Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH)

Review of SCH Activities
2009–2012
European Science Foundation (ESF)

The European Science Foundation (ESF) was established in 1974 to provide a common platform for its Member Organisations to advance European research collaboration and explore new directions for research. It is an independent organisation, owned by 67 Member Organisations, which are research funding organisations, research performing organisations and academies from 29 countries. ESF promotes collaboration in research itself, in funding of research and in science policy activities at the European level. Currently ESF is reducing its research programmes while developing new activities to serve the science community, including peer review and evaluation services.

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In summer 2010, the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH) published a report on its activities over the period of 2003–2008 (available at http://www.esf.org/research-areas/humanities.html). The current document follows on, and complements, this report. It summarises SCH work in the period 2009–2012 with the aim to indicate the committee’s priorities together with the implemented activities and their outputs.
The following structural issues have been among the SCH’s top priorities over the last years as these were considered to be of the utmost importance for the humanities in Europe at this point in time. To address these issues, a well thought out portfolio of activities has been developed and initiated by the SCH. For details of the activities, please refer to the summary table which follows (the corresponding number is indicated in brackets after each activity for easy reference) and where you will also find links to relevant documents and webpages.

Impact of the Humanities

In the opinion of the standing committee, it is of primary importance for the future of the humanities to make society aware of the societal significance and impact of this area of research and of the importance of its contribution to the general pool of knowledge. To this end efforts should be made to assess the impact of humanities scholarship on society. A key issue in the recent period has been the need to stress the important role of social sciences and humanities (SSH) research in the Grand Challenges.

Examples of SCH activities under this umbrella:
- Societal impact
  - The need for SSH research in meeting the Grand Challenges (4)
  - SCH input into EC consultations on Horizon2020
  - SCH reaction to the Green Paper
  - Contribution to the joint ESF/EUROHORCs reaction to the Green Paper
  - SSH Taskforce (with Net4Society, ECHIC, ALLEA, et al.), including an Open Letter to the Commissioner – which collected over 25,000 signatures
  - European Alliance for the Social Sciences and the Humanities
  - HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) Network and Joint Research programmes (7)
- Scientific impact
  - ERIH: European Reference Index for the Humanities (3)
  - Proposal for a bibliographic database in the humanities and social sciences (3)

Research Infrastructures in the Humanities

The SCH has also taken a leading and integrating role in developing and facilitating the implementation of a strategy for research infrastructures (RIs) for the humanities in Europe in coordination with ESF’s involvement in RI development and in close collaboration with ESFRI. In the view of the committee, significant strands of humanities research would not be possible without research infrastructures and these therefore represent a key strategic area in which to invest.

Examples of SCH activities under this umbrella:
- Strategic workshop ‘Research Communities and Research Infrastructures in the Humanities’ (1)
- Science Policy Briefing ‘Research Infrastructures in the Digital Humanities’ (1)
- SCH participation in MERIL (2)
- Changing Publication Cultures in the Humanities
  - Strategic workshop and volume (13)
  - Humanities Spring 2011 (5)
Multi-, Inter-, Transdisciplinary Research

During the period 2009–2012, the SCH strengthened its position as an incubator of cross-disciplinary collaborations in which the humanities reached out to new research domains that had traditionally been kept separate. The need for an integration of humanities in the establishment of emerging research fields becomes especially apparent in the Forward Look instrument: recently started Forward Look projects all include a significant humanities component.

Examples of SCH activities under this umbrella:
• ESF Interdisciplinary Junior Summit ‘Water: Unite and Divide. Interdisciplinary approaches for a sustainable future’ (12)
• Organisation of the SCH parallel session ‘The challenges of interdisciplinarity’ at joint CG/ MO meeting, Istanbul, June 2010 (11)
• Report ‘Mapping Interfaces: The Future of Knowledge’ (10)
• ESF–COST synergy initiative ‘A European Network of Networks: New perspectives on Landscapes’ (8)
• Forward Looks:
  – SAFE (21)
  – MEDIA (22)
  – RESCUE (23)
  – Personalised Medicine for the European Citizen (24)
• Strategic Workshop ‘The Human Brain: from Cells to Society’ (6)
• Selected EUROCORES Programmes, led by the SCH (not included in Table; see Annex)

Training the Next Generation of Researchers

The SCH continued investing in the new generation of scholars through various instruments and at different levels. The participation of early-career scholars in all SCH activities – including ESF instruments such as Exploratory Workshops and RNP – has been particularly encouraged. In addition, the SCH further developed the format of the successful Humanities Spring events into an ESF-wide Interdisciplinary Junior Summit.

Examples of SCH activities under this umbrella:
• Humanities Spring series (5):
  – 2009-I – ‘Towards a European Young Academy’ (together with ALLEA)
  – 2011 – ‘Changing Publication Cultures in the Humanities’
• Interdisciplinary Junior Summit ‘Water: Unite and Divide. Interdisciplinary approaches for a sustainable future’ (12)
• Selected Research Networking Programmes focusing on training of early career researchers (not included in Table; see Annex for full details)

Further information on these and other activities can be accessed via [www.esf.org/humanities](http://www.esf.org/humanities).
SCH Strategic Activities

1. Research Infrastructures in the Humanities

Background:
On the instigation of the Chair, ‘Research Infrastructures’ has been a key priority for the Standing Committee for the Humanities, as demonstrated by the fact that a dedicated expert group within the standing committee was created to take care of these matters. As a significant milestone, the expert group organised a strategic workshop on *Research Communities and Research Infrastructures in the Humanities* in the autumn of 2010. The aim was to gather different research communities’ perspectives on scholarly-driven design and use of RIs in the humanities. For more details, see homepage.

Aim:
The SCH strategic workshop on RIs informed the publication of the ESF Science Policy Briefing (SPB) n° 42 ‘Research Infrastructures in the Digital Humanities’. Produced by the SCH Expert Group on RIs, the SPB provides a comprehensive set of policy recommendations, together with some illustrative case studies.

