

Call for Papers:
ISCHE Standing Working Group (SWG) History of Education in African Societies

Deadline: January 15, 2026

Mission Statement of the History of Education in African societies SWG

The Standing Working Group (SWG) History of Education in African Societies aims to contribute to an enhanced structuring and visibility of African educational histories. We place ourselves in the wake of historians of Africa who have worked to overcome the long domination of a colonial history that relied only on sources produced by colonial actors. This history was ignoring the experience of African societies and agents, whether it be resistance, negotiation or creative appropriation (Summers, 2002). To this end, we suggest a reflection on the sources of the history of education in Africa, and on the perspectives they provide for research and teaching. In particular, we would like to reflect on how our sources help and hinder us to move away from a Eurocentric vision of school and childhood. Indeed, the fact that the institution of the school in Africa was predominantly developed on European models raises specific issues – can it be described, for instance, as the educationalisation of African societies (Smeyers and Depaepe (eds.) 2008) ? This particular development prevents us to see that on the African continent school not necessarily is the only place for socialisation and education in childhood.

We particularly invite pieces of research from across the African continent and the Indian Ocean islands, but also from the Black Atlantic. Beyond these contexts, we are also interested in reflections on educational circulations between Africa and other regions of the world, especially other continents of the South: Asia, South America, Oceania, which were also formerly subject to colonial empires.

Call for Papers for ISCHE 47 in Athens, Greece

For the upcoming ISCHE conference, the SWG invites submissions that fit the conference theme, “Sources and Research Practices in the History of Education: Challenges and Perspectives”. We are seeking papers that focus on sources and research practices in the context of History of Education in African societies.

We encourage papers from scholars based on the African continent and those who use archival and/or oral sources in African languages.

The SWG will assemble online and onsite sessions and receive proposals in English and French.

Submission process

Proposals should be no longer than 500 words, excluding keywords and bibliography.

Please submit your proposal through the ISCHE electronic submission system (Conftool), by selecting the respective SWG in the Abstracts area where you can also choose the language and way of participating.

The deadline for submission of papers to the SWG is January 15, 2026.

Participants will be informed by March 20, 2026.

Online meetings of the SWG History of Education in African Societies

If you wish to get information about four online meetings of our Standing Working Group that will take place between November and June 2026, please contact Pierre Guidi (pierre.guidi@ird.fr).

Convenors:

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