The French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre was a merciless critic of General Charles de Gaulle's politics during the Algerian war of independence. In 1960, he signed the “Manifesto of 121,” a declaration on the right of insubordination in the Algerian war. There were calls to arrest him for subversive activities, but de Gaulle refused categorically, saying: “On n'emprisonne pas Voltaire!” (You do not imprison Voltaire). He understood that Sartre, as the conscience of his time, was untouchable. Many other political leaders were aware of the influence of intellectuals, perhaps even more in dictatorships than democracies. In the Soviet Union, the poet Boris Pasternak was distrusted but also admired by the authorities. A poet of sorts himself, Joseph Stalin revered Pasternak's power of expression. Rumour had it that, on being presented with documents for the poet’s arrest, Stalin objected while observing: “Do not touch this cloud-dweller…” This leniency did not prevent Stalin from approving the execution of countless other intellectuals, including a record number of historians, the highest of any regime in world history.

We are familiar with the power of freedom of expression exercised by intellectuals precisely because it has been violated so often. Historians have always been among the prime victims. Mikhail Gefter’s case in the Soviet Union is telling. In Leonid Brezhnev's time, the History Institute of the Academy of Sciences had a “methodological sector,” an interdisciplinary theory of history group under Gefter's direction. In 1966, the sector discussed whether Russia before 1917 could be called capitalist and hence whether the October Revolution was a socialist one, thus throwing doubt on the paramount historical dogma of Marxism-Leninism: historical materialism. Gefter's keynote could only be published in the underground press. The sector was harassed and eventually suspended in 1969; Gefter was dismissed and reprimanded for “mistakes of a methodological and ideological character.” He never admitted any such mistakes. After renewed attacks in 1973, he retired early only to be rehabilitated in the late 1980s. The power of intellectuals to speak out has been feared and attacked by political leaders, as the reports of Scholars at Risk and the Network of Concerned Historians amply attest.

While freedom of expression is widely reported upon because it is breached so frequently, freedom of thought is usually glossed over, although both are twin articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is not because freedom of thought is considered less important than freedom of expression, quite the opposite: it is held in the highest esteem. Remember the words of novelist
Vladimir Nabokov: “I think like a genius, I write like a distinguished author, and I speak like a child.” Or, similarly, those of biologist Edward O. Wilson: “The ideal scientist thinks like a poet and works like a bookkeeper, and I suppose that if gifted with a full quiver, he also writes like a journalist.” Die Gedanken sind frei: thoughts are free.

Why then is it underestimated? Freedom of thought refers to the private forum internum, freedom of expression to the public forum externum. The distinction goes back to the sixteenth century. The forum internum is the realm of conscience and critical thinking. Within this realm of the mind, individuals are free to develop, hold and change thoughts and opinions – including memories – without coercion or interference. The forum externum is the external manifestation of these thoughts and opinions and such manifestations are subject to some narrow restrictions. In human rights doctrine, freedom of thought enjoys an almost mythical status: it is not only universal (applicable to everyone), but also, unlike most other rights, absolute (it can never be restricted) and non-derogable (it must be fully respected during public emergencies). Its unconditional protection is beyond discussion. Sadly, for this very reason, it has been the least explored of human rights.

This self-complacent attitude has changed recently, however. In 2021, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, decided to devote a report for the United Nations General Assembly to freedom of thought, after consultations with civil society (this author was one of his respondents). For Shaheed, René Descartes's dictum “Je pense, donc je suis” (I think, therefore I am) spoke to the essence of freedom of thought for the dignity, agency, and existence of the human being. Drawing on international jurisprudence, scholarship, and the perspectives of diverse stakeholders, he examined four proposed attributes of the right: freedom not to disclose one's thoughts; freedom from punishment for one's thoughts; freedom from impermissible alteration of one's thoughts; and an enabling environment for freedom of thought. He then scrutinized potential violations of the right across seven diverse fields: torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; surveillance; coercive proselytism, anti-conversion and anti-blasphemy efforts; existing and emerging technologies; mental health; conversion practices; and intellectual freedom and education. The latter included practices that undermine critical thinking; political indoctrination, deradicalization, and re-education programs; self-censorship; and biased content curation by digital companies. In this context, Shaheed warned, history was one of the most vulnerable subjects at school.

