

**SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE D'ÉTUDES DU DIX-HUITIÈME SIÈCLE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES**

**Executive Committee meeting, University of Edinburgh
Tuesday, July 18th 2017**

Present: Lise Andries (President), Dimitris Apostolopoulos, Lisa Berglund, Maria Baramova, Marc André Bernier, Conrad Brunstrom, Brycchan Carey, Sébastien Charles, Penelope Corfield, Maria Das Graças de Souza, Marek Dębowski, Fokko Jan Dijksterhuis, Antonio Carlos Dos Santos, Daniel Fulda, Clíona ó Gallchoir, Christopher Gnant, Dena Goodman, Nelson Guilbert, Søren Peter Hansen, Sophie Holm, Melissa Hyde, Rosamaria Loretelli, Florence Magnot-Ogilvy, Ileana Mihaila, Rolando Minuti, Sayaka Oki, Ivan Parvev, Anna Maria Rao, Lyn Roberts, Wolfgang Schmale, Maria Susana Seguin, Catriona Seth, Stefanie Stockhorst, Danièle Tosato-Rigo, Eva Maria Velasco Moreno, Byron Wells, Wen Jin, Anna Windahl Pontén, Raia Zaimova.

Translators: Cynthia Kelly, Marie-Eve Racette

Apologies:

Pascal Bastien
Kristin Bragadóttir
Michel Delon
Birgit Neumann
Olga Roussinova
Wiep Van Bunge

1. Welcome from the President

Lise Andries welcomed members and delegates to the second meeting of this EC. She warmly thanked the organisers, especially Brycchan Carey, Penelope Corfield, BSECS and the University of Edinburgh as hosts. She introduced professor Wen Jin from Shanghai East China Normal University who was invited by ISECS officers to attend this EC meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 25th August 2016 Executive Committee meeting minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved.

President's remarks

Lise Andries thanked EC members and other members of the board for their communal work and support throughout the past year, which has facilitated much progress on ISECS's key objectives (ISECS's visibility amongst members; developing new societies; continuing the online journal IRECS). One of the key agenda items of this meeting was the presentation of the provisional list of candidates for the 2019 elections (see point 7. below).

3. General Secretary's report

Wolfgang Schmale provided a report of his work over the past year. This consisted of finalising of the reports of the Executive Committee (Florence, 25 August 2016), updating distribution lists (Executive Committee, national delegates, secretaries of the national societies). The national society secretaries are kindly requested to communicate any annual changes of committee personnel and personnel details as soon as possible to the General

Secretary (wolfgang.schmale@univie.ac.at), and the Communications Secretary, (admin@isecs.org). Further tasks included finalising the dates of EC meeting, collecting all relevant information for the meeting, and distributing papers to attendees. A new initiative this year consisted of inviting national societies to submit a report on their annual activities. Ten societies replied, and provided information on activities that the General Secretary classified as: publications, congresses and meetings, prizes and awards, research partners and networks, society website addresses. Wolfgang Schmale highlighted these findings:

- three societies organise young scholars' seminars, which is a very positive initiative;
- four societies award prizes;
- there is no standard for the format of society publications;- some publish online only, some print only, some online and print.

Delegates warmly welcomed the report, and it was unanimously agreed that the table of activities would be published on the ISECS website, under Societies/National Societies. The General Secretary will contact National Societies again to encourage more participation and information sharing.

The General Secretary's report was unanimously approved.

Wolfgang Schmale also thanked Lise Andries and Lyn Roberts for their helpful coordination and cooperation during the past year, Nelson Guilbert for his promptness and Brycchan Carey for the exceptional organisation of this meeting, and EC members for their involvement and assistance.

4. Treasurer's report

In the absence of Pascal Bastien, Marc André Bernier presented the ISECS accounts. He preceded his report by specifying that the accounts were in pounds sterling and that the Euro value was for reference only.

