ISCH Annual General Meeting Minutes



Friday, 14th of September 2018, 12:45-14:15, New York City

- **1. Opening of the AGM:** The chair of the ISCH committee, Jörg Rogge, opens the AGM 2018, presents the agenda for the meeting, and ask for further topics to be discussed under TOP 8. None further issues were brought up. The Agenda is therefore accepted, and the meeting starts.
- **2.** The Reception of the Report of the Committee: The chair of the committee, Jörg Rogge, presents the report of the committee.
- **3.** The Reception of the Treasurer's Report: The society's financial report is presented by the secretary, Cathleen Sarti who reads Liisa Lalu's report to the general meeting. The closing balance at 31 December, 2017, was 7,093.46 €, most of this on the account at Handelsbanken. Compared to 2016, this means a loss of 728.10 €. In 2017, however, expenses were limited in regard to the journal and postage (fewer copies bought, and possibility to only receive the e-journal). Furthermore, the postal system in Germany seems to be less expensive than the one in Finland which saves costs for the distributing of our journal among the members. At the end of June 2018, income was higher than expenses, and an increased membership might keep this trend going. This is unlikely though: the membership income seems to be declining. The membership income and the whole system is something the Society needs to pay attention to, as well as the costs of the journal.

A short discussion brings up the possibility of external funding for societies (Jukka Kortti) which is both a question of the form of organisation (Jörg Rogge) and of the problem for international societies and mostly national funding (Alessandro Arcangeli). Nonetheless, further inquiries into these possibilities should be made.

4. The Reception of the Report of the Editorial Board of the Society's Journal: This report is presented by the editor-in-chief, Christopher E. Forth.

The discussions in the general meeting adds to Chris Forth's report: in particular, listings of the table of content of each issue should be spread more widely, e.g. to h-nets. Furthermore, Cathleen Sarti as responsible for the website and social media, will set up an interview with Chris Forth to discuss the requirements for submissions to the journal, supporting esp. early career scholars in their endeavour to publish in Cultural History. Alessandro Arcangeli highlights the advantages of three special issues which are directly connected to the last ISCH conference in Umeå, and advocates for a clear and closer connection between the conferences and the journal. Finally, Marek Tamm suggests a more active

approach to generate articles, and especially to commission articles on more general topics in the field of cultural history.

5. The Reception of Any Other Reports as Deemed Necessary by the Committee:

- (a) The Report of the Publication Series: Christopher E. Forth, co-editor of the ISCH book series at Routledge, reports
- (b) The Report of the ISCH Conference in 2019: Marek Tamm, the organiser of the next conference, presents this report. The theme of the conference is introduced as Global Cultural History. And finally, the date is suggested as 13-16 September 2018 in either Syracuse (NY) or New York City.
- (c) The Report on Internet Activity: Cathleen Sarti presents an overview over the internet activity of the society. Statistics of the official website show that January to March when also the conference is open for registration are the busiest times on the website (ca 6,000-7,000 unique visitors per month compared to ca 2,000 unique visitors per month in April to June). This also aligns with the top keyword searched (culture conference June 2017).

Further internet activities are being conducted over Twitter (@ISCHistory, 1,033 follower) and Facebook (official Facebook page with 1,792 subscribers, and Facebook group with 56 members).

- 6. The Reception of the Chair's Report on the Call for the Election of Members of the Committee: The committee welcomes Jasmin Lukkari (Helsinki), Ecaterina Lung (Bucharest), Marina Montesano (), and Maria Neklyudova () to the committee. Elections did not need be conducted.
- **7. Prize competition:** Alessandro Arcangeli announces that the 2018 prize competition will be awarded at the end of the conference, and includes a Skype meeting with the winner.
- **8. Other issues:** The AGM discusses possibilities for meetings after 2019. In 2020, Mainz (Germany) is suggested as location for the annual gathering. 2021 might be the possibility to meet in Verona (Italy). Further suggestions for 2022 and later are not yet made.
- 9. Closing of the AGM