Outcome:
The SCH has received systematic feedback on the insightfulness and value of the SPB 42 report ‘Research Infrastructures in the Digital Humanities’, both from policy-makers and the scientific community. This excellent reception has come alongside a thorough process of dissemination. More than 2,000 copies of the SPB have already been distributed, either at major scientific events (1,265 copies in a total of 16 events) or by directly contacting key constituencies in Europe (760 copies to 316 individual contacts). The majority of the copies have been distributed in Europe, the main area of influence of the SPB, but it has also been welcomed by actors in Canada, Japan and the US. The SPB has been embraced by important networks in the humanities like DARIAH (Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities) and EASH (The European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities).

Future actions:
The SPB has been used as a strategic tool to raise attention and seek support for research infrastructures in the humanities. As such it has proven a successful instrument and, wherever possible, it should continue to serve this mission in the future.
2. SCH Contribution to MERIL – Mapping of the European Research Infrastructure Landscape

**Background:**
This is a project funded by the European Commission under Framework Programme 7 – Contract No 262159 and coordinated by the ESF. In July 2009 the European Commission issued a Call under FP7 aimed at updating the European Portal on Research Infrastructures’ Services launched in 2007. ESF, with the support of key stakeholders, submitted the MERIL proposal and the two-year MERIL project started at the end of 2010. After its end date in December 2012, ESF will continue to provide maintenance support to the MERIL Portal and underlying database in 2013.

**Aim:**
The MERIL project will provide a comprehensive inventory of research infrastructures of European relevance and make the information publicly available through an interactive online portal.

The stakeholders formally considered are the scientific community represented by ESF Standing Committees, EUROHORCs (now Science Europe), the European Commission, ESFRI, the European Association of National Research Facilities (ERF), EIROforum, and Ministries. Most of these are represented in MERIL’s governance through its Steering Committee. The SCH Chair has been a proactive and important contributor to the MERIL Steering Committee.

**Outcome:**
The scientific community has significantly been involved in the management and running of the MERIL project and in some relevant actions organised by MERIL (for instance, a joint workshop with ESFRI or a session at ESOF 2012). The engagement of the SCH RIs Expert Group has been particularly noteworthy at key stages of the project. At the same time, for 2013 progress on achieving a better dialogue between the scientific community and the national contact points in deciding on what data goes into the MERIL portal is expected.

**Future actions:**
It is important for the scientific community in general and the humanities and social sciences in particular to continue to have their voice heard in MERIL.

**MERIL Steering Committee member:** Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair SCH)

**MERIL Scientific Committee member:** Claudine Moulin (SCH-LU)

**ESF coordination:** Arianna Ciula, Diego De La Hoz Del Hoyo
Background and aims:
In reaction to the inadequacy of existing bibliographic/bibliometric indices, the development of a European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH) has been supported by various ESF Member Organisations (MOs) with the aim of making visible and accessible world-class research published by humanities researchers in the European languages. ESF’s Standing Committee for the Humanities took responsibility of ERIH in 2002.

The ERIH process is based on peer review performed by international disciplinary panels in consultation with the research community and research funders.

Outcome:
The first phase of the project was completed with the publication in late autumn 2007 and in early 2008 of fourteen ERIH Initial Lists, covering academic journals. In 2011–2012 ERIH Revised Lists were published as a result of the second round of the ERIH project, following the revision of the ERIH Initial Lists.

The ERIH project has contributed substantially to debates on impact and the appropriate evaluation mechanisms for humanities research within Europe as well as globally. It has triggered lively debate among humanities researchers and funders on topics such as research evaluation, impact assessment, bibliometrics, and publication cultures in the humanities.

Future actions:
SCH is now discussing possibilities of transferring published ERIH lists to a professional organisation specialising in provision of data to the research sector and maintenance of related Research Infrastructures with an aim to ensure their sustainable maintenance in dialogue with the research community.

Following a discussion amongst representatives of ESF MOs (2010) a short internal report on expectations with regard to ERIH’s future prepared by a working group chaired by Gunnar Sivertsen was released in 2011. The report proposes the development of a bibliographic database linked to existing and proposed national databases.

The aim of the bibliographical approach is thus to make all the scholarly literatures – in print or electronically distributed – searchable and accessible across countries. The bibliographic references would thereby mirror as fully as possible the output of European research in the humanities and social sciences and show what diversity of European research actually means. This diversity would be reflected not only in national languages but also in national traditions within specific disciplines. Visibility and availability would be gained at the same time.

ERIH Steering Committee: Alain Peyraube (Chair, CNRS, ERC Scientific Council), Ferenc Kiefer (Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Gretty Mirdal (University of Copenhagen/former Chair SCH), Arto Mustajoki (University of Helsinki/Research Council of the Academy of Finland), Michael Worton (University College London)

Led by: Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair SCH), Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman (ESF)
4. SCH input into the EC Consultations on Horizon2020

Background:

On 9 February 2011, the European Commission presented a Green Paper which proposes major changes to EU research and innovation funding, to be introduced in the next EU budget after 2013. This paper did not express any explicit support for the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).

Activities:

In order to address the issue of lack of support for SSH research in the Green Paper, a series of meetings was initiated by Net4Society (the platform of 44 National Contact Points for SSH research) and, on the initiative of the British Academy, by ALLEA (ALL European Academies). The SCH Chair attended most of the meetings and contributed substantially to the discussions.

Parallel to this, the SCH took part in the Commission’s public consultation process and

• replied to an online questionnaire based on the Green Paper
• contributed to the joint ESF/EUROHORCs reaction to the Green Paper (http://www.allea.org/Content/ALLEA/Task%20Force/CSF/Consultation-CSF-EurohorcsandESF.pdf)

Throughout the consultation process, the SCH advocated the view that not only a separate 6th Challenge would be needed in which SSH research would find a home, but that in parallel the active and integrated participation of SSH in all the Grand Challenges would be essential.

The Chair, on behalf of the SCH, has also been part of a task force composed of representatives of major stakeholders such as Net4Society, ALLEA and ECHIC (European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres) that aimed to alert the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, to the fact that SSH research provides vital insights for the future of Europe. This culminated in the drafting of an Open Letter to the Commissioner, ‘Understanding Europe in a global context: transitions towards innovation societies’ (www.eash.eu/openletter2011/). This letter has collected over 25,000 signatures.

