

# IASCUD

## Report of activities — 2015

(From October 2014 to September 2015)

Written by

IASCUD President

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IASCUD has had an extremely active year. The organization is revitalized by the participation of new active officers. IASCUD organized sessions at two international conferences (one was in August, one is scheduled to take place in November), sponsored one international workshop, and organized one international workshop. The organization has become more inter-disciplinary by recruiting two more philosophers of science and one anthropologist of science as council members. It applied for a status of a commission of IUPHS/DLMPS, which was granted by the DLMPS general assembly in August.

### 1. Council Activities

Olival Freire (Assistant Secretary), Carla Nappi (Vice President), and Kapil Raj (Assessor) resigned

IASCUD has recruited three new officers: Madeline Mutersbjorn (Secretary General), Nina Atanasova (Assistant Secretary), Wen-Ching Sung (Second Vice-President).

In addition to regular email exchanges, and some skype meetings, members of the council met in Delhi (Kenji Ito, Benedikt Löwe), Paris (Nina Atanasova, Karine Chemla, Irfan Habib, Benedikt Löwe, and Takashi Nishiyama), and Helsinki (Nina Atanasova, Kenji Ito, Benedikt Löwe, and Madeline Mutersbjorn).

### 2. New Delhi meeting, March 2015

IASCUD supported a conference “Cultures of Mathematics IV,” 22-25 March 2015, at Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, India (<http://www.math.uni-hamburg.de/spag/ml/Delhi2015/>). This conference was the fourth meeting of a series on mathematics and cultures. In addition to IASCUD, this meeting was supported by the Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR) and the Indo-European

Research Training Network in Logic (IERTNiL). Two members of IASCUD participated in the program committee. IASCUD sent the president of IASCUD (Kenji Ito) to the meeting as a delegate. Most expense was covered by local sponsors, and IASCUD paid only the flight cost for Kenji Ito to attend the meeting.

The meeting was a success. Quality of talks and discussion was high. The proceedings of this conference will be published in a journal of ICPR.

The meeting was also an opportunity to recruit IASCUD officers: we approached Madeline Muntersbjorn, who eventually agreed to be the secretary general of IASCUD.

#### **4. One-day workshop in Paris,**

IASCUD organized a one-day workshop “Questioning the Concepts of Culture, Diversity and Comparison in the History and Philosophy of Science,” on July 11 at Université Paris 7 in Paris, France (<http://www.math.uni-hamburg.de/home/loewe/IASCUD/paris2015.html>). The conference committee consisted of Takashi Nishiyama, Benedikt Löwe and Kenji Ito.

It was held immediately after the 14th International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia (14th ICHSEA), and many participants of ICHSEA also came to this workshop. The theme of the workshop is on science and cultural diversity in general, not limited to the cases of East Asia.

The workshop was very successful. It had 20 to 30 attendees. After thought provoking talks by the keynote speaker Jeremy Tanner and 10 panelists (Karine Chemla, Irfan Habib, Kenji Ito, Lei Hsiang-Lin, Benedikt Löwe, Takashi Nishiyama, Lisa Raphals, Dagmar Schaefer, Justin Smith, Koen Vermeir), lively discussion followed.

#### **5. A symposium at the CLMPS meeting in Helsinki**

IASCUD organized a suite of two sessions at the 15th Congress on Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science (CLMPS) in Helsinki, August 3-8, 2015 (<http://clmps.helsinki.fi>). The sessions were held on Tuesday, 4 August 2015, 11:00-13:00 and 14:30-16:30 (<http://clmps2015.sched.org/?s=iascud#.VjnJidLhDR>). Here is a list of talks:

- Jessica Carter , “The role of (visual) representations in mathematics.”
- Krishnamurthi Ramasubramanian, “An appraisal of presenting mathematics in metrical form from a socio-cultural perspective.”
- Benedikt Löwe, “On the project ‘Culture of Mathematical Research Training’ .”
- Kenji Ito, “Science and cultural diversity: the problem of Orientalism.”
- Smita Sirker, “Same ascriptions, different methods?”

As at the Paris meeting the preceded it, new members were recruited and added to the organizations growing mailing list at this meeting.

## **6. DLMPS**

IASCUD applied for a commission status of DLMPS. The application was approved by the general assembly of the DLMPS in Helsinki.

## **7. Plan for an organized session at the History of Science Society meeting in San Francisco, November 2015**

Two IASCUD-affiliated proposals for the HSS meeting in San Francisco (<http://hssonline.org/meetings/2015-hss-annual-meeting/>) have been submitted and accepted.

One is organized by Kenji Ito and entitled “Historiography of Cultural Diversity in the History of Science.” It includes the following talks:

- Martina Schneider, “Dealing with Cultural Diversity in the History of Mathematics: The Case of Moritz Cantor.”
- Dhruv Raina, “Civilizations and Diversity: Explorations in the Historiography of Sanskrit Mathematical Tradition (1900-1950).”
- Kenji Ito, “Yukawa Hideki and Self-Orientalism.”
- Agathe Keller, “Reclaiming Diversity: The Paradoxes of ‘Vedic Mathematics.’”

The other session is organized by Karine Chemla and entitled “Historical and Theoretical Approaches to Comparison in the History of Ancient Science.” The talks in this session are:

- Michael Nylan, “Translating Chinese Concepts into European Models,” Michael Nylan.”
- Lisa Raphals, “Comparative Views of Human Taxonomies.”
- Karine Chemla “Comparisons in Early Historiographies of Mathematics in Ancient China”
- Ivahn Smadja, “History of Mathematics, the Crisis of the European Sciences and The Humboldtian Tradition.”

## **8. Situation of the website**

We have a website at a server of the University of Hamburg (<http://www.math.uni-hamburg.de/home/loewe/IASCUD/>), reachable from the IASCUD website (<http://www.iascud.org/>). The website has been updated regularly

We plan to move the content of the website in the University of Hamburg server to the [iascud.org](http://www.iascud.org/) address. We are also considering several options for the web servers to host our website.

### **9. Plan for a mailing list**

The Secretariat of IASCUD (Madeline Muntersbjorn and Nina Atanasova) will organize a mailing list of IASCUD members later this year.

### **10. Plan for a session at ESHS meeting in Prague**

The IASCUD council approved a plan to organize a session at ESHS meeting in Prague in 2016 (<http://www.eshs2016.cz/>). The theme and speakers of this session is to be determined in consultation with the members of IASCUD at large.

### **11. Plan for a symposium at ICHST meeting in Rio de Janeiro**

The IASCUD council will organize a symposium (or symposia) at the ICHST meeting in Rio de Janeiro 2017 (<http://www.ichst2017.sbhc.org.br/>)