



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE HISTORY AND THEORY OF HISTORIOGRAPHY

ICHTH Newsletter | No. 2, October 2023

WELCOME ADDRESS



By

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Co-Secretary General and Co-Program Chair of the ICHTH

RESPONSIBLE HISTORY

Historians have duties and obligations. The nature and purpose of those duties and obligations is a rich topic of discussion for historians of history and history theorists alike. Moreover, it is an ethically, social and economically important topic, as the persecution of historians and the production of extremist or hate histories show.

It was for these two powerful reasons that the ICHTH responded to the call of the International Network for Theory of History for papers for its 2024 conference in Lisbon. We issued an open call for contributions, and were delighted with the response. We would like to thank all of you for alerting members and colleagues to this opportunity, and to the many people that came forward with proposals. The response highlights both the talent and the collegiality of ICHTH, and a shared interest in ensuring that histories should be good, fair, and just, and that historians are able to enjoy the benefits of freedom in the discharge of their duties and obligations. We are proud to support these endeavours.

The response also highlighted the rich range of topics and approaches that may be expressed under the heading of responsible history. It encompasses ancient and contemporary history, different approaches to evidence and methodologies, and the uses of histories in educational, social, political, economic and judicial contexts. This breadth highlights that responsibility is not just a matter for individual historians, and that the importance of the topic is not exhausted through an examination of professional codes of conduct.

Individuals have duties and obligations, but so do communities and organisations. Scaling our sense of responsible history to understand historical trends over long time spans and across the Globe, and to track the forms of theory—logic, ethics, metaphysics, epistemology—is timely and even pressing. So while we look forward to celebrating the individual contribution of panellists next year, we encourage members to help us to articulate social, system, and global level observations and recommendations.

I am particularly keen to learn more from colleagues as I continue work on machine and non-human historians. Luciano Floridi has argued in *The Ethics of Information* (2013) that artificial agents can be considered accountable, but not responsible. The more I look at the rapidly evolving story of artificial intelligence and machine learning, the more I am unsure about this. We are already living with the consequences of algorithms making recommendations on the basis of past data, and I think the time is overdue for AI to be seen as an historical discipline.

This is not a future or exotic topic. We have an opportunity—even duty or obligation—to support endeavours and systems that minimise harm. I am not just citing human harm here, but we are more and more of the thought that our work is interconnected with the health of the places in which we live, and our Globe. Responsible history is a big, and audacious topic, and we look forward to hearing more from you about it as we head to 2024.

COMMISSION NEWS

NAME OF THE COMMISSION

A memo from the Executive Committee to the Board enumerated the pros and cons of the current name of our Commission. The Board discussed the memo and decided to hold an internal poll to gain insight into whether there was a clear majority for another name than the current one to propose to the General Assembly. The poll, held in March and April 2023, showed the following picture: three Board members preferred the current name (International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography); three preferred the name International Commission for the History and Theory of History; three preferred the first, pre-1995, name International Commission for Historiography; one preferred the name International Commission for Histories; one preferred a reversal of the current name (International Commission for the Theory and History of Historiography), and two abstained. The voting was accompanied by a rich e-mail correspondence defending or refuting the respective preferences and views. The poll showed no clear majority for any of the options, on the contrary opinions were quite fragmented. Under these circumstances, the Executive Committee decided not to pursue the matter further. It was resolved to leave the name as is.

2024 INTERNATIONAL PRIZE OF HISTORY

On 11 September 2023, the ICHTH Board submitted the candidacy of prof. dr. em. Frank Ankersmit, honorary member of the ICHTH, for the 2024 International Prize of History (a prize established by the International Committee of Historical Sciences). From the submission letter:

Professor Ankersmit's file speaks for itself to such degree that any attempt to embellish it with an elaborate endorsement letter would be merely adding a small flower to what is presently one of the richest gardens in the field of historical writing, and in

particular in the philosophy of history, political theory, and intellectual history. When then President of the International Committee of Historical Sciences Jürgen Kocka had to introduce Frank Ankersmit to one of the most successful panels of the 21st CISH Congress in 2010, he observed: "Professor Ankersmit does not need an introduction, everybody knows him and his work." And so it is. Not only has he written an oeuvre that is as vast as it is innovative, he is quoted in scores of writings in and outside the historical profession globally and he himself and his work have become the subject of critical discussion in plenty of articles, books and PhD theses. Self-evidently, he has been a honorary member of our Commission for many years.

