

Annual report 2022

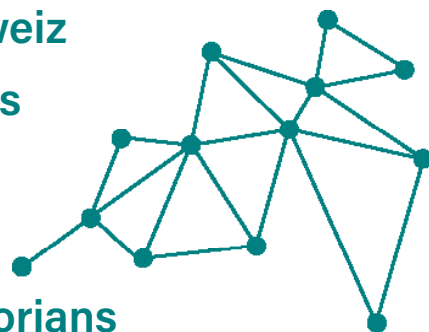
Historikerinnennetzwerk Schweiz

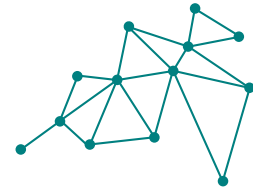
Réseau suisse des historiennes

Rete svizzera delle storiche

Rait svizra d'istoricras

Swiss Network of Female Historians





Swiss network of female historians Annual report 2022

From the board, January 2023

Co-presidents' greetings and review

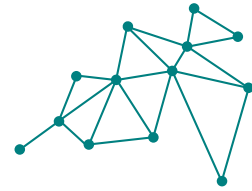
Since our election as co-presidents at the General Assembly in January 2021 we have been happy to watch the many seeds planted in 2019 grow into tender plants.

Our network is growing: 57 new members have joined us in 2022. More importantly, we are growing our network outside our own association, by strengthening our ties to important bodies such as the Swiss Society for History, Infoclio and the Swiss Society for Gender Studies.

Our internal networking is also coming to fruition, as members frequently ask us to circulate information inside the network. We are happy about the usefulness of our mailing list, which is a simple tool – albeit time-consuming. Many thanks to Angela Wittwer, who manages the network's e-mail-box! In order to increase the exchange and networking between members, we are working on an internal members' area on our website, which will be ready soon.

The network also thrives through our events: most importantly, our virtual Round Tables, which provide an opportunity for discussions beyond the usual platforms. We are also very happy about the success of the Network Meetups during 2022 in Basel, Berne, Fribourg, Lausanne and Zurich, which reflect the members' interest in exchange and mutual support among historians*. We would like the network to grow in a decentral way, according to local ideas, needs and sensibilities, and we welcome members' initiatives for events very warmly.

Most of the board members are now in their second or third year, which brings stability to the board's work. We have grown to know each other much better. During lockdown, we were mostly unable to meet in person. It was all the more pleasant to meet for an entire weekend in March 2022 for our very first board retreat, and we are meeting in person twice a year now.



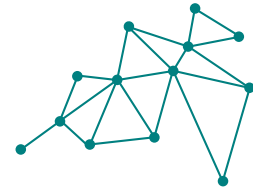
One of our larger Working Group project has borne fruit during 2022: We concluded the project "Aggiornamento 1971-2021" and published the results of the survey we had conducted to determine the position of women in Swiss history and historiography – a subject of much public interest during the 50th anniversary year of women's suffrage.

With the survey and the blog postings we wanted to contribute, as a network, to this broad discussion: giving female* historians themselves the opportunity to record and share their impressions of the anniversary year. We are very happy about this milestone and hope to continue this and other discussions in the future. The network is busy opening new spaces for debate. Soon there will be a podcast acknowledging voices of historians* active in various areas.

Inspired by the success of the Swiss Female Historians' Conferences ("Schweizer Historikerinnentagungen") we also decided to organise an "Unconference"/Reverse Conference in autumn 2024. We hope to open a space for discussion for female* historians that is freer and more democratic than usual conferences and to facilitate exchanges between persons who wouldn't meet otherwise. This project gives us great impetus and we dare dream of a more inclusive and less hierarchic community of female* historians which would enable everyone to acquire historical knowledge as a force for empowerment.

Claire Louise Blaser & Zoé Kergomard

Co-presidents



The network's board in 2022

Antonia Bertschinger

Claire Louise Blaser

Tiziana Bonetti

Melanie Burkhard

Anna de Quervain

Tamara Widmer

Angela Wittwer

Zoé Kergomard

Network Meetups

Since the foundation of the network, the Meetups (originally called "Network Apéros") have offered an easily accessible opportunity for female* historians from different professional fields to meet, network and exchange. Like in 2021, also in 2022 we wanted to set up regular meetups in larger Swiss cities. Ten meetups took place, also thanks to the efforts of network members in French-speaking Switzerland.

