

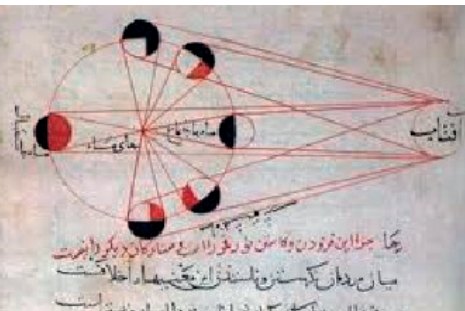


International Committee of Historical Sciences
Comité international des sciences historiques

NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

With this newsletter, I would like to extend my best wishes for the New Year. We are very much looking forward to an exciting range of activities by ICHS/CISH and its Board in 2026, as well as several upcoming events.

One of the highlights will be the centennial conference of ICHS, which will take place in Leipzig in late August. Preparations are already well underway, as you can read below. In addition to providing an opportunity for rich academic exchange, the new constitution of ICHS will be voted upon during the congress. Further information on the draft and ways to engage in this process are still available and can be found both on the ICHS-website and at the end of this newsletter edition.

Accompanying this event, you will also find a call for short videos celebrating ICHS's centennial and its future outlook, which goes hand in hand with the call from the International Federation of Public History requesting video contributions. Both types of video will be not only published on the website of CISH but also during the conference, hopefully stimulating debates during the breaks about our expectations towards ICHS. We very much encourage your participation and support. It is a great opportunity to make your organization known among the members of ICHS as well as to contribute to the debate of our future.

We would also like to congratulate Prof. Anthony Grafton for winning the 2026 Prize of History. Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the call

for applications to host the next congress. The deadline is May 31, and candidatures will be discussed during the Leipzig conference.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you a wonderful start to 2026 and look forward to a successful centennial celebration of ICHS and the historical sciences.

Matthias Middell



Leipzig University, Paulinum, venue for the opening ceremony of the ICHS-Centennial Conference 2026

CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DES SCIENCES HISTORIQUES, LEIPZIG, GERMANY, 26–30 AUGUST 2026

The centennial conference “**The Past, the Present, and the Future of History**” celebrates 100 years of international cooperation in the historical sciences since the foundation of the CISH/ICHS in Geneva on May 14, 1926. During the conference, ca. 700 participants organized in c. 80 panels will explore the developments, dynamics, and diversification the historical sciences have undergone over the past decades while also fostering inspiration for future research and innovation.

The conference will serve as an opportunity for a balanced reflection on the current state of historiography, taking into consideration a wide range of historiographical traditions and schools of thought. Bringing together historians of diverse backgrounds in terms of disciplinary specialization, geography, gender, the conference will further discussions of cross-fertilization, with the aim of deepening a broader understanding of common goals and hazards. In doing so, the panelists are especially aware of the responsibility historians bear for upholding the freedom of thought and expression, for countering oversimplified populist narratives, and for giving voice to marginalized groups. In line with the conference aim of furthering international cooperation among historians as well as critical self-reflection on historiography as an academic discipline that is deeply embedded in socio-political dynamics, the panels are grouped into the following themes:

- Theme A – The Comité International des Sciences Historiques 1926–2026
- Theme B – Teaching History and Public History

- Theme C – National and Regional Schools of Historiography
- Theme D – (Overcoming) Marginalization, Bias and Inequality in Historiography
- Theme E – Gendered Perspectives in the Historical Sciences
- Theme F – Demography and Historiography
- Theme G – Future Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities in the Historical Sciences
- Theme H – The Institutional Setting
- Theme I – Revolution, Conflict, War and Peace in Historiography
- Theme J – Connections, Entanglements, and Universal Perspectives on History

The panel programme will be framed by a rich array of plenary sessions that provide opportunities for joint reflection but also for celebration. Antje Flüchter (President of the Association of German Historians, VHD) will hold the keynote lecture at the opening event of the conference. To pay respect to the rich tradition of CISH and the opportunities it has created for interdisciplinary cross-fertilization and transnational cooperation, the congress programme will furthermore include the launch of the publication project “Document edition to mark 100 years of CISH/Aktenedition zu 100 Jahren CISH” by Sacha Zala and a ceremony to celebrate 100 years of CISH. Additionally, participants will be offered participation in a rich cultural programme that offers opportunities the cultural heritage of central Germany including Dresden, Weimar, Halle, and Wittenberg.



Throughout the conference, participants are invited to visit the publishers' exhibition and watch short video testimonials on the history of CISH and the historiographical tendencies that had emerged since 1926 (calls below).

The conference will be held on the Educational Science Center (Campus Jahnallee) of Leipzig University and will be hosted by the Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe) Leipzig on behalf of the ICHS. A local committee composed of representatives of diverse disciplines in the historical sciences has been established to help with the organization of the conference in Leipzig while the board of ICHS has final responsibility for the content of the conference.

