

Baltic Historians of Pedagogy at the International Standing Conference for the History of Education in Geneva

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The International Standing Conference for the History of Education (ISCHE) was founded in 1979 in Leuven (Belgium) and is one of the leading organizations in the history of pedagogy. It advances the academic field of the history of education and supports international cooperation among historians of education. Among the goals of the coming years we are seeing an increased engagement in Asia and Africa, the promotion of talented young researchers and increasing cooperation and transparency, with a special focus on digital applications. The organization issues a bimonthly journal under the title *Paedagogica Historica*.

Professor Dr. Eckhardt Fuchs, vice director of the Georg Eckert Institute, was selected the acting President of the society at this year's ISCHE conference in Geneva (2012). He takes over from Kate Rousmaniere, whose time in office has come to an end. Fuchs is the first German to take office for the three years to come.

The 34th International Standing Conference for the History of Education was held on 27–30 June 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. This Conference was the first to be organized jointly by three associations of historians: the International Standing Conference for the History of Education, the Society for the History of Children and Youth, and the Disability History Association.

The year 2012 marks the centenary of the foundation of the Jean-Jacques Rousseau Institute in Geneva. Its direct successor is the Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences at the University of Geneva, which took part in organizing the conference. The year 2012 is also the tercentenary of the birth of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who was born in Geneva and whose work *Émile, or On Education* details Rousseau's philosophy of education and was published exactly 250 years ago.



The Baltic participants of the International Standing Conference for the History of Education in Geneva. From the left: Ineta Strautiņa, Aija Grāvīte, Alida Zigmunde, Iveta Ķestere, Aīda Krūze, Evi Daga-Krūmiņa, Zanda Rubene, Vadim Rõuk.

The theme of the 2012 conference was *Internationalization in Education (18th and 19th centuries)*. The conference welcomed 468 participants from 46 countries. The working languages of the conference were English, German, French and Spanish. Since 2002, researchers from the Baltic States have taken part in these conferences. Eleven historians of education (nine from Latvia, one from Estonia and one from Lithuania), who explore different areas in the field of pedagogy, took part in the 2012 conference in Geneva.

Irena Stonkuvienė, doctor of social sciences and lecturer at the Vilnius University, delivered the paper ‘Transmission of traditions and generation conflict: processes of enculturation in Lithuania in the 20th century’. Vadim Rõuk from the Archival Museum of Estonian Educational Culture spoke about the institutional aspect of the international cooperation of the Baltic teachers between 1900 and 1930. Zane Āķīte and Iveta Ozola, doctoral students at the University of Latvia, had prepared the paper ‘Derivation of German educational philosophers’ ideas about the notion of upbringing for the implementation of some social concepts in

Latvia in the 1920s–1930s”; Aija Grāvīte, whose paper was coauthored by Aija Abens, delivered the paper ‘Academic diaspora: Western knowledge and post-Soviet expectations in the development of higher education in the 1990s’.

Doctoral student Evi Daga-Krūmiņa and doctors of paedagogy Iveta Ķestere and Zanda Rubene spoke about education as the export commodity of ideology in the Soviet Union after the Second World War. Ineta Strautiņa and Aīda Krūze, professor at the University of Latvia, discussed the enlightenment ideas of Johann Gottfried von Herder (1744–1803) and the internationalization of education in the 18th century. Alīda Zigmunde, senior researcher at the Institute of Humanities of the Riga Technical University, and author of this review, gave a presentation about Swiss citizens in the educational system of Latvia in the 19th and 20th century.

Dr. paed. Iveta Ķestere, senior researcher at the University of Latvia and member of the ISCHE Executive Committee, shared with the conference participants information concerning the theme of the next, 35th International Standing Conference for the History of Education, which will be held in Riga, Latvia, on 21–24 August 2013. The theme of the Riga conference will be *Education and Power: Historical Perspectives*, with the Baltic Association of Historians of Pedagogy and University of Latvia as the main organizers of the conference.

Considering the rather significant number of Latvian researchers of the history of pedagogy who participated in the ISCHE conference in Geneva, we have high hopes that they have acquired sufficient experience in research and in organizing a conference of this scale that the meeting in Riga will turn out to be an important and successful event. Information about the next year’s conference will be made available at the homepage <http://www.lu.lv/ische2013/>.