

## ESHS General Assembly

The General Assembly took place during the 2020 Bologna Conference, on Thursday, September 3, between 16:00 and 18:30. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the whole conference had to be moved to a Microsoft TEAM online platform. Hence the General Assembly took place online too, with the following:

### Agenda

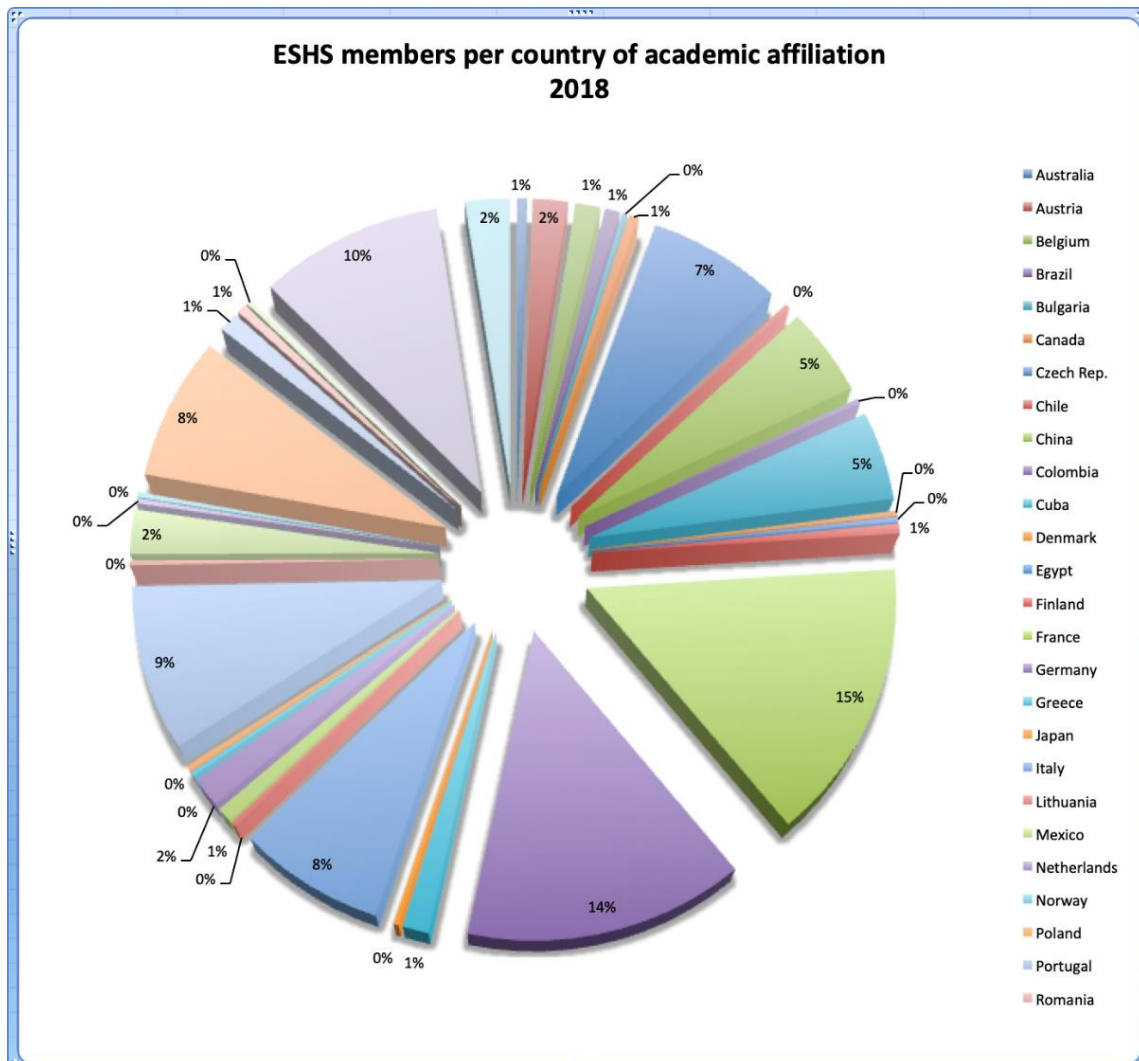
- 0) Welcome
- 1) Information on election of three auditors of treasurer's report
- 2) Information on election of two scrutineers
- 3) Presentation of the candidates for the New Council
- 4) In memoriam.
- 5) President's report.
- 6) Vice President's statement.
- 7) Editor of Centaurus' report.
- 8) Secretary's report.
- 9) Treasurer's report and three auditors joint report.
- 10) Webmaster's report.
- 11) President Elect's report and plan of action.
- 12) Presentation of the results of the votes for New Council and Scientific Board by the scrutineers.
- 13) Presentation of the recipients of the early scholar grants.
- 14) A preliminary assessment of the Bologna Conference.
- 15) Towards the Brussels 2022 Conference.
- 16) Discussion, proposals of the members.
- 17) Closure by the new President.

The following officers of the ESHS are present: A. Simões (President), T. Arabatzis (President Elect), A. Malet (Vice-President), E. Neuenschwander (Treasurer), S. Turchetti (Secretary), M. Husson (Webmaster), K. Vermeir (Centaurus Editor), Erika Luciano (PR Officer); B. Van Tiggelen (Communications Officer). The following members of the Scientific Board are present: M. G. Ash, D. Bayuk, C. Florensa, M. P. Diogo, R. Lalli, E. Leong, H. Qi. In addition 111 members are present at the beginning of the assembly.

President Simões chairs the assembly.

## 0) Welcome

The president welcomes officers and members, and summarizes on the society's recent growth both in number of members and diversity for country's academic affiliation (see figure below). She also invites to complete the ESHS survey "Mapping the ESHS Community" (<http://www.eshs.org/Mapping-the-ESHS-community.html>)



## 1) Auditors

Three ESHS members, Annette Vogt, Doubravka Olsakova and Daniel Jon Mitchell, have been designated as auditors by the ESHS Scientific Council. The President informs the Assembly that the procedure for their appointment has been modified in light of the online format which required their appointment before the assembly. So eight members were nominated by President and Secretary and the first three appointed by the Scientific Council. The auditors have examined the Treasurer's report and approved it.

## 2) Scrutineers

Two ESHS members, Daniele Cozzoli and Sebastial Grevsmuhl, have been nominated by the ESHS Scientific Council as scrutineers for the upcoming election of the new ESHS Scientific Council. They have also been given a separate assembly "virtual room" to address issues re. the online voting procedure and help members in the ballot. The President informs the assembly about the changes in the election procedure due to the online format. The Secretary further elucidates on the voting procedure which takes place on the platform Choice Voting (<https://www.choicevoting.co.uk/>), also showing the ballot paper and the online procedure to vote. The ballot opens at 16.30 and closes at 17.45.

## 3) New positions for the Scientific Council

The new positions in the Scientific Council were presented:

*[All the presentations and statements below have been posted on the website before the General Assembly. For reason of time they were summarized during the Assembly, while they are reported in extenso in the minutes]*

### **President Elect – Dana Jalobeanu**

Jalobeanu did Physics and Philosophy and specialized in history and philosophy of early modern science. She is especially interested in the history and philosophy of early modern experiment (from Bacon to Newton) and, in parallel with her academic career, she has worked for

almost a decade as science journalist for the BBC World Service (the Romanian Section, in Bucharest and London). She has a PhD in HPS from the University of Bucharest (2000), and a number of post-doc grants and visiting fellowships at New Europe College, Bucharest; Warburg Institute, London; University of Oxford; Princeton University; Max Planck Institute for History of Science, Berlin. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theoretical Philosophy, University of Bucharest and director of the Humanities Division of the Institute for Research of the University of Bucharest (ICUB). She is the founding editor of the *Journal of Early Modern Studies* and co-organizer of the Princeton Bucharest Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy. Together with Charles Wolfe, she is editing the *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Sciences* (Springer, 2020). Recent publications include: *The Art of Natural History. Francis Bacon in Context*, Zeta Books, Bucharest, 2015; (with David Marshall Miller), eds., *Cambridge History of Philosophy of the Scientific Revolution*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020 (forthcoming).

**Statement:** One central idea of my whole career was to build bridges between (history of) philosophy and the history of science. I did that at several levels – through individual research and through building institutions. In this sense, I see my attempt to serve as a president of the ESHS as a continuation and development of the same project, redesigned to face the new challenges our community is facing right now. I think that in view of the recent developments in our world (pandemics, the advance of illiberal regimes, increased polarization in society) historians have a duty to become public voices on the world-stage. By gaining prominence in the public discourse, history (and philosophy) of science can contribute to the elucidation of many points (and confusions) on the public agenda. And ESHS can play a crucial role in this respect. In many ways, it did this already. Now it is more a matter to adapt to the new media, and the new ways of communication and of being together in the cyberspace in response to the challenging we are all facing this year. Here are some points I would pursue in 2020-2022:

(1) Expanding the ESHS membership both in terms of numbers and geographically (in order to do that ESHS can establish a system of scholarships for young researchers in Central and Eastern Europe on a model similar with that – very successful – established by EPSA a couple of years ago)

- (2) Initiating a number of projects at the interface between the academic community and the public (ESHS talks on the model of TED talks, recorded and stored online, fully accessible to the public, open online courses, recorded debates, a YouTube channel)
- (3) Making *Centaurus* more visible online and more widely available (to independent scholars and students without good resources)
- (4) Strengthening the society's contacts to practicing scientists, especially with those working on emerging fields that have high social significance and impact.

**Archivist – Erika Luciano (this is a new position introduced with the change of statutes approved at the 2018 London General Assembly)**

Luciano is affiliated with the University of Turin (Department of Mathematics) as an associate professor of History of Mathematics (Complementary Mathematics sector). Habilitated as full professor of History of Mathematics (sector MAT04) and of History of Science (sector 11C2) in 2019, Luciano's research focuses on the dynamics of construction, transmission and socialization of tacit and explicit knowledge from international, national and local perspectives. The research ranges from the history of Italian 'schools' of mathematics, directed by Segre and Peano, to the history of mathematics education, social and gender history. Her interests are increasingly dedicated to the study of relationships between science and power, and in particular to the phenomenon of racial persecution and emigration of Italian mathematicians and scientists in the period 1938-1945. She authored and edited more than 100 publications, participated in national and international research projects and networks, and organized regularly meetings, both nationally and internationally.

**Statement:** In the last two years I had the pleasure to serve the ESHS as PR officer (2018-2020). In this position, I tried to think up new ways to sustain the cooperative atmosphere within our community and to propagate the ESHS mission. As a board member of the Italian Society of History of Science and the Italian Society of History of Mathematics, and thanks to my experience of international partnerships I was delighted to assist the ESHS in achieving the closest possible collaboration with Italian societies and institutions in the organization of the Bologna conference, in

particular after the choice to turn it in a virtual event, because of the pandemic Covid emergency. I cooperated with the Newsletter editor and with the Webmaster in rendering the ESHS website an even more efficient tool. Finally, I sustained the efforts to shape a network of young scholars who shall contribute to the society's projects and activities, by putting at ESHS's disposal my own network of contacts with young historians of science and science education in Italy and South America.

Both as Secretary and then as PR officer of the ESHS, I had the opportunity to follow - and to some extent to contribute to - the efforts of the presidents and scientific board to highlight the Society's identity. Serving the ESHS as Archivist is therefore not only a stimulating intellectual adventure, but above all a way to continue to serve the ESHS and to support its on-going projects and research initiatives.

