



International Review of Social History

2006-2010

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Introduction

Since the nineteenth century, social history has developed into an important research field in the study of the past. Until the second half of the nineteenth century, history tended to be researched top-down, with an important focus on politics and law and through the eyes of so-called ‘great men’. However, the Industrial Revolution, which introduced new social tensions and brought new groups to the fore, like the middle and labour classes, made a new kind of research of the past necessary, research that focused on the society rather than on rulers and politics.¹ Social history became that new field of research. Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century social history not only focused on the history of labour but also on the history of the lives of ordinary people. However, after the Second World War, the traditional approach of the nineteenth-century social history no longer sufficed for the research of social and economic developments. Description, which formed the main focus of the so-called “old” social and economic history, was not enough to research these developments. Researchers wanted to focus on the analysis of social structures, social groups and the processes that developed within these groups.² Furthermore, researchers wanted to decrease the attention that was being paid to labour history, especially because most research in the field of the history of labour was still performed from a top-down approach. Most research focused on labour unions and their fight for more equal rights, while the history of the lives of ordinary workers was only researched marginally. Under the influence of new developments in sociology and within the *Annales School*, but especially with the cultural turn of the 1970s, the new social history was developed into a field of research which concerned itself with the deeper structures that guide the every-day life of groups of people in the past.

Since the 1970s, the field of social history has developed into an independent discipline that has initiated the development of numerous subfields, like gender history, women’s history, ethnic history or regional, urban and rural history. A journal that focuses on this field of social history is the *International Review of Social History*, which has been issued by the International Institute of Social History since 1956. This analysis will focus on the question if the developmental change that social history is said to have gone through since the 1970s has also changed the scope of this journal and how this change is embedded within the journal. We will research if the themes and debates the journal focuses on really have taken on a different approach. Does the journal really focus less attention on top-down labour

¹ M. Duijvendak and P. Kooij, *Sociale geschiedenis. Theorie en thema's* (Assen 1992), 1.

² Duijvendak and Kooij, *Sociale geschiedenis*, 7.



history and more attention to other themes? To do that, an analysis will be made of the issues of the journal that were published between 2006 and 2010. First, we will discuss the background of the journal, focusing on its history, aims, goals, scope, the editorial board and the reputation the journal enjoys. After that, we will discuss the content of the journal and the themes that are covered within this journal. All this will lead to the overall conclusion on the question where the focus of the journal lies

1. Background of the journal

1.1. The journal

As a component of the International Institute of Social History (IISH) that was founded in Amsterdam in 1935, the journal was first published in 1936, under the title *International Review for Social History*.³ The IISH continued to publish the journal until 1939, but also started with the publication of the *Bulletin of the International Institute of Social History* in 1937.⁴ This journal continued to be published until 1955, with exception of the 1940s. In 1956, the journal was replaced when the IISH initiated the publication of the *International Review of Social History*, which was meant to be a continuation of the journal that was published between 1936 and 1939.⁵ This journal continues to be published until this day.

Nowadays, the *International Review of Social History (IRSH)* sees itself as one of the leading journals in the field of social history. The oldest scholarly journal of its kind, the journal is well-known for the quality, depth and originality of its articles.⁶ The journal is issued by the IISH, but it is published by Cambridge University Press. It appears three times a year – in April, August and December – and annually a special supplement of essays on a current topic is added. This supplement is also published in December. The *IRSH* is global in its scope and focuses on research on the field of social and labour history from a comparative and transnational perspective in the modern and the early modern periods. It aims to combine quality, depth and originality in its articles and wants to keep an open eye for theoretical innovation and new insights and methods from within the field of social history and from the fields of affiliated disciplines.⁷ The goal of the journal is to publish some twenty articles each year and to cover a major part of the books published in the field of social and labour history in book reviews and annotated bibliographies to broaden the scope on social and labour history.⁸

³ International Review for Social History, *International Institute of Social History*, <http://journals.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/action/displayJournal?jid=IRS>, accessed 5 April 2011.

⁴ Bulletin of the International Institute of Social History, *International Institute of Social History*, <http://journals.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/action/displayJournal?jid=BSH>, accessed 5 April 2011.

⁵ International Review of Social History, *International Institute of Social History*, <http://journals.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/action/displayJournal?jid=ISH>, accessed 5 April 2011.

⁶ International Review of Social History, 'Instructions for Contributors', *International Institute of Social History*, http://assets.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/ISH/ISH_ifc.pdf, accessed 6 April 2011.

⁷ International Review of Social History, *International Institute of Social History*, <http://journals.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/action/displayJournal?jid=ISH>, accessed 5 April 2011.

⁸ International Review of Social History, 'Instructions for Contributors', *International Institute of Social History*, http://assets.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/ISH/ISH_ifc.pdf, accessed 6 April 2011.

About one in four articles that is submitted to the editorial board is accepted for publication. The board attempts to reach a decision on submitted articles within six months and accepted articles will be published within a year of acceptance. All articles are refereed before acceptance and these reviews normally are published within six months.⁹ When an article is accepted, the executive director will determine when the article will be published. However, this might change, due to space constraints or a need to achieve balance of content in each issue.¹⁰ When an article is submitted the editorial board expects that it has not been published before and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. An article has to be submitted in two-fold, which means that one version has to be handed in that contains the author's details and one version that is anonymized in order to make possible a process of blind refereeing.¹¹ Contributors also have to hand in a short summary or abstract of not more than 150 words on the principal conclusion and the methods that are used in the article.

The current executive editor of the journal is the Dutch historian drs. Aad Blok. Blok has been working at the IISH since 1987, where he, among other things, has set up the institute's publishing house. Since 1998 he worked as a book review editor of the *IRSH* and in 2007 he became the executive editor of the journal.¹² Blok is assisted by Angèle Janse, who works as the editorial assistant of the *International Review of Social History*. Furthermore, the editorial board consists of an editorial committee, which currently seats eight members. The committee is made up of five males and three females. Half of these people is Dutch and is connected to the International Institute of Social History. Among them is the current research director of the IISH, Prof. Dr. Marcel van der Linden. He also functions as the chairman of the editorial board. Another member of the board is also Dutch, but is connected to the University of Leiden. Furthermore, one of the members of the board traces her origins to Belgium and works as a professor at the University of Ghent. Two other members work for German institutes. One of them is a professor and head of the research group Modern Indian History at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies of the University of

⁹ International Review of Social History, 'Instructions for Contributors', *International Institute of Social History*, http://assets.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/ISH/ISH_ifc.pdf, accessed 10 May 2011.

