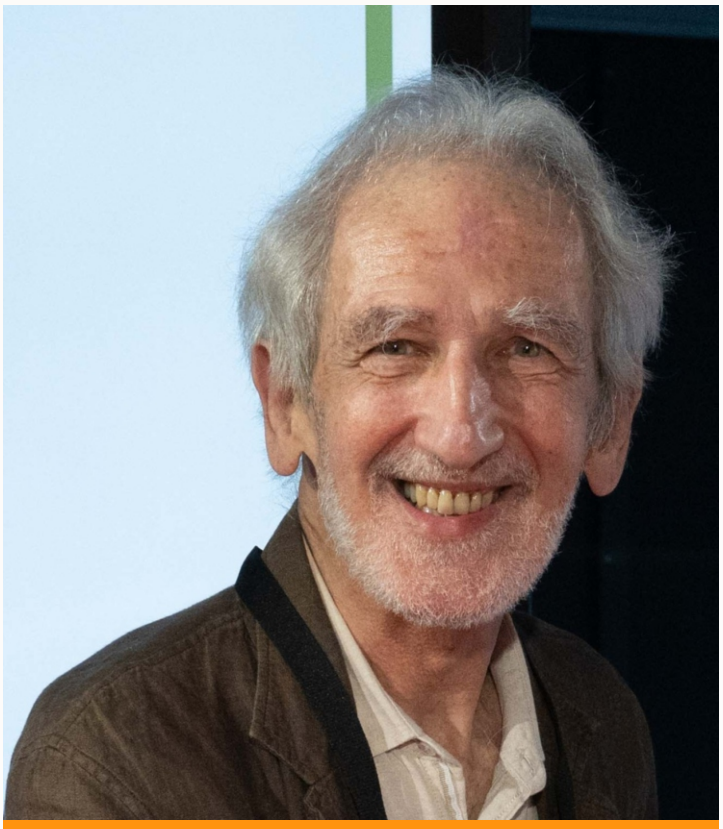
ICHTH
International Commission for
the History and Theory of Historiography

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE HISTORY AND THEORY OF HISTORIOGRAPHY

ICHTH Newsletter | No. 8, October 2026

WELCOME ADDRESS



By
Antoon De Baets
President of the ICHTH

THE SCHRÖDINGER UNIVERSALITY OF HISTORIOGRAPHY

In this talk, I first revisited an old but enduring question: Is historical writing a universal phenomenon? I examined it from four perspectives: geographical, sociological, anthropological, and historical. Geographically, the question is whether historiography is now practiced in all countries. To assess this, I analyzed data from primary, secondary, and tertiary history education, briefly reviewed historical journals, and considered counterarguments. This review indicates that geographical universality is substantial. Sociologically, the question is whether historiography has been accepted as the dominant approach to the past across different segments of society. To explore this, I considered three variables: levels of historical knowledge and ignorance, attention to historiography, and interest in the past. This perspective suggests that sociological universality is limited. Anthropologically, I observed that historiography depends on specific preconditions—some indispensable, others strongly recommended—such as an adult cognitive framework, literacy, temporal and spatial awareness, and an orientation toward the totality of history. Because universality is thus conditional, it cannot be inherent. Historically, I discussed the positive and negative answers to a meta-question: Is the question of historiography's universality itself universal? I then examined three types of explanations for historical universality: non-theoretical approaches, single-factor theories, and multi-factor theories. This examination suggests that historical universality is shallow. Overall, I argued that historiography has achieved a degree of global prominence today and that this geographical universality is unprecedented. At the same time, it remains far from universal in the sociological, anthropological, and historical senses. At most, historiography attains a state of incomplete and ambiguous universality, which I call “Schrödinger universality.”

The talk then turned to a follow-up question: What explains this incomplete universality? Addressing this requires a comparison of the limitations of historiography as a scientific enterprise with the strengths of non-scientific approaches to the past, focusing on four key issues. First, historiography faces internal limitations, including the inherent complexity of science—often poorly understood by the general public—and insufficient self-reflection among historians regarding their own biases and the social tensions generated by their work. Second, historiography faces external limitations: alternative approaches are often resistant to evidence, and refuting their non-scientific claims tends to be lengthy, repetitive, incomplete, and

negative—and sometimes backfires. Third, historiography has generally adopted a predominantly negative stance toward alternative approaches to the past, even though historians themselves have sometimes been involved in shaping them. Fourth, proponents of alternatives to scientific historiography fall into two broad categories: those who imitate scientific history, blur epistemological boundaries, and exploit the resulting confusion; and those who undermine scientific history by reversing conventional distinctions and fostering distrust toward history and historians. This comparison led me to reconsider the demarcation debate between science and pseudoscience. From an internal perspective, the boundary between good and bad scientific history has shifted over time. From an external perspective, the boundary between scientific history and its non-scientific alternatives, though often blurred, remains significant.

Finally, I considered whether the complete acceptance of historiography is desirable or possible. To that end, I assessed its desirability at both individual and collective levels, and then its possibility from both internal and external perspectives. This led to a final question: How should historians respond to alternative approaches to the past? I proposed that historians adopt a stance of humble dignity, abandoning the historiographical hubris of earlier generations. The central issue is not the regrettable incompleteness of historiography's universality, but the inherently limited persuasive power of scientific approaches. Historians should address alternative approaches to the past with respect, if feasible; with criticism, if necessary; with dignity, if attacked; and with exposure, if those approaches cause harm.

(*) Summary of a talk given on 16 April 2026 at the Critical Issues in Global Historiography conference of the Global History Initiative led by Daniel Woolf and Amitava Chowdhury at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada.

