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FEMINIST APPROACHES TO  
ETHNOLOGY AND FOLKLORE

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## LETTER TO MEMBERS

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Hello to all the members of the SIEF Working Group -- Feminist Approaches to Ethnology and Folklore, and welcome back as we start the new academic year.



We have a bit of news and catching up to do.

As many of you know, we've just concluded our 2nd interim meeting/workshop in Helsinki, and it was very productive. The event was hosted by the Kalevala Society, and by then co-chair Niina Hämäläinen, head of the Society. The workshop focused on our topic "Revisiting Embodiment" and included 4 working papers and 4 outside lectures all of which led to a vigorous discussion. We will carry this theme ahead to a proposed panel for SIEF 2027 in Bolzano, led by Antti Lindfors and Kim Lau. See our [website](#) for a report from the workshop.

Also, at the end of the workshop, we held our annual WG meeting (virtual and in-person) where we decided on the following:

Rozemarijn Van de Wal will step into the vacancy in the co-chair position created by Niina's departure, Reza Bayat has agreed to take on the Secretarial duties for the group, and is already in the process of taking on some of the tasks. Kelly Fitzgerald will be the co-chair for the 2028 workshop, which will be in Dublin.

In terms of our activities:

The bibliography is still alive, and waiting for your submissions! We've decided to halt the zoom discussions, and transform it into a less rigid "chat" format, which will not require reading in advance. Jennifer Schacker is heading this up – expect further developments in the next months.

We proposed 2 panel sessions for SIEF 2027 -- the aforementioned continuation of "Revisiting Embodiment" and a new one on the concept of

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"Women's Work" co-organized by JoAnn Conrad and Jennifer Schacker.  
Stay tuned for the panel descriptions on the conference website.

There were two reports on on-going activities:

1. Based on papers delivered by our WG in Aberdeen, we are putting together a special issue of the journal *Cultural Analysis* on the topic of "Feminist Un-writings" which we plan on being issued in time for the Aug. meeting in Bolzano.
2. There was also discussion of publishing articles that derive from papers delivered at a panel session sponsored by the WG FAEF at the ISFNR conference in Reykjavik in June 2026. This is in the preliminary stage. The topic, roughly is Ecofeminism, and we would welcome additional participants if you are working on related issues.

Finally, a word on our goal to collect a common base on knowledge on which to build. In our first meetings as we planned for the WG, most in attendance agreed that we often found our knowledge of feminist theory to be a rather ad hoc collection of material picked up here and there, and that almost none of us had been exposed to critical feminist readings in our classes in university. This, in combination with a general lack of networking across disciplinary and national lines had many of us frustrated. One of the ways we saw to address this was the formation of our WG online [Annotated Bibliography](#) and as time goes on, we hope that more of you contribute.

But we who have participated in all the annual meetings, workshops, and zoom discussions have in fact built our own core concepts that have evolved from readings and discussions. On the basis of this, we have posted a reading list on the WG website of the most critical texts we've worked with over the past (at least) 3 years, along with some newly introduced at the Helsinki workshop. You can find the list [here](#). We hope that members will follow up and familiarize themselves with these seminal works, as we want to build on the foundation we've already established going forward, and not tread water.

We look forward to your participation in the panels in Bolzano and continuing the good work of the WG in the future.

Best wishes,

JoAnn Conrad and Rozemarijn Van de Wal, Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Feminist Approaches to Ethnology and Folklore (FAEF)

