

# **Minutes**

## **SIEF Working Group Ethnology of Religion Meeting**

**(online via Whova conference App)**

**June 19, 2021**

### **1. Agenda**

The board presents the agenda of a. voting on a new chair, b. the location of the next meeting, c. the topic of the next meeting, d. introduction of present members. It is agreed upon. Secretary Thorsten Wettich writes the protocol.

### **2. Election of a new co-chair**

Anna Niedzwiedz is stepping down as a co-chair of the Working Group. Co-Chair Victoria Hegner thanks Anna Niedzwiedz for her work as a chair. The positions of co-chair (Victoria Hegner), secretary (Thorsten Wettich) and Board members (Peter Jan Margry, Clara Saraiva) remain in place.

Alessandro Testa is asked to introduce himself as a candidate for the co-chair: He has been a member of the WG group for 10 years. A. T. is ambitious to organize the next conference with Victoria Hegner. He has a background in history and social anthropology, edited a special volume of *Ethnologia Europea* and has worked on religiosity in the Central Eastern European Area. It is his ambition to avoid a Central-European-centric perspective in the future of the Working Group.

In the context of the election of the new board member, the structure of the board is being clarified. There are two co-chairs, one secretary and two more board members (compare above).

The vote is being taken by raise of hand. Alessandro Testa is elected co-chair unanimously. He accepts the vote and thanks the voters for their trust.

It is being noted that attendance in the working group meeting with some 22 participants is low due to the early hour of the meeting.

### **3. Location of the next meeting**

Victoria Hegner reminds the new members of the discussion on the last SIEF meeting in 2019 in Santiago de Compostela about holding the next WG-meeting in Jerusalem or Berlin. Victoria Hegner expresses her regret that the hosting of the conference in Jerusalem did not work out. Dani Schrire who would have been in charge of the local organization expresses his openness to host it another time. While some interest to host the next WG-conference in Jerusalem is being expressed and local host Dani Schrire finds it realistic to organize it. Still, there are some concerns for security and organizational reasons. Alessandro Testa proposes to put the location to vote. Peter Jan Margry reminds of the possibility to propose also further locations. Irina Stahl asks if the vote on the location is also connected to a program. Due to a lack of participants, it is being proposed not to vote on the location of the conference in 2024. Alessandro Testa proposes to do a doodle instead of the vote in the Working Group. Clara Saravia proposes to maybe have a vote on plan a and plan b, but to check six months before the conference. It is being decided to hold a consultation vote in the present meeting and make a decisive doodle afterwards. The consultation vote is 11 votes for Berlin, 2 for Jerusalem. In order to include members from overseas, a doodle will be made for general voting.

#### **4. Topic of the next meeting**

Victoria Hegner proposes the following topics for the forthcoming conference: 1. Religion and Utopia/Dystopia, 2. Religion and Social Movements, 3. Religion and Violence, 4. Religion and Ecology.

The chairs express their interest in the first topic. It is being proposed to work out the topics a little more. The board tries to open the floor to further discussion. As the board is in favor of “Religion and Utopia”, it is put in charge to write an abstract. Along with the doodle on the location, a short abstract will be worked out by the board. The convenor of the conference will have the responsibility to pen the main draft of the abstract, which will then be revised/discussed/endorsed by the board.

#### **5. Introduction**

Present members introduce their selves with their institutional affiliation and research topics:

1. Peter Jan Margry: Mertens Institute/University of Amsterdam, Religious cultures and Cultural Heritage
2. Irina Sedakova: Institute for Slavic Studies, Patriarchial Culture
3. Marina Jaciuk: Catholic University Eichstätt, Religion, Migration, Identity
4. Art Leete: University of Tartu, Indigenous Group in Western Siberia
5. Zuzana Bartova: Charles University Prague, Religion and Economy in Slovakia
6. Tobia Köllner: University Witten/Herdecke, Politics and Religion (Russian Orthodoxy)
7. Laszlo Koppány: European Union Project on Film and Media, New Religious Groups
8. Mare: Estonian Literary Museum, Mythology
9. Karolina Kouvola: University Helsinki,
10. Dani Schrire: Hebrew University, Imagination of the Holy Lands
11. Tenno Teidearu: University of Tartu, Material Religion, Commerce and Spirituality
12. Clara Saraiva: University of Lisboa, religion and ritual, and religion and heritage, West Africa and European contexts
13. Morgana Sythove: Utrecht, Pagan Studies, Interfaith Studies
14. Irina Stahl: Romanian Academy of Sciences Bukarest, Orthodox Folk Religion
15. Agatha Ładykowska: Anthropology of Eastern Christianity
16. Anders Gustavson: Folk Religion in Scandinavia, Charismatic New Movements
17. Istvan Povedak: University of Art and Design Budapest, Neo-Nationalism and Religious Movements in Hungary
18. Mircea Paduraru: Romania, Ethnology and Power, Material Religion
19. Anna Niedzwiecz: Krakow, Urban Anthropology, Religious Heritages
20. Thorsten Wettich: University Bremen, Religion, Migration, Identity
21. Victoria Hegner: Berlin, Spiritual Ecologies