

ISCHE General Assembly
19th July 2019

Executive Committee (EC) Members Present: Karin Priem (KP) (President), Diana Vidal (DV) (Treasurer), Inés Dussel (Secretary), Rebecca Rogers (RR), Inés Félix (IF), Ian Grosvenor (IG), Simonetta Polenghi (SP), Miriam Southwell (MS), Angelo Van Gorp (AVG), Marc van Overbeke (MvO). In addition, 106 other ISCHE members were present.

ISCHE President Karin Priem called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm and welcomed ISCHE 41 attendees to the ISCHE General Assembly.

1. Approval of the Agenda

No changes were proposed to the agenda. Deanna Michael proposed to accept it, and Felicitas Acosta seconded the motion. All members approved the agenda.

2. Approval of the General Assembly Minutes, Berlin 2018

In relation to the minutes of the past General Assembly held during ISCHE 40 in Berlin, no changes were proposed. Daniel Töpper proposed to accept them and Christine Meyer seconded the suggestion. All members approved the agenda.

3. President's Report

KP presented a summary of her report. She started thanking all members of the Executive Committee for their work and support. She highlighted some points of her report, which was included in the documents handed to all members before the meeting.

Institutional Issues

As of September 15, 2018, ISCHE has embarked on a very successful and productive working partnership with our ISCHE office in Berlin. A significant amount of paperwork had to be completed in order for ISCHE to be accepted as a non-profit organization for another term. The Berlin office also supports us in developing a conference management tool which will be run by ISCHE in cooperation with local organization committees. We are also considering future options for merging this tool with the membership management system currently managed by Taylor & Francis. With respect to membership fees, a fact check by our office has resulted in an opportunity to negotiate lower membership fees for the upcoming term due to more favorable foreign currency exchange rates. Another issue concerns ISCHE's relationship and collaboration with national history of education associations. Our Berlin office has launched a survey to collect reliable data and we will continue to improve communication with national associations. With the help of the Berlin office, we were also able to professionalize accounting, which includes constant follow-ups

on our financial situation and increased efficiency in designing conference budgets and preparing our tax declarations in Germany.

2019 so far has been a very successful year for our membership campaign. On May 28, 2019, we had 384 members, including 50 students and 227 membership renewals. This is the highest number of members since we became a membership organization four years ago, and confirms that ISCHE is developing well. We currently have members from 45 different countries, and 89 members also subscribe to PH.

ISCHE continues to pursue its goal of attracting early career researchers by offering a reduced membership fee as well as by organizing an early career travel fund. In 2018–19, ISCHE funded 13 early career researchers to attend the ISCHE conference in Porto and 9 PhD candidates to attend the Histories of Education Summer School in Liverpool.

Communication and ISCHE Archive

Two presidential newsletters were sent to registered members. These newsletters are then posted on the website, thanks to the support of the early career researcher on the committee, Inês Felix, and our Berlin office. As already mentioned, our Berlin office, has also launched an initiative to improve communication and exchange with the presidents of national associations.

Another important step was taken thanks to previous ISCHE presidents Eckhardt Fuchs and Rebecca Rogers and former ISCHE treasurer Noah Sobe: all materials in ISCHE's Conference Abstracts Database from the late 1970s until 2017 are now catalogued and available for consultation at the Bibliothek für Bildungsgeschichtliche Forschung (BBF; Research Library for the History of Education) in Berlin. The Executive Committee has started to explore, together with the archivists at the BBF, how to preserve our digital archives, and we hope that first steps will be taken soon.

Capacity Building

Over the years, ISCHE has become increasingly engaged in supporting scholars and scholarship in the history of education. Among these initiatives, the ISCHE president announced that the first volume in the ISCHE book series *Global Histories of Education – The Transnational in the History of Education: Concepts and Perspectives*, edited by Eugenia Roldán Vera and Eckhardt Fuchs – has been published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2019, and congratulates all involved for this achievement. A book launch was done during this conference. Diana Vidal, who coordinates the book series for the EC, reports that several proposals are under review and two more volumes are in the final stages to be published in 2020. The president expressed her thanks to the committee in charge of this.

