themes for main sessions, roundtables and panels at the General Assembly in Moscow in 2017.



This newsletter presents the results of this General Assembly, which took place in two sessions and was conducted by treasurer Sacha Zala with the usual precision of Swiss organisation. At the same time, we look ahead to the meeting in Poznan, which is sure to be a moment of enthusiastic reunion that we all look forward to with anticipation. A look back at the Warsaw Congress held in 1933, which a carefully prepared edition of materials by the present Polish organising committee allows, perhaps helps us to place the current difficulties in historical perspective and thus also to put them into perspective a little. As historians, we look back in the current pandemic not only at the history of global health, but also at how we have dealt with other dynamics that have challenged

the usual course of events. Now that history is less and less used for heroisation (even if it still happens from time to time), it sometimes serves as a consolation because historians become spoilsports in the face of a discourse of newness. However, we should not let this spoil our joy for a new year, which will certainly also hold unexpectedly pleasant things in store. In this spirit, I wish you a successful 2022 on behalf of the entire Board of the CISH and, as always, I look forward to your feedback and suggestions with which this newsletter can be enriched.

Matthias Middell

Board member of the CISH and newsletter editor
Professor of Cultural History at Leipzig University

XXIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES POZNAŃ 2020/2022: SOLIDARITY FUND

In line with its tradition and with significant support from generous sponsors, the Organizing Committee of the XXIII International Congress of Historical Sciences Poznań 2020/2022 has established a

Solidarity Fund

for historians who would like to participate in the Congress.

Support will be given in the form of:

- free accommodation in Adam Mickiewicz University dormitories for 150 participants
- a registration fee waiver for 100 participants
- travel grants for 60 participants.

The deadline for applications is January 31, 2022.

Please find all the information and contact details here: <https://ichs2020poznan.pl/en/solidarity-fund/>



Adam Mickiewicz University



**ADAM MICKIEWICZ
UNIVERSITY
IN POZNAŃ**



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021

The ICHS GENERAL ASSEMBLY met twice in 2021 via Zoom and voted a series of important issues. The first meeting was held on April 12, and the second on May 11. This format which follows in some way the procedure of two sessions of the General Assembly at congresses in the past, gave all members the opportunity to get familiar with the reports and suggested decisions that were presented during the first meeting and voted at the second one.

The agenda was the following:

Opening of the meeting by President Andrea Giardina

1. Moral report by Secretary General Catherine Horel

2. Financial report by Treasurer Sacha Zala

- Appointment by the General Assembly of two auditors
- Proposal for the membership fees (Constitution, art. 6)

3. Update about the XXIIIrd Congress in Poznań

Krzysztof Makowski, Board Member and Chairman of the Executive Department of the Organizing Committee

Considering the cancellation of some panels, ICHS and the Organizing Committee have decided to permit applications for new sessions (Specialized Themes, Joint Sessions and Round Tables) until 1 July 2021. The Board will inform about the selection of the proposals in September.

4. Presentation of the applications for new ICHS membership

- National Committee of Serbia

Presentation by **Lorina Repina**, Board Member and by the representative of the Committee, **Vojislav Pavlović**, Director of the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

- International Commission for the History of the Pacific Ocean (ICHPO)

Presentation by **Lim Jie-Hyun**, Board Member and by the representative of the Commission, **Pierre Journoud**, University of Montpellier.

5. Eventual Application(s) for the intermediary General Assembly to be held in 2024

6. Presentation of the candidates for the new Board
The presentation is made by **Tao Wenzhao**, Board Member. Five new members have been selected by

the Nomination Commission meeting in Rome in November 2019. The new Board will take its functions immediately after the second General Assembly in May 2020 and be officially introduced during the opening ceremony of the Poznań Congress.

- **Gunlög Fur** (Swedish Historical Association)
- **Nuno Gonçalo Monteiro** (Académie portugaise d'histoire; ANPUH-Brasil)
- **Katalin Szende** (Commission for the History of Towns; Hungarian National Committee)
- **Edoardo Tortarolo** (ICHTH), proposed by the Nomination Commission and the Board as new General Secretary
- **Hirotaka Watanabe** (Commission for the History of International Relations)

The following Board Members present their candidatures for re-election:

- **Eliana Dutra**, Vice-President
- **Joel Harrington**
- **Catherine Horel**, proposed by the Nomination Commission and the Board as new President
- **Krzysztof Makowski**, proposed by the Nomination Commission and the Board as new Vice-President
- **Matthias Middell**

The following members are leaving the Board:

- **Andrea Giardina**, becomes Past President (one term)
- **Pim den Boer**, former Vice-President
- **Lorina Repina**
- **Lim Jie-Hyun**
- **Tao Wenzhao**

7. International Award for History

The application of Prof. **Sanjay Subrahmanyam** (Professor of History and Irving & Jean Stone Chair in Social Sciences at UCLA) presented by the Giunta centrale per gli studi storici (Italy) has been chosen by the Board. The Award winner will attend the XXIIIrd Congress in Poznań and deliver a speech at the ceremony taking place on Wednesday, 24 August 2022.

