


2023_GA_M	GENERAL ASSEMBLY			
Meeting	General Assembly at the Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Education and Psychology (Kazinczy u. 23–27.) in Budapest			
	Minutes	Date	2023-07-20	
Created by	Angelo Van Gorp	Start	3:35 pm CET	
	Secretary	End	4:30 pm CET	
Participants	EC members: Antonio Canales (AC), Angelo Van Gorp (AVG), Béatrix Vincze (BV), Christine Ogren (CO), Felicitas Acosta (FA), Inés Dussel (ID), Juri Meda (JM), Karin Priem (KP), Lisa Rosén Rasmussen (LR), Matilda Keynes (MK) Number of attendees (ISCHE members including EC members): 114			
Guests				
Not present				

This General Assembly takes place both in person and in Zoom. ID welcomes the attendees, thanks the LOC and explains the electronic voting system.

1. Approval of the agenda

ID introduces the agenda. Rebecca Rogers motions to accept the agenda. Inês Felix seconds the motion. The agenda is approved. No one opposes the motion.

2. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly, Milan, Sept. 2, 2022

The GA took place both in person and online and voting was conducted exclusively online making use of the voting system aDoodle. Sjaak Braster passes the motion to approve the minutes. Diana Vidal seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

3. Confirmation of Lisa Rosén Rasmussen's appointment

ID explains the mistake that was made in the interpretation of the voting results at the GA in Milan and shows the corresponding clauses of the constitution. LRR will need more than 50 % of the valid ballots in order to be elected, which was not the case. The conflicting clauses will be revised to avoid confusion in the future. Members need to cast a new vote for LRR to confirm last year's vote. LRR will only be elected as from now but the 3-years term is running since last year. The vote is conducted making use of the voting system aDoodle and LRR's appointment is confirmed with a majority of the votes received.

Out of 114 votes: 82 yes, 2 no, 30 abstain.

4. President's report.

ID starts with some comments on the Budapest conference and membership. She explains that there are approx. 450 registered participants, among which 165 Early Career Researchers (ECRs), which is the highest proportion of ECRs since counting started. ECR membership has doubled since last year, from 54 to 114. This has been gradually realized by institutional decisions and the work of several people, among whom Ian Grosvenor, Inês Félix, KP, and MK, as well as AVG, who is responsible for the HEDSS Summer School that also contributes to this growth. Following on the steps of the ECR Tinkering Initiative (initially coordinated by Inês Félix), this year a more permanent *ECR Advisory Group* has been established, which includes 10 members and is coordinated by MK, the actual ECR representative on the EC. This group focusses on developing an ECR Strategy for the next two years and analyzing the results of a 2023 survey launched to get to know more about ECR profiles and interests, as well as the support needed from ISCHE. One remarkable insight is that ECRs would like ISCHE to provide more opportunities for networking, connection, and funding in-between conferences. Due to the lasting effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided to continue offering two formats for participation at the annual conference: in person and online. The proportion of in person and online participants has remained steady in 2022 and 2023, with almost

75% opting for coming to the conference venue and c. 25% joining the online conference. The online option has proven useful for both colleagues from distant countries and ECRs, who account for half of the online participants. This year's participants come from 46 countries from all over the world. A preliminary analysis of our membership numbers shows that our association, which was born as mainly European, is becoming more plural in terms of the institutions in which our members are working at. Trends in how this translates into attendance numbers change yearly due to locations, conference dates, and particular junctures.