We all know that the ESHS was created in France in 2003. However, when I started my first term as Secretary, official documents concerning the life and activity of the Society (Statutes, statements about the changes in the Council, minutes of Council meetings, receipts, etc.) were preserved only in a paper archive (7 folders, until now held at the Department of Mathematics of the Turin University). Some of these important documents were in a bad state of conservation. In addition to this tiny handful of paper sources, there were a number of scanned documents circulating somewhat by chance. I thus contacted past presidents and secretaries and gathered many official documents that were then digitized. Starting from the conviction that the conferences were perhaps the most important contribution that our Society has made to the history of science and that it be our duty to preserve their respective materials, in November 2017 I asked the organizers for copies of the programs and the book of abstracts. All this material was made accessible on our website.

On this front there is however still much work to be done. It would be important to complete (and to organize in a systematic way) the archives of our Society, both as far as conference materials are concerned and with reference to other official documentation, which is still fragmentary regarding the beginnings of the ESHS. Robert Fox kindly offered his help in order to implement the paper archive of the ESHS putting at our disposal a selection of documents concerning the foundation and the first years of activity. Also, during the General Assembly in Prague Fabio Bevilacqua and Annette Vogt called attention to the usefulness of gathering photos and pictures of the Society's meetings. The contribution

of all members, and especially of those who attended the first meetings of the Society, is asked, in order to construct such an iconographic archive.

I am an archive person. A significant part of my energy and scholarly work has focused on archival research: in this vein I am delighted to put my experience and interests at the service of the society and to work towards keeping the archives of the ESHS in good order. This task has however to be fulfilled in relation to all members of the Scientific Board, the actions of survey and conservation of archival sources being by their very nature a collective effort. Collaboration with the webmaster will be for example crucial in organizing, preserving, and providing access to information and materials in archives through digital forms.

**Web Editor and Communication Officer – Brigitte Van Tiggelen (this is a position revised with the change of statutes approved at the 2018 London General Assembly)**

Van Tiggelen specialized in the history of chemistry and work with the Science History Institute, formerly the Chemical Heritage Foundation, in Philadelphia, for their European Operations. I chair the Commission for the History of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences, a Commission of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science / Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPS/DHST). I am also the chair of the historical division of the European Chemical Society, which brings me into close contact with the chemical community.

**Statement:** Dear members of ESHS, I'm very honoured to be nominated for the position of Web editor and Communications Officer of the ESHS. You might have noticed the disappearance of the Newsletter editor in the list of ESHS officers. The Society's website has progressively grown as a mean to connect with members and non-members alike, and provide information on the life of the community. This shift makes even more sense in a world in which the pandemic has considerably reduced the opportunities to meet in person and hold meetings as usual. I'm passionate about creating connections and building on existing ones. As Web editor and Communications Officer and with the help of the other officers, in particular the Webmaster and the Public Relations Officer, I'm looking forward to expand on the excellent work done so far and increase the presence of our Society among members and beyond.

**Public Relations Officer – Roberto Lalli**

Lalli is a historian of science whose work focuses on the interaction of epistemic and social factors the history of twentieth-century physics. After receiving a PhD in International History in 2011 at the University of Milan, he was Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Modern Physical Sciences at the MIT's Program in Science, Technology and Society (2011-2013). Since 2013, he has been a Research Scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. Since 2017, he has been Visiting Scholar in the Research Program on the History of the Max Planck Society and contracted Visiting Lecturer at the *Technische Universität* Berlin. He has published extensively on various topics in the history of modern physics, scientific publishing, and science diplomacy. His papers have been published in journals such as *Annals of Science*, *HSNS*, *Isis*, *Notes and Records*, *Annalen der Physik*, *Nature Astronomy*, and *Nature Reviews Physics*. His first monograph (Springer 2017) offers a new perspective on the issue of science diplomacy through the history of the international community of scientists working on general relativity during the Cold War. Since 2014, he has been one of the three coordinators of an inter-institutional research program on the post-WWII history of general relativity. In this capacity, he co-organized a large conference for the centenary anniversary of general relativity in 2015, was one of the guest editors of the open-access special issue of *European Physical Journal H* entitled "The Renaissance of Einstein's Theory of Gravitation," and is currently co-editing a volume in the Einstein Studies series. He is co-editing a *Centaurus* special issue titled Global Perspectives on Science Diplomacy that will be published in January 2021. He has received fellowships and research grants from various institutions, including the Center for History of Physics, CalTech, and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. He has organized numerous scholarly meetings and received about thirty invitations to present his research in international conferences and seminars. In 2018 he was a plenary speaker at the III International Conference on History of Physics.

**Statement:** I am extremely honored to be nominated as Public Relations (PR) Officer of the European Society for the History of Science. Building on the successful activities of previous PR Officers and on my own experience in the boards of various societies and committees (including the ESHS), I will try to pursue main objectives that go in the direction of



strengthening the relationships between the ESHS and other institutions devoted to the history of science—especially national and regional societies for the history of science in Europe, but also international societies as well as committees of international unions and national or international scientific societies. The goal is twofold. The first is to improve communication and coordination of the activities in the history of science within Europe and more globally so that the ESHS increases its role as an arena for extensive information sharing and discussion on such activities. The second is to promote the society as well as to increase its visibility and presence in the activities of the history of science in Europe and more globally. Some of the strategies I will pursue are the following: a) to establish more continuous contacts with the national societies in the history of science, b) to attempt increasing the institutional membership of the society; c) to enlarge the sponsorship of the ESHS for activities in our disciplines; d) to cooperate closely with other ESHS officers to ameliorate the public visibility of the society in virtual settings; e) to cooperate closely with the webmaster to make the ESHS website a central node in the information about the activities on the history of science in Europe, through the construction of databases. I am extremely motivated to create more links between us for the future of history of science in Europe and if you elect me, I will spare no energy to this end.

**Webmaster – Liesbeth De Mol (Lisbeth could not attend the GA but her statement was read in the meeting)**

Liesbeth De Mol, art historian and philosopher, focuses her research on the history and philosophy of computing, convinced that it is a fundamental task of a philosopher to engage with modern technique in order to see the variety of epistemological obstacles that surround it and need to be overcome if one wants to go against more ideological views on technology. She has worked on the history and philosophy of computability; the reciprocal histories between mathematics, computing and engineering as well as the historical and epistemological connections, or lack thereof, between logic and computer science. Besides she has been working on a more philosophical question related to human-computer interactions. She has published in a variety of venues which reflect her interdisciplinary stance. She is also the founding president of the DHST/DLMPST commission for the history and philosophy of computing ([www.hapoc.org](http://www.hapoc.org)) and, currently, also the PI for the ANR

research project PROGRAMme on the history and philosophy of computer programs, (<https://programme.hypotheses.org/>). In 2020 she was awarded a bronze medal by the CNRS.

**Statement:** It is my pleasure to present my candidacy for serving as the webmaster for ESHS from 2020 to 2022. As one of the co-founders of the DHST/DLMPST commission for the history and philosophy of computing I was involved in setting up the website for that community and so am quite aware of the challenges and difficulties involved in maintaining and developing a society-related website. Drawing from that experience I believe that a website should not just be static but also a dynamic space where the community not only has a chance to be informed about daily activities but is also given an opportunity to actively participate in the community. From that perspective, the current ESHS website is already functioning quite well and it would be my purpose to develop this further into the future. Amongst others, I would like to focus on the initiative taken by Matthieu Husson, the current webmaster, for setting up a young researchers network. One specific initiative I would like to launch there is to extend the current mentorship program already in place for Centaurus and set up a more general online mentoring system. There young researchers are given the opportunity to get in touch with more senior people specialized in their domain who can then guide them through the academic world, with its pitfalls and opportunities.

#### 4) In Memoriam.

The President shares with the Assembly the sorrow for Jeff Hughes who passed away in September 2018. A short note was read by the Secretary: “We wish today to remember Jeff Hughes whose news that he passed away reached us during our last biennial meeting in London, inevitably upsetting what up until that point had been a pleasant scholarly event. Jeff was an important presence in our community and held various positions in national and international societies. He chaired the *British Society for the History of Science* and was instrumental, always as chair, in the organizations the 2013 International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine – the largest in its history- in Manchester, UK. As a scholar, he was an enthusiastic researcher working especially on the history of nuclear physics which he contributed to with his thesis and a

number of outstanding articles on the political implications of nuclear research and the role of nuclear physicists (and scientists more generally) in government departments. His book *Manhattan Project: Big Science and the Atom Bomb* was awarded the 2004 HSS Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize and it is still today a key reference for studies in our field. Jeff was also an inspirational lecturer at the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM) of the University of Manchester, contributing substantially to the growth of its postgraduate community. Jeff will certainly be missed in light of his contribution to scholarly work as much as for his initiatives to propel the growth of our discipline nationally and internationally”.

## 5) President's report

*[All the reports by the officers below have been posted on the website before the General Assembly. For reason of time they were summarized during the Assembly, while they are reported in extenso in the minutes]*

The two years I served as president of the ESHS passed at an incredible pace. Fortunately, as the ESHS is run at any period of time by a triumvirate (president elect, president, vice-president), my actions as president are directly connected to those implemented as president-elect and those I will realise as vice-president, in articulation with the other members of the presidential trio, and always in close dialogue with the Council and Scientific Board members. It has proved particularly effective as it allows both for continuity and change.

The experience of working together for a common aim in an ever more transparent and egalitarian way has been particularly gratifying. As president I strove to affirm the ESHS vision of a plural history of science in its various dimensions (geographic, career- and gender-wise, thematic and methodological), whose mission is to provide a high-level interdisciplinary European forum for research in history of science broadly conceived and eager to meet the needs of an ever more diverse and multi-continental constituency, with a special concern for its early career members, at the same time acknowledging the guiding responsibility of life-long achievements in the history of science by means of its prestigious Gustav Neuenschwander (GN) Prize (a medal and a financial reward),

created in 2011 by Erwin Neuenschwander in memory of his father Gustav. From 2020 onwards the GN Prize awardee is invited to assess in his/her lecture the state of the history of science broadly conceived, in connection with historiographical trends informing the dynamics of the international community of historians of science. I take this opportunity to thank heartily Erwin Neuenschwander for his steady support of the ESHS. You have been a main pillar of our Society.

*Bologna virtual meeting, 2020, and Lisbon in-between meeting, 2019*

According to the ESHS statutes the main function of the president as executive head and legal representative of the Society is to organize its biennial meeting, a privileged forum for the communication of recent research among its members and the exploration of various connections among members and non-members.

Following the proposal of the Italian Society for the History of Science (SISS) approved in the ESHS 2018 meeting in London to organize the ESHS 2020 meeting in Bologna on the topic of “Visual, material and sensory cultures of science,” a detailed discussion took place at the in-between meeting “Rethinking the history of the sciences in Europe – historiographical approaches and future prospects,” held in Lisbon on 4-5 October 2019, the organization of which is another main function of the president, yet unacknowledged in the Statutes. No one could predict then that the ESHS, SISS and the Bologna Local Organizing Committee (LOC) would face the challenge to organize the first big virtual conference in our field, taking place from 31 August to 3 September. When Italy was dramatically ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemics, the courage, professionalism and stamina of SISS and the LOC, managed to prepare a virtual meeting involving 583 participants from 5 continents, 40 countries and 11 parallel sessions. Of these participants roughly 20% are graduate or post-graduate students, and 6% are non-presenting attendees.

