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*From Daniel de Priho Barrerios via Lucy to the Board*

September 22, 2020

In the 10th anniversary of the IBHA, a thorough revision of our collective trajectory not only comes from a recognition of what has been achieved, but also as an opportunity to devise our future goals. The results of the last elections brought new blood to the Board of Directors, and we have members that belong to a generation of researchers that were not engaged at the creation of the association. This signals that, institutionally speaking, the IBHA proved itself fit in its first ten years. But, as cultural selection suggests, the environment is constantly changing, and well-adapted constructs can become unstable if a clear comprehension of the current challenges and of those that come~~s~~ ahead is not attained. Big History is gaining more and more attention in academic and nonacademic circles, pressing us to know *what we became* in these ten years, rather than *what we are*. I believe that improving our historical consciousness about the trajectory of IBHA becomes imperative when the prospect of an increasing public engagement comes to the agenda. Emlyn Koster is in charge of this crucial task force dedicated to our “values and goals”, and I believe that reasoning about the IBHA evolution can help in this matter.

As head of the “History of IBHA” task force, I would like to suggest the following guidelines to the research we are about to engage in:

1. Evaluating the IBHA trajectory should be seen as an effort in institutional history, and as an exercise in oral history.
2. We should base this research not only on textual documents that testify the creation of the IBHA, but fundamentally on the~~”~~ “memories of the pioneers”.
3. Most of the textual documents testifying the creation of the IBHA, produced years ago, were also based on first-hand experiences. But, as the theory of oral history suggests, testimonies may change with time. We should reach out for these “pioneer memories” in light of all events that took place in these last ten years.
4. The output of the research must be as polyvocal as possible.

Based on these guidelines, I would like to suggest the following steps:

1. Preparing a detailed questionnaire, in collaboration with one or two IBHA volunteers interested in engaging with the project.
2. Inviting first-generation IBHA members to respond to the questionnaire, whether in textual form or in a video recorded interview form.
3. Preparing a specific version of the questionnaire to second and third generation IBHA members.
4. Inviting second and third-generation members to respond to the questionnaire.
5. Compiling all the answers and producing a commented report or study, identifying patterns and different views in respect to a same event, problem, etc.
6. Consulting all IBHA members that answered the questionnaires about the report.
7. Submitting the report to the approval of the Board of Directors.
8. Simplifying the report/study to make it suitable for a wiki format.
9. I hope we can improve this plan at the October 4 BoD meeting. All comments are most welcome.

Sincerely, Daniel