



27TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ICHIST  
29 JUNE - 5 JULY 2025

PEOPLES | PLACES | EXCHANGES | CIRCULATION

## Symposium proposal form

### Title of symposium

A cross-cultural approach to representations of nature in the pre-industrial era".  
A symposium dedicated to the memory of Adama Samassekou.

### Number of 90-minute slots required

There are four 90-minute slots per day

10

### Commission name (if applicable)

#### Note: Inter-Academic Symposium proposed by:

International Academy of the History of Science (IAHS)  
Union Académique Internationale (UAI/IUA)  
International Science Council. Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific (ISC)  
International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH)  
Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST)  
Académie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer (Paris)  
Australian Academy of Sciences  
Royal Society Te Aparangi (New Zealand)  
Académie Africaine des Langues (Acalan)

### Organizer one

Name	Dominique Barjot
Country	France
Organization	Académie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer
Address	15, rue La Pérouse, 75016, Paris, France
Email	dom.barjot@orange.fr
Biography (maximum 250 words)	
Agrégré d'Histoire (1977); Doctorat d'Etat Paris-Sorbonne (1989); Attaché, then Chargé de Recherche CNRS (1984-1990); Lecturer at the Ecole des Chartes (1987-2012); Professor at the University of Caen (1990-1997); Deputy Director SHS CNRS (1994-1997); French representative on the Standing Committee of Humanities of the European Science Foundation (1995-1997); Professor at Paris-Sorbonne, then Sorbonne University (1997-2018); Deputy Director of the UMR Roland Mousnier (1998-2018); Director of the Ecole doctorale d'histoire contemporaine (2001-	

2004), then of the Ecole doctorale d'Histoire moderne et contemporaine (2004-2010); Professor of Economics Renmin University of China (2017-2019); Académicien des Sciences d'Outre-Mer (since 2014).

### Organizer two

Name	Efthymios Nicolaidis
Country	Greece
Organization	International Academy of the History of Science and National Hellenic Research Foundation
Address	48, Vasileos Constantinou av. 11635, Athens, Greece
Email	efnicol@eie.gr
Biography (maximum 250 words)	
<p>Emeritus Director of Research, Director of the History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme of the Institute of Historical Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation (<a href="http://www.hpds.gr">www.hpds.gr</a>).</p> <p>Born in Athens, 1954, studied physics and history of science in France. Main publications on the history of astronomy, the relations between science and religion, the history of science in Byzantium and the Ottoman Empire, and the spread of Modern European science. President of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (2013-2017), Honorary Permanent Secretary of the International Academy of the History of Science. Prize Chaire Blaise Pascal (France) 2013. Editor of the journal <i>Almagest</i>.</p> <p>Author or editor of about 20 books and author of about 100 articles and book chapters.</p>	

### Organizer three

Name	Sun Xiaochun
Country	China
Organization	International Academy of the History of Science and University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
Address	Huaiyou District, China, 101408
Email	xcsun@ucas.ac.cn
Biography (maximum 250 words)	
<p>1. Basic Personal Data Name: SUN Xiaochun; Country: China; Institution: School of Humanities , University of Chinese Academy of Sciences; Birthday: December 12, 1964.</p> <p>2. Major Degrees and Scholarly Awards Bachelor of Science, Astronomy, Nanjing University, China, 1984 Master of Science, Astronomy, Nanjing University, China, 1989 Ph.D. History of Astronomy, Institute for the History of Natural Science, CAS, 1993 Ph.D. History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania, 2007 National Award for Excellent Scientific Research by Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, 2001 (collective) Science Award (third grade) by the Chinese Academy of Sciences 1999.</p> <p>3. National Academic Memberships and Affiliations Chinese Society for History of Science and Technology, Member of the Executive Board, 2008-2015, President, 2015-2019</p>	

Chinese Astronomical Society, Chairman of Commission of History of Astronomy, 2009-2015

#### 4. International Academic Memberships and Affiliations

International Astronomical Union (IAU), Commission on History of Astronomy,  
Vice-President, 2012-2015, President, 2015-2018

International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology/Division of  
History of Science and Technology (IUHPST/DHST), Assessor, 2013-2017.

