



## **General Assembly (GA)**

of the International Students of History Association, was held at the ISHA Autumn Seminar 2015 on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2016 in Graz, Austria.

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"Sensing the Past"  
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### **1) Opening**

President Daria Lohmann opens the General Assembly.

### **2) Appointment of Speaker**

Daria Lohmann, president of ISHA International, is appointed as speaker.

### **3) Appointment of Minute-Taker**

Elke Close, secretary, is appointed as minute-taker.

#### **4) Taking down of Attendance, checking the Quorum**

International Board:

President: Daria Lohmann (Berlin)  
Vice-presidents: Lisbeth Matzer (Graz)  
Anthony Grally (St Etienne)  
Secretary: Elke Close (Edinburgh)

Council Members:

Pia Nagl (Vienna)  
Nina Kraus (Berlin)  
Anna Vrtalkova (Prague)  
Vincent Regente (Berlin)

Carnival Editor-in-Chief

Flavia Tudini (Rome)

Member Sections:

Paris: Alexandre Faure, Lilla Zámbo  
Skopje: Vlamidir Kuhar  
Budapest: Dániel Molnár, Bence László Bari, Dorottya Bartha  
Helsinki: Hanna Marjorunta  
Graz: Maria Sonnleithner  
Kent: Ben Harding  
Nicosia: Stavroula Kozakou, Maria Sotiriou  
Berlin: Hannes Tabatt  
Vienna: Pia Nagl, Georg Gänser  
London: Alex Collin  
Leuven: Elke Close  
Sofia: Nadya Stork  
St Etienne: Anthony Grally  
Strasbourg: Coline Gutter  
Prague: Bara Hrubá

Observer Sections:

Marburg: Jan Brack  
Maribor: Domen Kodric  
Rome: Flavia Tudini  
Milan: Francesca Montecucco  
Edinburgh: Elke Close

Guests:

Mannheim: Miriam Eisleb, Simone Daumel

With 15 of 21 member sections there is a quorum.

## **5) Reading the agenda**

## **6) Review and approval of minutes of the GA in Skopje**

Minutes of the GA in Skopje were approved.

## **7) Upcoming events**

### ***a) New Year's Seminar 2016 in Marburg***

***Jan 04, 2016 – Jan 09, 2016***

#### ***"History and Fiction"***

Jan (Marburg) filled the GA in on some of the following details. ISHA Marburg can accommodate 40 participants for the seminar which will cost 80 euro. The Seminar programme is more or less complete but some of the evening programmes might change. The NDP, for example, might have to be held another day due to the early check out in hostel. There will be an organised day trip to Kassel to visit new museum about the Grimm brothers and the world heritage site of Wilhelmshöhe among others. Concerning the Workshops: they are planning to have 5 workshops including a PhD one. At the moment they have only 2 leaders and are thus going to hold a call for international workshop leaders with experience in order to keep up academic level. Ideally, there would be one experienced workshop-leader cooperating with a new one from Marburg. The call will be send to Nina who will put it on the website, Facebook, etc. The application period will be at the end of October: 26-30. They hope to have finished everything by then, including a description of seminar as well!

### ***b) Annual Conference 2016 in Kent, United Kingdom***

***Mar 28, 2016 – Apr 02, 2016***

#### ***"Sensing the Past"***

Ben (Kent) told the GA that they will have Workshops based on the five senses including a PhD Workshop led by Vincent (Berlin). The participation fee will be a 100 euro and accommodation is already booked for 85 people with the option of hosting several extra with ISHA Kent members. They are experiencing some issues with the money for the accommodation but are thinking of maybe booking another hostel in order to get as many participants as possible. There was some concern about the minimum required participants, though after checking the standing orders we concluded that there is no rule about a definite number. As Canterbury is an old city with a very famous cathedral, they are hoping to keep the programme more local particularly since transportation is

expensive. Ben also pointed out that the conference itself is held in the city of Canterbury, which is part of the county Kent.

***c) Summer Seminar in Osijek, Croatia  
Jul 11, 2016 – Jul 16, 2016***

There was no one present at the GA. We know that there are some troubles between the members and the local board but Daria and Anthony are currently looking into it.