The Conference also includes five plenary lectures (GN Prize, Presidential Address and three Early Career Lectures), two sessions dedicated to the Early Career (EC) Network, parallel events including two round tables (one on the documentary on Edoardo Amaldi and the other on “The Digital Life of Objects and Images”).

Adjustments to the virtual format were supported by the expertise of the Bologna IT personnel, supported by graduate students, under the

guidance of the organizing committee. They were especially challenging in what concerns the voting for new officers and Scientific Board members taking place during the GA. I am especially grateful to Simone Turchetti for having taken this extra task upon himself. They also involved the five plenary lectures, which will be delivered in a short format especially adapted to a virtual conference. Following the London Conference, three, instead of two, EC Lecturers were selected, and contrary to London lectures will take 20, not 45, minutes. It was also agreed that the three lectures will be submitted to Centaurus in paper format by December 2020 in order to be published during 2021, therefore allowing to meet the needs of fast publication of early career scholars. The GN Prize and the Presidential Address will also be delivered in Bologna in a concise format and re-addressed in full in the ESHS 2022 meeting, together with the medal awarding ceremony accompanying the GN Prize.

As such, a continuity between the two succeeding biennial meetings in different formats, one virtual and one live, will be secured, extending the Bologna “spirit” into 2022. An extra advantage of the virtual format was the ability to support 25 early career participants affiliated to academic institutions in 12 different countries, two thirds of which are graduate students. Grants covered their registration (and amounted to 1200 €), instead of the former four or five participants supported in the past with grants covering registration, flight and accommodation.

I take the opportunity to thank heartily Ezio Vaccari, Maria Comforti, respectively President and Vice-President of SISS, and all members of the Organizing Committee, and most especially Marco Beretta, Elena Canadelli, Sandra Linguerra and Paolo Savoia, involved in the challenging task of organizing such a ground-breaking conference in Bologna, the first virtual conference of its dimension in our discipline.

### *Beyond the president's main function*

Besides the organization of the ESHS 2020 Bologna meeting, I was actively involved in major recent changes in the ESHS deemed central to fulfil its mission and dealing with its official identity status (statutory reform and new officers, legal address and relation to CAPHES, French bank account), membership and visibility (survey mapping the ESHS community, website update), and its official journal (Centaurus,

contractual relation to Wiley, exploration of other publishers' alternatives, and open access challenges). All these activities involve stretches of time longer than two years, from their initiation to their completion. Many were started during Karine Chemla's presidency, pursued by Toni Malet, and are now heading towards conclusion. Others are still in progress, and still others by their own nature will be evolving dynamically. I count on working together with Theo Arabatzis in order to complete most of them. With such a smooth continuity the empowerment of the ESHS and of its members, most especially its early career ones, more prone to the vulnerabilities of the job market, will be secured.

I take the opportunity to thank Karine Chemla and Toni Malet for all I have learned with them, Toni Malet and Theo Arabatzis for all the discussions held and decisions made during my mandate, in which we were helped according to the topic by Erwin Neuenschwander, Simone Turchetti, Matthieu Husson and Koen Vermeir as well as by the other officers and Scientific Board members, to whom I also thank.

### *ESHS official identity status*

The new statutes of the society proposed by the Council and Scientific Board were voted and approved at the GA in London in 2018, but will be effective after the Bologna meeting. Revisions included more precise formulation of some articles, exemplified by the restriction of most officers' mandates to two terms in order to secure more democratic governance. They also encompassed new officers' functions, such as Archivist, and Web-editor and Communications Officer. In articulation with the Secretary, Public Relations Officer and Webmaster, these two new officers will work in order to build the ESHS memory, visibility and networking ambitions.

The Archivist will coordinate the organization of the extant documents amassed since the creation of the Society in 2003, profiting from the transfer of its seat to the Centre d'Archives en Philosophie, Histoire et Edition des Sciences (CAPHES), of the École Normale Supérieure (rue d'Ulm, Paris, France) (<http://caphes.ens.fr>), building a dynamic archive able to house both documents pertaining to Society's life and to act as a potential repository of pre-prints and publications by Society's members. A discussion of efficient ways to retrieve past mail exchanges and to accommodate easily future ones (for instance, e-mail addresses housed

at CAPHES server) is in need. The Web-editor and Communications Officer, together with the Public Relations Officer, will boost communication in different media formats both among members as well as with other sister societies or institutions deemed relevant for the ESHS networking goals. In these past two years, Simone Turchetti, Brigitte van Tiggelen and myself held conversations with HSS, SHOT and MPIWG representatives, including Tom Misa, SHOT's president, and Jurgen Renn, director of MPIWG Department I, but no practical actions materialized so far.

I was also contacted recently by Marco Armiero, now president of the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH), but the pandemia curtailed the discussion of possible joint actions. Roberto Lalli and Erika Luciano were more successful in securing collaboration with the Italian Society for the History of Science, the Italian Society for the History of Physics and Astronomy, and the Italian Society for the History of Mathematics.

The formalization of the relation of the ESHS with CAPHES, the new seat of the Society has been the subject of a protocol. Its implications for the Webmaster functions have been addressed during my mandate, but it is still necessary to secure the "official" recognition of the work of a member of the IT personnel of CAPHES/ENS associated with structural changes which took place during my mandate in the ESHS website housed at the server of ENS, and which will certainly continue. As to the promises offered by the new role of Archivist, Society's members should have in mind the immense advantages provided by the functionalities offered by the Archives Ouvertes HAL (<https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/>). HAL is an open archive established by the French CNRS where authors can deposit scholarly documents, including PDFs of their articles published in journals or chapters published in books, while having access to all documents archived. At this juncture, it is necessary to work out the technical details to launch the online repository online, if the ESHS members wish so.

The new legal address of the ESHS at CAPHES, rue d'Ulm, Paris, has delayed unwittingly the process of opening a French bank account on behalf of the ESHS. I took upon myself this task as soon as the new statutes were approved in 2018. Clément Goutorbe, a history student working in Paris under the supervision of Pascal Griset at the Sorbonne, applied for an internship in Portugal during the academic year 2018-19, at

the Interuniversity Center for the History of Science and Technology (CIUHCT), which I co-coordinated at the time. Together with Maria Paula Diogo, then CIUHCT's coordinator and institutional member of the ESHS Scientific Board in representation of CIUHCT, we took the decision to put him to work on various matters pertaining to the ESHS. One was the translation into French of the old and new statutes, as well as the parts of the minutes of the 2018 GA pertaining to statutory changes and to the election of the new officers and scientific board members. Together with other documents, they were submitted at the platform of the French police for approval. After the process was completed, all documents necessary to open a bank account in Paris at BNP Paribas were submitted. The signatories of the account were chosen to be the ESHS President, Erwin Neuenschwander, the ESHS treasurer, and Matthieu Husson, acting as the ESHS contact person living in Paris, who kindly accepted to play such a role and who has been tireless in a process which proved to be a nightmare. By early September 2019, on the occasion of the first EC network meeting, which took place at the National Observatory of Paris, the three of us met in Paris, to sign the documents to finalize the process of opening the bank account. I especially thank Matthieu Husson for making possible our appointment with the bank representative and Erwin Neuenschwander for his willingness to accommodate this visit to Paris on an already tight schedule of meetings. While it looked that the process was nearing its end, the wrong address of the seat of the Society in the documents signed – not rue d'Ulm, as it should be, but the old address – proved to be a source of an immense exchange of mails, visits to the BNP Paribas agency, new documents signed and sent, which together with the indirect impact of the pandemia have delayed so far the process' conclusion. In this ordeal, Matthieu Husson tirelessly contacted the bank agency, almost on a weekly basis. When the process will be completed, the change in the ESHS president will have to be officially acknowledged in the documents of the bank account.

The need to open a bank account on behalf of the ESHS is fundamental for financial transparency and specifically: 1) to secure registrations in the ESHS biennial meetings to be directly deposited in the ESHS bank account, which include the membership fee for the next two years, thereby circumventing problems of data protection, as well as 2) to ease the process of looking for future sources of financial support for the ESHS, deemed especially important in a future open access environment for its



official journal. I thank heartily Erwin Neuenschwander for having taken so far upon himself the burden of dealing on behalf of the Society with its present bank accounts.

### *ESHS membership and visibility*

The clarification of the ESHS official identity better serves the needs of its diverse and increasing membership. The ESHS membership has grown roughly by a factor of 10 since the ESHS meeting held in Lisbon in 2014, which initiated the inclusion in the meeting registration fees of the ESHS membership for the succeeding two years at a reduced price (with free access to the Society's official journal). Right before the Bologna meeting, the ESHS membership amounts to 570 members. While the Lisbon measure solved the ESHS membership deficit, it raised simultaneously a highly fluctuating membership pattern, dependent on meeting's attendance, and unable to secure per se a committed and participative membership, going beyond a core estimated at a fifth of the ESHS overall membership. While this may be a pattern common to other societies, during my mandate some actions were taken to contribute to its solution. One was the Survey Mapping the ESHS Community, the other was revamping the ESHS website to better serve its members while enhancing the ESHS public visibility. I detail them in what follows. It is my conviction that other actions should be articulated and put in practice in the near future.

The Survey Mapping the ESHS Community attempts at a first characterization of our community, in all its diversity, and was prepared under my supervision, first with the help of the intern Clément Goutorbe and then with the expert guidance of the sociologist Paula Urze and of Maria Paula Diogo, both CIUHCT members. I thank all of them for their willingness to help me in this venture. In the in-between meeting held in Lisbon comments were invited from officers and scientific board members, before the survey was made public at the ESHS website and an invitation was sent through the ESHS membership list. The Survey addresses the training, scientific and professional profile of ESHS members, mobility and publication patterns and ability to cater for EU funding. It is my conviction that the analysis of answers received will enable a better knowledge of our community, inviting actions to foster its healthy growth and cohesion. So far, around 100 answers were submitted. In my Opening Address at

Bologna I will invite once more participants to fill it, and will report on its results by the end of 2020. In any case, the final number of answers will give us an independent assessment of the ESHS core membership.

The involvement of ESHS members in Society's life has been boosted by their participation in major ESHS actions, including the proposal of candidates for the Gustav Neuenschwander Prize, and for EC scholars' lecturers, as well as proposals for thematic issues of *Centaurus*, together with the participation in selection committees for the EC lecturers and also for *Centaurus* thematic issues' assessment. An increasing number of proposals in recent years points to the liveliness of the Society. Additionally, following the creation of the EC network in September 2018, the realization of their first meeting in September 2019 in Paris, supported partly by a ESHS grant (1000 €), together with a EC network dedicated part of the ESHS website has fostered scientific discussions and debates on prospective activities. The future actions of the EC network and the ESHS commitment to support it in all possible ways will be a sign of the ESHS vitality.

The EC network dedicated part of the ESHS website is just one of the novelties, however important, of the ESHS website which took place during my mandate. I felt that the ESHS webpage was in need of some uplifting, in order to become more attractive. Its front-page has been enlivened by a dynamic strip with major recent news, and new entries in the grey strip, including one on the Early Career Scholars Network and another on *Centaurus*. In the process, it was realized that being housed in the CAPHES server, structural changes had to be implemented by CAPHES IT personnel, a process dependent on their time availability, and were also restricted to approved templates. The other major change resulted from negotiations with Wiley concerning access of ESHS individual members to *Centaurus* directly through the ESHS website, and not through the *Centaurus* website. By clicking *Centaurus* on the grey strip at the ESHS front page, the individual member can access *Centaurus* with a login in and password, which redirects him/her to the website front-page, and by clicking "Wiley online" at the bottom, the member enters *Centaurus* and has access to all its issues. The login and password is common to all members and is available upon request to the Secretary. Other forms of distribution are still under discussion, and include a specific mail sent through the ESHS mailing list at least once a year or preferably whenever a new *Centaurus* issue is announced. I am deeply grateful to Matthieu

Husson for his work as Webmaster and for his mentorship of the EC network.

