



IALHI General Assembly. Thursday 12 September 2023, 14.00 -15.00 (Central European Summer Time)

Location : Université Paris Nanterre, Bâtiment Max Weber, 92000 Nanterre

via Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89912959592>)

Agenda

1. Opening of the GA
2. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly 2023 (see attached)
3. General report
4. Report on membership and activities
5. Report on finances
6. Proposal for the new membership fee structure (see attached)
7. Proposal for the future of the network (see attached)
8. Proposal for the future of IALHI's social media channels (see attached)
9. Application of new members (see attached)
10. Next year's conference
11. Other
12. Closing of the GA



IALHI General Assembly. 5 September 2023

Via Zoom.

1. Opening of the GA

Anja Kruke opened the meeting at 15.06 CEST with 18 participants present.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly (2022)

The minutes of the previous General Assembly, held on 15 September 2022, were approved without changes.

3. General report

Anja Kruke gave an overview of the activities of the IALHI since the last General Assembly. She explained that the Board focused on two main tasks: the preparation of the conference in Buenos Aires and a discussion about the future development and perspectives of IALHI.

a) *Preparation of the conference in Buenos Aires.* Anja stressed the uniqueness of this conference, which marks a significant milestone for IALHI as it is held in Latin America for the first time. The Board recognized the growth of IALHI in the region over the past decade, emphasizing the importance of this event as a tribute to this development. Throughout the last year, the Board organized several meetings to prepare the conference and discuss its progress. She expressed her satisfaction with the fact that the event has evolved into a fully-fledged conference that offers a broad perspective on the scope of labour and social history. Anja thanked the Centro de Estudios Históricos de los Trabajadores y las Izquierdas (CEHTI) and the Centro Cultural Paco Urondo, which will be the hosts of the conference in Buenos Aires, and also Lucas Poy for his work in organizing the event. She looks forward to three days of work in which members from Latin America and Europe will be able to foster common questions and facilitate networking opportunities.

b) *Discussion about the future of IALHI.* Anja explained that during the last year the Board also engaged in a discussion about the future development of IALHI and how to better cater to the needs of its members. The Board emphasized the importance of becoming more diverse in representation, not only in terms of gender but also by including members from all parts of the world. Anja stressed that the Board wants to understand what IALHI members expect from the network and what elements are particularly interesting to them. Is it primarily content-related, technical aspects, or the distribution of sources? On behalf of the Board, Anja expressed the importance of engaging more members in discussions regarding these crucial questions. The discussion will continue next year.

4. Report on activities and membership.



Anja also informed that during the last year a number of necessary technical updates were implemented in the Social History Portal website. As informed in previous meetings, there were a number of required updates regarding security and maintenance, and they were carried out thanks to the support of IISH and Amsab. The website still retains an outdated appearance, and Anja explained that the Board intends to further renovate the portal in the future. Additionally, she emphasized our continuous search for new content to enrich the portal.

In terms of public communication, she highlighted that Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are the primary platforms for sharing information. It was acknowledged that not all member institutions are in the same position and do not use social media in the same way, and changes on Twitter (now called X) can have a significant impact. The Board expressed their gratitude to institutions that regularly contribute content for these social media outlets.

In terms of membership, it was informed that the situation remains stable. Three institutions (from Australia, Britain and Spain) had recently expressed their intention to withdraw due to financial difficulties. It was decided to reach out to them, in coordination with other members of the Board from those countries, to have them renovate their membership.

5. Report on finances

Marien van der Heijden provided an overview of the financial report, which had been distributed to all GA participants in advance. IALHI's income from membership fees remains stable. As was announced in the last GA, there was a surge in expenses when compared to previous years. This increase can be attributed to the resumption of in-person conferences by IALHI, which had been cancelled during the pandemic. As per our standard practice, 75% of the annual income is allocated to the organizer of these conferences. Furthermore, an extraordinary expenditure was incurred for the technical upgrade and renovation of the Social History Portal (as detailed in point 4). This explains the negative financial outcome of approximately 10,000 euros in this year's financial report. Looking ahead, the Board will engage in discussions concerning IALHI's future plans, as outlined in point 3. These discussions will also encompass a thorough examination of our financial situation, enabling us to formulate plans for the forthcoming years.

The financial report was approved by the GA.

6. Election of new President (2023-2028)

Lucas Poy took the floor to explain that in recent months, a procedure had been initiated to elect the President of IALHI for the term spanning 2023 to 2028. As Anja Kruke's tenure as President was drawing to a close, she had decided to run for a second term. No other candidates emerged. All IALHI members received an invitation to cast their votes online.

