

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to present my report to the General Assembly for the first time as Secretary General since my election in 2021. My role is to coordinate as much as possible the work of the Bureau, to facilitate the development of proposals and to implement the decisions of the Assembly. This report will provide information on the activities of the ICHS/CISH and will also serve as an introduction to the agenda of this General Assembly.

First of all, I would like to thank our Japanese hosts, and in particular Professor Watanabe, for the very warm hospitality they have extended to us by hosting this CISH General Assembly.

We should not forget that this is the first General Assembly after the COVID crisis, which made it difficult to travel from one country to another. I would therefore like to thank all the CISH members who have taken the time to attend this Assembly in person and to contribute to the common discussion.

I warmly greet all those who are connected through ZOOM. I also look forward to the next General Assembly and to participating fully in the discussions. I remember that the last General Assembly was held online in 2021 and I saw a very large participation of representatives. From this point of view I think it was a positive experience, but I would also like to point out that traditionally ICHS/CISH General Assemblies are linked to a scientific event, in this case Crossings and Connections: East Asia and the World, c1800-1945, the scientific conference which will be an important extension of this Assembly and a very important opportunity for exchange and networking. GAs online are the last resort for me.

I would like to remind you that to date there are 53 National Committees, almost all in good standing, a stable number in recent years. 20 are personally represented here in Tokyo.



During these four years, the new Board has met very regularly, mostly online and once in person in Lisbon, thanks to the courtesy of our colleague Nuno Monteiro, who was unfortunately unable to join us. Minutes were taken of each meeting. The 2022 History Prize was awarded to Subramanjam in Poznan to great acclaim, and later today a ceremony will take place at the Brazilian Embassy to present the prize to Laura de Souza e Mello. The wish expressed in 2012 to create a historical prize, the solemn presentation of which could be an opportunity for our organisation to be better known by the media and public opinion, has thus been fulfilled. In 2026, there will certainly be another distinguished historian to be honoured.

It is fair to say that the Board's work over these four years has focused on several themes.

The first of these was undoubtedly the completion of the preparations for the Poznan Congress to be held in the summer of 2022. After the end of the 23rd CISH Congress, the Board began to reflect on the lessons to be learned from Poznan 2022.

The main topic of discussion was then the need to postpone the Centenary Congress planned for 2026 in Jerusalem until 2028, following the events of 7 October 2023. The discussion focused on how and to what extent activities to celebrate the centenary of CISH should be organised until 2026. You will see in the agenda topics explicitly dedicated to these issues.

During these four years, since 2021, three other major topics of importance for the life of CISH have also been constantly addressed. I would like to say a few words about these two themes.

The first point concerns the organisation of the CISH itself 100 years after its foundation. The economic and organisational aspects will be discussed in more detail by

the Treasurer, Sacha Zala. In this brief report, I would like to emphasise that the Board has always been aware of the changes in the concept of networking and that we have repeatedly discussed how to make the core mission of CISH more effective. The mission is clearly to bring different historiographical cultures into dialogue in a climate of understanding and intellectual openness. The set of humanitarian values and principles has been at the forefront of our discussions. In 1926, the end of the First World War made this necessary. In 1955, at the Rome Conference, there was for the first time a dialogue between the historiographic cultures of the Western world and those associated with the Soviet bloc. In the years to come, we must insist on the need to be as inclusive as possible of different points of view. The agenda will focus precisely on the research we have carried out, which has produced very significant results. These will be presented and discussed later under item 8.

Specifically, I see three issues that we as historians need to address and for which the CISH can play a role. The nature of the can make it possible to organise meetings between historians on the major issues of our time, from climate change to conflicts in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. All conflicts and life-threatening issues invite the search for a vision of the past that needs to be made explicit in the confrontation between historians.

The second is the geographical and disciplinary expansion of the countries associated with the CISH. The Board has made an effort to reach out to historical cultures that have weakened their presence in CISH over time or have never been members of CISH. We will see the first results of these efforts in today's General Assembly. I would like to remind you that to date there are 53 National Committees, almost all of them in good standing, a number that has remained stable in recent years. 20 of them are personally represented. 24 international organisations and 4 internal commissions are also an important part of CISH. Similarly, in the last 4 years, as a Board, we have tried to consolidate relations with the next generation of historians.



The third point relates to the changes that new technologies are bringing about in historical practice. Not only do we want new technologies to be represented in the CISH. We have also redesigned and updated the website since its launch in 2012. More can be achieved with the work of specialists, made possible by the professionalisation of CISH.

This is the challenge for the future of CISH.