8. Presentation of the applications for the XXIVth Congress to be held in 2026 (Centenary of ICHS)

- Jerusalem
- Leipzig

9. Update about the Newsletter
Matthias Middell, Board Member



10. Voting Procedures for the General Assembly of 11 May 2021

Sacha Zala, Treasurer

11. Various questions

For the second session of the General Assembly, 51 delegates of member organisations (national committees and affiliated commissions) with the right to vote were registered.

President **Andrea Giardina** opened the meeting by recalling the words of Thucydides about the plague in Athens with its amount of human suffering but also calling historians to reflect about such events by questioning the meaning of his/her task, which is, first of all, to be useful to mankind. St the same the president warned against the danger of an excessive and truncated updating of the past in order to pursue current political goals.



Andrea Giardina

Since there were no further comments on the report presented by the General Secretary, the GA went immediately to vote and accepted the report unanimously. The two auditors, **Frank Hadler** and **Markus Furrer**, presented their report regarding the financial report stating

that they have found the accounts correct based on the documents provided by the treasurer for the years 2018–2020. They propose that the General Assembly should approve the financial report which happened directly afterwards with 51 votes (100 percent) confirming the report by treasurer **Sacha Zala**.

The treasurer then presented a proposal concerning the use of a logo as “member” to signal that a member organisation that has paid the full membership fees supports the solidarity fund. Otherwise it is entitled to use the logo of a “supporter” of the solidarity fund. The Assembly adopts the new regulation starting in 2022



Sacha Zala

with 49 votes (96 percent) in favor (49) and two abstentions.

- Under the following item the Assembly approved
 - the application of the National Committee of Serbia for membership with 48 votes in favor (84 percent) and three abstentions; and
 - the application of the Commission for the History of the Pacific Ocean as an Affiliated Commission with 50 votes (98 percent) in favor and one abstention.

Afterwards, the Assembly turned towards the election of a new president and a new general secretary and asked the candidates where they see CISH in ten years and which possibilities they see for a professionalization of the organization?

Catherine Horel, the candidate for presidency answered the questions by stating: “In ten years we will have accomplished a centenary of ICHS activities and our goal is to look into more years as an organization enabling historians worldwide to meet and communicate. But we have to enlarge the community because we are still lacking a presence in Africa and this is our already known weakness. Therefore, we must certainly do more between the congresses to attract interest and new membership. The recent change in the modalities of fees is a significant progress. We hope to encourage younger participants (in the congresses but also for the Board) through the extent of thy Solidarity Fund and the innovation of the Research Forum.” When it comes to professionalization, she insisted that “this is indeed a task to be dealt with because we can no longer do it as a “one man-job”; the problem is that our activity is irregular so that we cannot employ fulltime personal but rely on benevolence and availability of our colleagues on resources from their own institutions.”

Edoardo Tortarolo, the candidate for the position of the general secretary, for his part underlined:

“The secretary-general has to carry on the activity of CISH with a sense of continuity with the intellectual tradition that supports the prestige of CISH. We must also be aware that times are changing at a dramatic pace. Respect for historiographical diversity has been a defining feature of CISH, its *raison-d’être* since 1926 and the organization has to be a global community of historians in the years to come. Today there are new and challenging developments for historians that CISH should address and tackle, last but not least, the enduring consequences of the pandemic that will likely exacerbate inequalities and resentment. My answer



to the question where I see CISH in ten years is very straightforward: In 2031, CISH should have strengthened its role as a platform for innovation and dialogue worldwide and actively defend the values of freedom of investigation and respectful communication between historians. It will achieve this goal by organizing



Edoardo Tortarolo

a comprehensive congress every 5 years, to be sure, which still is and will be an excellent opportunity for face-to-face interaction and for allowing young historians from all over the world to participate. But I also expect CISH to make intensive use of the new digital technologies that have impacted the daily practice of historians and have changed crucial categories of historical understanding. We can't ignore that a strong process of decentralization of historical narratives has taken place. I see the task of CISH as a coherent and sustained effort to coordinate existing trends, strengthen its network in a variety of ways, start a dialogue between historians who would not have communicated without CISH.

