

**Short biographies and statements of nominated candidates  
for the SIEF Board 2025 – 2027**

**Čarna Brković (President – first term)**

Čarna Brković is Professor of Cultural Studies and European Ethnology at the Institute for Film, Theater, Media and Cultural Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany.

She studies how people help one another in various ways, including humanitarianism, social care, clientelism, and feminist and queer activism. Čarna also has a keen interest in the history of ethnology and anthropology in Southeast Europe.

She received her graduate degree in Ethnology and Anthropology from the University of Belgrade (2007) and her PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Manchester (2012). Her dissertation was published as the book *Managing Ambiguity: How Clientelism, Citizenship and Power Shape Personhood in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Berghahn, 2017).

In 2024, she was a Visiting Fellow at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University. She also worked as an interim professor (2023) and postdoctoral researcher in Cultural Anthropology/European Ethnology at the University of Göttingen (2018-2022). Previously, she held postdoctoral fellowships at the Graduate School for East and Southeast European Studies (Regensburg) and the Institute for Advanced Study at Central European University.

Čarna's second book is a historical ethnography "Realigning Humanitarianism in the Balkans. From Cold War Politics to Neoliberal Ethics" (Indiana University Press 2026). It traces the shifts in humanitarianism between the West, the East, and the South, examining how the fall of state socialism changed humanitarianism in the Balkan region, often in ways that have gone unnoticed.

She has served as a member of the SIEF Executive Board (2021-2025) and received the SIEF Young Scholar Prize in 2015 for her article "Scaling Humanitarianism: Humanitarian Actions in a Bosnian Town", published in *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*.

Čarna has authored and co-authored many research publications in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals (*Humanity, Focaal, AJEC, Anthropological Theory...*), co-edited volumes and special issues, and is frequently invited to give international keynote and guest talks. She has experience as principal investigator and project manager of research projects funded by foundations such as the CHANSE / German BMBF.

A red thread connecting Čarna's work across diverse topics is her approach to thinking about Europe and Europeanization from its southeastern peripheries. She examines the cultural, social, political and economic forces that compel people to help one another in particular ways; what makes certain ways of relating to others meaningful and sensible;

and how the fall of socialism redrew the boundaries of aid communities in ways that have since been forgotten.

Čarna's decentered perspective on Europe means critically engaging with conventional notions of Europeanization as a one-way flow of knowledge from West to East. At the same time, she resists romanticizing the local and the vernacular in the East as inherently desirable alternatives. Instead, she critically interrogates both 'Western' and 'Eastern' humanitarian formations, advocating for a nuanced analytical engagement with the political heritage of socialism and a re-examination of how people in Europe care for themselves and others. Her work emphasizes multivocality and social complexity, while making visible the political-economic inequalities and hierarchies that shape these dynamics.

Čarna's teaching is deeply informed by her studies in ethnology and anthropology across multiple countries and languages. She is committed to research-based teaching and to fostering the internationalization of ethnology and anthropology curricula.

*As a member of the SIEF Executive Board since 2021, I am deeply honored by the possibility to continue contributing to the life of our scholarly society. I first participated in the SIEF Congress in Zagreb in 2015, and since then, I have experienced some of the most exciting intellectual conversations at SIEF congresses – as a presenter, panel organizer, and discussant. I have grown tremendously through my engagement with SIEF and am eager to support new generations of scholars in doing the same.*

*The historical moment we are living through continues to pose various challenges to SIEF. The so-called “end of the end of history” – marked by wars and ethnic cleansing, the rise of the far right, the erosion of (neo)liberal hegemony, and the dismantling of DEI initiatives at universities – invites us all to reflect on the role that scholars and teachers of ethnology & folklore have, and ought to have, in this changing world.*

*I deeply appreciate SIEF as a platform for connecting with fellow scholars across state borders and disciplinary boundaries. As members of the previous Presidency have noted – perhaps the most important part of SIEF's name is “&” – signifying the act of bringing together notions, things, people, and places across hierarchically ordered differences. Should the General Assembly choose to elect me as president, I will continue working to make SIEF a vibrant, diverse, inclusive and solidary platform for scholarly exchange.*

### **Sophie Elpers (Executive Vice President - sixth term)**

Sophie Elpers is a researcher at the Meertens Institute (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences) in Amsterdam and Professor of Intangible Heritage and Ethnology at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. She also teaches critical heritage and museum studies at the University of Bonn, Germany.

