ISCH Annual General Meeting minutes



Tuesday 8th of September, at 16.30 in Bucharest.

- 1. Opening of the AGM: The chair of the ISCH Committee Alessandro Arcangeli opens the AGM 2015. He presents the structure of the AGM and the agenda for the meeting.
- 2. The reception of the Report of the Committee: The chair of the Committee presents the Committee report that includes among other issues the current composition of the Committee. The terms of five Committee members will end in 2016 so new Committee members will be needed next year. One possibility could be to examine how some retiring members could continue to be involved in the work of the Committee. The report presents also some changes that took place in 2014: the Society had a new Treasurer, Reima Välimäki from University of Turku and for example the book series had two new editors, Christopher Forth and Howard Chiang.
- 3. The reception of the Treasurer's Report: Society's financial report is presented by the Treasurer Reima Välimäki (via Skype). The Society's bank accounts in the Bank of Scotland and in Edinburgh has been closed and the Society's now only owns one bank account in Finland and all the funds are in euros. Due to the decrease in membership payments, the Society used almost 2000 euros more than it gained in revenue in 2014. The Society would need more new members in 2015 in order to prevent further destabilising its existing funds. In 2015 the Society launched a new payment method for members outside Euro-zone, PayPal.
- 4. The reception of the Report of the Editorial Board of the Society's Journal: The report is presented by the editor-in-chief Christopher E. Forth. The editorial board of the Journal has changed last year and new members have been added there. The issue 4.1. was a special issue and it appeared in April. The next issue, 4.2., is about to appear in September. The two following issues, 5.1. and 5.2., are already in the process of preparation. The problem, however, is that there are not enough article submission or the articles do not have enough quality. In addition it is problematic that the ISCH conference does not produce any submissions to the Journal. Therefore one should encourage the flow of papers from the conference to the Journal. Special issues, such as 4.1., have generally had a positive reaction and another special issue is coming up in 2016 about Michel Foucault. After the editor-in-chief's report there was a general discussion about the contents of the Journal and about the Journal's scale of distribution.
- 5. a) The Report of the Publication Series: The series co-editor Christopher E. Forth tells that there have been two publications this year and one publication is in its early stage. In general level the series needs more good quality book proposals. The series needs more visibility and more advertisement, for example flyers should be distributed in various conferences. There have also been changes in the publisher's side because Pickering and Chatto has been acquired by Routledge.

The effects of this change on the book series is still to be seen. After the series editor's report there was general discussion about the names of the book series and the Journal.

- b) The Report of the Trieste conference in 2016: Gabriella Valera presents the call for papers for Trieste 2016. This preliminary call for papers has been distributed to the participants of the current conference but the committee will re-define the sub-themes in a further committee meeting by email, and a new call for papers will be published as soon as possible.
- 6. The reception of the Chair's Report on the call for the election of members of the Committee: There are no new members in the committee in 2015 because there were no applications in the elections. In 2016 many committee members will retire so new members will be needed.
- 7. Prize competition: There was no winner announced in 2015 because there were only two candidates. Therefore next year the competition would need more visibility to have more good quality candidates. In addition the chair of the prize competition committee will retire this year so a new chair will be needed.
- 8. Other issues: Mihaela Pop from University of Bucharest presents a new publication that will also have a section for cultural history. Alessandro Arcangeli proposes that the Society could organize smaller seminars together with other societies of related fields in order to have more visibility between the annual conferences. The Society also needs more members to join the Society for other reasons than for the annual conference alone. Marjo Kaartinen suggests that we should only organize the conference every other year. There is general discussion if the Society ought to have more or less conferences, and how the frequency of conferences would affect the number of paid membership fees. Marek Tamm argues that the Society could join a larger Society or network such as the International Committee of Historical Sciences. This would bring visibility for the Society. Cathleen Sarti argues for the annual conference but points out that smaller local seminars could be useful too. The annual conferences should have a clear theme but also general cultural history themes in order to attract more participants. Hannu Salmi hopes for more openness in defining the sub-themes for the conferences. Alessandro Arcangeli invites new initiatives and experimental approaches for the annual conferences organized in 2017 and 2018.
- 9. Closing of the Annual General Meeting.