For more information, please visit our website:
<https://cish2026.recentglobe.org/>

For inquiries to the organizers please contact:
cish2025@uni-leipzig.de

The Local Organizing Committee

Dmitri van den Bersselaar (African History)
Markus Denzel (Economic History)
Nadin Heé (Global Japanese History)
Elisabeth Kaske (Chinese History)
Axel Körner (Modern Cultural History)
Dirk van Laak (Contemporary Global History)
Steffi Marung (Global Studies)
Megan Maruschke (Global Studies)
Matthias Middell (Cultural History) – Head of the Committee
Maren Möhring (Modern Comparative Cultural and Social History)
Maren Röger (History of East-Central Europe)



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLISHER'S EXHIBITION AT THE ICHS CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

The organizers of the ICHS Centennial Conference invite academic publishers to participate in the Publisher's Exhibition at the Centennial Conference of the Comité International des Sciences Historiques (CISH), which will take place in Leipzig, Germany, 26–29 August 2026 under the theme **"The Past, the Present, and the Future of History"**. The Conference serves as a platform for historians to reflect on the evolution of historiography over the past century, while looking ahead to future challenges.

The ICHS Centennial Conference will bring together more than 700 historians from across the world for academic exchange, marking one hundred years since the founding of the Committee. With participants from diverse disciplines and almost all world-regions, the conference offers an exceptional opportunity for publishers to present their latest titles, catalogues, and digital resources to an international audience of researchers, educators, and students.

The Publisher's Exhibition will run throughout the conference in a central and accessible location at the Educational Science Center, ensuring high visibility and steady foot traffic.

Options and Prices:

Single Stand: One Table & Two Chairs: 250 EUR

Double Stand: Two Tables & Three Chairs: 350 EUR

Collective Stand: In cases where in person attendance is not possible, we offer the display of your respective books, that you send by post to our shipping address (before early August 2026) on a collective stand, managed by our personnel on your behalf; 180 EUR

Printed Advert in our Conference Programme: Full Page (400 EUR), Half Page (250 EUR), Quarter Page (150 EUR)

We warmly encourage you to forward the invitation to your national publishers of books and journals in the field of history to showcase their production to a global audience.

If you are interested in participating in the publisher's exhibition or if you have further questions, please contact cish2025@uni-leipzig.de by 31 March 2026.

For more information on the congress:

<https://cish2026.recentglobe.org/>



TWO CALLS FOR SHORT VIDEOS

In preparation of the Centennial Conference, two initiatives were launched in parallel to support the visibility of CISH/ICHS in the one way or the other, the first one, run by the International Federation of Public History (IFPH), aims at giving member organizations of CISH the opportunity to present themselves to a wider audience and demonstrate at the same time the rich diversity of member activities also to people outside ICHS. The second one, initiated by the local organizing committee of the conference, invites individuals to debate major challenges to historical research and history writing in the past and today as well as expressing expectations to future action of ICHS. Evidently, they are not exclusive but complementary to each other. We publish therefore here the calls together and will present them during the conference also together.

The IFPH Call

For the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of ICHS, the International Federation of Public History (IFPH) invites all National Committees, International Organisations, and Internal Commissions to contribute to the project of recording a series of short videos, each no longer than 4 minutes, to spotlight the activities and contributions of each member committee/commission/organisation. These videos aim to showcase the diversity and impact of ICHS members while celebrating a century of advancing historical scholarship and collaboration worldwide. The project will be coordinated by the IFPH, and the resulting videos will be presented at the Leipzig conference in August 2026 and afterwards published on the new website of ICHS. There are two ways to participate in creating the videos:

1. Record on Your Own: You can create the video at your convenience by answering the questions provided in this form. This approach allows you to take your time and produce the video in your preferred setting.
2. Meet with Jimena Perry: Schedule a meeting with Dr. Jimena Perry, Project Manager of the IPFH Explorers, at jimenaperry@gmail.com. During the meeting, she will guide you through the questions and record the video for you.

Both options are designed to make your participation as seamless as possible while celebrating the milestone anniversary of ICHS.

For more details about the proposed format and content of recordings and to schedule the recording session, please visit the link with a simple on-line form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SZ2LQxP3RRm-H3O83_qSGkMhf991JDKNCjTfzgYi5y0c/viewform. In case of any questions please contact Jimena Perry at jimenaperry@gmail.com.

The deadline for both initiatives is **April 30, 2026**, to allow adequate preparation of the videos for the Centennial Conference and the CISH website.

The Local Organizing Committee Call

The centennial conference celebrates 100 years of international cooperation in the historical sciences since the foundation of the CISH/ICHS in Geneva on May 14, 1926.

To complement the panel programme and plenary sessions the organizing committee invites short videos by participants that reflect on the conference theme “The Past, the Present, and the Future of History: Celebrating 100 Years of CISH”. Videos should not be longer than 3 minutes and be dedicated to two major questions, namely first what has been particularly important in the development of historiography and its socio-political context so far or will be with regard to the near future, and second what has been or should be the place of CISH in such a development. Contributions shall be brief and straight to the one point you would like to make primarily. Historians from around the world and from different generations are invited to reflect on their hopes, fears, visions, and expectations regarding the development of historical sciences over the next 100 years.