### *ESHS official journal and relation with Wiley*

*Centaurus*. An international journal of history of science and its cultural aspects exists since 1950. It is one of the oldest and best journals in the field of history of science broadly conceived, and since 2006, it became the official Journal of the ESHS. Since 2017, when Koen Vermeir was appointed editor-in-chief of *Centaurus* upon recommendation of the ESHS, major changes have taken place. Publishing 4 issues a year, now with an average of 10 articles each, it has also been due to Koen Vermeir's sheer stubbornness that the journal has managed to be finally on schedule after lagging behind for several years. It is particularly rewarding that this feat has been accomplished with the publication of a fully open access and truly original and timely issue – a spotlight issue on the history of epidemics in the time of COVID-19.

The journal features now various typologies of issues, different sorts of sections and a closer association with the ESHS than previously. It publishes the GN Prize Lectures, Presidential Addresses, and EC scholars' lectures. It has also signalled the ESHS 15th anniversary with memories of its past presidents. Resulting from ESHS calls for Special Issues, various issues are thematic, and around 90% of its authors are members of the ESHS. The diversity fostered by the ESHS as regards to the profile of its members, geographical provenance, training, career stage, and approach to the discipline (thematic and historiographical) have been reflected in *Centaurus*, giving it a very broad and original profile. Following the creation of a new typology of issues – the Virtual Issues – the first of which has recently come out, I will propose to the ESHS presidents, Scientific Board members and *Centaurus* editor-in-chief a virtual issue on “Celebrating diversity in the history of science,” using a selection of *Centaurus*' publications since 2006, when it became the ESHS official journal, as a mirror to reflect on the various meanings of diversity embodied in the ESHS. The ESHS is very supportive and committed to make its official journal flourish and is very enthusiastic and positive about *Centaurus*. With the concerted efforts of Koen Vermeir and

the ESHS, Centaurus has become much more attractive. This is certainly mostly due to Koen Vermeir's persistent and creative commitment and I thank him heartily.

However, as acknowledged since the presidency of Karine Chemla and of Toni Malet, Centaurus is currently 100% owned by Wiley, which has a final say on all aspects related with the editorial structure and editorial line of the journal. The editor-in-chief is also appointed by Wiley. Although Koen Vermeir has been appointed upon recommendation of the ESHS, nothing obliges Wiley to abide to the ESHS's suggestion. Following several exchanges with Wiley during the two previous presidencies, amply discussed in report of the last president (2016-18), and including contacts with other publisher houses, both university presses and commercial publishers, as well as exploratory exchanges with some of them, pursued tirelessly by Toni Malet, during my presidency I concentrated all my energies in articulating as much as possible a better relationship with Wiley, more favourable to the ESHS, despite and beyond the contractual full ownership of Centaurus by Wiley. This included the negotiation of a flat rate of 1750 € to be paid by the ESHS to Wiley from 2017 onwards, not dependent on the number of ESHS members as contractually declared, and applied until Centaurus became published on schedule, when this fee will be renegotiated, as well as the access of ESHS individual members to Centaurus through the ESHS website, mentioned above. A close interaction with Koen Vermeir has proved extremely beneficial for Centaurus, and has recently included a discussion of the drawbacks of the journal's visual image and layout (logo, cover and pages' layout), and alternatives to it. While Wiley, through Graham Russel and Renée Takken, made a lot of effort to reach out to the ESHS in recent years, accepting many of the proposals put forward by the ESHS, including the suggestion of the new editor, and a more close involvement of the ESHS in matters pertaining to its official journal, this does not seem to be the case since the appointment of Kate McKellar as Centaurus' managing editor in January 2020. My feeling is that Wiley is not working anymore with the ESHS, in the same spirit Graham Russel and Renée Takken were. This is corroborated by the recent decision of Wiley to eliminate print copies for individual members, restricting print copies to institutions for sustainability reasons. This was done against the contract between Wiley and the ESHS, and without prior agreement from the

Society (which in its statutes refers explicitly to the possibility of individual members to acquire print copies at reduced rates in Article III.10).

It is my conviction that a satisfactory solution to the scientific control of the Society upon its official journal should be worked out in the next two years, taking advantage of the challenges of the EU Open Access (OA) guidelines, which have to be articulated by 2021. In order to serve its growing and diverse membership, it is my conviction that whatever OA solution will be negotiated for Centaurus it cannot fall upon its authors, mostly ESHS members, to cover the charges of OA, and most of them are not integrated in institutions able to pay the APC fees (Article Publishing Charge fees). Some strong sponsorship needs to be found. In this context, recent contacts with Brepols are ongoing. I commit myself to work together with Theo Arabatzis, the ESHS president after Bologna, the Council and Scientific Board members, profiting from the advice of Koen Vermeir, Chief-editor of Centaurus and an acknowledged expert on OA issues, to find a good solution for the new phase the Society's official journal will enter in the very near future.

I take this opportunity to thank once more all officers and Scientific Board members with whom it was a pleasure to share experiences and knowledge in the two past years, and most especially those who will no longer be part of the Scientific Board – Mitch Ash, Elaine Leong, and Dimitri Bayuk – but who will certainly continue to be very active ESHS members. I enthusiastically welcome all those who will be part of the Council and Scientific Board for the next two years. I also thank all ESHS members for their participation in the life of the Society, and urge them to be creative in the ways they can contribute to turn the ESHS into an ever more dynamic forum for discussion of history of science matters.

*The Assembly approved the President Report at 17.10.*

## **6) Vice President statement**

The Vice President did not submit a written report but contributed to proceedings with a statement in which he recalled his years in office and thanked all those who collaborated with him towards achieving the objectives of the society.

## 7) *Centaurus* Editor Report

I started as Editor-in-Chief of *Centaurus*, the Official journal of the ESHS, in July 2018 and I report on the 2-year period July 2018 – July 2020. It was our ambition to integrate *Centaurus* more closely with the ESHS and, with the help of the ESHS, to become the best and most attractive journal in the field. While we did not yet fully achieve this ambition, we made a lot of progress towards our goals. To **integrate *Centaurus* more closely with the ESHS**, we developed a close working relationship with the ESHS presidents, council and board, and we developed a vision to better involve and represent the diversity of European research in the History of Science. We are involving ESHS members at all levels of the management of the journal, including the full Editorial Board and the selection committee for the special issues. *Centaurus* also published an ESHS 15-year anniversary issues with contributions from past ESHS presidents (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/16000498/2018/60/1-2>), we continued to publish the ESHS presidential lectures, the Gustav Neuenschwander Prize lecture, and the young scholar lectures and we published an ESHS contribution on *Centaurus*' 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To become a more attractive journal, we needed to improve the processing times of the journal as well as its quality. I am happy to report that **all key metrics improved considerably**.

- We made the journal more efficient and the **time from submission to decision for articles was more than halved**, from 70 to 30 days. This includes the time for peer review and editorial review. This means that on average, you will know whether your article is accepted or needs more revisions 1 month after submitting your article.
- Our book review editors process **book reviews 7x faster** than before. We are now streamlining the production process so that they can be published as soon as possible, giving very timely reviews of the latest literature.
- The **number of submitted original articles to *Centaurus* has tripled** compared to the average over the previous 10 years, which means that we have many more good manuscripts to choose from.

- We received a **7-fold increase in Special Issue proposals** compared to the 2017 call which allowed us to make a fantastic selection for the coming years.
- The **quality of submissions has increased considerably** because of a careful vetting process of special issues, which involves detailed feedback to the guest editors and requests to improve the proposals, as well as a mentoring program for early career scholars.
- We caught up with a long-standing one-year delay and we are now **publishing on time**.
- We are also building more visibility for Centaurus, which now has an **official Twitter account**. Please follow us @**Centaurus\_ESHS**.
- We published a very **timely Spotlight Issue** on the history of epidemics in the time of COVID-19
- Other metrics, like impact factor and citation counts, are lagging indicators and although already slightly improved, they are expected to show major improvement very soon.

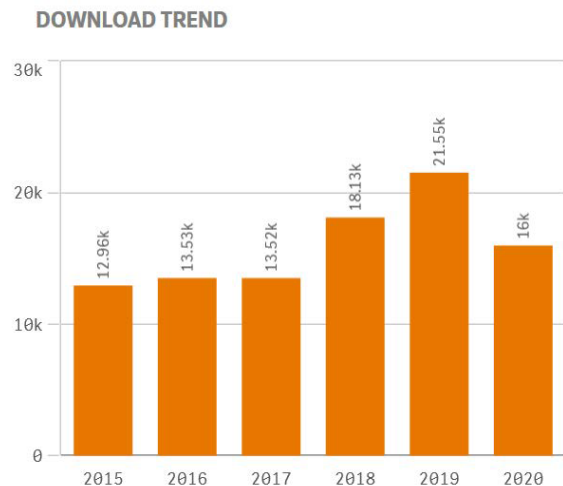
We managed to do all this **despite the major challenges faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic** and its effects on authors, reviewers as well as on Wiley, the publisher of Centaurus, whose production procedures have been disrupted.

### **Reforming the journal**

I started my term as Editor by reforming the journal, which was needed to improve its attractiveness, quality and timeliness. Our proposed reforms have worked very well for the journal and have already had clear results. Changing the form of the editorial team has been very beneficial. Before, the Editor worked with 3 associate editors and 1 book review editor. We now have 2 book review editors; a deputy editor, several assistant editors, a communications editor and a large editorial board. We created new author guidelines, a new journal style and style guide (to make the style consistent with APA) and we changed the internal systems (e.g. the ScholarOne system) to allow for more efficient processing of articles. We redefined the types of publication and added new types, increasing transparency of the journal's processes, defined a conflict of interest policy and established procedures to avoid conflict of interest. We created new procedures for selecting special issue proposals to make sure we

focus on the most promising proposals that make a difference in the field. We are also advertising Centaurus at conferences and on different media, e.g. starting our own Twitter account. We have better explained the publication procedure (see: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/pb-assets/assets/16000498/EiC%20interview-1549903909957.pdf>) and we are reaching out to young scholars (e.g. by creating a mentoring program and organizing a special session for early career researchers at the ESHS conference). These and many more actions that are detailed below have made Centaurus into a better, more visible and more attractive journal. This can, for instance, be seen in the recent download trend, which shows that we already double and may soon triple earlier download numbers.

*Note that 2020 data are only for the first 6 months (until end of June 2020). The download trend for the full year will therefore be significantly higher (around 32.000?). Furthermore, the full impact of our reforms will be only visible in the download trends and other key metrics in the coming two years.*



### **Vision: representing the diversity of European research**

We widened the scope of Centaurus, encompassing “History of Science understood in the broadest sense” as defined in the mission of the ESHS. In addition to the more traditional submissions to Centaurus, especially in the physical sciences, we have tried to attract more submissions from the history of social sciences, humanities, technology and medicine and we are making clear headway, with a significant amount of submissions in the history of technology and medicine, including special issues in these areas. *Centaurus* is open to all kinds of approaches and methodologies practiced in the field, and this is clearly appreciated by the authors. We have seen a remarkable boost in interdisciplinary submissions that connect history of science to other disciplines. We created an Editorial Board that reflects the European research landscape, and we see also a more diverse set of submissions, much better representing the European



geography. We received submissions from 35 different countries, considerably increasing the diversity of our authorship. We also attract a diversity of book reviewers and we ask them to review books from smaller presses written in different languages, making *Centaurus* into a unique journal that gives access to the diversity of European research in the history of science.