***d) Autumn Seminar in Berlin, Germany  
September 2016***

Hannes (Berlin) gave the following information. The hostel is already booked and is close to the University which should be very easy to reach. The participation fee will be about 70-80 euros for 50 people. The idea is to work around a different concept with this seminar, mainly focusing on future jobs, possibilities, academic networking, museums, media institutions, etc. And thus prepare participants for the future by getting in contact with people who are already connected to these institutions and examining other focus points for history. They are planning on organising 7 workshops and a roundtable about different situations for history students in different countries with both Alumni and representatives from each participating section. They are thinking about going to Potsdam for the day trip which is close to Berlin but a different city altogether.

***e) Applications***

PARIS:

Lillá (Paris) tells the GA that ISHA Paris wants to organize a regional seminar next year between the Annual Conference and the Summer Seminar which would last about 5 days. It would be an interdisciplinary seminar about time and space with 50 participants and a participation fee of about 80 euros. They will give us more details as soon as possible.

HELSINKI AND TURKU:

Hanna (Helsinki) said that both sections want to arrange some local event but at the moment they are not sure about an exact time.

SOFIA:

Just like Helsinki and Turku, ISHA Sofia (Neda tells the GA) would like to do something though they not sure what yet, thinking most likely a regional seminar.

MANNHEIM:

Simone and Miriam (Mannheim) asked about the difference between annual conference and seminar. The main differences between them are the size and the duration of the event and the required presence of all the officials. Partners are welcome to attend the Conference as well.

MARBURG:

Jan (Marburg) said they have plans for a regional seminar with EGEA or other partners.

**8) State of Affairs**

***a) International Board***

PRESIDENT: Daria told GA that since her election at the GA in Bucharest in April, she has been talking about the plans for the upcoming year with the IB and Council even before officially starting her term in August. At the moment she is mostly concerned with the coordination of all of the projects and more importantly she is in contact with every section to see what is going on locally. She has sent around 40 e-mails but only received 7 answers, so she encourages every section to use their official e-mail and make sure that they respond to these e-mails. She has also contacted the Board of Patrons and the Policy Paper will be sent to all of the sections with details all about all goals for ISHA which most people should know by now: raise ISHA's image in every possible way, establish a fundraising committee and create a lasting alumni network.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Lisbeth has been quite busy organizing the Graz seminar. After this Seminar is over, she is planning to focus on how to raise ISHA's academic image by writing the 'How-to-organize-a-Seminar' manual. She will be involved in the creation of the fundraising committee as well.

On the other hand Anthony has been focused more on the external affairs, although there have been no new events since Skopje. He is going to the EGEA Conference with Daria to represent ISHA and present what ISHA is all about. After that he will be attending the European Students' Convention, the Second Annual PASCL Conference in Brussels and the IFISO Autumn Meeting in Switzerland. He wrote the introduction for the most recent issue of Carnival and will be working with Pia on the Alumni project.

TREASURER: Roberto is mostly working on the finances, merchandise and the fundraising committee.

SECRETARY: Elke has concerned herself mostly with paperwork for several sections and individuals and has been preparing the agenda for the GA. She will type up the minutes of this GA and look into digitalization of the certificates. She will also help with the writing of the manual and is in contact with Leuven about the ISHA International Archive.

### ***b) Council***

Vincent (Berlin) has been working very hard on the inclusion of a PhD Workshop in every ISHA Seminar where possible and he will be updating the 'How-to-organise-a-PhD-Workshop' manual.

Nina (Berlin) is responsible for the Facebook-page and the webpage. She asks that everyone likes the Facebook-age and make sure to send anything you want to share on the ISHA International to Nina. For information on the Website, see later.

Anna (Prague) has been working on the contact list for the sections and will be helping Lisbeth in the creation of an academic manual.

Pia (Vienna) has been busy with the establishment of the alumni network. The main idea at the moment is get together with the Alumni as soon as possible, preferably in Marburg if they have the organizational capability, and ask them exactly what they

expect. In addition to this, Pia wants to think about the creation of a database and other things so it is very much a work in progress. Concerning the participation of the Alumni in seminars: it does happen that the Alumni appear at seminars though they are not supposed to take away spots from participants. To avoid this, the alumni will be provided with a separate program and will meet up with the IB before the Seminar, although participation will cost more for them. We would like to offer one this every year at least at one seminar to include them more and create a framework for both members and alumni. The amount of participants should be fixed, between 5 and 15, but freelancers will be welcome and more importantly, all of this - finance, days, number of participants - will depend on the organizing sections.