Under such circumstances of brilliance, it is not only a pleasure and an honor, but also a duty for the ICHTH to submit Professor Ankersmit's application for the Prize and to recommend it to the Jury in the most robust terms.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 2024 ICHTH-INTH BEST BOOK AND BEST FIRST BOOK PRIZES

You can send submissions for the 2024 ICHTH-INTH BEST BOOK AND BEST FIRST BOOK (published between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2023) until 31 December 2023.

The prize is an initiative of the ICHTH jointly with the International Network for Theory of History (INTH), and supported by the journal *Storia della Storiografia*.

You can find the call at <https://www.ichth.net/prize> All scholars, whether ICHTH or INTH members or not, can submit. Please distribute the call widely in your networks.

CALL FOR NOMINATION FOR ICHTH MEMBERSHIP

All ICHTH members can nominate candidates for our Commission. The procedure is very simple and involves filling out a small nomination form that can be found at <https://www.ichth.net/membership> Alternatively, candidates can also apply for membership themselves. At regular intervals, the ICHTH Board evaluates all nominations and applications and invites those approved for membership.

MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Vinay Lal, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

- Vinay Lal, *Insurgency and the Artist: The Art of the Freedom Struggle in India* (New Delhi: Roli Books, 2023);
- Vinay Lal (Ed.), *The Colonial State and Forms of Knowledge: The British in India* (New Delhi: Primus, 2022);
- Vinay Lal (Ed.), *India and Its Intellectual Traditions: Of Love, Advaita, Power and Other Things*; Vol 3 of the Backwaters Collective on Metaphysics and Politics (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, November 2023).

Maria Grever, Erasmus University Rotterdam

- Maria Grever, "Historical Consciousness and Controversial Statues in a Postcolonial World: the Case of Missionary Peerke Donders (1809-1887)", *History of Education*, theme issue "Timeless Memories: Memory and Temporality in Histories of Education", vol. 52 (2023), 1-16 (<https://doi.org/10.1080/0046760X.2023.2226666>).
- Maria Grever and Susan Legêne, "Histories of an Old Empire. The Ever-Changing Acknowledgement of Dutch Imperialism as a Present Past", Ch. 2 in A. Delgado & A. Mycock (Eds.), *Conflicts in History Education in Europe. Political Context, History Teaching and National Identity* (Charlotte NC: IAP Information Age Publishing, 2023), 27-47.

Youssef M. Choueiri, University of Manchester

- Youssef M. Choueiri, *Narratives of Arab Secularism: Politics, Feminism and Religion* (London-New York: Routledge, 2023).

Marnie Hughes-Warrington, University of Australia, South Australia

- Marnie Hughes-Warrington and Daniel Woolf (Eds.), *History from Loss: A Global Introduction to Histories Written from Defeat, Colonization, Exile and Imprisonment* (New York/London: Routledge, 2023).

Daniel Woolf, Queen's University, Canada.

- Daniel Woolf, "Separate Isles? On Historiography, Philosophy and Intellectual History" in Sandra Lapointe and Erich Reck (Eds.), *Historiography and the Formation of Philosophical Canons* (London: Routledge, 2023), 300-334.

Daho Djerbal, Historien, Directeur de la Revue NAQD, REVUE NAQD D'ETUDES ET DE CRITIQUE SOCIALE.

- NAQD N° 41-42 / "GUERRE FROIDE. PASSÉ/PRÉSENT"

Zhang Zuocheng, Faculty of History and Literature, Northeast Normal University:

- Zhang Zuocheng, "Explanation of the Discourse of 'Anthropocene' in Contemporary Historical Theory", *Studies in Historical Theory*, Vol. 4, No. 2023, pp. 3-4.
- Zhang Zuocheng, "Explanation of the Discourse of 'Humanity' in Contemporary Historical Theory", *Studies in Historical Theory*, Vol. 4, No. 4, 2023, pp. 122-133.