### **Centaurus team and editorial board**

When I started, we needed to start from scratch as all members of the previous team, including the copy-editor, resigned. I appointed a new core Editorial Team: Jonathan Regier became our first Assistant Editor and Noemí Pizarroso López and Mihnea Dobre became the new Book Review Editors. They have all been doing an absolutely amazing job. In the fall of 2018 we created a new editorial board. An important goal was to represent European research in the History of Science. I think our board gives a great disciplinary, methodological as well as geographical coverage and is diverse in gender and age. I would like to thank the editorial board members for their contributions so far. Some have given invaluable advice, others have prompted authors to submit to *Centaurus*, yet others have helped with evaluating many special issue proposals, and some have been excellent mentors for some of our early career authors. Thanks to all of you!

Due to the increasing number of submissions, we have expanded our core Editorial Team. From the spring of 2019, Kim Hajek joined the team as our second Assistant Editor, boosting the journal's profile and expertise in the history of social sciences and humanities. From the fall of 2019, Sietske Fransen, Jérôme Baudry and Daniela Helbig also joined our team as Assistant Editors, adding new expertise in the history of the life sciences and technology, different historical periods as well as new geographical representation to the mix. We were able to realize our great results thanks to them! Recently, Barnaby Hutchins also joined the team as Communications Editor. His task is to communicate more about *Centaurus* and make the journal more visible for authors and readers. I believe that this reinforced team will take *Centaurus* to the next level. Our full editorial board is very diverse in terms of age, geography, methodology and sub-disciplines covered. They have provided indispensable help with selecting Special Issues, mentoring young scholars, and giving advice. For the full editorial board, see:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/16000498/homepage/editorialboard.html>

## Special Issues

Because Centaurus had hardly anything in the pipeline when we started, the first thing we did was to revive some older special issue ideas that had been promised to Centaurus several years ago but were all but abandoned. I contacted and pressed the guest editors to rekindle the idea of their special issues and submit it as soon as possible. We also looked at the results of the 2017 call for Special Issues, which had not yet been processed. To avoid further delays, I created a small evaluation committee to judge the quality of the proposals. The selected issues have now all been published.

In the fall of 2018, we organized a new Call for Special Issues. We are pleased to announce that the 2018-2019 Centaurus Call was a great success. Thank you again for your help in promoting and distributing it! The evaluation committee, this time consisting of a team of eight colleagues (ESHS nominated members and Centaurus board members), reviewed the proposals and gave detailed feedback and recommendations on each of the proposals. This was a major effort for all involved but it was also extremely helpful for the guest editors, as this process allowed them to considerably improve their proposals! Many thanks to you all!

Four excellent special issues have been accepted by now. Some of the other proposals are still in various stages of revision and may be accepted at a later time. The feedback by the Editorial Board is also a kind of mentoring that has proven to be a major factor in increasing the quality of the submissions for Centaurus. The currently accepted proposals are:

- Global Perspectives on Science Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century: Actors, Organizations, States. (Guest editors: Matthew Adamson and Roberto Lalli)
- Verticality in the history of science (Guest editors: Wilko Graf von Hardenberg and Martin Mahony)
- The material culture and politics of artifacts in nuclear diplomacy (Guest editors: Maria Rentetzi and Kenji Ito)

- Latent, Present Energy. Devices, Infrastructures, and Discourses of (In-)Visibility (Guest Editors Felix Frey and Jonas Schädler)

A new call for Special Issues has been sent in July 2020, with a deadline in October 2020, after the ESHS conference in Bologna. We hope for a similarly enthusiastic response from the ESHS community.

### **Spotlight Sections**

Centaurus also publishes special sections, called *Spotlight Sections* or *Spotlight Issues*. A Spotlight section is a collection of short articles focusing on a specific theme, which can be a new subject, a neglected area, a theme of particular topicality, or a topic of specific relevance to the profession. Its aim is to jump-start new discussion and debate. The style of such an article is more concise and faster paced than individually submitted articles. Spotlight sections can either be commissioned by the Centaurus' Editorial team or they can be proposed by scholars in writing to the Editor-in-Chief. We have received a number of interesting enquiries for Spotlight Sections so far. They will be accepted by the Editor based on academic merit and on the current and projected state of other submissions (including the estimated progress of special issues), which gives the Editor a useful tool for managing the timeline of the publication of Centaurus issues.

The latest Centaurus issue, Volume 62, Issue 2 (May 2020) is a Spotlight Issue: Histories of epidemics in the time of COVID-19 (access to the articles is free: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/16000498/2020/62/2>). Creating this issue at breakneck speed helped us to deal with the challenges COVID-19 raised for the journal (delaying all our other issues because authors, reviewers and editors experienced serious disruptions) and allowed to still manage to catch up with the delays in publishing. We also turned around COVID-19 from a challenge into an opportunity for the journal by devoting a thematic issue to this subject that was (and still is) consuming our societies, showing the relevance of history for current concerns. In the future, we will try to make it a distinctive characteristic of spotlight issues that they address very timely topics that are important for society. We will also try to publish them with a very quick turnaround, so that Centaurus can participate in and provide a historical perspective on current societal debates and challenges. This will be very beneficial to the visibility and reputation of the journal.

## Virtual Issues

Centaurus, the official journal of the ESHS, will be 70 years old this year. This is something that we wanted to celebrate by a journey into the archives of the journal. In that context, I am pleased to announce that Centaurus recently published its first Virtual Issue. The theme of this issue, the History of Early Astronomy, was selected because of the long-standing strength of Centaurus in this subject, having published hundreds of important articles in this area since 1950. Please visit (all articles are free access): [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1600-0498.history\\_of\\_early\\_astronomy](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/(ISSN)1600-0498.history_of_early_astronomy).

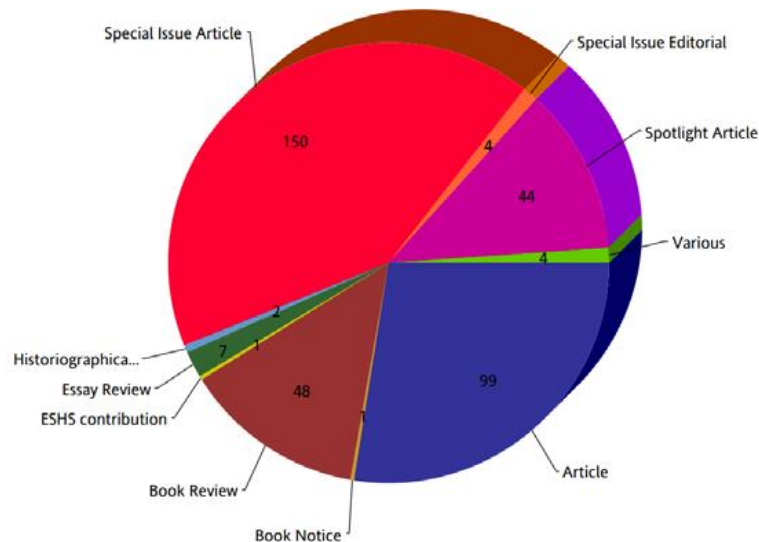
A Virtual Issue is an online collection of articles selected from content previously published and currently forthcoming in Centaurus. Such an issue can be used to focus attention on key topics or geographic regions, to show new emergent themes, or to showcase relevant articles to researchers in related disciplines and sub-disciplines. Indeed, articles that were published separately can assume new significance if they are brought together in the context of a Virtual Issue, as this allows for new links and connections to be made. Furthermore, Virtual Issues can be used to show the historical development of the field when introduced by an insightful historiographical introduction. Virtual Issue articles will be made freely available online, generating a broader readership for classic articles. Even a quick glance through the Centaurus archives reveals an incredible richness and variety of research. We hope that the first Virtual Issue will inspire our readers to conduct their own impromptu journeys through the other articles in the Centaurus archives.

We also **called upon ESHS members to propose Virtual Issues**. The proposal should contain a balanced selection of 10 to 14 articles from the Centaurus archives, an abstract explaining the theme of the Virtual Issue and a short description of how the selected articles fit into the Virtual Issue theme. If the proposal is selected, the guest editors will be asked to write a substantial introduction. This is an open call, with no specific deadline, but proposals will be discussed by the Editorial Team on a first come first serve basis.

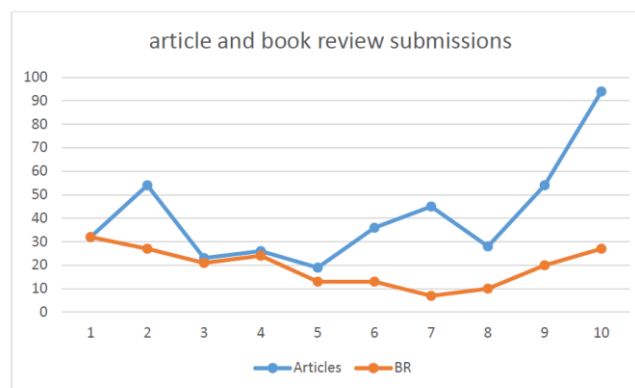
## Submissions

In the two year period, July 2018 – July 2020 I read and made **decisions on 326 manuscripts (i.e. an average of more than 13 manuscripts to**

**read each month**). This number includes original versions as well as different versions of revised submissions. The image below is a breakdown of the different kinds of submissions:



In this 2-year period, a total of **147** original articles were submitted (of which 78 were Special Issue or Spotlight Issue Articles). Additionally, **53** Book Reviews were submitted. Compared with previous years, we see a remarkable increase in submissions, especially of original articles.



From the first year, the period July 2018 – July 2019 (n°9 on the graph) we started working on the recovery of the journal, and we immediately equaled the highest submission number from 10 years ago. In the second year (n°10 on the graph), the **number of submitted original articles to Centaurus has tripled** compared to the average over the last 10 years

### Acceptance ratio:

Estimates for the acceptance ratio of articles are:

Individual Articles: 63% rejected; 23% major revisions; 14% minor revisions.

Special Issue articles: 10% rejected; 30% major revisions; 60% minor revisions.

Note: The relatively low rejection rate for Special Issues is explained by the fact that Special Issue articles are curated: there is a strict selection process *before* submission (1) by the guest editors and (2) by the evaluation committee (we recommend to drop or add specific articles that are part of the proposals). Furthermore, they have already been through a round of major revisions before being submitted to the journal. It is important that usually not all of the proposed articles are even submitted because of quality concerns or delays, and these articles do not show up in the statistics. Note also that, sometimes, Special Issue articles receive extensive mentoring by the guest editors and may go through up to 4 or 5 rounds of major revisions. This increases the chances of acceptance because it gives the authors confidence to continue to improve their work.

