

Presidential Report:

It has been a great honor to serve as President of the ISSS for the past three years and to have been nominated for this position by Don Morrison. I wish to share some of our accomplishments:

1) With the encouragement of David Konstan, obm, I organized a Socrates book series at de Gruyter Brill. The previous series at Academia Verlag suffered from production and visibility limitations and eventually required a publication fee. The arrangement with de Gruyter Brill represents an improvement on all of these fronts. While the series is not formally an organ of the Society, it provides a valuable venue for monographs, edited volumes, and conference proceedings on Socratic Studies. The editors include some great scholars of Socratic studies: Nick Smith, Louis-André Dorion and Alessandro Stavru among others. We have already published two volumes: a volume on *Women in the Socratic Tradition*, edited by Carolina Araújo, and my monograph on the two Socratic *symposia*. For links to these books see below. I am pleased to announce that the Socratica V volume, edited by Francesca Pentassuglio and Chloe Balla, has been submitted as well and we look forward to seeing it in print. Please keep the series in mind for high-quality monographs and collected volumes.

2) With the help of Dr. Ricardo Gancz we created a new website for the Society, independent of the previous website hosted by Rice University. Rather than relying on Bar Ilan or any other University we created a website that can be used continually by future presidents. The idea was to save future presidents, particularly those lacking in technical support from their universities, from the headaches involved in creating a new website. The website we developed can be transferred intact to the next President, while remaining fully open to future modification and improvement.

3) The Virtual Socrates Colloquium, which Don had previously managed on his own, became a genuinely collective effort. I thank Dave Johnson, Noreen Humble, Chloe Balla, Francesca Pentassuglio, and Dr. Milena Lozano Nembrot for organizing and moderating the Colloquium at various times. Over the past months I transferred full responsibility for the Colloquium to Francesca, and I wish her every success in carrying it forward! The Colloquium offers a great opportunity to hear new research on Socrates before it hits the journals, and all are welcome to participate.

4) A special thanks to Nick Smith for serving as a liaison to the APA. We welcome his replacement, Rusty Jones and wish him all success.

5) During my term, I also sought to strengthen the Society's institutional practices.

a) For the first time, the executive committee held formal meetings online.

b) We also held the first-ever contested presidential elections at the conference. For this purpose, I appointed an independent elections committee, in order to avoid any appearance of partiality. I thank Noburu Notomi, Susan Prince and Ricardo Gancz for serving on that committee in exemplary fashion.

c) I also initiated a discussion of possible revisions to the Society's statutes, which had been adopted almost verbatim from those of the IPS. We made one important change at the General Assembly, and I trust that the new executive committee will bring that project to a successful conclusion.

6) I also convened a meeting of the diversity committee and after some discussion we adopted the following principles:

"The ISSS welcomes all individuals who share an interest in Socrates and the Socratic tradition. We are committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, national origin, handicap, or any other characteristic irrelevant to the study of Socrates."

These may seem like obvious points, and I am sure we all take them for granted, but they need constant reinforcement, especially today.

7) My chief responsibility as President was to host the Socratica VI conference, originally planned for Bar-Ilan University. Because of the war, this proved impractical, and I agreed to relocate the conference to Crete. This move brought additional challenges, including a loss of funding, more complex organizational arrangements, and protests by a small number of local students. As a result of the last, I was forced to move my opening address to the end of the conference. But aside from that, these issues did not materially interfere with the academic success of the conference. The papers were great, discussions were focused, and many new friendships developed.

I am grateful to Christopher Moore, Chloe Balla, and Melina Tamiolaki for their work on the academic and planning committees, and to Kalliopi, Francisco, Evgenia, and Ricardo for their invaluable behind-the-scenes assistance. The University of Crete, Bar-Ilan University, the Lechter Fund for the Humanities, and especially the Socrates Foundation—under the leadership of Don Morrison—provided essential financial support. And of course, I thank all of you for helping to keep Socratic studies vibrant after more than 2,400 years.

Some people I had hoped to see and to introduce to a wider audience were unable to attend. These include Louis-André Dorion, one of my leading intellectual interlocutors in the study of Socrates, Margalit Finkelberg, a great expert not only on Homer but also on Plato, and David Konstan, obm. In addition to his great knowledge and wisdom, he was always a source of inspiration and congeniality at my previous events.

It was a special honor to have Douglas Cairns and Dave Johnson join us for the entire conference. And it was a genuine pleasure to see how the Society has grown—from its modest beginnings as a series of conferences (for which we thank Alessandro Stavru, Fulvia de Louise and Livio Rossetti among others) into a lively international scholarly community—and especially to see Xenophon’s Socrates receiving the attention he deserves, including from many younger scholars. I could not have imagined, over 25 years ago, when I began to focus my research on Xenophon’s Socrates, that he would soon become a central fixture in the academic world. I especially credit Don Morrison and Louis-André Dorion, who preceded me in this, and Dave Johnson, who was a great collaborator throughout, for their tremendous contributions to bringing this about.

8) For the first time, I gave the conference a sub-theme: *Socrates and the Emotions*. In the lead-up to the conference, Milena Nembrot and I organized an online workshop on emotions in antiquity. We thank Douglas Cairns, Angelos Chaniotis, Pia Campeggiani, and Luuk Huitink for their outstanding presentations.

9) We discussed how to enable online participation by people who genuinely were unable to attend the conference in person. I suggested that people who spend time and money to attend a conference should not be asked, while there, to view online presentations by people unable to attend. Instead, we organized a one-day mini-conference online a week before the conference. I again thank Milena Nembrot for helping moderate that event.

10) My final responsibility as President is the organization of the conference volume. Most submission are expected to be in English, but some will be in other official languages of the Society. Several senior scholars have generously offered to assist with the editorial work, and I thank them warmly.

Clouds on the horizon

I cannot conclude this report without warning about an unfortunate development. As some of you know, a member of the committee disseminated defamatory messages about me both within the committee and beyond it. These communications were not merely personal attacks; they deliberately weaponized my nationality as a means of defamation. I am sure that most people understood that the accusations they contained were false, but it was still unpleasant to see the damage they caused to me personally, and the extent to which they undermined the trust and friendship that is necessary for collaboration in an academic society. In the end, the personal integrity of people in the Society is the most important bulwark against further episodes of this kind.

I am grateful for the friendship and solidarity shown to me over the years by many people, and I look forward to continued collaboration. I plan to organize a smaller conference in the near future on the theme “*Moving the Elephant:*

Verbal and Non-verbal Techniques for Affecting Emotion in Socratic Literature and Beyond.” For those unfamiliar with the image, please consult chapter 2 of Jonathan Haidt’s *The Righteous Mind*. The idea is to present Socrates’ emotional appeals not as philosophical deficiencies but as masterful acts of emotional education. Please reach out if this meshes with your own research plans and if you wish to be part of this project.

I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year, and every success in your personal and professional endeavors. I bless the incoming president, Michele Corradi, and wish him a less eventful and more peaceful term of office, both within the Society and in the world as a whole, and look forward to working with him in arranging a smooth transition.

Sincerely yours,

Gabriel Danzig

President, International Society for Socratic Studies

Books in the Socrates series:

Socrates at Play:

<https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783111552125/html>

Women in the Socratic Tradition:

<https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783111692456/html>