

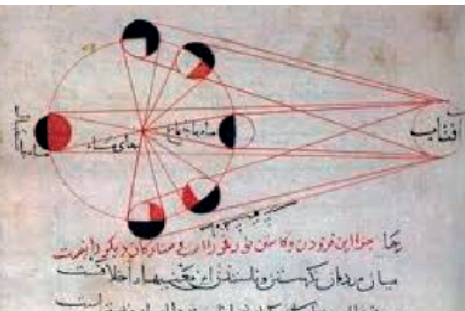


International Committee of Historical Sciences  
Comité international des sciences historiques

# NEWSLETTER

No 9 | October 2024

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## EDITORIAL

Dear members,  
this Newsletter comes just before the General Assembly to be held in Tokyo at the end of the month. We inform you about the decisions of the CISH/ICSH Board during its online meetings between March and September and forward information from member organizations.

In view of the security situation in the Middle East, the Board has taken the important decision not to hold the 2026 Congress in Jerusalem and to postpone it. This also has consequences for the panel proposals that have already been submitted. The General Assembly in Tokyo will provide an opportunity to discuss when the next regular Congress can be envisaged and how the preparations for it should be scheduled. For the programme of the General As-

sembly and the associated conference, please refer to the website and the announcement below. At the same time, the Board has decided to hold a Centennial Conference in Leipzig from 26 to 30 August 2026 to mark the 100th anniversary of the ICHS, which will be combined with the necessary elections for the future Board of our organisation. More detailed information can be found below.

The board also decided to conduct a survey among member organisations regarding their wishes for the future activities of CISH/ICHS. The questionnaire has already been sent out by email by the Secretary General, but we have included it here in the newsletter again to enable a broad participation and a high response rate. Special thanks go to board member Joel Harrington for developing the questionnaire



and offering to analyse the responses. This newsletter also contains information about the academic conference in Tokyo that accompanies the General Assembly at the end of this month and contributions from both member organizations as well as organizations that are connected to CISH/ICSH.

Please consider in particular answering at the survey that will influence our future very much. Hope to see you all in Tokyo,

Sincerely,  
Matthias Middell, Editor

## Letter concerning future tasks and formats of ICSH to all its member organizations and individual members, 20 August 2024

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Dear colleagues,  
as we approach the 100th anniversary of CISH/ICSH, we would like to solicit your advice on the future of our organization. The world is a very different place from 1926 and it is time to evaluate how we can best adapt to current circumstances. To that end, we ask each of you as well as your colleagues to guide us. We would be very grateful if you could take some time to consider the following questions. Please use as much space as you require; no response is too long or too short. You should also feel free to add other comments not addressed by these questions. Please send your replies to [joel.f.harrington@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:joel.f.harrington@vanderbilt.edu) no later than 1 October 2024. Thank you in advance for your help in making CISH stronger and more relevant than ever.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Horel, President  
Edoardo Tortarolo, Secretary General

### Questions

1. What, from the perspective of your organization, are the most important functions of a global association of historians?
2. How can we best aid colleagues in countries with very limited resources?
3. In what ways could CISH serve and attract younger colleagues and students?
4. How can we best expand (or develop?) the public profile of CISH?
5. Do you have any suggestions as to how the 100th anniversary of CISH could be celebrated and how individual national committees and commissions might participate (possibly locally)?
6. In what ways could CISH promote a shared international agenda of topics for discussion and research?
7. Do you have any suggestions for the future and structure of the Research Forum and the possible establishment of a Young Historians' Forum?

## CISH/ICHS Board Meeting | Panel proposals for the CISH/ICHS Congress in Jerusalem

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The board meeting held on 5 January 2024 decided already to postpone the originally planned deadline for submissions of proposals for panels to be held at the next CISH/ICHS Congress in order to allow further consultation regarding the congress planned for 2026 in Jerusalem. With the decision to postpone the Jerusalem congress and to held a Centennial Conference in 2026, the board also decided that the proposals for panels received so far should be returned with the request

to check to what extent they fit into the programme of the Centennial Conference. This should also allow panel proposals to be adapted to take into account new research results that have since been obtained. The General Assembly in Tokyo will discuss which timetable seems realistic for the next congress and when new proposals for panels shall be submitted.