3. Treasurer's Report (Sacha Zala). Sacha Zala, Treasurer, presented the financial report and - a novelty - a budget for the coming year. He concluded that finances are stable, yet in need of a more solid administrative structure. From this year, the Swiss National organization subsidizes CISH to set up a more professional financial organization and by paying for 20% of a full time position, CISH now has access to the Swiss organization's professional administration. The Treasurer presents the new guidelines in financial matters that CISH has to comply with according to the Swiss Ministry of Economy. The main change concerns the role of an external agency that checks the financial balance of CISH. Approved.

3.1 Report on financial statements (2021, 2022, 2023) (doc. 2) approved

3.2 Report of the auditors - (doc. 3) approved

3.3 Budget 2025 - (doc. 4) approved

5. Activity of the Board 2021-2024 (Catherine Horel)

The President, Catherine Horel, summarized the last two years and emphasized that CISH is a growing organization, that answers to a need among historians worldwide. However, it still welcomes expansion, especially beyond Europe, and needs a broader spread in terms of age, gender, and geographical diversity.

6. New affiliations

The Assembly approves the applications of:

6.1 International students of history association (ISHA) - (doc. 5)

6.2 Internal Commission for Computational Technologies and History (ICCTH), presented by Andrea Nanetti (doc. 6)

6.3 Association des Historiens du Sénégal vote (doc. 7)

6.4 Indian Association for Global Historical Sciences (IAGHS), presented by Radhika Seshan (doc. 8)

7. Revision of the Constitution - vote (Sacha Zala)

The Treasurer presents the changes in the constitution of CISH as follows

Revision of the Constitution at the General Assembly of Tokyo, October 27, 2024

Comments

The present revision of the Constitution is a small revision, primary for administrative purposes, and secondly to adjust the present realities with the charter.

1) Administrative changes (yellow)

Art. 11. To be accepted as a non-profit organization by Swiss law, for regulatory matters, CISH must specify how his funds would be regulated in case of dissolution of fusion.



Art. 5. Allows the treasurer to be able to hand over the signatory power to his successor. In the past, this was a very complicated and costly task, which required notarized signatures of the President and the Secretary General. Through the election by the General Assembly a control is still granted.

Further, the Bureau can appoint a Deputy Secretary General who shall be responsible for the administrative work of the CISH. This reflects past practices, which were not explicitly contemplated into the charter.

2) Flexibility of the Congress rhythm (green)

The pandemic and other international crisis challenged the quinquennial rhythm for the World Congress. To reflect today's practices and the strengthen the ties between the members of CISH, the Bureau proposes to shorten the period between two congresses, opening the possibility to hold the World Congress after 3 or 4 years. To allow this flexibility all references to the quinquennial rhythm are now deleted from the charter. Furthermore, art. 3 allows explicitly the possibility to held the General Assembly online.

CONSTITUTION

Art. 1. Purpose of the Committee. – The International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS), organized in Geneva on May 14, 1926, in accordance with a resolution of the 5th Congress of Historical Sciences meeting in Brussels on April 15, 1923, is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established as an association within the meaning of articles 60 and following of the Civil Code of Switzerland, created to

promote the historical sciences through international co-operation. It organizes, in collaboration with the National Committee of the historians of the host country, the World Congress of Historical Sciences. It sets the date of the congress and determines its programme. It may handle, patronize or support financially the publication of reference works of general interest and the organization of scientific symposia or of other **projects** encouraging the spread of historical thought and knowledge. It may entrust such tasks to its members or to Internal Commissions created for the purpose. It shall defend freedom of thought and expression in the field of historical research and teaching, and is opposed to the misuse of history and shall use every means at its disposal to ensure the ethical professional conduct of its members.

Art. 2. Composition of the Committee. – The Committee shall be composed of:

- a) National Committees that are representative of the institutions of historical research in each member country;
- b) International Affiliated Organizations which are devoted to research and to scholarly publication in particular areas of historical study.

The Committee may set up Internal Commissions and assign to them the execution of scholarly projects or the organization of specific scholarly gatherings. It may also admit in quality of Internal Commission, for a period not exceeding ten years and in view of a future admission as an Affiliated International Organization, new international associations which pursue, in their field, the same objectives as an Affiliated International Organization.

Admission to the International Committee of Historical Sciences within either category shall be decided by the General Assembly, upon proposal of the Board, in accordance with the procedures indicated in article 4 below. Requests



for membership must be received by the Board six months before the date of its annual meeting.