Teemu (Helsinki) has been busy with the design of posters, leaflets and other promotional material.

### ***c) Carnival Editor***

Flavia (Rome) has currently published volume 16 which can be found on the webpage. She has already sent out a call for papers for the next issue but will send out another one to include papers from Graz and Lake Balaton. Flavia would like to create an editorial committee which would include Daniele Toro, Flavia herself and Vicky Buck (Kent). If you would like to join the committee, please e-mail Flavia to indicate your interest. She has to make sure that she keeps the Facebook-page alive, though so links are welcome but only posts that are related to Carnival, publishing, call for papers for other journals. For the moment, she has only three articles but others will follow soon. The publication of Carnival 17 will be after the Annual Conference in Canterbury.

### ***9) Sections and Observers***

LONDON: Alex informs the GA that everything is alright and they will have meeting on Monday after he returns. Hopefully, Fresher's Week might attract some new members and provide them with some new ideas to attract these members, maybe by incorporating UCL into ISHA London as well.

VIENNA: Pia says they were busy correcting the papers from the Weekend Seminar which took longer time to correct and review but will be sent to Flavia very soon. Members are either going away or have finished their studies so the main goal for them is to attract new members with leaflets and planning activities with money left over from seminar, such as an activity with ISHA Budapest.

BERLIN: According to Hannes, in Berlin everything is great. They have a big and active section which organizes many activities like the Museumcrawls. Additionally, they are meeting a lot and attracting new members without many problems. They are very busy working on the Autumn Seminar.

SOFIA (Neda): They are experiencing some problems, mostly due to bad communication between members and a lack of regular meetings. ISHA is not really visible at the

university as there are no flyers or posters but it is known by professors. They hope to attract members by organizing more activities however.

STRASBOURG: For Coline, there are no communication problems since it is just her at the moment. She is busy creating the section which functions in a special way since it is a part of a bigger organization which finances the section. She is eager to get new members involved however.

MARIBOR: The section has been in a sleeper mode since Bucharest, but Domen is trying to make a weekend Seminar happen with Graz and Vienna.

NICOSIA: Maria know that the section has been inactive for 5 years even though kept paying, something which they hope to change. They are trying to create a bigger presence at the University but are having some issues in getting new members.

KENT: Ben tells the GA that there are some problems in Kent, though he managed to make a deal with the History Societies in Canterbury which will be ISHA members in future and as it compulsory to be a member of a history society in the city, the number of members could grow very quickly. Presently, organizing the conference is the biggest priority for them.

GRAZ (Maria): Obviously, the seminar is going well. They have gained more members and the elections will take place in October. There is also an idea to organize a triple country event between Slovenia, Austria and Hungary which they hope to get money for from Erasmus plus.

PRAGUE (Bara): At the moment ISHA Prague is part of vague local organization which is involved in many other things. ISHA is very present, though their main concern is mostly local presence. It is a strange situation since the bigger organization the section is part of, is paying ISHA but they do not seem to want to be involved. Bara and Anna will be meeting next week with the local board next week and will be in touch with more information.

MARBURG: There were not many activities during to summer, but they are organizing activities and a welcome event for the upcoming Fresher's Week. They are looking for helpers for the seminar though they do not necessary have to be involved in ISHA.

BUDAPEST: Bence said the Balaton Seminar was met with good comments and so they want to something like this more frequently. They have not done a survey however, but are planning one. There will be elections on September 15<sup>th</sup>. They are in cooperation with the Central University to organize lectures and other activities. They are encouraging others to hold preparation seminars as it is a very good way of helping local visibility with undergraduate student members and PhDs. They have also made a promotional video which the IB hopes to replicate by inviting someone to Kent to film the Conference.

HELSINKI: According to Hanna, everything is great in Helsinki with board meetings and activities happening every month.

SKOPJE: Vladimir told the GA that there was more motivation to be members of ISHA after seminar. There was less activity due to the summer but elections took place at the

beginning of September at which Vladimir had been chosen as the new president. They are now enjoying the support of the university, a good element to attract new members. They have designed their own leaflets for ISHA Skopje and are using them in addition to the International leaflet. There is an idea to publish a magazine three or four times a year to get students motivated which would be in two languages. The aim of which would be to attract new members.

