

Meeting of the WG on Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis
SIEF2023 16th Congress in Brno, Friday June 9th 2023, 18:45-19:45 (hybrid)

Participants (15)

Members (9)

Hande Birkalan-Gedik
Michaela Fenske
Ave Goršič
Anders Gustavsson (online)
Anna Caroline Haubold
Katre Kikas
Konrad Kuhn
Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch
Burkhard Pöttler

Guests (6)

Viktorija Čeginskas
Fabiana Dimpflmeier
Kelly Fitzgerald
Stefanie Mallon
Gabriele Orlandi
Vytautas Tumėnas

1. Welcome

Konrad Kuhn welcomed the participants of the meeting and introduced himself, the co-chair Katre Kikas and the secretary Anna Caroline Haubold. He proposed the following agenda for the meeting: (1) Welcome, (2) Introduction of members and guests, (3) Reports from the current chairs and secretary: Current issues, (4) Election of the chairs and secretary, (5) Future plans, (6) Discussion, and (7) Closing. The agenda was approved by the participants of the meeting. Konrad Kuhn led the meeting.

2. Introduction of members and guests

All participants of the meeting introduced themselves.

3. Reports from the current chairs and secretary: Current issues

Working group conference. The conference was held on 29–30th September 2022 in Innsbruck (Austria). The topic was “Past Futures – Historical Approaches to the Analysis of Uncertainties and Ruptures”. It was held in a hybrid format which included nearly 50 participants. There were ten presenters from eight different countries. The organizers had received funding from SIEF. The conference was a success.

Panel at RE:22. The Nordic Ethnology and Folklore Conference took place on 13–16 June 2022 in Reykjavik (Iceland). Konrad Kuhn together with Eija Stark and Indrek Jääts convened the panel “Re-reading “politics” in the disciplinary history of ethnology and folklore studies”. Alf Arvidsson (a working group member) organized together with Line Esborg and Marie Steinrud the panel “Re/telling. Questions of perspective and agency in recontextualizing archived documentations”.

Panel at SIEF2023. Hande Birkalan-Gedik, Katre Kikas, Konrad Kuhn, and Fabiana Dimpflmeier organized the panel “Encountering uncertainties: ethnographic methods and national

traditions" (two sessions and a roundtable) as a joined venture of the SIEF Working Group Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis HACA and EASA-Network History of Anthropology Network HOAN.

Meeting of the SIEF working group leaders. The meeting took place on 7th June 2022 in Brno. Katre Kikas and Anna Caroline Haubold took part in it. The SIEF president Marie Sandberg and the executive vice-president Sophie Elpers led the meeting and stressed that the working groups are the backbone of SIEF. There are currently 16 working groups, with Feminist Approaches founded very recently in Brno. The SIEF Board suggests and supports more collaboration between the working groups. Each working group can apply for EUR 800 during a term. This measure was introduced in 2021 and proved to be successful. Nevertheless, it was noted that there will be some changes for the next call of applications and that the funded projects should be more inclusive (especially early scholars, independent scholars and people from low-income countries). The guidelines will be adapted to make the application process easier.

Working group. Katre Kikas introduced the webpage of the working group to the guests and explained how they can join the mailing list. Katre Kikas also noted the Facebook page of the working group which is, however, quite inactive at the moment.

4. Election of the chairs and secretary

The current board of the working group was elected in 2019 in Santiago de Compostela: Katre Kikas and Konrad Kuhn as co-chairs and Anna Caroline Haubold as secretary. All three have served for two terms. The co-chairs wanted to step back from their position. The secretary expressed her interest in continuing for another term if nobody wanted to take over. Hande Birkalan-Gedik had already announced her interest in becoming a co-chair beforehand. Konrad Kuhn asked the participants of the meeting whether somebody would like to be a candidate for the positions. Gabriele Orlandi, a guest at the working group meeting, expressed his interest in becoming the second co-chair. There was no candidate for the position of the secretary. The participants voiced their support for an election of the whole board (instead on voting for each candidate separately) and for an open ballot. The board was unanimously elected.

5. Future Plans

Working group conference. Anna Caroline Haubold presented the idea of holding the next conference in Marburg (Germany) in autumn 2024. She underlined that due to its proximity to Frankfurt/Main it is a good location also for international travel. First, it must be clarified whether there would be some local funding before voting in favour or against this option.

Members in the meeting also discussed the possibility of collaborating among the SIEF Networks, which could be an option also for the next meeting. The new co-chairs and the secretary will discuss the place and time for the next meeting with the working group members.

The group members also discussed the possible themes. Hande Birkalan-Gedik suggested that we continue the discussion on a topic and decide on one with the members of the working group. Some of the themes discussed were:

- contexts and conflicts
- images of the East / images of the West/ East-West debate
- narratives and imaginaries of Europe/twist on the imaginary/(de-)constructing imaginaries
- different practices/traditions (European vs. American and all others—transnational practices and histories of folklore)
- deconventionalizing/decentring hegemonic disciplinary narratives

6. Discussion

HOIAC conference. Hande Birkalan-Gedik, Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch and Katre Kikas are co-convening the panel “Disciplinary Histories and Archives in Anthropology, Folklore, and Oral History: Actors, Formats, and Mediality in Knowledge Production” at The First International Conference of the Histories of Anthropologies titled “Doing Histories, Imagining Futures” which will take place on 4 –7th December 2023 online. The conference is organized by HOAN convenors with the participation of several international stakeholders.

News. Ave Goršič reported that there have been meetings with researchers and employees of the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia to discuss the restructuring of the research funding system and for finding new strategies.

7. Closing

The meeting ended at 19:45.

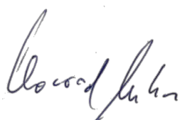
Minutes by the secretary:

C. Haubold

Anna Caroline Haubold (Marburg, 07.07.2023)



Katre Kikas (Tartu, 07.07.2023)



Konrad Kuhn (Innsbruck, 07.07.2023)