

Notes from the Interim Meeting on August 25th 2024

Location: Hólmavík, Sheep farming Museum, also available on Zoom

Attendants: JoAnn Conrad (chair); Niina Hämäläinen (vice-chair); Dagrún Osk (secretary); Yuliia Andriichuk (board member); Rozemarijn van de Wal (board member); Kimberly Lau; Amy Skillman, Gabriela Fatková; Zuzana Terry; Norma Cantu; Kelly Fitzgerald; Kay Turner; Saskia Klose; Gerdur Halldóra Sigurdardóttir; Evlia Niebla, Merrill Caplan (online), Alice Bower (online), Natalia (online).

1. Report on activities since Brno

JoAnn welcomes everyone and starts with an introduction of everyone on the board and the changes that are going to happen on the board. Dagrún will leave the board after the Aberdeen SIEF conference, we thank her for all her work!

JoAnn gives an update on how the zoom-meetings have helped us prepare for the workshop. We have therefore decided as a board that we want to keep doing the zoom-meetings. The format will be discussed in more detail later during the meeting.

JoAnn reminds everyone that we have a facebook page and that we need more activity on there. Here is a link to the group: [Feminist Approaches to Ethnology and Folklore - SIEF WG | Facebook](#) We invite everyone to join the page!

JoAnn announces that Yuliia is a graphic designer and is going to make a logo for the group. We greatly appreciate this! All members are welcome to give input on that to Yuliia. They can send her an e-mail if they have ideas.

JoAnn reminds everyone of the bylaws we sent out to members following the format of SIEF (find at the bottom here). The bylaws were accepted by the meeting. The position of student liaison will be taken up by Yuliia.

Lastly, JoAnn reminds everyone that we have a bibliography that we want to be a collaborative effort; a platform to which people can add relevant literature and publications on feminist approaches.

2. Future of zoom-meetings

It was difficult to find a date and time that accommodates everyone and in the end we decided that the zoom meetings shall take place from 4-5 pm GMT on Fridays, once every two months. We decide on going with the second week of each month, starting on Friday 11 October.

Going forward: The work for hosting and organizing these zoom-meetings has largely fallen on the board and preparing for the meetings has been a lot of work for a few people. This cannot be carried by the board alone, we want this to be a more collaborative issue. So we want to elicit articles from the members and subjects/topics that they think are important to discuss. The idea is that the person who proposes an article, should also facilitate the discussion of the article. That way it can be more of a collaborative effort and we can have more discussion. We invite everyone who is a member of the WG to think about potential articles you want to discuss. This can be your own work but it can also be an article that you think is critical to our enterprise as a WG on feminist theory.

3. Plans for Aberdeen 3-6 June 2024

Since the meeting, the call for panels has been issued, you can find it here: [Call for panels - SIEF2025 \(siefhome.org\)](#)

Discussion on potential panels at SIEF in Aberdeen.

Potential panel 1: Theme of pedagogy. We have been thinking about the ways in which people come into contact with feminist material. Our idea is to establish a committee to give us data points, compose a survey that would solicit information about how you came about your knowledge on feminist approaches and feminist theory. We all have a sense that our approach has been ad hoc, and we want to know if that is a shared experience and make that concrete. So we need to have a committee to take this on, prepare a survey (not a yes/no survey, but open questions) and data from that could be incorporated into a panel in Aberdeen. Committee would need to be about three people, we invite all members to think about whether they are interested in taking part on this committee. We underline that the survey would really be about establishing a data point that we would then obviously need to move beyond. We might use the data for instance to start a conversation about pedagogy.

As SIEF promotes collaboration among Working Groups, JoAnn has been in contact with the new working group on pedagogy. The chair of the pedagogy group was enthusiastic about potentially collaborating on the topic of feminist approaches. Whether this needs to be a panel with paper presentations or more of a round table is something we can think about.

Potential panel 2: We have been talking about collaborating with the WG on Archives. Niina and Kelly will take this up and co-chair a panel.

Potential panel 3: Kay suggests that we need something that is more explicitly feminist. A panel that is really about feminist discourse in ethnology and folklore and what that work looks like. We talk about how we could use zoom-meetings on feminist theory to work

towards Aberdeen where we could then have a heavy theoretical panel. People could submit to these panels also if they are not part of the WG.

Another note for all panels: Feminist approaches should be in the title, also for the collaborations. Moreover, all panels need two different chairs and this also cannot be the work of the board alone. Therefore, we also welcome ideas about panels or chairs from our WG members. We underline how it is the responsibility of the WG to present panels and we really want growth and exposure.

4. Plans for interim meeting 2026

The board has decided that we want to have another workshop that is structured in a similar way to the one in Hólmavík. Friday afternoon with papers on theoretical concepts, working papers on Saturday, and potentially also on Sunday. We also decided that it is best if the board will host and Niina and Rozemarijn will examine possibilities in their countries and institutions. It will be on a weekend at the end of August 2026.

5. Closing remarks

General discussions on the role of the working group. We thank everyone for their participation in the meeting.



*From the interim meeting
at the Sheep farming
museum in Iceland.
Photographer: Yuliia
Andriichuk.*