Challenges and Responsibilities for a Planet in Transition (Liege, 6-12 August 2017)

Jean Winand (co-chair of the Scientific Committee)
Humanities as an essential player in a changing society
Illusion of immediacy of access without reflection

Roles in the public debate

Make sense of the present to make sense of the future

Nada Al-Nashif (Beijing, 8 Dec. 2015)
Multi-cultural approach to understand / face global changes

Role of the past for understanding present / future
Visionary role

Role of Humanities in shaping the future

Luis Oosterbeek (Beijing, 8 Dec. 2015)
Six main challenges

- humans and environment
- cultural identities
- tangible and intangible heritage
- borders and migrations
- history/memory/politics
- Humanities in a digital society
• Different targets
• Different kinds of speakers
• Different types of public

Four types of events
Surveys

Sections

Evening Lectures — Keynote Speakers
1. Survey(s)
2. Keynote speakers
3. Evening lectures
4. Sections

- Humans and Environment
- Cultural Identities, Cultural Diversities and Intercultural Relations: a Global Multicultural Humanity
- Borders and Migrations
- Tangible and Intangible Heritage
- History/Memory/Politics: Knowing the Past and Engaging with It
- Scholarly work in a changing context
Sessions
(plenary and parallel)

Sections

Symposia  Workshops
4. Sections

4.1. Humans and Environment

including landscape management, history of environment, history of pollution, environmental ethics, energy, etc.

• relations between Human and Nature
• relations, from a trans-cultural perspective, between natural and supra-natural
• representations of Nature in languages, arts and sciences
• history of landscape and climate
• human impact on environment starting with Prehistory down to industrial age
• environment policy, and how to implement it
• ...

4. Sections

4.2. Cultural Identities, Cultural Diversities and Intercultural Relations: a Global Multicultural Humanity

- questioning the very notion of identity, and ‘deconstructing’ the notion of culture
- what makes a cultural identity? language, religion, social issues
- identity in a dynamic perspective: transmission, discontinuities, ruptures
- resilience of identities in a global community
- inter-culturality
  - inside a single culture
  - across cultures
  - many aspects:
    - diffusion of cultural models
    - vectors of dissemination of cultures, cultural ‘corridors’ (Silk Road)
    - problems linked to hybridation and translation
4. Sections

4.3. Borders and Migrations

- Borders, limits, boundaries, passages as philosophical concepts
- Borders as a way of organizing and managing space
- Cartography in its political context
- Concrete materialisation of borders (walls, limes, etc.)
- Migration: diaspora, the theme of the foreigner, the nomad, the sedentary man
4. Sections

4.4. Tangible and Intangible Heritage

- Old topic with new issues (destruction caused by wars, decontextualisation [museums])
- Questioning the notion of heritage, its societal and psychological implications
- Special issues:
  - digital data
  - narratives, tales, oral literature
  - musical traditions that are open to collective memories and oral traditions
4. Sections

4.5. History/Memory/Oblivion: Knowing the Past and Engaging with It

✓ history (critical, ‘objective’) vs. Memory (partial, emotional, subjective) vs. Oblivion (selective)
✓ history and politics (commemorations, ‘memory laws’)
✓ some themes:
  ✓ conceptions of time
  ✓ transcultural and polycentric history (as opposed to eurocentric)
✓ post-colonial historiography
✓ post-conflict historiography (made by historians from both sides)
4. Sections

4.6. Scholarly work in a changing context

✓ Scientific work
  ✓ transfer of the model of the exact sciences (evaluation, funding, short term projects, etc.)

✓ Teaching
  ✓ role of the humanities in school (methods, programmes)

✓ Culture
  ✓ place of the humanities in the media
  ✓ relevance of the humanities for the general public when dealing with questions of society

✓ A digital world as a response, and as a source of new questions
  ✓ control and access to digital sources
  ✓ digital humanities vs. other means of (in)formation