



CISSI

CISSI: The Organisation For International Social
Scientists At The University of Helsinki

Plan For 2021

February 2021

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Preface

A Word From The Outgoing Chair: Iina Rautio

Phew, what a year. And that's an understatement. It's time to wrap up the term of the 2020 board and welcome the 2021 board. This year many of our members had their exchange years cut short or had to rush back home to be with their family – or couldn't go home at all. I truly hope 2021 will treat us all better, and that CISSI's board and other student organisations will get to organise all the fun events that we couldn't last year due to the pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, a lot happened during our term. We got to invent new ways to gather safely, and to have fun online. We indeed had some amazing events outdoors (such as the hike at Luukki, and the event at Vanhakapunginkoski and Lammassaari). We even managed to have a bit of a party outside at the beginning of the Autumn term! Some of you may know this already, but CISSI also became an official subject organisation last year, which was a big step and achievement for us (thanks to the board of 2019 for laying the foundation for this). Special thanks to our first-ever student advocate Axelle!

Thank you, board members and deputies of 2020. You were amazing, and I am happy I got to work with you all! I would also like to thank everyone who attended our events, joined CISSI, followed us on social media, or were involved with CISSI in any way.

Best of luck to the board of 2021!

A Word From The Incoming Chair: Hamish Gunn

2020 Was a challenging year for all organisations, including CISSI, due to Coronavirus and 2021 will have similar challenges throughout. Our goal is to continue integrating international students into the University of Helsinki and provide an environment where members can appreciate the experiences of studying in Finland. The various restrictions in place prevent traditional events allowing members to socialise and experience the culture of Finland, but nevertheless CISSI will endeavour to connect its members through a variety of adventurous online events. Our hope is that by the new academic year there will be some semblance of normality allowing us to host the kind of events CISSI has done in the past. We will be working hard to encourage participation in deputy elections, and to further develop the positive and inclusive reputation of the organisation.

Thankfully, CISSI is in good financial standing and the 2021 team is dynamic and cohesive – we look forward to the challenges ahead and to growing the organisation.

Thank you 2020, hello 2021!

Value Statements

Equality

CISSI is committed to HYY's stance on equality (www.hyy.helsinki.fi/en/node/3570):

“Equality means that all people are equal, regardless of their gender, age, ethnic or national origin, nationality, language, religion and belief, opinion, disability, medical condition, sexual orientation or other personal reasons. Equality does not mean that every person is treated in the same way regardless of the person's characteristics or special needs.”

In addition, CISSI believes that the above, inclusion, and representation are the duties of all board members.

Inclusion & Integration

CISSI serves international social science students first and foremost, however in order to serve international students we must make efforts to integrate and connect them with locals. CISSI is committed to working with, and on occasion alongside, our fellow organisations to make this happen. Furthermore, CISSI proves this commitment by having a dedicated board member responsible for Finnish Language Affairs.

Regarding events, CISSI has produced a varied range. We have included a number of Helsinki focused/cultural events to aid with integration, as well as a number of *Less Alcohol* events to do the same.

The Environment

CISSI commits itself to be as environmentally friendly as possibly.

In practice, this means that where possible: plastic and Styrofoam disposable items should be avoided, the board should be recycling all that it can, and that we invest in items that have longevity.

Statement On Finances

2020 Statement

CISSI aims to end the year with a similar balance to how it started. Additionally, the board will explore opening a bank account, but understands that there may be challenges, comparable to those previous boards faced when registering as an organisation.

Team 2021

The Core Six

Chair: Hamish Gunn

A good chair will manage their team efficiently, effectively, and void of great hierarchy. They will act as the primary spokesperson as well as the chief communicator to Kannu and HYY. They will be supportive of their fellow teammates, but will also ensure commitments by them get fulfilled, on time, and to a high standard. Finally, they have the deciding vote at times where the team is divided.

Treasurer: James Hardy

A good treasurer will manage the group's finances, and in 2018 they will also open CISSI's first bank account. They will estimate costs for events, and with the appropriate people negotiate budgets for said events.

Secretary: Satu Semberg

A good secretary provides logistical support to the rest of their team. At standard meetings, they coordinate diaries and take minutes. They are also responsible for the membership list, and as such are responsible for the monthly newsletter. They will regularly update the website in meaningful ways, and coordinate social media efforts of the whole team.

