



Dear Colleagues,

Thank you very much for the election and your trust. It is an honor but also a great responsibility to hold the position of the president of the International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography. I take it first of all as a duty and I am prepared to work hard to fulfill your expectations having in mind my great predecessors as well as the fact that I am the first woman and the first scholar from East and Central Europe who is leading the Commission. I do hope that the continuing members of the Bureau as well as the new elected members realize that ICHTH requires considerable work. The Commission struggles with many obstacles such as membership issue. But it is up to us to overcome them. Thus, I do count on your commitment and help.

I would like to share with you principles and goals that will serve as my guidelines:

- to make the Commission an active center for the advancement and co-ordination of efforts to promote and expand interest not only in all aspects of historiography and theory of history, but also in theoretical issues of various ways of knowing the past among scholars from across the world representing various cultures;
- to establish and maintain close links with journals, academic institutions and networks specializing in historiography, theory of history, intellectual history, and other related fields;
- promoting knowledge of the past which is interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and complementary, linking not only the humanities and social sciences but also natural sciences and various forms of indigenous knowledges;
- cultivating inter-generational, inter-institutional and cross-cultural connections; maintaining high academic standards and culture in scholarship;
- attracting scholars from all over the world to join the Commission;
- prepare candidacy of the new potential members of the Bureau from regions hitherto underrepresented in the Bureau (especially Africa, but also Australia and Canada);
- spelling out concrete duties for the members of the Bureau and receiving reports of their involvement in the work of the Commission and their achievements during the annual Bureau's meetings;
- ensure transparency of the ICHTH activities by publicizing reports on line;
- professionalizing the work of the Commission and the Bureau by creating a new design for the ICHTH website, newsletter and letterhead.

Poznan in Poland will host the 23rd International Congress of Historical Sciences in 2020. It is CISH's suggestion to focus in Poznan on spheres of historical research that may have been marginalized and/or underrepresented during previous congresses. Medieval studies and theory of history have been mentioned as future priorities. This situation gives our Commission a unique opportunity to promote specific fields of study and show in Poznan our strong presence.

I strongly encourage you to send me suggestions and comments regarding our future collaboration, your ideas about the Commission, its mission, organization and membership. I consider ICHTH as a "work in progress" which is a participatory project that begins whenever scholars talk about theoretical issues of various knowledges about the past and its representation.

Thank you so much for electing me and let's get to work.

Yours,  
Ewa Domańska

Poznań, September 8th, 2015

