

Minutes annual business meeting CRG African History – ECAS Paris, 9 July 2015, 16.00-18.00

1. Biennial conference Leipzig 2016

The meeting discussed the programme for the biennial conference in Leipzig in March next year. The dates are 21 and 22 March, but participants will be asked to arrive on the day of 20 March as the conference takes the whole of 21 and 22 March. As some expressed concern about the number of people who would attend, it was agreed that CRG members try to interest others at ECAS in Paris or through bilateral email exchange. H-Africa and Academia were suggested as other possibilities for some PR.

The “Exciting lecture in African history” to be given by Gareth Austin was confirmed. There are now six panels agreed: sources (Dmitri van den Bersselaar a.o.); methodologie et sources (Odile Goerg); transregional histories (Geert Gastryck); Central Europe and Africa (Jan Záhórik); labour history (Andreas Eckert). The “post-conflict panel” by Benoît Beucher was still in abeyance (he was asked to reformulate more historically). Others who had not yet written their panel abstract would be asked to do so (Eckert was asked for this by KVV at the ECAS conference; Baz Lecocq would ask Dmitri van den Bersselaar).

There was some discussion about the limited number of PhD students/younger scholars attending the CRG African History conferences and how to encourage more to attend. A solution to circumvent Ph D students’ obligation to present papers in order to get financial reimbursement could be a call for round table “contributions”. The call to attend the Leipzig meeting will be issued in September.

Also, an idea was launched and accepted to open the round table panels for two additional participants (also to stimulate attendance by younger scholars). This will be arranged in two phases: a first call for panel propositions and a second call (after panel selection) for participation. This procedure will be instituted as of the 4th CRG African History Biennial conference, as this was no longer possible for Leipzig 2016.

2. Biennial conference Pilsen 2018.

The proposal by Jan Záhórik to organise the 2018 conference was unanimously accepted. There were no rival candidatures. There was some concern about accessibility, and as in the case of the Leipzig conference CRG members were asked to encourage people on an individual basis to attend. Approximate date: June-July 2018. Baz Lecocq will inform Záhórik of the decision.

3. The new CRG African History website.

To some extent the website has begun to be rivalled by such services as Academia and Researchgate. People were urged to check their profile and renew if necessary. Also include a link to their own url.

4. Selection history panels ECAS.

People were positive about the number of history panels at the conference. Also, the transparency with which selection took place was appreciated. There was some discussion as to how to maintain this positive trend in the future, specifically as regards the ECAS conference in Basel. Baz Lecocq would send a letter to the AEGIS board to express the CRG's appreciation on the representation of historians at Paris, as a positive way to encourage maintenance of this trend.

Finally, the CRG received the confirmation that as of ECAS 7 in Basel, all CRG's existing at least one year will have the right to "sponsor" two (now one) panels / round tables per ECAS, i.e.: be responsible for their selection outside conference procedures. There was some debate on how to fill the two guaranteed panels recently voted by the AEGIS board to each CRG group (so far, each had had only one). The meeting agreed to maintain the selection procedure as decided at the Business Meeting of 2013 in Durham: members can send their round table or panel for selection to the CRG email address before a given date; to be eligible the panel / round table needs to be at least bilingual, address the main theme of the ECAS conference, and (new criterion adopted) needs to include at least one PhD student. The CRG will distribute the proposed panels to all members and ask for members votes. The panel/round table with most votes expressed will be selected.

Dr. Klaas vanW alraven
Chair CRG African History AEGIS
Leiden, 13 July 2015