

Report of the Committee for the Year 2016

To be presented at the Annual General Meeting in Umeå 2017

Composition of the Committee in 2016

In 2016, the ISCH Committee consisted of officers, elected members, co-opted members and *ex officio* members. The officers were

- Chair: Alessandro Arcangeli (Verona, Italy)
- Secretary: Heta Aali (Turku, Finland)
- Treasurer: Reima Välimäki (Turku, Finland)

Arcangeli was elected in Lunéville 2012 and his three-year period is suspended as long as he is officeholder. Aali was elected in Johannesburg 2014 and her three-year period postponed as long as she is officeholder. Välimäki was co-opted. During the first half of 2016, both Aali and Välimäki announced that they were not able to continue in their respective offices after this year: their replacement, however, was only found during the first half of 2017, and will have effect as from Umeå 2017.

Other elected members in 2016 were:

- Hannu Salmi (Turku, Finland), elected in Ghent 2008 (chair for 2008–13, the three-year period as elected member started in Istanbul 2013) ^[L]_{SEP}
- Rainer Brömer (Istanbul, Turkey), elected in Ghent 2008 (secretary for 2008–13, the three-year period as elected member started in Istanbul 2013) ^[L]_{SEP}
- Catherine Ng (Aberdeen, Scotland), elected in Oslo 2011 (treasurer for 2011-14, the three-year period as elected member started in Johannesburg 2014) ^[L]_{SEP}
- Eivind Engebretsen (Oslo, Norway), elected in Istanbul 2013 ^[L]_{SEP}
- Laurence Shee (Johannesburg, South Africa), elected in Istanbul 2013 ^[L]_{SEP}
- Marek Tamm (Tallinn, Estonia), elected in Istanbul 2013 ^[L]_{SEP}
- Ecaterina Lung (Bucharest, Romania), elected in Johannesburg 2014 ^[L]_{SEP}
- Mauricio Sánchez-Mencherro (UNAM, Mexico), elected in Johannesburg 2014

The AGM for the year 2016 was held during the ISCH conference in Trieste on 20 July 2016. Due to the expiring of the term of five Committee members, a call for the nomination of up to as many new or returning members had been opened in May. Since only four applied:

- Anne Eriksen (Oslo, Norway)
- Jörg Rogge (Mainz, Germany)
- Evy Johanne Håland (Bergen, Norway)
- Cathleen Sarti (Mainz, Germany)

they were accepted without the need of holding elections and joined the Committee as from the Trieste conference. (Eriksen and Rogge thus rejoined the Committee after at least a year had expired since their last membership, as required by our constitution).

The Committee decided to co-opt several members. Harvey Green, Anu Korhonen, Carolina Orloff and Mauricio Sánchez Menchero formed the prize committee 2015-2016. In addition to this, Jonas Liliequist (organizer of the Umeå conference) was elected the President for 2016–2017.

All considered – and also due to partial redefinitions of the list of journal editors and of their assignments that took place during 2016 – the ISCH Committee also included the following ex officio members:

- editor-in-chief of the journal: Chris Forth (Lawrence, KS, USA), period started in Istanbul 2013; also editor of the book series, period started in Johannesburg 2014 ^[L]_[SEP]
- editor of the journal: Howard Chiang (Warwick, UK), period started in Istanbul 2013; also editor of the book series, period started in Johannesburg 2014 ^[L]_[SEP]
- editor of the journal: Damien Kempf (Liverpool, UK), period started in Istanbul 2013 ^[L]_[SEP]
- editor of the journal: Shailja Sharma (Chicago, USA), period started in Istanbul 2013, resigned November 2016
- editor of the journal: Kristine Steenbergh (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), period started in ^[L]_[SEP]Istanbul 2013 ^[L]_[SEP]
- editor of the journal: Jan Frans van Dijkhuizen (Leiden, The Netherlands), period started in Istanbul 2013 ^[L]_[SEP]

- editor of the journal: Kevin Morrison (Syracuse University, USA), period started in Johannesburg 2014
- editor of the journal: Carolina Orloff (University of Edinburgh), period started in Johannesburg 2014 (also, from 2015, member of the prize committee)
- editor of the journal: Patryk Babiracki (University Texas at Arlington, USA), period started in Trieste 2016
- editor of the journal: Steven Schouten (German Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland, and EUI), period started in Trieste 2016
- review editor Erin Sullivan (Birmingham and Shakespeare Institute, UK), from the start in 2012 until the end of 2016 (when she became editor)
- review editor Rachel Haworth (Hull, UK), from the start in 2012 until the end of 2016

while the following were co-opted:

