

Nomination for IMS Honorary Membership 2025

Committee:

Daniel K L Chua (Chair)

Annegret Fauser

Laura Tunbridge

Christine Fischer

Silke Leopold

The Committee proposes Silke Leopold for Honorary Membership of the IMS. Silke Leopold studied musicology, theatre studies, Romance languages and literature in Hamburg and Rome. After receiving her doctorate (on Stefano Landi) in 1975, she spent three years as a research fellow at the Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rome, followed by two years as a fellow of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. She taught at the Technische Universität Berlin from 1980, completing her habilitation in 1987 with a thesis on poetry and music in Italian song singing of the early 17th century. After stints at Harvard University and the University of Regensburg, in 1991 she was appointed full professor at the University of Paderborn and Hochschule für Musik Detmold. From 1996 until her retirement in 2014, Silke Leopold was Professor of Musicology and Director of the Institute of Musicology at the Ruprecht-Karls-University of Heidelberg, where she also served in many substantial roles, including as Vice-Rector for Studies and Teaching.

Leopold has published numerous books on the history of opera, especially concerning Monteverdi, Handel, and Mozart. (A full list is available here: <https://www.muwi.uni-heidelberg.de/de/ueber-uns/mitarbeitende/prof-dr-silke-leopold>) She has received many honours and awards, including the Dent Medal (1986) and the Handel Prize of the City of Halle (2019); she has been elected as a member of Salzburg's Internationale Stiftung Mozarteum, the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, and as a corresponding member of the American Musicological Society and of the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften. Leopold has also been committed to sharing her research with a broader public and audiences, evident in her broadcasting and educational projects.

The Committee recommends her as an outstanding awardee for an Honorary Membership of this society.