

CALL FOR PAPERS ISCHE 47 (Athens, 15-18 July 2026)

PUBLIC HISTORIES OF EDUCATION SWG

Deadline: January 15, 2026

Historians of education have been working for decades with diverse audiences connected by an interest in school history, memory, and heritage, engaging not only outside academia and with the public but also in collaboration with various community groups. In recent years, there has been a growing interest in Public History as an academic discipline that follows similar principles, prompting many historians of education to expand their research agendas accordingly (Herman et al., 2022).

The concept of Public History relates to oral history, studies on collective memory and cultural heritage, and the so-called 'history from below' (Myers et al., 2018). This shift has led not only to a reconsideration of subjects to study but also to a transformation of the entire process of historical reconstruction, aiming to be more participatory and collaborative through cooperation between academic historians and different communities (Frisch, 1990; Noiret et al., 2022). Today, Public History appears to have ushered in an era of shared authority among academics, the public, and community participants, making historical knowledge and narratives more inclusive and democratic (Facer et al., 2017; Ayers, 2018).

In the context of **ISCHE 47** and in connection with the main theme of the congress, **Sources and Research Practices in the History of Education: Challenges and Perspectives**, the convenors of the Standing Working Group aim to establish an international forum for debate on how Public History challenges traditional concepts of "sources" and introduces new research practices. Public History inherently questions the exclusivity of the archive and valid historical evidence, often turning to oral testimonies, material culture, and community memories as primary resources.

Studying the history of education from a public history perspective involves reconsidering the nature of the source itself. It requires methodologies that not only analyze documents but co-create them with communities, addressing the ethical dilemmas and the plurality of narratives that emerge. To build a shared understanding of the Public History of Education related to sources and research practices, we invite papers focusing on:

- **Exhibitions and Museums of Education:** The use of objects, school artifacts, photographs, and iconography in exhibitions and public museography as sources for understanding the educational past.
- **Digital Sources and Practices:** The use of social media, digital archives, and interactive platforms not just as dissemination tools, but as sources of historical data and spaces for public dialogue.

- **The nature of "public" sources:** How participatory and community history projects generate new types of sources (oral histories, community archives, family collections) and how they challenge official archival politics.
- **Memory as Source:** Methodological challenges in using individual and collective memory, oral history, and life stories in public history projects.
- **Representations as Sources:** Analyzing representations of education in audiovisual, artistic, and literary media (cinema, documentaries, literature, popular culture) and how these public sources shape social perceptions of education.
- **The Historian's Practice:** Reflections on the changing role of the historian—not just as an interpreter of sources, but as a facilitator, curator, or mediator in the recovery and public dissemination of educational history.

The convenors of the Public History of Education Standing Working Group offer both on-site and online presentations.

Submission process

Proposals should be no longer than 500 words, excluding keywords and bibliography. For the submission of papers to the SWG, please see the website:

<https://www.ische.org>

Please submit your proposal through the ISCHE electronic submission system 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.

Link to ConfTool:

<https://www.conftool.org/ische47>

Convenors

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