

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

Eighteenth Congress of the International Committee of Historical Sciences

The International Committee of Historical Sciences is holding its 18th Congress in *Montreal, Canada* from *August 27 to September 3, 1995*. The Committee is an international organization headed by a governing Bureau, located in Paris, and today consists of 51 national committees, which represent the institutions of historical research in each country; 23 international affiliated organizations sponsoring scholarly research and publication in specific areas, for example, the International Association for Economic History and the International Committee on the History of the Second World War; and 19 so-called internal Commissions which represent areas of special interest as, for example, the Council of Peace Research in History and the International Federation for Research on the History of Women. Its Congress meets once every five years and offers a unique opportunity to share scholarly research, writing, and reflection with historians around the world. The extraordinary events of the last five years have transformed the context for this upcoming international gathering. It is the first in many years freed from the constraints of the Cold War, which narrowed the choice of topics and shaped the organization and size of national delegations. And it takes place at a time of considerable flux in the historical profession world wide, as historians come to grips with new domestic as well as international relations.

The themes for the Montreal Congress capture this new context. They were assembled through wide consultation and recently discussed, debated and voted on at the General Assembly of affiliated members in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The program is divided into three parts (titles may be modified), consisting of three grand themes or plenary sessions which will run all day (6 hours); sixteen specialized sessions which run a half-day (3 hours); and a yet undetermined number of round tables, more informal workshops on specific themes, methods and/or theories in history (3 hours). In proposing paper topics for one of the sessions, participants are encouraged to pay attention to the gender component of the theme under question. Organizers also will be looking for cross-cultural comparisons and will be placing the topic in the broadest chronological framework possible.

1. Grand Themes/Plenary Sessions

1. Peoples, Nations, and State Forms: explores multiculturalism and its political implications (the multi-national states in history) as well as first peoples (native Americans, eskimos, Australian aboriginal peoples, etc.) and their political arrangements.
2. Women and Men and Historical Change: Test Cases in the Impact of Gender

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History: explores how the relationship between women and men fits into the big historic transformations in economic, political and religious life, for example, and what impact this new inquiry has on how historians think and write about historical change. Test cases are on a) gender and major political crises; b) gender analysis and economic transformations; and c) gender and the emergence of new religious movements.

3. Peoples in Diaspora: Jews, Chinese, Irish, Asian Indians, Armenians, etc.

II. Specialized Themes

1. Power and Liberty: The Organization, Control, and Finance of Historical Research and Publications. A Cross-Cultural Approach: studies drawn from court history to the contemporary organizations of the historical profession to forms of public history as well as colonialism and its impact on historical writing; issues include patronage, access, and censorship.

2. Religion between Liberty, Proselytism and Intolerance: themes range from ancient religious history to medieval religious life to contemporary fundamentalism.

3. "Development of Underdevelopment": examines essentially relationships among so-called third world countries but also underdevelopment in the industrial world.

4. War and Culture: primarily an examination of war and peace in the 20th Century.

5. Peoples and Societies of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Regions of the Great North.

6. Modes of Transport of Preindustrial Societies.

7. Old Age and Aging.

8. Childhood in History.

9. Fictionality, Narrativity, Objectivity: explores the rhetorical issues of writing history and the implications for truth (objectivity) in history.

10. The Fall of Empires in Comparative Perspective.

11. Rethinking Scientific Revolutions: compares scientific revolutions with other revolutions in history; examines how a revolution works; and incorporates science studies understanding of the enormous play of culture in what is seen as "true" in science.

12. Environmental History (to be defined more precisely).

13. Oral History.

14. Decline as an Historical Concept.

15. The Bank and Its Role in Commercial and Industrial Capitalism from the 13th to the 20th Centuries: explores not only formal banking institutions and structures

but lending practices, agrarian credit and indebtedness, etc.

16. Systems of Justice and Forms of Punishment: including police and prisons.

III. Round Tables

Round tables also can be proposed. They must be organized more fully, including title, brief synopsis of the issues under consideration, and a preliminary list of participants (including short CV's, see below).

Prospective participants should clearly indicate the session they are planning to join and include a) a preliminary title of their paper; b) a two paragraph synopsis of its main themes; and c) a short CV (1 to 2 pages). This material should be sent *in duplicate* to:

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The *deadline* for submission is *February 22, 1993*. Your proposal will be reviewed by members of the A.H.A. Committee on International Activities and, if selected, will be part of the proposed delegation of U.S. scholars submitted to the Bureau in Paris. If your paper is accepted, you then will be contacted by the international organizer of the particular session that you have applied for, giving you additional information.

For further information, contact Professor Jean Quataert at the address above or call (607) 777-2241 or fax (607) 777-2896.