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Dear ISCHE member,
Cher membre d'ISCHE,
Liebes ISCHE-Mitglied,
Estimado miembro de ISCHE,

First of all I hope that all of you are well! After the Covid-19 crisis has impacted strongly on many parts of Europe, the pandemic now seems to be out of control in the two Americas and posing a severe threat to India as well as parts of Africa and Asia. I very much hope that our colleagues around the globe will be able to cope with the situation and stay safe. I also hope that countries which have already (partly) recovered will not have to face a second wave in late autumn. The situation is very volatile, and hopefully we will be able to meet again next year in Sweden.

I am writing today to give you some information about our plans for 2021. As you know, the ISCHE Executive Committee and the Local Organizing Committee of ISCHE 42 had to take a difficult decision in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and **postpone ISCHE 42 to next year. After having discussed several possible options, we agreed that ISCHE 42 will take place in Örebro, Sweden, on 16–21 June 2021.** This date will allow our Central and South American colleagues to extend their stay in Europe and also attend national and bi-national European History of Education conferences. Most of our European colleagues will hopefully have ended their summer terms by then. I also hope that travel restrictions and local risks of Covid-19 outbreaks will be minimized by then. Our conference theme “Looking from Above and Below: Rethinking the Social in the History of Education,” will be the same, and **all accepted submissions for Örebro 2020 will remain accepted for Örebro 2021.** However, in the understanding that this will be a challenging year, we want to make sure that there will be opportunities to withdraw or (if necessary) revise submissions as well as to submit new proposals. We realize that the situation has changed dramatically for all of us, and that decisions made in early 2020 may not hold for 2021. We also want to make sure that everyone who wants to join our meeting feels welcome and has an opportunity to submit a proposal.

We plan to re-open the Conftool system in January 2021, when we hope the situation will be clearer. The system will remain open for only two weeks, in order to minimize costs and workload for the Local Organizing Committee. We are immensely grateful to the LOC and to our reviewers for their renewed support and invite you to check the conference website in early December 2020.

I am glad to announce that our treasurer did excellent work and that our organization is financially healthy. We have reduced our spending, but nevertheless we urgently need tangible (and intangible) support from our members. I would like to encourage you to register as a member for the year even if our annual conference will be postponed to 2021. **ISCHE needs support and solidarity in times of crisis. Because of the pandemic, it will not be possible to organize a General Assembly in 2020, and the ISCHE Executive will soon contact ISCHE members to participate in an online vote to approve/reject both the 2019 budget and extensions of the terms of office of current ISCHE**

Executive Committee members, which are necessitated by the Covid-19 crisis. It would be very much appreciated if all of you would become members and thus gain the right to vote.

Since I last wrote, two committees have been working to support the scholarship of our early career researchers.

The members of the 2020 **ISCHE First Book Award** Committee (Frank Simon, James Albisetti, Damiano Matasci and Silvina Gvirtz) read and assessed four submissions and decided that this year's award should go to Rebecca Swartz for her book *Education and Empire: Children, Race and Humanitarianism in the British Settler Colonies, 1833–1880* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019) Congratulations to Rebecca! I would also like to thank Frank Simon and all ISCHE First Book Award Committee members for their work. In addition, many thanks to all applicants for having shared their scholarship. We would again like to encourage submissions in all ISCHE languages for next year's award.

Similarly, I would like to congratulate the winners of the **ISCHE Early Career Conference Paper Award**. The committee awarded Kaiyi Li (Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research – Member of the Leibniz Association, Germany) for her paper “Foreign Example to Support Policy Decisions: Chinese Education Mission Invited by the League of Nations to Europe in 1932” and Rafaela Silva Rabelo (University of São Paulo, Brazil) for her paper “The New Education Fellowship, the Progressive Education Association, and the US Department of State: South America as Part of a Complex Entanglement.” A big thank you to Ian Grosvenor, the selection committee and to all who submitted papers.

Another Executive Committee subcommittee evaluates **requests for funding** to attend the ISCHE conference in Örebro. We kindly ask those who have already applied for funding to resubmit their requests once we have started the new application process for the ISCHE conference in 2021. ISCHE will also provide funding for a number of PhD students to attend the Histories of Education Summer School in Lyon, which has been postponed to 2021.

The ISCHE Global Histories of Education book series is prospering and I would like to thank Diana Vidal and the members of the committee for their excellent work. Congratulations on their achievements during the past years! So far, the following books have been published: *Reimagining Teaching in Early 20th Century Experimental Schools*, edited by Alessandra Arce Hai, Helen May, Kristen Nawrotzki, Larry Prochner and Yordanka Valkanova; *Women, Power Relations and Education in a Transnational World*, edited by Christine Mayer and Adelina Arredondo; *Education and Development in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa: Policies, Paradigms, and Entanglements, 1890s–1980s*, edited by Damiano Matasci, Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo and Hugo Gonçalves Dores; *The OECD's Historical Rise in Education: The Formation of a Global Governing Complex*, edited by Christian Ydesen; and *The Transnational in the History of Education: Concepts and Perspectives*, edited by Eckhardt Fuchs and Eugenia Roldán Vera. There are more books in the pipeline and we look forward to seeing them in print. I would like to encourage our members who pursue research on transnational and global issues to submit their manuscripts. For more information, please visit <https://www.ische.org/publications/book-series/>.

Last but not least, I would like to let you know that **ISCHE 2022** will take place in Milan (Italy) in late August/early September 2022. The conference theme will be “Histories of Educational Technologies: Cultural and Social Dimensions of Pedagogical Objects.”

Until soon, stay healthy and safe.

Warm wishes,

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