Trained as an ethnologist in Bonn and Amsterdam, she received her PhD from the University of Amsterdam in 2014 with a thesis on the reconstruction of farmhouses in

the Netherlands after World War II. Sophie worked as a researcher at the Dutch Open Air Museum/Institute for Historical Farm Research in Arnhem (NL) before joining the staff of the Meertens Institute in 2007. The Institute has hosted the SIEF secretariat and archive for more than two decades.

Sophie's current research focuses on the politics and dynamics of intangible cultural heritage, contemporary everyday life in rural areas, with an emphasis on negotiations about ruralities and urbanities, and vernacular architecture.

Between 2016 and 2022, Sophie was also a senior researcher at the Dutch Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage/Dutch Open Air Museum, where she conducted research on the relationship between tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Due to her expertise in the field of cultural heritage, she is Vice-Chair of the Expert Committee for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Germany and a member of the Administrative Board of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum. She is one of the senior editors of SIEF's open access journal Cultural Analysis and one of the editors of Volkskunde, the Dutch/Flemish journal of ethnology and folklore research. She has authored and co-authored books and articles, and co-edited volumes and special issues on vernacular architecture, national symbols, intangible cultural heritage and museums. Since 2015, Sophie has been Executive Vice President of SIEF.

*Since my first SIEF Congress in Derry (2008), I have been greatly inspired by SIEF's activities in building bridges between international colleagues, exchanging ideas and knowledge, and motivating close collaboration. SIEF is a vibrant organisation. It has recently developed a number of initiatives to promote collaboration, education and publications, as well as academic freedom and the critical role of scholarship in society. Together with the other members of the Board, I look forward to continuing this successful process. As Executive Vice President, I would like to act as an intermediary between the Board and the members of SIEF, and to encourage a lively communication under the umbrella of SIEF. The newsletter and website are important tools for this communication. Both provide members with information about the Society, its disciplines and its members. The website also presents SIEF's beautiful video material, such as the films 'What is European Ethnology' and 'What do Ethnologists do', and the series 'Ethnological Sensations' and 'Ethnological Matterings'. I support the work of the Working Groups, as well as the Congress Scientific and Local Committees, to keep SIEF as vibrant as it is. The SIEF secretariat keeps track of financial and other administrative matters - supported by NomadIT.*

### **Tom DuBois (Vice President, first term)**

Thomas A. DuBois is Halls-Bascom Professor of Scandinavian Studies, Folklore, and Religious Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he leads the Folklore program, an administrative unit of the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+.

DuBois received his Ph.D. in Folklore and Folklife from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990 with a dissertation entitled “Growing Up in Education: An Ethnography of Southeast Asian Refugee Life in Philadelphia Schools.” His graduate work included research, teaching and fieldwork in Finland, where he was associated with the University of Helsinki from 1984-85 and 1987-88, with funding from the US Fulbright Foundation. From 1990-99, DuBois worked as a professor of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle, where he helped start the Finnish program, the Baltic studies program, and the Folklore studies program. While at the University of Washington, he published monographs and articles on the Finnish epic *Kalevala*, Finnish folklore, and Nordic religions during the Nordic Viking Age. He held visiting appointments at Nordic and American universities, including University of Umeå, Stockholm University, and Harvard. Among other grants and awards, he received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (1997-98).

Since 2000, DuBois has worked as a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where his research and teaching have focused on Finnish, Sámi, Scandinavian, Irish, and Native American traditions. He has produced monographs on lyric song, wood carving, religion, music, and internet media. In terms of institutional service, he has served as chair or director of multiple departments and programs, including the Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+, the Religious Studies program, and the Folklore program. He has also been active in the university’s curricular development, high-impact practice initiatives, and community-engaged research programs, particularly in connection with the Indigenous nations of Wisconsin.

DuBois’s professional services beyond the university include terms as president of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study (2013-15), member of the Executive Board of the American Folklore Society (2020-22), member of the Executive Committee of the Delegates, American Council of Learned Societies (2012-15), and member of the Strategic Advisory Board of the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Helsinki (2014-20). He served as co-editor of the *Journal of American Folklore* (2015-19), and is current editor of the *Journal of Finnish Studies*. Awards and recognition include a medal from Kalevalaseura (The Kalevala Society; 2000), an honorary doctorate from the University of Umeå (2011), and induction into the Kungl. Gustav Adolfs Akademien för Svensk Folkkultur (2013), and Finnish Academy of Sciences and Letters (2016).