## CISH/ICHS Centennial Conference 2026 in Leipzig “The Past, the Present, and the Future of History”

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CISH will organize a Centennial Conference under the title “The Past, the Present, and the Future of History” from **26 to 30 August 2026 in Leipzig**. This decision was taken at the latest board meeting held online early September after it became clear that the foreseen CISH-congress cannot be held in 2026 in Jerusalem but has to be postponed for security reasons.

This is a special conference organized by CISH with a particular profile to reflect collectively at the occasion of the 100th CISH-anniversary of where we stand with historiography. At the same time CISH/ICHS aims at a mobilization of historians as broad as possible in terms of geography, gender and generations, approaches and political orientations to contribute to such a balance. It offers an opportunity for comparison and cross-fertilization of historiographical fields and their current status which shall strengthen the understanding of common goals and threats.

The Centennial Conference should therefore not be confused with the regular congress for which some of the member organisations had already submitted proposals. The General assembly will deliberate in October 2024 in Tokyo about the postponed CISH-congress. However, due to expiring mandates, the Centennial Conference in Leipzig 2026, which will be held at the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the organization, will also be the occasion of a General Assembly, the election of a new board and a new president as well as the award ceremony for the CISH-Prize.

The Centennial Conference gives the opportunity to a detailed balance of where history, both academic and public, stands right now and how the member organizations of CISH contribute to this balance and where we expect our discipline to stand in the decades to come.

### Challenges

Among the many challenges that can be addressed at the conference we consider the following as particularly important:

- Major shifts in the interpretation of current societal developments (including the recalibration of the relationship between humankind and nature in face of the climate change) become immediately challenges to traditional historical interpretations since there is no social theory without an underlying historical narrative.
- History (as part of the humanities and social sciences) is affected by current trends prioritizing “useful knowledge” stemming from life and natural sciences and needs at the same time critical reflection and renewed efforts when proving its own public usefulness. In this context the role of professional historical research is to be defined again and again in contrast to the political use of history but also to its importance for infotainment.
- Historiographies are characterized both by transnational openings and nationalizing closures, and fields in historiography are affected by similar major trends but also by pilarization and fragmentation.
- The role of CISH/ICHS as the world-wide forum of historians is under stress given the geopolitical tensions and at the same time international historiography still continues to be characterized by many inequalities which result in different chances to be heard and read.

### Chances

The conference will allow for a competent overview of what happens in the different historical fields and for connecting and comparing across the borders of (trans-)national or thematic historiographies.

It is particularly interesting to bring together scholars of as many national and area histories as possible from both inside and outside the country or region.

While panels will be organized in parallel, plenary sessions will be very important to bridge between the topics in the panels and allow for cross-cutting conclusions.

By organizing the conference in a hybrid mode (see below for further details) it will reach a much broader audience than those meeting in Leipzig and with the open access publication of its results it will have an impact on the further development of our discipline.



### **Role of member organizations**

An active role of all member organizations, national and thematic, internal and affiliated, is absolutely crucial and we invite for proposals for panels that answer to the general and programmatic approach of the conference to work on a balance of developments over the past 100 years as well as on an outlook how we expect the respective field to further developing in the foreseeable future. The conference will provide an opportunity to learn about the state of the art across all world-regions and all subdisciplines of history. It will allow for disseminating a detailed picture of where we stand with the historians' craft not only to the profession but also to a wider audience.

We are well aware that the situation of national historiographies and thematic fields being at the center of attention of our member organizations differ considerably. But we invite you all to make these differences the focal point of our discussions in 2026 aiming together at a sort of synthesis where the investigation of history as well as the writing of history stands nowadays. Such a synthesis is difficult but at the same time worth the effort of an organization like CISH/ ICSH, the only world-wide organization of historians of all sorts.

Given the limits of a four-days conference, we invite each member organization to focus on one panel and only in case some slots remain open we will consider a second panel proposal from the same organization.