2017 Accounts

Income received during the year totalled £11,711.82 / €13,480.30 euros incorporating:

2016 payments

- subscriptions paid for 2016 (23 societies paid)

2016 payment accruals

- accruals for 3 societies that had not yet paid their 2016 subscriptions

Expenditure included £3,800, which was provided for the Early career scholars' seminar (September 2017), £2,114.59 (CA\$3,500) was paid to the Website Content editor (annual payment), and operating expenses of £1,485.17 (including travel to the 2016 EC meeting for the Technical secretariat and Russian delegate, Florence meeting minutes translations and bank charges). £970.56 was unspent from the 2016 Early career scholars' seminar, and was returned to ISECS.

The balance of income and expenditure at the end of the 2016-17 financial year is £5,282.62 / €6,080.30.

Total funds at the end of next year (31 July 2018) are expected to be in the region of £42,707 / €49,155 (with provision made for the 2018 Early career researchers seminar, the annual payment to the Website Content Editor and travel expenses for attendance at the 2018 ISECS meeting).

The Treasurer's report and accounts were unanimously approved.

ISECS 2019 Congress, ISECS bursary

Marc André Bernier proposed that, as in previous years, ISECS approve a £20,000 Congress bursary, which is used to facilitate the participation and involvement of early career scholars. Lise Andries proposed that £10,000 is budgeted from the accounts for 2017-18 and £10,000 is budgeted from the accounts for 2018-19 for the scheme. This would still leave sufficient surplus to cover four years of ISECS's running costs, as required by the statutes. It was agreed that the bursary would be budgeted as above.

ISECS 2019 Congress, National Society bursaries

It was proposed and agreed that all National Societies would be contacted with a request to provide additional bursary support. This request would be sent to National Society secretaries, and would underline the importance of the bursary scheme for early career scholars. Follow-up requests would also be sent. National Society bursary support for the Rotterdam 2015 Congress was slightly lower than the support for the Graz 2011 Congress, and ISECS have set the target for the 2019 National Society contributions at £20,000.

Discussion ensued on the bursary scheme and facilitating participation from early career scholars and those from countries with weaker currencies. Around 100 bursaries were awarded for Rotterdam 2015, and awards were made after careful examination of candidate applications. The awarding committee also considered the candidates' countries of origin, especially those from countries with weaker currencies. The organisers of the 2019 Congress will also seek support from British eighteenth-century research study centres and associated organisations, and highlighted the fact that there will be a separate (lower) fee for early career scholars.

Payment of annual subscriptions from smaller societies and societies with weaker currencies

As noted above, the ISECS Technical Secretariat draws up the accounts in pounds sterling. The Secretariat is based at the Voltaire Foundation (University of Oxford), and the bank account is held in pounds sterling and operated according to the University of Oxford requirements. This means that payments are made by bank transfer (into a sterling account) or by cheque (sterling, Euro or USD accepted). This payment system does, however, have implications for certain smaller societies or societies with weaker currencies, which are sometimes charged disproportionate bank charges. Although not an ideal solution, certain societies try to mitigate this by paying in cash at the annual meetings. Other systems were discussed, such as operating a PayPal account.

Lyn Roberts as Technical secretariat representative explained that, to her knowledge, it would not be possible to operate a separate PayPal account for ISECS. Catriona Seth, as president of the French Society (SFEDS), suggested that, as an alternative, the French Society could collect payments from smaller National Societies or societies with weaker currencies (up to, e.g., payments for 10 societies) through its own PayPal account, and transfer these monies to the ISECS Technical Secretariat.

This suggestion was welcomed and will be discussed further by the EC board. Lyn Roberts will also discuss this proposal with her colleagues at the Voltaire Foundation.

5. Technical Secretary's report

Lyn Roberts highlighted the main tasks undertaken by the Technical Secretariat over the past year:

- professional account preparation (accounts for 2016-2017; budget for 2017-2018).
- collection of 2016 subscription income.
- administration of ISECS's financial obligations (Nelson Guilbert's annual payment, Early career scholars subventions; other authorised ad-hoc payments).
- on-going ISECS documentation held in the ISECS files.
- drafting meeting minutes of the Florence 2016 EC meeting.
- assistance with preparing the Edinburgh EC meetings agenda.
- organising translations of the above meeting minutes and other ad-hoc translations.

