

23th ICHS Poznań 2022 (21-27.08.2022)

French Committee of Historical Studies

Thursday, August 25th / 09.00-12.00

ORGANIZERS : Dominique Barjot (CFSH)

PLACE : Collegium Novum, C3?

FRENCH HISTORIOGRAPHY TODAY: CROSSED VISIONS

Dominique Barjot, Anna Bellavitis, Olivier Feiertag et Bertrand Haan (dir.), *Regards croisés sur l'historiographie française aujourd'hui*, Paris, Éditions SPM, 2020, 302 p.

presented by

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INTRODUCTION

What is the state of French and Francophone historiography ?

The question is at the heart of the book:

Dominique Barjot, Anna Bellavitis, Olivier Feiertag et Bertrand Haan (dir.), *Regards croisés sur l'historiographie française aujourd'hui*, Paris, Éditions SPM, 2020, 302 p.

1/ It is true that French historiography is no longer a 'model': the era of the *Annales* and the New History is behind us.

- It is true that interactions with other historiographic currents, often from the Anglo-Saxon world but also from other continents, are the order of the day.
- Nevertheless, despite certain approaches, such as 'global' history, there is today a certain fragmentation and development of micro-historical research
- This sometimes is reflecting in a kind of timidity in the face of the possibility of proposing explanations on a wider scale.

2/ Exchanges and interactions between the historiographical traditions of different countries are the order of the day, but the specificities of each country persist, linked to university systems and, particularly in France, to teaching competitions.

- The varying degree of openness in academic circles also plays a role, and in this field France has had and still has a marked tradition of openness, which must be maintained in a context of global crisis, present and future.
- This is the profound reason for the book, promoted by the French Committee of Historical Sciences (CFSH), with the support of the History Research Group (GRHis), a host team of the University of Rouen Normandy (EA 3831).
- While following the continuity of previous CFSH projects, it adopts a tripartite approach, based on three major themes: major historiographical advances by period; new fields and transversal approaches; debates, controversies and emerging research.

1/ THE CFSH: A VOCATION TO PROMOTE FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE HISTORIOGRAPHY (1)

As everyone knows, scientific French is in decline today. As a result, French historians are less and less read abroad and their work less known.

1.1/ Regular syntheses since the early 2010s

1 - *Les Historiens français à l'œuvre, 1995-2010*. Actes de congrès tenu à Paris en 2010, edited by Jean-François Sirinelli, Pascal Cauchy, Claude Gauvard, Paris, PUF, 2010. 332 p., with contributions by Stéphane Benoist, Régine Le Jan, Roger Chartier, Philippe Poirrier, Joëlle Burnouf, Patrice Brun, Olivier de Cazanove, Jean-Paul Demoule, Roland Étienne, Boris Valentin, Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, Dominique Iogna-Prat, Jean-Philippe Genet, Christine Bard, Olivier Levy-Dumoulin, Lucien Bély, Georges-Henri Soutou, Olivier Pétré-Grenouilleau, Mathieu Arnoux and Jacques Verger.

2 - *Les Historiens français en mouvements*. Actes du congrès tenu à Reims en 2012, edited by Jean-François Sirinelli, Pascal Cauchy, Claude Gauvard and Bernard Legras, Actes du Congrès de Reims de 2012, Paris, PUF, 2015, 184 p., with contributions by Dominique Barjot, Yvan Combeau, Gilles Le Béguec, Amaury Lorin, Charles-François Mathis, Thierry Terret, Nicolas Weill-Parot and Laurent Wirth.

3 - Dominique Barjot, Anna Bellavitis, Olivier Feiertag et Bertrand Haan (dir.), *Regards croisés sur l'historiographie française aujourd'hui*, Paris, Éditions SPM, 2020, 302 p.

2/ THE CFSH: A VOCATION TO PROMOTE FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE HISTORIOGRAPHY (2)

1.2/ The French Committee of Historical Sciences: a long history

The French Committee of Historical Sciences was created in 1926 (see table 1 and table 2).