### **Formats of panels**

We embrace creative ideas to use the 90-minutes panels as each Commission feels fit. And of course there is also cooperation between commissions and committees possible and even very much encouraged. The only limitation is that sessions should make meaningful statements on the development and perspectives of the given field or national historiography also for non-specialists, and should not be self-centered exercises of navel-gazing. We therefore suggest that panels use the last 5 minutes of the session to formulate some key points on the future goals and priorities in that field. But beyond that formats used in the individual panels can vary as widely as they do in today's conferences more generally. Typically a slot of 90 minutes will allow for three to four individual papers plus a commentator, but it is also possible to organise the discussion around one or two synthetic report(s) plus a series of comments picking up elements from the report(s) or to have the analysis of

central publications (books or journals) at the center with a "meet the author" element to it.

### **Hybrid character**

We are well aware that participation in conferences recently has changed substantially. Budget limitations as well as ecological reasoning invite for the use of video-conference tools while at the same time networking and conversation in physical co-presence are very important features of our profession. We therefore propose a compromise that at least the chair and the majority of speakers have to be physically present – this is the ultimate condition for the acceptance of the panel; as a consequence, max two speakers out of five or six presenters in a panel can participate remotely. But with fully streaming the conference we will make it accessible to many more historians around the world.

### **Transnational Dimension**

It is evident that transnational ties between historians and historiographies have become more important over the past 100 years and CISH has done a lot to promote such interaction. The number of thematic committees has grown substantially in form of affiliated commissions to CISH and many of them are transnational by their very nature. But also national committees are characterised by the interplay of scholars working inside the country with those writing the history of this particular country or region from outside. We very much encourage those formulating panel proposals to take this aspect into consideration when composing the group of presenters.

### **Scholarly debate and dissemination of results**

While the panels are meant to serve the purpose of debate among scholars, we invite also for a conclusion at the end of a panel that can be disseminated to a wider public which then will be made available via the website and the newsletter of CISH as a point of reference.

### **Timetable**

- Call for panels (running from October 2024 to March 2025)
- Decision by the Board on panel proposals and the composition of plenary sessions: April/ May 2025
- Call for the publishers' exhibition (May until September 2025)



- Deadline for early bird rate registration: February 2026
- Deadline for hotel booking: April 2026
- Deadline for registration: May 2026

### Leipzig as a venue

Leipzig is easy to reach. Its airport is connected by numerous daily domestic flights to the major German hubs in Frankfurt and Munich, and it is a hub in the

German railway network, connecting Leipzig to Berlin in just over an hour.

The university is the second oldest in Germany and at the same time a centre of modern science, with close links to universities around the world.

More information about the logistics of the Centennial conference will follow with the call for panels later this month and with taking the discussion at the General Assembly in Tokyo into consideration.

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Wednesday	Arrival	Opening; 1st Plenary	Reception
Thursday	1st Slot for Panels	2nd Slot for Panels	Concert, but also a potential space for member organizations' regular meetings
Friday	3rd Slot for Panels	2nd Plenary; GA	Conference Dinner
Saturday	4th Slot for Panels	3rd Plenary; Closing; Departure	
Sunday	Excursion possible	Departure	

The proposed scheme for the conference

## From the International Humanities and Philosophy Council (CIPSH)

The International Humanities and Philosophy Council (CIPSH) calls for applications to become a member of the editorial team of the *Diogenes/Diogène* journal.

CIPSH is the owner of the journal *Diogenes* with a rich cultural tradition, originally published as a bilingual journal (French and English) and since 2016 as two separate, but related journals (*Diogenes* and *Diogène*). During the last four years, *Diogenes* was managed by FISP, one of the member organisations of CIPSH, but effective 1 January 2025, the management will return to CIPSH. This change of management will result in a publication hiatus of a year and it is planned to resume publication in 2026 with a renewed editorial team.

The CIPSH Board has created a task force that will put together a list of names of people with editorial experience and international research recognition who can represent the entire scope of CIPSH. As a consequence, the member organisations of CIPSH, among them CISH, are asked to suggest names from their disciplines. As mentioned, a condition is that people have experience as editors, managing editors or editors-in-chief of journals in the field and are related to CISH.

We invite candidates to write a short letter to the general secretary of CISH, Edoardo Tortarolo, by mid-November at the latest so that he can forward applications to CIPSH.



## Crossings and Connections: East Asia and the World, c1800–1945

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The international conference on 'Crossings and Connections: East Asia and the World, c1800–1945' is an accompanying program of the **General Assembly** of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS) hosted by the Japanese National Committee of the ICHS and the Japanese Historical Council. The conference will be held at **Teikyo University, Hachioji Campus, Tokyo, Japan**, on Saturday 26 October 2024.

