

# International Standing Conference for the History of Education

## General Assembly

Chicago, Illinois, USA, August 19, 2016

Executive Committee Members Present: Rebecca Rogers (President), Noah Sobe (Treasurer), Karin Priem (Secretary), Ian Grosvenor (PH), Grace Akanbi, Adelina Arredondo, Inês Félix, Diana Vidal, Joaquim Pintassilgo. In addition, 96 other ISCHE members were present at the beginning of the GA.

Minutes: Karin Priem

ISCHE President Rebecca Rogers called the meeting to order at 2:30pm and welcomed ISCHE members to the ISCHE General Assembly.

### 1. Approval of Agenda

No further changes to the agenda were proposed. Inés Dussel moved to accept the agenda. Kate Rousmaniere seconded. The motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

### 2. Approval of 2015 General Assembly Minutes

No changes were proposed to the 2015 General Assembly minutes. Inés Dussel moved that the minutes be approved as distributed. Kate Rousmaniere seconded. The motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

### 3. President's Report

Rebecca Rogers began by thanking the EC members for their hard work. She highlighted in introduction to her report ISCHE's major achievements since the meeting in Istanbul in June 2015: the completion of the legal registration process of ISCHE as an association based in Germany; the creation of a new book series with Palgrave, entitled "Global Histories of Education," and finally the organization of yet another stimulating annual conference in Chicago.

**Institutional issues:** The process of becoming an official association has come to an end. This brings new responsibilities both with respect to our members and to German authorities. Becoming a membership-based association also means that we have money to provide new resources to members. Much of the past year was spent establishing a working relationship with Taylor & Francis who handles our membership base. The campaign to build up our membership began in February and, as of August 12, ISCHE has 231 registered members; 70 are early career scholars, and 34 countries are represented (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, US, USA). Roughly a quarter of the members also took a subscription to *Paedagogica Historica*. President Rogers also reached out to affiliated societies asking them to become ISCHE members; for the moment 7 have become members. The institutional memory of ISCHE continues to progress thanks to the archive in Berlin. The Stichting Paedagogica Historica (PH) has generously funded the cataloguing and indexing of ISCHE and PH records.

**Communication:** The website remains the most important resource for members seeking information about current issues in the association. President Rogers has, however, pursued

the practice of writing presidential newsletters and communicating through the new mailing list of ISCHE members. ISCHE also has a Twitter and Instagram account although admittedly neither are particularly active. Members can contact the EC via the web at [information@ische.org](mailto:information@ische.org). One of the objectives in the medium term is to have the website combine information and more intellectual sustenance. At ISCHE 38 the plenaries are being live-streamed so that they can be listened to in the future.

**Capacity building:** As mentioned at the outset, the EC successfully negotiated a contract with Palgrave Macmillan to create a book series that welcomes approaches to “Global Histories of Education.” A book series committee—Tim Allender, Eckhardt Fuchs, Noah Sobe and Diana Vidal—eagerly awaits proposals for this series. Additionally the EC has created a First Book Award to promote outstanding scholarship in any of the four official ISCHE languages (English, French, German and Spanish). The first such award will be announced in 2017.

President Rogers noted her particular concern to support early career scholars. This year the history of Education summer school was hosted by the University of Groningen and welcomed 29 students and 17 nationalities. This highly successful event was jointly supported by ISCHE, the Stichting PH, EERA, the History of Education Society UK and the University of Groningen. Special thanks to Angelo van Gorp for his work to make this happen; next year the summer school will be held in Sessari, Italy.

In the past year ISCHE organized two regional workshops. The first was held in Beijing (China) in August 2015 shortly before the International Congress of Historical Sciences, on the topic of “Transnational Entanglements in Education: East Asia and the ‘West’ since the 18<sup>th</sup> century.” This event was hosted by ISCHE, the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research (GEI), Beijing Normal University (BNU) and the Chinese Association of History of Education. Seven speakers spoke to an international group of 20 educational scholars. The second was held in Barranquilla (Columbia) in February 2016, on the subject of “La historia de la educación en el caribe y sus conexiones transnacionales.” Here 17 speakers and four discussants participated in a series of lively conversations in Spanish, French and English; Cubans were able to participate thanks to financial support from ISCHE. Finally ISCHE also endorsed a workshop in Cape Town (South Africa) on “Education and Empire: Comparative and Connective Approaches” (following up on a regional workshop organized in 2013). More generally, ISCHE regularly offers endorsement for conferences in the history of education organized by national associations.

Following the initiative begun in Riga in 2014, two preconference workshops were organized in Chicago: “Merit|Achievement as a Paradigm—Discourse and Practices in a Historical Perspective” and “Migrants, migration and education.” Between 35 and 40 participants participated in these events.

Standing Working Groups also continue to structure intellectual discussions within the conference. Three such SWGs are on-going: Mapping the Discipline History of Education; Objects, Senses and the Material World of Schooling; Touching Bodies in School. Two SWGs will be finishing up this year: Gender, Power Relations and Education in a Transnational World and Teacher’s Critical Thinking. Testimony to the success of this mode of functioning, three new SWGs are being proposed for approval: Migrants, Migration and Education; Réformisme(s), Progressisme(s), Conservatisme (s) en éducation : quelles argumentations critiques ?; History of Laic Education: concepts, policies and practices in the world.

