

**Agenda of the General Assembly
of the International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF)
Santiago de Compostela, Tuesday 16 April 2019, 18:30**

members present: 130

1. Opening

President Nevena Škrbić Alempijević welcomes the members at the General Assembly.

2. Appointment of acting chair and secretary of the meeting

Tine Damsholt is the acting chair, Sophie Elpers is the secretary.

3. Approval of the agenda

Approved.

4. Approval of the minutes of SIEF's General Assembly of 28 March 2017 in Göttingen

Approved without changes.

5. Report Nevena Škrbić Alempijević on the activities of SIEF in the last two years

Nevena Škrbić Alempijević presents the activities of SIEF. She focusses on several main points:

Publications:

- A special issue of the *Zeitschrift für Volkskunde*, published by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Volkskunde, contains papers from the Göttingen congress that highlight different aspects of the theme of dwelling.
- The next SIEF special issue on this year's congress theme will be issued by the influential Spanish journal *Disparidades. Revista de Antropología*.
- Both SIEF journals, *Ethnologia Europaea* and *Cultural Analysis*, were published regularly, with two volumes per year.
- *Ethnologia Europaea* has turned into a fully open access journal. The publisher is Open Library of Humanities. SIEF supports the open access policy and embraces the idea that scholars, academic institutions and professional associations all benefit from a swift communication of research results and accessibility of our texts.

Working Groups:

- The period between the congresses was marked by conferences, workshops and scholarly meetings of SIEF's Working Groups. Some of those activities are presented in this congress poster session.
- Nevena Škrbić Alempijević encourages the representatives and members of working groups to keep up the good work, but also to remain inclusive and open to new members, as a way to revitalize and get fresh insights.

Young Scholars:

- The SIEF Summer School 2018 was hosted by the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen. It brought together PhD students and lecturers for nine days of fieldwork encounters and discussions on how to give voice to local communities.
- The Summer School 2020 will take place in Siena, Italy, and will be organized by Fabio Mugnaini.
- Following the initiative of the Young Scholars Working Group, SIEF2019 offers a Mentorship Programme, in which mentees and mentors are brought together.

Visual communication:

- The third season of the “Ethnological Sensations” film series was produced and placed on the website.
- A new documentary that offers various answers to the question “What do ethnologists do?” was published on the website.
- SIEF wants to try to give voice to the working groups by making short films about them, with the intention of popularizing their approaches, subfields and projects.
- SIEF wants to highlight the different areas and diverse modes in which ethnological and folklorist knowledge and skills can be applied. For that objective a new film series will be introduced under the working title “Ethnological Matterings”.

Higher education:

- The interactive map of university departments and programmes in E&F is updated. Nevena Škrbić Alempijević thanks all the national contacts who were working diligently to provide SIEF with an overview of the current state of the art in higher education.

UNESCO:

- In December 2017, SIEF has again obtained the status of one of UNESCO’s non-governmental organizations, owing to a great extent to the engagement of the Cultural Heritage and Property Working Group representatives.

Sister organizations:

- SIEF fosters collaboration with its sister associations, the American Folklore Society (AFS) and the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA). Nevena Škrbić Alempijević is very pleased that AFS president Dorothy Noyes participates in SIEF2019, as one of the keynotes at the closing event.
- In 2018 there were several occasions to participate in AFS and EASA conferences and to promote a SIEF presence there, through panels, book exhibits and public presentations.

Engagement with issues affecting the status of E&F or colleagues in various academic contexts:

- SIEF has circulated information sent by colleagues from Hungary about the control mechanisms in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
- Together with EASA and WCAA, SIEF wrote to the Portuguese Science Secretary of State regarding the negative effects of the implementation of the Frascati manual in Portugal.
- SIEF has protested against the new list of academic disciplines issued by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, where ethnology has been officially denied the status of academic discipline.

6. Finances

Sophie Elpers presents an overview of the financial balance of the years 2017 and 2018. The growth in reserve was €18.931. Most of the membership fees go towards the EE journal.

No questions from the GA about the accounts.

