



Groningen, 31 December 2023

Prof. dr. Karina Anhezini
President of the Brazilian Society of Theory and History of Historiography

Dear Professor Karina Anhezini,

Thank you so much for your letter “Rethinking Linguistic Inclusivity in the Theory of History: A Call to Recognize Portuguese” of 22 December 2023.

I deeply appreciate the concerns you expressed regarding the importance of the Portuguese language, of the contributions of Portuguese-speaking colleagues to the global field of the history and theory of historiography, and of respect for linguistic inclusivity.

I wholeheartedly recognize and share this triple concern.

Please allow me to make one observation, however, The fact that Portuguese is not a language for submissions to the 2024 ICHTH–INTH Best Book and Best First Book competition is not an omission which is the result of “overlooking,” let alone “exclusion.” Rather it has been the result of practical considerations. Indeed, the Prize Committee members have been recruited after weighing three criteria: Board representation of the International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography (ICHTH) and the International Network for Theory of History (INTH); gender inclusivity; and representation of the Global North and South.

To that end, the ICHTH publicized a vacancy for a ICHTH–INTH Book Prize Jury Member among its members between 7 March and 10 April 2023. Applicants came from Italy, the UK, South Africa, Greece, the USA, and China. No Portuguese-speaking ICHTH member applied for the vacancy.

In the end, the Prize Committee members came from Estonia, Belgium, South Africa, and Mexico respectively. The official languages of the Prize – English, French, German, and Spanish – were based on the linguistic competence of the Prize Jury. These are the languages that at least two of the four Prize Committee read fluently. Lamentably, not only Portuguese but also numerous other languages had to be excluded for that reason. The Prize page is at <https://www.ichth.net/prize>.

Your letter is a timely reminder that we should factor in even more carefully linguistic diversity in the next editions of our Prize if we aspire to be global. We are grateful to you for this precious lesson.

With warmest best wishes, also on behalf of the Prize Committee,

Antoon De Baets
ICHTH President
antoondebaets@ichth.net