Art. 3. Meetings of the Committee. – The Committee shall hold a General Assembly at least every two years. Each Congress shall be immediately preceded and followed by a General Assembly. The Board at its discretion may in given circumstances summon an extraordinary General **Assembly or decide that the General Assembly should take place online.**

Art. 4. Voting in the Committee. – Each National Committee and each International Affiliated Organization shall be represented at the General Assembly of the ICHS by a delegate – who may be accompanied by a substitute – and is allowed one vote. National Committees and International Affiliated Organizations have equal standing in all votes. A quorum of the Assembly shall consist of the delegates – or their substitutes – from at least one third of the members of the ICHS.

Votes on the admission of new members, on the exclusion of members of the ICHS, and on constitutional amendments shall require a two-thirds majority. Any other matter before the General Assembly shall require only a simple majority vote.

Except in the three cases specified in the preceding paragraph, at the request of the Board a vote may, in urgent matters, take place outside of the meeting of a General Assembly, that is, by correspondence. In this case the president of each National Committee and of each International Affiliated Organization shall vote in the name of his body. In case of disability, any other duly authorized officer may act in his place. Only a simple majority of the votes shall be required to pass a measure.

Art. 5. The Board of the Committee. – The Board of the Committee shall consist of a President, a first Vice-President, a second Vice-President, a Secretary-General, a Treasurer, and six Assessor members.

The election of the Board shall be prepared by a Nominating Committee of seven members, three of them belonging to the Board. Membership of the Committee is proposed by the Board at the first meeting of the General Assembly convened between Congresses. Other candidates may be presented at the second meeting by the delegates of the National Committees or of the International Affiliated Organizations. The General Assembly will then proceed with the election of the Nominating Committee.

If this procedure cannot be followed, the election will take place by correspondence as established in paragraph 3 of article 4 of the present Constitution. Candidates for election to the Board may be proposed by National Committees, International Affiliated Organizations and the Board during the twelve months following the constitution of the Nominating Committee which shall present its proposals at the first of the two General Assemblies which take place at each Congress.

Counterproposals may be submitted to the Board between the first and the second Assembly. To be admissible, a counterproposal must be signed by the representatives of five National Committees of International Affiliated Organizations.

The Board shall be elected at the second of the two General Assemblies held at the Congress. It shall assume office at the end of that same Congress and serve until the end of the following Congress.

Members of the Board may be re-elected, but the President and three other members of the Board must be replaced at each general election.

Persons who have reached the age of seventy are not eligible or re-eligible.

Should a vacancy occur within the Board during its term of office, the Board shall propose a substitute and organize a by-election at the next General Assembly or by way of correspondence. In the latter case, the procedure provided in



paragraph 3 of article 4 shall be applied. However, in case the President should be unable to serve his term to the end, the first Vice-President shall become President and shall complete the term. In case the latter in turn should be disabled, he shall be replaced in the same way by the second Vice-President.

The past President of the ICHS shall also be a member of the Board, as Counsellor-Member without vote, **until the next Congress** after his or her presidential office without consideration of age.

The Board shall be responsible for the functioning and co-ordination of ICHS activities. It shall prepare the agenda of General Assemblies and distribute it to participants two months in advance. It shall be empowered between meetings to take necessary steps to summon, in case of emergency, extraordinary Assemblies and if needed, to solicit votes by correspondence from National Committees and International Affiliated Organizations.

The Board shall supervise management of the Committee's finances. It shall submit to the General Assembly the Treasurer's report, the accounts for the term since the previous General Assembly and the budget proposal for the coming year. The Board itself is responsible for budgets in other years.

The Board, represented by the President or his proxy, shall have the right to go law on behalf of the Committee. It may accept legacies and gifts and may, in conformity with the constitution, fulfil all necessary legal formalities. **For all financial matters, the Treasurer or his proxy, shall have individual signatory power.**

The President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer constitutes the Bureau, which oversees the administrative work of the CISH. The Bureau can appoint a Deputy Secretary

General who shall be responsible for the administrative work of the CISH.

Art. 6. Dues and contributions. – Every National Committee or International Affiliated Organization shall pay annual dues determined by the General Assembly. The amount shall be the same for all National Committees. It shall also be the same for all International Affiliated Organizations but lower than that paid by the National Committees. By way of exception the Board may concede duly motivated derogations to these rules. Proceeds of the dues shall be assigned in the first place to the internal administration of the ICHS, and subsequently to its scholarly activities. These, however, shall be the first to benefit from extraordinary contributions, subventions, gifts and legacies.

Art. 7. Withdrawals and exclusions. – Every National Committee or International Affiliated Organization that has not paid its dues for three years shall lose its right to vote. After five years, that National Committee or International Affiliated Organization shall be deemed to have withdrawn de facto.