Videos can be in English, French, or Spanish, the official languages of CISH.

The best videos will be awarded a prize by the local organizing committee.

If you are interested in submitting a video please send us a short information to the following address: cish2025@uni-leipzig.de. The video itself should arrive no later than **April 30, 2026**.

For more information please visit our website: <https://cish2026.recentglobe.org/>

For inquiries to the organizers please contact: cish2025@uni-leipzig.de



BOOK LAUNCH AT THE OCCASION OF THE LEIPZIG CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE OF CISH/ICSH

To mark the centenary of the CISH/ICHS and celebrate a century of international cooperation in the historical sciences, a document edition tracing the rich history of the ICHS/CISH and highlighting its significance for international historiography will be presented at the Leipzig Congress.

This publication will appear in the **Quaderni di Dodis** (QdD) series, edited by the research centre of the Swiss Diplomatic Documents (Dodis), internationally recognised for its expertise in the critical edition of historical sources.

Published in a hybrid format – both digital and print –, the volume will include a substantial introductory essay retracing the CISH's one hundred years of history. It will also present a critical, annotated edition

of approximately fifty documents, selected in collaboration with members of ICHS from the shared corpus compiled following the public call that concluded in autumn 2025.

In addition, supplementary documents will be made available online through the Dodis database. As with all volumes in the QdD series, the publication will also be available in a pocket-sized print format, accompanied by a digital version interconnected with the Dodis research centre's database. This approach aims to facilitate easy navigation between documents, indexes, and tables of contents, in line with the most recent standards for the dissemination of historical sources.

ANTHONY GRAFTON IS THE LAUREATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR HISTORY 2026

The CISH-Board is very pleased to inform that Prof. Anthony Grafton (Princeton University) is the laureate of the International Prize for History 2026.

Grafton's exceptional productivity has made him one of the most prominent historians of our time. He is the author or editor of forty-three books and over 200 articles and book chapters. Just as impressive, his topics vary widely, from early modern intellectual history to the history of science and magic to Jewish history to history of the book.

He is teaching history as a discipline that encourages dialogue and a shared mission to find historical truth, among contemporaries and later generations.

The award ceremony will take place on October 15, 2026, in Rome, Italy, and the award and its winner will also be honored at the conference in Leipzig in August.





A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR CISH/ICHS

The ICHS Board has drafted a new Constitution for ICHS to be voted on in the General Assembly (GA) of 2026 in Leipzig, which will be held on **August 28, 2026**.

The new Constitution will allow us to act more swiftly and strengthen the professionalization of ICHS. The main new idea of the new Constitution is a clear cascade of decision-making competences. The highest organ is the General Assembly, the lowest the Office. The Office decides on day-to-day matters. If a larger political legitimacy is needed, it can take matters to the Presidium, which in turn can convene the Board, if it deems the matter too important to decide on its own.

Questions of great political significance would be decided by the General Assembly. You can find the draft at <https://www.cish.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2025-09-15-CISH-Constitution-2025-v1.4.pdf>.

A revised draft will be presented in the preliminary GA of 2026 to be held on April 24, 2026, 13.30–16.30 CET via Zoom.

CALL FOR CANDIDATURES HOSTING THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL HISTORICAL CONGRESS 2029 OR 2030

In 2021, the General Assembly chose Jerusalem for the venue of the International Congress of Historical Sciences to be hosted in 2026. Because of the ongoing war in the Near East, in 2024 it was decided to postpone the congress to 2028 and to host a Centennial Congress in Leipzig in 2026 instead. However, the circumstances in the Near East since then even have worsened. The Israeli National Committee thus informed us about its desire to step back from organizing the Congress in 2028 as the circumstances in the Near East simply do not allow its organization in the near future. ICHS is deeply committed to the idea that international scholarship and dialogue can foster mutual understanding as well as reconciliation. In this spirit, we hope that someday it will be possible to host a ICHS-Congress in Israel, and we sincerely thank Professor Shmuel Feiner and all our Israeli colleagues for their efforts in these past months.

Considering said developments, the ICHS Board invites its members to submit **candidatures for hosting the next International Historical Congress** in 2029 or 2030. Candidatures must include a concept, letters of support of the hosting institutions and the government as well as a preliminary budget. Please send your candidatures to office@cish.org until **May 31, 2026**. A set of candidatures will be selected in the GA of 2026 in Leipzig. The Presidium will then conduct negotiations with the respective National Committees; the final decision will be taken by the ICHS-Board.

The letter of the Historical Society of Israel:
[/https://www.cish.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/5b_Letter_Historical-Society-of-Israel.pdf](https://www.cish.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/5b_Letter_Historical-Society-of-Israel.pdf)

The response from the CISH/ICHS General Secretary:
https://www.cish.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2025-09-17_Response_Israel.pdf.



Leipzig University, Campus of the Faculty of Education, venue of the Centennial Conference 2026





Leipzig University, Campus of the Faculty of Education, venue of the Centennial Conference 2026



Aerial view of the Leipzig University's Campus for the Faculties of Sports and Education, venue of the Centennial Conference



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