CISH has to become more and more a supporting framework for all those national associations and committees and individual historians who are willing to engage in authentic and unbiased international cooperation in teaching and dissemination and in research. To achieve these goals and make cooperation more efficient, the question about further professionalization has to be answered. The organizational structure of CISH should indeed be reinforced, if the financial situation is compatible with that. A person with professional skills in communication and fund-raising should work in close cooperation with the General Assembly and the Board. A permanent link between the Board and the member organisations should be available and facilitate the dissemina-

tion of information. As a consequence of this professionalization of the organization, CISH would be able also to help coordinate trans-national cooperation projects and create added-value for all national committees, associations and commissions in CISH."

Similar to the interview of the future president and general secretary, the new candidates for board membership were asked how they are intended to make CISH better known to professional historians and which possibilities they see for further professionalization of the organization?

Gunlög Fur insisted in her answer to these questions on the fact that there should be more engagement between congresses while it would be also "crucial to raise our voices against any misuse of history and support colleagues and institutions being attacked in their integrity as historians. The organization "Historians without borders" could be a partner in this endeavor." Since history has a clear social function there should be more of a focus on educational matters. The recent and still on-going pandemic is in her opinion certainly a topic to be



Gunlög Fur

addressed for example by encouraging research on pandemics in history. Finally, she underlined "we really have to attract younger scholars."

Nuno Gonçalo Monteiro expected to know more very soon on the functioning of ICHS. Regional and thematic meetings/congresses would certainly be a way to make ICHS more visible and attract new membership. The activity should not be restrained to the big congresses. ICHS should promote debate on what is history today.

Katalin Szende on her part answered the questions raised by the assembly in insisting on the fact that "in the recent years there have been in many countries attacks against the liberty of teaching and researching history. It has to be our goal and duty to speak against manipulations of history taking place under some regimes and to help historians and institutions to make their concerns known to the community.



Katalin Szende

In this respect, ICBS should be more active and take the role of a moral authority.

Hiroataka Watanabe sees his personal task to extend the network in Asia by promoting communication between various countries and institutions, not the least by making use of the

CISH-website. He recalls the invitation to hold the 2024 General Assembly in Tokyo that will be a good occasion to encourage more Asian participation in CISH-activities.

Expressing its satisfaction with the answers received from the various candidates, the General Assembly approves the candidatures of the new Board members:

Catherine Horel was elected president with 45 votes (92 percent) and four abstentions, while **Krzysztof Makowski** was unanimously elected Vice-President. **Edoardo Tortarolo** received 47 favorable votes as the new General Secretary (96 percent) and two abstentions.

The General Assembly approved the reelection of the following Board members: **Eliana Dutra** (acting Vice-President); **Joel Harrington**; **Matthias Middell** with 48 votes in favor and one abstention, while the new Board Members **Gunlög Fur**; **Nuno Gonçalves Monteiro**; **Katalin Szende**; and **Hiroataka Watanabe** received 47 votes in favor and two abstentions.

Under a next item, the General Assembly voted with a clear majority (46 in favor, two votes against, one abstention) for Tokyo as the place of the next general assembly meeting in 2024.

One major item of the general assembly was the decision on the XXIVth CISH Congress to be held in 2026 and in preparation for this point the delegates of Jerusalem and Leipzig were asked to give answers to a series of questions:

The first question concerned an assurance that participants from all over the world will be able to attend the conference (travel visa). **Shmuel Feiner** for Jeru-

salem assured that there will be no problem of granting visa since Israel has a very generous visa policy so that nearly everyone is able to enter the country including citizens of countries with no diplomatic representation in Israel.

Katja Castryck- Naumann for Leipzig guaranteed that there will be individual guidance for participants needing visas. There will be an aid provided by the German diplomatic service that has worldwide presence.

In a second round it was asked how the host will guarantee the security of participants? **Ruth Ginio** for Jerusalem stated that despite recent events there would be no concern regarding Jerusalem or Tel Aviv; international congresses are commonly held without difficulty and Israel has a great and professional practice of security matters. **Katja Castryck-Naumann** for Leipzig insisted in the fact that the city is absolutely safe; there is a very low crime rate and no potential danger for participants.