Outcome:

A meeting with the Commissioner took place on 10 November 2011 on which occasion the SCH Chair made a presentation on the role of the humanities in interdisciplinary research. The Commissioner’s response had been very positive, so much so as to acknowledge that “without the humanities and social sciences the Grand Challenges would be pointless”. In addition, in the current version of the Horizon2020 programme, a separate 6th Grand Challenge, as advocated by the SSH task force, has been included.

At an institutional level, the above efforts led to the establishment of the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASH) on 20 December 2011 where around 60 participants – heads of relevant European umbrella associations – agreed on the need for such a stand-by organisation that will be a collective voice for SSH and will intervene through coordinated action when needed.

Led by: Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair SCH)
Aim:
With the series of ‘Humanities Spring’ events, the SCH wished to mobilise the creative potential of the next generation of leading humanities scholars to inform European-level coordination and foresight processes regarding research activities in the humanities.

Events:
Following on the first Humanities Spring event (‘Disciplines and Borders: Humanities research in an age of interdisciplinarity’) in 2007, three more events took place on the important issues of:
• New Perspectives for Asian Studies in the Humanities (May 2009)
• From Learned Societies to Knowledge-Based Society: Towards a European Young Academy? (June 2009)
• Changing Publication Cultures in the Humanities (June 2011)

The SCH offered, on a competitive basis, full-cost awards to some 20 leading early career researchers in the humanities to participate in each event.

Outcome:
Two of the events resulted in an ‘Early Career Researchers Manifesto’ presenting diagnoses of current problems and opportunities around the event’s themes as seen by the participating early career scholars.

Led by:
May 2009: Alain Peyraube (ex-SCH member-FR) and Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman (ESF)
June 2009: Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair SCH)
June 2011: Margaret Kelleher (SCH-IE) and Eva Hoogland (ESF)
6. Cognition, Communication and Information

Background:
Over the last few years, the SCH has proven to be a successful incubator of cutting edge research activities at the interface of the humanities and the social, natural and computational sciences. Disciplines like philosophy, anthropology and linguistics naturally merge with (neuro) psychology, cognitive sciences and theoretical computer science in the creation of a truly interdisciplinary research field to gain a deeper understanding of the core issues of information, communication and cognition. In this development, SCH is at the forefront internationally, especially in the sense that the committee advocates the full integration of humanities disciplines in this emerging field. The success of this approach is illustrated by the programme ‘Consciousness in a Natural and Cultural Context’, led by SCH, where the Review Panel concluded in its evaluation that they see the programme as “exemplary”: “It provides a model of how team-based interdisciplinary research can be successfully conducted on an international scale.”

Activities:
Since 2009, the SCH has encouraged the development of further initiatives to reinforce the role of humanities research in this area and to strengthen SCH’s unique position in this field. Examples include:
- Session ‘Thinking About Thinking: How Do We Know What We Know?’ at AAAS, Washington (February 2011)
- Strategic Workshop ‘Naturalistic Approaches to Culture?’ (September 2011)
- Strategic Workshop ‘Human Brain: from Cells to Society’ (December 2011)
- Strategic Workshop ‘Embodied Foundation of Human Communicative Skills’ (November 2012)

Outcome:
A volume resulting from the workshop ‘Naturalistic Approaches to Culture?’ is expected to appear in 2013. The ESF strategic report “The Human Brain: from Cells to Society” and its executive summary were published in November 2012.

Recommendations for the future:
It will be important to follow up on the recommendations outlined in the strategic report. Relevant stakeholders have already expressed an interest in the report, including the European Brain Council (EBC) and the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS).

Led by: Csaba Pléh (SCH-HU), Hanne Ruus (SCH-DK), Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair SCH), Eva Hoogland (ESF)
Background:
HERA – Humanities in the European Research Area – is a partnership between 21 Humanities Research Councils across Europe and the European Science Foundation (ESF), with the objective of firmly establishing the humanities in the European Research Area and in the European Commission Framework Programmes. During 2004–2009 the Network activities were supported by the European Commission ERA-NET scheme.

Aims:
HERA is dedicated to:
• the coordination of national research policies;
• the establishment of new Joint Research Programmes (JRPCs);
• defining methods for evaluating the impact of humanities research;
• playing a proactive role in promoting humanities on the European platform;
• functioning as a broker for multilateral funding arrangements; and
• assisting humanities researchers to succeed in FP7 calls.

Outcome:
ESF is currently a member of the HERA Network and also the Handling Agency for the two HERA Joint Research Programmes launched in 2009 (themes ‘Cultural Dynamics: Inheritance and Identity’ and ‘Humanities as a Source of Creativity and Innovation’) and 2012 (theme ‘Cultural Encounters’).

HERA Network Board member: Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair SCH)

HERA Management Team member: Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman (ESF)

HERA JRP ‘Cultural Dynamics’ and ‘Creativity and Innovation’ management: Julia Boman (ESF)

HERA JRP ‘Cultural Encounters’ management:
Julia Boman (ESF); Diego De La Hoz Del Hoyo (ESF)
8. ESF-COST synergy initiative ‘A European Network of Networks: New perspectives on Landscapes’

Background:
Many of the social, economic and environmental challenges facing Europe and the wider world today concern the cultural uses and meanings of land. Their spatial dimensions can be addressed through the idea of landscape, which comes into being wherever land and people come together.

Research on landscape can therefore inform responses to the great challenges facing society in the 21st century. These include urban and rural transformations, post-industrial revitalisation, and demographic and lifestyle changes. There are also the human contributions and responses to changing climate and the effects of physical environmental change on the human condition. All these in turn prompt the need for new forms of governance, and generate concerns over food supply and security and over heritage, habitat fragmentation or the dilution of biodiversity.

Aim:
The project aimed to analyse the current position of landscape research in European culture and in European economic, environmental and spatial policy following guiding concepts for integrating landscape research, policy and practice. It provided an analysis of current strengths of landscape research (e.g. disciplinary breadth, multi-disciplinary experience) as well as its current weaknesses (e.g. under-developed interdisciplinary and international connections), opportunities (its societal relevance) and threats (marginalisation of social and cultural issues vs. ecological approaches). It sought to build bridges from the humanities to other research areas and to develop integrative approaches creating new knowledge and practices crossing traditional boundaries of individual disciplines.