ISCHE’s commitment to early career scholars also finds expression with the creation of the ISCHE 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary travel fund to allow scholars to attend the conference in Berlin in August 2018.

Proposals for development: President Rogers closed by evoking a number of new projects the EC has developed and which it wishes members to approve. To begin with, there was the decision to live-stream the plenary conference for those members who cannot attend the conference. A second initiative would be to provide ISCHE members with access to a database containing the abstracts of all of the talks given at ISCHE since the first conference in London in 1978. Finally, Rebecca Rogers presented the ISCHE salon initiative. The idea here is to encourage intellectual conversations about important issues in the history of education through short videos on the website, which members will be encouraged to respond to. The aim is to allow scholars around the world to engage throughout the year in virtual conversations.

President Rogers concluded by thanking everyone present for their presence and their support.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report 2015/16

ISCHE Treasurer Noah Sobe presented a Treasurer's Report (attached) and announced that future ISCHE budgets will match the calendar year (January 1 – December 31).

#### 5. Proposed Budget 2017

ISCHE Treasurer Noah Sobe proposed a budget for 2017 (attached). Marc Depaepe moved to approve the proposed budget. Tim Allender seconded. The motion carried by 95 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

#### 6. Exculpation of the Executive Committee

The General Assembly voted on a motion presented by Elsie Rockwell and seconded by Kate Rousmaniere to accept the reports presented and exculpate the officers of ISCHE. The motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

#### 7. ISCHE Early Career Conference Paper Award

Rebecca Rogers announced the awarding of the ISCHE 2015 Prize to Robyn Sneath (Oxford University) "Whose purpose of Education? A Transnational Minority Religious Sect and Schools as Sites of Conflict in late 19th and early 20th Century Canada." Rebecca Rogers noted that her work is on a large group of Mennonites who arrived in Manitoba (Canada) from Russia during the 1870s. The new settlers were able to negotiate a set of privileges with the Canadian federal government, including the right to educate their children without government interference. For the Mennonites schooling historically served as a primary mechanism through which their language, faith and worldview were transmitted. Using archival sources the paper documents how in the late 19th and early 20th centuries tensions mounted between the sect and government over schooling which finally culminated in the mass exodus in 1922 of 7,000 Mennonites out of Manitoba to Mexico. The paper offers an interesting and complex account of a problematic, which clearly demonstrates the centrality of 'culture' in the nation-state building context. Robyn Sneath was unable to be present to receive her prize in person.

#### 8. ISCHE 39 Buenos Aires 2017

Luis Garcés reported on preparations for ISCHE 39, to take place in Buenos Aires July 18-21, 2017 on the theme of "Education and Emancipation."

#### 9. ISCHE 40 Berlin 2018

Sabine Reh reported on ISCHE 40, to take place in Berlin August 29–September 1, 2018 on the theme of "Nature and Education".

#### 10. Election of New EC Members

Rebecca Rogers who moderated the meeting noted that the General Assembly needed to fill two vacant positions on the Executive Committee and that in accordance with the procedures established in ISCHE's Constitution three nominations had been received: Simonetta Polenghi (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy), Myriam Southwell (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina) and Hongyu Zhou (Central China Normal University, China). Simonetta Polenghi and Myriam Southwell were invited to come to the podium and gave statements regarding their interest in serving on the EC. Hongyu Zhou was unable to be present and was introduced by a short video statement. Because the ISCHE Constitution specifies that election for ISCHE EC members take place by vote, Rebecca Rogers noted that ballots were being distributed and that the two candidates who achieved the greatest number of votes cast would be elected to the position. The ballots were collected and counted by two ISCHE members. Later in the meeting, once the ballots had been counted, President Rebecca Rogers announced that Simonetta Polenghi and Myriam Southwell had achieved a the greatest number of votes cast and the assembly congratulated them on their election to the ISCHE EC committee.

### 13. Discussion and Approval of revisions to ISCHE Byelaws

Rebecca Rogers explained that ISCHE byelaws require the approval of the GA and that the EC was recommending approval of byelaws changes and specifications with regard to Finances, the ISCHE Travel Fund, the ISCHE First Book Award, the ISCHE Annual Conferences, the ISCHE Pre-Conference Workshops, Regional Workshops, and the ISCHE Book Series (attached here). On a motion proposed by Kate Rousmaniere and seconded by Adelina Arredondo, the byelaw revisions were accepted by a vote of 87 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

### 13. Discussion and Approval of new SWGs

Three proposals for the establishment of new Standing Working Groups titled "Migrants, Migration and Education", "History of Laic Education: Concepts, Policies and Practice in the World" and "Réformisme(s), progressisme(s), conservatisme(s) en éducation: quelles argumentations critiques?" were discussed and unanimously accepted.

### 14. Other Business

ISCHE President Rebecca Rogers emphasized her concern to ensure that ISCHE pursue its efforts to be a dynamic scientific organization that attracts permanent members around the world and reminded ISCHE embers to annually renew their membership. She also thanked and presented gifts to Adelina Arredondo and Joaquim Pintassilgo in recognition of their services to and their leadership in ISCHE.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Karin Priem, ISCHE Secretary

Luxembourg, September 16, 2015