Concerning the Solidarity Fund of the Organizers, former Vice-President **W. (Pim) den Boer** made an introductory statement on the expectations of CISH for the Solidarity Fund of the Organizers (a Memo was sent to the members before the meeting); he also takes the occasion to recall his meeting with Bronisław Geremek at the Montreal Congress in 1990 where they discussed the ethics of historians which combine a demand for freedom of research and opinion as well as a quest for the truth. Each of the applicants were asked to present their concept of the Solidarity Fund of the Organizers. **Shmuel Feiner** for Jerusalem hinted at the ambition of the congress to enlarge the community of historians by enabling as many as possible to attend thanks to special funds being provided by governmental and private institutions. The organizers will dedicate 160.000 € for the Solidarity Fund (a memo with further details is available). **Matthias Middell** for Leipzig said that the financing is based on two pillars: both the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and the German Academic Exchange Service have announced their support to enable speakers to travel to Leipzig and the local organisers will secure that the Solidarity Fund is available in the way described in the application documents.



A fourth question, also related to finance, addressed the current CISH's «business model» which is based primarily on members' fees. The applicants were asked to what extent they see any possibility to contribute to the CISH finances with the earnings generated by the fundraising for the Congress, hereby allowing to lower the members' fees in the future.

Shmuel Feiner for Jerusalem was optimistic about the surplus that may be generated by the Congress fees and sponsorship, therefore allowing these revenues to be handed over to ICHS.



Krzysztof Makowski

Matthias Middell for Leipzig said the partnership between ICHS and Congress organization has indeed to be reconsidered in order to get surpluses available to the organisation instead of the local organisers. This could be done by promoting the Research Forum in order to make it a source of benefice for ICHS. Treasurer **Sacha Zala** expressed at the end of the discussion his willingness to develop a new business model and present it to the Board asap.

After the extensive discussion of the various items raised the general assembly voted on the applications for the XXIVth Congress as follows:

- Jerusalem: 51 % (28)
- Leipzig: 47 % (26)
- abstention: 2 % (1).

In conclusion, the General Assembly decided in favor of the application presented by the Historical Society of Israel, and the congress will be held in Jerusalem.

Krzysztof Makowski representing the organizing committee of the XXIIIrd CISH Congress to be held in late August 2022 in Poznań gave some information: A new call for panels has been sent out to fill some gaps in the program (Specialized Themes, Joint Sessions

and Round tables). There will be as well a new call for poster sessions (also reminding the members that Shandong University is committed to award a prize for this session). A renewed call has been made also for the Research Forum and the Organizing Committee will launch an invitation for the book fair soon.

Before closing the General Assembly, the new president, **Catherine Horel**, thanked the members for having elected her: she is very moved about such an honor and remembers that she was first involved with ICHS at the Oslo Congress in 2000 when she became a member of the Commission for historical Slavic studies and then of the Commission for the history of international relations; she would then never have imagined reaching the summit of the organization! It is an extraordinary achievement and has also a meaning for women historians often not daring to be ambitious. But you never climb the ladder alone and therefore it was important to her to say that ICHS is a collegial enterprise. She expressed her thanks for the work done by the departing Board members during their mandate: she wants to thank **Lorina Repina** (Russia), recalling the very successful General Assembly in Moscow in 2017; then our colleagues from Asia, **Lim Jie-Hyun** (South Korea) and **Tao Wenzhao** (China) for their kind and professional participation; as well as vice-president **Pim den Boer**, always eager to scrutinize our work with benevolent criticizing. Special and warm thanks to **Andrea Giardina**, un signore, with whom it was such a pleasure discussing, working and last but not least, enjoying time in Rome. **Catherine Horel** expressed her wish to continue the efficient cooperation she had with the former president now in his new position as honorary president. Finally, she thanked honorary president **Marjatta Hiettala** for her constant support and accompanying help during Board meetings since 2015. **Andrea Giardina** closed the General Assembly by thanking everyone for their participation under such difficult conditions and expressed the hope to see everyone soon in Poznań in August 2022!



THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF CISH

The ICHS Board

In accordance with provisions in the Constitution, a new ICHS Board was elected at the General Assembly held remotely on May 11, 2021. The members will remain in office until the last day of the 24th International Congress of Historical Sciences in 2026.

The Board meets twice a year, prepares the congresses and general assemblies and implements the policy defined by ICHS members.