Outcome:
Science Policy Briefing nº 41 ‘Landscape in a Changing World: Bridging Divides, Integrating Disciplines, Serving Society’. The conclusion of the SPB is that landscape research should be a key element of the European Research Area but that it is currently dispersed across many domains and its proponents are often divided by disciplinary barriers. New structures are needed to achieve more integration through shared research programmes, and to identify a pathway towards fulfilling landscape’s potential as a unifying concept.

Follow-up:
A group led by Graham Fairclough and Bas Pedroli is implementing recommendations of the SPB, as the first step organising AGORA, a new landscape forum.

Steering Committee:
Chair: Tom Bloemers (University of Amsterdam)
Members: Annie Antoine (University of Rennes II), Renate Buerger-Arndt (Georg-August University Göttingen), Stephen Daniels (University of Nottingham), Poul Holm (Trinity College Dublin), Almudena Orejas (Spanish National Council for Scientific Research), Richard Stiles (Vienna University of Technology), Erik Thoen (Ghent University), Przemyslaw Urbanczyk (ex-SCH member - PL), Mats Widgren (Stockholm University).
Observers: Marc Caball (ISCH-IE), Reinhart Ceulemans (LESC-BE)
Advisers: Graham Fairclough (University of Newcastle), Bas Pedroli (Wageningen University)

ESF coordination: Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman
**9. ESF-COST synergy initiative ‘Cultural Literacy in Contemporary Europe’**

**Partner:**
COST Domain Committee for Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health (ISCH)

**Events:**
Four thematic workshops and a synthesis workshop between December 2009 and August 2010

**Publication:**
January 2013

**Homepage:**
www.esf.org/?id=6795

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**Background:**
In the past 40 years, research pursued by academics trained in philological, literary-historical and allied fields has broadened out to include a wide range of interdisciplinary fields and a new range of objects of study. It is proposed to refer to this field of research as ‘literary and cultural studies’ or LCS. No longer restricted to the study of printed books or other fictional genres, LCS researchers focus on cultural objects or ‘text-like structured artefacts’ having one or more of the following elements in common: textuality, rhetoricity, fictionality and historicity.

**Aim:**
The purpose of the project is to explore the contribution made to European society and intellectual culture by the body of contemporary research grouped around ‘literary and cultural studies’. The focus of the project centers on the policy and broader societal relevance of such research. The project argues not only that LCS research makes a key contribution to analysing European identities and cultures but also that it has a significant role to play in enhancing the essential responses to a range of broader challenges facing Europe today.

**Outcome:**
Science Policy Briefing n° 48 ‘Cultural Literacy in Europe Today’ and a collected volume of essays.

**Steering Committee members:** Marc Caball (ISCH-IE), Leopoldina Fortunati (ISCH-IT), Sibel Irzık (Sabancı University, Turkey), Margaret Kelleher (SCH-IE), Daniela Koleva (ISCH-BG), Ulrike Landfester (SCH-CH), Lea Rojola (ISCH-FI, until June 2010), Naomi Segal (SCH-UK)

**SPB Editorial Group:** Naomi Segal (SCH-UK), Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman (ESF), Ulrike Landfester (SCH-CH)

**Editors of collected volume:** Daniela Koleva, Naomi Segal
10. ‘The Future of Knowledge: Mapping Interfaces’

**Background:**
The European Science Foundation Strategic Plan for 2006–2010 emphasised that exciting developments in many fields of science require an “increased scale of European cooperation and a wider scope of disciplines including more interdisciplinarity”. This increased interdisciplinarity is at the heart of the ESF project ‘The Future of Knowledge: Mapping Interfaces’.

**Aim:**
The project sought to critically explore the borderlines evident in the production of knowledge (including the fivefold disciplinary structure of the Standing Committees of the ESF), the forces of resistance to realignment and collaboration, and the possibility of alternative divisions of scientific labour. In doing so, it is hoped that a better coordination of targeted research and more realistic and meaningful philosophies and policies of science might be achieved in Europe.

**Outcome:**
Interdisciplinary Workshop Report ‘The Future of Knowledge: Mapping Interfaces’

**Steering Committee:** Gíslí Pálsson, Chair (University of Reykjavik), Ulrike Landfester (SCH-CH), Pasqualina Perrig-Chiello (SCSS-CH), Sonja Lojen (LESC-SL), Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman (ESF)

**ESF coordination:** Arianna Ciula, Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman

11. Session at joint CG/MO meeting

**Event:**
June 2010

**Homepage:**
www.esf.org/rt2010

**Background:**
The meeting ‘Grand Challenges and Interdisciplinarity: Opportunities for Member Organisations (MOs) and ESF in the Developing European Research Area’ brought together a number of Core Group members and MO representatives.

**Activity:**
The SCH Core Group organised the parallel session ‘The challenges of interdisciplinarity’.

**Outcome:**
The meeting marked an important step in the collaboration between the various ESF Standing Committees. It sowed the seeds of future trans-committee activities such as the 1st Interdisciplinary Junior Summit.

**Led by:** Ulrike Landfester (SCH-CH), Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair SCH)
Background:
The first ESF Junior Summit 'Water: Unite and Divide. Interdisciplinary approaches for a sustainable future' was a unique cross-committee initiative, initiated by the SCH and supported by three other ESF Standing Committees: LESC, PESC and SCSS. The event invited, on a competitive basis, 36 young, leading scientists across the academic spectrum to take part in a four-day discussion about the challenges and opportunities posed by inter- (multi-, trans-) disciplinary research.

Aim:
Rather than establishing a theoretical discussion at a meta-level, the event addressed the specific topic of ‘Water: Unite and Divide’ so that the discussions were able to focus on concrete issues relating to the participants’ own research interests and experiences. In doing so, the summit aimed to be directly relevant and beneficial to the participants’ current work whilst also functioning as an eye-opener that may have a lasting influence: the development of mutual understanding and respect across disciplines and methodologies.

