ISCH Annual General Meeting minutes



Wednesday 20th of July 2016, at 16.30 in Trieste.

- 1. Opening of the AGM: The chair of the ISCH Committee, Alessandro Arcangeli, opens the AGM 2016. He presents 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. During the first half of 2016 both the Society's Secretary, Heta Aali, and its Treasurer, Reima Välimäki, announced that they were not able to continue further in their office; the Committee is therefore seeking suitable candidates for their replacement.
- 3. The reception of the Treasurer's Report: the Treasurer Reima Välimäki had submitted the Society's financial report in advance by email. Despite a comfortable opening balance of 12,044.06 euro at the beginning of the year, during 2015 the Society lost 2,334.70 euros, a trend which will make the accounts unsustainable within few years. However, during the first half of 2016 this was reversed by a net income of 977.01 euro, thanks to an increased flow of members: the membership income for the first 6 months of 2016 totalled 5,126 euro, versus 3,499.42 of the first 7 months of 2015.
- 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 (via Skype). The editorial board of the Journal underwent some changes, which will be implemented from the beginning of 2017: Rachel Haworth and Erin Sullivan stepped down as review editors, Kristine Steenbergh and Jan Frans van Dijkhuizen, until now general editors, will replace them. Sullivan agrees to remain in the editorial board as general editor. It was consequently decided to look for a new general editor, and a specialization in the cultural history of modern Central and Eastern Europe was thought appropriate to better supplement the range of competences already represented in the board. In the end the selecting committee found two candidates as both deserving nomination, considering the way their respective specializations differ from each other and could both prove very helpful: Patryk Babiracki (University of Texas at Arlington) and Steven Schouten (German Historical Institute, Warsaw and EUI, Florence). The AGM approves their recruitment. and new members have been added there. Forth also reports on the flow of article submission, on the imminent special issue on Foucault's La volonté de savoir, and reiterates the suggestion that edited special issues work particularly well to let our journal be known. Although we don't yet meet the requirements to be considered for inclusion on J-STOR, the conditions for accessing other journal platforms and indexes are being investigated.

- 5. a) The Report of the Publication Series: The series co-editor Chris Forth informs of the publication planned for next year and on the limited activity of the series after Pickering and Chatto's acquisition by Routledge.
 - b) The Report of the Umeå conference in 2017: Jonas Liliequist presents the call for papers for Umeå 2017. The preliminary description of the topic has been presented at a recent press conference in Trieste; however, the committee will agree on the detail of the sub-themes in further meetings by email, and a call for papers will be published around the end of the summer.
- 6. The reception of the Chair's Report on the call for the election of members of the Committee: five elected Committee members left at the expiring of their terms this year. Four applied and were accepted without the need to hold elections. They are: Anne Eriksen (Oslo, Norway), Jörg Rogge (Mainz, Germany), Evy Johanne Håland (Bergen, Norway), and Cathleen Sarti (Mainz, Germany). Eriksen and Rogge are returning members after the required time lapse. Jonas Liliequist (Umeå, Sweden) is co-opted into the Committee for the year coming up to the 2017 conference.
- 7. Prize competition: Mónica García-Fernández was announced earlier as the winner for 2016. Anu Korhonen positively commented on the number and quality of this year's applications and informed of the willingness of the four members of the awarding committee to continue to serve for next year. A discussion follows on whether we should offer to more than one winner (runners-up) the opportunity to be published in the journal. In the end it is recommended that, in the primary interest of the authors, this will have to follow anyway standard peer-review procedures.
- 8. Other issues: A new contract drafted by Edinburgh University Press for the publication of the *Cultural History* journal is discussed. Also, any venues for ISCH conferences after 2017. Considering that none was ever held in North America, Elizabeth Claire mentions the possibility of exploring one in the non-distant future in either the United States or Canada, particularly if themed with some connection with performativity. Tallinn (Estonia) may be explored for 2019. An opportunity to publish proceedings (on a volunteer basis) of a significant portion of the conference papers is considered (the same for Bucharest 2015 is in print). The university presses of Bucharest and Trieste are mentioned and their conditions will be examined in the near future; the whole process will be possible only if some colleagues volunteer for language checks and text-editing.
- 9. Closing of the Annual General Meeting (at 18.00).