¹⁰ International Review of Social History, 'Instructions for Contributors', *International Institute of Social History*, http://assets.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/ISH/ISH_ifc.pdf, accessed 6 April 2011.

¹¹ International Review of Social History, 'Instructions for Contributors', *International Institute of Social History*, http://assets.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/ISH/ISH_ifc.pdf, accessed 6 April 2011.

¹² International Review of Social History, 'Aad Blok', *International Institute of Social History*, <http://www.iisg.nl/staff/abl.php>, accessed 6 April 2011.

Göttingen and the other German member of the board is a professor at the University of Köln.¹³ These members all range between the ages of 35 to 55 years old.

1.2. Reputation of the journal

When we look at the ISI Journal Citation Reports for 2006 until 2009, reports that are based on a compilation of the cited references that are made to the articles of a journal in other published scholarly journals, we can conclude that the journal has a relatively good reputation within the scholarly field. Although we can see a slight shift in the position the journal holds on the ranking list, the journal is included in the list in all four years.

Table 1. Ranking of the journal in ISI Journal Citation Reports, 2006-2009¹⁴

Year	Rank	Cited references
2006	6	60
2007	7	81
2008	9	106
2009	11	115

The journal ranked sixth in 2006 and held a seventh position in 2007. The year after that, in 2008, the position of the journal dropped to the ninth place and, finally, in 2009, the journal held the eleventh position.¹⁵ However, more references are made to articles published in the *IRSH* every year. In 2006, there were 60 cited references. A year later, in 2007, the number had risen to 81 cited references. In 2008, there were 106 references and, finally, in 2009 there were 115 cited references.¹⁶ The fact that the position of the journal on the ranking list is slowly dropping can be explained by looking at the cited references of other journals on the list that have held a better position in the four-year period that is studied. The *American Historical Review*, for instance, the journal that has held the first position between 2006 and

¹³ International Review of Social History, 'Editorial Board', *International Institute of Social History*, <http://journals.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=ISH&type=eb>, accessed 6 April 2011. The current members of the editorial committee are: Ravi Ahuja, (Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Germany), Dennis Bos (University of Leiden, the Netherlands), Ulbe Bosma (International Institute of Social History, the Netherlands), Gita Deneckere (University of Ghent, Belgium), Karin Hofmeester (International Institute of Social History, the Netherlands), Marcel van der Linden (International Institute of Social History, the Netherlands), Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk (International Institute of Social History, the Netherlands), Michael Zeuske (University of Köln, Germany).

¹⁴ ISI Web of Knowledge, 'JCR-Web 4.5: History 2006-2009', *Thomson Reuters*, <http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com.proxy-ub.rug.nl/JCR/JCR>, accessed 7 April 2011.

¹⁵ See table 1.

¹⁶ See table 1.

2009, increased from 917 references in 2006 to 1484 references in 2009.¹⁷ The same can be said for the number of cited references that are made to the journal that has held the second position in these years, the *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. The references made to this journal increased from 483 references in 2006 to 821 references in 2009.¹⁸ Therefore, we can conclude that although the number of cited references to the *IRSH* is increasing, the number of cited references to other journals that rank higher on the list is increasing faster. This implies that these journals enjoy a better reputation within the scholarly field.

We can also see this in the fact that the *IRSH* is not the main player on the list in the field of social history, because during this four-year period the journal is outnumbered by the *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. Between 2006 and 2009, this journal holds a steady second-place position on the ranking list.¹⁹ The *IRSH* is also outnumbered by the *History Workshop Journal*. Although this journal is also dropping on the list, it is able to hold a higher position in the ranking list than the *IRSH* over those four years. Furthermore, while the ranking position of the *IRSH* is dropping, other journals in the field of social history are climbing in the ranking list. A good example is a journal named *History Social Research*. Although was not on the list in 2006, it held a sixth position in 2007 and it was able to hold a higher position than the *IRSH* in 2008 and 2009. There are also journals that rank higher than the *IRSH* in the years between 2006 and 2009 that focus on certain subthemes that the *IRSH* also deals with, namely a journal called *Ethnohistory* and also a journal named *Environmental History*. In this four-year period, these journals are able to hold the fourth and fifth position.²⁰ However, the *IRSH* is able to hold a higher position on the list than either the *Journal of Social History* or *Social Science History*, that after 2008 were not even on the list anymore.²¹ Therefore, we can conclude that although the journal's position is dropping on the ranking list, it enjoys a relatively good reputation in the scholarly field and in the field of social history in particular, because the journal holds a steady position within the citation reports.

¹⁷ ISI Web of Knowledge, 'JCR-Web 4.5: History 2006-2009', Thomson Reuters, <http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com.proxy-ub.rug.nl/JCR/JCR>, accessed 7 April 2011.

¹⁸ ISI Web of Knowledge, 'JCR-Web 4.5: History 2006-2009', Thomson Reuters, <http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com.proxy-ub.rug.nl/JCR/JCR>, accessed 7 April 2011.

¹⁹ ISI Web of Knowledge, 'JCR-Web 4.5: History 2006-2009', Thomson Reuters, <http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com.proxy-ub.rug.nl/JCR/JCR>, accessed 7 April 2011.

²⁰ ISI Web of Knowledge, 'JCR-Web 4.5: History 2006-2009', Thomson Reuters, <http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com.proxy-ub.rug.nl/JCR/JCR>, accessed 7 April 2011