Outcome:
A review-type article – written by a number of selected grantees – that highlights first-hand experiences of what participants learned and gained from being in the summit’s interdisciplinary environment. This article is expected to be submitted for publication in December 2012. In addition, a short documentary (available on the event’s website) that captures the dynamics of the event has been produced. Finally, the possibility is being explored that a special issue of the Journal for Water Resource and Protection in which a selection of papers from the meeting – both by invited lectures and by grantees – might be published.

Programme Committee: Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair; Chair SCH), Mats Gyllenberg (Chair PESC), Pieter Hooimeijer (SCSS-NL), Aslihan Kerç (LESC-TR), Tatiana Kluvankova-Oravska (SCSS-SK), Gísli Pálsson (SCH-IS), Hanne Ruus (SCH-DK), Matti Sintonen (SCH-FI), Theodoros Zachariadis (LESC-CY)

ESF coordination: Eva Hoogland, Étienne Franchineau
13. ‘Changing Publication Cultures in the Humanities’

Background:
The SCH strategic workshop focused on the following topics related to changing publication cultures in the humanities:
- Monographs as an endangered species
- The new horizon of electronic publications
- The changing role of publications in new career models
- Problems and challenges of “lesser used” languages

Outcome:
The workshop resulted in a manuscript collecting contributions from most of the workshop participants that does justice to the wide and future-orientated perspective of the topics. Amsterdam University Press is currently considering making this volume the starting point of a new series on the subject.

Beyond this publication, the consensus at the workshop was for the SCH to engage at the policy level with the issues raised at the workshop, including the support for young researchers. This has materialised in the 2011 Humanities Spring event (see activity no. 5).

Led by: Peter Dávidházi (SCH-HU)

14. ‘Musicology (Re-)Mapped’

Background:
The ESF’s Standing Committee for the Humanities identified musicology as one of its strategic priority areas. In the opinion of the committee although music is perceived as thriving in its significant contribution to the flourishing of cultural industries, musicology as a research field seems to play a much more modest role in the landscape of European research activities and funding priorities. Discussions at the workshop revealed a wide range of opinions about the condition and the social role of European musicology depending on the individual experience of participants coming from diverse institutional and cultural environments and representing different sub-disciplines of musicology.

Aim:
The aim of the strategic workshop and discussion paper is to raise questions as to future challenges for the discipline, hereby opening up discussions that may help addressing them. It is also to provide recommendations for action to policy makers including research funders and institutional bodies, such as universities and music schools, as well as the research community at large encompassing all musicology sub-disciplines.

Outcome:
Discussion Paper ‘Musicology (Re-)Mapped’.

Editorial Group: Ewa Dahlig-Turek (SCH-PL), Sebastian Klotz (University of Leipzig), Richard Parnncutt (University of Graz), Frans Wiering (Utrecht University)

ESF Editors: Arianna Ciula, Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman
15. ‘First-Person Writing, Four-Way Reading’

Event:
Strategic conference,
December 2011

Homepage:
www.esf.org/firstperson

Background:
This strategic conference was an exercise in interdisciplinarity in relation to the fields of history, literature, medical humanities and ethnography with a common interest in a certain kind of textual material. The term ‘writing’ is meant literally: the first-person material on which the project focuses is textual rather than oral, whether published or unpublished. The time-period covered is from the early modern period to the present day. The term ‘reading’ is meant primarily in a metaphorical sense: how do scholars from these four fields investigate, interpret or, more broadly, ‘use’ first-person texts; what differences can be found in their methods and applications; and how can they debate these commonalities and differences in fruitful ways?

Aim:
To create an opportunity for a dialogue of scholars from the four academic fields.

Outcome:
The conference was attended by 59 speakers and 44 participants from 26 countries altogether. Presentations and discussions at the conference showed that there is a need for continuing this dialogue. Some topics that could be taken a step further had clearly emerged. Network groups combining different disciplines have been formed around history and literary studies on the one hand and the broad area of medicine and the humanities on the other. Further research activity is anticipated, possibly in the field of medical humanities in relation to literature, tentatively titled The Body in the Library. This would probably be based on the above structure, running like a Research Networking Programme, and support may be sought from COST.

Organisers: Naomi Segal, coordinator (SCH-UK), Petter Aaslestad (SCH-NO), Kristin Kuutma (SCH-EE), Francois-Joseph Ruggiu (SCH-FR)

16. ‘Urban Economic Life in Europe and the Mediterranean from Antiquity to the Early Modern Period’

Partner:
University of Oxford

Event:
Strategic workshop,
November 2012

Homepage:
www.esf.org/urbecolife

Background:
This conference follows on from an ESF Exploratory Workshop on the socio-economic history of Roman urban communities where the need was identified to link scholarly debates on urban economic life in antiquity to debates on similar issues in other preindustrial societies, particularly those of Medieval and Early Modern Europe and the Mediterranean.

Aim:
Contributing to the establishment of a clear, shared picture of similarities and differences between the urban economic lives of different preindustrial societies.

Outcome:
An edited volume with selected papers of the conference.

Programme Committee: Miko Flohr (University of Oxford), Kristin Kuutma (Chair; SCH-EE), Peter Funke (SCH-DE), François-Joseph Ruggiu (SCH-FR), Andrew Wilson (University of Oxford)
Strategic Activities led by other Standing Committees

17. ‘Changing Childhood in a Changing Europe’

**Background:**
SCSS identified an increasing demand for reliable data on childhood and youth, especially from social and health policy makers, in order to better understand the development of children and the conditions of their physical, social and financial well-being. In this context SCSS initiated a series of actions.

**Events:**
- Strategic workshop ‘Indicators for Child Wellbeing’ organised adjacent to the annual conference of the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI), organiser: Asher Ben-Arieh (The Haruv Institute, Jerusalem).
- International PhD Mentoring-Workshop on ‘Children’s Well-Being’, organiser: Asher Ben-Arieh (The Haruv Institute, Jerusalem).

