

SIHS BYLAWS
APPROVED MARCH 2025

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society for Italian Historical Studies (SIHS) is to promote professional study, criticism, teaching, and research in all aspects of Italian history and culture, and to further the common interests of those involved in these activities. The Society particularly encourages collaboration and exchange across specializations and disciplines.

To this end, the Society sponsors panels and conferences, awards prizes for distinguished contributions, and disseminates information related to the study of Italy. The SIHS is an affiliated society of the American Historical Association.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Any person in the study of Italian history and culture may become an active member of the SIHS upon payment of the annual dues. Membership has no restrictions based on race, creed, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, disability, age, national origin, or place of residence. Membership is open to persons who subscribe to the purpose of the Society (section I) and pay annual membership dues according to the fee structure below. Membership fees are established by the SIHS Executive Committee and may be adjusted periodically. Any changes to the fee structure will be communicated to the membership in as timely a way as possible.

Level 1: this membership level is intended for students (graduate and undergraduate), part-time or contingently employed scholars, retired scholars, independent scholars, educators in elementary and secondary schools, or any individual not affiliated with an institution of higher education.

Level 2: this membership level is intended for full-time, continuing-status faculty employed at an institution of higher education.

Level 3: the membership level includes a donation to the Society, in addition to the regular fees.

Membership privileges include:

- Eligibility to propose a SIHS-sponsored panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association.
- Eligibility for the SIHS Article and Reinerman awards.
- Newsletters and communications from the SIHS.
- Eligibility to vote in SIHS elections and members' polls.

III. GOVERNANCE

The Society is governed by an Executive Committee composed of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. Officers shall reflect the diversity of the organization. The Presidency shall alternate between scholars working on the modern period (1800-present) and pre-modern periods (pre-1800). Members of the Executive Committee normally hold a doctorate in their field of specialization and occupy a full-time position at an institution of higher education.

The tasks of the Executive Committee include, but are not limited to:

- Reviewing proposals for SIHS-sponsored panels at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association.
- Appointing the chairs of the awards committees and members of ad-hoc committees.
- Appointing the Web Administrator.
- Promoting, in consultation with the membership, ad-hoc initiatives including standalone conferences, workshops, fundraising, and other activities.
- Selecting, in consultation with the membership, recipients of the Senior Scholar Citation.

President: The President articulates the intellectual course of the Society and presides over meetings of the Executive Committee and the Annual Business Meeting (section V). The President appoints the Secretary-Treasurer. The President represents the SIHS to the American Historical Association and other organizations and external interests.

The President serves a two-year term, beginning at the Annual Business Meeting in which they are inaugurated.

Vice-President: The Vice-President assists the President in the performance of all duties and represents the President if the latter is incapacitated or absent. The Vice-President chairs the Reinerman Prize committee.

The Vice-President is elected by the SIHS membership every two years, following the guidelines in section IV. The Vice-President serves a two-year term, and accedes to the Presidency at the conclusion of the President's term.

Secretary-Treasurer: The Secretary-Treasurer receives membership dues and responds to membership inquiries; controls the Society's bank account and maintains its financial records; provides a report of the Societies' finances at the Annual Business Meeting; and sends out communications to the membership.

The Secretary-Treasurer is appointed by the President. Their term is not limited, to provide continuity to the organizational life of the Society.

Web Administrator: The Web Administrator has primary responsibility for maintaining the SIHS website as well as its social media presence. This includes updating information regarding the annual meeting, officers, award winners, and Society initiatives. The position is not term-limited, to provide continuity for the website.

Awards Committees: SIHS prizes (see section VII) are determined by awards committees, normally comprising three members and including a chair designated by the Executive Committee. These committees should reflect the diversity of the field.

Ad-Hoc Committees: The Executive Committee may periodically appoint ad-hoc committees to assist in organizing standalone conferences, fundraising, and other initiatives. These committees should reflect the diversity of the field.