*With graduate training in both the United States and Finland, and research interests on both sides of the Atlantic, I have always admired and been inspired by SIEF. I have presented in both paper and poster sessions, and find the unique local arrangements of every SIEF conference exciting. I would be thrilled to contribute to SIEF, drawing on my experiences as a past member of the executive committee of the American Folklore Society and as a past department chair at a large American research-1 university (University of Wisconsin-Madison).*

### **Hande Birkalan-Gedik (second term)**

Hande Birkalan-Gedik is a professor of Folklore, Anthropology, and Gender Studies since 2010. Currently, she is a Research Fellow and PI at the Institute of European Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main with her project *Folklore Knowledge and Knowledge Transfer: Folklore Milieus, Formats, and Venues in Turkey (1950s–1980s)* funded by DFG. She is the founding editor of the newly established SIEF Series in Ethnology and Folklore: *New Directions in the Study of Everyday Life, Past and Present* (with Berghahn Books).

A native of Istanbul, Hande graduated from Bosphorus University. Later, she obtained her Ph.D. from the Folklore Institute Indiana University–Bloomington, (minors in Anthropology and Gender Studies) in 1999. She holds a dual MA from the Department of Central Eurasian Studies/Turkish Studies Program and the Folklore Institute. After her studies in the US, Hande Birkalan-Gedik returned to Turkey, and taught at the Anthropology Department at Yeditepe University-Istanbul, where she served as a faculty member in anthropology and a founding member of the graduate studies there. She was a member of the UNESCO Committee on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Turkey (2014–2016).

She was a visiting professor at Indiana University-Bloomington (2001–2002), a visiting fellow at Cornelia Goethe Zentrum (Frankfurt am Main, 2014–2015) with her project on masculinity and fatherhood among men from Turkey. She held visiting positions as the Aigner Roller Professor for Gender Studies at Karl-Franzens-Universität (Graz, 2016), as a Fellow at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität (Münster, 2018), and a visiting scholar at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at Jagiellonian University (Krakow, 2019). In the past few years, she has developed an interest in digitally mediated cultural artifacts and digital narration as well as in the Anthropocene-and more-than-human-worlds—a field, which she connects to folktales in particular and narrative in general.

She focuses on transnational disciplinary histories of folklore and anthropology, biographies of entangled scholars and emigree scholars, and women folklorists. She is a seasoned fieldworker and interested in people's everyday lives. Her field “locations” are multi-cited and deals with the Islamic cultures in migratory contexts in Turkey and Germany. She has conducted research with Kurdish-Alevi female migrants in Istanbul, Alevi female minstrels in southeastern Turkey, and Alevi women with a focus on the leadership roles in Alevi organizations in Germany. In 2020 and 2022, she established working groups on Islam and Alevism at the European Academy of Religion (EUARE).

*“If elected, I would like to explore new directions and initiatives. I am particularly keen on increasing SIEF’s visibility among our sister networks, such as EASA and the American Folklore Society. I am also very interested in contributing to the development of a strong publication record for the SIEF Series in Ethnology and Folklore: New Directions in the Study of Everyday Life, Past and Present.”*

### **Nicolas Le Bigre (first term)**

Nicolas Le Bigre is a lecturer in Ethnology and Folklore and is archives manager at the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen in Scotland. He is a council member of The Folklore Society (UK), board member of SIEF's Working Group on Archives, Eurethno Scotland representative, and member of the American Folklore Society, the International Council on Archives, the International Society for Folk Narrative Research, the Scottish Records Association, and associate member of The Folklore Fellows. Nicolas has published on migration and folk narrative, archives, street art/graffiti, walking as ethnography, and pandemic creativity. As a French-American who has lived in five countries and has been in Scotland for the past fifteen years, it is perhaps little surprise that his research interests have often focused on the cultural intersections of migration and the personal-experience and societal narratives that emerge from these encounters. Throughout his life people have asked Nicolas where he's from, seemingly never quite satisfied with the answer, and it is in reflexively realising his own struggles in narrating expected conventions of identity that he conducts much of his research. Working ethnographically with other migrants who came to Scotland from a variety of countries, Nicolas considers migration narratives to better understand and problematise concepts of 'home', integration, bureaucracy, borders, space/time, and encounter.