COMMISSION NEWS

BOOK FORUM ON THE 2024 ICHTH–INTH BOOK PRIZES

The journal Rethinking History has published a book forum on the prizes jointly awarded by ICHTH and INTH in Lisbon in May 2024:

Lisa Regazzoni and Marek Tamm, eds., "ICHTH/INTH Book Prize Forum," Rethinking History (published online 17 March 2026; 47 pages).

The forum contains contributions from the 2024 Best Book laureate, Jörg van Norden, with comments by Christina Antenhofer, Jonas Heller, and Katharina Hoppe, and from the 2024 Best First Book laureate, Mariana Imaz-Sheinbaum, with comments by Jouni-Matti Kuukkanen, María Inés La Greca, and Chris Lorenz. You can download the introduction to the forum from https://www.ichth.net/news/83.pdf. Warm thanks go to guest editors Lisa Regazzoni and Marek Tamm, and to *Rethinking History* editor Kalle Pihlainen for all their work in preparing and presenting the forum.

SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR THEORY OF HISTORY

From 19 to 22 May 2026, the sixth Conference of the International Network for Theory of History (INTH), themed "Rethinking Historicity: Exploring Temporal Relations in a Changing World," took place in Tallinn, Estonia's mesmerizing capital. It was a festival of papers and panels, talks and debates, all in a climate of professionalism and friendship. We are most grateful to the conference organizers and hosts. Our Commission's official contribution consisted of four panels (each with four papers) and five individual papers. One panel was devoted to "The Physicality of History: Material Ontologies as Grounds for Historical Knowledge," and the

other three to "Attacks on History." In addition, an unprecedented 48 ICHTH members – roughly one-third of our membership – gave talks, some of them more than one. INTH also held its first General Assembly in Tallinn. During that meeting, ICHTH announced a donation of 500 euros as a token of its warm support for the Network. The donation has since been transferred and will be repeated annually. Good luck to INTH! A full report of the Conference, prepared by Norbert Fabian of the Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr University, Bochum, is available at https://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/fdkn-163752

2026 ICHTH–INTH BOOK PRIZES

The 2026 ICHTH–INTH Book Prizes were also awarded in Tallinn.

I. ICHTH President Antoon De Baets opened the ceremony as follows:

Dear friends, in the famous war novel The Good Soldier *Švejk* by the Czech writer Jaroslav Hašek, there is a soldier called Marek. Trained as a philosopher, he is appointed historian of his battalion. And Marek, the philosopher-historian, produces a beautifully written history, describing in great detail all the battalion's future victories and, in the process, wildly inventing glorious deeds for each of his friends and heroic deaths for each of his superiors. Marek's history would be a superb work that I would love to read, but I doubt that it would win one of our Book Prizes.

We are gathered here today to award Book Prizes in the field of the history and theory of historiography for the sixth time. I have the pleasure and the honor of representing the International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography. Our Commission, founded in Bucharest in 1980, has been awarding prizes for the best books in our field since 2013. In 2022, the International Network for Theory of History joined us in this effort, and this is now our third joint edition. The marriage between the Commission and the Network has been, I find, a happy and productive one. May it long continue!

The present edition covers books published in 2024 and 2025. We received twenty submissions from sixteen countries: six in the category of Best First Book, intended for first works of early-career scholars, and fourteen in the category of Best Book, covering all other works. Most books were written in English, but we also received submissions in Spanish and German. The previous edition spanned three years and received seventeen submissions from eleven countries. With fewer years covered and more submissions from more countries, our prizes are clearly becoming more attractive.

The Prize Committee consisted of six scholars from five continents: Mariana Imaz-Sheinbaum from Mexico, Lize Kriel from South Africa, João Ohara from Brazil, Luke O'Sullivan from Singapore, Walderez Ramalho (also from Brazil), and, finally, Marek Tamm (not to be confused with Marek the battalion historian) from our welcoming guest country, Estonia. Profuse thanks to the Prize Committee for its tremendous work.

Its task was not an easy one. Unavoidably, the quality of the books was uneven. You all know the phenomenon: they promise you a horse, and what you really get is a camel. Overall, however, looking at this rich harvest, we can say, with Mark Twain, that "reports of the death of the history and theory of historiography are greatly exaggerated."

II. Then, Prize Committee member **João Ohara** introduced the winner of the Best First Book Prize:

The Prize Committee received many excellent submissions to the 2026 ICHTH–INTH Best First Book Prize. After an initial assessment and discussion, three were shortlisted: (1) Natan Elgabsi's *Existential Ethics and the Philosophy of Historiography: Transgenerational Life and Memory in Literary Culture*, published by Routledge and Amsterdam University Press; (2) Michal Hubálek's *Dissolving Naturalism and Historicism Into Each Other*,

published by Springer; and (3) Marcin Moskalewicz's *'Hannah Arendt's Ambiguous Storytelling: Temporality, Judgment, and the Philosophy of History*, published by Bloomsbury.

The Committee then compared the finalists in terms of their formal and substantive qualities and their contribution to the field more broadly. Although each of the three shortlisted works had its particular strengths, the Committee ultimately judged that the Best First Book Prize should be awarded to **Natan Elgabsi**'s *Existential Ethics and the Philosophy of Historiography: Transgenerational Life and Memory in Literary Culture.*

Theorists and philosophers of history have written about the many problems raised by the different kinds of relation to the past – cognitive, aesthetic, political, ethical, and so on. In the literature, however, the cognitive relation seems to have attracted the most attention – that is, theorists and philosophers of history have usually been more occupied with epistemological questions, namely questions concerning our knowledge of the past and our knowledge-acquiring practices, than with the other kinds of relation to the past. Ethical problems, in particular, have received far less consideration than their epistemological counterparts. The fact that the Best First Book Prize is being awarded to a book precisely on the ethics of our relations to the past is a notable and welcome sign of a recent shift in priorities, in which theorists, philosophers, and historians have become increasingly concerned with matters of responsibility, of acting and believing appropriately toward past human beings, and with how our social practices of remembering (including professional academic historiography) have non-epistemic impacts on the living and may well involve an ethically meaningful relationship with the dead.