Our thoughts are our most precious asset. We, cloud-dwellers, should ask the state and society to leave us alone while we work. We are willing to share our views in the public arena, but not until we are ready for it. In my inaugural address before our Board, I expressed the hope that all those interested in the history and theory of historiography: the hedgehogs and foxes (Isaiah Berlin's distinction) as well as the birds and frogs (Freeman Dyson's distinction). I wish that all perceive our Commission as a natural home for their activities. And I see the president of the Commission as a porter inviting people in to speak and listen. And above all to think. Aware of the fragility of thought, our Commission should contribute to a world where the integrity of the forum internum is respected and protected.
ICHHS 23RD CONGRESS REPORT

The 23rd Congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (ICHS) took place in Poznan, Poland from August 21-27 2022 at the Adam Mickiewicz University. This intellectual feast attracted over 900 participants (both physical and virtual). According to official Congress sources, 535 papers were presented in 93 panels. Highlights of the Congress included: three Keynote Addresses delivered by Olufunke Adeboye, Dipesh Chakrabarty and Ewa Domanska at the Opening Ceremony; and the International Prize for History awarded to Sanjay Subrahmanyam. The next Congress in 2026 is scheduled to hold in Jerusalem, Israel.

ICHTH member Norbert Fabian wrote a review of the Congress: “Quo vadis history?”, available on H-Soz-Kult at http://www.hsozkult.de/conferencereport/id/fdkn-133354
HONORARY MEMBERS

The ICHTH over the years has accorded special recognition to a few of its members for their scholarly distinction and past contributions to the Commission and the general field of historiography. This issue of the newsletter shall begin to serialize their key achievements. The complete list of Honorary Members is available on the ICHTH website at https://www.ichth.net/content/honorary.html

NATALIE ZEMON DAVIS

is among the world’s most highly respected historians and is Henry Charles Lea Professor Emerita at Princeton University having previously taught at the University of Toronto, the University of California (Berkeley) and Brown University. A pioneering scholar of women’s history (Women on the Margins 1995) and of history from below (Society and Culture in Sixteenth-Century France 1975), her work has ranged from uncovering the lives of sixteenth-century French women and men (The Return of Martin Guerre 1983) to exploring the role of the gift in early modern society. Noted for her ability to combine history with anthropology and literary theory, Prof. Davis has also been highly influential historiographically, investigating such issues as the reliability of past testimony (Fiction in the Archives 1987), and cross-cultural communica-

ROMILA THAPAR

has transformed our understanding of Indian history and historians, and generated novel insights into the purpose and politics of histories. Her tenacious and even courageous use of scientific methodologies for the study of ancient history has shaped over 20 monographs and edited works, including The Past as Present: Forging Contemporary Identities Through History
has been in an influential voice in historiography for six decades. Both a polyglot and a leading scholar of early modern cultural history, he has been an important mediator between continental (and, latterly, Latin American) and Anglo-American traditions of historical writing, and between history as a discipline and the social sciences.

A prolific author, he has written, edited or co-edited many books, book chapters, and articles that have had continuing impact on the study and teaching of the history and theory of historical writing and scholarship. These include The Renaissance Sense of the Past (1969), The French Historical Revolution: The Annales School 1929-89 (1990), Varieties of Cultural history (1997), and What is the History of Knowledge? (2015). [by Daniel Woolf]

PREVIOUS LAUREATES OF BOOK PRIZES.

2022 ICHTH – INTTH Book Prize
• Hans Ruin, Being with the Dead: Burial, Ancestral Policies and the Roots of Historical Consciousness (Stanford University Press, 2018).

2018 ICHTH Doctoral Dissertation Prize
• Ritwik Bhattacharyya, Homo Ahistoricus: Disavowal of History in Colonial South Asian Writing [award].
• Alexander Maar, Cause, Chance, Determinism and Counterfactuals in History [honourful mention].

2016 ICHTH Book Prize
• Jouni Matti Kuukkanen, Postnarrativist Philosophy of Historiography (Palgrave 2015).

2013 ICHTH Doctoral Dissertation Prize
ANNOUNCEMENTS
NEW PUBLICATIONS

Professor Sanjay Seth, University of London

Professor Herman Paul, Leiden University

Professor Diana Mishkova, Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia
• Diana Mishkova, Beyond Balkanism. The Scholarly Politics of Region Making (Routledge, 2019)
• Diana Mishkova, Rival Byzantiums. Empire and Identity in Southeastern Europe (Cambridge University Press, 2022)

Associate Professor Tyson Retz, University of Stavanger
• Tyson Retz, Progress and the Scale of History, Cambridge Element in the series Historical Theory and Practice, (Ed.) Daniel Woolf.

张作成 (Zhang Zuocheng), Ph.D. History department at Northeast Normal University

Professor Jaume Aurell, University of Navarra (Spain)

Associate Professor Vilmos Erős, University of Debrecen, Institute for History.


• ---- “Hungarian historiography in foreign

Dr Dobre Claudia-Florentina, Nicolae Iorga” Institute of History, Romanian Academy, Bucharest

Norbert Fabian, Lecturer Ruhr-University Bochum / Institute for Social Movements
• ---- “Zum Lernen aus der Geschichte. Geschichtsforschung, Geschichtstheorie und Geschichtsdidaktik”, in: geschichte für heute, 2023/1, S. 37-52
• ---- “Quo vadis history? Zum Welthistorikerkongress in Poznan 2022”, in: HsozKult, 2023/1 (Kongressbericht)

Professor Ewa Domanska, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland.

