Let me begin this first newsletter of 2017 with my best wishes for the new year. More than ever, I feel we need the strength of our collective professional and personal convictions to allow us to move forward. I strongly believe ISCHE offers such a space to think critically about the present and the past. In this spirit, the executive committee has decided to sponsor a “Tertulia” panel [or provocative panel] at ISCHE 39 in Buenos Aires whose theme this year will be “The history of education and the rise of new populisms.” I hope many of you will be able to attend and to add your voice to the dialogue. And I look forward to many more such panels in the future that demonstrate how historians of education can contribute in important ways to contemporary conversations in the world.

I would like to draw your attention to a number of deadlines as well as initiatives in the months to come. The first deadline concerns paper submissions to ISCHE 39 in Buenos Aires, which is at the end of this month (Jan.31). Details about proposing single papers, panels, multilingual panels, as well as symposia are all available on the conference website: [http://conferences.ische.org/ocs-2.3.6/index.php/ISCHE2017/2017/schedConf/cfp](http://conferences.ische.org/ocs-2.3.6/index.php/ISCHE2017/2017/schedConf/cfp). There are also “call for papers” for three pre-conference workshops that are posted on the ISCHE website. The latter are a sign of the dynamism of our association. This dynamism is very dependent on you and your remaining a member of ISCHE by paying your annual dues! Please respond to Taylor and Francis’s request that you renew your membership. As you know, this offers you a reduction in the annual conference fee, as well as privileged access to a number of new initiatives.

We have added a new feature to the website in response to suggestions made by early career researchers. Not only do we feature ISCHE initiatives directed toward them, but we intend as well to provide information about publishing and professional opportunities. See [http://www.ische.org/early-career-researchers/](http://www.ische.org/early-career-researchers/) and do not hesitate to come forward with more suggestions.

We will be launching our first History of Education Salon initiative in March around the theme of last year’s conference “Education and the Body.” Four international scholars will converse about this topic and we will urge others to join in the conversation with a blog we will open when the videos go live. We very much hope many of you will participate and that this will give others ideas for new Salon initiatives in the months and years to come.

The executive committee made the decision to use the database initiative of ISCHE to collect and maintain abstracts from all previous conferences. This will offer ISCHE members analytical access to the history of our association and the diversity of its intellectual membership. We will give
you more details about the progress of this database at the General Assembly in July.

We announced at the General Assembly in Chicago that we would devote some of our membership revenue to an ISCHE Travel Fund for the annual conference. These funds are for advanced students or early-career scholars (up to 5 years post-PhD), with particular preference given to scholars based in low-GDP countries. Information about the possibilities of applying for these funds will be made available after announcement that papers have been accepted mid-March 2017. More information about this travel fund is available in ISCHE’s bye-laws: http://www.ische.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Byelaws-for-GA-2016.pdf.

As always, the General Assembly is also a moment when we renew membership on the Executive Committee. This year two positions will be up for (re)election. Information about the nomination process will be made later this spring as the conference draws nearer.

Meanwhile, I hope you are busy thinking about and writing your proposals for the next conference in order to experience the first ISCHE conference in Argentina. For those for whom ISCHE has been a travelling home for years, please think of contributing to our 40th Anniversary Travel Fund for attendance at the 2018 ISCHE conference in Berlin: ische.org/donate.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me about matters of importance for ISCHE, and don’t forget to check the ISCHE website frequently for announcements of interest to our community.

Enjoy the spring and I look forward to seeing many of you in Buenos Aires in July.

With warmest regards

Rebecca Rogers
ISCHE President