PARIS: Lilla said that they have been busy getting new members and creating the official statutes of an association. They have around 8 international members as they are hoping to use more international approaches. The main thing now is contacting the other universities in Paris and involving them in ISHA Paris.

MILAN (Francesca): The situation is very complicated since both of the members are leaving so they have to search for new members and establish official contacts within the universities. They hope to be an official member in the New Year and try to talk with students and professors.

ROME: Most of the members are studying at the moment, so there is no important news to talk about. There are more members, though they organizing only local events. There is a new board which has already organized activities in the second semester and are looking to restructure internally.

BOLOGNA: They have more members than before.

LEUVEN (Elke): The section is inactive at the moment, but they are hoping to get more people interested by having alumni talk to them about their ISHA experiences.

EDINBURGH (Elke): There seems to be more interest than before. She is hoping to raise ISHA's profile a bit more by writing a blogpost for the PhD blog.

ST ETIENNE: According to Anthony, there are still some issues within the section however they hope to ask if they can represent themselves more within this STA, and take part in international events with other sections to promote ISHA locally.

## **10) Secretariat**

The official secretariat will be moved from Leuven to Berlin. This decision requires no vote as it does not concern the official seat of ISHA and therefore does not concern the statutes or standing orders. There were no objections however to this decision.

## **11) Webpage VOTE**

Currently there is no webmaster for the homepage which is problematic, so the officials are proposing to create a new CMS/Homepage. At the moment it is a very professional programme which is difficult to work with since Fabian, who was the former webmaster was the only one who actually understood it. The issues with the website are taking a long time to resolve. ISHA is very active on Facebook, which is good, but the website is a important tool for ISHA International. One of the problems concerning the website is that access to it is shut down at the moment, so new items cannot be posted. The

proposal now is to make the website usage easier. The GA unanimous approved a new CMS usage.

Another issue regarding the website is the lack of use of the pages designed for every local section by the sections. Now there is a space on the current webpage where you can do this, does the GA want to keep this on the new website however? There will be a vote on this however with three possibilities: No, Yes though only for pages with contact details of the sections or Yes for pages with possibility to change content and change homepage, which of course would be easier to use than it is now.

Some of the GA members offered the following comment. The second option would be the most appropriate for the website since some sections have already a nice webpage and it would be foolish to abandon these pages. There can be a few design issues as well. Ideas and comments for the design and content of the website are always welcome. Finally, the GA voted by **14 to 1** that these pages should only contain contact details for the sections.

### **12) Archive VOTE**

For a few years the IB has had the plan to create an International Archive which will be housed in the University Archive of the KU Leuven. The problem with this is that someone has to sort through all of these things and therefore we hope to change the statutes to create an official Archivist position but as it takes time we are asking the GA now to approve a sort of pre-position of an archivist to already start working on this. The GA unanimously approved this position which will exist unofficially until the next the GA in Marburg, after which it will become an official position if approved by the GA. Georg is a candidate for this position and unanimously chosen by the GA.

### **13) Leaflet**

A new leaflet has been designed by Teemu. At the moment it is a trial draft which we will distributed quite fast, so that another version will be ready by Marburg with some changes on it such as the slogan, correct names. A contest will be held later on in order to come up with a new slogan for ISHA International.

### **14) Questions and Closing**

Concerning the Statutes and Standing Orders, Lilla wondered how everything was organised section-wise. Daria said that locally there were no definite rules. Internationally however, there are set rules for the organisation of ISHA. Namely, one can only serve three terms as an official with only two of these terms being within the same body. However, if there is no other candidate for the position the GA can make an exception to this rule. Why is it like this and can it be changed? In order for this to change we have to change the statutes. The application to change the statutes does not have to come from the IB or Council but member sections can also request it. If you are thinking about requesting a change to the statutes or standing orders, we do encourage to enquire and write about it before the GA – this is not an obligation however, you do not have to tell the IB - so we have time to put on the GA Agenda.

The open space on the leaflets can be filled and Teemu would be happy to customise the leaflets for sections. If they need it.

Outlook: The IB and Council are preparing a proposal for the GA at Marburg in order to change the nature of the GA and SAM. If accepted by this GA, this will be written into the standing orders. SAM will be for sections to inform others about their sections, share problems in a less official setting than the GA. The GA will limit itself to the IB, officials and member sections. Meetings should be on different days and organising sections should make time for this in the official programme.

The GA was closed at 17.35 by Daria.