Composition of the Board 2021-2026

President

Prof. Catherine Horel

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Ph. D., Research Director at C.N.R.S., CETOBAC, Paris. She deals with Contemporary History of Central Europe, Habsburg Empire and Hungary, their socio-political structures, urban, military history and Jewish history. Among her latest publications: *L'amiral Horthy. Régent de Hongrie*, Paris 2014; C. Defrance, C. Horel, F.-X. Nérard (eds.), *Vaincus ! Histoires de défaites. Europe XIXe-XXe siècles*, Paris 2016; R. Frank, C. Horel (eds.), *Entrer en guerre : des Balkans au monde, 1914-1918*, Bruxelles 2018; *De l'exotisme à la modernité. Un siècle de voyage français en Hongrie (1818-1910)*, Montrouge 2018; "Impe-

rial Challenges in Austro-Hungarian Multicultural Cities", in B. Bachinger, W. Dornik, S. Lehnstaedt (dir.), *Österreich-Ungarns imperiale Herausforderungen. Nationalismen und Rivalitäten im Habsburgerreich um 1900*, Göttingen 2020, pp. 275-294; *Histoire de la nation hongroise. Des premiers Magyars à Viktor Orbán*, Paris 2021; collective edition of *Chroniques de l'Europe*, 2022.



Vice-President**Prof. Eliana de Freitas Dutra**

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Full Professor at UFMG; Currently acts as Visiting Scholar at Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto; Research Fellow at National Council for Scientific and Technological Development – CNPq-Brazil, in the fields of Brazilian History, with particular attention to the following themes: Intellectual History and History of books, reading and publishing. Coordinator of *Brasiliana: Escritos e Leituras da Nação* Research Project.



Taking part in several scientific journals' editorial councils and committees such as: Writing Committee from *Mil Neuf Cent-Revue d'Histoire Intellectuelle* (Chairs George Sorel/EHESS/CNRS); *Lingua Franca* (SHARP); acts as Scielo Advisor in the evaluation of merit for journal; and frequently as Scientific Analyst for journals, as *Revue Monde(s)*, University of Paris I, Panthéon Sorbonne; Brésil(s) Sciences Humaines et Sociales (EHESS).

Published books (as author and coordinator) and dozens of chapters and articles in books and journals, in Brazil and abroad (UK, USA, France, Argentina, Portugal, Germany); active and regular participant in historians and researchers' networks such as AHILA, BRASA, SHARP, LASA, CEHCSC-UVSq.

Vice-President**Prof. Krzysztof Makowski**

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Full Professor at the Faculty of History of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Head of the Department of the 19th-Century History. His research focuses on the history of Poland in the 19th and 20th century, in particular history of German and Jewish population as well as Polish-German-Jewish relations, and the history of historiography. He is a

member of the Committee of Historical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, founding member of the Polish Association for Jewish Studies, and member of the Commission Internationale des Études Historiques Slaves, and the International Commission on Historical Demography. A recipient of fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. His major publications include *The Poznan Family in the First Half of the 19th Century* (in Polish, 1992) (German version: *Die Posener Familie 1815–1848* [1996]); *The Power of Myth: Jews in Poznan During the Era of the Polish Partitions in Historical Writing* (in Polish, 2004); *Mechanisms of the Overseas Chain Migrations in the 19th Century: Poles, Germans, Jews, Ruthenians: An Outline* (in Polish, 2004) (with D. Praszalowicz and A. A. Zięba). He is also an editor of *Self-modernization of Societies in the 19th Century: the Irish, Czechs and Poles* (in Polish, 1999) (with L. Trzeciakowski); *Approaches to Slavic Unity: Austro-Slavism, Pan-Slavism, Neo-Slavism, and Solidarity Among the Slavs Today* (2013) (with F. Hadler); *With a Zest and in Refined Form... The 7th International Congress of Historical Sciences in Warsaw, 1933* (2021) (with M. Michalski and T. Schramm).

General Secretary**Prof. Edoardo Tortarolo**

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Professor of early modern history at the University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy, since 1993. He received his PhD in history from the University of Turin in 1987. He is a permanent fellow of the Academy of the Sciences in Turin and a member of the Italian Committee on Historical Studies. A Humboldt fellow in 1989 and 1990, in 2006 he was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and in 2010 the Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer in Italian History at Northwestern University. He was invited to be a visiting professor by the Leipzig University (Leibniz Professur, 1997/1998), History Department, Northwestern University (2011), School of History, FRIAS-Freiburg Institute for Advanced Study, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (2012/2013).

His research interests cover the intellectual history and the history of historical writing and historical knowledge since the eighteenth century. He



has co-edited the third volume of the *Oxford History of historical Writing* (2012). His latest book in English is *The Invention of the Free Press*, Springer 2016. In 2021 he became the Secretary General of CISH.

