



# Management History

A Division of the Academy of Management

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17 April 2026

## An Update from the Chair

*Our Division's year, and the road to Philadelphia*

### To the members of the Management History Division

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Dear colleagues and members of the Management History Division,

As we move into the final stretch before AOM 2026 in Philadelphia, I wanted to share a reflective update on where our Division stands, what we have built together since I took office at the close of the Copenhagen meeting, and what lies ahead in the months leading up to August. This letter is long, and I thank you in advance for reading it. It has been a full year, and I want the Division to see the whole of it.

### EVENTS AND SCHOLARLY PROGRAMMING

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From the outset, our aim has been to broaden the Division's year-round presence while preserving the quality of engagement for which our community is known. We launched a two-part workshop series with Professor Michael Heller on grant applications for historical research, with Part I in November 2025 and Part II in January 2026, both recorded and made available on our website. In parallel, we ran two Professional Development Workshops in the fall, a Paper Idea Development Workshop in November and a Full Paper Development Workshop on 12 December, designed to strengthen the pipeline of AOM submissions and to give authors earlier, more substantive feedback.

In March, we held a joint Professional Development Workshop with the Entrepreneurship Division. The event drew a peak attendance of approximately sixty to seventy participants and has been recognized by both divisions as a model of cross-divisional collaboration. We also endorsed and supported several external initiatives, including the International Conference on Corporate and Brand Heritage in Naples (with Professor Michael Rowlinson as our nominated plenary speaker), the AOM Doctoral Student Community Virtual Open House in April, and the Academy of Management Journal Workshop to be held in Rome on 6 May.



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## PROGRAMS LAUNCHED DURING THE YEAR

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Three new initiatives have been built and activated. Our Global Ambassador Programme now has representatives appointed in India, Italy, Japan, Russia, and Turkey, each selected through an open call and aligned with AOM's code of conduct. Our Volunteer Programme coordinates a dedicated team supporting communications, benchmarking across divisions, and outreach. And our State-of-the-Art Mentorship Programme received twenty-three applications from doctoral students and early-career scholars, with fourteen confirmed mentors to date. We are working to expand the mentor pool and finalize matches in the coming weeks, and a dedicated mentorship session is planned for the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

## AOM 2026 IN PHILADELPHIA

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The submission numbers reflect the health and momentum of our community. We received seventy-six submissions in total, including fifty-three papers, six PDWs, four symposia, twenty-five posters, and one plenary. All six PDWs and all four symposia were accepted, and approximately half of the papers moved forward to the program. The Program Committee has scheduled the plenary, the social event, and the business meeting, and logistical preparations are well advanced.

## GOVERNANCE, REPORTING, AND PARTNERSHIPS

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On governance, our October DIGR submission received a positive evaluation in February, with no revisions requested and encouragement to continue on our strategic path. We completed a leadership climate survey, finalized ombuds training, and began systematically recording, transcribing, and archiving executive meetings. The website restructuring is progressing alongside AOM's transition to a new digital platform, and we have been invited to be among the early adopters. We also approved sponsorship of the National Doctoral Student Consortium 2026 and continued exploring collaborations with BALAS in Latin America, with the Organization and Management Theory Division, and with colleagues at Sapienza University of Rome on future editorial initiatives.



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## WHAT LIES AHEAD BETWEEN NOW AND AUGUST

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Several streams of work will close out the term. The Paper Awards Committee and the People-Related Awards Committee will finalize their selections in the coming weeks. The Election Committee will complete the vote for PDW Chair and Division Historian. The call for AOM Travel Grants will close at the end of April, with funds (\$8,500) distributed to support scholars facing financial barriers, prioritizing authors of accepted papers and active Division reviewers. We will submit the July biannual DIGR progress report, finalize mentorship matches, and complete preparations for our on-site presence in Philadelphia.

## A NEW INITIATIVE — A CURATED REPOSITORY FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING

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Alongside these activities, I am launching a new initiative that I believe will serve our community well beyond the current term. Our volunteers are working to build a curated repository of high-quality sources for research and teaching in management history, including articles, book chapters, historical analyses, and methodological exemplars. The collection will be hosted on the Division website and organized to support doctoral students discovering the field, instructors designing or refreshing courses, and established scholars seeking reference points across the evolution of management thought and practice. A first set of materials will be uploaded in early May, and I will share access details with the full membership once the structure is in place. If you would like to suggest sources or contribute in any capacity, please feel free to write to me directly.

## IN CLOSING

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None of this work happens in isolation. My gratitude goes to the Executive Committee, to our volunteers and ambassadors, to our mentors and reviewers, and to every member who has submitted, attended, moderated, or simply engaged with our activities this year. Our Division is small by AOM standards, but our reach, our scholarly ambition, and our sense of community continue to grow. I look forward to welcoming many of you in Philadelphia, and to the conversations still ahead of us.

With warm regards,

**Matteo Cristofaro**

Chair, Management History Division  
*Academy of Management*

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