Existential Ethics and the Philosophy of Historiography is dedicated to questions that arise from considering historiography as an ethical activity. It shares a Levinasian starting point with Anton Froeyman's earlier *History, Ethics, and the Recognition of the Other* in recognizing a fundamental difference between the way we relate to things and the way we relate to other human beings. While our relation to things is "based on use or knowledge," our relation to people "is (or rather should be) an ethical relation." Thus, engaging with other people brings with it a sense of responsibility that is completely absent from the way we relate to or interact with objects – a sense that Elgabsi works hard to flesh out throughout his book. All this points, then, to the existential aspect of practices such as historiography, which have so far been analyzed mostly in their merely cognitive dimension.

One important implication of this framing is precisely that this existential (and thus ethical) aspect precedes the epistemological problems to which theorists and philosophers of history have so far devoted so much effort. Many well-known problems concerning historical knowledge can thus become salient only once a certain fundamental relation to an absent Other is in place, with all the ethical implications that this entails. This insight had already been at least partially formulated by thinkers such as Michel de Certeau and Edith Wyschogrod, who also understood our attempts at acquiring knowledge of the human past as fundamentally rooted in a relationship between human beings, between the living and the dead. But there have been few attempts to develop its implications more systematically. Elgabsi's book offers a sophisticated account that tries to advance the debate while avoiding the objectification and romanticization that have characterized some approaches to the aesthetics of historical narration.

Without further delay, then, it is my pleasure to present the 2026 ICHTH–INTH Best First Book Prize to Natan Elgabsi.



Natan Elgabsi

III. Finally, Prize Committee member and coordinator Marek Tamm delivered a laudatio for the winner of the Best Book Prize:

Every prize committee hopes to encounter a book that does more than contribute to a field. We hope for a book that changes the field's sense of its own questions. Henning Trüper's

Unsterbliche Werte: Über Historizität und Historisierung (Wallstein Verlag) is such a book. It asks what it means for something to be historical rather than merely past – and from that apparently modest distinction unfolds a profound, ambitious, and wonderfully unruly meditation on history, value, mortality, and consolation.

This year's shortlist made the Committee's task both difficult and rewarding. Frank Ankersmit's *Representation: The Birth of Historical Reality from the Death of the Past* offered a major statement by one of the defining philosophers of history of our time, returning with renewed metaphysical ambition to the question of representation and historical reality. Jaume Aurell's *What Is a Classic in History? The Making of a Historical Canon* addressed the formation of historical authority with elegance and critical acuity, asking how certain works come to endure, to be reread, and to shape the discipline's sense of its own tradition. Marnie Hughes-Warrington, together with Anne Martin and Lewis Yarlupurka O'Brien, offered in *Artificial Historians* an urgent and original intervention into the changing conditions of historical knowledge in the age of artificial intelligence. That *Unsterbliche Werte* emerged from this remarkable company as the prize-winning book is already a measure of its intellectual force.

Trüper insists that "historical" is not just a more ceremonious word for "gone." The past is full of things that have happened, but only some become historical. And this difference, the book argues, is not self-evident. It must be thought through patiently, rigorously, and sometimes by walking through the back door of concepts that do not at first seem to belong to history at all.

This is one of the great virtues of the book. It refuses the obvious routes. It does not reduce history to narrative, memory, ideology, progress, identity, or any other respectable theoretical suitcase into which historians have so often tried to pack the whole problem before discovering that the lid will not close. Instead, Henning Trüper brings into the discussion mortality and immortality, repetition, values and norms, the dead, consolation, money, moral philosophy, theology, and even the strange afterlives of philosophical problems we had perhaps hoped were safely buried. But, as this book reminds us, the dead do not always remain where theory leaves them.

The book's crucial distinction is between *Historisierung* (historization) – the process by which something is made historical – and *Historizität* (historicity) – the structural condition or quality of being historical. The former implies action, projection, intention, perhaps even a little professional bustle; the latter is more

elusive, more resistant, less easily managed. Historians like to think they are in charge of historicity. This book politely, and at times not so politely, informs us that historicity may have other plans.

Why did this book win the prize for the best book in the theory of history and the history of historiography? First, because it restores philosophical ambition to historical theory. It shows that the great questions of historical theory are not exhausted by epistemology or narratology. They concern ethics, mortality, value, the fate of the dead, and the forms through which cultures distinguish what is merely past from what still makes claims upon us.

Second, because it is a work of intellectual courage. It does not hide behind disciplinary modesty. It walks straight into what the book itself calls the "orphanage of philosophy of history" – the *Waisenhaus der Geschichtsphilosophie* – and, instead of selecting one charming and manageable child, takes on the entire noisy, challenging family. Leibniz, Benjamin, Nietzsche, Lotze, Freud, Simmel, Michelet, Blumenberg, and many others appear not as exhibits in a museum of ideas but as participants in a difficult, sometimes quarrelsome, conversation about history's relation to value, death, and meaning.

And finally, this book deserves celebration because it combines intellectual seriousness with wit. It is learned without being heavy, philosophical without being bloodless, and difficult in the best sense: not because it obscures the obvious, but because it makes us realize that the obvious was never quite obvious.

In sum, this is a book that proves that the theory of history is not dead. It still has unfinished business with the past, with the dead, and with historicity itself.



Henning Trüper

The Commission plans to publish a forum on the two winning books in one of our cherished journals, *Rethinking History*, as it did for the winning books of the previous edition.

CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES / COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DES SCIENCES HISTORIQUES

From Wednesday 26 to Saturday 29 August 2026, the Centennial Conference of the International Committee of Historical Sciences / Comité International des Sciences Historiques (CISH) took place in Leipzig, Germany. CISH was founded in Geneva in 1926.

The conference program is still available at https://cish2026.recentglobe.org/.

Our Commission organized two panels: *The Future of Historiography and Publishing in Historiography and Historical Theory*, a hybrid roundtable for early-career researchers (here). In addition, many ICHTH members

took part in a variety of other panels or served in other capacities.

ICHTH Panel 1 – The Future of Historiography [preliminary paper titles]

- Antoon De Baets (The Netherlands, *chair*), "Introduction: Professor Pirenne Returns"
- Ewa Domańska (Poland), "Anticipatory History"
- Ethan Kleinberg (United States), "There Is No Going Back: The Future of Historiography"
- Marnie Hughes-Warrington (Australia), "Will Artificial Historians Replace Human Historians?"
- Marek Tamm (Estonia), "Historiography as Seen from the Future"

See https://cish2026.recentglobe.org/events/the-future-of-historiography

The panel's talks will soon be published on *One More Thing ...*, the blog of the journal *History and Theory*.

ICHTH Panel 2 – Publishing in Historiography and Historical Theory: A Roundtable for Early Career Researchers

- Daniel Woolf (Canada) and Marnie Hughes-Warrington (Australia) (*chairs*)

Contributions from:

- Kalle Pihlainen (*Rethinking History*)
- Lucy Rhymer (Cambridge UP)
- Eve Setch (Routledge)
- Gary Shaw (*History and Theory*)

See https://cish2026.recentglobe.org/events/publishing-in-historiography-and-historical-theory-a-roundtable-for-early-career-researchers-roundtable-hybrid/

ICHTH was also represented at the **CISH General Assembly** by its President Antoon De Baets and Vice President Olufunke Adeboye. A major agenda item was the unanimous approval of an entirely new **CISH Constitution.** Our Commission participated actively in the *travaux préparatoires* of this new Constitution, especially in the rewriting of Article 2, "Mission and Purpose." In particular, we contributed to the formulation of Article 2.2c, which states that CISH will pursue the following objective: "[T]o respect, protect, and promote universal human rights; to defend academic freedom in historical research, communication, and education; and to oppose the abuse of history." Our aim was, first, to introduce into the CISH Constitution language that aligns closely with the vocabulary of international human rights – a vocabulary that is understood and recognized globally and that is anchored in norms binding on States – and, second, to formulate unambiguously the responsibility of historians worldwide to oppose the abuse of history.

Another important agenda item was the choice of the **venue for the next CISH World Congress**, for which there are three candidates: Lyon (France) for July 2029, Kolhapur (India) for December 2029 or October 2030, and São Paulo (Brazil) for September 2030. The decision was left to the new CISH Board.

The **outgoing CISH Board** counted among its members CISH Secretary-General Edoardo Tortarolo (Italy), a long-standing ICHTH member who has served ICHTH as both Secretary-General and Vice President; and CISH Treasurer Sacha Zala (Switzerland), likewise a member of ICHTH for several decades. Thank you, Edoardo and Sacha, for all your work. Two ICHTH members were elected to the incoming CISH Board: Sacha Zala as CISH President and Tyson Retz (Australia/Norway) as a Board member. Also elected was Irene Gaddo (Italy), coordinator of the editorial staff and soon-to-be co-editor of **Storia della Storiografia**, to which our Commission is closely linked. We wholeheartedly wish Sacha, Tyson, and Irene a productive and enjoyable term on the CISH Board.

We hope that CISH will have a wonderful second century. ICHTH is proud to be a member of CISH and to have consistently contributed to its activities since 1980.



Leipzig, 27 August 2026, CISH conference, Future of historiography panel: impression



Leipzig, 27 August 2026, CISH conference, Publishers' panel: Above: Kalle Pihlainen, Eve Setch; below: Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Gary Shaw (unfortunately, Lucy Rhymer is missing from the picture)



Leipzig, 27 August 2026, CISH conference, Future of historiography panel: Ewa Domańska, Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Ethan Kleinberg, Marek Tamm, Antoon De Baets



Leipzig, 26 August 2026, ICHTH dinner, from left to right: Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Bruce Warrington, Edoardo Tortarolo, Edward Wang, Marek Tamm, Antoon De Baets, Elly De Roo, Zoltán Simon, Gary Shaw, Ewa Domańska, Olufunke Adeboye, Tyson Retz

FURTHER COMMISSION NEWS

ICHTH members

On 22 September 2026, our Commission had 180 members. For the list, see https://www.ichth.net/members.

New ICHTH membership round

The ICHTH Board will organize a new round of membership recruitment in November–December 2026. Candidates can apply directly by filling out a simple *application form* here. Please pass the form on to any colleagues who might be interested. ICHTH members can also nominate candidates by filling out a simple *nomination form* here. The ICHTH Board will evaluate all nominations and applications and invite those approved to join in late December 2026. For background information, see https://www.ichth.net/membership.

ICHTH budget

On 22 September 2026, our Commission had a surplus of 6,253.02 euros for 2026. The total holdings in our bank and PayPal accounts amounted to 9,276.56 euros.

Miscellaneous

- **News between ICHTH newsletters**

To follow news in our two core areas (the history of historiography and the theory of historiography) between newsletters, please consult our news page at https://www.ichth.net/news. It carries two types of news: news about ICHTH and news about its partners.

- **ICHTH discounts**

Learn about the discounts available to ICHTH members on five subscription-based historiographical journals at https://www.ichth.net/membership.

- **Policy on the use of the ICHTH logo**

ICHTH has a policy on the use of its logo. Please see https://www.ichth.net/archive/38.pdf.

