Digital Ethnology and Folklore (DEF) Working Group Meeting (SIEF 2021 - Helsinki)

Send minutes to SIEF's secretariat (sief@meertens.knaw.nl)

1. Preamble
   a. Greet attendees
      i. Wait about 5 minutes before bringing things to order, ask if anybody has business to add or address later in the meeting or upcoming events to promote
         1. Add requests to schedule (with names)
   b. Call meeting to order
   c. Outline of meeting
      i. Introductions
      ii. DEF at SIEF 2021 and current initiatives
      iii. Election of New Leadership
      iv. Discussion of future plans
2. Introductions
   a. Introduction to the working group
      i. Founded in 2015 (Zagreb)
      ii. Dedicated to thinking about the role of technology and media (especially the Internet) on the people and material we research as well as on our own research methods.
         1. What happens when offline folklore goes online?
         2. What new forms of folklore are emerging online?
         3. How does online communication affect even offline forms of folklore?
      iii. Fairly young working group, looking at ways to expand our membership and engage in outreach, so thank you all for joining us today.
         1. We have a Facebook group if you want to follow us
            a. Used sparingly, we promise we won't inundate you with messages
   b. Introductions from the board
      i. Andrew Peck, Co-Chair
         1. Affiliation: Miami University, US
         2. Research: Contemporary Legends, Humor and Memes, Fake News
      ii. Fatma Sagir, Co-Chair (not present; unexpected conflict)
      iii. Ines Matres, Secretary
         1. European ethnology, University of Helsinki, Finland
         2. PhD student, interest in digital cultural heritage, education

   iv. Christoph Bareither, Board (not present; on leave)

   v. Robert Glenn Howard, Board

     1. University Wisconsin, US

     2. rghoward2@wisc.edu

     3. Research: authority in social media; vernacular vs institutional authority; digital ethnography, discourse analysis

   vi. Liisi Laineste, Board

     1. University of Tartu / Estonian Literary Museum, Estonia

     2. Research: Folklore and ethnic humor, contemporary uses and developments in humor through digital communication.

   vii. Christian Ritter, Board

     1. University Tallinn, Estonia and Erasmus Rotterdam, Netherlands

     2. Media innovation, digital culture, located media, tourism and travelling media

c. Introductions from Attendees

  i. Go around the room: tell us a little bit about who you are and your interest in Digital Ethnology and Folklore

    1. Coppélie Cocq (Co-founder of the group)

     a. University Helsinki, FI / Umea University, Sweden

     b. Sami studies, DH, digital ethnography and ethics, and ethics of digitalisation of society

    2. Theo Meder

     a. Merteens Instituut Amsterdam, University of Groningen, Netherlands (theo.meder@meertens.knaw.nl)

     b. SIEF Archives WG member, digital folklore, and folklore archives, Isebel.eu database (intelligence search engine for belief legends, NL, DK, DE)

    3. Tsafi Sebba Elran

     a. Literature dpt. University of Haifa, Israel

     b. Research on humor, internet memes

    4. Simon Gall

     a. Elphinstone Institute, University Aberdeen, Scotland

     b. Digital Ethnography and Folklore, affect, emotion.

  ii. DEF at SIEF 2021

d. 2 panels pre-organized by the board; 2 additional panels

  i. Board was worried there would be fewer papers this year, but we matched last SIEF for # of panels