Lucas proceeded to announce the results of this online poll: a total of 41 institutions had cast their votes, and every single vote had been in favour of Anja Kruke.



With unanimous support, Anja Kruke was appointed as President for the period 2023-2028. She thanked the members for their trust and expressed her intention to continue working on the progress of IALHI and the engagement of all members.

7. Next year's conference.

As previously announced, the 2024 conference will be held in Paris and will be hosted by La Contemporaine. Anja expressed her gratitude to Franck Veyron and his colleagues for their commitment to hosting our event. Given that the Olympics and Paralympics are scheduled to take place at the end of the summer in Paris, it has been deemed advisable to plan our conference for mid-September. Therefore, a provisional date has been set for September 11th to 13th, 2024. Should there be any need to alter these dates, members will be informed.

8. Other

Cristian Koller (Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv) conveyed the sad news of the passing of Karl Lang, who had been a highly active member within our network. Karl had served as the Secretary of IALHI from 1980 to 1987. An obituary in his honor will soon be published by our Swiss colleagues and will be circulated through IALHI's networks.

In addition, Anja made the announcement that Lucas Poy will be stepping down from his role as Executive Assistant by December 2023. She expressed her appreciation for his dedicated work over the past five years and his commitment to the goals and activities of IALHI.

9. Closing of the GA

Anja Kruke closed the meeting at 15.50 CEST.

Proposal for a new membership fee structure from 2025

(9 September 2024)

Current situation of membership fees:

Since the cash changeover to the euro in 2002, the annual IALHI membership fee has remained constant at € 112. Due to the general devaluation of money since then, the IALHI now has fewer funds available each year in real terms, for example to finance conferences or maintain services. In order to provide a more solid base to finance our activities in the coming years, we propose the possibility of introducing a graduated membership fee structure.

Our proposal for a new member fee structure:

The new membership fee structure would consist of three categories:

Category A - € 125

Category B - € 250

Category C - € 400

Each member is asked to choose a fee category that they can afford. This choice would be based on a voluntary self-estimation by members, taking into account various aspects such as the number of employees and/or income and budgets or membership of a large organization. *For example, organizations with up to 5 employees could choose category A, those with up to 10 employees category B and those with more than 10 employees category C.*

Every year, one institution can make a new choice. If the institution does not change it actively, it will remain in the same category.

Calculation example:

The advantages of such a change to the member fee structure can be illustrated by means of a calculation:

If we count on 70 paying members, the current income from membership would be € 7.840. In the new situation, with 50 members paying € 125, 10 members paying € 250 and 10 members paying € 400, the income from membership would be € 12.750. In this way, IALHI would have around 60 % more funds to finance activities without burdening members who are unable to pay more than the minimum fee of € 125 (Category A).

The Board of the IALHI therefore ask the Annual General Assembly to approve the introduction of the proposed membership fee structure from 2025.

Proposal: “fostering exchange and improving the network”

for the General Assembly 12 September 2024

(9 September 2024)

As outlined in the report on the work of the IALHI, we have been working intensively on the question of how we can work better together as a network in the future and what activities and topics are of interest to members. The aim is to fulfill our mission more actively and active and thus also encourage members to get actively involved. In principle, the IALHI is highly valued as a network for the work of labour movement archives and libraries - but that does not mean that there is nothing to improve.

Based on the discussions of the Board and a survey of the members, we have identified 10 areas of action that we want to undertake or generally approach differently:

1. The General Assembly should continue to take place hybrid in the future to enable members who are not physically present to participate.
2. The annual conferences will continue to take place on site in the future. The survey showed that most people prefer to meet in person at the conference. Experience with digital participation shows that people only take part in a panel with a presentation or only attend the presentation without getting involved. This increases the workload for the conferences without providing any real added value for the participants. Therefore, the conferences should not be hybrid. However, new formats of exchange should be tried in order to improve exchanges on site.
3. Instead of hybrid participation at the conferences, many members were interested in short digital meetings on specific topics. In future, this should be taken up in the form of “brown bag lunches”, which are late lunchtime meetings lasting 60 to 90 minutes that focus on a specific topic with one or two inputs and facilitate an exchange. The content of these meetings should be actively shaped by the members.
4. This will not make the working groups redundant. However, as only the working group “Digital Collections” has proved successful in recent years, it will be continued, as the short lunchtime meetings cannot completely replace the professional exchange and should remain

open for other, non-digital topics. The working group itself will decide on its future structure and work.

