

**Antonis Liakos**

**Report of the ICHTH President  
for the period 2010-2015**

During this period the activity of ICHTH comprised eight workshops and conferences, organized or co-organized by the Commission, and the founding of a prize for the best thesis, or alternatively, the best essay on the history/theory of historiography

**2011**

1st meeting of the Board in Sofia, Bulgaria. Workshop on the “Historian’s Responsibility in the 21st Century” (organized by Diana Mishkova, supported by the Berendel Foundation/Sorin Antohi, and “The Research Project Europe 1815-1914” directed by Bo Stråth).

The question of the conference was how to recapitalize the historical and theoretical thinking of the last decades in order to encourage the distanciation from the present orthodoxies and to establish critical perspectives. A first focus was related to the question of how historians could intervene to change the prevailing discourse on Globalisation. A second focus considered the question about the public role of history in an age when there exist numerous forms of representing the past (docudramas, historical novels, etc.), and when a mixture of democracy and identity politics (many more voices being heard) means that there are numerous competing accounts of 'the' past. Finally, a third focus was suggested by historians living and working in countries with tormented pasts.

During the meeting was founded the International prize on Historiography and Theory of History, and a subcommittee for setting up the international prize by the ICHTH was formed by Chris Lorenz, Ewa Domanska, and Effi Gazi. The meeting decided that the prize will be named “International Prize for the History and Theory of Historiography.” Hayden White committed \$500 per year for the following three years in a total of \$1,500. The cash amount of the prize was tentatively set at \$250 for the recipient.

The prize would be given annually to either a Ph.D. recipient with a dissertation on historical theory and/or historiography or a senior scholar with a book published in the field. The first prize, was given in 2013, to the Thesis of Berber Bevernage *History, Memory, and State-Sponsored Violence*. In Sofia also was decided which the panels to propose to the Jinan Conference in 2015.

**2012**

Conference in Bochum, “The Historian as Engaged Intellectual: Historical Writing and Social Criticism”. The conference was hosted by Stefan Berger in the Institute of Social Movements, House for the History of the Ruhr, Ruhr-University Bochum, 19–21 September 2012.

The aim of this conference was to discuss the relationship between historical writing and social criticism – with a focus on twentieth-century historiography and on global perspectives. In the second part of the conference, we dealt with the historian as engaged intellectual in Asia, mainly in China and Japan, and in the third part with the experience of historians in Brazil and India.

During the Board meeting we have discussed the important of synergy with the Network of Historical Theory in Ghent, and the Association of History of Historiography in Brazil. We had decided also to propose one or two panels in Brazil.

At the same year, our commission participated to the General Assembly of the CISH, which took place in Budapest, invited by the Hungarian National Committee, regarding decisions on the organization of this conference in Jinan.

During the same year, in Taipei, Taiwan (11-12 October 2012), ICHTH was co-organizer of a conference in the National University of Taipei, with the title "Historical Studies and Humanism, An Intercultural Perspective".

### **2013**

Workshop (8 March 2015): "Violence and the Sacred in a Post-Secular Age. Challenges and Future Perspectives of Historical Theory", Poznan, Poland (organized by Ewa Domanska).

Board Meeting in Poznan: Regarding the Hayden White Prize, we had 10 candidates, and we formed a jury by Chris Lorenz, Estevão de Rezende Martins, Ewa Domanska, and Edoardo Tortarolo. We have decided also for the Nomination Committee for New President, consisted by Masayuki Sato, Antonis Liakos, Diana Mishkova and Kalle Pihlainen.

### **2014**

Two Board meetings: one in Brazil (Berger, Tortarolo, de Rezende Martins, Liakos), the other in Cyprus (Berger, Lorenz, Liakos).

Brazil, Minas Gerais, Ouro Preto, Impressive conference of Brazilian Society for History and Theory of Historiography. Mass participation of young people, a strong interest in theory of historiography. The concluding panel was formed by members of ICHTH.

During the Bureau meeting was discussed the need to collaborate with the emerging new associations of theory of history, and to extent our Board membership to their representatives. The suggestion was to have associate members with full rights, coming from networks and reviews of history.

Second meeting in Cyprus, during the International Conference "Historical Culture in Divided Societies. From Theory to Practice" (18th-20th December 2014), hosted by the society for the dialogue of the two communities of the divided island in the green zone of the divided city.

In Cyprus we have discussed three topics:

- To go ahead with the ICHTH prize (or the Hayden White Prize) for the second year, this time for books (not PhD as in the previous year). We have asked from Chris Lorenz to be head of the new sub-committee. So if there is no objection, we should ask him to propose the members of the prize sub-committee, and to precede advertizing the prize and setting deadlines for submissions of the books.
- To orientate to a more close relationship with the Network of Theory of History (based in Ghent) and if possible to have some of the Network people to the new Board members.
- It was expressed the idea to restraint the period of participating to the Board in ten years, that is for two five-year periods, so to ensure a turn-over of members. It's an old and recurring idea to transform the Commission into a members' based association. If the idea is accepted, we could open the discussion on how to achieve it, and we could decide in Jinan in August 2015, after having communicating the proposal with all the members of ICHTH.

## **2015**

International conference: “History and Historiography in the 20th century”, Athens, 18-20 June 2015. Meetings between the members of the Board and members of the nomination committee regarding the new president and the new Board members.

### **XXII International Congress of Historical Sciences, 23-28 August 2015, Jinan, China**

ICHTH supported the following sessions:

- “Crisis and social representations of history in the post-1989 era” (specialized theme organized by Antonis Liakos and Chris Lorenz);
- “Writing History in Exile: Structures, Agendas, Personalities” (specialized theme organized by Stefan Berger);
- “The Use and Abuse of History” (joint session organized by Antoon de Baets and Sacha Zala);
- “Memory Wars: History Education between Politics, Scholarship, and the Media” (joint session organized by Simone Lässig);
- “Contemporary Art and the Future of History” (round table organized by Ewa Domanska).

### **Board meeting, 28 August 2015, Jinan**

State of the Board: Staying members: 1) Ewa Domanska, 2) Qineng Chen, 3) Chris Lorenz, 4) Estevão de Rezende Martins, 5) Sanjay Seth, 6) Edward Wang, 7) Edoardo Tortarolo, 8) Stefan Berger and Antonis Liakos (as ex-president for one term).

Retired members: 1) Hayden White, 2) Frank Ankersmit, 3) Jörn Rüsen, 4) Diana Mishkova and Masayuki Sato as ex-president in 2005-2010.

Proposed new members:

1) Dipesh Chakrabarty (USA), 2) Veronica Tozzi (Argentina), 3) Eiji Takemura (Japan), 4) Berber Bevernage (Belgium)