SIEF’s audit commission, consisting of elected members Anders Gustavsson from Norway and Ingrid Slavec Gradišnik from Slovenia, has checked the accounts and presents the audit commission’s report to the GA. The balance is approved by the commission. The commission proposes to discharge the board of its financial duties. The GA discharges the board.

7. Summer Schools 2018 and 2020

The Summer School 2018, “Giving Voice? Facilitating Social and Community Resilience”, was organized by Thomas McKean (Elphinstone Institute, Aberdeen) and took place in Portsoy, Schotland. After an introduction by Thomas McKean three participants of the Summer School, Nataliya

Bezborodova, Ceit McCullagh, Claire Needler, talk about their great and immersive experiences of 'doing' ethnology.

Fabio Mugnaini presents the SIEF Summer School 2020, 'Heritage, Tradition, Identity. A Case Study of the Palio di Siena', that will take place in Siena, from 24 June to 3 July 2020. It will be hosted by the University of Siena and the University of Perugia.

8. SIEF2019 Mentorship Program Young Scholars

Nada Kujundzic from the Young Scholars Working Group reflects on the Mentorship Program of SIEF2019. The integration of early career researchers in the community of SIEF is highly relevant for both young scholars and SIEF. The Mentorship Program brings together early-career researchers (mentees) and experienced scholars (mentors). It has received a lot of positive responses: around 60 mentees and 30 mentors participate in the program.

9. SIEF Statement on Data Management in Ethnology and Folklore

Bernhard Tschofen presents the statement

(https://www.siefhome.org/downloads/publications/statements/SIEF_Statement%20Data%20Management.pdf). As addition to more general positions, SIEF's statement addresses the specific aspects of the subjects represented by SIEF. It concerns open and reflexive research processes. The statement can be used to complement data management plans with applications for grants. The Board hopes that the statement meets the demands of the GA. Feedback is very welcome (sief@meertens.knaw.nl).

10. Applications procedure for hosting congresses

The Board of SIEF wants to make the procedure of applying to host a SIEF congress more transparent and has published (website and Newsletter) guidelines that describe the procedure in detail:

https://www.siefhome.org/downloads/How_to_apply_to_host_a_SIEF_congress.pdf

Nevena Škrbić Alempijević tells shortly about her experiences as co-convenor of the Zagreb conference and emphasizes how Ethnology in Zagreb could benefit significantly from the congress – the relevance of the discipline was made visible and new positions could be created.

11. Election of SIEF's Executive Board

Two elections:

- a. Nevena Škrbić Alempijević (President), Sophie Elpers (Executive Vice President), Bernhard Tschofen (Vice President), Rob Howard, Cyril Isnart, Ewa Klekot, Thomas McKean, Fabio Mugnaini, Marie Sandberg are re-elected by a show of hands (majority of votes). They will start their second and last term, except the Executive Vice President (third term) who can serve for more than two terms in the same position (Bylaws SIEF, Article 11)
- b. Hanna Snellman (first term) is elected by a show of hands (majority of votes).

12. Any other business

Ethnologia Europaea: EE is now fully open access. The new publisher is the Open Library of Humanities, and the new homepage is <https://ee.openlibhums.org>. It has been a long process to turn EE into an open access journal without being dependent from an author-pay-model. Five peer reviews were necessary to be able to publish with OLH. In the future the past issues of EE will also be available on the website.

13. Presentation SIEF2021

Hanna Snellman invites SIEF to come to Helsinki for the next congress. The congress will be hosted by the University of Helsinki. The Local Committee has also representatives from the University of Eastern Finland, University of Turku, Abo Akademi University, University of Jyväskylä and University of Oulu. In addition, the planning has been done in collaboration with several Finnish learned societies and heritage institutions: Seurasaari Foundation, Kalevalaseura Society, the Finnish Association for Ethnology Ethnos, the Finnish Anthropological Association and Finnish Heritage Agency. Hanna Snellman shows a short film about the University of Helsinki and the city of Helsinki.

14. Closure

The chair thanks the local team, the volunteers and NomadIT for the good cooperation and the members for their attendance.