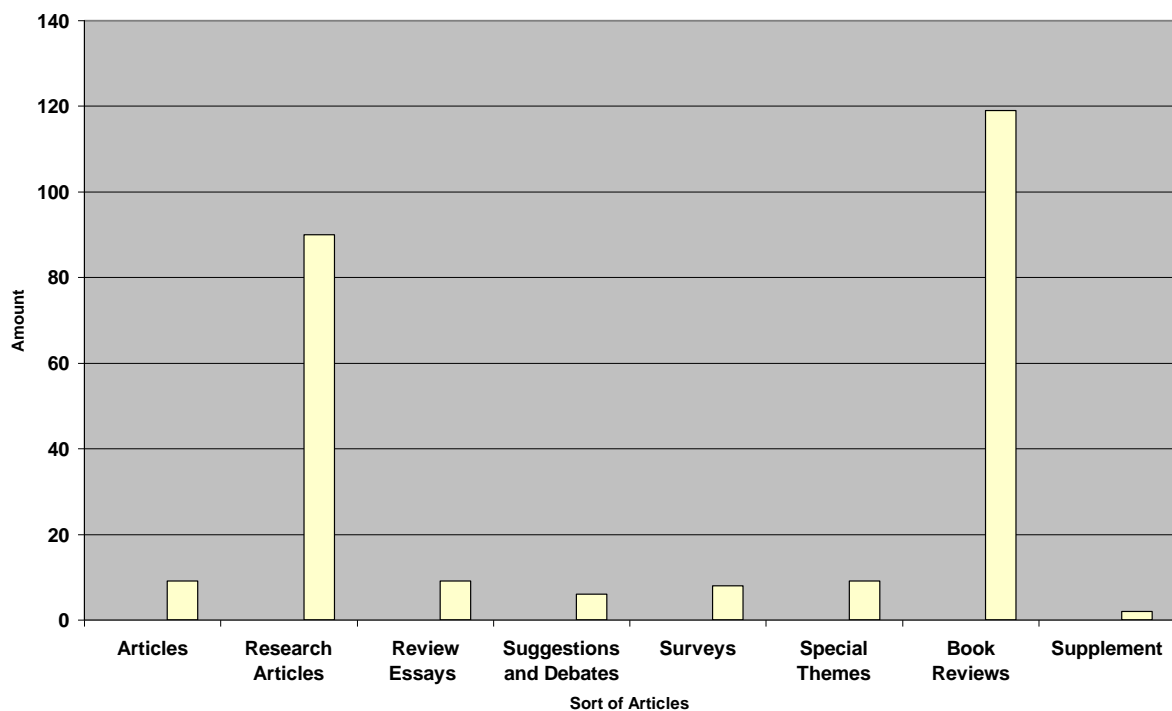
²¹ ISI Web of Knowledge, 'JCR-Web 4.5: History 2006-2009', Thomson Reuters, <http://admin-apps.isiknowledge.com.proxy-ub.rug.nl/JCR/JCR>, accessed 7 April 2011.

2. Content of the journal

2.1. Composition of the journal

The *International Review of Social History* is published three times a year, notably in April, August and December. In December, the issue is accompanied by a special supplement issue, which contains a series of research articles that focus on a specific topic. In the five-year period we are analysing in this paper the journal has published over 250 articles. The majority of these articles are research articles.²² These articles focus on the outcome of scientific research. In contrast to other articles, research articles present the specific findings of scientific research to the scientific world. Another major part of the journal is made up of book reviews, because the journal wants to provide a broad insight into the research that is performed in the field of social history.²³ There is also room for review essays that focus on the reviewing of several books that focus on the same topic or theme.²⁴

Graphic 1. Composition of the journal



²² See table 1.1 and graph 1.2 on the composition of the journal.

²³ International Review of Social History, 'Instructions for Contributors', *International Institute of Social History*, http://assets.cambridge.org.proxy-ub.rug.nl/ISH/ISH_ifc.pdf, accessed 6 April 2011.

²⁴ See graphic 1.

Besides wanting to provide a broad insight into the research in the scientific world, this journal also wants to broaden the scope of research. The journal wants to start new debates or reinvigorate old discussions. The editors also want to focus scholarly attention on neglected themes. They hope to do that by making room for sections on suggestions and debates. Although these sections do not appear in every issue, they are a regular feature and they do appear frequently. Examples of debates that the journal has focused attention on in the last five years are the role of women in strikes, the question if prisoners in the concentration camps of World War II can be seen as slaves and the possibilities and limits this can create for historical research and labour history in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century South Africa.²⁵ Several debates are included within the journal. Authors are inspired to respond to each other. That is especially visible in the section on suggestions on debates. In this section, for example, we find an article of William Kenefick on the role of the Scottish Radical Left in South Africa in the beginning of the twentieth century. This article is a reaction to a thesis on the labour force of the United Kingdom and its settler colonies in South Africa in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that historian Jonathan Hyslop has presented in 1999.²⁶ In the same issue an article of Hyslop is also included, which responds to Kenefick's interpretation of his thesis.²⁷ The two historians do not agree with each other. Therefore, a debate is really inspired within this issue. Another good example of a debate that within the journal are two articles that have been written on unfree labour of concentration camp prisoners during World War II. The first article was written in 2008 and was published in the first issue of that year. In this article, historian Marc Buggeln asks if concentration camp prisoners can be seen as slaves, because of the unfree labour that they had to perform in the concentration camps and the German industry.²⁸ In the third issue of 2010, historian Rüdiger Hachtmann responds to this article in his article on the unfree labour conditions of concentration camp prisoners during World War II. Another debate that is instigated within this journal is the debate on the historiography on working conditions under

²⁵ I. A. DeVault, '“Too Hard on the Women, Especially”: Striking Together for Women Workers Issues', *International Review of Social History*, 51, 3 (2006), 441-462.

M. Buggeln, 'Were Concentration Camp Prisoners Slaves?: The Possibilities and Limits of Comparative History and Global Historical Perspectives', *International Review of Social History*, 53, 1 (2008), 101-129.

W. Kenefick, 'Confronting White Labourism: Socialism, Syndicalism, and the Role of the Scottish Radical Left in South Africa before 1914', *International Review of Social History*, 55, 1 (2010), 29-62.

J. Hyslop, 'Scottish Labour, Race, and Southern African Empire c. 1880-1922: A Reply to Kenefick', *International Review of Social History*, 55, 1 (2010), 63-81.

²⁶ Kenefick, 'Confronting White Labourism', 29-62.

²⁷ Hyslop, 'Scottish Labour, Race, and Southern African Empire c. 1880-1922: A Reply to Kenefick', 63-81.

²⁸ Buggeln, 'Were Concentration Camp Prisoners Slaves', 101-129.

Soviet rule. The first survey essay on this topic was written by historian Lewis H. Siegelbaum.²⁹ In response to this survey, historian Peter Heumos published an article in the first issue of 2010.³⁰ Although Siegelbaum focuses more on the working conditions in Russia and Heumos more on the working conditions under Soviet rule in Eastern Europe, they both focus on the historiography that is already written on the subject and what fields remain unexplored. Another debate that is instigated in the journal is a debate on migration history in the first issue of 2007.

