



2023 Commission Activities Report

GENERAL

Commission Name

HaPoC. Commission for the History and Philosophy of Computing

Website url

hapoc.org

Names and Affiliations of Council Members (2023-2025)

President :

Arianna Borrelli, TU Berlin and Bielefeld University

Former President (Vice-President):

Juan Luis Gastaldi, ETH -Zurich

President-Elect:

Máté Szabó, University of Greenwich

Treasurer:

Henri Stephanou, University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, IHPST

Councillors:

Hajo Greif, Warsaw University of Technology

Alberto Naibo, University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, IHPST

Paula Quinon, Warsaw University of Technology

Warren Sack, University of California, Santa Cruz

Gisele Secco, California State University San Bernardino

Daniela Zetti, University of Lübeck

Frequency of business meeting in the past year

During 2023 the Council has held two plenary meetings, a virtual one in July and a hybrid one during the HaPoC7 conference in Warsaw in October. In Warsaw also the General Assembly was held in hybrid form and the new Council elected. Many further virtual meetings, email exchanges and discussions on the Zulip group chat between different members of the Council took place regularly during the year.

Membership number of the commission

The estimated number of members is 180. This number includes both the members who registered through the website (method discontinued in 2022) and those who acquired membership through participation to an HaPoC event. Due to the change in the procedure for acquiring membership, the estimate is provisional and a new count of active members will take place during next year.

Changes made in the governance, statutes or organization structure

A new Council for the period 2023-25 was elected by the General Assembly in Warsaw (Oct 19th 2023). The new President-Elect was elected in December.

The GA in Warsaw also approved a revised version of the by-laws (statutes) containing changes to membership acquisition, procedure for candidature to the Council and composition of the Council. The new procedure for acquiring membership is the following: To become a member, interested applicants should either: (1) participate in any activity of the commission (presentation at a Conference, organization of an event, member of the Program Committee of a Conference, etc.) or (2) be presented by another member of the Commission

ACTIVITIES

Workshops, symposia, conferences (in chronological order)

June 2023: Logic Colloquium 2023, ASL, Milan 2023

The 2023 Logic Colloquium took place at the University of Milan, June 5th-9th 2023. The full program of the event can be found on its web page: <https://lc2023.unimi.it/>. HaPoC supported the event by providing administrative and payment facilities to the colloquium.

July 2023: Symposium at CLMPST23 Conference

An HaPoC-sponsored Symposium took place at the 2023 Conference of the Division for Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology (Buenos Aires, 24th-29th July).

Title of Symposium: *Understanding and defining algorithms: from fundamental issues to new challenges*, organized by: Alberto Naibo (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, IHPST) and Philippos Papayannopoulos (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, IHPST)

Talks:

Ksenia Tatarchenko (Singapore Management University), Anya Yermakova (University of St. Louis) - *Algorithm in Culture: Reinterpreting Algorithmic Rationality*

Thomas Seiller (CNRS) - *A Geometric Theory of Algorithms*

Gregory Chaitin (University of Buenos Aires) *Defining "Algorithm" in Algorithmic Information Theory*

Santiago Figueira (Universidad de Buenos Aires & ICC UBA/CONICET Argentina) - *Algorithms as a Language of Thought Concluding Roundtable* with Organizers and Speakers

September 13th-15th 2023: Panel at GWMT 2023 conference

HaPoC organized a panel at the Annual Conference of the German Society for History of Science, Medicine and Technology (Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaft, Medizin und

Technik - GWMT - Ingolstadt, September 2023)

Panel title: *Computer als konkrete und abstrakte Maschinen im späten 20. Jahrhundert* [*Computers as concrete and abstract machines in late 20th century*], organized by: Arianna Borrelli (TU Berlin/RWTH Aachen)

Talks:

Mirjam Mayer (ETH Zürich) - *Kooperation und Konkurrenz im lokalen Netz. Zur Dezentralisierung der Datenverarbeitung in der Schweizerischen Bundesverwaltung in den 1980er Jahren* [*Cooperation and competition on the local net. On the decentralization of data management in the Swiss federal administration in the 1980s*]

Nathalie Bredella (Leibniz Universität Hannover) - *Abstrakte und konkrete Maschinen in urbanen und architektonischen Planungen der Nachkriegszeit* [*Abstract and concrete machines in urban and architectural planning of the post-war era*]

Daniela Zetti (Universität Lübeck and TU München) - *Computerzeit. Vom Sharing zur Heterogenität* [*Computer time. From sharing to heterogeneity*]

Arianna Borrelli (TU Berlin and RWTH Aachen) - *"Publishing in Computopia" Ideale und Realitäten digitalen Informationsaustausches in der Physik des späten 20. Jhs.* [*"Publishing in Computopia" Ideals and realities of digital information exchange in Physics in late 20th century*]

September 30th 2023: 24-hours DHST online festival

For the 24h-DHST-Festival, HaPoC nominated Ksenia Tatarchenko (Singapore Management University), who spoke on the topic *Toward Alternative Histories of the Information Age in Session 17 of the Festival*.

October 18th-20th 2023: HaPoC7 Conference, Warsaw

The 7th biennial Conference of HaPoC took place in Warsaw, on 18-20th October. The full program can be found on the conference webpage: <https://hapoc2023.sciencesconf.org/>

There were in all 56 submissions to the conference, out of which 28 papers were accepted. The conference took place in hybrid mode and all sessions were well-attended, also by local students. During the Conference, the HaPoC General Assembly took place in hybrid form and the new Council was elected.

Plans for the publication of the proceedings of HaPoC-7 are currently being discussed.

Publications

A Special Issue of *Minds and Machines* based on the HaPoC6 conference (ETH Zurich, Nov. 2021) has now been published (online first):

<https://link.springer.com/journal/11023/online-first>

The full Special Issue is scheduled to appear in December 2023.

The essay collection of papers derived from the 2021 DHST HaPoC Symposium is nearing completion.

Outreach

A HaPoC group has been set up in the chat tool Zulip. All members are invited to register there and initiate and participate in discussion on HaPoC-relevant topics, regarding among other things organization of events, academic networking and exchange of information.

Grant recipients

DLMPST funding has been used to support the following activities:

HaPoC representation expenses: - 300 USD = - 290 EUR

Giuseppe Primero solicited funding of his registration at the DLMPST conference in Buenos Aires as representative of the Commission at the General Assembly held in presence

<u>Young scholar Grants for HaPoC7</u>	<u>-482 EUR</u>
CHIARA MANGANINI	-345,64 EUR
NICK WIGGERSHAUS	-63,27 EUR
PHILIPPOS PAPAYANNOPOULOS	-206,31 EUR
MARIEN RAAT	-216,35 EUR
Contribution of HaPoC-7 local organizing committee (Warsaw)	+350 EUR

WEB site fees – 32 EUR

The total of DLMPST funds spent for travel grants is: -804 EUR