In addition, any National Committee or International Affiliated Organization which shall have seriously violated the principles of international cooperation contrary to articles 1 and 2 of the constitution shall be liable to exclusion by the ICHS following the procedure provided in article 4, paragraph 2 above.

Art. 8. Domicile of the Committee. – The domicile of the Committee shall be the Swiss city where the funds of the ICHS are deposited.

Art. 9. Amendment of the Constitution. – Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Board or by the delegates of three different National Committees or International Affiliated Organizations. Notice of proposed amendments must be made to National Committees and International Affiliated Organizations two months before a General Assembly for



inclusion on the agenda. A two-thirds majority of those voting shall be required for their adoption.

Any disagreement concerning the constitution shall be resolved by a competent judge with jurisdiction in the Committee's domicile.

Art. 10. By-laws. – All questions concerning the functioning of the ICHS not dealt with by the present constitution may be regulated by by-laws which shall be proposed to the General Assembly by the Board and adopted in the Assembly by simple majority.

Art. 11. Dissolution of the Committee. – The Committee shall be dissolved if the number of members falls below five. In this case, the assets of the Committee are transferred to the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences for administration in trust with the mandate to transfer the assets upon the establishment of a new non-profit international organization for the promotion of international cooperation in field of historical sciences. A fusion can only take place with another association that is exempt from tax liability due to its charitable or public purpose.

Tokyo, October 25, 2024

Catherine Horel, President
Secretary General

Edoardo Tortarolo,

This constitution has been adopted by the General Assembly in Prague, September 4, 1992 and modified by the General Assembly in Sydney, July 3, 2005, and the General Assembly in Tokyo, October 27, 2024.

8. Outcome of the CISH survey and discussion (Joel Harrington)
The survey was sent out earlier in the fall, and despite the regrettable lateness, several member organizations had submitted responses. These were summarized by a committee consisting of board members Joel Harrington, Katalin Szende, Eliana Dutra, Kzrystof Makowski, and Gunlög Fur. Questions concerned what the mission of CISH ought to be, how to reach younger scholars, how to expand the organization beyond the global north, how to communicate better, and in what ways to celebrate the organization's 100th anniversary in 2026.

One point brought up concerned wishes for an organization that could engage in both cultural and scientific diplomacy by putting "historical thinking" on the table, i. e. contributing context to troubling contemporary debates and issues. Many also wanted CISH to contribute more to sharing historical work and be an environment where people can learn what is done in different places as a sort of clearing house for historical practice. Several people also asked for more visibility for the organization (Joel H: "we need visibility, we're below the radar now"). This led to a discussion regarding CISH's public profile and how to fill the website with content. Many survey respondents wanted the website to include more sharing of information about events, publications, and opportunities, so as to create a landscape as it were of what is going on across the globe. Other comments focused on creative ways to use the logo to both endorse events and make CISH more visible. A suggestion was raised by Katalin Szende to create an internship for a student or two to work with building CISH's social media presence.



Eliana Dutra summarized the responses regarding the expansion of CISH to include younger scholars. She reported a unanimous sense of urgency relating to the importance of exchanges, the need to enable contacts, provide mobility through travel grants, etc. A common response was to urge congress organizers to make space for younger colleagues not only through poster sessions but in the general program. Yuko Takahashi, president of IFRWH, brought up the need for gender balance, including attention to gender diversity, in all aspects of CISH's operations. Antoon de Baes, for the International Society of Historiography, meant that CISH's reputation was "being slow and conservative" and that it needs to be more outspoken in support for academic freedom, and that it has a special responsibility to serve as observer for threats against historians worldwide.

Expanding beyond Europe and North America/Australia is an explicit aim of CISH yet has proven slow. Responses emphasized the need to strengthen the solidarity fund and to also expand its remit (not just finance travel to congresses) to encourage exchanges between different historical environs. Creating a list of scholars traveling to the global south willing to offer lectures and talks at universities with limited means was suggested. Organizing a congress outside Europe and North America was also mentioned as significant and an undertaking that would require a greater direct involvement and support from CISH. An important suggestion that came from the Brazilian organization was to organize sessions and conferences together with scholars from the global south, highlighting topics of relevance to the Global South and featuring the work of these scholars.

Joel Harrington concluded the discussion by recommending that CISH appoints a subcommittee with a responsibility to develop strategic recommendations for the future of the organization.