Lyn Roberts stressed the importance of national societies communicating with ISECS concerning society committee changes. She sends all her communication to the relevant person of national societies committees as listed on the ISECS website (usually the national society Secretary or Treasurer), so it is highly important that all national society details are correct and up-to-date. Any changes should be sent by email to the General Secretary, Wolfgang Schmale (wolfgang.schmale@univie.ac.at) and the Communications Secretary, Nelson Guilbert (admin@isecs.org).

The Technical Secretariat closed its report by stating that the Voltaire Foundation is very happy to continue supporting ISECS with its services, which it provides free of charge. The President expressed the EC's thanks to the Voltaire Foundation for their excellent services, with special thanks to Lyn Roberts for her constant and effective work.

The Technical Secretary's report was approved unanimously.

6. Communications Secretary's report (Website and Directory)

i) website/directory

Nelson Guilbert, Communications Secretary, highlighted developments over the past year:

- *ISECS-direct* update. The yearly update of the members' directory was carried out between January and April 2017. A message was sent in early December 2016 to all national society treasurers, along with their membership list and instructions. Most national societies (33) submitted their updates.
- Developing the ISECS website, phase 2. Nelson Guilbert met staff at the IT department of the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières [UQTR] – which hosts and maintains the ISECS website – on December 6th 2016, to prepare for the second phase of development. They were very responsive to ISECS's requests and confirm that there will be English translations for all the automated items of the website and directory. This should simplify the voting procedures for the 2019 elections. In addition, a direct link for easy password recovery in an email will be developed.
- Social media functionality will be added, namely a Facebook account and a website analytics tool. A discussion ensued on the benefits of operating a Twitter account, as this is an excellent tool for disseminating information. BSECS and the Japanese Society both have Twitter accounts. For example, BSECS has five separate logins, with administrators in charge of different areas (tweeting calls for papers etc.). A new Twitter account for ISECS will be investigated further, with a request that National Societies currently operating Twitter accounts contact Nelson Guilbert (admin@isecs.org) to share their working practices.
- These website improvements will come at no extra cost to ISECS.

The Communications Secretary's report was unanimously approved.

The President underlined ISECS's appreciation of Nelson Guilbert's work, which has greatly facilitated the Society's online presence and outreach to members.

7. Report of the 2019 Elections Committee

Marc André Bernier, Chair of the Committee, opened his report by stating that the provisional list of candidates was drawn up with a view to achieving a balance of experienced members and new members. He also recapped the regulation stating that a candidate can serve on the Executive Committee for a maximum of 12 years. All proposed candidates had been contacted, and agreed with their nomination.

There are two candidates proposed for each post apart from the President, and the Second Vice President. For the Second Vice-President there are two posts, thus three candidates. There are 17 candidates for 8 elected member positions.

The provisional list of candidates will be sent to all National Society Secretaries in October 2017. National societies will then have six months within which to propose additional candidates and supply necessary supporting names and signatures (25 members for all posts except the President and First Vice-President, for which 50 names and signatures are needed). It was agreed that the provisional list would be accompanied with biographies (in English or French) and photographs; Marc André Bernier will contact candidates to obtain this information.

The provisional list of candidates was unanimously approved. [list attached]

8. Report of the Committee for developing new societies

Penelope Corfield, as Chair of the Committee, provided an update on developments during the year.

i) India International Society for Eighteenth-century Studies

Following successful exchanges with Sutapa Dutta from the University of New Delhi, a new society has been formed. A very vibrant inaugural meeting took place in March 2017, with approximately 40-50 attendees, and the society has already been welcomed by members of the Indian scholarly community.

