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## **RETHINKING HISTORICITY: EXPLORING TEMPORAL RELATIONS IN A CHANGING WORLD**

6th network conference of the International Network for Theory of History — Tallinn (Estonia), 19–22 May 2026

The International Network for Theory of History (INTH) is pleased to announce that its sixth network conference will take place from 19 to 22 May 2026 at the School of Humanities in Tallinn University (Estonia). The conference aims to bring together historians, philosophers, and researchers from related fields worldwide to explore questions in the theory of history and historiography, exchange perspectives, and foster new collaborations.

### **PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW CAREFULLY!**

You can find the most up-to-date programme [here](#).

For those who have been selected to present a paper at the INTH conference:

- To all **panel chairs**: please ensure that all panel members are well informed and received the necessary information!
- Please note that May is a busy period in Tallinn, with numerous international conferences and large-scale events taking place throughout the city. As a result, **hotel availability may be limited**. We strongly recommend that you arrange your accommodation in Tallinn at your earliest convenience to ensure availability of suitable lodging for the duration of the conference.
- Please remember to complete your **registration** via [this](#) link. **If you have decided to cancel your participation, please inform us as soon as possible.**
- Please upload your **updated abstract** [here](#).
- If you still need to make changes to your **presentation title or your affiliation**, you can do so via [this](#) link.
- We are still looking for a **chairs** for some panels. If you are interested, please send an email to [2026inth@gmail.com](mailto:2026inth@gmail.com).

**For all participants**: please make sure to complete your official conference registration via [this](#) link.

You can find all the practical information on our [website](#).

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## **THE FUTURE OF INTH — STATUTES**

Dear colleague,

The International Network for the Theory of History (INTH) was founded in 2012 in Ghent and has since grown into a vibrant community of over 1,500 scholars. Through the network, we facilitate the exchange of ideas and collaboration, by offering a directory of theorists of history, an online community-based [bibliography](#) of theory of history, as well as a forum for announcing events.

As we prepare for the next Biannual Network Conference in 2026, to be held in Tallinn, we formed a working group to reflect on the future direction of INTH. Our goal was to explore new services and resources we could offer to theorists of history worldwide, as well as to consider the legal structure of the network.

After several meetings, and with the help of many committed contributors, we have prepared **a first version of our [Statutes](#)**. As you will read, we will be working with a **membership** structure, and INTH will be coordinated by a **board** consisting of approximately seven members, as well as an **advisory board**.

**If you have any comments or suggestions regarding these statutes, please let us know at [inth@ugent.be](mailto:inth@ugent.be).**

During the conference in Tallinn, our first General Assembly will take place.

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### **The politics of Historicization: Inaugural Lecture Series**

Historicization — treating an object, idea or phenomenon as historical — has often been associated with critical thinking, democratic dialogue and political emancipation. However, historicization has also faced persistent skepticism. Critics warn it can lead to moral relativism, undermine communal identities, or impose cultural imperialism.

This lecture series explores the promises and critiques of historicization by examining questions such as: What does it mean to historicize an idea, or phenomenon? And is it typically modern? What political, ethical, or cultural values does historicization promote, obscure or suppress? When does historicization serve as a tool of critique, emancipation, or democracy — and when does it constrain political imagination or moral judgment?

Alongside the lectures, a monthly reading group will create space for collective reflection on these themes.

**12.02.2026: What is Historicization?— Kenan Van de Mieroop** (Universiteit Leiden). Exploring the conceptual foundations and genealogies of historicization as a mode of thought.

**26.02.2026: History as Destruction — Katherina Kinzel** (Universiteit Utrecht). Exploring the critiques of historicization as destructive set of operations.

**20.03.2026: Historicization, Testimony and Epistemic Justice — Jonas Ahlskog** (Åbo Akademi University). On the ethical and epistemological dimensions of historicizing experience and witnessing.

**24.04.2026: Koselleck and the Historicization of Historicism — Fernando Esposito** (Universität Konstanz).

**13.05.2026: Historicizing Gender — María Inés La Greca** (National University of Tres de Febrero). On historicization and embodiment in feminist and queer historical theory.

**26.06.2026: Historicization and the Legitimacy of Democracy — Irène Herrman** (Université de Genève). How historicization has been mobilized to promote, defend, or question democratic ideals/practices/institutions.