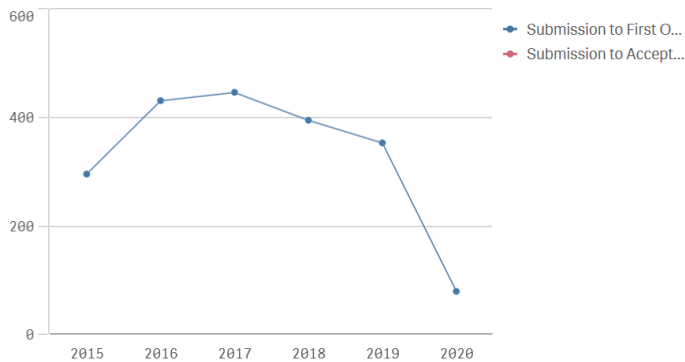
### Submissions from a diversity of countries:

We have done very well to reach a very diverse base of submissions in the last 24 months. Some of the European countries that were conspicuously missing in the last decade are now in the list with recent submissions. Thank you all very much for your efforts! In the 24 month period after 01/07/2018, we received submissions from 35 different countries. This means that we considerably increased the diversity of our authorship. I am particularly happy that we received submissions the following European countries, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, that were missing out in the previous period. I think this is particularly significant for the European Society of the History of Science. The most important European countries from which no author submitted a manuscript in the last 24 months are: Belarus, Bulgaria, Ireland, Ukraine. So we need some extra efforts here. If you know colleagues in this area, please encourage them to submit! (For that matter: *please encourage ALL your colleagues, no matter where they are based, to send their manuscripts to Centaurus!*)

### Reviewing and decision times:

Because the new editorial team started in July 2018, when the journal publication was one year delayed and we had only very few articles in the pipeline, we tried to get quality submissions as soon as possible and we did major efforts to reduce the reviewing and decision times (July 2018 – July 2019). We were able to drastically lower the average reviewing time, sometimes even going as low as 3 weeks, by contacting many possible reviewers and working closely with them to ensure a timely response. We did this without any compromises in regard to quality. Fantastic efforts were delivered by our reviewers as well as our authors, who made revisions with very tight deadlines. Equally extraordinary efforts were required of the editorial team, being vigilant all the time, reacting to emails and reading versions of manuscripts within a time-frame of a few hours, and supporting the reviewers and authors as much as possible. We wanted to do this in order to get the journal back on schedule, and also to make the journal more attractive to younger researchers who need fast turnaround times (for job applications etc.). After 10 months of continuous time-pressure, we were able to catch up with a full year of delayed publishing (i.e. we finished the double of the normal number of issues). Although the editorial team was back on schedule by May 2019, unfortunately, the copy-editors and the Wiley production department could not keep up with processing the increased number of finished articles, and as a result, the delay in publishing *Centaurus* took longer than anticipated. Furthermore, because we started attracting and publishing more manuscripts than ever before (from 3 articles in an issue to 10 articles per issue), the copy-editors and the Wiley production team were delayed even more. Finally, by the end of 2019, I got personally involved in reforming the Wiley production processes to ensure timely processing of the manuscripts. Several months of difficult negotiations followed, with some setbacks along the way (e.g. when Wiley's proofing system broke down and authors could not submit proofs anymore for a while), but we finally managed to make the production process significantly more efficient than what it was before even with an increased volume of manuscripts that needed to be typeset and proofed.

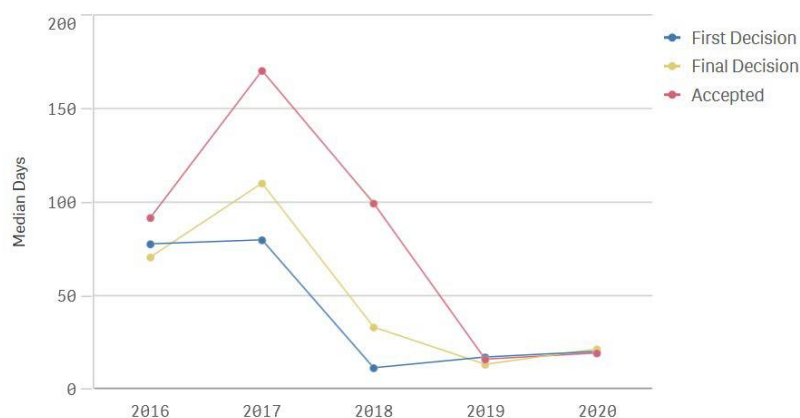
MEDIAN DAYS FROM SUBMISSION TO ONLINE PUBLICATION



*2018 and 2019 represent significant improvements in reviewing and decision times but major problems at Wiley's production department. We have been solving some of these issues in 2020 even though there are still some areas of possible improvement.*

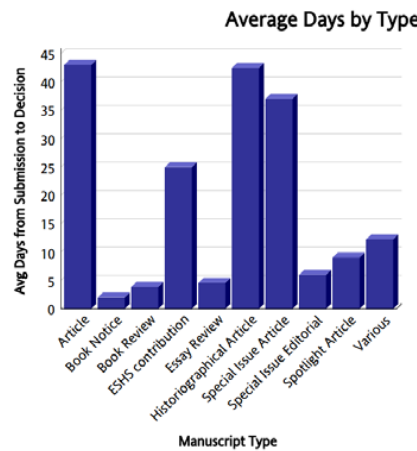
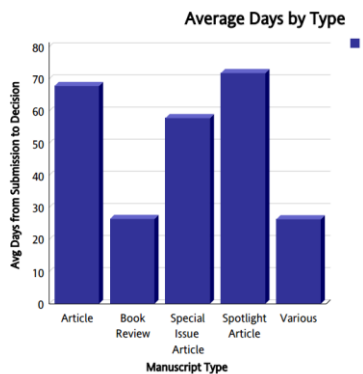
The ongoing delays in production also meant that we could go to a somewhat slower pace of reviewing and evaluating until the summer of 2020, when the production department was finally able to catch up with us. For the whole period, the time from submission to decision for articles was more than halved, from 70 (before 2018) to 30 days. In looking at these numbers, one should also take into account the much higher volume of submissions. Taken together, this shows a major improvement in the management of the journal.

DECISION TIMES TREND



From the following two charts you can comparing average reviewing times (on the Y axis, in days) between the two periods, for each manuscript type (on the X axis):





Previous period (July 2016- July 2018, left) vs. latest period (July 2018 – July 2020, right)

### Timing of publication:

As mentioned before, in July 2018, the journal was one year delayed with publishing its issues. This has detrimental effects for the attractiveness of the journal and also has a strongly negative impact on key metrics like impact factors. Since May 2019, the editorial team was on schedule with submitting the manuscripts to Wiley’s production department. Unfortunately, Wiley’s production department (copy-editing and typesetting) and the management team overseeing the journal was not only inefficient, it was also deficient for a large part of 2019. It is only after I started to get involved directly in the management of the production process (against my mandate and beyond my contractual powers), that things started to get better. By the summer of 2020, the efficiency of the production department is reasonable, but there is still room for improvement. After two years of continuing efforts and major challenges to overcome, we are finally publishing Centaurus on time again. In the next months, our aim is to start publishing the journal slightly ahead of time.

### **Book Reviews**

In terms of books being reviewed (or under review) in the journal, in the period 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2020, we covered publications from 39 national and international publishers, from a total of 84 monographs or edited volumes. Some are from large publishing houses, but we also aimed to broaden our scope and include more local publications (e.g., active at national level, or university publishing houses). We are actively seeking to promote publications in the history of science in all European languages, and some steps were made in this direction, to include

contributions in Spanish, Romanian, and Portuguese, which adds to the more common publications in English, French, and German. The same effort towards diversity is being made regarding the origin/ location of reviewers. Finally, in line with the current scope of the journal, we are including books from the history of medicine, social sciences, humanities and technology, and take the history of science in the broadest sense. Our book review editors do a great job in managing the book reviews efficiently, in fact they process book reviews 7x faster than before. We are now also streamlining the production process so that they can be published as soon as possible. This means that very soon Centaurus will be able to publish very timely reviews of the latest literature.

### **Mentoring program**

When the new team started, we also launched a new initiative, the Centaurus' mentorship program. For more information about the program, see: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/16000498/homepage/mentoring\\_program.html](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/16000498/homepage/mentoring_program.html). Many authors have indicated interest in Centaurus' mentorship program which gives an indication of the need for such an initiative. Not all these authors were eligible, however (Some senior authors applied, and some requested mentoring for writing a book review. In the meantime, we clarified the eligibility criteria on the submission page). In the last 2 years, we received **20 eligible requests**. 7 of these articles were rejected directly because the quality was too low even for starting in the mentoring program. (Given our limited capacity, we can only mentor authors who have a fair chance at being published, so we need to start with a basic level of quality). In many cases, these articles were submitted by young authors working outside of any institution and not necessarily used to academic and disciplinary standards. For some of these articles, I did an effort to find appropriate colleagues that worked at a university near to the author's location, so that I could refer them to a local mentor.

8 of the articles that received mentoring were special issue articles. These have been mentored closely by me in cooperation with the special issue guest editors. After a few months, we made the decision that mentoring of young authors who have submitted invited special issue articles should be done by the guest editors in the future. It is now clarified on the website that special issue articles are no longer eligible.

5 articles were mentored by members of Centaurus' Editorial Board. I took over for one of them, because the board member had in the end not enough time to follow up, I had to take over the mentorship role myself.

It is not ideal for me to assist with the mentoring, and we will avoid this in the future (also to avoid conflict of interest and biased decision making) but because of time constraints and our tight publication schedule in the last two years, this was the only practical way forward.

Overall, I think the mentorship program has been a success: it has helped young scholars to improve their articles. Sometimes this meant many revision rounds, and a long publication process, but it meant constructive criticism and moral support instead of the disappointment of an immediate rejection, and this is often what young scholars need. In all cases, it remains crucial to have an independent reviewing process and to keep editorial independence in making decisions. (It is known that there is a bias against young scholars and especially young women in the academic publication system, and this is important to rectify).

To strengthen editorial independence, it would be best to locate the mentoring *externally* to the journal's procedures. Furthermore, when the success of the mentoring program becomes known, we may soon face the capacity limits of the Editorial Board. Maybe the ESHS Young scholar's network may have the capacity to manage a larger pool of potential mentors and I hope to discuss possibilities with them.

## **Conclusion**

Centaurus is flourishing again, and published on time, thanks to a great editorial team renewed interest from authors and guest editors, and a fantastic relationship with the ESHS and the field more generally (including great reviewers!). There is a still lot of promise for growth in the future. We aim to let the journal to grow in the next few years and make it the flagship of European history of science.