The society's constitution was pre-circulated to EC members, and comments were made on the society name, specifically the use of 'international' as no other national society uses this. Penelope Corfield said that both she and the India Society are aware that they are a national society, and it was agreed that ISECS needs to be flexible regarding society names.

It was unanimously approved that acceptance of the India International Society for Eighteenth-century Studies be proposed to the General Assembly at the 2019 Congress.

Lise Andries thanked Penelope Corfield for all her efforts and energy in establishing the India Society, and stressed the importance of initiatives such as these for ISECS's future.

ii) Establishing a new Chinese Society

As a result of Lise Andries's visit to China in October 2016, Wen Jin, of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at East China Normal University, had been invited to attend

this year's EC meeting. Wen Jin provided delegates with an overview of the past and current situation with the Chinese Society.

The president of the previous society, Professor Han Qi (a historian based at the Chinese Academy of Sciences), had died a few years ago, and there was no direct replacement for him within the society. As such, society matters – including contact with ISECS – ceased to take place. After talking to previous society members and senior Chinese scholars, a team of new Chinese scholars, headed by Wen Jin, is keen to establish a new Chinese Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The authorities regulate societies; the process of establishment requires time and adherence to certain conditions.

A society can be either a 'level 1' or a 'level 2' society. To be established as a level 1 society is the most difficult as it requires the approval of both the Chinese Ministry of Civic Affairs and the Chinese Ministry of Education. Only a small number of societies are established in this way. A level 2 society is established through the support of a level 1 society, and this is the avenue that Wen Jin is currently pursuing. By connecting with previous society members – the majority of whom were historians –, establishing links with new scholars in, for example, literature and philosophy, and organizing an interdisciplinary symposium in the spring or summer of 2018 (theme 'Systems thinking') to which international speakers will be invited, Wen Jin aims to create a working team to scope out a blueprint for a new Chinese Society. She would then present this to a level 1 society and seek official recognition by the Chinese authorities. Wen Jin also commented that there is often a linguistic and cultural divide in China between scholars who trained in the West, who are perhaps more receptive to international research, and those who did not.

Lise Andries warmly thanked Wen Jin for the clarity of her overview, and spoke on behalf of the whole EC in offering to provide full support to Wen Jin in the future months and years.

Discussion ensued on the richness of ISECS network and the necessity of being sensitive to cultural differences between nations.

iii) Tunisian Society update

In December 2016 Lise Andries and Michel Delon attended the first colloquium organized by the Association Tunisienne d'Etude des Lumières (ATEL) on 'Etudes sur les Lumières dans le monde et en Tunisie'. There were around 40 delegates, mostly young scholars, and some very interesting presentations. Following the EC's recommendations in the 2016 EC meeting, Lise Andries and Michel Delon discussed the tightly controlled statutes with the founding members of the Tunisian Society. Moneys that Tunisian societies receive must be tightly controlled and the provenance of income needs to be transparent (for anti-corruption purposes).

As agreed at the 2016 EC meeting, the EC supports the application of the Tunisian Society and will be proposed to the next GA in 2019.

9. Society for 18th-Century Studies on South Eastern Europe: request for affiliation

The Society for 18th-Century Studies on South Eastern Europe is seeking admission to ISECS as an associated society. As such it will not pay membership subscriptions to ISECS, cannot propose or elect candidates to the Executive Committee, and members will not be able to vote in elections.

Ivan Parvev presented an overview of the Society and its Constitution.

- the Society aims to be interdisciplinary, foster new research on the region and encourage collaborations between researchers.

- the area comprises the Eastern part of the Habsburg monarchy, the Moldau and Wallachia, the European territory of the Ottoman empire as also the Eastern Mediterranean region; Harald Heppner (University of Graz) is the President.
- the Society's homepage is located at the University of Graz, and it has a Facebook page.

The Society had submitted its constitution to the ISECS EC in advance of the meeting.

After discussion on various aspects of the Society's remit, it was confirmed that:

- a member of this society can be a member of a National Society;
- separate and independent cross-border research meetings can be organised by individual members, and do not need prior approval by the society.