Treasurer

Prof. Sacha Zala

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Titular Professor at the University of Bern. Most important publications: *Gebändigte Geschichte. Amtliche Historiographie und ihr Malaise mit der Geschichte der Neutralität. 1945–1961*, Bern 1998; *Geschichte unter der Schere politischer Zensur. Amtliche Aktensammlungen im internationalen Vergleich*, Munich 2001; *Netzwerk Aussenpolitik. Internationale Organisationen und Kongresse als Instrumente der schweizerischen Aussenpolitik. 1914–1950*, Zurich 2002 (with Madeleine Herren).

Members

Prof. Gunlög Fur

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Ph.D. in History (University of Oklahoma, 1993). Professor of History at Linnaeus University, Sweden, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities (2016–2020) and Deputy Vice Chancellor for Sustainability (2021–2023). Research Director for and founder of Linnaeus University Centre: Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies 2012–2016. In 2014, I was elected to The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. Author of *Colonialism in the Margins. Cultural Encounters in New Sweden and Lapland* (Brill, 2006), *A Nation of Women. Gender and Colonial Encounters Among the Delaware Indians* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), and *Painting Culture, Painting Nature. Stephen Mopope, Oscar Jacobson and the Development of Indian Art in Oklahoma* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2019). Editor, together with Diana Brydon and Peter Forsgren, of *Concurrent Imaginaries, Postcolonial Worlds* (Brill/Rodopi,

2017). Research focuses on colonial encounters, indigenous studies, Native American, Sámi, gender, and postcolonial history. My most recent project deals with the concurrent and entangled histories of Scandinavian immigrants and Native Americans.

Prof. Joel Harrington

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Joel Harrington (University of Michigan Ph.D. 1989) is a historian of Europe, specializing in the Reformation and early modern Germany, with research interests in various legal and religious aspects of social history. His most recent book is *Dangerous Mystic: Meister Eckhart's Path to the God Within* (Penguin Press, 2018; German edition: Siedler Verlag, 2021). In 2020, *Dangerous Mystic* was honored with a Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His previous monograph, *The Faithful Executioner: Life and Death, Honor and Shame in the Turbulent Sixteenth Century* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2013), has been translated into fourteen languages and was named one of the Best Books of 2013 by *The Telegraph* and *History Today*. Projects currently underway include a study of the sixteenth-century mercenary Hans Staden, who published an influential account of his captivity among the Tupinambá of Brazil, including graphic accounts of ritual cannibalism. Harrington has served in various administrative roles both at Vanderbilt and in the profession. He has been a member of the CISH executive board since 2015.



Prof. Matthias Middell

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Professor of cultural history at Leipzig University, earned his PhD in 1989 with a study on French counter-revolution at the end of the eighteenth century. His habilitation (2002) dealt with World History writing during the 20th century. He is director of both the Global and European Studies Institute and the Research Centre Glob-



al Dynamics at Leipzig University. Since 1991 he serves as editor of the *Comparativ. Journal of Global History*.

His main research interests include global and transregional histories with emphasis on spatial configurations; the history of revolutions and the history of intercultural transfers as well as the history of historiography in the 19th and 20th century.



Among his most recent publications are *The Routledge Companion to the French Revolution in World History* (2015, with Alan Forrest); *Handbuch der Transnationalen Geschichte Ostmitteleuropas*, vol. 1: 1750–1918 (2017, with Frank Hadler); *The Routledge Handbook of Transregional Studies* (2019).

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Research Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences and Full Professor at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Lisbon. He specializes in early modern and modern social, institutional, and political history, has coordinated several international research projects, and has published more than 200 titles. He is co-editor of *Um reino e suas repúblicas no Atlântico: Comunicações políticas entre Portugal, Brasil e Angola nos séculos XVII e XVIII* (Civ. Brasileira, 2017) and of *Political Thought in Portugal and its Empire, c. 1500–1800* (CUP, 2021).



Prof. Katalin Szende

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Professor of Medieval Studies at Central European University, Budapest and Vienna. She holds degrees in History, Archaeology and Latin philology. Her research concentrates on medieval cities and towns in the Carpathian Basin and Central Europe: their society, demography, literacy, everyday life, and topography. She has published *Trust, Authority and the Written Word in the Royal Towns of Medieval Hungary* (Utrecht Studies in Medieval Literacy 41, Brepols, 2018), is co-editor and contributor of the volumes *Medieval Buda in Context* (Brill, 2016) and *Medieval East Central Europe in a Comparative Perspective* (Routledge, 2016, with Gerhard Jaritz). She is board member of the International Commission for the History of Towns, founding member and president of the Medieval Central Europe Research Network (MECERN), and was in 2020/2021 research fellow in the “Religion and Urbanity. Reciprocal Formations” research project at the Max-Weber-Kolleg, University of Erfurt.