ID continues with some notes on management-related topics. *ConfTool* has been implemented as online conference system in 2021 and made ISCHE self-reliant in terms of conference management and financial transactions. This decision not only resulted in less overhead costs but also provides support to LOCs with limited management infrastructures and more transparent financial management, review procedures and final decision-making on submissions. It also allows to make informed decisions about structure and budget. ID thanks Angelika Wegscheider and Jenny Berger from the office in Berlin for making this system to work. On November 18, 2022, ISCHE signed a new affiliation agreement with *Taylor & Francis*, with which the agreement ended that trusted the publisher with the management of ISCHE membership. ISCHE launched a membership campaign in late 2022, which has been quite successful. As of July 4, 2023, we have 348 members, an increase of more than 10% compared to last year. As was decided in the last GA, and approved by the German authorities, changes have been made to both the Constitution and the Byelaws, which allows for managing some decision-making online. The EC continues working on improving the Constitution, which has to be streamlined to current needs. Recommendations will be presented at the 2024 conference.

The *Language Policy Working Group* submitted its report at a meeting with the EC just after the Milan conference. Their recommendations included being multilingual but remaining flexible in its adaptation. Members are invited to keep thinking about how ISCHE can remain a pluralistic and international association, and that means that even though English is increasingly used, there is no lingua franca that is equally accessible to all participants, and tensions can arise when using only one language. For future conferences, there is no requirement for translations into all ISCHE languages, but English would be the minimum. This is a sensitive issue and changes should not be rushed. ISCHE need to strike the right balance between finding a language to communicate in and maintaining diversity and pluralism. Multilingualism is a dynamic process and depends heavily on the composition of conference participants, so it may change annually. In future conferences, the EC wants to organize "conceptual cafés" or Tertulias for those interested in issues of translation and interpretation across languages, a kind of "Lost in Translation" meetings that can catalyze further reflections and actions in our conferences.

In regard to capacity building, ID continues with providing information on the *ISCHE book series Global Histories of Education*, which continues to thrive with two more books published this year. Since its launching in 2019, it has published nine books. The editorial board is currently coordinated by Christian Ydesen, and includes Linda Chisholm, Eugenia Roldán and Klaus Dittrich, to whom ISCHE is grateful for their time and energy. The *2023 ISCHE First Book Award* Committee (Marc Depaepe, Simonetta Polenghi, Joakim Landahl, Terciane Luchese and Michael Hevel) received 13 submissions, which were read and assessed rigorously. This year's award is granted to Jil Winandy (cf. below). ID thanks the members of the committee, as well as to all those young scholars who submitted their work for this award. The *ISCHE Early Career Conference Paper Award* considers papers presented at last year's conference. This year's committee was presided by Simonetta Polenghi, and included Anna Debè and Dario De Salvo, and it received three submissions. The winner of the 2022 Award is Lucila da Silva (cf. below). The EC would like to see more submissions in all of the ISCHE languages. Submissions for the 2023 award are due in September 2023. ISCHE would also like to continue providing financial support to the HEDSS Summer School in the form of travel grants to participants from low-GDP countries. HEDSS is one of the ECR work pillars, and a great opportunity for networking and lasting connections.

At present there are six *Standing Working Groups* (SWGs), which have provided a venue for developing research programs and intellectual projects with some continuity. Three SWGs will end

in 2023. This GA will decide on the establishment of a new SWG on Public History (cf. below). The EC intends to make the work done by SWGs more visible through special webinars, more presence in the ISCHE website, and more connections to other initiatives such as the ECR strategy and ISCHE book series.

ID concludes with the *ISCHE Education & Pandemics Archive* (<https://www.ische.org/education-and-pandemics-archive/#/>), which was initiated in 2020 launched in June 2021. As a follow-up project in connection with ISCHE's Salon initiative and with financial support from the Stichting Paedagogica Historica this web archive was an initiative of KP and Ian Grosvenor, who received support from an international team of ECRs. The web archive is designed and developed by Calibro. A key decision was to include not only sources that refer to COVID-19 but to extend the scope to other epidemics and pandemics, past and present. A student assistant, Sarah Gröschl (RPTU in Landau) prepares submissions for publication and is paid by ISCHE. At present, the archive consists of 217 entries, most of which are born-digital sources.

In her closing comments, ID thanks the attendees, and in particular the three EC members whose terms are ending in 2023: KP (who in the past year as former President has been participating as an ex-officio member on the EC), BV and TC.