**Outcome:**
Workshop report ‘Changing Childhood in a Changing Europe’. The main outcomes and conclusions of the workshop ‘Indicators for Child Wellbeing’ were presented at the Annual Conference of the International Society for Child Indicators (ISCI) bringing an immediate dissemination to a larger number of researchers and stakeholders in the field.

**SCH representative:** Kostas Gouliamos (CY)
18. ‘Addressing the Shortage of Data on the Social Sciences and Humanities’

**Background:**
The ESF Standing Committee for the Social Sciences (SCSS) noted a lack of reliable data on the situation of social sciences and humanities in Europe and globally which makes it difficult to produce and compare statistics from different countries. The committee therefore, recommended “the development of statistics and indicators of research activity, outputs and impact of research in the social sciences and humanities.” This issue has been of special importance for World Social Science Report produced by ISSC and co-published with UNESCO to which the SCSS collaborated. Since data on the social sciences are not separated from those on humanities in several countries and moreover there is considerable overlap between the area of social sciences and humanities, the issue is of importance to humanities as well.

**Aim:**
It was stressed in discussions that the main aim of collecting data is to raise the visibility of SSH research and acknowledge its impact on society. Initially it was planned that the workshop should result in a proposal to the decision making bodies of the partners (SCSS, SCH, ISSC) on how to remediate the situation.

**Outcome:**
The workshop brought together 24 participants, including representatives from organisations such as Eurostat, OECD, NSF, The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), Elsevier, Thomson Reuters, Belgian Federal Science Policy, the Canadian UNESCO Institute for Statistics, NIFU STEP Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NO), the UK Higher Education Statistics Agency and university researchers.

In the meeting, the need for better, comparative data on research capacity and research output in SSH in Europe and in the world was discussed. The workshop also showed that a lot of data is available at national level that is not being reported/exploited.

The workshop report, authored by Michael Kahn (Research and Innovation Associates, Cape Town, South Africa), proposed the development of a long-term programme aiming at improving international statistical data on resources and means in humanities and social sciences research fields as well as on their outputs. SCSS and SCH discussed the report and confirmed the importance of this work but noted that the programme proposed in the report is a large undertaking beyond ESF and ISSC mission and resources.

**SCH representatives:** Naomi Segal (UK), Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair)

**ESF coordination:** Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman
19. Strategic Workshop ‘New Approaches for Researching the Determinants of Migration Processes’

**Aim:**
To explore the contours of a future empirical and theoretical agenda for multi-method and multi-level research on the determinants of migration processes.

**Outcome:**
The workshop outcomes will play a role in the development of a European-level research agenda in the area of international migration. The International Migration Institute (IMI) is organising, as part of its Global Migration Futures project, and drawing on the workshop, an Expert Workshop ‘Environmental Change and Global Migration Futures’ on 21 June 2012, a follow-up, empirical results-driven workshop on the determinants of international migration in early 2012.

**Organiser:** Hein de Haas (IMI, University of Oxford)

**SCH representative:** Kristin Kuutma (EE)

20. ‘The Future of Science in Society’

**Partners:**
SCSS (lead) EMRC, LESC, PESC, COST, EC

**Events:**
Three thematic workshops in 2012

**Publication:**
April 2013 (expected)

**Homepage:**
www.esf.org/science-in-society

**Background:**
The often ‘off-the-shelf’ dialogical solutions to temper the tensions arising from the science–society relationship have not generally produced the desired outcome. Furthermore, there has been an excess of emphasis on a European monolithic public; meanwhile other important arenas, where the social contract between science and society is at stake, have been neglected. In addition, the debate has tended to orbit around the natural sciences and applied technologies, neglecting a systematic reflection in all fields of science, including the humanities and the social sciences. In this context, the Standing Committee for the Social Sciences, along with all other ESF Standing Committees, decided to produce a science policy briefing.

**Aim:**
The goal is to provide an analysis of the different sites where science and society relations take shape in Europe, looking at – but also beyond – the traditional ‘Science in Society’ debates centred around the public and the natural sciences. For Science in Society is also relevant to the creation of the European Research Area and to efforts to position Europe as a space for responsible research and innovation under Horizon 2020.

**Outcome:**
The SPB will contribute to the ‘Science in Society’ debate at a time where the final brushstrokes will be put to Horizon 2020, and the related issues accommodated therein.

**Future actions:**
Support the dissemination of the SPB (both at the level of the scientific community and the policy level).
**Scientific Committee:** Ulrike Felt (University of Vienna, Chair), Daniel Barben (Aachen University), Alan Irwin (Copenhagen Business School), Pierre-Benoit Joly (INRA), Arie Rip (University of Twente), Andy Stirling (Sussex University) and Tereza Stöckelová (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)

**SCH representatives:** Adam Bžoch (SK), Matti Sintonen (FI)

**ESF Coordination:** Diego De La Hoz Del Hoyo
Background:
The Forward Look SAFE directed by Professor François Géré of the Institut Français d’Analyse Stratégique (IFAS) ran in 2007–2009. The aim of the initiative was to identify new perspectives for inputs of human and social science research into security research. The project sought to connect different research networks and approaches, while developing the perspective of a more direct link into relevant policy discussions. The SAFE FL sought to develop new perspectives for integrated interdisciplinary research, to inform long-term understanding of models of security, of contingent cognitive, cultural, ideological and legal frameworks, and of relevant management issues. The objective was to address scientifically complex issues such as critical thresholds and systemic imbalances.

The initiative, which concluded with an international conference ‘The Intangibles of Security’ gathered material through four international workshops: Modelling Security, Addressing Global Security Challenges (June 2007); Identity, Loyalty and Security (October 2007); The Role of Law, Ethics and Justice in Security (March 2008); and Management of Security: Success and Failures (May 2008).

The report takes as its starting point the work done in the Forward Look. While it builds on distinctly different material and is using different methods, it is indebted to the meetings and discussions of the SAFE project.

Outcome:
Policy report ‘The future of security research in the social sciences and humanities’.