This conference aims to explore various aspects of the historical processes of global or transregional crossings and connections in East Asia between the beginning of the 19th century and the mid-20th century, thereby discussing diversity and heterogeneity in its processes. Global migration, distribution of commodities, and political and cultural exchanges have expanded dramatically since the nineteenth century. East Asia was also one of the regions that became an important theatre of these crossings and connections. East Asian countries did not simply accept or respond to the influence of expanding European powers. In this region, multiple political forms existed side by side: China experienced a political transformation from an imperial system to a republic by revolution under the unequal treaty system; Japan became a colonial empire by acquiring Taiwan and Korea through the Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars; and most parts of Southeast Asia, except Thailand, were colonised by Britain, France, the Netherlands, and finally the U.S. At the

same time, various actors actively joined these global crossings and connections and promoted political, economic, and cultural transformations in this region. New 'diversity' in East Asia was moulded not due to unilateral convergence but as a multidirectional process, which included cultural translation and appropriation in local contexts.

These multidirectional crossings and connections over Eurasia, intra-Asia, and the Pacific Rim recreated diversity and heterogeneity, and while heavily affected by the Cold War system, various political, economic, and cultural influences remained in this region. At this conference, we would like to provide an occasion to discuss the diversity of historical pasts by focusing on specific cases of crossings and connections in Modern East Asia, using the accompanying program of the General Assembly of the ICHS in Tokyo. The papers could include one or more of the following topics:

1. Political crossings and connections: political ideas, concepts, institutions, etc.
2. Economic crossings and connections: port cities, shipping and transportation, railways and railway stations, merchants and trading companies, free and unfree migration, etc.
3. Cultural crossings and connections: travellers, missionaries, scientists, intellectuals, etc.; education or academic exchanges
4. Military crossings and connections: movements and station of troops, concentration camps, forced transportation of population, etc.



### Organisers

Japanese National Committee of the International Committee of Historical Sciences  
Japanese Historical Council

This conference will be held in collaboration with Teikyo University.

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## Information from the member organizations

We were informed by the Secretary of the **Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences**, Pierantonio Piatti, that the Committee has a new President since last September: The Pope appointed the Most Reverend **Father Marek Inglot SJ**, dean of the Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage of the Church at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Father Marek Inglot belongs to the Southern Poland Province of the Society of Jesus. He was the director of the Roman Archives of the Society of Jesus. He published several books, among others the biography of priest Jakub Wujek – a sixteenth-century Polish Bible translator. In 2020, he became a member of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences.



<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/03/31/200331b.html>



## The International Students of History Association (ISHA)

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**Julia Boechat Machado, vice-president of the International Students of History Association (ISHA) has at the demand of our president submitted the following description of her organization since ISHA seeks closer cooperation with CISH/ ICSH, a wish the board supports very much.**

ISHA is an international non-governmental association of students of history, recognized as a non-profit in the European Union. ISHA was created in 1990, by Hungarian students who were eager to connect with their peers in other countries when restrictions were lifted at the end of the cold war.

Since then, our main way to meet has been to organise student seminars.

They currently happen three to four times a year, in changing locations around Europe. We pride ourselves in creating a safe but academically challenging space for members across different academic levels, from Bachelor students presenting for the first time in a conference, to PhD and postdocs with advanced research, eager to get the feedback they need from their peers.

### **ISHA – by and for students**

ISHA Seminars are events organised by and for students, allowing them to develop themselves and their skill set in different roles, not only as a participant, but as a workshop leader, seminar organiser, reviewer, panel leader, tour guide or fundraiser. On the international level, students engage themselves in committees.

These committees work on hosting online events and transferable skill training, improve ISHA policies on equality and inclusion, and provide organising sections with advice and support to plan an international event: fundraising, advertising, communicating with stakeholders, and managing teams of volunteers.

### **Carnival – a first experience with publishing**

Our student journal, Carnival, has published articles since 1999. The students who first came out with the idea picked the name of the journal to celebrate this carnivalistic moment in which students get in charge of publishing research internationally, as a place in which commoners become kings.

