

## Name of ICHTH

### Memo to ICHTH Board

From: Olufunke, Marnie, Daniel, Toon (Exec. Team)

In 1995, our Commission changed its name from the International Commission for Historiography into the International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography, abbreviated as ICHTH. The phrases “history of historiography” and “theory of historiography” produce much confusion not only outside ICHTH but even inside. The reason is the double meaning of historiography. Because we all gain from clarity, it is proposed to change the name.

The term history has two meanings:

- history–1: the past,
- history–2: the study of the past *or* historical writing.

The term historiography has also two meanings:

- historiography–1: historical writing *or* history–2,
- historiography–2: the history of historical writing *or* the history–3 of history–2.

From this it follows that “the history and theory of historiography” is not only understood as “the history and theory of historical writing” but also, and quite often, as “the history and theory of the history of historical writing” or as “the history–3 and theory of the history–2 of history–1.” This understandable cumulation of meanings is confusing.

In order to dissipate the confusion, it is better to speak at once of “history and theory of historical writing” or “history and theory of history.” The latter option is preferable because it is shorter and it does not require us to change our abbreviation ICHTH.

This new name, “history and theory of history,” has setbacks. It still contains a repetition of the term history with two meanings. And we lose our beloved term “historiography.” Instead we gain some clarity. And clarity is what we owe each other.

Therefore, the Executive Team proposes that the Board resolve to change the name of our Commission into *International Commission for the History and Theory of History*.