5. Treasurer's Report 1 January-31 December 2022

This is my first year as treasurer and I owe a great thank to Angelika and Jenny in the ISCHE office in Berlin who are exceedingly competent in keeping order in the ISCHE finances - and always ready to answer any questions, that may arise. I must also thank Mark Overbake, the former treasurer for a patient handing over of the tasks.

First: There is a small error in the budget in the packet for the GA. The final sum of the end balance is €73.068 the circulated budget says €73.459.

2022 turned out to be a healthy financial year for ISCHE, adding €19.563 to the savings. This despite the onsite conference cost in Milan was €14.128 higher than first anticipated, mainly because of unexpected VAT. There was a good volume of onsite participants at the conference. In addition, the LOC with Simonetta Polenghi did a really good job in finding local funding. Moreover, the local committee waived their share of the surplus. So, thanks to the LOC in Milan 2022 gave ISCHE a good cushion in its budget.

For the programmatic expenses the pandemic archive project was granted more money in 2022 than in the estimated budget. It will show up in the 2023 budget because of late banking. This also goes for a few other smaller posts.

The amount set aside for the travel stipends for our ECRs for the ISCHE conference and for the Summer School were not used to the full. Keep the possibility for support in mind as it helps ECRs to start their engagement with ISCHE.

6. Approval of the 2022 budget and Exculpation of the EC for the year 2022

Noah Sobe moves to approve the budget. Pablo Toro Blanco seconds the motion. The budget has been approved.

7. Election of EC members

The vote is conducted making use of the voting system aDoodle. Both Luís Grosso Correia (82 out of 114) and Lajos Somogyvári (90 out of 114) have been elected with a majority of votes casted. BV, KP and TC receive a plaque as a token of thanks for the work done on the EC.

8. Approval of a new SWG on Public Histories of Education

ID presents a proposal for a new SWG on "Public Histories of Education", referring to the Tertulia and a symposium that have been organized on this theme during this year's conference. Convenors will be Gianfranco Bandini, Sjaak Braster, Francisca Comas Rubí, Karin Priem, and Sian

Roberts. Members need to approve the proposal by making use of the voting system aDoodle. The SWG is accepted with a majority of votes casted (75 out of 114).

9. ISCHE 2022 First Book Award

This year's prize is awarded to Jil Winandy (University of Vienna, Austria) for her book *National and Religious Ideologies in the Construction of Educational Historiography: the case of Felbiger and the normal method in nineteenth century teacher education* (Routledge, 2022). The book documents the reception of the pre-eminent Austrian school reformer Johann Ignaz Felbiger and his pedagogical thought in European histories of education in the 19th century. Through a strongly argued case study, which covers more than 200 years and multiple national contexts, Winandy's work demonstrates how national and religious ideological preferences have propelled the construction of fundamental biases in educational historiography. The research, based on a close analysis of historical documents, including charts and newspapers, and textbooks, reveals how a canon of glorified historical "heroes" have been promoted over and above other educational actors, with the aim of morally instructing future teachers according to national and religious values. The committee deeply values the excellence and thoroughness of Winandy's historical research and its international focus and scope, which includes sources from southern, central and Eastern Europe but also discusses its repercussions in North America. The work deploys an innovative and rigorous thinking, grounded on a remarkable methodological and historiographical awareness. The committee also wants to commend the extensive and original use of original and primary materials; the suitability and rigor of methodology; and her methods of analysis, which produce rich and complex arguments about the dissemination and reception of educational ideas. This will be a reference book for those interested in the history of teacher education and educational historiography, as well as for those interested in comparative histories of education.

