

Press Release

## Harvard and IISH to launch a partnership

Amsterdam, 25 June 2012 – **Harvard University and the International Institute of Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam will be working together intensively. In this partnership, Harvard has set up the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History (WIGH), a centre dedicated to assembling a worldwide network of research institutes. The two institutions will team up with institutions in Africa, Asia, and Latin America that focus on *Global History*. The IISH and Harvard will be pivotal in this network for the time being.**

The partnership derives from the idea that history is nearly always written from a Western perspective. The WIGH intends to promote historiography from a non-Western perspective as a means of bringing about new scholarly insights.

Potential partnership formats include: congresses, publications, research projects, and exchanges of students and researchers. Harvard and the IISH are presently in discussions with potential partner institutes.

### About the Institute

The International Institute of Social History (IISH) is one of the world's largest documentation and research centres specializing in social and economic history. Since its establishment in 1935, the Institute has been dedicated to collecting, preserving, and making available the heritage of social movements all over the world.

The Institute is independent and as a consequence a natural repository for the cultural heritage – frequently in jeopardy – of labour movements and other emancipationist groups and movements.

The Institute's research department is active in global history of labour relations and organizes international projects in this field.

The collection comprises 3,200 archives, over one million books and audiovisual materials, together spanning over 50 km of shelf space. The IISH is an Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

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### Note for the editors, not for publication:

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