

Members of the ISCHE Executive Committee and of the Annual General Assembly of ISCHE

It is my pleasure to present this account of the achievements of Professor Frank Simon, Professor Emeritus at the University of Ghent, Belgium, past president of ISCHE, and one of the most highly respected scholars, mentors and organizational leaders in the field of the history of education, with a particularly significant international reputation and impact. It is especially meaningful to speak to this award of an honorary life membership for Frank Simon on the occasion of ISCHE's 40th anniversary, as Frank has done so much to further our organization.

Frank Simon has been with ISCHE from the beginning, serving as president from 2006-2009, and remaining a tireless advocate for ISCHE and international, comparative and cross-disciplinary scholarship. Always reaching out to new ventures, as president, he negotiated the co-sponsorship of the 2012 ISCHE conference in Geneva with the Society for the History of Children and Youth and the Disability History Association. Even now, in retirement, we see Frank's influence: in recent years, he helped establish the guidelines for and has chaired the ISCHE First Book Award committee.

Frank has also sponsored and supported, in leadership and in sheer presence, the creation of other history of education ventures. Most notably, he has led some of the daring new ventures in historical research, into such areas as visual studies, documentary photography, and the history of the senses. Through the 1990s, Frank avidly engaged in and promoted new research in the social history of education, engaging in research on and promotion of, as he called it in an influential *Paedagogica Historica* essay, "the history of everyday educational reality in and outside schools." In 1999, Frank was among the creators of the Network 17 at the European Educational Research Association (EERA), a thriving research group that centers on the histories of European education, with a particular interest in new forms of historical methodology and under-represented areas. In recognition of his leadership with the Network, in March 2018, Frank was designated an Honorary Fellow of EERA.

In his commitment to supporting emerging scholars, Frank was one of the founders and regular tutors at the History of Education International Summer School for doctoral students (just completing its 9th meeting).

Frank has also served in significant leadership roles for *Paedagogica Historica* as an editor and on its support foundation, the Stichting. As editor in chief of the journal for 17 years (1990-2007) Frank helped reorganize the journal's financial organization and its relationship with ISCHE, to help create a top tier scholarly journal. For *Paedagogica Historica*, Frank served as co-editor of nine issues on topics including childhood, modernity, urbanization, book, ethnicity, the visual, faith, comparative education and culture and as editor of one special issue.

In addition to organizational leadership, Frank has served as a personal mentor and guide for many in the field, promoting the history of education in presentations and memberships at

hundreds of international scholarly events, spreading his influence through his sheer presence. He is often on the move presenting in Brazil, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

While engaged in such leadership, mentorship and advocacy, Frank has contributed leading scholarship to the field, publishing 172 articles since 1992. Frank's work is written and published in English, Dutch, German, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and often with colleagues and students in national journals from UK, US, Belgium, and Mexico. His partnership with his colleague, co-editor, and comrade at arms in many scholarly ventures, Marc Depaepe, has been particularly productive, and serves as a model of collegial intellectual and cultural partnership. Alone and in collaboration with other scholars (including many students), Frank has published on such diverse topics as the history of teachers and pedagogy, educational museums, material culture of the school and school architecture, historiography and methodology of the history of the classroom, history of childhood and children's experiences in school, visual history and documentary films, open air classrooms, and the history of schooling in Belgium.

Frank's current academic interests are devoted to the 'New Education' movement, especially to the life of Ovide Decroly.

In his past life, Frank played soccer for the Belgian team, Cercle Bruges, where he was, as in our own organization, both a solid rock of the team, rarely missing a game, and a leading figurehead, literally known for his headers. Playing as a defender, he both kept the team secure, and maintained its strength and vitality. So has he done with his professional teams in ISCHE.

For these reasons, ISCHE is delighted on its 40th anniversary to present Frank Simon with an honorary life membership, as testimony to his contributions to our association.

Kate Rousmaniere, ISCHE President, 2009-2012