

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Helsinki 2026

Present: Niina, JoAnn, Kelly, Yuliia, Rebecca, Antti, Ulla, Kim, Gabriela, Jennifer, Dagrún, Zuzana

This year's annual general meeting of the Feminist Approaches to Folklore and Ethnology Working Group took place in Helsinki at the end of our interim meeting. We look back on a wonderful two-day workshop with great lectures and inspiring discussions that we will continue to build on in the next year. Please find below the minutes of the meeting.

JoAnn welcomes everyone after which we do a short round of introductions.

JoAnn explains that this AGM is very important for two reasons:

- The FAEF WG is very much in need of new board members as well as more involvement from members.
- We want to discuss our plans for the future and how these will be impacted if people don't get involved.

JoAnn reminds everyone of our annotated bibliography and ask that all members at the very least add their own work to the bibliography. More info the bibliography is available here: [Feminist Approaches to Ethnology and Folklore](#)

JoAnn tells us that recently another SIEF WG has started hosting discussion groups. We were the first SIEF WG to start such discussions (we called them zoom-meetings) and are excited that the idea is apparently catching on. However, we also found that our meetings weren't a success. Attendance was often low and people who did come often did not do the reading. IF we keep these zoom-discussions going, we require more involvement and commitment from our members.

We talk about this for a while and also discuss alternative formats, the idea of thematic café's comes up as well as the idea of inviting an author to facilitate a zoom-discussion (which is a format used by the Archives WG that works well). People also point out that committing to these meetings is difficult, mainly because of scheduling issues. Maybe we can host meetings during exam periods when teaching stops and workloads may be less heavy?

Decision: Jennifer volunteers to become involved with these zoom-discussions which we are very happy about! She is going to draw up a plan for the meetings to become more thematic café's. She will share her thoughts with the board and we will go from

there. Some themes that were mentioned: professionalisation; feminist approaches and their impact/relevant for curating exhibits, gendered labour at the university. More information as well as dates and times for these meetings will be shared in due time.

The newsletter is another task that falls to the board that is much appreciated, but also a lot of work. Especially because members do not send in any materials. No-one volunteered to take on this task. As it stands, without volunteers or a new secretary, we will not have newsletters.

Then it is time for elections:

Niina is leaving the board after the interim meeting. We thank her for her many years of involvement and especially all of her work organising our interim meeting in Helsinki. She will be missed but we hope she will continue her involvement with the WG as a member.

Niina's decision to leave creates a vacancy for co-chair and Rozemarijn will step into that role becoming co-chair of the WG together with JoAnn. JoAnn generously agreed to stay on for a bit longer and we also need a vote on that. Our members vote yes unanimously.

With Rozemarijn stepping into the role of co-chair, we need a new secretary to take over from Rozemarijn. So far we have received zero nominations or responses, despite several e-mails. This creates an urgent problem. Rozemarijn is willing to continue to the work of secretary until the end of 2026, if we haven't found a new secretary by then, the WG will not be able to continue. Which would be a great shame because we have many exciting plans – but these plans cannot be the work of just two people. Rozemarijn will send one more e-mail to all members urging them to consider stepping into the role of secretary and explaining what the consequences will be if no one is willing to do so.

Then we move on to the interim meeting of 2028. We are happy to report that Kelly has invited us to hold our interim meeting in: DUBLIN! We are very grateful and excited and hope to see many of our members there. More information about the theme will be disclosed in due time. The date will be some time late May / early June. We want to schedule in such a way as to allow people to also attend the Nordic Conference afterwards which will be in Oslo in 2028. As organizer of the interim meeting, Kelly will also become involved with the board as another co-chair specifically tasked with the interim meeting.

We then share our ideas for the SIEF conference in Bolzano in 2027. We make the following decisions;

- We will have one panel on embodiment to continue the conversations that have started this year during the interim meeting. Kim and our new member Antti will taken on the co-chairing for this panel – thank you both!
- We will have one panel on ‘Women’s Work’ which we expect to be a very productive topic. JoAnn will chair this panel together with Jennifer – thank you both!
- If anyone else has ideas for panels and wants to collaborate with the FAEF WG, we are of course interested to hear from you!

JoAnn then gives an overview of all of the activities that the FAEF WG has been involved with in the past year. We have had a productive year with an interim meeting, discussion meetings, two newsletters, a panel at ISFNR among others. JoAnn and Rozemarijn are also editing a special issue of Cultural Analysis building on the papers at SIEF 2026, scheduled to be published in 2027.

We end the meeting and thank everyone who attended!