5. The analysis of the social media channels has shown that we do have a number of active members on various channels and that many also consider this work to be important. However, the analysis of the various IALHI accounts has shown that we are not achieving our goal of better networking our members. Also because the effort required to operate the channels is quite high, this should be reduced in favour of specific short meetings with special topics for archives and libraries. This is particularly necessary because our Executive Assistant cannot carry out all tasks in their limited working hours. We will present a separate proposal on this issue.

6. The website has been technically updated, but not in terms of design. Members have criticized this, expressing the need for better insight into the work of their fellow members. Over the past few months, the Board has initiated a process to renovate the outdated IALHI website. The first step of this renovation project was to find a new web hosting partner for IALHI. Once a contract is finalized with a new provider, the next step will be to create a new web design, preferably with the support of IALHI members and with a five-year perspective. For these purposes, we will provide any necessary budget.

7. The collective catalogue section of the Social History Portal is technically outdated. The search engine will shut down because there is no update, and if it is continued, a great deal of effort would be required to explore a new way of linking online catalogues instead of the current method. Users have access to other tools such as Worldcat where archive material can also be found.

8. In future, IALHI will try to make the annual conference more attractive and relevant for the members. For this reason, the members will be asked for favorite topics e.g. during the “brown bag lunches” Additionally, IALHI will also make the network more visible to archives, libraries and researchers by presenting itself more strongly at other conferences. This offers the opportunity to bring members into better contact with each other and also to activate them.

9. In order to improve the exchange with members from regions that are not yet well represented on the Board, representatives from member institutions will be co-opted in future. To try this out without having to change the statutes, they should be given guest status. The status should be given easily by the GA or by the Board itself.

10. It was also suggested by members that networking should also be encouraged at regional level. This should be possible at any time, but cannot be controlled centrally by the Board - as the name of regional networking already indicates, members who have an interest in this must become active themselves. If there is concrete interest, organizational support can be provided by the Board.

The future of managing IALHI's social media channels

(9 September 2024)

In recent months the evaluation of IALHI's social media activities (X, Instagram and Facebook) has shown a contradiction between the increasing numbers of followers and likes of our social media channels and the problem of low response that could be generated.

Social Media Stats:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
X followers	261	563	1.084	1.525	1.832	1.911	2.056
Facebook likes	647	1.847	2.356	2.781	2.908	2.934	2.967
Instagram followers				123	275	337	385

Example: Average number of likes/retweets of regular posts on X last six months:

March	April	May	June	July	August
4	3	2	7	5	44

This problem was raised and discussed at the IALHI Board meetings, with the result that two major changes to the management of our social media channels were proposed to the General Assembly, which are briefly presented below.

X:

Despite increasing follower numbers, the response to our posts on X has been low for a long time. This may be due to the deliberate and politically motivated departure of many institutions from the labour history community from X, but also to our posts, which mainly consist of sharing content from the social history portal, but often don't seem relevant to some of the many followers.

Although we are aware of the political problems of X and the activities of its owner Elon Musk, we plead to remain on this platform for the time being as long as important members of our social and labour history communities are still active on X. Instead of discontinuing our activities on X, we propose to continue what we made before: publishing selected items of the Social History Portal to create attention especially for some calls for papers to promote the reach of scientific networking and calls for contributions which are relevant for the labour and social history community.

What we propose to change in the future is to concentrate on disseminating all the "external" content from our member institutions, partner networks that is not appropriate for the SHP like cultural events (film screenings, theater plays, brief portraits etc.). According to this

approach, the aim for the future social media work should not be primarily distributing information from SHP since we have already the SHP Newsletter, which works very well and whose subscriptions are constantly increasing, but rather support the reach of our members by sharing and retweeting their content.

Instagram/Facebook-Campaign:

Following on from several calls for contributions that haven been started since 2021, we propose not to use Instagram and Facebook for regular sharing or networking purposes in the future due to the even lower resonance.

The focus of IALHI's future activities should rather be to use Instagram and Facebook exclusively for sharing (visual) insights into our conferences or as part of themed and time-limited campaigns (for example as a preview for a conference), with a cross-posting approach in order to work efficiently. The thematic specialization in a particular campaign is intended to encourage our members and offer them the opportunity to draw attention to themselves and their exhibitions, collections, etc. by submitting pictures to us.

Application of new members

- Das Institut für Historische Sozialforschung (Vienna/Austria)
- Institut CGT d'histoire sociale (Paris/France)