

Minutes of the General Assembly 2023
of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF),
Friday, 9 June 2021, 17:15–18:00
B2.13, Faculty of Philosophy, Masaryk Uni, Arne Novaka 1.

Members present: 92 (of which 9 remote)

1. Opening

President Marie Sandberg welcomes the members at the General Assembly.

2. Appointment of acting chair and secretary of the meeting

Bernhard Tschofen is the acting chair, Sophie Elpers is the secretary.

3. Approval of the agenda

Approved without changes

4. Approval of the minutes of SIEF's General Assembly of Wednesday, 23 June 2021

Approved without changes

5. Report of President on the activities of SIEF in the last two years

1. War in Ukraine

- As an international community of scholars in ethnology and folklore, SIEF stands in solidarity with Ukraine.
- SIEF published a statement against the war and in support of academic colleagues in Ukraine on 26 February 2022.
- SIEF reached out to members based in Ukraine with an online resource containing information on relevant scholarships and further contact details.
- The war also led to further communication with SIEF's sister organizations AFS and EASA, as well as WCAA. The American Folklore Society (AFS) presented the initiative to provide free unlimited cloud space on a secure drive for the research data of Ukrainian scholars and research institutions. SIEF strongly supported this initiative. WCAA organized a joint meeting with SIEF, EASA and various other related associations. With the co-sponsorship of SIEF, EASA hosted a webinar on 7 June 2022, on Humanitarian Responses to the 2022 Russian War on Ukraine: Anthropological Perspectives.

2. Culture in Dialogue Seminars

- SIEF supports free and open communication across borders, boundaries and disciplines.
- The SIEF Board introduced the Culture in Dialogue seminars, a series of occasional online seminars designed to encourage, initiate, and develop communication between East and West. The first seminar was held online on 14 July with Stef Jansen, University of Sarajevo, and more seminars will follow, co-organized by Tom McKean.

3. Membership of Scholars at Risk (SAR)
 - The executive Board of SIEF has decided to sign up for a membership of the association Scholars at Risk (SAR), which provides support by matching scholars living under threat with relevant research institutions.
4. SIEF2021
 - Marie Sandberg thanks the Helsinki team for organizing and hosting the very successful online SIEF2021 conference in June 2021.
 - With an impressive number of over 1,100 delegates, the conference provided a much-needed injection of academic stimuli.
5. SIEF Summer Schools
 - In July 2022, the SIEF Summer School was successfully held in Warsaw, Poland, brilliantly organized by Ewa Klekot and colleagues. The theme was Warsaw's urban heritage with a special focus on the Praga district, and approximately 15–20 postgraduates and graduate-level students participated.
 - The Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Zagreb, will host the SIEF Summer School in September 2024, led by Nevena Škrbić Alempijević and colleagues.
6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI)
 - One of the new missions of the current SIEF Board is to raise awareness on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) and to promote the SIEF community as a welcoming space for underrepresented and racialized scholarly communities and researchers. This entails that DEI has now become part of the overall mission statement of SIEF.
 - While SIEF already promotes diversity on a number of levels, SIEF will look back through the disciplinary histories and critically revisit the role European ethnology and folklore studies have had as knowledge producers in the past. SIEF has just announced a call for a first online workshop on these issues, which will be presented under agenda item 7.
7. New Working Group
 - Welcome to the new Working Group on Feminist Approaches to Ethnology and Folklore, chaired by JoAnn Conrad and Dagrún Ósk Jónsdóttir. This working group will bring much needed perspectives and discussions to the SIEF community.
8. Working Group Funding
 - The first biennial call for SIEF Working Groups to apply for financial support for their activities has been finalized. SIEF greatly appreciates the high level of activity among the Working Groups, which are fundamental to the Society.
9. Letter of Concern regarding the Professorship of European Ethnology at the University of Turku, Finland
 - SIEF's role is to contribute to the safeguarding of our disciplines. When SIEF received the news that the University of Turku had proposed to combine the

professorship of European Ethnology and Folklore Studies, SIEF wrote a letter of concern to the university leadership.

10. SIEF2023

- Marie Sandberg concludes her report by thanking the hosts of SIEF2023 in Brno: The Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Department of European Ethnology of the Faculty of Arts at Masaryk University, and the National Institute of Folk Culture and the Local Scientific Committee, led by Jiří Woitsch, who together with the Scientific Committee and the SIEF Board have all been working very hard to put together a rich program on Living Uncertainties.
- She also thanks NomadIT, Triinu Mets, Rohan Jackson and their team, for their great support.

6. Report of Executive Vice President on finances, statement of Audit Commission

Sophie Elpers presented an overview of the financial balance for 2021 and 2022.

After a decrease of €4,000 in the reserves in the last financial period (2019-2020), the reserves have increased by €24,000 (adjusted for an advance payment) in 2021 and 2022.

The increase in reserves will allow SIEF to provide more support to working groups, summer schools and congress delegates. Half of this increase has been spent on supporting SIEF2023 Congress delegates: €12,000.

SIEF moved from PayPal to Stripe to reduce card commission costs.

The SIEF Audit Committee, consisting of elected members Anders Gustavsson and Ingrid Slavec Gradišnik, has audited the accounts. Bernhard Tschofen reads the Commission's report to the GA and their proposal to discharge the Board of its financial responsibilities. The GA discharged the board.

Johannes Müske will be a new member of the audit commission.

7. Call from the SIEF Board task force on 'Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in European Ethnology and Folklore Studies' (DEI): Workshop 'The 'Dark Histories' of European Ethnologies and Folklore Studies'

Dani Schrire takes the floor in the name of the organizing team of the workshop (Čarna Brković, Dani Schrire (SIEF board members, DEI taskforce), Konrad Kuhn (Co-chair, SIEF-Working Group Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis, Hanna Snellmann (former SIEF board member) and Marie Sandberg (SIEF president, DEI taskforce)). He announces that the workshop will focus on the problematic roles and responsibilities of European ethnologies and folklore studies in the past. It will take place on 22 September 2023. Schrire encourages colleagues to send in expressions of interest for contributions.

8. Election of SIEF's Executive Board

The following candidates are up for election:

Presidency:

Marie Sandberg (President, second term)

Tom McKean (Vice President, second term)

Sophie Elpers (Executive Vice President, fifth term, can serve for more than two terms in the same position (Bylaws SIEF, Article 11))

Executive Board members:

Hande Birkalan-Gedik (first term)

Čarna Brković (second term)

Evangelos Karamanes (second term)

Daniela Salvucci (first term)

Dani Schrire (second term)

Irina Stahl (second term)

Jiří Woitsch (second term)

The list answers to article 11 in the Bylaws: The Executive Board should represent different regions of Europe as well as different schools and traditions of ethnology and folklore. At least one of the members should be on the Board or presidency of one of SIEF's Working Groups.

First vote on the mode of the election: the approval of the entire list.

Results: 1 abstention, rest in favor

Second vote on the list.

Results: all in favor

9. Any other business

None

10. SIEF2025

Adrian Stoicescu from the Department of Cultural Studies, University of Bucharest, invites all SIEF members to come to Bucharest in 2025.

11. Closure