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Giardina works mainly on the social, administrative and political history of the Roman world and on the fortunes of antiquity in the contemporary world. After graduating in Literature and Philosophy in 1970 from the “Sapienza” University in Rome with Santo Mazzarino, he taught ancient and Roman history at the universities of Chieti, Florence, Palermo, Bari, Rome, at the Italian Institute of Human Sciences in Florence and, finally, at the

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His publications include: *Il mercante dall'Antichità al Medioevo*, Rome/Bari 1994 (with Aron Jakovlevich Gurevich); *L'Italia romana. Storie di un'identità incompiuta*, Rome/Bari 1997; *Il mito di Roma. Da Carlo Magno a Mussolini*, Rome/Bari 2000; *Cassiodoro politico*, Rome 2006 (with André Vauchez).

WARSAW 1933 – A LOOK BACK AT THE LAST CISH-CONGRESS IN POLAND

In 1933, the representatives of the discipline met in Warsaw and Cracow from 21 to 29 August, and the organisers of the forthcoming congress in Poznań have not only kept alive the memory of this previous

congress in an excellent edition, but at the same time have provided valuable material for future research by printing the congress programme in facsimile and the alphabetical list of participants with their national

and in many cases also their institutional origins. Added are two contemporary accounts of the congress proceedings by Marceli Handelsman and Henri Hauser. In view of the fact that only one comprehensive article on the first Polish congress has appeared so far (by Tadeusz Kondracki in *Kronika Warszawy* in 1989), while numerous other texts mention the congress merely as a moment in the history of Polish historiography and its relations with neighbouring states, which they each deal with, one can already guess what discoveries are still in store for us when the CISH, as announced, bends over its own archives soon, however scattered they may be at present.

The brief history of the Warsaw Congress, which the authors of the introduction divide into a first phase from 1898 to the First World War and a second phase that began with the Brussels Congress in 1923, is also remarkable from an organisational point of view. Until the London Congress in 1913 (which

WITH A ZEST AND IN A REFINED FORM...



THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES IN WARSAW, 1933

Edited by KRZYSZTOF A. MAKOWSKI, MACIEJ MICHALSKI, TOMASZ SCHRAMM
(in collaboration with KAROLINA FILIPOWSKA)



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could not be followed by the Congress in Russia originally planned for 1918), it was left to the hosts to take care of all the organisational details, whereas after the war, and especially at the insistence of the representatives of the American Historical Association, endowed with the funds of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation, an independent structure was created, in whose hands the Congress proceedings were now to be placed. In 1926, the CISH was founded in Geneva and immediately prepared the next congress in Oslo, which was marked by a competition of national legations, for for not a few governments it was a matter of national importance and assertion to see their history adequately represented, which is why they also became active as sponsors of the professional delegations.

As the authors note with a critical undertone: “Thus, to a lesser extent than before, the Oslo Congress was the doing of the scholars themselves” (p. 9). The often cited ecumenism of historians had not been able to develop properly in the climate of the late 1920s, in which nationalist and fascist tendencies were gaining ground, no matter how much dialogue and professional analysis were emphasised, almost implored, by individual historians. If you look at the structure of the CISH today, you can still see the great importance of national representatives of historians among the member organisations. But at the same time, the number of thematically determined commissions with their transnational membership is steadily increasing, reflecting the often desired ecumenical character of the CISH as well as the close cooperation of the national committees.

The richly illustrated volume opens with a contribution by Rafal Zebrowski on Warsaw as the capital of the newly created Polish state, which served as a stage for the Congress and used the Congress to stage itself. Krzysztof Makowski, Maciej Michalski, Tomasz Schramm and Krzysztof Zamorski follow this up with a discussion of the Congress in terms of its academic issues and its political and social resonance. From the numerous archives they have consulted, they provide many details that give an idea of the difficulties that had to be overcome in order to satisfy the curiosity of colleagues’ production and the authors’ urge to publish their contributions. If the undertaking of a volume with the Polish contributions compiled by Oskar Halecki still had the pressure of national prestige on its side and was completed on