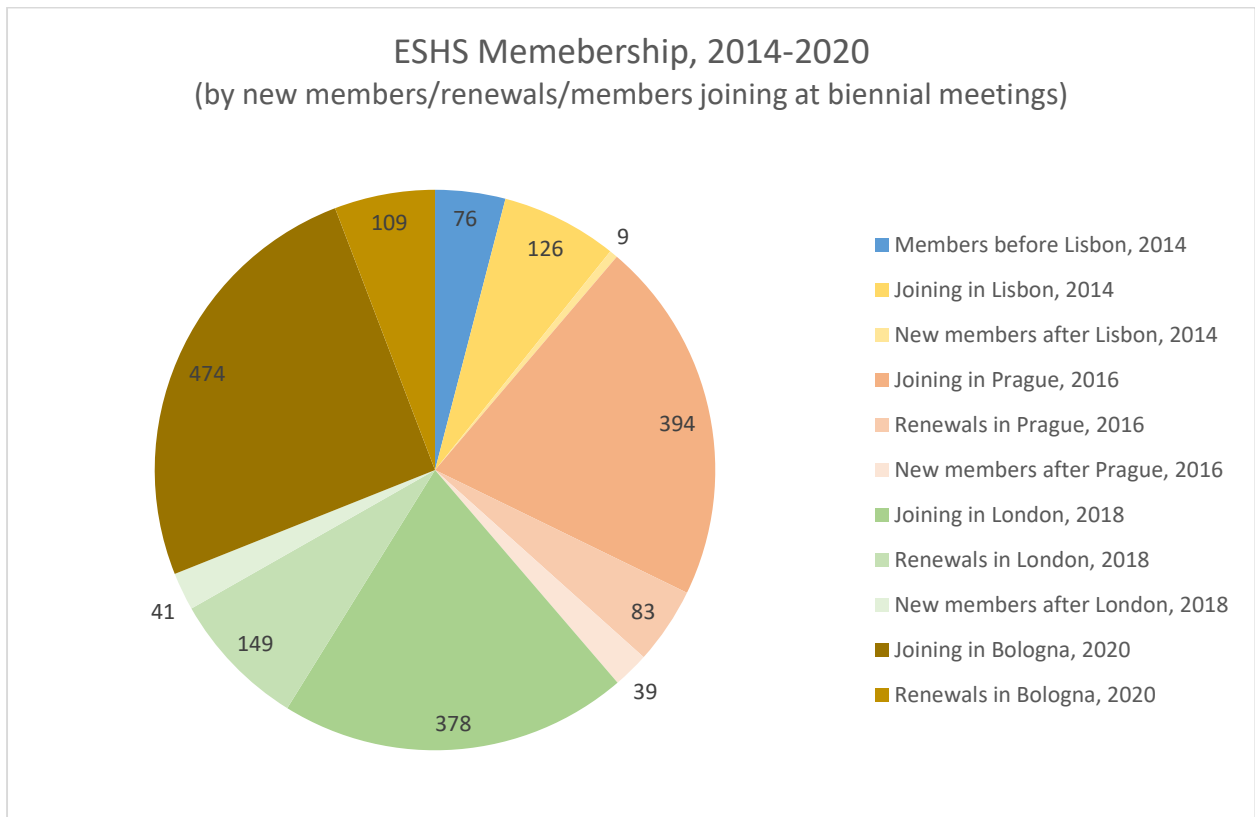
*The Assembly approved Centaurus editor's Report at 17.20.*

## 8) Secretary's Report

I was elected as Secretary in 2018 at the last ESHS biennial meeting in London, so my first two years in this role have been somewhat challenging, especially in terms of learning about the relevant tasks and executing them appropriately. I would like therefore to start this report by thanking my predecessor, Erika Luciano, for passing over the responsibilities in the best possible way. I would also like to thank the current ESHS President, Ana Simões for her understanding and patience in waiting for me to familiarize with the tasks ahead; in particular, with the management of membership and communication to ESHS members.

A major challenge for me was to ensure that I could appropriately communicate with 500+ ESHS members. I thus had to instruct setting up a mailing list on our university server to make it possible to send emails to each member of the society (including the right letterhead!). I am still learning how to make full use of the mailing list system, but I would say that its availability has made it much easier for me to communicate with members.

Over the two years, I have also become more familiar with the ballot tasks the secretary is responsible for to ensure transparency and the involvement of members in the life of the society. I was responsible for setting two ballots, one for the Scientific Board to vote members of a committee responsible for selecting Early Career Scholar lectures. The committee, comprising the ESHS members Pietro Omodeo, Marianne Klemun, Staffan Muller-Wille and Ksenia Tatarchenko, has selected three candidates: Paolo Savoia, Clara Florensa and Sietske Fransen, whose online lectures will be delivered at the Bologna meeting. The second ballot I organized was needed for the Scientific Board to vote the recipient of the Neuenschwander Prize, which as you know was awarded to Kostas Gavroglu.



In carrying out my duties as ESHS secretary, I also familiarized with the membership patterns of our society which I decided to study on the occasion of the 2019 “in between” meeting in Lisbon (see attached graph) and further explore for the next GA meeting. It seems clear to me that the society has developed substantially since its creation, increasing the overall number of scholars affiliated to the society to its current 580+ members. For this growth, the admirable work of past officials and board members should be acknowledged as they have been responsible for what is a resounding success; namely the setting up of a society that is deliberately outlined in its constitutive elements as supra-national, and seeking to unite scholars from across the whole European continent and beyond. The ESHS President has also made available in her report data on the society’s diversity in terms of national affiliation looking at the current subscribers to the Bologna meeting. There are reasons to be satisfied with the last 10 years of life for this young society!

But the data on this growth can be deceiving too. Most members join the society on the occasion of a biennial meeting, but far less frequently renew their memberships if they don’t attend one of its meetings (see the

fluctuating data on renewals). Indeed, while the current number of members is a great achievement, it could have been higher if previous members had all renewed their membership. Thus finding ways for members to renew their subscriptions is an important task for the society as a whole, and his secretary more specifically. This is actually something that I wish to work on if re-elected as secretary for the period 2020-2022. It would be important that even those who did not attend Bologna, renew their membership and we need to find ways to encourage and facilitate it. Other societies do not have this problem as renewal is often automatic; set through a direct debit payment. Existing members have thus to deliberately 'opt-out' not to renew. The ESHS instead administers renewals as, in essence, tied to the participation to the next biennial meeting. To sum up, one of the big challenges for the ESHS is to find ways to secure a larger core of members who contribute more to the life of the society beyond the participation to its biennial meeting.

One starting point for this would be to simplify the procedure for enrolling new members, for instance by making it possible for them to register automatically via the website and for the society to automatically process membership renewals. Part of the problem lies in the procedures regarding subscriptions which have been recently improved but are still in need of amelioration. We realized for instance after the in-between meeting that membership applications filed through the website did not reach me so that I could not pursue them further. Thanks to the ESHS webmaster, however, the problem was addressed and since then I could deal directly with applicants via email, which has resulted in more subscriptions. If re-elected as secretary, I would consider ways to increase memberships and participation by facilitating the subscription process. For instance, I would work towards making sure that the society can move into a system of membership directly processed with automatic payments (unfortunately the current problems with the bank account currently makes it impossible). I would also consider ways to facilitate members access to Centaurus, for instance through the introduction of a routine membership/password mechanism which changes regularly so that is communicated by the secretary to members regularly.

I would like to conclude by stressing that in the last few months my role as ESHS secretary has changed dramatically partly because of the unexpected consequences of the pandemic crisis. I had thus to contribute

to discussions about moving the Bologna meeting online liaising with the organizing team in Bologna (who I wish to thank for their fantastic work in the present emergency). One of the most challenging tasks has been to arrange the elections for the new Scientific Board as an online voting procedure. As I write this report, the new procedure is set out. However, its effectiveness has yet to be tested at the General Assembly. I hope it will withstand that test!

*The Assembly approved the Secretary Report at 17.37.*

### **9) Treasurer's report**

The treasurer briefly explained the present financial situation of the society, which currently presents itself as excellent. The assets of the society have almost doubled since the last General Assembly in 2018. Unfortunately, the efforts made so far to set up an institutional account for the ESHS in Paris have not yet been crowned with success, despite our greatest efforts (cf. the report of the President). The only bank account of the society therefore remains the German account opened by the treasurer around 2005. The Sterling account, which was maintained by Robert Fox and Frank James and was hardly used, has now been closed with the approval of the General Assembly. The small remainder of this account has been used to pay Simone Turchetti for the electronic ESHS elections by Choice Voting and to pay Frank James' remaining expenses to Harper James Solicitors, who supported our presidents in their negotiations with Wiley. Finally, I would like to thank all members for their always pleasant and effective cooperation.

*The appointed auditors approved the Treasurer's report.*

### **10) Webmaster's report**

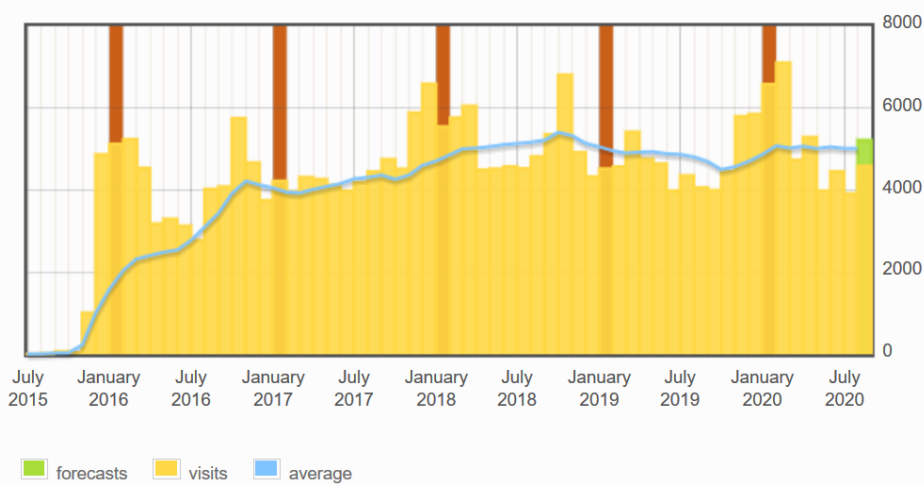
I have had the pleasure to serve the ESHS as webmaster since June 2015. During the last two years, in collaboration with ESHS officers and the IT support of the ENS Paris where the site is hosted, we have implemented several new features including:

- The possibility, for all members of the ESHS to access Centaurus online directly through the site.
- A new design for the website as a whole and especially of its home page
- The creation of new sections dedicated to Centaurus and to the Early career scholar network.

The website is also currently being used to conduct a survey of the ESHS community, launched by Ana Simões, in order to get an accurate mapping of the society and needs of its members. Although the website is an institutional communication tool, it is also used by our community to advertise about prizes, academic job opportunities, publications, call for papers etc. The “News and events” section remains the most frequented part of the website with over two third of the visits. The frequentation of the website is stable over the last two years with an average of around 5000 visit a month.

In this last report as the webmaster officer of the ESHS, I want to thank all those colleagues with whom I have worked over the last five years in building this collective tool and especially Karine Chemla, Antoni Malet and Ana Simões the three presidents for their patience. I wish most success to the up-coming webmaster with whom I will, in the next weeks, collaborate to produce a smooth transition.

Number of visits per month





## Statistics by section

Show current distribution of all time



0. Accueil	23%	
Bologna ESHS Conference 2020	0.3%	
▶ Centaurus	10.7%	
▶ 1. The Society	6.6%	
▶ 3. Events & News	40.1%	
▶ 4. Early career Scholars	2.9%	
▶ 5. Resources	16.4%	

Dark bars represent cumulative entries (total subsections), light bars represent the number of visits for each section.

*The Assembly approved the Webmaster Report at 17.42*

## 11) President Elect Report and Plan of Action

My two-year stint as President Elect has been a period of apprenticeship, where I familiarized myself with the inside workings of the ESHS under the expert guidance of Ana Simões and Toni Malet. I've collaborated closely with them and other officers of ESHS on most of the issues having to do with the functioning of our Society and its future development. It's been a wonderful learning process and I'm immensely grateful to Ana and Toni for all the things I've learned from them. Our collaboration took place during two live meetings in Lisbon and Athens, and through innumerable email exchanges and virtual sessions.