As a Teaching and Scholarship lecturer, however, much of his focus has been on pedagogy – he is programme co-ordinator for the Master of Letters in Ethnology and Folklore – as well as archives and community engagement. The Elphinstone Institute Archives contain over 6000 hours of audio/video recordings reflecting the diverse cultural landscapes of Scotland. As archivist, Nicolas has led various archival projects, including the multi-year Lockdown Lore Collection Project, which documented Scotland's creative responses to the Covid-19 pandemic through interviews and thousands of crowd-sourced submissions. Nicolas has also supported community archival projects through fieldwork, advice, training, and by making archival space for contributor-led narratives of refugees and migrants in Scotland as well as Aberdeen's LGBT+ communities. For over a decade, Nicolas has co-ordinated the Polish-Scottish Group, a long-term community engagement project bringing people together through cultural exchange.

*'I have been proud to be a member of SIEF since 2013 when I nervously attended the congress in Tartu with the moral and academic support of folklorist Leonard Primiano. What I had expected to be an unwieldy and impersonal congress ended up being the most memorable few days of my early career, giving confidence and friendships that still keep me going today. As a lecturer with a non-research focus, I was honoured – and frankly surprised – to be asked to stand for the SIEF board, but I realise that SIEF's membership is hugely diverse, reflecting the complex and multifaceted realities of today's academic world. Though many members have followed research paths, others*

*are on different, equally important paths – whether in teaching, archives, or as independent scholars – and I am keen to help SIEF continue to support such members. Non-traditional academics are often key innovators in practices such as collaborative community engagement, which at its best can be a great decolonial force, and encouraging such voices will only strengthen SIEF and its disciplines. Further, as a folklorist and ethnologist from the Scottish schools of those disciplines, and as someone deeply involved with other societies such as The Folklore Society, if elected I would look forward to facilitating cross-society and cross-disciplinary discussion and exchange within Europe and beyond. Finally, following on work as a member of the Aberdeen Congress’s scientific and local committees, I would hope to encourage continued collaborations with scholars and practitioners who represent non-western epistemologies.’*

### **Otilia Hedeşan (first term)**

Otilia Hedeşan is professor of Romanian Civilization and Culture at the West University of Timișoara (Romania). She also teaches courses of ethnology and mythology at the University of Bucharest and Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca.

In 2015 she created and, since then, she has coordinated the RHeA (Research Center for Heritage and Anthropology) research center, as a space of inter- and multidisciplinary interaction of young scholars, PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers. She is also, since 2014, the president of the Romanian Association of Ethnological Sciences (ASER).

Otilia Hedeşan attended the courses of the Faculty of Letters, studying Classical Languages, at the West University of Timișoara. Her PhD thesis on the storytelling phenomenon today, was defended in 1996 at the same university. She studied folklore and popular mythology, storytelling and narrative genres and had published books and articles on these topics in Romania and abroad.

Currently, her main areas of interest also include everyday life in multi-ethnic, cross-border communities. She is equally interested in the history of Romanian ethnology in European context, in this framework, being preoccupied by the status of folklore archives in Romania (in particular those situated in the cross-border Banat region). She co-authored the collective volumes on East-European ethnologies during the communist period.

Otilia Hedeşan studied in Romania and started doing field research in this country. In more recent years, she has extended, carried out and coordinated the teams of field researchers in other Eastern European countries, such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine.

*What I respect in SIEF is the professional solidarity of its members and staff and its capacity to reflect together on topics which are generally very new or underappreciated.*

*My personal experience makes me feel especially close to the French-speaking working group, with whom I organized, in 2024, the Fourth Conference at the West University of Timișoara.*

### **Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch (first term)**

Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch is a folklorist and an archivist. I hold a degree in Folkloristics and attained the Title of Docent (Adjunct Professor/ Habilitation) at Åbo Akademi University in Turku, Finland. During my student years, I was a visiting scholar at the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh (MA-level) and at the National Centre for English Cultural Tradition, University of Sheffield, (PhD-level). In 2017, I served as guest professor (DAAD) at the Institute for Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology at the University of Göttingen. I enjoy working collaboratively and across national borders, such as being part of the editorial team of *Arv. Nordic Yearbook of Folklore* and a foreign working member of The Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish Folk Culture.

