



## **The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the ISCH**

on 20 June 2023 in Singapore at 15:30-16:30

Committee members present in person: Ecaterina Lung, Chris Forth, Jukka Kortti

Committee members present via Zoom: Jasmin Lukkari, Liisa Lalu, Alessandro Arcangeli

### **TOP 1 Opening of the AGM**

The Chair (Ecaterina Lung) opens the meeting at 15:30.

### **TOP 2 Reception of the report of the committee**

Ecaterina Lung presents the report of the committee for the past year. This can be downloaded here: <http://www.culthist.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Report-of-the-Committee-for-the-Year-2022-FINAL.pptx>

### **TOP 3 Reception of the treasurer's report**

The treasurer Liisa Lalu presents the financial report for 2022 and the estimate for 2023: The very lucrative conference in Verona in August 2022 saved the society from the pandemic-induced financial trouble. Also, the higher membership fees (since this year) are now estimated to cover the journal costs for the first time in many years.

### **TOP 4 Reception of the report of the editorial board of the society's journal**

Chris Forth, the chief editor of the journal, presents the report of the *Cultural History* journal. Three themed issues are coming out starting from April 2024. There might be a supplemental open issue in 2024. Chris Forth would like to have a co-editor in the future, preferably with some useful institutional support (e.g., copy editing, proofreading). Possible candidates are encouraged to contact [cforth@ku.edu](mailto:cforth@ku.edu)

Committee member Alessandro Arcangeli asks if we know how many institutes or libraries have subscribed to our journal. According to the publishing report of 2021, 64 institutions were subscribed, and our journal is also available via EBSCO. Alessandro asks if open-access publication is possible: it is possible for individual authors but is expensive. The journal still has not yet received an answer to their application to be included in the

JSTOR, but this should only be a matter of time by now since *Cultural History* fulfils all the criteria.

#### **TOP 5 Reception of any other reports esteemed necessary by the committee**

a) Publication series

The editors of the publication series (*Studies for the International Society for Cultural History*, with Routledge) are not present, so Chris Forth shares the general situation of the series. There have been publications in the series with a steady pace during the last few years, and most of them have been edited volumes. There could be more monographs. Chris wonders if the name of the book series makes potential authors think that it is necessary to be a member of the society in order to publish in the series. Ecaterina remarks that nowadays there are many more international publishers than before, and the competition has increased from the publishers' point of view. We should publicize this series more to PhD students, for example, who want to publish their theses.

b) ISCH conference 2024

Ecaterina Lung presents the location and date of the next ISCH conference: Potsdam, Germany, on 4-6 September 2024. The preliminary theme is "Embodied Histories: Cultural History of, in, and through the Human Body", and the conference will be organized by committee member Filippo Carlà-Uhink. This will be the first in-person ISCH conference in Germany. The call for papers will be published after the summer. The ISCH will try to offer a limited number of travel grants for this conference.

c) Internet activity

The secretary Jasmin Lukkari presents the internet activity of the ISCH. We have 2367 followers on our official Facebook page ("International Society for Cultural History") and 1092 on Twitter (@ISCHistory). We currently have 821 newsletter subscribers with a 40-55% open rate. We send two newsletters per year, and from this year onwards we will send a third "newsletter" that only includes the ISCH conference call for papers. The website visitor count is 500-1500 visits per month. ISCH members are encouraged to subscribe to the [culthist@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:culthist@jiscmail.ac.uk) mailing list and use it, even though it is not managed by the ISCH. This mailing list currently has almost 800 subscribers. At the next year's conference, an ISCH Instagram account might be launched.

#### **TOP 6 Reception of the chair's report on the call for the election of members for the committee**

Ecaterina Lung presents the new committee members. Due to the expiration of the term of the treasurer and two other Committee members in 2023, and one committee member becoming ex officio, a call for the nomination of up to four new or returning members had been opened on the ISCH website and newsletter. The three committee members, whose terms were expiring, have all reapplied. There was one application for the position of treasurer. There were no other eligible applications, so there was no need for an election to be held.

Liisa Lalu (Turku) ends her term as the treasurer and is elected as a regular committee member. Liisa-Maija Korhonen (Helsinki) is elected as the new treasurer. Jörg Rogge (Mainz) and Cathleen Sarti (Oxford) are re-elected as regular committee members. The ISCH welcomes Liisa-Maija Korhonen as the new treasurer and thanks Liisa Lalu for her 6-year service.

## **TOP 7 Membership**

Currently, the ISCH has 86 members. Membership fees were increased starting from the beginning of 2023 to cover the journal costs that have kept increasing with time. It is early to say, but it seems that new membership fees are now sufficient to cover the expenses. We will continue with the current membership fees.

This year there is a problem with membership payments: as of two weeks before the conference, 44 conference speakers had not paid the ISCH membership fee despite this requirement being communicated in the CfP and the emails with the presenters. The main reasons for this probably are: 1) the conference online store did not give the possibility to pay the membership, 2) many conference participants often assume that the conference fee includes the membership fee, which would indeed be logical. For this reason, we should try to connect the two payments in the future, as we recently did in Verona. Some conference speakers have been gently reminded a week before the conference, but we will need a complete list of email addresses to contact them all.

## **Other issues**

There is a question from the audience: Does the ISCH offer scholarships or publicize postdoc positions, especially for Ukrainian scholars? Ecaterina Lung answers: the ISCH shares information about open postdoc positions on their social media and the newsletter when the ISCH is informed about them (scholars are welcome to contact the ISCH for sharing this kind of information). The CULTHIST mailing list is also recommended for this purpose. The ISCH might be able to offer conference travel grants to early career scholars in the future, but unfortunately, the ISCH cannot offer other types of financial support.

There is talk about the reformed ISCH prize competition for the best conference presentation. This is the first year with the new competition format: Ecaterina has announced the competition during the opening of the conference, and conference speakers will be reminded during the conference. Also, as soon as we receive a list of the conference speakers' email addresses from the conference organizers, we will invite the speakers to participate in the competition directly via email. The announcement also is on the ISCH website, and it would be helpful to have it on the conference website as well. Alessandro Arcangeli is responsible for the prize competition and will ask Josephine Hoegaerts and Harvey Green to rejoin the prize committee.

Ecaterina Lung closes the meeting at 16:30