Another good example of a debate that the journal has tried to inspire can be found in the first issue of 2007. In this issue, six out of the nine research articles and an article in the section of suggestions and debates are written on the theme of migration history. This implies that the journal wanted to focus more attention on this theme and wanted to inspire more debate on field of migration studies. This is also what the journal hopes to do with the introduction of a section on special themes. Although this section is also not included in every issue, it does appear regularly. When a section on special themes is included in an issue, the section consists of several articles that focus on one theme. A good example of such a special theme is the theme that is covered in the first issue of 2006. In this issue, the special theme focuses on the labour conditions of ordinary soldiers in rebel armies.³¹ Although all of these articles cover the labour conditions of rebel armies at different times and in different parts of the world, they all do focus on the overarching theme. In this way, the authors hope to focus attention on the fact that more research has to be done on this theme.³² New themes and topics are also explored in survey essays. This could entail a survey of the evolving historiography on a certain topic, which is the case in the survey that is presented in the third issue of 2006 where a survey is presented on the labour history of the Soviet Union, or a survey on the use of photographs as a source for research as we can see in the second issue of 2008. Another good example is the survey that has been published in the third issue of that same year on the trends and debates that have shaped the history of the International Labour Organization in the past and in the present. Furthermore, in this five-year period the journal

²⁹ Siegelbaum, 'The Late Romance of the Soviet Worker in Western Historiography', 463-481.

³⁰ Heumos, 'Workers under Communist Rule', 83-115.

³¹ M. 't Hart, 'The Common Soldier in Rebel Armies: An Introduction', *International Review of Social History*, 51, 1 (2006), 71-74.

E. Swart, 'From "Landsknecht" to "Soldier": The Low German Foot Soldiers of the Low Countries in the Second Half of the Sixteenth Century', *International Review of Social History*, 51, 1 (2006), 75-92.

F. Schubert, "'Guerrillas Don't Die Easily": Every-day Life in Wartime and the Guerrilla Myth in the National Resistance Army in Uganda, 1981-1986', *International Review of Social History*, 51, 1 (2006), 93-111.

³² Hart, 't, 'The Common Soldier in Rebel Armies', 71.

has also published survey essays on seamen on eighteenth-century warships, on the historical sociology of Charles Tilly, the research of the conditions of workers under socialist rule, the policies of social democratic political parties in twentieth-century Europe and the unfree labour of concentration camp prisoners in Germany during World War II.³³

2.2. Supplement issues

The special supplement issues that are published at the end of the year are also a way for the journal to stimulate the debate within the field of historical research. Every supplement issue has its own theme. For instance, the supplement issue of 2006 focuses on the theme of labour history in colonial and post-colonial India. The articles in this issue focus mainly on the working conditions of Indian labourers, both in India and Great Britain as outside of the British Empire. Furthermore, there is a supplement issue that focuses completely on the history of humour. In this issue, articles are included on the history of cartoons, the role of humour in the globalisation of the world, but also the role of humour as a guerrilla tactic and the role of humour in revolutions and strikes. Another important theme that is covered in the supplement issues is the history of the European guilds of the medieval and early modern periods. The articles in this supplement focus on social and economic issues, but also on gender issues and women's history and the articles deal with European guild history as well as with the historical guilds in Asia, Africa and the Ottoman Empire. It is important to mention that the supplement issue of 2009 is completely dedicated to the history of Ottoman and Turkish labour conditions. Finally, the supplement issue of 2010 is completely focused on the environmental history in relation to globalisation and change. Environmental history

³³ L. H. Siegelbaum, 'The Late Romance of the Soviet Worker in Western Historiography', *International Review of Social History*, 51, 3 (2006), 463-481.

J. Januaris, 'Picturing the Everyday Life of Limburg Miners: Photographs as a Historical Source', *International Review of Social History*, 53, 2 (2008), 293-312.

J. van Daele, 'The International Labour Organization (ILO) in Past and Present', *International Review of Social History*, 53, 3 (2008), 485-511.

N. Frykman, 'Seamen on Late Eighteenth-Century European Warships', *International Review of Social History*, 54, 1 (2009), 67-93.

M. van der Linden, 'Charles Tilly's Historical Sociology', *International Review of Social History*, 54, 2 (2009), 237-274.

P. Heumos, 'Workers under Communist Rule: Research in the Former Socialist Countries of Eastern-Central and South-Eastern Europe and in the Federal Republic of Germany', *International Review of Social History*, 55, 1 (2010), 83-115.

L. Lucassen, 'A Brave New World: The Left, Social Engineering, and Eugenics in Twentieth-Century Europe', *International Review of Social History*, 55, 2 (2010), 265-296.

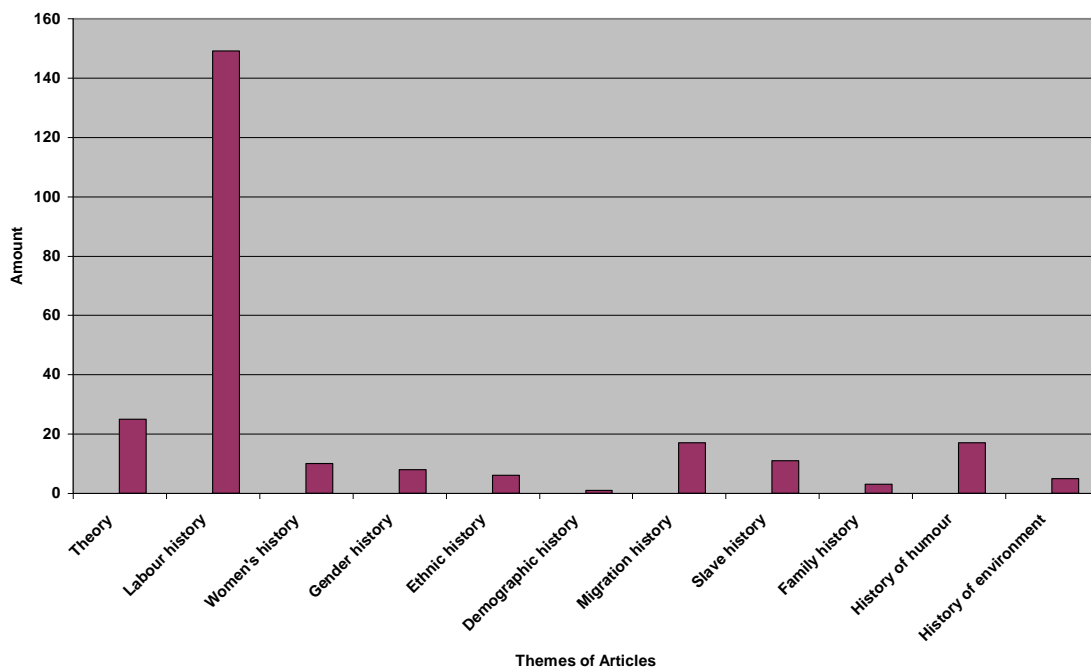
R. Hachtmann, 'Fordism and Unfree Labour: Aspects of the Work Deployment of Concentration Camp Prisoners in German Industry between 1941 and 1944', *International Review of Social History*, 55, 3 (2010), 485-513.