- **ICHTH Board meetings and minutes**

Read about ICHTH Board meetings and minutes at https://www.ichth.net/meetings.

- **Donations to ICHTH**

Please consider making a donation to ICHTH. For details, write to info@ichth.net.

- **Wikipedia**

ICHTH has Wikipedia pages in English, Portuguese, Romanian, and Spanish. We hope that some of you will want to launch a Wikipedia page in your own language. If you would like advice on this, please contact info@ichth.net.

- **Personal websites and webpages of ICHTH members**

Please consider adding a link to the International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography (https://www.ichth.net), including its full name and its acronym, ICHTH, to your personal websites and webpages.

- **ICHTH website**

Please send any corrections and additions to the ICHTH website https://www.ichth.net, including its archive (https://www.ichth.net/archive), to info@ichth.net.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Antoon De Baets, University of Groningen

- Censorship of History (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2026), 92 pages.

- "Censorship of History in Hungary: A Survey (1945–2023)," in Vilmos Erős & Anna Katalina Kádár, eds., *Approaches to Historiography III* (Debrecen: Debrecen University Press, 2026), 227–254.

- "The View of the Past in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," in Roxani Fragkou, Peter van den Berg and Vincent Tassenaar, eds., *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 75 and Beyond: Historical, Contemporary, and Future Perspectives* (Zutphen: Europa Law Publishing, 2026), 1–22.

- "State Obligations in the Field of History Education," in Council of Europe, *Where Learners Meet History: Reaffirming the Role of History Education in the 21st Century —General Report Fourth Annual Forum for History Education* (Strasbourg: Council of Europe, 2026), 27–29.

Olufunke Adeboye, University of Lagos, Nigeria

1. Adeboye, O., Rasheed O. Olaniyi and Sharon A. Omotoso (Eds.). *Orality, Women and Historical Reconstruction in Africa* (Lagos: Niyinola Press, 2026), 272 pp.

2. Adeboye, O.A. *The Secular, The Sacred, and the Space in Between*, 464th Inaugural Lecture Series (Lagos: University of Lagos Press, 2026).

Jonas Ahlskog, Abo Akademi University

- Olli Lagerspetz & Jonas Ahlskog, *Philosophy as Cultural Self-Understanding: Peter Winch, R. G. Collingwood and the Human Sciences* (Routledge 2026). Link: https://www.routledge.com/Philosophy-as-Cultural-Self-Understanding-Peter-Winch-R-G%20Collingwood-and-the-Human-Sciences/Lagerspetz-Ahlskog/p/book/9781032574509

- Jonas Ahlskog, "Do Victims Have the Right to Be Known? Epistemic Reparations and Historical Knowledge," *Synthese* 206, 238, https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-025-05326-7 (open access)

Arthur Alfaix Assis, University of Brasilia

- New article: ASSIS, Arthur Alfaix. "Koselleck e o conceito de história". *Revista de Teoria da História,* 29, pp. 1–20, 2026. DOI: https://doi.org/10.5216/rth.v29.84999[https://revistas.ufg.br/teoria/article/view/84999]

- New chapter in edited book: ASSIS, Arthur Alfaix. "História acadêmica", in: *Pequeno vocabulário de teoria da história,* ed. Sônia Menezes, Temístocles Cezar, and Valdei Araujo. Rio de Janeiro: FGV, pp. 117-120.

Jaume Aurell, University of Navarra

- Jaume Aurell, *30 Great Books That Made History,* Cambridge, Polity, 2025.

Kenan Van de Mieroop-Al Bahrani, University of Leiden

- Kenan Van de Mieroop-Al Bahrani, *The Weight of Nightmares: Time and the Politics of Reparations for Slavery,* Verso 2026. This is the link to the publishers website: https://www.versobooks.com/en-gb/products/3453-the-weight-of-nightmares?+srsltid=AfmBOorxEXgeQxh2uk40EVMHyTH3U9Gua-Lw4WcvH6Y6DMd12yDGgbIY

Tunde Decker, Osun State University, Nigeria

- On 29 January 2026, I delivered the 28th Inaugural Lecture at Osun State University, Nigeria. The lecture was titled: "Of Selfies and Grand Humanity: Farming the Flipside of History".

- In December 2025, my book titled: *I Beg To Tell: Everyday Agency in Colonial Lagos 1940-1960*, was published by NISC Pty (South Africa) as part of the African Humanities Series.

- In 2025, I co-edited (with Caroline Silveira Bauer, Jerome de Groot and Jimena Perry), a "Special Issue on Conservative Public History" *International Public History Journal of the International Federation for Public History,* De Gruyter Oldenbourg, Germany, Vol. 8. No. 2. https://doi.org/10.1515/iph-2025-0035.

- In 2025, my article titled "Perception and 'Salvation Government' in 1940s Lagos petitions" was published in the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History,* Routledge/Taylor and Francis, Vol. 53. Issue 3: 609-**627.** https://doi.org/10.1080/03086534.2025.2521369**.**
- In 2026, my co-edited book - Studies in Nigerian Peoples and Culture: Strategy for Sustainable Development (along with Ifeyinwa V. Awagu and Perekumah Bright Eregha, was published by the Pan Atlantic University Press) in Lagos.

- In June 2026, a Book Roundtable on my book - I Beg to Tell Everyday agency in colonial Lagos 1940-1960, was organized at the 10th Annual Lagos Studies Association (LSA) International Conference, Trinity University, Lagos, Nigeria.