**All lectures are hybrid.** More information on our [website](#).

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**Call for papers: Civic Integration and the Uses of History: Narratives, Boundaries, Belonging**  
**Ghent University, Belgium**  
**21-22 October, 2026**

Over the past twenty-five years, civic integration trajectories have become an important instrument in integration policies across Europe. These programmes typically combine language instruction, social orientation courses and examinations, and seek to prepare in this way newcomers for participation in the host society. In doing so, citizenship is increasingly embedded in shared values, norms, and traditions (Duyvendak et al., 2016). Civic integration courses make a broader tendency of the culturalization of citizenship especially visible. Beyond offering practical information about daily life, they articulate what are presented as the core values and social expectations of the receiving society.

Within these trajectories, history education plays a particularly prominent role. This has, however, received remarkably little scholarly attention. Yet this domain merits closer examination for several reasons. Civic integration courses constitute a highly specific pedagogical setting in which historical knowledge is presented as socially consequential for newcomers' civic participation. Moreover, historical narratives can render visible how history is employed for community-building efforts and can reveal how states negotiate boundaries between 'insiders' and 'outsiders'. Studying history within civic integration offers a unique vantage point onto the contemporary politics of memory, including which pasts are highlighted, which are marginalised, and how these choices both articulate and shape understandings of citizenship.

Moreover, the context of civic integration courses enables not only to analyse the production of state-sponsored historical narratives, but also to examine how newcomers receive, interpret, and negotiate these narratives. This can offer important insights into the effects of nation- and community-building practices based upon historical narratives, and may show when, how, and for whom such histories foster a sense of belonging, and when they fail to do so, or even exclude people and, thus, promote the opposite.

This workshop aims to focus on what it is newcomers want to know, how countries differ in the historical narratives they emphasize and what this may reveal about broader processes of nation-building, boundary-making, and the politics of belonging. We aim to bring together scholars from history, sociology, political science, migration studies and other related fields. We welcome contributions that reflect on how (integration) policy is related to practice, how historical narratives are selected, taught, and experienced, or how they (fail to) shape newcomers' sense of belonging.

**Central questions include, but are not limited to:**

- What are the (theoretical) consequences of the use of state-sponsored history and the construction of culturalist boundaries?
- How do civic integration policies mobilise history, and what kinds of historical knowledge are deemed necessary for newcomers?
- How are official narratives translated into teaching practices, classroom interactions, or examination formats?
- How do newcomers engage with, interpret, or contest the historical knowledge presented to them?
- What are the differences in practices of (history in) civic integration across Europe, and what may this reveal?
- How does historical culture intersect with broader questions of identification, recognition, and belonging?

### Submission guidelines

Interested participants are invited to submit an abstract of 300–500 words in .docx or .pdf format to [anthe.baele@ugent.be](mailto:anthe.baele@ugent.be) by **1 June 2026**. Please name your file: *Surname\_ Title of the abstract*.

### Practical information

This workshop will take place October 21-22, 2026, in Ghent (Belgium).

The workshop is organised by the Center for Meta and Public history (M&P) and will be free of charge.

The coordinator is Anthe Baele.

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### REVIEWS

Since its establishment, INTH has managed a review section for books in the theory of history and history of historiography. We are grateful to our reviewers who have written English reviews of books in various languages, and to authors who have alerted us about their publications.

Here you will find the list of books we would like to be reviewed. If you are interested in writing a review (or you have a book up for review), please contact us. Further information can be found on our website.

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### PUBLICATIONS

New journal: Historia: Philosophy and Theory, no. 1, 2025.

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### CONFERENCES

**9-10.03.2026:** Women of the Museum XL: The (Museum's) Future is Female (Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

**20.03.2026:** Annual Conference The Modern Age: Celebration! Anniversaries and commemorations in the Low Countries, 1780-1940

**16-17.04.2026:** Tragedy and Resistance (Literaturforum im Brech-Haus, Berlin)

**19-22.05.2026:** 6th INTH Conference: Rethinking historicity: exploring temporal relations in a changing world (Tallinn, Estonia)

**10-12.06.2026:** 18th Annual Conference of the Society of the Study of Childhood in the Past (SSCIP)

**17-19.06.2026:** International PhD Seminar in American History / American Studies Middelburg (Middelburg, the Netherlands)

**02-03.07.2026:** Workshop Conservative Women: Politics and Gender from 19th century – 21th century (Antwerp, Belgium)

**26.07.—01.08.2026:** Aurora Summer School NeoLEMoS: Neo-Latin for Early Modern Studies

**27-29.08.2026:** Historians' Days 2026: The Future of History (Leiden, the Netherlands)

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

**13.03.2026:** International PhD Seminar in American History / American Studies Middelburg (Middelburg, the Netherlands)

**01.05.2026:** Journal of the Philosophy of History— Trust and Truth: Testimony and the Epistemic Validity of Historical Writings