1.3/ The French Committee of Historical Sciences: its functions

According to the terms of its statutes, the Committee's particular aim is to:

1°/ to establish a link between French historians engaged in teaching and research in order, in particular, to promote the place of history in teaching and research;

2°/ to ensure the participation of France in meetings and congresses of an international character devoted to the historical sciences and, in particular, to the International Congresses of Historical Sciences;

3°/ to organise national congresses of historical sciences

4°/ to take the necessary initiatives for the application in France of the resolutions and recommendations of these national and international congresses

5°/ to promote the organisation, development and dissemination of historical research in France.

6°/ to provide a framework for reflection for any individual member interested in historical sciences.

Table 1 – Presidents of the French Committee of Historical Sciences (Comité français des sciences historiques)

Name	Period		Name	Period		Name	Period		Name	Period
Gustave Glotz	1926-1929		Alfred Coville	1929-1940		Charles Petit-Dutaillis	1945-1946		Robert Fawtier	1946-1952
Lucien Febvre	1952-1956		Yves Renouard	1956-1965		Jean Schneider	1965-1971		Roland Mousnier	1971-1975
Michel Devèze	1976-1980		René Girault	1980		Robert-Henri Bautier	1981-1985		Paul Gerbod	1986-1990
Yves-Marie Bercé	1991-1995		Michel Balard	1996-2000		Jean-François Sirinelli	2000-2017		Dominique Barjot	2017-2020

Table 2 - General Secretaries of the French Committee of Historical Sciences (Comité français des sciences historiques)

Name	Period		Name	Période		Name	Period		Name	Period
Didier Ozanam	1952-1958		Jean Glénisson	1959-1971		Françoise Hildesheimer	1981-1985		Jean-Pierre Brunterc'h	1986-1990
Ghislain Brunel	1991-1995		Bruno Galland	1996-2000 et 2001-2005		Pascal Cauchy	2006-2017		Bertrand Haan	2020-

2/ MAJOR HISTORIOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENTS BY PERIOD

2.1/ Ancient history: the example of war in Rome (Pierre Cosme)

2.2 / Renewal of the medieval history (Élisabeth Lalou)

2.3/ Early Modern and Modern History: advances in religious history and economic and social history

- Nicolas Le Roux

- Guy Lemarchand

2.4/ Contemporary history: a look at the history of the right in France (Olivier Dard)

3/ NEW FIELDS AND TRANSVERSAL APPROACHES

3.1/ Archaeology: an expanding field or an autonomous discipline? (François Baratte)

3.2 / The affirmation of gender studies à la française (Anna Bellavitis)

3.3/ The cultural turn in the history of techniques (Liliane Hilaire-Perez)

3.4/ Assuming globalisation or the challenges of French economic history (Olivier Feiertag)

3.5/ A new field: families and experiences of war (Raphaëlle Branche)

3.6/ From colonial history to imperial studies (Jacques Frémeaux)

3.7/ Transition to the digital age (Yvan Combeau)

4/ DEBATES, CONTROVERSIES AND EMERGING RESEARCH

4.1/ Cultural history in France today (round table with the participation of Rémi Dalisson, Cédric Giraud, Éric Mension-Rigau and Aurélien Poidevin)

4.2 / The question of the right price: a transversal problem at the frontiers of theology, philosophy and economic history

Véronique Chankowski, Clément Lenoble et Jérôme Maucourant. *Les infortunes du juste prix. Marchés, justice social et bien commun de l'Antiquité à nos jours*, Lormont, Le Bord de l'eau, 2020, 240 p.

4.3/ The transmission of knowledge: a huge project for researchers

(Dominique Barjot)

4.4/ Is Public History a new historical school? (Félix Torres)

4.5/ Emerging research: the Daniel and Michel Dezès Prize (2015-2022)