of course can be important for the study of the Industrial Revolution and the industrial age of the twentieth century. However, in line with present-day debates on climate change and the globalising effect of this issue, it is also an important theme for the study of recent environmental history. Most supplement issues exist of about 10 to 15 research articles. Although the articles are written by experts in the field, a debate is not instigated within these supplement issues. Every article focuses on a different topic within the theme and the articles do not respond to each other. Therefore, the research articles in the supplement issues do contribute to the historical research and debates within the historical field, but they do not inspire a new debate within the supplement issue itself.

3. Themes and authors

As we have already seen, a lot of themes and topics are explored in the articles of this journal. A considerable part of the articles is dedicated to the use of theory within the field of social history and several articles have been devoted to the slave- and black history. Because the supplement issues are completely devoted to specific themes, these themes also contain a considerable part of the articles that have been published between 2006 and 2010. Therefore, the history of environment and the history of humour, for instance, also are represented within this graph.

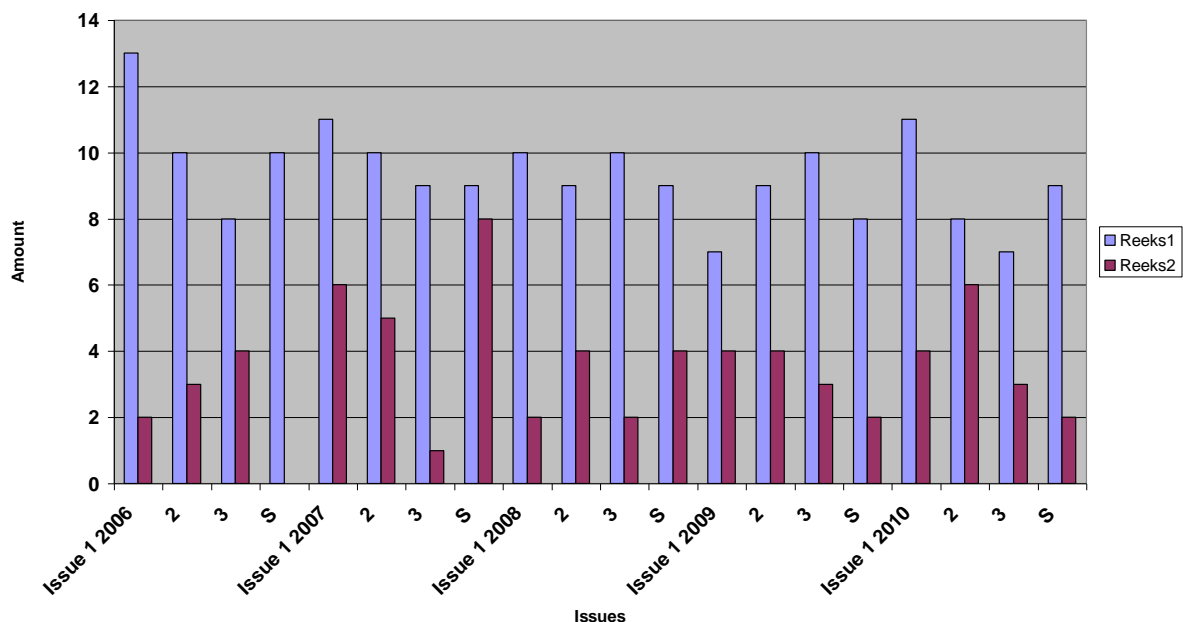
Graph 2. Themes of the articles



However, the majority of the articles still focus on a topic within the history of labour. More than 140 out of 250 articles are written on a topic within the field of labour history. For the most part, book reviews, too, tend to focus on labour history, while, for instance, gender and women’s history is hardly covered within this five-year period. This implies that this social historical journal still focuses mostly on labour history and that this is predominantly the history of the emancipation of male workers, while the study of the working conditions of female workers is still marginal.

This is also represented in the gender division of the authors.³⁴ When we look at this division, we can see that except for a few issues female authors are a minority in the journal. In the five-year period we are analysing, out of the 258 authors that have contributed articles to this journal, we can account for 188 male authors and only 70 female authors. That is only 27 per cent of the total number of authors that have contributed work to this journal between 2006 and 2010. There is one issue that consists completely of male authors and there are fifteen issues with less than five articles that have been written by women.