Aim:
The aim of this report is twofold. First, it seeks to describe the premises, values, and the social, political and scientific institutions, funding arrangements, and cultural activities around which security research revolves today. This entails both setting out the terms for understanding security and insecurity, and setting out the premises for actions that can be taken in the name of security. Second, it seeks to develop the new research challenges, based on the hypothesis that the social and human dimensions of security are both indispensable. It develops the assertion that security has never been separable from the social, cultural,
political historical and ethical elements at its core, and that the social sciences and humanities are indispensable for understanding present and future security challenges.

Author: J. Peter Burgess, International Peace Research Institute (PRIO), Oslo, Norway

SCH rapporteur: Rūta Marcinkevičienė (LT)

ESF coordination: Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman

**22. ‘Media Studies: New Media and New Literacies (MEDIA)’**

**Background:**
The field of media studies, broadly conceived, will become more and more important in the coming years. It is therefore equally important that we — scientists, policy makers and citizens — make sure that we do the things that need to be done. However, this will require choices and these are not trivial. To set these priorities in a responsible manner, it is important to not only take into account the institutional and organisational diversity of the relevant academic disciplines and traditions, but also to acknowledge the diverging needs of a wide variety of stakeholders.

**Aim:**
The ESF Forward Look ‘Media Studies: New Media and New Literacies’ aims to meet the above need by identifying a common, European research agenda and specifying the institutional frameworks that will help advance the organisational cohesion of European media research. Activities (workshops, conference) will take place over 2012–2013.

**Output:**
A final report and executive summary, with a set of conclusions and recommendations, is expected in June 2013.

**Future steps:**
It will be important that the recommendations in the final report are taken up by relevant stakeholders. Care has been taken to include these partners throughout the Forward Look process.

**Scientific Committee:** Peter Golding (Northumbria University, joint Chair), Slavko Splichal (SCSS-SL; joint Chair), Cláudia Álvares (Lusofona University), Gustavo Cardoso (Instituto Superior das Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa), Ola Erstad (University of Oslo), Nicholas Jankowski (eHumanities Group, KNAW), Colin Sparks (Hong Kong Baptist University), Charis Xinaris (European University Cyprus)

**Quality Reference Group:** Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman (Chair, ESF), Susanne Ding (European Commission), Kirsten Drotner (Odense University, Chair Scientific Committee for Humanities of Science Europe), François Heinderyckx (Université Libre de Bruxelles, President-Elect-Select International Communication Association – ICA), Jan Jirák (Charles
University Prague, member SCSS), Balázs Kiss (Institute for Political Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences), Angela Liberatore (European Commission), Rūta Marcinkevičienė (Vytautas Magnus University, Vice-president of the Research Council of Lithuania, member SCH), Alain Peyraube (CNRS/EHESS, member of ERC Scientific Council), Annabelle Sreberny (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, President International Association for Media and Communication Research), Anne Deltour (European Commission)

**ESF coordination:** Eva Hoogland, Sarah Moore (as of November 2012)
Forward Looks led by other Standing Committees

23. ‘Responses to Environmental and Societal Challenges for our Unstable Earth (RESCUE)’

Background and aims:
To help Europe address the societal and scientific challenges related to global environmental change, to focus the attention on people and to stimulate an integrated, innovative response from natural, social and human sciences.

Outcome:
A Forward Look synthesis report as well as a number of scientific papers.

Scientific Committee:
Leen Hordijk (IES-JRC, Italy, Chair), Gíslason Pálsson (University of Reykjavik, SCH subject representative, anthropology; Vice Chair), Joseph Alcamo (United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi), Frans Berkhout (Free University Amsterdam), Sierd Cloetingh (Free University Amsterdam), Michael Goodsite (Aarhus University), Poul Holm (Trinity College Dublin), Jörgen Jäger (independent scholar, Vienna), Karen O’Brien (University of Oslo), Claudia Pahl-Wostl (University of Osnabück), Jonathan Reams (University of Science and Technology, Trondheim), Theo Toonen (Delft University of Technology)

Quality Reference Group: Chair: Mark Heppener (ESF)
Members: Göran Collste (COST), Ipek Erzi (COST-ESSEM), Afonso Ferreira (COST), Mehmet C. Güran (COST-ISCH), Matthias Haury (COST), John Ingram (COST), Alan G. Jones (LESC-IE), Maria Kaminska (PESC-PL), Ulrike Landfester (SCH-CH), Luisa Lima (SCSS-PT), Sonja Lojen (LESC-SI), Patrick Monfray (CNRS/ANR), Ole J. Nielsen (PESC-DK), Giuseppe Scarascia-Mugnozza (COST-FPS), Marko Tadić (SCH-HR), John Williams (COST-FA)
ESF ex-officio members: Arja Kallio (LESC), Paul Egerton (LESC), Neda Kancewicz-Hoffman (SCH/SCSS), Jean-Claude Worms (PESC), Bernard Avril (LESC), Thibaut Lery (PESC), Rinka Weehuizen (SCSS)

Authors: Coordinating lead author: Jill Jäger
Lead authors: Gíslason Pálsson, Michael Goodsite, Claudia Pahl-Wostl, Karen O’Brien, Leen Hordijk, Bernard Avril
Contributing authors: Sierd Cloetingh, Poul Holm, Theo Toonen, Jonathan Reams, Frans Berkhout
Aim:
To gain insight into the shift towards what is called today 'personalised medicine', and the needs in terms of research programmes, infrastructures, policy and education; to explore the scientific and social aspects of how personalised medicine might advance in the future.

Outcome:
The Forward Look results were disseminated at the European Health Forum in Gastein (EHFG) in October 2012. ESF was asked to co-organise a session with the EU flagship initiative ITFoM (IT Future of Medicine) at the COST Conference on 'Personalised Medicine: Better Healthcare for the Future' in June 2012 and at the 6th Systems Biology and Personalised Health-Science and Translation in September 2012. A special issue for the journal Personalized Medicine has been prepared with contributions from experts and a review article in the journal New Biotechnology written by Alison Harvey. A final report was published in December 2012.