Since then, we have had 24 editions of Carnival, as well as many conference proceedings, allowing students not only to publish, but try themselves in the roles of reviewer, member of the editorial board, and Editor-in-Chief.

### **Future projects**

To keep up with changing expectations of students concerning international exchange and academics, we are currently exploring new formats to engage students around the world. One of our new projects is ISHA Talks, in which young researchers apply to give a brief lecture on the topic of their research. Unlike the traditional conference presentations, this online format allows them to have a longer presentation, an in-depth discussion, and to be featured on our website.

Another current project aims to train students in skills needed but rarely taught in academia. This was inspired by the training sessions we usually conduct in our seminars, in which students are divided into teams and given the task to design a seminar, thinking of a main topic, thematic workshops, cultural events, as well as practical aspects such as funding and accommodation. We have had many ideas for seminars that came from such training sessions, when students realise how feasible it is to organise a seminar, and the chance to have the support of an association used to such events. We are now planning to start our online events with a training session on how to organise a seminar, which will be quickly followed by a session on how to fund your PhD, and a session hosted by the Carnival Editorial Board on how to publish.





### Continuing our partnership

Since the early 2000s, CISH and ISHA have cooperated, seeing each other as complementary agents, who are reaching Historians in different moments of their careers, but with a common goal to connect beyond traditional national borders and research topic-based associations.

We invite History departments and individual Historians to follow our website and social media, and kindly ask them to share these opportunities with their students, so that we can continue to grow together.

We are now excited with possibilities of increasing this connection, including presenting ourselves in this newsletter.

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## Eighth European Congress on Universal and Global History “Critical Global Histories: Methodological Reflections and Thematic Expansions” 2025

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Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden,  
10–12 September 2025

We invite all members of ENIUGH to submit panel applications for the eighth ENIUGH Congress on “Critical Global History”. We invite contributions consisting of presentations of original research and empirically grounded work in progress, as well as theoretical, methodological, ethical, and historiographical reflections.

We particularly encourage contributions that reflect on how critical thinking can be applied in global historical investigations. Applications for panels and individual papers shall be submitted by October 15, 2024.

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## Walter-Markov-Prize 2025

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The prize honors an outstanding PhD- or MA-thesis that contributes to the research fields of Walter Markov, especially the comparative exploration of revolutions; social movements and decolonization processes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; historiographical traditions in various national contexts; and academic internationalization in the course of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The jury will consider manuscripts (in German, English, or French) that have been submitted to the respective institution after January 2022. Applicants should submit their manuscripts, a summarizing abstract of 250 words and a brief CV electronically and as one PDF file to: [headquarters@eniugh.org](mailto:headquarters@eniugh.org).

The deadline for submissions is April 15, 2025.



## Circular of the Network of Concerned Historians (NCH)

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**Antoon De Baets** and **Ruben Zeeman** (Groningen, The Netherlands) have informed us that the Network of Concerned Historians has released its annual report 2024

This circular is sent to 3573 historians and others interested in the past across the globe.

The Annual Report 2024 of the Network of Concerned Historians (NCH) is now available (open access; pdf; 149 pages) at: <https://www.concernedhistorians.org/ar/24.pdf>.

This is the 30th NCH Annual Report. It contains news about the domain where history and human rights intersect in 111 countries, especially about the censorship of history and the persecution of historians, archivists, and archaeologists around the globe, as reported by various human rights organizations and other sources. It mainly covers events and developments of 2023 and 2024. The fact that NCH presents this news does not imply that it shares the views and beliefs of the historians and others mentioned in it.

All NCH Annual Reports 1995–2024 are available as individual reports and as a complete set [pdf; 2556 pages].

Also explore the open-access databases:

- Campaigns for historians (1995–2024)
- Past-, time-, memory-, history- and historian-related legal cases
- Human rights resources for historians
- Codes of ethics for historians, archaeologists, and archivists
- United Nations General Assembly history-related resolutions (1946–2024)
- Network of Concerned Historians in the news

And the lists:

- Provisional memorial for historians killed for political reasons (ancient times–present)
- (new) Historians and defamation cases
- Historians and the Nobel peace prize (1901–present)
- List of historically informed political leaders
- Political figures with a historian's background indicted by international tribunals

Network of Concerned Historians  
<https://www.concernedhistorians.org>



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