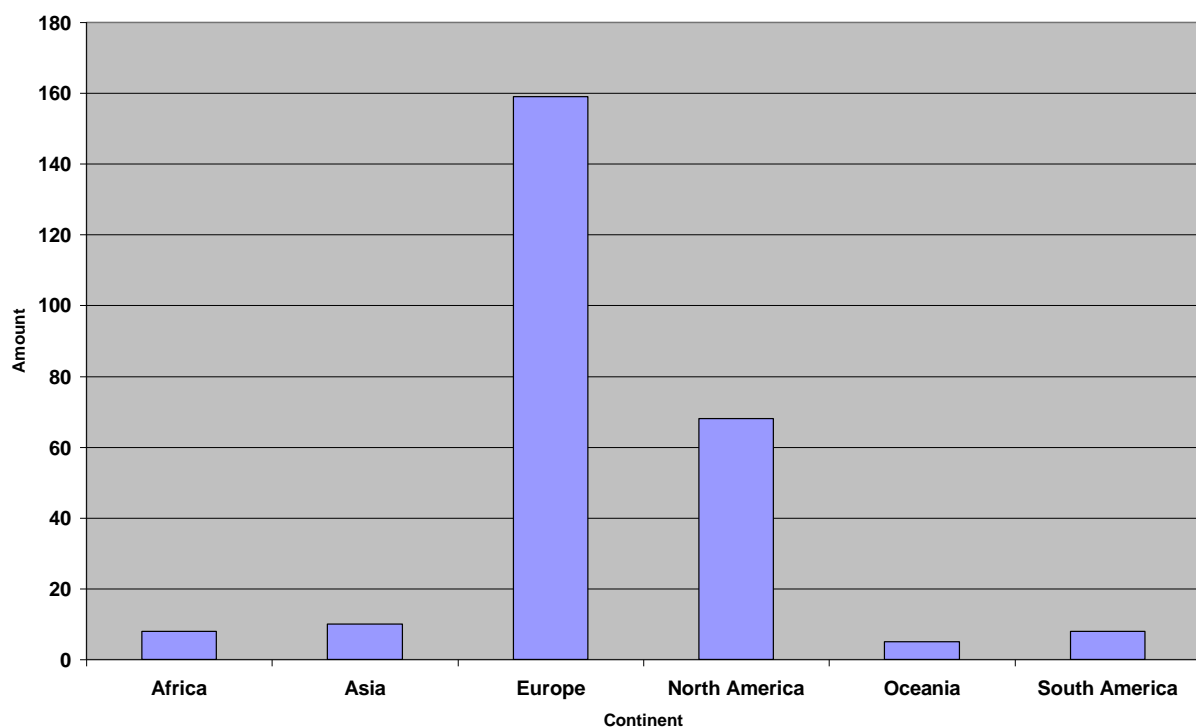
Graph 3. Gender division of authors



³⁴ See graphic 3.

Furthermore, most authors still originate from Western countries.³⁵ Most of them still come from or are working in Europe and the United States. Moreover, a considerable large part of the authors originate from the Netherlands. Most of these authors are working or are connected to the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam, the institute that issues the *IRSH*. The editors of the journal themselves have also contributed articles on more than one occasion to the journal. Although this is not stated anywhere, the journal thus also seems to work as a means to present the research that is done at the institute.

Graph 4. Geography of authors by continent



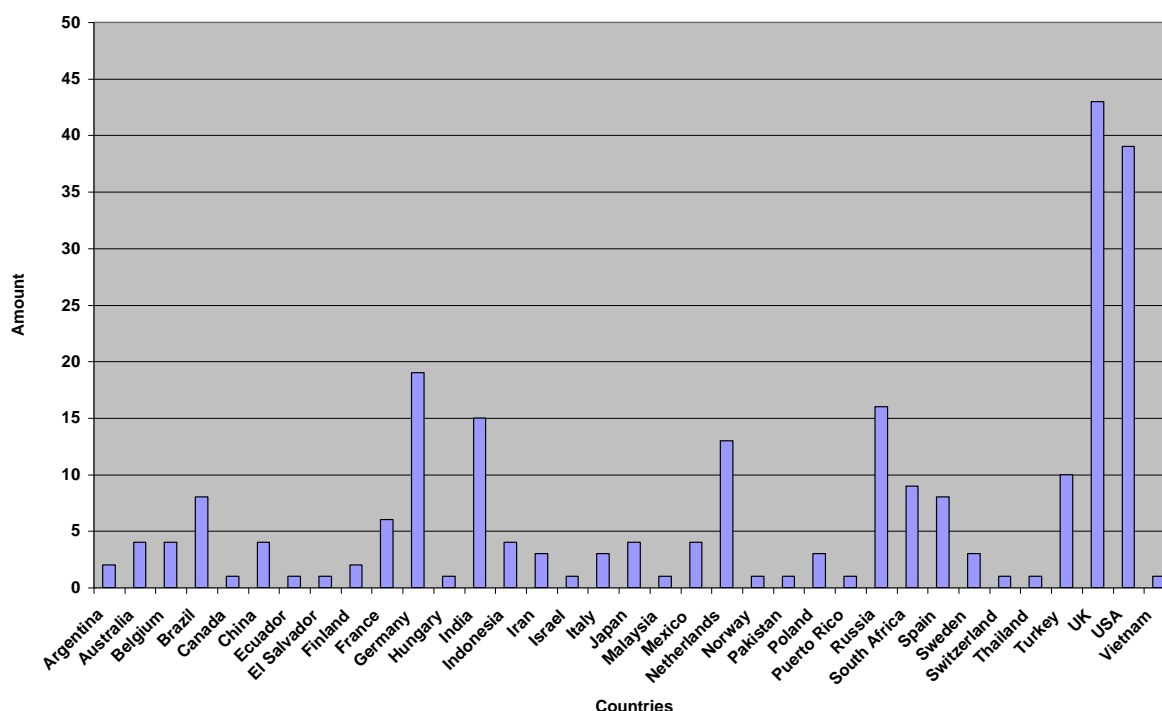
The focus on Western countries can also be seen in the geography of the themes.³⁶ Although more and more articles are featured that focus on the former colonial countries in Asia, Africa and South America, most of the articles still are concerned with European countries, Russia and the United States, which can be seen as the countries that the field of social history traditionally focused on. However, although the journal for the most part seems focused on themes that originate in Europe and North America, it does dedicate an entire supplement issue to labour history in India and an entire issue on the Ottoman and Turkish

³⁵ See graphic 4.

³⁶ Graphic 5.

Empires. For these issues, they attracted important authors from Turkish universities and authors who trace their origin back to India.