10. Early Career Conference paper Award 2021

This year's prize is awarded to Lucila da Silva (CONICET/Universidad Nacional del Comahue, Argentina) for her paper entitled "Primary School Bathrooms as Hybrid Technologies: Materials, Objects and Practices (Buenos Aires, 1880-1930)" and presented at the ISCHE conference in Milan. This paper deals with a rather new topic, which has deserved little attention insofar: the history of school bathrooms. Through a well-written narrative and navigating a scattered and full-of-lacunae archive, the author manages to convincingly reconstruct how and why the school lavatories changed in the city of Buenos Aires between 1880 and 1930. Its research questions bring together the gendered dimension of schooling, the shifting boundaries between public and intimate behaviour, pedagogical debates on discipline and authority, and engineering and architectural developments. The methodology is solid and is based on a wide range of sources, from pedagogical treatises and journals to architectural plans and guidelines, which she uses with great skill. Her corpus also includes commercial catalogues and objects kept at museums of public works and sanitation, which shows the multiple possibilities opened by the material turn in the history of education. The committee particularly appreciated the interdisciplinary approach taken by this paper and the accuracy of the reconstruction of the debates and challenges faced by school sanitation policies in that period. Even if the period is long and she grapples with lots of sources, Da Silva constructs a clear and well-structured argument. This paper is a fine example of how an ECR can approach an original topic that requires much archival work and much effort in combining different kind of sources. It is also a work that one reads with pleasure.

11. Conversation/reflections on the future of our annual conferences: next steps

Since its first conference in 1979, ISCHE's life has pivoted around the annual conference, a fact that is acknowledged in its title. For many years, ISCHE was just a conference. It was only in 2015 that the decision was made to create an association set up on the model of a charity based on German law, which has its office in Berlin. The annual conferences have always been central spaces for the ISCHE community, and they have created and nurtured scholarly networks and new forms of knowledge production that have been very valuable. ISCHE has tried to keep fees low and promoted the inclusion of ECRs and scholars from low-income countries through reduced fees. With the Covid-19 pandemic, ISCHE has been forced to experiment with both the format of conferences and its fee structure. While online conferences provide more access to some groups,

they might become an obstacle for others. Yet, the occurrence of a meaningful encounter is never guaranteed and conferences have visible and hidden costs for several colleagues. Also, if the right conditions are provided, there can be significant connections and co-presence in virtual settings.

One of the issues the EC would like to discuss in the GA is how to carry on with ISCHE conferences in ways that are sustainable for the planet and inclusive for all members, but also affordable for LOCs and members alike, as well as protective of the attention and care that scholarly knowledge deserves. The EC would like to hear initial thoughts, will soon organize a survey to gather opinions and decide a way forward. As with the language policy, time is needed to consider all dimensions and, if necessary, to start experimenting with some of the options. Some of the questions the survey will cover: Should we move to a fully online conference? Should we alternate between online and onsite conferences? Should we move to biannual conferences, or stay with annual meetings, in whatever format we choose? Should we organize fully-hybrid conferences, even if this would scale up the costs? ID reports that, pending a decision, ISCHE will continue to organize on-site conferences and indicates that, based on conversations held, upcoming conferences could take place in France and Greece, respectively.

ID invites attendees to share their initial thoughts. Rebecca Rogers wonders who would be responsible for organizing fully online conferences. ID replies that this is indeed a matter of concern. Rebecca Rogers continues that simultaneously organized hybrid conferences would be most expensive and fully online conferences would be much less expensive. ID adds that the online format provides the opportunity of organizing in-between meetings. Eugenia Roldan adds that global developments will show the way and suggests to keep the current bimodal format and to wait and see, also depending on technology, war, and energy costs. ID emphasizes that climate change is an important concern, refers in this regard to a query made by the German History of Education Section to consider organizing biannual conferences, and ends with an invitation to members to letting know the EC if one would like to participate in an online meeting on this topic in autumn.

12. ISCHE 45 Natal, 2024

Cynthia Greive Veiga presents a video introducing Natal as venue of the next conference, which will take place in Natal, Brazil, August 18-21, 2024.

13. Additional recommendations from membership

There were no further points.