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?

16.10.2026: Historicizing the City: The Politics and Pluritemporality of Urban Heritage by *Achim Saupe (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam)*

30.10.2026, 10u30-12u00, Library Lab Loveling: The Politics of Deep History by *Frederik Buylaert (Ghent University)*

26.11.2026, 13u-14u30, Auditorium E, Technicum 2: Historicization, Radical Politics and the Reactivation of Past Struggles by *Sara Edenheim (Umeå University)*

7.12.2026, 11u30-13u, Auditorium Franz Cumont, Blandijn: Partition, Peace Negotiations, and the Politics of Memory in Palestine/Israel *by Nadim Khoury (University of Inland Norway)*

All lectures are hybrid. You can attend online via the following link: Lecture series: the politics of historicization | Vergadering-Deelnemen | Microsoft Teams

Virtual Workshop: Understanding Current Approaches to the Theory and Philosophy of History *27-29 October 2026, University of São Paulo, Brazil*

***Register** here.*

Workshop Program (All times are BRT, UTC-3)

Tuesday, 27 October
10:00 to 12:00

- **Keynote Herman Paul (**Leiden University): “Theory and Philosophy of History: A Network Extending Through the Humanities”

12:15 to 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 to 16:00

- **Keynote María Inés La Greca** (National University of Tres de Febrero/CONICET): “A Feminist Present for Theory of History: Gender and the Philosophical Assumptions of a Relational View of Embodiment”

Wednesday, 28 October
10:00 to 12:00

- **Keynote Jouni-Matti Kuukkanen** (University of Oulu): “What would pragmatist studies of historiographical practice require of philosophy?”

12:00 to 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 to 16:00: Papers

- **Bowen Ran** (Erasmus University Rotterdam), “Can Philosophy of History be Globalized? From a Chinese Point of View”
- **Jerzy A. Brzozowski** (Federal University of Santa Catarina) and Emanoela Agostini (EEB Uri), “Historiography as the Construction of Idiographic Models”
- **Mariana Pordeus** (Federal University of Santa Catarina), “Explanations in History: Contributions from van Fraassen’s Philosophy of Science to Hayden White’s fictionalism”

Thursday, 29 October
10:00 to 12:00 Papers:

- **Tiago Viotto da Silva** (São Paulo State University), “From the Impossibility of Totality to the Reopening of the Future: Speculative Philosophy of History in the Anthropocene”
- **Manuela Fantinato** (Fluminense Federal University), “Exile as a Metaphor for History”
- **Friedrich von Petersdorff** (Independent scholar), “Do Historians Require Philosophical or Theoretical Approaches?”

12:00 to 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 to 16:00 Papers:

- **Ana María Woolvett** (Universidad de los Andes), “Re-enactment as Question and Answer: Historical Understanding and Self-Knowledge in Collingwood”
- **Paolo Camporese** (Independent scholar), “The Unity of the Philosophies of History: Collingwood, Method and Metaphysics”
- **Augusto de Carvalho** (Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro), “The Logical Vocation of History”

Institute of Historical Research

Philosophy of History

Programme Autumn 2026-7

02.11.2026: **Herman Paul,** "Presentism: A Problem of Our Time?”

26.11.2026: **Antoon de Baets**, "State Obligations in the Field of Memory and History”

03.12.2026: **Aviezer Tucker**, “The Autonomy of the Historical Sciences”

10.12.2026: **Marie-Gabrielle Verbergt**, "Neoliberal Historicity”

Meetings are from 17.30 – 19.00

The link for each meeting can be obtained by registering on the IHR website. If there are any difficulties please email James Connelly (j.connelly@hull.ac.uk) and he will send you a copy of the link.

EUMAPH Symposium 2026

The annual conference of the European Network of Masters in Public History (EUMAPH) is coming to Belgium. Over the course of two days, researchers, faculty, students, and heritage professionals from across Europe will bring their expertise together to address one central question: How can public history respond to today's societal challenges? The symposium is organized by all Belgian history programs offering a (graduate) track in public history.

The symposium's theme is "Public History and Societal Needs." In a society where history is increasingly used to understand current issues, there is also a growing need for historians who can make historical knowledge accessible to a broad audience.

Over two days filled with lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities, participants will explore how public historians address current societal questions and how history can be made accessible, relevant, and meaningful to a broad audience.

The EUMAPH conference is a collaboration between the University of Liège, UCLouvain, the Center for Meta- and Public History (UGent), KU Leuven, the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and BELvue.

View the full program and register.

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.

PUBLICATIONS

New journal: Historia: Philosophy and Theory, no. 2, 2026.

CONFERENCES

27-29.11.2026: Learning from History: The Philosophies of Historiography and the Historical Sciences The University of Ostrava, Czech Republic

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LECTURES

29.10.2026: The Historical Premise: The Pessimistic Meta-Induction and the Philosophy of History Aidan Ryall (Australian National University, Australia). 10h/11h (Central-European/Finnish time)
02.11.2026: Presentism, a problem of our time? Herman Paul (Leiden University)
19.11.2026: Chiel van den Akker (VU Amsterdam): Narrative and Knowledge, Colloquium
27.11.2026: "Our Age of Discord: A History of Possible Futures" Speaker: Peter Turchin (Complexity Hub Vienna, Austria) Format: Hybrid (in-person in Ostrava and on Zoom). 14.30/15.30h (Central European/Finnish time)
10.12.2026: New Materialism and Historical Studies: Roundtable Discussion
17.12.2026: "Peirce and Historical Epistemology" Speaker: Tullio Viola (Maastricht University, The Netherlands) Format: Zoom 16/17h (Central European/Finnish time)
13.01 2027: Communicating Theories in Research and Education, Roundtable Discussion
28.01.2027: 16/17h (Central European/Finnish time): "Narrative Explanation and the Standpoint of Agency" Speaker: Jonas Ahlskog (Åbo Akademi University, Finland) Format: Zoom

Kind regards,

The INTH team

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