

Report of the Committee for the Year 2015

To be presented at the Annual General Meeting in Trieste 2016

Composition of the Committee in 2015

In 2015, 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. Other elected members in 2015 were:

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

The AGM for the year 2015 was held during the ISCH conference in Bucharest on 8 September 2015. Since a call for candidatures did not attract any response, no new elected members joined the Committee in Bucharest.

The Committee decided to co-opt several members. Anne Eriksen, Anu Korhonen and Harvey Green formed the prize committee 2014–2015; Carolina Orloff and Mauricio Sanchez Menchero replaced Eriksen in 2015-2016. In addition to this, Patrizia Dogliani was elected the President for 2015–2016.

All considered, in 2015 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
- editor of the journal: Howard Chiang (Warwick, UK), period started in Istanbul 2013; also editor of the book series, period started in Johannesburg 2014
- editor of the journal: Damien Kempf (Liverpool, UK), period started in Istanbul 2013
- editor of the journal: Shailja Sharma (Chicago, USA), period started in Istanbul 2013
- editor of the journal: Kristine Steenbergh (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), period started in Istanbul 2013

- editor of the journal: Jan Frans van Dijkhuizen (Leiden, The Netherlands), period started in Istanbul 2013
- 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)

while the following were co-opted:

- member of the prize committee: Anne Eriksen (Oslo, Norway), retired in Bucharest 2015
- member of the prize committee (and pro-tempore president from 2015): Anu Korhonen (Helsinki, Finland)
- member of the prize committee: Harvey Green (Boston, USA), period started in Johannesburg 2014
- web manager: 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

A Committee meeting was held by email soon after the conference, from 17 to 30 September. Detailed plans for the 2016 conference in Trieste were discussed, and, despite some doubts expressed at the AGM in Bucharest on whether we should continue to hold conferences on an annual base, a proposal from Jonas Liliequist to host a 2017 conference in Umeå, Sweden, welcomed (the last week of June was subsequently chosen as its timing). One issue that was particularly discussed was the need to be more active on social media (including Facebook and Twitter). Consequently, Heta Aali joined Rainer Brömer as co-manager of the culthist mailing list. Prior to the meeting, Cathleen Sarti made some suggestions for improvements on this front and volunteered to take care of the visibility of the Society: she therefore informally joined the email discussion on an ad-hoc basis. Also, the Treasurer proposed to register a branch organisation in Finland in order to manage the bank account and PayPal account. Ecaterina Lung – whose work, with the helpful support of some colleagues, in organizing a successful conference is highly commended – informed of a plan to publish its proceedings c/o Bucharest University Press. Marek Tamm raised issues on the mission of ISCH, which seems in need of reconsideration; Chris Forth on the opportunity of rebranding the book series, after some confusion created by the merging of publishers.

A cfp for Trieste conference was agreed by mid-October and also circulated in French and Spanish translations; the original December deadline was later postponed to mid-January. Gabriella, Alessandro, Ecaterina and Heta formed the selection team.

The essay prize was launched with the deadline of 15 May 2016: the call received a higher number of proposals than usual and the winner will be announced in Trieste.

Subsequent email exchanges concerned, among other topics, the conditions and implications of institutional membership of the Society. Financially, the Society gained 715 euros from the balance of Bucharest conference. A yearly assessment of our journal, *Cultural History*, which we received in January 2016 from Edinburgh UP, suggests that the overall number and geography of subscriptions is

still not satisfactory – an encouragement to do better.

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 was opened in May; only four applied:

Anne Eriksen (Oslo, Norway)

Jörg Rogge (Mainz, Germany)

Evy Johanne Håland (Bergen, Norway)

Cathleen Sarti (Mainz, Germany)

so they were accepted without the need of holding elections and they will join the Committee as from the Trieste conference.

Alessandro Arcangeli offered his availability to continue as a chair for another year, which obtained Committee support. Conversely, during the first half of 2016, due to changing personal circumstances, both Heta Aali and Reima Välimäki announced that they were not able to continue in their respective offices after this year: they will therefore have to be replaced.

Also, as from March, a partial redefinition of the list of journal editors and their assignments took place: the general editor will report on this.