For a detailed record of what has been accomplished during the past two years, I refer the members of the ESHS to the meticulous and extensive report of Ana Simões, who has worked tirelessly for implementing her pluralist vision for our Society. Suffice it to mention here that the issues that occupied us the most included the Society's membership, the improvement of its website, its official journal – Centaurus, its relations with cognate societies (such as SHOT) and institutions (such as the MPIWG), the awards and financial support offered by the Society to senior and early career scholars, and, last but not least, its 2020 conference in Bologna. I've made or supported nominations for the Early Career Plenary

Lectures, the Gustav Neuenschwander Prize, the Centaurus editorial board and the selection committee for its special issues. I was also a member of the selection committee for the awarding of travel grants to participants of the Early Career Network Conference in Paris and I refereed abstracts for the Bologna Conference.

In my nomination statement for President-Elect I promised to work towards cultivating relations between the ESHS and historically inclined philosophical groups, such as the Committee for Integrated History and Philosophy of Science (&HPS), The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), and the Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice (SPSP). Following up on that promise, in the in-between meeting of ESHS, organized by Ana Simões in Lisbon in October 2021, I made two proposals, both of which were accepted by the Scientific Board: First, I proposed that we invite members of &HPS, HOPOS, and SPSP to submit proposals for the Bologna meeting; second, I suggested “History of Science and the Humanities” as a theme for the in-between meeting of ESHS that will take place in Athens in the fall of 2021.

In accordance with these proposals, I contacted some of the leaders of those groups/societies and asked them to spread the news about the Bologna Conference to their members and encourage them to submit abstracts. Judging from the final program of the Conference, these promptings have been moderately (but not adequately) successful. I’ve also explored the possibility of getting the Research Centre for the Humanities (<https://www.rchumanities.gr/en/>) involved in the organization and hosting of the in-between meeting of the Society in Athens and the response of the Centre was very positive. So the Athens meeting will be co-hosted by the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, where I teach, and the RCH.

**Plan of Action:** Having witnessed the extraordinary commitment to the Society of its current and past Presidents and the dedicated hard work they’ve put into it, I face my presidential responsibilities with considerable trepidation. I can only promise to do my best to further the aims of the Society and meet the challenges it confronts, building on the extraordinary accomplishments of its past Presidents and other Officers.

With my colleagues who have governed ESHS, I share a common vision: to foster first-rate historical research on past science and related cultural

practices; to support young scholars, who nowadays find themselves in dire professional circumstances; to support scholars from the less privileged parts of Europe, who often lack adequate resources to engage in academic research; to encourage theoretically informed approaches (anthropological, philosophical, psychological, and sociological) to history of science; to engage in mutually beneficial dialogue with cognate fields, such as other branches of history, the history of technology, the philosophy of science, and STS; and to reach out to as many audiences as possible, including the scientific community at large.

As President of the ESHS I will work towards carrying out that vision, in close collaboration with the Vice-President, Ana Simões, and the new President Elect. The Society's journal, *Centaurus*, is central to the implementation of that vision. *Centaurus* has made extraordinary progress under the leadership of Koen Vermeir, both in terms of the quality and quantity of the articles published, as well as the punctuality of publication. It still faces two challenges, though. The first is to make sure that ESHS will continue to play a significant role in the running of the journal, by exercising control over its academic content and quality. The second is the opportunities and perils posed by the Open Access (OA) initiative that was launched by the European Commission in 2018, the so-called Plan S. Both of these challenges are lucidly laid out in Ana Simões's report. Let me just stress that, as regards the future OA policies of *Centaurus*, an absolute minimum is to ensure that no author, and especially no member of ESHS, without the institutional backing or the financial means to pursue an OA publication will be excluded from publishing in *Centaurus*.

A further aim of my presidency will be to secure further the position of history of science within the wider landscape of the humanities. The humanities are in a precarious situation worldwide and, especially, in Europe, as testified to by the limited funding opportunities allocated to it by European funding agencies. We should take advantage of the "in-between" character of our discipline, the opportunities it affords for creating a bridge between the humanities and the natural sciences, in order to cultivate connections between these two different scholarly worlds.

To that effect, as I mentioned above, I've suggested "History of Science and the Humanities" as a topic for the in-between meeting in Athens, scheduled to take place in the early fall of 2021. The aim of that meeting

will be to discuss how history of science fits within the evolving constellation of humanistic disciplines and, more generally, the challenges faced by the humanities in the contemporary academic world.

Furthermore, I will explore further possibilities of collaboration between ESHS and cognate societies, such as &HPS, HOPOS, and SPSP. One such possibility, which I've already proposed to the &HPS Committee and has been well received by it, is to organize one-day HPS events as “add-ons” to future ESHS conferences.

In closing, I would like to thank wholeheartedly Ana Simões, Toni Malet, Simone Turchetti, Koen Vermeir, and the other officers of ESHS for a smooth, collegial, and fruitful collaboration. I look forward to working with Ana Simões, the new President-Elect, and the other officers of the ESHS for fulfilling its mission.

*The Assembly approved the President Elect and Plan of Action at 17.49.*

## **12) Presentation of the election results**

The scrutineers present the results of the elections which opened at 16.30 and closed at 16.45. Election results are available at the Election Voters URL: <https://app.choicevoting.co.uk/election/voting/MzEzNQ==>. A total of 65 members voted for the new Scientific Council. Five voters from Russia could not vote due to the presence of firewalls preventing them from doing so and despite the assistance of the scrutineers. The new positions have thus been filled as follows:

President Elect: Dana Jalobeanu (50 votes)

Treasurer: Erwin Neuenschwander (53 votes)

Secretary: Simone Turchetti (49 votes)

Webmaster: Lisbeth De Mol (54 votes)

Web Editor and Communication Officer: Brigitte Van Tiggelen (53 votes)

Archivist: Erika Luciano (53 votes)

Public Relations Officer: Roberto Lalli (51 votes)

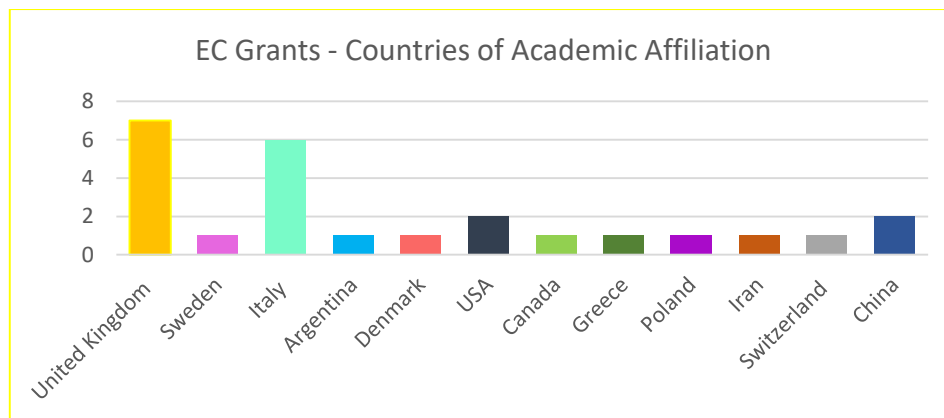
Scientific Board: Frank James, Matthieu Husson, Darya Drozdova, Giulia Rispoli, Pietro Omodeo, Han Qi, Clara Florensa, Maria Paula Diogo.

As the online voting system was tested for the first time, the results were generally appropriate for the task. The scrutineers, however, in light of the

situation regarding firewalls, suggest that its use in future election should be accompanied by the recommendation to voters that they make use of VPNs were possible to avoid being prevented from voting.

### 13) Early Career Grants

The president and the secretary present the data regarding the awarding of ESHS early career grants to allow early career scholars to attend the Bologna meeting:



They are: Anna Dadaian, UK; Anna Gustavsson, Sweden; Beatrice Falcucci, Italy; Cecilia Simon, Argentina; Chiara D'Agostini, Denmark; Daniele Musumeci, Italy; Doran Connemara, USA; Elena Scalambro, Italy; Eleonora Loiodice, Italy; Elisa Patergnani, Italy; Emma Prevignano, UK; Fedir Razumenko, Canada; Fiona Amery, UK; Gianamar Giovannetti-Singh, UK; Grigoris Panoutsopoulos, Greece; Joanna Zwierzynska, Poland; Joshua McMullan, UK; Lachlan Fleetwood, UK; Leonardo Capanni, Italy; Maryam Zamani, Iran; Robert Tomczak, Switzerland; Srijita Pal, USA; Xiaofei Wang, China; Yijie Huang, UK; Zhou (Célestin) Xiaohan, China.

### 14) A preliminary assessment of the Bologna Conference

A statement re. the conference was read by the Italian Society for the History of Science (SISS) President Ezio Vaccari recalling that the pandemic notwithstanding, the local organizers have worked towards

making it possible for the conference to succeed even in the online format that the circumstances made it necessary. For this reason, Vaccari wished to thank all the members of the local organizing committee and the other organizers for being able to appropriately put up a new conference format in short time. Overall, the metrics confirms the Bologna conference as a success with 583 participants from five continents and forty countries. There was a large number of graduate and post-graduate students attending (20%) and an equally high number of non-presenting attendees (6%).

The ESHS President thanks again Vaccari, the SISS, and the LOC for the outstanding working in extremely difficult circumstances.

## 15) Towards Brussels 2022

Brigitte Van Tiggelen introduces the proposal for organizing the next biennial meeting of the society in Brussels, Belgium. The theme of the suggested conference would something along the lines of **Politics of science – science policy**” (also to give emphasis to growing attention on these themes in our community at national and international levels). Moreover, 2022 marks the celebration for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Académie Royale de Bruxelles*, founded by Maria Theresa in 1772, and the academies will constitute a strong support for the conference. Furthermore, as Brussels lies at the heart of Europe, it is also the head office of many European scientific institutions starting with the European Union’s commissions. From a historiographical perspective, this will be an opportunity to showcase new histories of scientific institutions and modes of sciences policy, on institutions of knowledge, their networks and nodes.

The meeting would be put together by a network of **organizing institutions** comprising but not limited to: the Belgian National Committee for Logics, History and Philosophy of Science, the National Center for the History of Sciences, the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), and Ghent University, KULeuven, as well as the Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-arts de Belgique, and the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten.

**A Local organizing committee** comprising Kenneth Bertrams, Wouter Bracke, Denis Diagre, Steffen Ducheyne, Carmelia Opsomer, Anne Staquet, Steven Vanden Broecke, Joris Vandendriessche, Maarten Van Dyck, Geert Vanpaemel, Brigitte Van Tiggelen, Kaat Wils will be set up. A **Steering group** including Kenneth Bertrams (president of the Belgian National Committee and ULB), Maarten Van Dyck (vice-president of the Belgian National Committee and VUB) and Brigitte Van Tiggelen will also be established.

**Collaboration and Sponsorship:** The local organizing committee will seek collaboration and support from a wide range of societies, groups and institutions in Belgium and around Belgium dedicated to the study of history of science, and promotion of science through its history.

**Date:** Considering the academic calendar and other events in the country, the most suitable time for hosting such an event is the end of summer. We propose therefore that the meeting takes place between September 7-10, 2022.

*The Assembly approves the proposal for the 2022 biennial meeting in Brussels at 18.25.*

**16) Other proposals, questions, by ESHS members.**

No other proposal is made or question asked by ESHS members.

**17) Closing**

In thanking all the participants, the President closes the General Assembly is closed at 18.27.

In witness whereof

The President (2020-2022)  
Theodore Arabatzis

The Secretary  
Simone Turchetti  
*Simone Turchetti*

Manchester, 2/11/2020