Analytical Results of CISH Questionnaire

1. *What, from the perspective of your organization, are the most important functions of a global association of historians?*

Responses to this question generally fell into three categories: **communication/interactions; setting a global history agenda; support for academic freedom in history.**

- o The most frequent suggestion was that **CISH might expand its work in bringing together scholars of different historical fields from around the world.** The Congress is already such a forum, but the consensus was that it would be good for CISH to establish a virtual forum on its website for discussing different historical methods, different national agendas, potential collaborations, and exchange of research, as well as a site for social interactions among historians from around the globe and an opportunity for international networking. In short, CISH might provide permanent platforms for informal cooperation. One respondent also suggested that the CISH Congress itself might be reconstructed to allow for more plenary discussions, perhaps involving representatives from smaller sessions.
- o A second suggestion was that **CISH could serve as a forum for discussing current historiography,** perhaps even contributing to a new global historical agenda. One responder suggested that we help focus on the main issue of one of the principal challenges of today: social ecology and its improvement. In both instances, the Congress and internet forum described above would support discussions from different perspectives. At the same time, CISH could play a pivotal role in supporting underrepresented



perspectives, such as historical work on the global south from historians of those regions.

- A smaller number of respondents suggested that **CISH provide leadership, solidarity, and advocacy for academic freedom in historical scholarship**, whenever and wherever it is threatened. The organization might also serve as a public voice in providing standards for the historians' craft. As above, no one is proposing a centralized or monolithic agenda, but rather a forum for the exchange of views and an advocate for colleagues whose scholarly independence is in jeopardy.

○

2. ***How can we best aid colleagues in countries with very limited resources?***

Suggestions generally concerned reduction of fees and an increase in online activities. Fee reductions are already in place, the where and how of online presence needs to be addressed throughout the organization's activities, but some additional suggestions focus on offering grants and support for participation in CISH events, possibly combined with research grants, and assistance in publishing by suggesting special issues and co-authored publications. We would like to emphasize the following key points:

- **Strengthening the solidarity fund, and broadening its remit**, so that funding could be available for travel to other events than congresses.
- **Investigate the possibility of organizing, and financially supporting, a congress in the Global South.**
- **Shape the agenda of conferences, congresses, and webinars to highlight topics of relevance to the Global South and include scholars in the Global South in key roles** in the planning of as well as presenting in sessions, conferences, and other events.

- **Organize online activities and webinars that are accessible worldwide.** It may also be important to increase the possibilities to participate online in CISH congresses, while not underestimating the importance of face-to-face meetings.

3. In what ways could CISH serve and attract younger colleagues and students?; Do you have any suggestions for the future and structure of the Research Forum and the possible establishment of a Young Historians' Forum?

The responses can be grouped into three groups:

- Those in favor of keeping the posters as created at the Poznan congress.
- Those who suggest that we should go beyond posters and propose:
 - The Young Historians' Forum should adopt a similar institutional structure and mission as the parent organization. The main purpose should be delivered for future members to understand what Young Historians' Forum is.
 - Create a Council of Younger Historians, with possible assistance from National Associations, CISH, or European Research Council or other organizations. Scholars from projects supported by the ERC might be invited to present their work at CISH Congresses and other CISH-connected events.
 - It would be really important to open the forum to early career historians not only through the presentation of posters but also as speakers in the special thematic sessions for PhD students to present their research.
- Those who suggest the Research Forum should be flexible and highly visible (very much along the lines mentioned when talking about CISH in general). Participation was low in Poznań.
 - Suggestions and proposals for the Forum can be connected through the website, because it is presumable that the Forum, whatever its nature



could be, can also be implemented remotely, with papers, discussants etc.

- o The Forum might be subdivided into undergraduate history students, Masters students, Ph.D. students and recent graduates (up to four years maximum after receiving their degree).
- o Opening spaces for lightning round sessions at the conference.

Responses had one strong point in common: **a unanimous position on the relevance and urgency of increasing the presence of young researchers at CISH.** Transgenerational exchange should be one of the priorities of CISH's policy according to a respondent. Suggestions included:

- o **Financial Support:** CISH should provide funding opportunities on various issues related to historical research, and help students organize online events with financial and technical support.
 - o Make contacts with foundations that would facilitate mobility by providing scholarships particularly for postdoctoral fellows who are members of underfunded associations.
 - o Offer Travel Grants for young historians can ensure their attendance.
 - o Reduce congress fees.
 - o Simplify CISH conference procedures.
- o **Academic Motivation:** congress, awards, editions
 - o Further encourage the organizers of the sessions at CISH congress to include younger colleagues and occasionally PhD students not in separate events but together with senior colleagues and encourage them to ask questions and discuss with senior historians.
 - o Promote an age balance in the sessions.

