

Call for Papers for the ESSHC Theory and Historiography Network

The 14th European Social Science History Conference will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, from 12 to 15 April 2023. The ESSHC aims to bring together scholars interested in explaining historical phenomena using interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the past. The conference is characterized by a lively exchange in many small groups, rather than by formal plenary sessions. It is organized in a large number of networks that cover a certain topic (e.g. criminal justice, family, social inequality).

The Theory and Historiography network is interested in proposals for panels (consisting of three papers and a comment), roundtables (more oriented to discussion than the formal presentation of panels) and 'meet the author' sessions (where there is a pathbreaking publication of a monograph, not older than two years) on theoretical and historiographical topics.

Although reflection on a wide set of theoretical and historiographical themes are welcome, in 2023 we would like to encourage proposals in particular on the topic of 'history and identity'. History writing has been centrally concerned with questions of collective identity for a long time. We immediately think of national identities, class identities, ethnic identities, gender and sexual identities but also regional, local, imperial, European, pan-African, pan-Asian and a whole host of other identities related to collectives. In the theory of history there has been for many years a debate about 'identity' as a concept. It has been vilified, reshaped, constructed and reconstructed multiple times. Stuart Hall suggested to replace it with 'identification' to make it less essentialist, and the narrative turn in historical writing has emphasized the constructed nature of all identities. Whilst professional history writing has arguably been more about the deconstruction of collective identities than their construction, this has not been the case everywhere. What is more, non-professional history writing has often stepped into the breach where professional historians have refused themselves as apologist of collective identities. There has also been a debate to what extent a committed, engaged history on behalf of disadvantaged and oppressed groups in society needs so salvage a notion of collective identity and how this can be done without falling into the essentialist trap. Overall we encourage submission of panels that deal with issues related to the writing of history and notions of collective identity, across time and geographical borders. We also encourage submissions that deal with popular forms of history and with related academic disciplines, e.g. anthropology, geography or the social sciences.

The deadline for proposals is 15 April 2022.

The European Social Science History Conference is organized by the International Institute of Social History. For details see: <https://esshc.socialhistory.org/esshc-belfast-2018>

One electronic copy of the panel proposal should be sent to the conference secretariat (address below) and one copy to each of the three co-chairs of the network:

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Further information on the conference fees and an electronic pre-registration form can be obtained from the Conference Internet site at <http://www.iisg.nl/esshc> or from the conference secretariat: ehi@esshc.eu

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