CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMITE INTERNATIONAL DES SCIENCES HISTORIQUES

Attacks on History and Historians

Programme Event

International Committee of Historical Sciences | 26–30 August 2026 | Leipzig, Germany

DATE	LOCATION
28 Aug 2026, 11:00 - 13:30	House 1 T1002
THEME	CONFERENCE
I - Revolution, Conflict, War and Peace in Historiography	International Committee of Historical Sciences

Overview

This panel is based to a large extent on the last years of work on the Palgrave Handbook of Attacks on History (due in 2027), initiated and edited by Antoon De Baets, and on exchanges with other colleagues. The speakers explore concepts, paradigms, and case studies, using a diversity of methods, scales, and angles (from macrohistory and metahistory to microstoria, égo-histoire, and back), in order to reach a comparative, comprehensive, and coherent perspective on the topic of Attacks on History and Historians. While doing so, the speakers acknowledge the diversity of roles historians and historical studies have played in History, beyond any abstract and stable Good/Evil divide. Hence the need for a thorough analysis in which contexts, including historicity, are essential, while ethical/moral/legal judgments remain legitimate.

Participants

Convenor

- Sorin Antohi (Academia Europaea Bucharest Hub)

Panelists

- Antoon De Baets (University of Groningen)
- Georgyi Kasianov (Marie Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin)
- Balázs Trencsényi (CEU Budapest/Wien)
- Stefan Troebst (University of Leipzig)
- Sorin Antohi (Academia Europaea Bucharest Hub)

Papers

Attacks on History: A Human Rights Framework

Antoon De Baets (University of Groningen)

The Instrumental Abuse of History in Ukraine and in the Ukrainian Diaspora

Georgyi Kasianov (Marie Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin)

The Historian as Public Enemy: Recurrent Patterns and Epistemic Shifts in the Campaigns Against Professional Historians in Hungary, 1913-2024

Balázs Trencsényi (CEU Budapest/Wien)

Code name "The Macedonian": A West-German Exchange Student in the Crosshairs of the Bulgarian State Security"

Stefan Troebst (University of Leipzig)

History and Historians in Dire Straits. A Romanian Cautionary Tale and Concluding Remarks

Sorin Antohi (Academia Europaea Bucharest Hub)

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