Two spring meetings in Bern and Zurich which combined the meetup with a visit to a historical exhibition and a historical walk respectively were particularly successful. On the other hand, we had to cancel two meetings in October due to lack of interest. We are curious to see how the meetup format will develop – and hopefully thrive – in 2023.

3 May, Bern: Guided tour, exhibition "Alte Buchkunst – neue Medien" at Bibliothek Münsterstergasse, followed by the meetup at Lesbar

6 May, Zurich: City walk with Zurich Colonial and meetup

12 May, Basel: meetup at Carambolage

4 August, Zurich: meetup at Kleine Freiheit

18 August, Bern: meetup at Ô Bolles

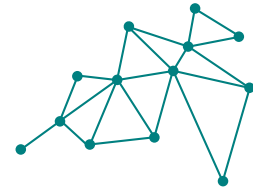
7 September, Lausanne: Apéro in La Bavaria

13 October, Berne: meetup at Ô Bolles

26 October, Fribourg: meetup at Café Le Mondial

9 November, Zurich: meetup at Kleine Freiheit

16 November, Lausanne: meetup at Café Mozart



Working group “Women’s Suffrage Anniversary”

This working group had the honour to complete one of our network’s first projects: The “Aggiornamento 1971–2021”, which we launched in spring 2021 in connection with the 50-year-anniversary of women’s suffrage in Switzerland. Between the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022 we conducted a survey on the position of women* in Swiss historical science (structural as well as in historiography). On January 13 and 19, we organised open online discussions to discuss these questions together. In spring 2022, we analysed the answers and published a three-part series of blog postings on the results:

[Bestandsaufnahme 1971-2021, Teil 1: Arbeiten als Historiker*in in der Schweiz](#)

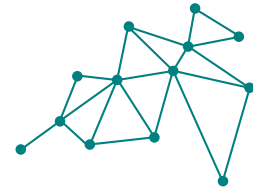
[Bestandsaufnahme 1971-2021, Teil 2: Frauen und Geschlecht in der Geschichte der Schweiz](#)

[Aggiornamento 1971–2021, partie 3: Impressions du cinquantenaire du suffrage féminin en Suisse](#)

We hope that this work and the answers we collected may give an appraisal of “2021” as well as a pointer to what remains to be done in the future. Based on testimonials of several generations of female* historians, our “Aggiornamento” shows, on the one hand, how much has been achieved in the last decades. On the other hand, many answers describe in detail the many remaining obstacles on the way to equality and stress the importance of opening new career paths for women* on all levels.

At the same time, with regard to politics of remembrance and historiography, “2021” shows that the participants in our survey wish more gender sensitive and intersectional perspectives, also beyond the realm of women’s and gender history.

Members: Claire Louise Blaser, Anna de Quervain, Zoé Kergomard, Tamara Widmer



Working group “Round Tables”

Since mid-2021, the Round Table working group has developed and implemented ideas for events. In 2022, three Round Tables were organised:

[Frauen ins Museum! Erfahrungsaustausch rund um zwei Ausstellungen zur Frauen- und Geschlechtergeschichte](#), 13 April 2022 (online), with Diana Le Dinh, Claude-Alain Künzi, Lou-Salomé Heer, Bettina Stehli and Pauline Milani (moderation).

[Wie digitale Arbeitsweisen unseren Berufsalltag als Historikerinnen* verändern \(oder auch nicht\)](#), 20 June 2022 (online), with Christine Grundig, Mareike König and Zoé Kergomard (moderation)

[Geschichte schreiben – Geschichten erzählen?](#), 22 September 2022 (online), with Caroline Arni, Anna Leyrer und Antonia Bertschinger/Angela Wittwer (moderation)

We plan more Round Tables for 2023, among others a conversation about (in)equalities in scientific discourse and a dialogue about gender equality in academia in spring 2023.

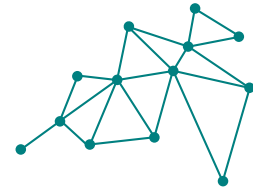
Members: Angela Wittwer, Zoé Kergomard

Working group “Podcast”

The Podcast working group was established by members of the board with the intention of creating a podcast that offers female* historians from and in Switzerland a platform for presenting their research, work and concerns. In the meantime, the working group has been joined by several members of our network. Together, during 2022 we have developed a concept, a name (“Café des Historiennes”) und planned a first season. In October and November 2022 we conducted our first interviews, they will be published in early 2023.