ISCHE's First Book Award is another initiative to support young and emerging scholars in our field. The members of the 2019 ISCHE First Book Award Committee read and assessed eleven submissions (four in English, six in German and one in Spanish). The president thanked the committee, which was chaired by Frank Simon, for its excellent work and all applicants for having shared their scholarship with the international committee set up for this award.

She thanked the local organizers, the EC and all ISCHE members for their contributions to making ISCHE such a dynamic and successful association. Finally, she expressed special thanks to Simonetta Polenghi and Myriam Southwell, whose terms end at ISCHE Porto. Both have been wonderful colleagues and have considerably contributed to the successful work of the Executive Committee.

After her report, a crystal plaque of recognition was given to SP and MS for their service to the society.

4. Treasurer's Report 2018 and 2019

DV presents the reports from 2018 and 2019 (current). She highlighted that 2018 was very positive, considering the income from the Berlin conference that has still not been transferred to our account but that will increase our balance significantly. For 2019, the initial projections were a loss of 6,000 euros, considering the launching of our Berlin office and the legal and accounting fees we are paying for this, but as of July, it seems that there will be only small losses (around 100 euros) or that we will end the year even, thanks to a generous donation by the Centre for Contemporary and Digital History at the University of Luxemburg. The General Assembly voted for a motion presented by Eugenia Roldán and seconded by Lisbeth Matzer to approve the Treasurer's reports. The motion was voted favourably by the members with no abstentions.

5. Proposed Budget 2020

DV presented the budget for 2020, which will include some changes related to the design of the conference management tool and the conference in Orebrö. The balance is currently negative but this covers some items such as the second part of the Voices project and the Online Abstract Database that will not be repeated beyond 2020. Both projects are an investment in benefit of ISCHE's community. The Society has around 54,000€, considering what will be transferred from Humboldt University from last year's conference, so this negative balance should not cause major disruptions in ISCHE's finances.

The EC has agreed to set a restricted fund of 30,000 euros in our account, which is equal to the annual exercise of our budget.

Maiza Trigo proposed the motion to approve the proposed budget, and Claudia Ribeiro seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously without abstentions.

6. Exculpation of the Executive Committee

KP asked the General Assembly for a motion to accept the reports presented and exculpate the officers of ISCHE. Francisco Araújo proposed the motion and Fanny Issensee seconded it. The motion unanimously carried by voice vote.

7. ISCHE 2018 First Book Award

KP announced the award of the ISCHE First Book Award to Natasha Periyán (University of Kent), *The politics of 1930s British Literature. Education, class, gender*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018. KP read a short Laudation that stated that Natasha Periyán's book is very well-written and argued, and presents an in-depth study of the links between pedagogy and the literary field in Great Britain as seen through the works and writings of

several important British writers from the 1930s, such as Virginia Woolf, W. H. Auden, George Orwell, Winifred Holtby and Graham Greene. Periyar argues that the engagement of these writers with education sheds light on how they conceived of politics, class and gender relationships at the time. The study explores a wide range of primary sources. These include published fictional works and earlier drafts kept in archives, journalistic pieces, lectures and conference papers, as well as personal diaries. Taking a literary historical approach, Periyar's is a careful and meticulous study – her analysis of the draft manuscripts in particular show the changes the authors made and the emphasis they wanted to give to their texts. In short, *The Politics of 1930s British Literature: Education, Class, Gender* offers well-documented and convincing research, as well as highly original insights into a troubled decade. It makes a substantial contribution to the fields of literary studies and history of education. Natasha Periyar came to the podium and thanked ISCHE for the award.

8. Early Career Conference Paper Award

KP announced the awarding of the ISCHE Early Career Conference Paper Award to two papers: *The turtle, the mouse, and the invention of constructivist learning theory*, by Barbara Emma Hof (University of Zurich), and *Transformation of Racist Discourse? Colour-blind Racism and “Biological” Racism in Dutch Secondary Schooling (1968-2017)*, by Maria Luce Sijpenhof (University of Alcalá).