**15.04.2026:** ESSHC Theory and Historiography Network. Read more information below.

**01.06.2026:** Civic Integration and the Uses of History: Narratives, Boundaries, Belonging

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## LECTURES

**06.03.2026:** Book Launch: Lottery fantasies in Europe (Utrecht, the Netherlands)

**19.03.2026:** Book talk: On Pedantry. A Cultural History of the Know-it-All (CHS) (Utrecht, the Netherlands)

**20.03.2026:** Historicization, Testimony and Epistemic Justice — Jonas Ahlskog (Åbo Akademi University). On the ethical and epistemological dimensions of historicizing experience and witnessing. (Ghent, Belgium, and online)

**25.03.2026:** Book launch 'Cultural History for a Changing World' (Utrecht, the Netherlands)

**24.04.2026:** Koselleck and the Historicization of Historicism — Fernando Esposito (Universität Konstanz).

**07.05.2026:** Seminar Femke Valkhoff & Tijmen van Voorthuizen: Writing women and drinking queers (CHS) (Utrecht, the Netherlands)

**13.05.2026:** Historicizing Gender — María Inés La Greca (National University of Tres de Febrero). On historicization and embodiment in feminist and queer historical theory. (Ghent, Belgium, and online)

**02.06.2026:** Seminar Carine Zaayman and Jody Metcalfe: Dutch Colonial Histories and Its Afterlives (CHS)

**26.06.2026:** Historicization and the Legitimacy of Democracy — Irène Herrman (Université de Genève). How historicization has been mobilized to promote, defend, or question democratic ideals/practices/institutions. (Ghent, Belgium, and online)

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## READING GROUPS

**13.03.2026:** The politics of Historicization: periodization and sovereignty

**08.05.2026:** The politics of Historicization: unhistoricism in queer studies

**05.06.2026:** The politics of Historicization: Contextualism

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## POSITIONS

**15.03.2026:** PhD position on language and power in early colonial North America (LU)

**18.03.2026:** Three teaching positions at ESHS (political science, critical analysis of political discourse, and social movements).

**26.03.2026:** Postdoctoral researcher in Peace and Conflict Studies/African politics (2-year position)  
Postdoctoral researcher in Peace and Conflict Studies/African politics (2-year position)

***Spreading the news:***

**ESSHC Theory and Historiography Network**

The 16th European Social Science History Conference will be held in Lyon, France, from 21 to 24 April, 2027. The ESSHC aims to bring together scholars interested in explaining historical phenomena using interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the past. The conference is characterized by a lively exchange in many small groups, rather than by formal plenary sessions. It is organized in a large number of networks that cover a certain topic (e.g. criminal justice, family, social inequality).

The Theory and Historiography Network is interested in proposals for panels (consisting of three papers and a comment), roundtables (more oriented to discussion than the formal presentation of panels) and 'meet the author' sessions (where there is a pathbreaking publication of a monograph, not older than two years) on theoretical and historiographical topics.

Although reflection on a wide set of theoretical and historiographical issues are welcome, in 2027 we would like to encourage proposals in particular on the topic of **the role of history and historians in times of crisis**. As the concept of polycrisis quickly took hold on public and scholarly debates on the challenges of contemporary societies, historians – as well as human and social scientists in general – have begun to contemplate their role and the role of their scholarship in understanding and responding to a cascade of intersecting crises – (geo)political, social, economic, environmental, technological. As contemporary societies navigate polycrisis, can historical knowledge be of any help? If no, why not; if yes, how? Is there a social responsibility encoded in the professional ethics of the discipline? Do turbulent times demand historians to speak up or act in times of crisis? What responses to such a demand are considered specific to history, and what added value do historians' contributions have? Among many others, these questions are at the heart of assessing the role of the discipline and its practitioners in times of crisis.

We are also looking for panel/ roundtable/'meet the author' sessions on past crises and the positioning of historians during past crises. In this way we are hoping to be able to historicise the contemporary notion of 'polycrisis' in order to see what is genuinely new in the current situation and where we can identify patterns in the reaction of historians in times of crisis.

At a time that most certainly calls for self-inspection on the value of historical scholarship, we encourage submissions that address any aspect of the role of history and historians in crises periods – or their lack thereof – its historical underpinnings, its individual examples and globally diverse instances, as well as its general outlines.

The deadline of submissions is April 15, 2026. For submission guidelines, please consult the general guidelines at the ESSHC website: <https://esshc.iisg.amsterdam/en/guidelines>

Kind regards,

*The INTH team*