Ewa Domańska, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

- Theme issue: Current Trends in the Analytical Philosophy of History, eds. Ewa Domańska and Krzysztof Brzechczyn *Journal of the Philosophy of History,* vol. 19, nr 3, 2025 (ibidem: Ewa Domańska, Krzysztof Brzechczyn, "Expanding the Boundaries of the Analytical Philosophy of History." Journal of the Philosophy of History, vol. 19, no. 3, 2025: 263–280, **DOI:** https://doi.org/10.1163/18722636-12341565.)

Articles and book chapters

- Ewa Domańska, "Necropatrimonio," trans. Miguel Ángel Martínez Martínez y Ana Luisa Sánchez Hernández, in: *Tierra de terrores: consideraciones sobre violencias extremas y fosas clandestinas desde el necrohumanismo,* eds. Arturo Aguirre Moreno, Miguel Angel Gómez Martinéz. Madrid, Buenos Aires etc: Sb, 2025, pp. 63-80.

- Ewa Domańska, „Revisiting Montaillou". History and Theory, vol. 64, no. 1, March 2025: 3–23, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/hith.12372.

- Ewa Domańska, "Collecting Bald Cypress Knees. An Exercise in Symbiotic Interaction", in: *Objects in the Archives: Modern Material Culture and Heritage in the North,* eds. Kristján Mímisson, Davið Ólafsson. London: Routledge, 2025: 187-206, DOI: 10.4324/9781003350293-16

Other

- Ewa Domańska and Zhang Zuocheng 张作成, "The Eastern West Meets the Far East: Dialogues on Historical Theory—A Conversation between Ewa Domańska and Zhang Zuocheng 张作成," One More Thing . . . (blog), *History and Theory,* July 2025, https://historyandtheory.org/omt/2025-ewadomanskazhangzuocheng.

Vilmos Erős, University of Debrecen

- Book Editor: *Approaches to Historiography III.* Debrecen, University Press, 2026. 255 p.

Articles:

- A professzionalizmus dícsérete, avagy a historiográfia szükséglete. *Valóság,* 2026/3. 105-116 pp.

- Előszó. In: *Approaches to Historiography III*. 7-10. pp.
- Foreword. In: *Approaches to Historiography III.* 11-14. pp.
- A gótikától az Anjou-reneszánszig: az Anjou-k öröksége a 20. századi
- magyar historiográfiában. (Különös tekintettel a két világháború
- közötti szellemtörténet Anjou-recepciójára.) In: *Approaches to Historiography III.* 15-43. pp.
- From Reconstructionist to Public History in East-Central Europe.
- (Main Trends in Hungarian Historical Writing after 1990.) In: *Approaches to Historiography III*. 80-93. pp.
- Views/debates on Hungary's place within Europe in 20th century
- Hungarian agricultural history/rural historiography. In: *Approaches to Historiography III.* 94-109. pp.

Jörg van Norden, Universität Bielefeld

- Historik der Befreiung. Unsere Geschichten und die Vergangenheit, Frankfurt am Main: Wochenschau-Verlag, September 2026

Q. Edward Wang, Rowan University, USA

- Editor: *The Routledge Companion to East Asian Historiography,* published in December 2025, 506 pages.

Francisco Miguel Ortiz-Delgado, University of Guadalajara.

- Ortiz-Delgado, F.M. (2026), "How to Use and Fake History to Attack American Liberalism, Multiculturalism, and Globalism", *Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies,* Vol. 32, No. 1, pp. 219-230. DOI: https://doi.org/10.2478/hjeas/2026/32/1/11 URL: https://reference-global.com/article/10.2478/hjeas/2026/32/1/11

Herman Paul, Leiden University.

- *History of the Humanities: A New Field of Study* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2026).
- 过去是什么：历史理论的关键问题 [Key Issues in Historical Theory], translated by Chen Dong (Beijing: Commercial Press, 2026).

CONFERENCE REPORTS

1. Norbert Fabian, Institute for Social Movements / Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

A. Centennial Conference of the CISH: The Past, the Present, and the Future of History, Leipzig, 26-29 August 2026

Theme A - The Comité International des Sciences Historiques 1926-2026

Panel: Learning from the History of CISH for the Future of History as Science

Convenor: Norbert Fabian

Panelists: Lila Zeller, University of Reunion (Saint Denis) \France, The Internationalisation of Historical Science and Historiographia magistra vitae Norbert Fabian, Institute for Social Movements, University of Bochum / Germany, Reflexions on Karl Dietrich Erdmann, 'Die Ökumene der Historiker', and Beyond. Learning from the History of CISH for the Future of Historiography.

Commentators: Jürgen Kocka, Freie Universität Berlin / Germany (former President of CISH), Edward Wang, Rowan University, USA and China, Antoon de Baets, University of Groningen / the Netherlands

Also, as Book Presentation: Norbert Fabian, Lila Zeller, History Congresses. Neue Trends, Theoriediskussionen und Kontroversen, Münster 2026 / LIT (German and English) German Association for British Studies (AGF) and Institute for Social Movements (ISM)/ Ruhr University.

B. Bochum - Annual Conference, 16-17 July 2026 at the ISM:

Concepts of Freedom and the Development of Democracy in Great Britain in Historical Comparison
Convenors: Stefan Berger, Birgit Bublies-Godau, Norbert Fabian, Mathis Gronau
Introduction: Norbert Fabian, The early English Revolution of 1381 and the European History of Freedom and Emancipation.
Keynotes: Nicholas Vincent (University of East Anglia), The Magna Carta and its Role in the History of Freedom Lyndal Roper (Oxford), "For Freedom!" The German Peasants' War of 1525 and the Twelve Articles Papers on: Reformations and Revolutions / The English Revolutions of the 17th Century / The Chartist and the Labour Movement / Parliamentary Reforms/ The History of Democracy up to the Present Day / Diachronic and Synchronic Comparisons / etc.
Contact: nobfabian@t-online.de

2. Lisa Regazzoni, Bielefeld University / Center for Theories in Historical Research
2a). Towards a Material-Oriented Theory of History"
An exploratory workshop dedicated to rethinking the ontology of History in interdisciplinary dialogue with the natural sciences.