Members: Claire Louise Blaser, Nathalie Dahn-Singh, Lou-Salomé Heer, Tamara Widmer, Angela Wittwer

Former members who left the working group during 2022 – with many thanks for their contribution: Claudia Luthiger



Working group “Workshops”

The Workshops working group conducted one workshop in 2022, on blogging. On 25 January, there was an online introduction to the subject with Britta Hermans and Celia Burgdorf from [hypotheses.de](https://www.hypotheses.de), followed by the writing workshop on 18 February. The working group also prepared a workshop on a more [inclusive culture of debate](#), which will take place in the first half of 2023.

Members: Antonia Bertschinger, Zoé Kergomard

Working group “Social Media”

In 2022, the Social Media working group focussed mainly on promoting our Network Meetups, Round Tables, Workshops and new blog posts via Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. On Instagram, we showcased the board members as well as the network in general through posts and stories with images from events. We also share post or stories from members or other institutions that work on similar subjects.

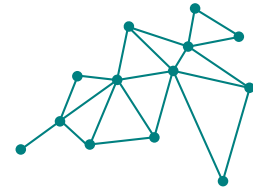
Facebook is mainly used for promoting our events. Twitter, on the other hand, does not only offer the possibility to promote events, but also to exchange ideas with members and institutions and expand our online presence.

Speaking in figures, we have constantly expanded our reach since January 2022, with a growth in followers on Twitter from 650 to 900 and from 300 to over 500 on Instagram.

In 2023, the working group would like to recruit more members and develop cooperations with other Social media accounts that share our goals and plan longer-term campaigns with larger events and current subjects.

Members: Claire Louise Blaser, Tamara Widmer

Former members who left the working group in 2022 – with many thanks for their contribution: Melanie Burkhard



Working group “Blog”

Our blog offers female* historians an open space for sharing research results, experiences in professional life and opinions. Since January 2022, the Blog working group has edited and published four blog posts. One of our larger projects of this year has been the three-part series “[Aggiornamento](#)” (see also Women’s Suffrage Anniversary working group). Also, Rachel Huber (founder and co-president until the end of 2021) and Zoé Kergomard (new co-president) have published a discussion on the future of the network in a “[staff handover](#)”. Further blog posts are in the planning stage.

After several changes, the working group is looking for new members who like to participate in planning and editing blog posts. We are also looking for authors who like to publish a blog post. The blog is an easily accessible but well-edited publishing platform for texts that would not fit into the framework of scientific publications.

In order to motivate more women* for blogging, we will organise a writing workshop at the University of Berne on 10 March, with the goal of writing blog posts together.

Members: Tiziana Bonetti, Nathalie Grunder, Zoé Kergomard

Former members who have left the working group in 2022 – with many thanks for their contribution: Rachel Huber, Claudia Luthiger, Anna Leyrer

Website

The website has developed in 2022 – at first in small steps such as the new page “Working Groups” or a new registration form with options for active participation. A great step was taken in the second half of the year: In cooperation with the web agency WeLoveYou, we are developing the members’ area with networking options and a “project market place”.

Webmasters: Antonia Bertschinger, Tamara Widmer



Financial situation and concluding remarks from the Secretary

We started 2022 with a lot of impetus and a host of inputs from the General Assembly. At the board's retreat in March we distributed the tasks and set priorities. For the Secretary, the focus was put on the creation of the members' area on the website as well as on raising the funds to finance this project. Our association is in a stable situation for everyday activities (181 members on 31.12.2022), but such a large development project is beyond our budget, which is financed only by our members' contributions.

Both projects have kept me busy and taken a lot of time, but they are nearly completed now. The fundraising applications were sent out in late summer, and we will hopefully be able to present the members' area at the 2023 General Assembly. The interfaces between the website and our admin software "Webling" will facilitate my work, e. g. sending out bills and payment reminders. One task will have to be deferred to 2023: the application for tax exemption for our association.

In 2021, we had decided to do without a paid Secretary at least temporarily. Some of the Secretary's tasks have been distributed among the board members. I'd like to thank my colleagues who have checked the e-mail inbox, answered e-mails and kept our social media channels busy and attractive. You are great and make the activities of our network visible. Many thanks also to all who have organised, co-organised or participated in events. It is thanks to you that we can actually report on our activities here, it is thanks to you that being a member of our network is worthwhile and that we will hopefully convince many more female* historians to join. For we all of us together are the Swiss Network of Female Historians!

Anna de Quervain