IG read a short Laudation for each of these papers. In the case of Hof's paper, *The Turtle, the Mouse, and the Invention of Constructivist Learning Theory*, IG highlighted that based on archival sources from the Rockefeller Archive Center and the Heinz von Foerster Papers at the University of Illinois and publications by constructivists Barbara Emma Hof fascinatingly documents how in the 20th century there was a shift away from the 'black box' as a metaphor to describe the inner workings of school behaviour to the idea of the 'turtle' as a model of learning. As an epistemic tool, the artificial turtle enabled researchers – psychologists, educationalists and mathematicians alike – to realize mechanically and electronically what they conceived to be the process of learning. Organised into three theoretical sections which illustrate three different approaches to representing learning using the turtle model she offers an engaging account of constructivism as a psychological theory of learning.

Barbara Hof approached the podium to receive her award, and thanked ISCHE for it.

In the case of *A Transformation of Racist Discourse? Colour-blind Racism and “Biological” Racism in Dutch Secondary Schooling (1968-2017)*, IG remarked that drawing on critical race theory and frames of colour-blind racism, Maria Luce Sijpenhof's study in the context of a perceived re-emergence of biological racism explores institutional racism in Dutch secondary schools. She uses an analysis of history textbooks, interviews with mostly 'white' former Dutch secondary school teachers and with former mostly 'Black' students and found that textbooks employed colour-blind racist frames regarding black history and that white former teachers consistently made use of colour-blind discourses to make sense of 'race,' while only a small number of those interviewed utilized racially essentialist and anti-racist discourses. She persuasively demonstrates that colour-blindness continues to be an influential force in education despite the growth of biological racism. Sijpenhof approached the podium and thanked ISCHE as well as her advisors for the mentoring and support during her research.

9. Portuguese as an ISCHE Language

KP asked the assembly to consider this point together with the next one on ISCHE's Language Policy, as they are interconnected. KP informed the assembly that the Brazilian and Portuguese History of Education societies had asked ISCHE to accept Portuguese as a fifth official ISCHE language and to put their request on the agenda. The Executive Committee unanimously acknowledged the substantial contribution of the Portuguese-speaking community to our society and decided to put this request on the agenda, but also thought that this request also should lead to a broader discussion on ISCHE's language policy – thus the need to consider both issues together.

KP reminded the assembly that neither ISCHE's constitution nor its byelaws mention *official* ISCHE languages. She stated that ISCHE handled languages always flexible upon agreement – often depending on local audiences at ISCHE conferences. ISCHE also organized multilingual panels. There was never a vote or a legally binding decision on any of the ISCHE languages that are currently used, and she saw this proposition as an opportunity to establish some rules of communication which can be developed by an ISCHE language policy working group. These rules should protect linguistic diversity and foster communication between all our members.

KP invited the presidents of the Portuguese and Brazilian Associations for the History of Education to approach the podium and address the assembly. She remarked the importance that all associations feel free to present their motions to the GA. Carlos Eduardo Vieira, from the SBHE, and Joaquim Pintassilgo, from the SPHE, spoke to the members about why they propose to include Portuguese as another language of communication between ISCHE members. Carlos Vieira stated that the SBHE does not intend to increase fragmentation but rather communication among members, and that the SBHE will always be respecting the decisions of the Society about which language is more appropriate to a multilingual community. He said that this motion is related to giving recognition to Portuguese as a language of scientific communication, and also to the role of the Brazilian and Portuguese historians of education in the development of the communities of history of education. The Portuguese and Brazilian Societies have a work in common, which is expressed in joint conferences, as well as with other Ibero-American societies (i.e., COLUBHE, conference of Portuguese and Brazilian historians of education, and CIHELA, conference of Ibero-American historians of education). Both Brazil and Portugal have organized ISCHE conferences in the past. The motion is thus intended to provide recognition of Portuguese language and to the contribution of the Lusophone community to the field of the history of education.

Joaquim Pintassilgo stated that the SPHE is pleased that the proposal has enabled a further debate on the issue of language and about which the official languages of ISCHE are. He noted that in recent years, the number of Portuguese speaking participants in conferences has been rising. He underlined that cultural and linguistic plurality is a landmark of ISCHE. He said that the SPHE is in favor of an easy and friendly communication between participants, and the motion does not contradict the use of English as a sort of lingua franca. But accepting Portuguese as another language in ISCHE would, in his opinion, provide recognition to this plurality of languages and to the value of Portuguese as scientific language. He valued the open and dialogical way that ISCHE is finding to deal with issues like this.