  ii. Shows ongoing interest in working group

e. Promote Panels

i. Digi01: Reconsidering the rules of ethnographical and oral history research in times of global crises and digital
    1. Description: Challenges of doing ethnographic and oral history research during times of disruption when face-to-face isn't possible or practical. Dealing with challenges of the last year BUT ALSO dealing with potential disruptions going forward.
    2. Panel Sessions: Monday 21 June, 14:00-15:45; 16:15-18:00 (UTC+3)
    3. Convenors: Anne Heimo (University of Turku); Marija Dalbello (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey)
ii. (Board) Digi02: Digital transgressions in a time of virtual lockdown [SIEF Working Group on Digital Ethnology and Folklore
    1. Description: Conspiracies and disinformation on digital media
    2. Panel Session: Thursday 24 June, 14:00-15:45 (UTC+3)
    3. Convenors: Andrew Peck (Miami University); Robert Glenn Howard (UW-Madison)
iii. (Board) Digi03:Internet memes as cultural agents during the outbreak of the coronavirus crisis
    1. Description: Internet Memes and Digital Humor in dealing with COVID-19
    2. Panel Sessions: Wednesday 23 June, 10:00-11:45; 14:00-15:45 (UTC+3)
        a. Workshop Session: Thursday 24 June, 10:00-11:45 (UTC+3)
    3. Convenors: Tsafi Sebba-Elran (Haifa University); Liisi Laineste (Estonian Literary Museum); Christian Ritter (Tallinn University)
iv. Digi04: Opening-up memory making: inquiries into memory modalities in digital media ecologies
    1. Description: How digital media creates spaces for alternative narratives that problematize hegemonic knowledge and foster more socially inclusive spaces for the articulation of public memory by marginalized groups
    2. Panel Sessions: Tuesday 22 June, 14:00-15:45; 16:15-18:00 (UTC+3)
    3. Convenors: Gertraud Koch (Universität Hamburg); Samantha Lutz (University of Hamburg); Isto Huvila (Uppsala University); Maria Economou (University of Glasgow)
v. Heri06: (thematic overlap) Aftermaths and Futures of participatory culture in cultural heritage and museum sector

1. Description: examines participatory and collaborative cultural heritage in retrospective. It explores the aftermath of the participative turn in terms of communities, digitalities and institutions. How has it or should it break the rules of established cultural heritage practices?
            2. Sessions Thu 24th, 10:00-11:45 and 14:00-15:45 (UTC+3) Three papers focus on digital participation on the afternoon session.
      f. Other notes:
            i. No poster session this year
3. Elections
      a. Leadership Status
            i. Continuing: Andrew, Ines
            ii. Fatma stepping down after 4 years as co-Chair
      b. WHO IS INTERESTED IN BEING NEW CO-CHAIR?
            i. Expressions of interest: Coppélie
            ii. Previous experience in first years of the Working Group
            iii. VOTE via show of hands: all in favor.
      c. The Board
            i. Any board members retiring?
                  1. Fatma stepping down
            ii. All present board members will stay on the board (Andrew, Inés, Christoph, Robert, Christian, Liisi,Coppélie).
            iii. No new members.
4. Ongoing initiatives and planning for the future
      a. Inter-year meeting
            i. Most working groups hold smaller meetings (~30 people) in the years between SIEF meetings
            ii. 2020 meeting was in planning stages, but COVID interrupted
            iii. Liisi propones Tallinn, Literary museum Tallinn
            iv. Rob can act as liaison with SIEF board, as there should be some budget available for an interyear meeting / workshop /conference.
            v. Autumn will be a good time to start organising specific plans, Chairs will circulate a call for ideas and plans August/September
            vi. One day workshop, possibly virtual, to avoid COVID-19 uncertainties
      b. Promotion of DEF (and SIEF) at other conferences
            i. Ask Rob about AFS. Rob suggest, to use the new website, and post announcements on a key time.
      c. Topics of Interest for SIEF 2023
            i. Andrew brings "memes" forward, methods digital and digital archives.
            ii. Rob seconds memes and activism is also an active area

   iii. Circulate mailing list earlier on, not just at the deadline of call for SIEF panels. Asking members to make an effort to get people (possible convenors) informed and get panels/workshops organised.

  d. Any upcoming events, actions, or publications that the membership would like to promote or suggest?

  e. Coppélie, Digital Transformations: The Humanities in Challenging Times Free, online (www.umu.se/en/humlab/digital-transformations) November 16 - 17, 2021

5. Open Meeting to other business

  a. Clarify the main channel to promoting and communicating, email-list or facebook page? Majority prefers a working mainling-list over Facebook.

  b. The email list will be updated (Andrew), Coppélie will check the facebook page admin and ask another Board members (someone who is active on Facebook) to use it to post calls and news.

6. Adjourn

7. Minutes: Ines, Andrew