

General assembly for the Norwegian Conference on History of Science

November 30, 2023. Minutes

Item 1. Selection of meeting chair and secretary

The assembly elected Annette Lykknes as meeting chair and Gregory Ferguson-Cradler as secretary of the meeting.

Item 2. Approval of meeting agenda

The invitation to and agenda of the general assembly was approved.

Item 3. Discussion and vote on establishment of the Norwegian Association for the history of Science (NVF)

Jon Kyllingstad presented a history of the Norwegian Conference on the history of science (power point attached). The first conference was held in 2008. Among the planned objectives of the association were to: establish a network for history of science in Norway; promote cooperation with institutions and museums in Norway; further teaching of history of science at the university level; and facilitate public outreach regarding history of science. The overarching goal was to consolidate the history of science discipline in Norway.

The conference has occurred yearly or biyearly (triyearly under the years of the pandemic). There have been organizational difficulties. It has frequently not been clear who will take responsibility for organizing the subsequent meeting. Therefore, the proposal currently put forward envisions the foundation of an association that will end the ad hoc-ness and organizational uncertainty surrounding the program committee and conference location and will establish an association with a board that can take on the role of conference organizer.

The organization will be registered as an official organization with the Brønnøysund register in Norway, have its own budget, become the official Norwegian organization linked to the Division of History of Science and Technology (DHST) under the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST) and will be able to select delegates on its behalf to represent Norway in the DHST/IUHPST.

The assembly unanimously voted for creation of an association.

Item 4. Discussion and vote on the statutes of the association

Statute 18 that currently reads «The program committee shall be empowered to choose the conference for each conference...» should read «The program committee shall be empowered to choose the language for each conference...»

A discussion followed regarding the issue of conference language in the statutes. The association will be central to the development of the discipline of history of science in Norway. The question was posed if the conference organizers should be authorized to decide the language of the conference or if this should be fixed in the statutes.

Several participants felt that the openness and flexibility of the wording «the program committee shall be empowered to choose the conference language for each conference and whether to accept

contributions in other languages» was desirable. It was anticipated that this would continue to be an ongoing question that the board could handle.

Others felt that the statute as written was in conflict with Statute 14 (“the objective is to serve as a meeting place for researchers working with Norwegian history of science...”) as this would exclude scholars not proficient in Norwegian.

Several participants suggested that the language of the conference be fixed as English in the statutes while specifying that the program can include Scandinavian language papers and panels at the discretion of the organizers.

Others were willing to agree but preferred the original wording. Opportunities to present in English abound but fora to present scholarly work in Norwegian are less numerous. These participants felt that presentation of work in Norwegian is important as well. Therefore, the openness and lack of preference of English over Norwegian in the original was desirable.

Both viewpoints were generally recognized, thus the wording «the main language of the conference is English. The program committee may open for contributions in a Scandinavian language» was put to vote.

This motion was approved by the assembly.

Edit: The secretary has rephrased the wording into more colloquial English without changing the meaning: “The main language of the conference is English. The program committee is free to invite contributions in a Scandinavian language at its discretion.”

The assembly further discussed Statute 14. If the association is to be a meeting place, should it then include more interdisciplinary language? A number of participants agreed that it was important to make clear that the association included history of technology and medicine in the associations name, as well.

Others noted that history of science itself might be taken to exclude history of social sciences, humanities, or universities. As such, several participants suggested a short name and language suggesting a broader definition of history of science in the statutes.

The assembly in the end voted for the short name «Norsk vitenskapshistorisk forening».

The issue may be raised for further discussion at the following assembly.

The assembly also voted for the rest of the statutes with the inclusion of a definition of history of science as also including history of medicine and technology. Specifically, the wording stated on the website was suggested and agreed upon: “[The association] brings together scholars working on the history of science, medicine and technology on any theme, topic, or period to discuss historical, epistemological, political, institutional, and ethical issues of relevance to both a Scandinavian and an international audience, welcoming researchers of all nationalities at all stages of their careers.”

Item 5. Discussion and vote on membership dues

Association membership dues of 300 NOK paid as part of conference registration were proposed. The fees will go toward constant website fees as well as conference organization. Accounts will be presented at the next assembly meeting. Membership dues may also be paid outside of conference registration.

The motion was approved.

Item 6. Venue for next conference

The University of Bergen was suggested for the next conference.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 7. Election of leadership committee chair and members.

The assembly elected Annette Lykknes as chair, and Magnus Vollset, Peder Roberts, Gregory Ferguson-Cradler, Roland Wittje, Solveig Siem, and Hege Roll-Hansen to the steering committee.

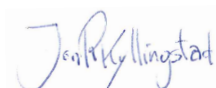
Other issues.

The question of a logo for the association was raised. The committee will take up the idea.

Attachment: Presentation by Jon Røyne Kyllingstad

Protocol approved

Oslo, February 2, 2024



Jon Røyne Kyllingstad



Roland Wittje

First Annual Conference for the History of Science in Norway 2008

Baroniet Rosendal 20-22 May 2008

Initiated and organized Vidar Enebak and Forum for University History, University of Oslo

Conference Objective:

- to establish a national network for historians of science in Norway.