- o Offer the opportunities for students to make reviews of each congress session and then publish them in the webpage or on a Bulletin.
- o Organize, during the congress, a special event targeted at PhD students and young researchers, which can help in building informal networks.
- o Set up a student ambassador program where selected PhD students and young researchers help in promoting the congress, facilitating sessions, and providing guidance to first-time attendees can provide leadership experience and deeper engagement with the event.
- o Establish more awards that recognize early career scholars, undergraduate students, MA students, etc.
- o Establish a system of CISH diplomas and distinctions (including best paper, best Ph.D., best first book, etc.), ideally coming with some money.
- o **Communication: new media**
 - Open accounts in Facebook, X, and other social networks frequented and followed by young scholars.
 - Make the link to CISH website visible in all the institutions where members operate, implement the site with a space dedicated to young scholars with information on activities and opportunities.
 - Create an online publication platform on the CISH website so that younger colleagues can publish the results of their research.



- Create a vehicle to promote and distribute the online program of the CISH congress and other activities.
- Encourage active participation of young members in the governance of CISH, including roles in committees or advisory boards.
- **Career initiatives**
 - a virtual workshop aimed at Graduate Students and Early Career Researchers/Professionals could be created. Example topics: Grant writing; job applications; using digitized sources and navigating archives.
 - A voluntary program that pairs students/ECRs with established scholars—intended to offer advice on career-related issues
- **Those who suggest that the “young historian” category should be disregarded because the segregation of Young Historians.**
 - “It may seem in their best interest, but it is not. In their twenties, they are already Historians and should be able to prove it. Of course, special forms of support for low-income countries should exist. But no Young Historians, Middle-Aged Historians, Senior Historians. Rather, Historians.”

4. How can we best expand (or develop?) the public profile of CISH?

Most respondents pointed out that for a more visible public profile, CISH needs **a renewed communication strategy that reaches out to a broader audience, both in terms of space and of age groups**. Within this broad agenda, three key components can be pointed out:

- First, **CISH needs a strong online presence**, including establishing and maintaining its presence in social media (Facebook, X, BlueSky, etc.) and possibly a YouTube channel. Such presence

necessarily requires human resources which can possibly be covered by establishing a couple of student internships as "Communication Assistants", the details of which can be elaborated in cooperation with ISHA, as affiliated organisation of CISH.

- Second, **these channels representing CISH's public profile need to be filled with content.** This can range from re-posting news on events organized by the member associations to creating and publishing Podcasts with CISH prize winners and other historians proposed by the member organizations. There can be also lectures or lecture series by prominent historians organized online or recorded at conferences or special events.
- Third, one can think of other ways of enhancing the CISH brand, by **featuring the CISH logo at important events in Historical Science. CISH could also consider establishing a "CISH Seal of Excellence" for conferences, workshops, other history-related public events.** Organizers could apply for this title and if the application is approved, they can use the CISH logo with "Seal of Excellence" added, which may help them when applying for extra funding. Approval would come with an obligation to provide information on the event that can be featured on the CISH-related media channels. This would provide more visibility for both parties involved and an additional form of attachment to CISH.

RECOMMENDATION

Given the complexity and diversity of members' suggestions, we strongly recommend the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee, composed of both board members and other CISH members, to address the following proposals:

- **Expansion of resources available on CISH website.**
These might include:



- Pooled information on available research and travel grants, fellowships—national and international opportunities
- Guides on book proposals, the peer review process, conference organization, the tenure process, etc. AHA examples:
<https://www.historians.org/jobs-and-professional-development/career-diversity-for-historians/resources-for-students-and-early-career-professionals>
- Professionalization Workshops
- Virtual workshops aimed at Graduate Students and Early Career Researchers/Professionals. Sample topics: Grant writing; job applications; using digitized sources and navigating archives. Could be tailored specifically for an international audience and could draw on the strength of an international organization: executing successful international archival trips, best practices for grant writing for various international and national bodies; regional standards, etc.
- **CISH should provide leadership, solidarity, and advocacy for academic freedom in historical scholarship**
- **Mentorship program for students and junior historians**
 - A voluntary program that pairs students/ECRs with established scholars—intended to offer advice on career-related issues. Possibly the establishment of a Young Historians' Forum.
- **A "Partnership program," pairing scholars across regions working on similar themes**—might help historians in developing regions access resources, would foster international intellectual exchange, etc.
- **Centralized database of "Visiting Scholars"**