The languages of the society are proposed as German and English; it was requested that French is also included, and Ivan Parvev will forward this request to the society board.

It was also requested that the English translation of the constitution is re-read by a native English speaker.

In a vote on admitting the new Society for 18th-Century Studies on South Eastern Europe as an associated society, there was 1 abstention. This application will be proposed to the next GA in 2019.

10. Report of the IRECS editorial committee

IRECS (International Review of Eighteenth-Century Studies) / RIEDS (Revue Internationale d'Etude du Dix-huitième Siècle) is ISECS's own online journal, freely available from the ISECS website.

Daniel Fulda provided a brief overview of developments. The third issue (Enlightenment and Classicism) will be available in Autumn 2017. The call for papers for the fourth issue (Citizenship in the Enlightenment, edited by Conrad Brunstrom) will soon be made, with a provisional timetable of November 2017 as the deadline for abstracts and February 2018 for the final papers.

Questions and discussion concerned the languages of the journal. French and English are the official languages, and it was agreed that, at the discretion of the volume editor, a certain percentage of a volume can include articles in other languages as long as the papers are linked to the volume theme. It was also agreed to include French and English abstracts of each paper.

The Publications committee report was unanimously approved.

11. International Congress in Edinburgh, 2019

July 14th – July 19th 2019, 'Enlightenment identities', hosted by BSECS

Brycchan Carey, the Congress organiser, provided an overview of preparations for the 2019 International Congress in Edinburgh. Many materials and information are now online, available through the BSECS website (<https://www.bsecs.org.uk/isecs/>). The call for papers will be made in January 2018, with applications requested for panels and papers. The papers will subsequently be categorised into panels. (The deadline for the close of applications is TBC, see below). The University of Edinburgh's conference team, Edinburgh First, will run registration and facilities. There will be separate fee structures for early career scholars/postgraduate students and normal registrants.

i) Programme committee: Edinburgh 2019 aims to have a broader range of plenary speakers, and more inclusive plenary sessions, similar to round tables. Potential plenary speakers are currently being contacted.

ii) Facilities committee: Adam Budd leads this committee, working closely with Edinburgh First.

iii) Events committee: discussions have and are taking place with cultural institutions across the city (National Library of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland etc.) and there will be an event every evening of the Congress, and additional afternoon events on Wednesday July 17th when no sessions are scheduled. The opening reception (Monday July 15th) will be held at the McEwan Hall.

Discussion ensued on the schedule for the close of the call for papers, and how this relates to the bursary award timetable. Brycchan Carey and BSECS were initially keen to set a late deadline, so as to encourage as many applications as possible. Delegates were concerned that late decisions (e.g. spring 2019) would impact on both travel grant applications and travel plans. Travel grant applications in many institutions cannot be made until papers are accepted; late decisions could impact on both the availability of grants and the award of grants. In addition, long haul travel becomes more costly when booked near to the departure time.

Brycchan Carey thanked delegates for their input and will discuss the applications schedule with BSECS.

Following a question on the timing of the bursary awards, it was agreed that the 2019 Congress bursary committee will be established at the next EC meeting (2018).

A further point was raised about the discoverability of the Congress website, which is currently a sub-section of the BSECS website ('Conferences' sub-section). Brycchan Carey and BSECS will consider this point at their next meeting, prior to opening the call for papers.

Lise Andries, on behalf of the EC, commended Brycchan Carey, and BSECS, for their tremendous work in organising the 2019 Congress.

12. Proposal for the International Congress in Rome, 2023

At the 2016 EC meeting it was unanimously agreed to put forward the Italian Society's proposal to the next GA.

Rosamaria Loretelli provided an overview of the Italian Society's application to host the 2023 Congress in Rome.