Graph 5. Geography of themes



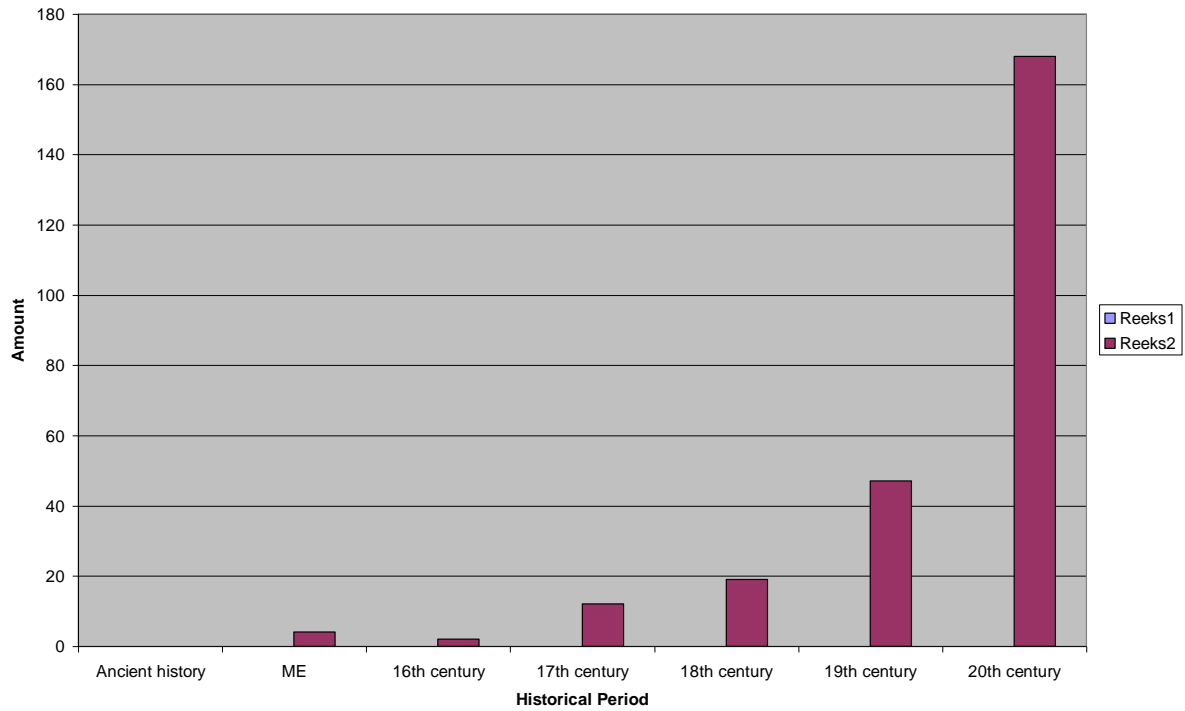
Moreover, the articles tend to focus mainly on the twentieth century.³⁷ Although the editors state that the journal focuses on the modern and early modern periods, we can clearly see that in the five-year period we are analysing the focus is on the twentieth century and a little bit on the nineteenth century. The sixteenth to eighteenth century, which in our opinion forms the early modern period is only covered marginally. Therefore, we have to conclude that the journal seems biased when we look at the themes of the articles, the geographical division of the themes and the gender division and geography of authors. Most of the articles still focus on labour history though social history entails so much more than that. Apart from that, most of the articles still focus on European countries and the United States, though so much study still needs to be done on the field of social history in Asia, Africa and South America. Furthermore, most articles are still written by male authors that originate from Western countries, which also causes a shortage of articles on not-Western themes and

³⁷

See graphic 6.

gender and women's issues. Finally, the majority of the articles deal with the twentieth century, while other centuries are neglected for the most part.

Graph 6. *Historical period*



Conclusion

The *International Review of Social History* is an interesting journal that focuses on the social history of the modern and early modern period. The journal is of great importance to the historical discipline and especially to the field of social history. As we have seen, it is one of the leading journals in its field and it holds a good position in the ranking lists of the journal citation reports. Furthermore, as we have seen in the increasing amount of cited references to the articles of the journal, the importance of the journal is vastly increasing. It deals with interesting debates that keep interesting more and more historians and because it touches on other disciplines as well it also attracts more and more scholars from across the scientific world. It contains many lengthy but interesting articles on topics that concentrate in the field of social history, which means that these articles focus on the emancipation of groups in society from a bottom-up approach. The articles are written on numerous subjects that cover a far range of countries and themes and they are written by authors that originate from every part of the world.

However, the journal still tends to be focused on the traditional field of social history. As we have seen, the majority of articles have to be subscribed to the field of labour history, while other important themes like gender history, women's history, ethnic history or regional, urban and rural history are only present in the background. This is caused for the most part by the fact that male authors still make up the majority of the authors. When we look at the gender division, more than three-thirds of all the authors that have contributed to this journal in the five-year period we have analysed is male and only one-third consists of female authors. In our opinion, by still focussing on the history of male labour the journal does not reach its full potential. Social history has changed and has become so much more than only labour history. The journal should explore all those other themes as well. It should also focus more attention on other parts of the world instead of only remaining to study the Western world. The editorial board does try to do that with special supplement issues devoted to important themes as labour history in Asia and other parts of the world and themes on migration, environmental change and globalisation. However, the board should try to publish less articles on labour history in the Western world and more on other themes as well. They should also focus more attention on other historical periods instead of only the modern period. Therefore, we have to conclude that the journal has not made the developmental change that social history made in the 1970s to the extent that it should have.

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Attachments

1.1 Composition of Journal 2006 -2010

	<i>Articles</i>	<i>Research Articles</i>	<i>Review Essays</i>	<i>Suggestions and debates</i>	<i>Surveys</i>	<i>Special Themes</i>	<i>Book Reviews</i>	<i>Supplement</i>	<i>Total</i>
2006	2	16	-	1	1	3	26	1	50
<i>Issue 1</i>	2	-	-	-	-	3	10	-	15
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	4	-	-	-	-	8	1	13
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	2	-	1	1	-	8	-	12
<i>Supplement</i>	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
2007	-	32	2	1	-	-	23	1	59
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	9	-	1	-	-	7	-	17
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	3	1	-	-	-	10	1	15
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	3	1	-	-	-	6	-	10
<i>Supplement</i>	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
2008	3	18	-	1	2	-	25	-	49
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	3	-	1	-	-	8	-	12
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	3	-	-	1	-	9	-	13
<i>Issue3</i>	3	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	12
<i>Supplement</i>	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
2009	4	9	3	-	2	6	23	-	47
<i>Issue 1</i>	2	-	1	-	1	-	7	-	11
<i>Issue 2</i>	2	-	1	-	1	-	8	-	12
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	-	1	-	-	6	8	-	15
<i>Supplement</i>	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
2010	-	15	4	3	3	-	22	-	47
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	1	1	2	1	-	9	-	14
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	2	2	1	1	-	8	-	14
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	3	1	-	1	-	5	-	10
<i>Supplement</i>	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Total	9	90	9	6	8	9	119	2	252

2.1 Gender Division of Authors 2006 - 2010

	<i>Man</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
2006	41	9	49
<i>Issue 1</i>	13	2	15
<i>Issue 2</i>	10	3	13
<i>Issue 3</i>	8	4	12
<i>Supplement</i>	10	-	10
2007	39	20	59
<i>Issue 1</i>	11	6	17
<i>Issue 2</i>	10	5	15
<i>Issue 3</i>	9	1	10
<i>Supplement</i>	9	8	17
2008	38	13	51
<i>Issue 1</i>	10	2	12
<i>Issue 2</i>	9	4	13
<i>Issue 3</i>	10	2	12
<i>Supplement</i>	9	4	13 ³⁸
2009	35	13	48
<i>Issue 1</i>	7	4	11
<i>Issue 2</i>	9	4	13 ³⁹
<i>Issue 3</i>	10	3	14 ⁴⁰
<i>Supplement</i>	8	2	10 ⁴¹
2010	35	15	50
<i>Issue 1</i>	11	4	15 ⁴²
<i>Issue 2</i>	8	6	15 ⁴³
<i>Issue 3</i>	7	3	10
<i>Supplement</i>	9	2	11 ⁴⁴
Total	188	70	258

³⁸ The second article of this issue is written by three authors. Furthermore, one of these authors has also written an article on her own. Therefore, there are 12 articles and 13 authors.