PERSONAL NEWS/HONOURS

Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington, University of South Australia
• Became an Officer in the Order of Australia for distinguished service to higher education governance, leadership and mentoring.

Professor Diana Mishkova, Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia
• 2023 (Feb.): Konstantin Jireček Medal granted by the German Southeast European Association (Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft) for “outstanding contributions and achievements in international research on Southeast Europe”.
• 2022: Danubius Award granted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research for “achievements in science and research in and for the Danube region”.
• 2019: Doctor Honoris Causa of Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden
• 2018: Foreign Corresponding Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

Associate Professor Vilmos Erős, University of Debrecen, Institute for History
• Award of "Doctor Scientiae" title from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Associate Professor Tyson Retz, University of Stavanger
• Joined the Editorial Board of the History Education Research Journal, published open-access by UCL Press.

Professor Davide Cadeddu, University of Milan
• Promoted to Full Professor at the University of Milan.
• Nominated Life Member of the college Clare Hall, Cambridge.
UPCOMING EVENTS
COMMISSION UPDATES

- The ICHTH website has a page with links: https://www.ichth.net/content/links.html

The page includes links to international networks, collective works, journals, blogs, and book series in our field. For practical reasons, the page excludes works of individual authors or initiatives of merely national scope, but please send any other suggestions to info@ichth.net.

Submitted by ICHTH President, Professor Antoon Baets, University of Groningen

História da Historiografia - International Journal of Theory and History of Historiography invites researchers to submit proposals for a special issue to be published in 2024. Proposals should have two to four proponents (guest editors) and they should be submitted through our online form. The deadline for submission is March 1st, 2023. We are happy to answer any questions you may have via our e-mail: historiadahistoriografia@hotmail.com.

Online form link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBkraXJSoFammmxmH_ASk_UC_WAtgu1OPEpZT-rjHI4Oukxg/viewform Submitted by Professor Joao Ohara

CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOPS/ TRAININGS

- III. International Conference in Debrecen (Hungary), November, 2023.

Submitted by Associate Professor Vilmos Erös, University of Debrecen


Submitted by Norbert Fabian, Lecturer Ruhr-Universität Bochum / Institute for Social Movements

- The Betty Behrens Seminar on Classics of Historiography

Location: Clare Hall, University of Cambridge
Time: 2-4 pm
Speakers: Timothy Rood (University of Oxford)
David Wootton (University of York)
George Garnett (University of Oxford)
Richard J. Evans (University of Cambridge)
Convenor: Davide Cadeddu (University of Milan)
Program: 16 February – Timothy Rood, “Anabasis” (IV c. BC) by Xenophon
23 February – David Wootton, “Le Siècle de Louis XIV” (1751) by Voltaire
2 March – George Garnett, “Historia novorum in Anglia” (c. 1115) by Eadmer

Website: https://www.clarehall.cam.ac.uk/events/bettybehrensseminar23/

For further information: davide.cadeddu@unimi.it
Submitted by Professor Davide Cadeddu, (University of Milan)

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- Tyson Retz is receiving applications for enrollment in the PhD course "Hermeneutics: An Introduction" (5ECTS), to be held in Stavanger, Norway, and online in early May. Be in contact with Tyson for further details tyson.retz@uis.no

Submitted by Associate Professor Tyson Retz, University of Stavanger
International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography  BOARD

Executive Team
- President: Antoon De Baets – University of Groningen, The Netherlands.
- Vice-President: Olufunke Adeboye – University of Lagos, Nigeria.
- Secretary-General and Program Chair: Marnie Hughes-Warrington – University of Australia.
  South Australia,
- Secretary-General and Program Chair: Daniel Woolf – Queen’s University, Canada.

Prize Coordinators
- Berber Bevernage - University of Ghent, Belgium
- Marek Tamm - Tallinn University, Estonia

Members
- Dipesh Chakrabarty - University of Chicago, United States
- Efi Gazi - University of the Peloponnese, Greece
- Allan Megill - University of Virginia, United States
- Sanjay Seth - University of London, United Kingdom
- Verónica Tozzi - Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Xupeng Zhang - Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China
- Ewa Domanska - Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland

Follow ICHTH activities on the new website: https://www.ichth.net

ICHTH Members are requested to pay their annual fees. More information about annual fees is available at https://www.ichth.net/content/membership.html or write to info@ichth.net

The next ICHTH Newsletter is scheduled for October 2023. Please send relevant news to the Newsletter editor anytime at https://forms.gle/cV7N8rqb5YJWUQcM8

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