Equality & Diversity: Thibault Dejeanne

A good equality and diversity officer will ensure that CISSI is always loyal to the core values it set out in this blueprint. They will also be the port of call for anyone that wants to discuss such matters with CISSI, including complaints with CISSI's actions. They will ensure that CISSI is always up-to-date with the most current, most appropriate equality and diversity practices.

Events Officer: Ilmari Lätinen

A good events officer will plan a variety of interesting and inclusive events for international and internationally-minded students. The events officer also manages a number of premises on behalf of CISSI to ensure that all events are safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Student Advocacy and Vice Chair: Sami Salovaara

A good student advocate will ensure that CISSI provides a platform to represent the international master students from the faculty of Social Sciences. They will do so by working closely with Kannunvalajat on study affairs matters. They are also responsible for maintaining a dialogue between the MA programmes in order to make communication easier and be able to discuss representative work and international issues.

Specific Aims For 2021

Increasing Awareness

With CISSI now a subject organisation, one of our main objectives this year is to grow our engagement with all the students we represent. We believe it's very important to grow awareness of our organisation among all international social sciences Degree Programme students, to make sure they both know their student body and have a welcoming, inclusive home to meet their fellow peers and make friends across other degree programmes. One avenue we're pursuing to make this goal a reality is organising regular cross-programme meetings to give our members an opportunity to socialise and build bonds; another for incoming students is to prioritise outreach on a programme-by-programme level in the new academic year, by the means of a talk given not only during the faculty's welcome, but at each international programme's first lecture. We hope to be there and build bridges for all international social sciences students!

Increasing Representation of International Students within the Faculty

Since CISSI is now a subject organisation, one of our main goals is to officially start representing international students from the Social Sciences faculty. To achieve this, CISSI's student advocate will work in close cooperation with the student representatives of Kannunvalajat. CISSI will work towards establishing good communication and cooperation between the Master's degrees in order to achieve this goal and ensure continuity.

Promoting Work Related Opportunities

CISSI has done good work in the past, working closely with the Employability services and by promoting opportunities such as the Demola working life process. This work needs to continue, and needs to be tailored further, particularly given the potentially very different needs of exchange and Masters' students.

In order to do more, CISSI should reach out to potential employers directly. This should not simply be the job of employability services. CISSI should also make the most of its website by compiling, and updating, useful work related information: Demola, mol.fi, Helsinki Think Company... the list goes on.

Strengthening Relationships With Other Student Organisations

The next step for a well-established subject organisation is to further integrate with the larger university community. The board aims to do this by reaching out to both Finnish and international subject organisations and student associations to help create cross-organisational and cross-cultural social events. There are high hopes that these new connections will create greater opportunities for the members of CISSI to truly experience what the University of Helsinki has to offer.

Facing Coronavirus Challenges

An integral part of this year is going to be working in line with the Coronavirus guidelines whilst still providing an eventful year for CISSI members. The situation has drastically affected the events we are able to hold, with most of them being online. We look to host more small-group outdoor-based events such as hiking, as the risk is reduced. As more information comes out about the projection of the pandemic in Finland, we will adjust our approach to event hosting accordingly.

Better Involving International Students

CISSI is all about international students, and this year it is more important than ever to work harder to ensure the international social scientists and the University of Helsinki have a place to meet new people and feel involved in the wider student community during the pandemic. Due to the inability to host face-to-face events currently, online events will play a crucial role in this. We will actively engage with our current members to understand the types of events they wish to see during this time, and use this to attract international students who may feel lonely or homesick due to the Corona circumstances.

Proposed Events

About Events

CISSI is committed to hosting inclusive and welcoming events for all: exciting parties, calmer socials and informative talks too. Additionally, CISSI appreciates the importance of *Cultural* events; and although all events are somewhat cultural, events with an increased focus on culture have been marked with (^).

CISSI understands that not all international students disappear in the summertime. Because of this, we have included some events during the summertime. Events in summer time also allow us to better connect with the (new) international student tutors.

All of this is overshadowed by the Coronavirus pandemic, meaning traditional events are on hold until the situation improves.

Calendar

January

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July

-

February

- Hike to Sipoo- AGM (Late)

August

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March

- Hike^ (Early)
- Online Beerpong Torunament

September

- Welcome Party (Early)
- Deputy Elections (Mid)
- City Tour (Late)

April

- Online GeoLocation Game

October

- Sit Sit^ & After Party (Early)
- Hike^ (Late)

May

- Vappu (1st)
- Work In Helsinki Talk (Mid)

November

-

June

- 'Remainers' Picnic (Early)

December

- Pikkujoulu (Early)
- Elections For 2019 (Mid)