³⁹ The first article of this issue is written by two authors. Therefore, there are 12 articles and 13 authors.

⁴⁰ The first two articles are written by the same author. Therefore, there are 15 articles but only 14 authors.

⁴¹ The first article of this issue is written by two authors. That means that there are 9 articles and 10 authors.

⁴² The first article of this issue is written by two authors. That is why there are 14 articles and 15 authors.

⁴³ The second article of this issue is written by two authors. Therefore, there are 14 articles and 15 authors.

⁴⁴ The first and the last article of this issue is written by two authors. Therefore, there are 9 articles and 11 authors.

3.1 Geographical Origin of Authors by Country

	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>
Austria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australia	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-
Canada	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
France	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
Germany	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	-	3	2	1	1	1	2	2	-
Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Japan	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Netherlands	4	3	-	3	3	5	1	2	3	2	4	6	-	3	4	1	3	5	3	2
Norway	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Senegal	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
South Korea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sweden	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Switzerland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-
UK	3	1	5	-	3	2	5	2	1	2	1	-	2	2	3	2	5	1	-	-
USA	4	3	3	2	7	2	1	2	2	4	3	3	4	3	3	1	2	2	3	6
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	15	13	12	10	17	15	10	17	12	13	12	13	1	13	14	10	15	15	10	11

4.1 Geographical Origin of Authors by Continent 2006 – 2010

	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>
Africa	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
Asia	-	-	1	3	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Europe	9	7	7	4	6	10	8	12	6	8	9	10	7	9	9	8	10	11	6	3
North America	4	3	3	3	7	3	2	2	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	2	3	-	3	7
Oceania	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South America	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-
Total	15	13	12	10	17	15	10	17	12	13	12	13	1	13	14	10	15	15	10	11

5.1 Themes of the Articles

	<i>Theo ry</i>	<i>Labour history</i>	<i>Women's history</i>	<i>Gender history</i>	<i>Ethnic history</i>	<i>Demo graphic history</i>	<i>Migra tion hist ory</i>	<i>Slave hist ory</i>	<i>Family history</i>	<i>His. of hum our</i>	<i>His. of envir on ment</i>	<i>Tota l</i>
2006	3	31	5	-	2	1	3	4	1	-	-	50
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	9	-	-	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	15
<i>Issue 2</i>	3	6	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	13
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	8	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	12
<i>Supple ment</i>	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	10
2007	2	25	2	1	-	-	9	1	2	17	-	59
<i>Issue 1</i>	1	7	1	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	17
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	10	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	15
<i>Issue 3</i>	1	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10
<i>Supple ment</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	17
2008	9	33	2	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	49
<i>Issue 1</i>	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	12
<i>Issue 2</i>	2	8	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
<i>Issue3</i>	3	7			1		1				-	12

<i>Supplement</i>	-	11	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
2009	5	36	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	47
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	8	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	11
<i>Issue 2</i>	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	12
<i>Issue 3</i>	2	11	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	15
<i>Supplement</i>	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
2010	6	24	1	4	2	-	2	3	-	-	5	47
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	11	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	14
<i>Issue 2</i>	3	7	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	14
<i>Issue 3</i>	2	5	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10
<i>Supplement</i>	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	9
Total	25	149	10	8	6	1	17	11	3	17	5	252

6.1 Geography of Themes

	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010				<i>T</i>	
	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>		
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Brazil	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	8
Canada	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
China	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
El Salvador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Finland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
France	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	6
Germany	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	3	-	-	2	1	-	2	2	3	-	-	19
Ghana	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Hungary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1



India	-	-	-	8	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	15
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Iran	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	3
Israel	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Japan	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Mali	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mexico	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Netherlands	2	2	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	13
Norway	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pakistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Russia	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	16
South Africa	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	9
Spain	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sweden	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Thailand	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Turkey	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	-	1	-	-	10
UK	2	3	2	-	4	1	3	2	2	4	1	2	1	3	5	1	2	4	-	1	43
USA	3	2	5	-	6	-	-	2	2	2	2	-	1	3	3	1	1	3	2	1	39
Uganda	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Zambia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Zimbabwe	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Total	15	13	12	10	17	15	10	17	12	13	12	12	1	13	15	10	15	15	10	11	252

7.1 Historical Period

	<i>Ancient history</i>	<i>ME</i>	<i>16th century</i>	<i>17th century</i>	<i>18th century</i>	<i>19th century</i>	<i>20th century</i>	<i>Total</i>
2006	-	1	1	3	5	12	28	50
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	-	1	2	-	5	7	15
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	-	-	-	4	1	8	13
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	1	-	-	-	3	8	12
<i>Supplement</i>	-	-	-	1	1	3	5	10
2007	-	2	-	2	1	7	47	59
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	-	-	-	1	4	12	17
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	1	-	-	-	2	12	15
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	-	-	1	-	1	8	10
<i>Supplement</i>	-	1	-	1	-	-	15	17
2008	-	1	1	5	4	6	32	49
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	12
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	-	-	1	2	2	8	13
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	11	12
<i>Supplement</i>	-	1	1	4	2	1	3	12
2009	-	-	-	-	3	14	30	47
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	-	-	-	2	-	9	11
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	-	-	-	1	3	8	12
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	-	-	-	-	9	6	15
<i>Supplement</i>	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	9
2010	-	-	-	2	6	8	31	47
<i>Issue 1</i>	-	-	-	-	4	2	8	14
<i>Issue 2</i>	-	-	-	1	-	4	9	14
<i>Issue 3</i>	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	10
<i>Supplement</i>	-	-	-	1	2	1	5	9
Total	-	4	2	12	19	47	168	252



8.1 Language of Article

	<i>2006</i>				<i>2007</i>				<i>2008</i>				<i>2009</i>				<i>2010</i>				<i>T</i>
	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>S</i>	
English	14	11	11	10	17	15	7	17	12	12	9	12	10	11	14	9	14	13	10	11	237
German	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	10
Spanish	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
French	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>252</i>