International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH), Assessor, 2010-2017

#### 5. Experience in institutional academic leadership and management

1995-1999, Institute for the History of natural Science, Associate Professor.

1996-2000, The Chronological Studies of the Xia, Shang, and Zhou dynasties, a nation-wide collaborative project organized by the Ministry of Science, sub-project leader.

2003-2008, Science and Society in Song China, "One Hundred Talents" Program of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Principal Investigator.

2007-2011, Max Planck Society and Chinese Academy of Sciences Partner Group on History of Science, Group Leader.

2008- Centre for Ancient Chinese Astronomy, National Astronomical Observatory of China; Director.

2009-2015, Institute for the History of Natural Science, Deputy Director.

2015- School of Humanities, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Deputy Dean.

#### **Description of symposium** (250 words maximum)

The description must be submitted in English

The International Academy of the History of Science will celebrate its centenary in 2027. During this century, its members have concentrated their work on so-called "Western" science and technology, and on major cultural areas such as China, India and the Arab-Islamic world, leaving other cultures to archaeologists and the "ethnoscience". Interculturality has been limited to the study of relationships and influences, from a "diffusionist" perspective, from which the question of priority is not absent. The symposium, organized with other academies directly concerned, aims to change this perspective, replacing juxtaposition and knowledge transfer with transversality. The aim is to study the content of knowledge, i.e. representations of nature, from a transcultural perspective, following the example of the fruitful comparative studies already carried out on astronomy. The example was given by Liu Dun in his lecture on the polyhedra that make up matter in Plato's Timaeus and in Chinese science. Examples could be multiplied: Greek and Indian atomism; knowledge of the structure of iron in medieval Europe, Africa and Malaysia; the properties of plant, mineral and animal substances.

The symposium will focus on for themes:

- The "knowledge of the hand", i.e. knowledge of matter through techniques
- The intelligence of the living, with the difference between the animate and the inanimate, the living and the dead.
- The order of the world, i.e. the taxonomy of natural beings - plants, minerals and animals.
- The representations of sky, sea and earth.

The symposium will bring together not only historians of science and technology, but also archaeologists, anthropologists, linguists and philosophers.

**Expected participants (to be completed and amended).**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Barjot, Dominique	France	Secrétaire perpétuel, ASOM
Charlier, Philippe	France	ASOM – Miseum Quai Branly
Cullen, Christopher	UK	AIHS - former director Needham Institute
Delmas, Bruno	France	ASOM
Gengjing Ni	China	South China Agricultural University
Haojun Zhen	China	CASR
His excellency Vidon, Jean- Pierre	France	ASOM
Hongen Jiang	China	University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
Jami, Catherine	France	AIHS – Écolé des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales
Jensen, Tim	Denmark	CIPSH-University of Southern Denmark
Jiayi Zhang	China	Beijing Union University
Liu Yang	China	University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
Menge , Wemo	Democratic Republic of Congo	ACALAN
Nicolaidis, Efthymios	Greece	IAHS-National Hellenic Research Foundation
Oosterbeek, Luiz	Portuga;	President of CIPSH
Ping-chen Hsiung	China, Hong Kong	Secretary general, CIPSH
Robion-Brunner, Caroline	France	CNRS
Somhegyi, Zoltan	Hungary	deputy s-g CIPSH
Sun Xiaochun	China	AIHS - University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
Tampakis, Kostas	Greece	National Hellenic Research Foundation
Tillot de Grissac, Virginie	France	ASOM
Valeriani, Matteo	Germany	Max Planck Institute
van Schuylenbergh, Patricia	Belgium	Académie Royale des Sciences d’Outre-Mer (ARSOM)
van Schuylenbergh, Patricia	Belgium	ARSOM
Vandersmissen, Jan	Belgium	IAGS -ARSOM
Verhasselt, Yola	Belgium	ARSOM
Wugan Luo	China	University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
Yanping Zhao	China	South China Agricultural University
Yi Han	China	Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, CAS
Yizhe Zhang	China	Guizhou Normal University
Yong Lu	China	Nanjing Agricultural University

Once you have completed the submission form, please send it by email to

DanaFreiburger [dana@dafreiburger.org](mailto:dana@dafreiburger.org)