Scientific Committee: Stephen T. Holgate (Southampton General Hospital; Co-Chair), Aarno Palotie (Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and Institute of Molecular Medicine; Co-Chair), Barbara Prainsack (King’s College London; Co-Chair), Angela Brand (Maastricht University) and Hans Lehrach (Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics)

Management Group: Liselotte Højgaard (Chair EMRC), Tanel Tenson (LESC-EE), Jukka Corander (PESC-FI), Milena Žic-Fuchs (Chair SCH), Rainer Kattel (SCSS-EE), Jacques Grassi (INSERM), Heyo K. Kroemer (DFG), Francesc Palau (MICINN)

SCH representative: Matti Sintonen (FI)
Annexes
## List of Acronyms

### ESF Standing Committees:
- **EMRC**: European Medical Research Councils
- **LESC**: Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- **PESC**: Physical and Engineering Sciences
- **SCH**: Humanities
- **SCSS**: Social Sciences

### Others:
- **ALLEA**: All European Academies
- **COST**: European Cooperation in Science and Technology
- **DARIAH**: Digital Research Infrastructures for the Arts and Humanities
- **EASH**: European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities
- **EBC**: European Brain Council
- **EC**: European Commission
- **ECHIC**: European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres
- **ERC**: European Research Council
- **ERF**: European Association of National Research Facilities
- **ERIH**: European Reference Index for the Humanities
- **ESF**: European Science Foundation
- **ESFRI**: European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
- **ESOF**: Euroscience Open Forum
- **EUROCORES**: European Collaborative Research (programmes)
- **EUROHORCs**: former European Heads of Research Councils, now Science Europe
- **FENS**: Federation of European Neuroscience Societies
- **HERA**: Humanities in the European Research Area
- **IFAS**: Institut Français d’Analyse Stratégique
- **IMI**: International Migration Institute
- **INRA**: French National Institute for Agronomic Research
- **ISCH**: COST Domain Committee Individuals, Societies, Cultures and Health
- **ISCI**: International Society for Child Indicators
- **ISSC**: International Social Science Council
- **MERIL**: Mapping of the European Research Infrastructure Landscape
- **MO**: ESF Member Organisation
- **NEPAD**: New Partnership for Africa’s Development
- **NIFU STEP**: Norwegian Institute for Studies in Research and Education/Centre for Innovation Research
- **NSF**: US National Science Foundation
- **RNP**: Research Networking Programme
- **OECD**: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- **SPB**: Science Policy Briefing
- **SSH**: Social Sciences and Humanities

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<td>European Historical Population Samples Network (EHPS-Net)</td>
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<td>The European Network on Word Structure. Cross-disciplinary approaches to understanding word structure in the languages of Europe (NetWordS)</td>
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<td>Court Residences as Places of Exchanges in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe (1400–1700) (PALATIUM)</td>
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<td>Responding to Complex Diversity in Europe and Canada (RECODE)</td>
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<td>Beyond Territoriality: Globalisation and Transnational Human Rights Obligations (GLOTHRO)</td>
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<td>New Frontiers of Infinity: Mathematical, Philosophical and Computational Prospects (INFTY)</td>
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<td>The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective (PSE)</td>
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<td>Knowing about Mediation: Understanding Communication in Enlightenment Europe</td>
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<td>From Numbers to Knowledge – 20 Years of Spatial–Numerical Associations</td>
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<td>Mapping the Digital News Ecosystem: Professional Journalism, New Producers and Active Audiences in the Digital Public Sphere</td>
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<td>Speaking, Thinking and Gesturing in Two Languages</td>
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<td>Wool Economy in the Ancient Near East and the Aegean: From the Beginnings of Sheep Husbandry to Institutional Textile Industry</td>
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<td>Consuming the Illegal: Situating Digital Piracy in Everyday Experience</td>
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<td>The Rites Controversy in the Early Modern World</td>
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<td>Beyond Marginality: Craftsmen, Traders and the Socioeconomic History of Roman Urban Communities</td>
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* Funding decisions made in 2012
### Annex C: SCH Exploratory Workshops (2009–2013)

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<td>The Future of Research in Sport Participation in the Lifespan</td>
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<td>Development of Theoretical and Practical Guidelines for the Adaptation of the Common European Framework of Reference (cefr) to Sign Languages</td>
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<td>Looking at Iberia from a Comparative European Perspective: Literature, Narration and Identity</td>
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<td>A European Commercial Trinomial: Italy–Champagne–The Netherlands (XIIth–XIVth Centuries)</td>
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<td>Methods of Digital Philology for the Study of Early and Classical Arabic Language</td>
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<td>Calvinism and the Making of the European Mind</td>
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<td>Iron and Change in Europe – the First Two Thousand Years</td>
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<td>The Future of Research in Renaissance Festivals: Resources and Collaboration</td>
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<td>Viking and Norse Materiality in the North Atlantic: Developing New Approaches and Integrating Research Frameworks</td>
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<td>Region, Memory and Agency in Eastern and Western Europe</td>
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<td>The Historical Formation of European Drinking Cultures: Regions, Methods, Sources</td>
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<td>Palatial Economy in the Ancient Near East and in the Aegean: First Steps Towards a Comprehensive Analysis and Inventory</td>
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<td>Roman Colonisation under the Republic: Towards a New Interpretative Framework</td>
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### Annex C: SCH Exploratory Workshops (2009–2013)

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Textile Terminology in the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean Area in the 3rd and 2nd Millennia BC</td>
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<td>Redefining the Sacred: Religious Identity, Ritual Practice and Sacred Architecture in the Near East and Egypt, 1000 BC – Ad 300</td>
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<td>Applying Semantic Web Technologies to Medieval Manuscript Research</td>
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<td>Exploring Creative Cities: The Cultural and Economic Values of Cultural Industries Clusters</td>
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<td>Occupations in World War One. Sources and Analyses</td>
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<td>Technology and Religion: Structural Affinities and Cultural Challenges</td>
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<td>When East meets West – Turkey, Islam, Human Rights and Secular Values</td>
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<td>Religion, Gender, and Human Rights: Challenges for Multicultural and Democratic Societies</td>
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<td>Re-Visiting the Contact Zone: Museums, Theory, Practice</td>
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<td>Law and Neuroscience: Our Growing Understanding of the Human Brain and Its Impact on Our Legal System</td>
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