I work as an archivist specializing in tradition material at the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland. For me, being an archivist is a way of combining my love for historical sources with contemporary ethnography, and I am devoted to facilitating students and young researchers in discovering the archives. My research has largely focused on different types of mobility, from migration to everyday patterns of movement. I have taught and published on walking as experience, expression and ethnographic method, and am a steering group member of the collaborative network *One by Walking*. *I joined SIEF at the conference in Derry (2008) and have been an active member since. I am part of the WG on Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis and currently serve as a board member of the WG on Archives. The WG's are among SIEF's many assets. For me personally, the WG on Archives has not only inspired me to become better archivist but also enriched my life with an international network of wonderful colleagues, as has SIEF at large. In a time of multicrisis and global upheaval, I am certainly not alone in considering SIEF to be more important than ever. Continuously fascinated by walking practices, I have often reflected over what a powerful means of expression walking is when it is performed as a collective movement forward – a traditional folk expression if any! Within our fields, SIEF offers a distinct platform for moving forward together through transborder collaboration, showing and receiving collegial support, meeting and sharing scholarship.*

### **Saša Poljak Istenič (first term)**

Saša Poljak Istenič is a Research Associate at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), where she works at the Institute of Slovenian Ethnology. She obtained her PhD in Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology from the



University of Ljubljana in 2012 and has since actively contributed to various scholarly, editorial, and professional bodies. She is a member of the National Commission for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Slovenian Ministry of Culture and Vice-President of the Expert Committee of the Slovene Ethnographic Museum. She is also a long-standing member of SIEF, EASA, and the Slovene Ethnological Society, highly valuing the networking and scholarly debate opportunities these associations provide. Her academic interests lie at the intersections of everyday life, cultural heritage, urban futures, and climate change. She has successfully secured project funding from the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS), CHANSE HERA, Horizon Europe, and other transnational programs. Her recent projects focus on climate neutrality policies in Ljubljana, perceptions of crisis along the Slovenian-Italian border, and handicrafts as means to develop tourism in remote rural areas.

She serves as Vice-Dean of the Postgraduate School ZRC SAZU in Ljubljana and has extensive teaching experience, delivering lectures and seminars on heritage and tourism, gastronomy, and placemaking at the University of Maribor (Slovenia) and the University of Klagenfurt (Austria). She has also engaged in informal education, leading study circles and children's workshops on cultural heritage. Through creative workshops employing lateral thinking methods, she encourages students to critically engage with urban futures.

She is the editor of *Glasnik Slovenskega etnološkega društva* (*Bulletin of the Slovene Ethnological Society*) and a founding editor of the professional ethnological blog *Vsakdanjik: Etnološki zapisi* (*Everyday Life: Ethnological Notes*). She also serves on editorial boards for academic series dedicated to ethnological doctoral dissertations and has been a guest co-editor for special issues in Slovenian and Croatian journals.

*The first SIEF conference I attended was in Marseille in 2003 when I was a fresh doctoral student. Although initially somewhat overwhelmed by the academic presentations and discussions, I was inspired by the large community of people who shared my passion, treated distinguished scholars and new students alike, and engaged equally enthusiastically in both scholarly debates and social interactions. With each subsequent conference, I felt increasingly at home, and today, these events represent opportunities I strive not to miss, as they allow me to reconnect with friends and colleagues from diverse national and professional backgrounds and foster scholarly cooperation.*

*If elected to the SIEF board, I would advocate for the association as an exceptional platform for transnational, transdisciplinary, and transgenerational cooperation. My goals would include enhancing engagement among students and early-career researchers within the association's working groups and activities and encouraging their active promotion among peers. Furthermore, I aim to motivate old and new members to fully leverage the opportunities offered through society's membership. Additionally, I am*

*committed to fostering collaborations focusing on futures and environmental research, aligning SIEF's activities with current pressing social and ecological challenges.*

### **Kinga Povedák (first term)**

Kinga Povedák is Associate Professor at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Szeged, Hungary. She is the convenor for the Choreomundus Program which is an International Erasmus Mundus MA in Dance Knowledge, Practice, and Heritage; and the principal investigator of the research project, "Trauma and Creativity: Roma Religious Musicking in Hungary."

Kinga is trained as a European Ethnologist and she earned her PhD at the University of Szeged in 2016 with a thesis that traced the trajectory of Christian popular music in Hungary from its underground emergence under socialism to its recent revival; her focus was on vernacular Catholicism and the entanglement of musicking with political surveillance, institutional ambivalence, and grassroots spirituality.

After completing her PhD she joined the *Creative Agency and Religious Minorities: 'Hidden Galleries' in the Secret Police Archives in Central and Eastern Europe* ERC project at the University College Cork, Ireland. In the framework of this project Kinga explored the experiences, lived faith and creative resilience of religious minorities in Hungary through the lens of secret police archives.

Her academic work continues to focus on the intersections of musicking, soundscapes, and vernacular religious practices. Her current research explores Romani religious culture, with particular attention to how music functions as a core modality of ritual expression, emotional engagement, and the construction of communal religious identity within worship contexts.