Organized by Lisa Regazzoni and funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.
Bielefeld University, July 9–10, 2026.

2b). Koselleck-Lecture
May 27, 2026, 6:00-8:00 PM: by Marnie Hughes-Warrington (South Australia). Artificial Historians Colluding.

2c). May 26-27, 2026: Workshop: The Matter of Time. Materiality and Time in Historical Research
This is a collaborative workshop between the Theory Center and the working group associated with the journal *History & Theory* at Wesleyan University
Organized by Lisa Regazzoni and Franz Arlinghaus
On 26 and 27 May, a second workshop with Wesleyan University took place in Bielefeld. It focused on how materiality and time are inextricably bound up in historical research processes. It also examined the way in which material objects generate, shape and convey historical time – and how temporal arguments often depend on unspoken assumptions about materiality. The workshop programme combined theoretical reflections on material resources with forms of temporal argumentation and recent material-oriented historiographical theories. The goal was to establish a shared analytical field that allows for new horizons in historical research and theory development.

2d). June 9, 2026, 6:00-8:00 PM: Sandra Maß (Bochum). Future Pasts | The Theory Center "As a guest at the profile area historical cultures " | Colloquium July 2-3, 2026: Workshop: (Inter)Subjectivity in History. Theory, Methods, Analysis
-
Organized by Chiara Johannesmeier and Teresa Malice
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The workshop critically reflected on contemporary debates about subjectivity and intersubjectivity within historiography. After discussing relevant theoretical approaches across disciplines and their relevance for historical thinking, we explored their analytical potential for the praxis of historical research.

2e). July 2, 2026, 4:00-6:00 PM: Luisa Passerini (EUI Florence). (Inter)Subjectivity and Historical Analysis | Colloquium as part of the workshop "(Inter)Subjectivity in History" | Colloquium

2f). New Publication from the Theory Center
Hölscher Lucian. *Virtual History: Perspectives on an Expanded Concept of History,* Bielefeld: Bielefeld University Press, 2025. DOI: 10.64136/qtya8202
Edited by Maja-Lisa Müller and Lars Deile, with comments by Britta Hochkirchen, Chris Lorenz and Rūta Kazlauskaitė.

Davide Cadeddu, University of Milan

- In Easter Term 2026, at Clare Hall, Cambridge, the Betty Behrens Seminar on Classics of Historiography hosted Rosamond McKitterick (University of Cambridge), Frances Wood (SOAS University of London) and Sir David Cannadine (Princeton University) to speak respectively about "Royal Frankish Annals", Sima Qian's "Shiji" and G.M. Trevelyan's "History of England" and "English Social History": https://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/events/the-betty-behrens-seminar-on-classics-of-historiography-easter-2026/

Norbert Fabian, Institute for Social Movements / Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

- DISCOVER THE FUTURE THROUGH THE PAST: Equality and Sustainability Challenges. Zum World Economic History Congress in Lund, Sweden, July 28th - 31st 2025 in: HSozKult, 28.10.2025 https://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/fdkn-15813 undconnections, 3.12.2025

PERSONAL NEWS AND HONOURS

Claudia-Florentina Dobre, Nicolae Iorga Institute of History

- On 16 June, I was awarded by the President of Romania the Romanian Order of Cultural Merit, Rank of Knight. The Romanian Order of Cultural Merit, Rank of Knight, is a prestigious national honor awarded by Romania to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the country's cultural life, including achievements in the arts, literature, science, education, and the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

Tyson Retz, University of Stavanger.

- Elected in August 2026 to the Board of the Comité International des Sciences Historiques/International Committee of Historical Sciences (CISH).

Edward Wang, Rowan University, USA

- Awarded a Fellowship of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, 2026-2027.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Marie-Gabrielle Verbergt, Ghent University

- The Politics of Historicization (Ghent Center for Meta and Public History Inaugural Lecture Series, Part II, Fall 2026).
- Friday 16 October 2026: Achim Saupe (Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam), Historicizing the city. The politics and pluritemporality of urban heritage.
- Friday 30 October 2026: Frederik Buylaert (Ghent University), The Politics of Deep History
- Thursday 12 November 2026: Elodie Lecuppre-Desjardin (Université de Lille), History of the Politics of Historicization
- **Date to be confirmed**: Sarah Edenheim (Umeå University), Historicization, radical politics and the reactivation of past struggles
- Monday 7 December 2026: Nadim Khoury, The Politics of Historicizing after Violent Conflict: Partition, peace negotiations, and the politics of memory in Palestine/Israel
- The exact hours, locations, and Zoom link will be posted here soon: https://www.tapas.ugent.be/the-politics-of-historicization-ghent-center-for-meta-and-public-history-inaugural-lecture-series-2026/

Tunde Decker, Osun State University, Nigeria

- In November 2026, my book, *I Beg to Tell Everyday agency in colonial Lagos 1940-1960,* will be presented at the 2026 AHA Annual Conference at the University of Ghana, Legon.