Two universities would be involved, La Sapienza Università di Roma and Università degli Studi di Roma 'Tor Vergata'. La Sapienza would be the main location as it is on a campus located near the main railway station. Many cultural events would take place, both in and around the city. The proposed theme is 'Antiquity and the shape of the future in the age of Enlightenment' ('L'Antiquité et la vision de l'avenir au siècle des Lumières'), and discussion ensued on the translated theme as both the French and Italian phrasings are not direct translations. Rosamaria Loretelli and the Italian Society will take this into consideration.

The proposed dates were discussed, and it was agreed that the preferred dates would be July 9th-July 14th 2023.

It was also discussed and agreed that a native speaker will check all external documentation in English and French.

Rosamaria Loretelli and the Italian Society were warmly thanked for this proposal.

13. Seminars for Early career scholars

- September 10-14 2017: Montreal, Canada (Pascal Bastien); 'City and Citizenship in the Enlightenment' / 'Cité et citoyenneté des Lumières'
- 2018: Viterbe, Italy (Francesca Saggini); 'Silence in 18th-century arts, history and philosophy'. Plans are already underway. The call for papers will be made in September 2017.

- 2019: Edinburgh, Scotland (to take place at Northumbria University, 1 hour south of Edinburgh). The seminar will take place the week preceding the 2019 Congress. Following helpful feedback from EC delegates, Brycchan Carey and BSECS will consider free Congress registration for all seminar attendees.
- 2020: Lausanne, Switzerland

Lise Andries commented that it would be helpful if the EC plan seminars for future years (2022 onwards), ahead of the election of the new EC in 2019. The final decision would rest with the newly elected EC.

14. ISECS publications

The proceedings of the Early Career Seminars are published by Editions Honoré Champion at no cost to ISECS. The Chair of the publications committee, Marc André Bernier, provided these key points about the Proceedings of Early Career Seminars:

2012: Bloomington (USA): with the publisher.

2013: Gotha (Germany): the final manuscript was submitted. Marc André Bernier concluded that the work lacked editorial rigour, and has returned the manuscript to the editors.

2014: Manchester (UK): published.

2015: Marc André Bernier is in contact with the editors.

2016: Marc André Bernier is in contact with the editors.

Lise Andries warmly thanked Marc André Bernier and his team for their continued work.

15. Future meetings of the Executive Committee

- 2018: Bordeaux, France

Hosted by SFEDS (French Society), at the Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, Wednesday August 22nd-Saturday August 25th. A welcome reception will take place on Wednesday 22nd, with the EC meeting on Thursday 23rd. The one-day conference will follow on Friday 24th, with excursions planned for Saturday 25th. The theme of the conference will be ‘La Mer: fictions, pouvoirs, identités’ (English title TBC). The President of the French Society, Catriona Seth, said that the society fully supports the meeting and has already approved a bursary for the organisation.

Lise Andries added her (and the EC’s) thanks to the French Society.

- 2019: Edinburgh, Scotland (part of the 2019 Congress)

The scheduling of the EC meetings (outgoing EC, incoming EC and GA) was discussed, as it is important that these meetings take place outside of congress sessions. Brycchan Carey and BSECS will take this in to consideration when finalising the schedule.

- 2020: Halle or Potsdam, Germany

Stéfanie Stockhorst announced the German Society’s proposal to host the 2020 EC meeting. Potsdam is the most likely venue as it is closer to Berlin and thus more accessible for international delegates.

Following a question on the timing of EC meetings, it was agreed that the most convenient period for all delegates is the second half of August. [this year’s meeting is exceptional].

16. Other Business

Catriona Seth announced the publication of a freely downloadable publication ‘L’Idée de l’Europe au Siècle des Lumières’ (OpenBook Publishers). This publication was developed as a response to the January 2015 Paris attacks. ‘Tolérance: the beacon of Enlightenment’, edited by Caroline Warman, is also available to download for free (OpenBook Publishers).

The President thanked all members present for a very fruitful and convivial meeting of the EC. She looks forward working with EC members and delegates in the forthcoming year, and to next year’s meeting in Bordeaux. The meeting closed, followed by a walking tour of the 2019 Congress venues.