PERSONAL NEWS/HONOURS

Olufunke Adeboye, University of Lagos, Nigeria.

- In August 2023, Olufunke Adeboye was invested as a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Letters during the 25th Convocation of the Academy at the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/ TRAININGS

Antoon De Baets, University of Groningen

Antoon De Baets has just started editorial work on *The Palgrave Handbook of Attacks on History*, scheduled for early 2027. All information about this project, including a provisional table of contents, can be found at <https://www.concernedhistorians.org/handbook>. Please do not hesitate to suggest names and email addresses of strong potential contributors to a.h.m.de.baets@rug.nl.

Daho Djerbal, REVUE NAQD D'ETUDES ET DE CRITIQUE SOCIALE

HORS-SÉRIE Histoire "Manifestations du 8 mai 1945. Nouvelle approche" + NAQD N°43 "DÉPORTATION/DÉPORTÉS"

Eun-joo Lee, HK Research Associate Professor, the Critical Global Studies Institute at Sogang University, Seoul, South Korea.

The Critical Global Studies Institute at Sogang University will host an international conference titled “National Megalomania and Imagined Ancient” from Nov 01 to Nov 3, 2023, at Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea. The conference consists of South Korean and Central European historians' collective effort to shed light on striking affinities in pathological (“megalomaniac”) symptoms of the political unconscious and methodologies that are found in some (pseudo-) historiographies in East Asia and Central Europe. These affinities indicate the shared transnationality in the national on the side of the right-wingers' politics in both regions, which reminds a reader of the commonalities of East Asia and Eastern Europe in their experiences of modernity, transition from dictatorship to democracy, and (re)shaping of collective memories in Global Easts. Presentations at the conference would be later published in a book, *National Megalomania and Imagined Ancient: Post-Cold War History in Central Europe and East Asia*, from Central European University Press.

WORLD CONGRESS OF HISTORIANS 2026

The International Committee of Historical Sciences has distributed a Call for Panels for the 24th International Congress of Historical Sciences to be held in Jerusalem from 26 to 31 July 2026. This is the most important global history conference. Please see <https://www.ichth.net/news/17.pdf>. The ICHTH Board welcomes proposals for panels (attention: not proposals for papers) from all ICHTH members. It will make a selection at the Board meeting scheduled for February 2024. Please send your panel proposals before 15 January 2024 to both Co-Program Chairs, Marnie Hughes-Warrington (marnie.hughes-warrington@unisa.edu.au) and Daniel Woolf (daniel.woolf@queensu.ca). Please make sure that they contain all the information asked for in the Call.

International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography BOARD

Executive Team

- President: Antoon De Baets – University of Groningen, The Netherlands.
- Vice-President: Olufunke Adeboye – University of Lagos, Nigeria.
- Secretary-General and Program Chair: Marnie Hughes-Warrington – University of Australia, South Australia,
- Secretary-General and Program Chair: Daniel Woolf – Queen’s University, Canada.

Prize Coordinators

- Berber Bevernage - University of Ghent, Belgium
- Marek Tamm - Tallinn University, Estonia

Members

- Dipesh Chakrabarty - University of Chicago, United States
- Efi Gazi - University of the Peloponnese, Greece
- Allan Megill - University of Virginia, United States
- Sanjay Seth - University of London, United Kingdom
- Verónica Tozzi - Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Xupeng Zhang - Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China
- Ewa Domanska - Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland – ex officio

Follow ICHTH activities on the website: <https://www.ichth.net>

ICHTH Members are requested to pay their annual fees. More information about annual fees is available at <https://www.ichth.net/membership> or write to info@ichth.net

ICHTH No. 3 newsletter is scheduled for February 2024. Please send relevant news to the Newsletter editor anytime at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1euPXiAD1SuEXH7c_KQ4sLR5T1P8byalCN76ECs8C-ZQ/edit?pli=1

ICHTH Newsletter No. 1 can be read at: <https://www.ichth.net/news/9.pdf>

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