- member of the prize committee (and pro-tempore its president from 2015): Anu Korhonen (Helsinki, Finland)
- member of the prize committee: Harvey Green (Boston, USA), period started in Johannesburg 2014
- web manager (resigned in August 2016, and since then replaced by Cathleen Sarti): Philipp Amour, period started in Johannesburg 2014, at the expiring of his elected membership
- organizer of the 2016 conference: Gabriella Valera (Trieste, Italy)

Committee Meetings

E-mail exchanges within the Committee mailing list started the day after the end of the Trieste conference, with the chair updating the other members on the options being explored for holding our 2018 conference in North America and on the hypotheses of publication of selected papers from Trieste. Conversation continued over the following few weeks both on these topics and on the sub-themes of the Umeå 2017 conference (following its presentation at the AGM). Over the summer, our contract with Edinburgh UP for the publication of *Cultural History* came up for renewal, so the Chair – in conversation with the rest of the Committee – negotiated the following changes, generously agreed by the publisher

to our advantage:

- in future we will buy 150 rather than 200 copies for each issue, without incurring in any change in the discount they offer;
- our members will be given the option whether they want to receive the journal in electronic form only (and in that case offered a lower yearly fee) or in printed form too. Any electronic option will imply fewer paper copies the publisher has to send to us and we have to forward to members, thus reducing everyone's postal expenses. This solution resulted as a reasonable compromise, after a committee discussion had also considered the possibility of moving to electronic format only. New rates were agreed in January 2017.

A further option of having the journals sent directly from publisher to members was considered, but excluded on the basis of the charges they quoted, significantly higher.

Also in August Philipp Amour expressed the intention of stepping down from his role of web manager and the consequent need to alter the hosting contract in his name. Cathleen Sarti offered to take over and begun negotiation with the same Swiss hosting firm (cyon) in the hope to make the transition trouble-free. In the end it wasn't quite so, and during the first half of 2017 our dominion was transferred from culthist.org to culthist.net.

Still in August, a discussion (also involving previous book series editors and conference organizers) developed on the most appropriate title for our book series (which lately encountered difficulties in attracting quality proposals) and its coexistence (after the taking over of Pickering & Chatto by Francis & Taylor) with another cultural history series, also run by Routledge.

After the possibility of a location for a conference in South-East Europe had also been discussed, the welcome news came that Kevin Morrison was able to organize our 2018 one in Syracuse, NY (provisionally dated 13-16 September) – with further details still to be specified (a lively discussion on its theme took place in May 2017, with Elizabeth Claire as a guest participant).

In preparation of the Umeå conference, a call for panels was agreed and launched in September and thereafter a call for papers in November. The system was a novelty, provoked some disagreement (from scholars who wanted to present papers but did not find suitable panels, or else found them already full) and as a result some open sessions were also introduced. The selection committee included Alessandro Arcangeli, Federico Barbierato, Virginia Langum, Lewis Webb and Jonas Liliequist.

Also in November, the essay prize was launched with the deadline of 30 April 2017: as usual, the winner will be announced in Umeå. Anu Korhonen intends to step down as chair and the composition of the jury will have to be revised: Alessandro Arcangeli subsequently volunteers to step in as new chair.

Another email meeting was held from 19 March; it included updates on forthcoming conference, among which the confirmed availability of Tallinn to host the 2019 one and a first suggestion of a general topic (“Global cultural history”). Due to the expiring of the term of three Committee members, a call for the nomination of new or returning members was opened early in April; the only applicant was:

Marek Tamm (Tallinn, Estonia)

who therefore is returning to the Committee after a year of absence, without the need of holding elections, as from the Umeå conference.

Still in April, the Committee decided to sign the petition asking the President of Hungary to send back to the Parliament the law that was threatening to impede the Central European University continuing operating in the country.

In May, Cathleen Sarti suggested some changes in the design of the website, which were accepted.

Also during spring 2017, Jörg Rogge made himself available as the next Chair, Cathleen Sarti as the next Secretary and Liisa Lalu (Turku) as the new Treasurer: all of them obtained Committee support and will take office as from the Umeå conference.