IV. ELECTIONS

Elections will be held every two years, with the successful candidate serving two years as Vice-President and then two years as President. The Executive Committee will first solicit candidate nominations from the membership, including self-nominations. Candidates will circulate statements to the membership, which will vote via online poll. The successful candidate will receive a plurality of votes. The position will alternate between specialists in the modern (post-1800) and medieval/early modern (pre-1800) eras.

V. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

The SIHS Annual Business Meeting is normally held at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association. All members are invited to attend. At the meeting, the President will discuss the Society's activities over the past year and present new initiatives; the Secretary-Treasurer will present the annual financial report; award winners will be announced; and the membership will discuss Society business. The annual Social Hour will follow.

VI. CONFERENCES AND PANELS

The SIHS sponsors affiliate sessions at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association. Proposals for panels, normally consisting of 3-4 presenters as well as a chair/commentator, should be sent to the Secretary by the announced deadline. The Executive Committee will review all proposals; priority will go to panels featuring the work of emerging scholars, and to panels that represent the diversity of the field.

The SIHS also periodically organizes standalone conferences on themes that bring together scholars working across all periods and specializations within Italian history, broadly defined. Members will be surveyed regarding potential topics of interest. The Executive Committee will convene an ad hoc committee of volunteers to assist in the coordination of the conference.

VII. AWARDS

The SIHS presents the following awards recognizing distinguished contributions to the study of Italian history and culture:

Helen and Howard R. Marraro Prize in Italian History: The late Howard R. Marraro made bequests to the American Historical Association, the American Catholic Historical Association, and the Society for Italian Historical studies, for awards by each society of a Helen and Howard R. Marraro Prize. The SIHS award is adjudicated by its own representative, designated by the Executive Committee. The amount of the annual award to be made by the SIHS is \$750.00. Each award will be given for the book deemed best by the various committees and published during the previous calendar year, which treats Italian history in any epoch, Italian cultural history, or Italian-American relations. Entries must be published in English by historians whose usual residence is in North America.

Alan Reinerman Dissertation Prize: The SIHS, in affiliation with the American Historical Association, offers a prize of \$400 for the Alan Reinerman Dissertation Prize, for the best doctoral dissertation on the history of Italy. Since the object of the award is to encourage fresh interest in Italian history, the prize is offered for dissertations by scholars who have received the Ph.D. since January 1st of the previous year. Only current members of the SIHS will be considered. Acceptance of a study for publication during the period of competition will not disqualify it from consideration. Scholars and students regularly resident in the United States or in Canada are eligible for the award. The SIHS reserves the right to withhold the prize if no dissertation deemed worthy is submitted.

Article Prizes: The SIHS Article Prizes recognize the best English-language, peer-reviewed journal articles on Italian history, broadly defined, by an early career author. One award is designated for medieval and early modern history, and another for modern history. Geographical scope and disciplinary methodology are defined in the broadest possible terms. Early career refers to anyone who is in the process of completing their Ph.D. or anyone who was within six years of completion when the article was made public. Only current members of the SIHS are eligible.

Senior Scholar Citation: The SIHS periodically presents a citation to a senior scholar, in recognition of distinguished achievement over the course of a career. The Executive Committee will solicit nominations from the membership and designate a recipient. No more than one such citation may be presented in a single year, and in some years no award is given.

VIII. SOCIETY STATEMENTS AND MEMBERS' POLLS

The SIHS may issue, or officially undersign, statements on public issues. These should pertain directly to the study of Italian history and culture, or to issues confronting the historical professions and higher education. Proposals for any such statement must be submitted to the Executive Committee, which will determine by majority vote whether it should be presented to the membership for approval via anonymized online poll. A simple majority of active members is required to ratify a statement.

IX. REVISING THE BYLAWS

The Executive Committee will be responsible for drafting revisions to the bylaws, which may also be proposed by any SIHS member. Any proposed revision will be presented to the membership for comment, further revision, and approval via an online vote prior to adoption. A majority of votes is required to approve amendments to the bylaws.