

# Alliances of World Historians

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UNESCO (Paris, 1946)

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

*The principal structure of global academic organizations*

## ***Predecessors to UNESCO***

- Congresses of scientific disciplines (mathematics, chemistry, philosophy – late 19th century)
- International Association of Academies (1899-1919)
- International Research Council (Brussels, 1919-1931)
- International Academic Union (1919-)
- International Council of Scientific Unions (1931-1946)

*Note.*

*Germany and Austria were excluded for post-World War I organizations. In response, UNESCO firmly rejects any limitation of individual or group membership.*

## ***UNESCO's main sections:***

- International Council of Scientific Unions
- International Social Science Council
- International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies
- plus sections for Education, Communications, & Culture

*Notes:*

*1. Robust structure of UNESCO since 1951*

*2. Universality. Biologist Julian Huxley, founding director-general of UNESCO, argued that natural sciences are universal, while social sciences and humanities are culturally specific. UNESCO structures reflect this understanding.*

## ***Disciplinary members of UNESCO's three academic sections***

## (1) Natural Sciences:

### International Council for Science (ICSU)

- **Anthropology:** International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (1948).
- **Astronomy.** International Astronomical Union (1919).
- **Biochemistry.** International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (1955).
- **Biology:** International Union of Biological Sciences (1919).
- **Biophysics:** International Union for Pure and Applied Biophysics (1961).
- **Brain Research:** International Brain Research Organization (1960).
- **Chemistry:** International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (1919).
- **Food Science:** International Union of Food Sciences and Technology (1962).
- **Geography:** International Geographical Union (1922).
- **Geology:** International Union of Geological Sciences (1961).
- **Geophysics:** International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (1919).
- **History and Philosophy of Science:** International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (1948).
- **Immunology:** International Union of Immunological Societies (1969).
- **Mathematics:** International Mathematical Union (1950).
- **Mechanics:** International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (1924).
- **Microbiology:** International Union of Microbiological Societies (1927).
- **Nutritional Sciences:** International Union of Nutritional Sciences (1948).
- **Pharmacology:** International Union of Pharmacology (1966).
- **Physics:** International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (1919).
- **Physiology:** International Union of Physiological Sciences (1953).
- **Psychology:** International Union of Psychological Science (1948).
- **Radio Science:** International Union of Radio Science (1922).
- **Soil Sciences:** International Union of Soil Sciences (1924).
- **Toxicology:** International Union of Toxicology \ (1980).
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## (2) Social Sciences:

### The International Social Science Council (ISSC)

- **Administrative Sciences:** International Institute of Administrative Sciences (1961).
- **Anthropology.** International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (1948).
- **Demography:** International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (1927).
- **Economics:** International Economic Association (1950).
- **Geography:** International Geographical Union (1922)
- **Law:** International Law Association (1873)
- **Mental Health:** World Federation for Mental Health (1948).
- **Peace Research:** International Peace Research Association (1964).
- **Political Science:** International Political Science Association (1949).

### **(3) Humanities:**

## **International Council for Philosophical and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS)**

- **Academies:** *International Union of Academies (1919).*
- **Anthropology:** International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (1948).
- **Art History:** International Committee for the History of Art (1963).
- **Classics:** International Federation of the Societies of Classical Studies (1948).
- **History:** International Committee of Historical Sciences (CISH - 1926).
- **Linguistics:** Permanent International Committee of Linguists (1928).
- **Modern Languages:** International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures (1928).
- **Philosophy:** International Federation of Philosophical Societies (1948).
- **Prehistory:** International Union for Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences (1932).
- **Religious History:** International Association for the History of Religions (1950).

*Notes:*

*Anthropology is affiliated with all 3 branches of UNESCO*

*History is affiliated with Humanities but not with Social Sciences*

*History and History of Science have been separated since 1948*

*New organizations form commonly in the natural sciences*

## **Eurocentrism in the Historical Profession**

### **CISH – International Committee of Historical Sciences**

#### **Congresses:**

- 1928 Oslo
- 1933 Warsaw
- 1938 Zurich
- 1950 Paris
- 1955 Rome
- 1960 Stockholm
- 1965 Vienna
- 1970 Moscow
- 1975 San Francisco
- 1980 Bucharest
- 1985 Stuttgart
- 1990 Madrid
- 1995 Montreal
- 2000 Oslo
- 2005 Sydney
- 2010 Amsterdam

#### TOPICAL AFFILIATES

- Assemblies of States, History of
- Christianity, History of
- Comparative Military History
- Economic History
- Education
- Demography, Historical
- Historiography, theory of
- History of Law and Institutions
- International Relations
- Maritime History
- Physical Education
- Second World War
- Social History

#### REGIONAL AFFILIATES

- Arab Historians, Union of
- Byzantine Studies
- Contemporary History of Europe
- Crusades
- French Revolution
- Jewish History
- Panamerican Institute of History and Geography
- Renaissance Studies
- Roman History and Archaeology
- Slavic Historical Studies
- Southeast European Studies

### CISH –National Committees

- 34 European and North American affiliates
- 12 “Asia-Pacific” affiliates
- 4 Latin American & Caribbean affiliates
- 4 African affiliates
- **Asia-Pacific** (Australia, China, Cyprus, Georgia, India, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, S. Korea, Russia, Turkey, Vietnam)
- **Latin America & Caribbean** (Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru)
- **Africa** (Guinea, Morocco, South Africa, Tunisia)

# Global Historians' Alliances in the Global Academy

- World History Association (1982)
- European Network in Universal and Global History (2002 – first conference 2005)

## NOW IN FORMATION:

- Asia-Pacific Association of World Historians
- International Network of World History Organizations
- African and Latin American associations

*In short, the formation of these new organizations provides an opportunity for creation of a worldwide discourse on global history, one in which participants from every region may come together on an equal footing.*

*The new organizations must be structured with care to allow for the existence of different tendencies and different institutional settings of historians, so as to maximize their participation in and contribution to the organization and its activities.*

*The new organizations should seek out contact with UNESCO. While the durability of the UNESCO structure is a strength, at some point institutions will have to change to account for the many great changes in the structure of knowledge – for instance, interdisciplinarity. Our new organizations may be able to help UNESCO navigate these changes.*