- Ask scholars of member organizations to provide publicly-accessible (or member-accessible) information about travel (traveling for a research trip, an extended visiting fellowship, conference, etc.). This would allow universities/institutions/organizations/individual scholars to make contact with visitors, invite them to speak at seminars, while cutting down in expensive flights and travel costs.
- Would allow under-funded research communities access to established scholars without all the costs associated with such invitations.
- **A membership scheme for individuals who do not have a National Committee.**
- **Programs requiring funding**
 - All will require partnership with organizations such as UNESCO, the European Commission, the German Humboldt Foundation, or the American Fulbright Foundation
 - Some version of a travel grant for historians in under-funded regions (for research, conferences, etc.)
 - Ask colleagues in regions without sufficient financial and organizational support what would help them most.
 - Could partner with member associations to fund travel to their regions.
 - Raise money for new awards.
 - **A funded exchange for two scholars** to visit their respective home institutions for a set amount of time, perhaps one week each, to facilitate research collaboration, give guest lecturers in 'twin' course, host collaborative curriculum workshops, etc. This is envisioned as an exchange between scholars from different regions; a partnership between scholars from developed and developing nations



- **Enhanced use of Social Media**

- Will require dedicated worker at about Euro 300 per month.

9. Centenary Congress in Leipzig in 2026 (Matthias Middell)

In May 1926 CISH was founded as an organization in a war torn and conflicted Europe, seeking to create a space for historians to meet and discuss their work and their roles despite geopolitical tension. 100 years later the situation again appears fraught.

Centennial celebrations were originally planned to be part of the 2026 Congress in Jerusalem. However, the postponement of the congress led Matthias Middell to offer to organize a centennial conference in Leipzig. It will be a special event, focusing on historiography and its future. Each organization that is a member of CISH will be responsible for one panel under the unifying theme of "The Past, the Present, and the Future of History." Members are urged to mobilize historians as broadly as possible and flexible panel formats are encouraged. It is hoped that panels focus on societal shifts during this century, on the humanities under pressure, and on fragmentation and inequality in deliberations on historiography which may be both diachronic and synchronic. The conference website with all necessary details can be accessed via cish.org.

In addition to the conference other events will be planned in different countries. Information about them will appear on the website in due course. Member organizations are encouraged to explore themes relative to the centennial in

their own meetings and appraise the board about them so that information may be shared.

10. Future developments and initiatives 2024-2026 (Krzysztof A. Makowski)

11. Elections and appointments (Katalin Szende)

The GA voted to constitute the nomination committee for the next president, and board to be elected in 2026.

The Nomination Committee is made up by three members from the Board:

- President, Catherine Horel
- General Secretary, Edoardo Tortarolo
- Katalin Szende

Former members whose mandate is to be renewed:

Tomasz Schramm is Professor emeritus in contemporary history of the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań. He was the President of the Polish Committee of Historical Sciences 2016-2024. He is the author of *Historycy francuscy o genezie Wielkiej Wojny (Les historiens français et les Origines de la Grande Guerre)*, Poznań 1984, *Francuskie misje wojskowe w państwach Europy środkowej 1919-1938, (Les missions militaires françaises en Europe centrale 1919-1938)*, Poznań 1987, *Wygrać Polskę 1914-1918 (Gagner la Pologne 1914-1918)*, Warszawa 1989 *dans la série Dzieje państwa i narodu polskiego), Europe in the 20th Century. Eléments pour un bilan, (ed.) Poznań 2000, Formation et décomposition des États en Europe au 20e siècle. Formation and Disintegration of European States in the 20th Century, Bruxelles 2012 (with A. Fleury, F. Knipping, D. Kovacs), Jak Polacy przeżywali wojny światowe? (How did Poles experience the world wars?) Szczecin 2016 (with P. Skubisz).*



Veronica Zarate. She holds a PhD in History from El Colegio de México. Level III of the National System of Researchers Conahcyt. Professor-researcher at the Instituto de Investigaciones Dr. José María Luis Mora in Mexico City since 1992, where she has conducted several seminars and projects related to the history of the press in late colonial and early independent periods, and the history of mentalities and everyday life. She is currently focusing on topics related to the *Lieux de Mémoire*, the materialization of historical memory through the study of monuments, nomenclature, festivities, music, etc. She has published two books -and a third one is in press- containing interviews he has conducted with nearly fifty historians from 20 countries around the world. 14 of them have been -or are actually- members of the Board of CISH: *Una docena de visiones de la historia. Entrevistas con historiadores americanistas* (2004); *Diálogo con historiadores. Reflexiones en torno al tiempo, el espacio y la memoria* (2014); *Tendencias historiográficas en la voz de sus protagonistas* (2024). She was president of the board of directors of the Comité Mexicano de Ciencias Históricas for the period 2007-2015.