«At present no such organisation exists. Nevertheless, in recent years there has been a remarkable effort by [...] research groups at all the main universities towards developing the history of science as a discipline. By bringing together these local initiatives, the national conference will encourage closer national collaboration, increased scientific publication and broader participation in international organisations.»

Quote from the program

The purpose of the new network should be to promote cooperation in the field of the history of science **understood in the broadest sense**. By:

- Providing an internationally oriented network for research in the history of science.
- Promoting national cooperation between local initiatives and institutions.
- Promoting the preservation of and access to scientific heritage through museums etc.
- Promoting, collaborating, assisting, and advising on the teaching of the history of science.
- Advancing the education of the public in historical, cultural, and social aspects of science.
- to facilitate closer collaboration with international contacts and colleagues.

**«...the consolidation of history of science
as a discipline in Norway»**

**«...to facilitate closer collaboration with international
contacts and colleagues»**

1. 20-22 May 2008, University of Oslo / Baroniet Rosendal
2. 10-12 November 2009, Tromsø/Lofoten Hurtigruta
3. 14-17 October 2010, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim
4. 20-22 November 2011, University of Oslo
5. 24-25 January 2013, University of Bergen
6. 11-13 February 2015, Norsk teknisk museum
 1. ad hoc committee established
7. 15-16 November 2018, University of Oslo: MUV/Norsk teknisk museum
 1. Permanent programme committee formalized
8. 1-3 December 2021. University of Oslo: MUV

Utkast til

vedtekter for Den norske vitenskapshistoriske konferansens programkomite

Presentert på den sjuende norske vitenskapshistoriske konferansen, 16. november 2018

1. Formålet med programkomiteen er å bidra til å arrangere den norske vitenskapshistoriske konferansen hvert andre år.

2. Den norske vitenskapshistoriske konferansen og programkomiteen er frittstående, uten binding til andre organisasjoner.

3. Programkomiteen skal samarbeide om organisering, finansiering, informasjon og gjennomføring med den/de institusjonene som er vertskap for konferansen.

4. Den norske vitenskapshistoriske konferansen skal rette seg mot aktive forskere innen vitenskapshistorie og beslektede fagfelter. Vitenskapelig kvalitet skal være det fremste kriteriet for å velge ut bidragsytere. Konferansen skal også fungere som en møteplass for forskere som arbeider med norsk vitenskapshistorie, norske forskere som arbeider med ikke-norsk vitenskapshistorie og vitenskapshistorikere som arbeider med emner av interesse for norsk vitenskapshistorie.

5. Programkomiteen skal ha ansvar for det faglige innholdet i konferansen. Komiteens primære oppgaver er å utarbeide invitasjon til deltakelse, sørge for at denne blir kjent i relevante fagmiljøer, og utforme et program i tråd med gjeldende faglige standarder.

6. Komiteen skal sikre tilstrekkelige ressurser til å gjennomføre konferanse, herunder søke om økonomisk støtte.

7. Konferansespråket kan være norsk eller engelsk. Programkomiteen står fritt til å bestemme språk for den aktuelle konferansen og inkludere bidrag på andre språk.

8. Programkomiteen skal ha fra fem til sju medlemmer. Den/de lokale arrangørene, eller tilsvarende organ, som er vertskap for kommende konferanse, bør være med i programkomiteen med en til to medlemmer.

9. Programkomiteen velges på årsmøtet som avholdes i forbindelse med konferansen. Årsmøtet er åpent for alle aktive forskere som ønsker å engasjere seg i konferansens faglige virksomhet.

10. Årsmøtet skal velge medlemmer til komiteen og ellers behandle innkomne saker av betydning for konferansen.

11. Programkomiteen skal ha minst 40 prosent kvinnelige medlemmer. Programkomiteens sammensetning bør tilsi representativitet slik at ulike institusjoner, aldersgrupper og fagområder er representert.

11-13 February 2015, Norsk teknisk museum

Local organizing committee

- Ageliki Lefkaditou Teknisk museum (now: UiO HELSAM)
- Ketil Gjølme Andersen Teknisk museum
- Anne Vaalund MUV: Museum of University History/ Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo
- Bjørn Vidar Johannesen MUV
- Jon Røyne Kyllingstad MUV

Previous members

- [Thomas Brandt](#) (chair): Department of Historical and Classical Studies, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim
- [Vera Schwach](#): Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education
- [Svein Atle Skålevåg](#): Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen

Members of the committee

- [Gregory Ferguson-Cradler](#): Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences. Inland School of Business and Social Sciences. Department of Law
- [Magnus Vollset](#): Institutt for global helse og samfunnsmedisin Universitetet i Bergen
- [Annette Lykknes](#): Department of Teacher Education. Norwegian University of Science and Technology.
- [Jon Røyne Kyllingstad](#): Museum of Cultural History, Section for Museum of University History, University of Oslo
- Peder Roberts: Department of Cultural Studies and Languages, University of Stavanger