Davide Cadeddu, University of Milan

- The Betty Behrens Seminar on Classics of Historiography resumes in Michaelmas Term 2026 at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, with the following program: 30 October, 'Germania' by Publius Cornelius Tacitus, with Katherine Clarke (University of Oxford); 13 November, 'Chronicles' by Jean Froissart, with Godfried Croenen (University of Liverpool); 27 November, 'The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy' by Jacob Burckhardt, with Simon Ditchfield (University of York). For more information, see https://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/events-category/lectures-and-talks/

Lisa Regazzoni, Bielefeld University / Center for Theories in historical Research

1)November 19, 2026, 4:00-6:00 PM. Chiel van den Akker (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam). Narrative and Knowledge | The Theory Center as guest of the profile area Culture/History
Bielefeld University, Room X-E0-002 / ZOOM.
If you wish to participate via Zoom, please send an email to theoriezentrale-geschichte@uni-bielefeld.de

2) December 10, 2026, 4:00-6:00 PM.: New Materialism und Geschichtswissenschaft | The Theory Center as a guest at the profile area culture/history | Roundtable Organized by Lisa Regazzoni and Christian Zumbrägel, With Key Notes from Prof. Dr. Susanne Bauer (UDK Berlin), Prof. Dr. Viktoria Tkaczyk and Prof. Dr. Claudia Mareis (both FU Berlin)

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Round Table on "New Materialism and Historical Scholarship," organized within the GWU profile area, the VW project "Towards a Material-Oriented Theory of History," and the exploratory research area "The Material as an Interface between Temporality and Historicity." For roughly two decades, New Materialism has been challenging central ontological and epistemological assumptions in the humanities and social sciences. At its core, this approach seeks to take seriously the autonomous efficacy of non-human entities—such as organisms, objects, and substances—as an analytical
category. It is often argued that such entities possess a form of agency, meaning that they have the capacity to actively and purposively shape their environment, including human societies.

For historical scholarship, this poses a fundamental challenge: New Materialism relativizes constructivist approaches that focus primarily on discourses, cultural representations, and the social production of meaning. Even where materiality is considered—such as in Material Culture Studies, Actor-Network Theory, or Science and Technology Studies—the analysis often remains tied to human meaning-making and perspectives on action. In contrast, New Materialism shifts the focus by conceptualizing materiality as an autonomous form of efficacy that is not reducible to human intentionality.

The planned round table aims to explore the significance and potential of New Materialism for the historical disciplines.

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3) Wednesday, 13. January 2027, 12:00-02:00 PM: Theorien in Forschung und Lehre vermitteln | The Theory Center "As a guest at the profile area historical cultures | Roundtable
- Organized by Jana K. Hoffmann
- With Keynotes from Anna Karla (FU Berlin), Lisa Regazzoni (Uni Bielefeld), Stefan Jordan (LMU) and Johannes Meyer-Hamme (Uni Paderborn)

- Historical scholarship is inconceivable without theoretical presuppositions. Nevertheless, the use of theory in research and teaching often remains implicit and frequently operates within the realm of tacit knowledge.

For students in particular, it is therefore often difficult to grasp when, how, and with what epistemic benefit

historians engage theoretically. Added to this is the fact that the concept of theory is used in different ways within the discipline. Moreover, the theoretical differentiation of research is often contrasted with a comparatively weak curricular anchoring of the teaching of corresponding theoretical competencies.

The round table therefore addresses the question of how theoretical and reflexive work can be embedded and conveyed in university teaching. Which teaching formats have proven effective? Should theory be the subject of dedicated courses, or should it be integrated into disciplinary seminars? What prior knowledge do students bring, and what challenges do instructors encounter? We will discuss these issues together with Dr. Stefan Jordan, Prof. Dr. Anna Karla, Prof. Dr. Johannes Meyer-Hamme, and Prof. Dr. Lisa Regazzoni.

If you would like to participate in our events, either in person or via Zoom, please send an email to theoriezentrale-geschichte@uni-bielefeld.de.

4) Theory Class "Material-Relational Ontologies and Historical Thinking" Relations and relationality are currently enjoying a surge in popularity. Whether it be Actor-Network Theory, New Materialisms, relational metaphysics, indigenous ontologies or New Animism, all these approaches currently represent attractive theoretical frameworks for the humanities and social sciences. What they have in common is that they prioritise relations over supposedly stable substances and entities, and conceive of the objects under investigation as relational structures or nodes. This semester, the study group is focusing on these material-relational ontologies and exploring their significance for historical thinking and historical research. The 'Denkraum Theorie' study group is organised by the Centre for Theories in Historical Research (ZThF) within the Department of History. It is aimed in particular at students and doctoral candidates at the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology who enjoy discussion and are interested in theory.

Regular attendance at the study group is recognised with 2 LP and a certificate of attendance issued by the Centre for Theories in Historical Research. Participation over several semesters is expressly encouraged, but not required. The course is organised in collaboration with the research area 'The Material as an Interface between Temporality and Historicity' and the project 'Towards a Material-Oriented Theory of History' within the History Theory Research Group.

Venue: Room X-A2-103

· 16 October – 12:00–14:00
· 30 October – 12:00–16:00
· 13 November – 12:00–16:00
· 11 December – 12:00–16:00
· 22 January – 12:00–16:00

Davide Cadeddu, University of Milan.

The new issue of the journal, ***Storia della Storiografia*** [2025, 1-2] will include a session on 'Arnaldo Momigliano between Italy and England' with articles by Carlo Ginzburg and Oswyn Murray.

Jonathan Lamb Gorman, Queen's University, Belfast.

Upcoming book from Routledge titled *Artificial Metahistory*. The book attempts to cover and develop the whole field of philosophy of history considered as a branch of analytical pragmatic philosophy. Arguing from epistemological basics starting with Descartes and drawing on neuroscience, it emphasises the place of the imagination, fictional and otherwise, in our understanding of history and time. It critically analyses Hume's and Kant's approaches, showing the grounds for analytical philosophy of language, which is explained in terms of the conceptual engineering of narratives. Conceptual engineering impacts theories of historical writing with respect to their objectivity and moral status, and shows how confidence and power can influence the future.

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ICHTH Newsletter No. 9 is scheduled for February 2027. A call for submission of news items shall be made in January 2027.

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