New members:

Olufunke Adeboye held one of the keynote speeches at ICHS Congress in Poznań. She is a Professor of Social History at the University of Lagos, Nigeria and has held Visiting Research Fellowships at the University of Birmingham, UK (2004), the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA (2006) and at the University of Cambridge, UK (2009/2010). Her research interests include: gender in Africa, African historiography, and Pentecostalism in West Africa. In 2013, her article, "A Church in a Cinema Hall? Pentecostal Appropriation of Public Space in Nigeria", *Journal of Religion in Africa*, 42:2 (2012), won the Gerti Hesseling Prize awarded by AEGIS in Europe. She is the Vice President of the International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography (ICHTH). Her recent

publications include *Fighting in God's Name: Religion and Conflict in Local-Global Perspectives* (Lanham MD: Lexington Books, 2020) co-edited with A. Adogame and C. Williams; and "Where is History Going in Africa?", *Storia della Storiografia*, (Turin, Italy) 82:2 (2022). She was the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Lagos from 2019 to 2023.

Radhika Seshan, professor emerita, Professor and Head (Retd.), Department of History, Savitribai Phule Pune University (formerly the University of Pune), is now Visiting Faculty, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Pune, India. Her area of specialization is medieval Indian history, within which she has concentrated on economic history, especially maritime and urban history. She is the author of three books, *Trade and Politics on the Coromandel Coast* (2012), *Ideas and Institutions in Medieval India, 8th to 18th centuries* (2013) and *The Constructions of the East in Western Travel Narratives, 1300-1800* (2020). In addition, she is the editor/co-editor of eight books, of which the most recent, co-edited with Professor RilaMukherjee, is *Indian Ocean Histories: The Many Worlds of Michael Naylor Pearson* (2019-2020). Prof. Seshan has proposed the creation of a new international commission for ICHS: *Indian Association for Global Historical Sciences* and she will be attending the General Assembly

Approved.

12. Next General Assemblies (Catherine Horel)

Next GA will be held in 2026. The first meeting will be organized online in July, and the second at the centennial conference in Leipzig.

13. Next Congresses (Catherine Horel)



Undoubtedly, the most difficult issue for the GA concerned the Congress in Jerusalem. While a majority of the GA in 2021 elected Jerusalem as the next congress destination, the evolving war on all Palestinians in Gaza, following Hamas attack on Israeli civilians in October 2022 has caused debate and concern in many of CISH's member organizations. In March of 2024, the CISH board voted to postpone the Congress until 2028, in the hopes of a change in the situation by then. As it is at present, the foreign offices in many countries advise against travel to Israel and it is therefore not possible to hold a congress of the size of CISH there at present. Shmuel Finer, president of the Israeli congress organization, presented the plans for a congress in 2028, and emphasized that he has reasons to believe that the people of Gaza as well as most Israelis wish for peace. He urged CISH's members to come to Jerusalem to visit, listen, learn, and debate - in other words do what historians do best. He emphasized that the organization of historians in Israel is an independent historical organization with Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian members, and it is not a government institution.

After Shmuel Feiner's statement, many members expressed empathy for colleagues in the Israeli organization and deep concerns and ambivalence regarding participation in the congress. The members of the International Society for the History and Theory of Historiography have voted against participation in a congress in Jerusalem at any time, after careful deliberation which may be accessed on their website. The executive director of the American Historical Association, Jim Grossman, asked the Israeli organization to "do a mitzvah", a kindness to CISH by withdrawing as a congress organizer at this time so as not to submit CISH to such a divisive situation. He was joined by the representative of the Canadian association, Michel Duquet. The Polish representative argued that it such a pressure to withdraw should not be placed on Feiner alone, but that he would need time to speak to his own organization, and Matthias Middell reminded us that the GA could not vote on

the issue at this point, as such a question was not on the agenda, and had not been raised by member organizations in preparation for the meeting. Gunlog Fur spoke for the Swedish and Finnish associations and urged the board to find viable alternatives in case of the prolonged continuation of the war. Feiner said that his organization will assess the situation in early 2026, and if it is still too dangerous or volatile at that time, he will inform the board so that it can move the congress to another site.

14. Any other business

None.

15. Closing remarks by the President

The President expresses gratitude to all participants for attending this General Assembly and warmly invites them to the Brazilian Embassy for the laureate lecture by Laura de Mello e Souza, followed by the award ceremony. She also extends her best wishes for a safe journey home.