KP invited the members to express their thoughts on this issue. Hannah Adebola Aderonke Okediji from Nigeria said that we should welcome everybody, and that increasing language diversity is part of the move to include other people and to grow as an association.

Therèse Hamel addressed the audience in French, saying she did it in purpose, to highlight that we are already a multilingual society and that accepting Portuguese is another step in the same direction of opening up to diversity. She stated that it is totally normal (*c'est tout à fait normal*) to accept Portuguese considering the longstanding participation of the Brazilian and Portuguese colleagues.

KP invited those who oppose or feel contrary to this policy to present their arguments, but no member of the assembly made a statement. Finally, she asked the GA to come to a decision. KP asked all members of the GA who agree on Portuguese as an ISCHE language to say “aye”; she asked those opposed to say “ney” and finally asked for abstentions. All members agreed unanimously with an ‘aye’ without abstentions.

10. ISCHE Language Policy

The EC feels the need to deploy a broad discussion on this. KP stated that as already mentioned, the heterogeneous and multicultural composition of ISCHE’s membership creates a complex language situation and several languages coexist side by side. Therefore, the EC feels the need to deploy a broad language policy that should be flexible, adaptable and useful to its members as a tool for improving communication and worldwide exchange; prevent the risk of language segmentation and support our (self-) perception as an international, multilingual and plural organization; respect ISCHE’s legislative and administrative constraints of communication; and establish standards for implementing ISCHE’s conference tool. KP asked the General Assembly for a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to establish an ISCHE Language Policy Working Group that is to propose a language policy that will be collectively discussed at ISCHE 42 in Örebro and submitted for approval by the Executive Committee at ISCHE 43 in Milan. KP emphasized that the two-year time frame speaks to the need to consider these issues carefully and reach a broad agreement on this issue. Luis Grosso Correia presented the motion and Joaquim Pintassilgo seconded it. All members agree unanimously.

11. Election of new EC Members

KP noted that the General Assembly needed to fill two vacant positions on the EC and that in accordance with the procedures established in the ISCHE constitution two nominations have been received (and made available in the conference package). The two nominees were Antonio Canales (Universidad Complutense, Spain) and Beatrix Vincze (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary). Both candidates were invited to the podium to address the members. The election took place by vote and ballots were distributed, collected and counted by IF, AVG and Hilda Amsing. Later in the meeting, once the ballots had been counted, KP announced that both candidates received sufficient votes from the members present at the GA. Both nominees accepted the nomination and the assembly congratulated them on their election to the ISCHE EC committee.

12. ISCHE 42 Örebro 2020

Johannes Westberg reported on the preparations for next years' conference, to be held in Örebro in August, 19th-22nd 2020. The conference theme, still under preparation, will be "Looking from above and below: rethinking the social in the history of education".

13. ISCHE 42 Milan 2021

Simonetta Polenghi presented the initial plans for holding ISCHE's conference in Milan in 2021. The theme will be *Means and Tools for Education: Methods, Artifacts and Technologies*.

14. Discussion and approval of new SWGs

Some members proposed a new SWG that will be called "Observatory for the History of Education". It was presented by Lajos Somogyvári (Hungary), Marisa Bittar (Brazil) and Thérèse Hamel (Canada). This SWG stems out of the idea of regarding ISCHE as a "site" from which an international community of historians is able to observe the scope of its work by seeking to obtain a more wide-ranging and in-depth knowledge, and to strengthen the collaboration between researchers from all continents. As well as studies of journals and the academic output of theses, the SWG wishes to draw particular attention to the teaching of the History of Education in teacher-training courses, whose curricular presence is alarmingly declining. In addition, the SWG also intends to reflect on what forms the boundaries of the History of Education and its links with other areas of Education and the Human Sciences, at a time when the design of the humanities is being reshaped within universities.

The motion is presented by Joseph Hayes and seconded by Fanny Issensee. All members agree.

15. Additional recommendations from membership

No additional recommendations from members were expressed.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Submitted by Inés Dussel
Secretary of ISCHE