Kinga is internationally active as a member of SIEF, EASR, ICTMD, ESEM and the Gypsy Lore Society. Besides organizing conferences and congress panels, she serves on the board of the SIEF Ethnology of Religion Working Group and is part of the organizing committee for the biannual Christian Congregational Music Conference at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford. She was a guest researcher at the Ohio State University (2014-2015), received a long-term fellowship from the Slovakian Academy of Sciences (2024), and has delivered invited public lectures at institutions including the University of Oregon, Cabrini University, Charles University in Prague, the University of Erfurt, the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, and the Slovakian Academy of Sciences.

*My first SIEF experience was in September 1999 in Szeged, at the third symposium of the Ethnology of Religion Working Group. The theme was Politics and Folk Religion, and I had the chance to listen to inspiring presentations by exceptional scholars such as Marion Bowman and the late Leonard Norman Primiano. Although I was still an undergraduate student at the time, the symposium made a deep and lasting impression on me. Who would have thought back then that one day I would serve on the board of the SIEF Ethnology of Religion Working Group myself or be nominated to the SIEF Board?*

*It is a great honour to be nominated for the SIEF board. Above all, I am committed to working towards ensuring that knowledge production and transfer do not disadvantage scholars and institutions in Eastern Europe.*

*As a researcher based in Central and Eastern Europe, I am deeply aware that—barring a few more fortunate exceptions—our region has long suffered from chronic underfunding in the social sciences. This has shaped the professional lives of generations of scholars, limiting opportunities for many with immense potential. While SIEF cannot directly offer financial assistance, I see it as both a responsibility and a personal commitment to support the inclusion of colleagues from economically disadvantaged regions and to advocate for creative, sustainable ways to foster their integration into international scholarly networks.*

*Since my undergraduate years, I have followed the work of SIEF with admiration, witnessing its evolution over more than two decades. This period has seen a flourishing of new approaches that have significantly expanded and enriched our field. At the same time, I have become increasingly aware that certain once-central areas of research and their practitioners seem to have grown distant from this organization. I believe strongly that SIEF's strength lies in its diversity, and I am committed to creating space where researchers working within "classical" folkloristic traditions also feel fully recognized, valued, and at home.*

*It is my hope to help cultivate an academic environment within SIEF that not only reflects the richness of our field's past and present but also empowers all researchers to contribute meaningfully to its future.*

### **Daniela Salvucci (second term)**

Daniela Salvucci is a researcher and a lecturer at the Faculty of Education, Free University Bozen/Bolzano (unibz), South Tyrol, Italy. She obtained a PhD in *Anthropology, Ethnology, Cultural Studies* at Siena University. She did post-doctoral research at Catamarca University in Argentina, and was a Fulbright research scholar at Yale University.

Daniela is currently working on mountain studies, exploring comparative perspectives and connections among anthropology, ethnology, and folklore in the history of the Alpine sociocultural scholarship. Within this framework, she is carrying out both archival and ethnographic research on the history of the Malinowski family in South Tyrol and the local family stories and memories. At unibz, she collaborates with the MFEA-Malinowski Forum for Ethnography and Anthropology and the Platform Cultural Heritage Cultural Production. On behalf of the latter, she organized the international conference *Playing and displaying: Practices of cultural heritage as cultural production* in 2019. Daniela is also involved in the interdisciplinary *deep map lab* project, based on community participative research. Daniela has carried out ethnographic fieldwork in Italy and Argentina, especially in the Andean region, studying kinship, family, and gender issues,

focusing on everyday practices, narratives, mobility and migration, rituals, and festivals in both rural and urban settings. Since 2017, she has been the co-convenor of the permanent panel *Festivals in Latin America: customs, cultural heritage, models of space management* at the annual international congress of Americanistic in Perugia.

*Having been trained within the Italian frame of demo-ethno-anthropological studies, I highly appreciate the diversity of approaches, the complexity, and the fruitful convergences that SIEF has been promoting as an open space for discussion and encounter. If elected, I would be honored to continue collaborating with the colleagues of the SIEF Board contributing to SIEF collective endeavor toward knowledge co-production, scientific cooperation, communication, and public engagement. Based at Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, in a region historically marked by cultural conflicts, but also by stimulating interchanges and entanglements, I value environments where both differences and convergencies can emerge. I think of SIEF as one of them: a junction among anthropology, ethnology, and folklore studies, a meeting point between East and West, South and North, also extending beyond Europe.*