time in the required editorial and linguistic quality, the attempt to get all foreign speakers to submit their texts and corrections on time almost predictably failed. In today’s world of last-minute uploading of electronic contributions, it is perhaps impossible to imagine the headache this notorious negligence must have caused the editors of the promised congress volume. The organisers of the congress, Marcelli Handelsman and Tadeusz Manteuffel, were hit hard when it turned out that there was not enough hotel capacity at the second congress venue, Poland’s old academic centre Cracow, and when a sudden drop in the dollar exchange rate partially devalued the congress fees already paid. One understands the authors of the article, who themselves are organising such a congress under pandemic conditions, in their admiration for the skill of their predecessors. They had managed to get the Polish government to provide substantial subsidies, so that only 23 percent of the congress funding was based on the congress fees that participants had to pay, while the main part of the budget was obviously intended as an investment by the government in Poland’s reputation and – judging by the almost universally positive response – worked out that way. It stands to reason that in view of such experiences, the newly founded CISH did not attach much importance to bearing the risk of organising the congress itself, and without regret refrained from having the surplus (after all, 22,000 zloty compared to total costs of 114,492 zloty) at its disposal for future activities. Thus, a look back at the 1933 congress reveals a model that continues to be cultivated to this day, making the CISH dependent on finding financially strong organisers of its congresses (with appropriate national support in the background), but also not exposing it to any financial risk.

That the organisers were confronted with a not inconsiderable fluctuation is shown by the uncertainty about the number of participants: 1018 are listed as active participants in the congress directory, but 46 of them are marked as absent. 1240 had registered, a difference of almost 22 percent from the probable 972 present. Of the slightly less than 1000 participants, almost half (44.3 percent) were from Poland (which is considerable when compared with the 24 percent Belgians in Brussels 1923 and only 8 percent Norwegians in Oslo 1928), followed by French (10.2 percent) and Italians (8.5 percent). Only 54 came from outside Europe, 40 of them from the USA alone.



In another detailed chapter, Krzysztof Zamorski examines the question of the impact of certain panels and papers on the further development of historiography, a question that is not so easy to answer retrospectively. Iwona Dadej and Maria Solarska describe the 1933 congress as a watershed in terms of women's participation in scientific debates. As many as 306 women were listed in the list of participants, of whom only five were described as absent. For 137 of them, the authors conclude from the surnames that they were possibly accompanying male participants, but this still results in the number of 164 who had obviously travelled to Warsaw exclusively for scientific reasons. Women had fought for their place at the lecterns and the debate tables, and Polish women historians already stood out among them in terms of numbers.

The volume bridges the gap to the present with the transcript of a discussion at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, which took place in June 2018, when the CISH board visited the future venue of the next Polish Congress of Historians.

In her opening address to this colloquium on the future of international congresses of historians, Catherine Horel, then Secretary General and now President of CISH, referred to the difficulties of stimulating national representations of historians and attracting young historians to international congresses. She referred to the solidarity fund introduced in 2010 by the Dutch historians around Pim den Boer on the occasion of the Amsterdam Congress, which is intended to counter these difficulties. Ewa Domanska from the Poznan organising committee drew a picture of a historical science that is challenged by post-anthropocentric and postcolonial approaches and should accept these more clearly at its congresses by self-critically reflecting on the Eurocentric character of the concepts of history and science and al-

lowing the national organisation of knowledge about the past to recede into the background. Based on her criticism of the filtering role that national committees have, for example, in selecting thematic proposals for the congresses, she pleaded for a democratic opening and reflection on how to make the CISH and its congresses more attractive.

In the lively discussion that followed, which the detailed report reflects very well, the need for change in CISH and its congresses was emphasised on the one hand, but on the other hand it became clear that CISH in its current constitution hardly has the means to carry out such a reform, but can at least initiate it and hope that it will be taken up by the local organising committees of the congresses.

One closes the book with the feeling of travelling back in time from the origins of the CISH to its present situation. Some problems have obviously existed for decades and have not irritated the participants of the congresses to such an extent that they would have stayed away. The fact that the CISH is a relatively slow organisation, selecting its main topics over several years in preparation for the next congress, also makes it immune to some short-lived fashions. Other problems, however, are now getting to the heart of the matter and obviously cannot be solved in the current mode. Digitisation, democratisation, a truly global representation of the various historical and historiographical cultures are on the agenda and one can vividly imagine how these problems, which were mentioned in Poznań in 2018, will come up again in 2022 at the same place.

The volume prepared by the organisers of the next congress is much more than a historical reassurance of the previous event. It is indeed a successful attempt to mobilise the history of the discipline for its future.

Matthias Middell



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