# Digital Ethnology and Folklore (DEF) Working Group Meeting (SIEF 2025 – Aberdeen)

June 5th, 2025

1. Preamble
	1. Greet attendees
	2. Call meeting to order
	3. Outline of meeting
		1. Introductions
		2. DEF at SIEF 2025 and current initiatives
		3. Election of New Leadership
		4. Discussion of future plans
2. Introduction to the working group

Founded in 2015 (Zagreb)

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.

* What happens when offline folklore goes online?
* What new forms of folklore are emerging online?
* How does online communication affect even offline forms of folklore?
* Methodological issues related to digital research

Always looking at ways to reach new members, so thank you all for joining us today.

Mailing list, subscribe at the SIEF website under WGs

1. Recent activities:
	1. DHNB 2025 in Tartu, Estonia
2. Introductions from the board
	1. Coppélie Cocq, Chair (participating online)
		1. Professor in Sámi Studies and Digital Humanities, University of Umeå
		2. Research: Digital ethnography, ethics, indigenous studies
	2. Liisi Laineste, Chair (participating online)
		1. University of Tartu / Estonian Literary Museum, Estonia
		2. Research: Folklore and ethnic humor, contemporary uses and developments in humor through digital communication.
	3. Katalin Vargha, Secretary
		1. HUN REN Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of Ethnology, Hungary
		ii. Research: short forms of folklore (including contemporary forms on the internet)
	4. Evelina Liliequist, Board member - present
	5. Robert Glenn Howard, Board - present
	6. Mabrouck Boutagouga, Board member - not present and has no updated email address
	7. Christoph Bareither, Board - not present but responded to the invitation
3. Round of introductions, attendees
	1. Ruth Dorothea Eggel, TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences, digital anthropology, embodied digital practices
	2. Hanna Kanz, University Freiburg, digital disconnections, blurring of online-offline spaces, machine learning
	3. Marion Naeser-Lather, University of Innsbruck, digital anthropology, AI and academic writing
	4. Tanel Torn, Tartu, Estonia, background in digital research, interest in instrumental folk music
	5. Mariya Ivancheva, University of Strathclyde, casualisation and digitalisation of academic labour
	6. Kristofer Hansson, Malmö University, digitalisation

6. DEF Panels at SIEF 2025

* 1. DIGI03 - Digital imaginaries, myths and narratives, chairs: Coppélie Cocq + Liisi Laineste (8 papers)
	2. METH06 - A power play between digital methods and data, chairs: Evelina Liliequist + Katalin Vargha (9 papers)
1. [Poster session: not this year]
2. Elections
	1. Leadership
		1. Stepping down: Coppélie Cocq and Liisi Laineste
	2. Board members retiring:
		1. Mabrouck Boutagouga
	3. Voting new leadership and new board members: Rob Howard (Co-Chair); Hannah Kanz (Co-Chair); Kristofer Hansson (Co-Chair); Liisi Laineste as board member, Coppélie Cocq as board member, Ruth Dorothea Eggel as board member
	4. **The board of DEF working group (2025-2027): Rob Howard, Hannah Kanz, Kristofer Hansson (Chairs)**, **Katalin Vargha (secretary), Coppélie Cocq, Liisi Laineste, Evelina Lilequist, Ruth Dorothea Eggel, Christoph Bareither**
3. Ongoing initiatives and planning for the future
	1. Inter-year meeting

Funding available through SIEF (up to 1000 euros)
No concrete plans were discussed at the meeting. Some suggestions were Zoom meetings, a writing retreat, and putting together a special issue. All members of the working groups are encouraged to contact the chairs and discuss ideas for organising a smaller event in 2026 (online / offline both options possible), or DEF panels at other conferences.

1. Training opportunities at the institutions of members:
	1. Humlab Umeå (Coppélie) diverse online/hybrid courses for PhD students (Digital Research, Open science and Data management)

<https://www.umu.se/en/humlab/education/postgraduate-studies/> )

* 1. University of Helsinki, Department of Digital humanities (Inés) – two workshops planned for the fall on tools for researchers using social media and web content; and on fields of application of LLMs for sensitive qualitative or social media data.
1. Open Meeting to other business
	1. Mailing list, self-subscription and unsuscription
	2. Board members to update any changes to their emails for the website to secretariat (sief@meertens.knaw.nl)
2. Adjourn

Minutes: Katalin