

# Report on FAEF activities in 2025

2025 was a busy year for the WG on Feminist Approaches to Ethnology and Folklore. We had a strong presence at the bi-annual SIEF conference in Aberdeen, we set up new collaborations with other WG's and we continued our online reading club. Our membership grew, we had our very first WG newsletter and we began making plans for our interim meeting in 2026. Please find below a short report on all of our activities.

## Zoom-discussions on feminist scholarship

Since 2024, we have hosted zoom-reading sessions about feminist scholarship. Why? Despite its long history, feminist scholarship continues to be marginalized within academia. As a result, too often the knowledge that is produced within these texts is ignored, not taken seriously, or simply forgotten about. In an attempt to remedy this process of forgetting and ignoring, we hosts online reading sessions via zoom. Every two months our members come together to discuss an article that can in some way be considered seminal for the history, development or state of the art of feminist scholarship ranging from early work to recent publications. In April 2025 for instance, we had a discussion on the *Journal of American Folklore*'s special issue "Sexual Harassment and Legacy Forum" which included some of the issues editors and contributors.

For the year 2025-2026, the zoom-discussions will be tailored towards our workshop in August 2026 and focus on the theme of embodiment. (See below) We also continued to work on our [annotated bibliography](#) on feminist theory.

## Interim meeting 2024 "Woman" on the Edge

In March 2025, we followed up on our first interim meeting which took place in Holmavik in August 2024. We organised an online 6-month meeting in which some of our speakers presented reworked versions of their papers. We provided each other with feedback and had a good discussion about our work. Some of these papers have since been submitted for publication.

## SIEF Conference Aberdeen

This past June, the 2025 SIEF conference took place in Aberdeen, Scotland on the topical theme of Un-Writing. Our FAEF WG was very present at the event, sponsoring and co-sponsoring 3 separate panel sessions: "Un-writing through feminist approaches;" "Unwritten feminine education," co-sponsored with the Cultural Perspectives on Education and Learning WG; and "Unwritten female histories in the traditional archives," co-sponsored with the Archives WG. Our panel session "Un-writing through feminist approaches" also featured a roundtable in which we presented outcomes from all three panels followed by some good discussion. We are excited to announce that some of

the papers from these panels will appear in 2027 in a special issue of the SIEF-affiliated journal *Cultural Analysis*.

The conference and our panels resulted in a rise in WG membership. We welcomed around 25 new members in the weeks following the conference and our membership has continued to grow since.

During the AGM in Aberdeen, we further presented our updated website and our new logo (a group effort implemented by board member Yuliia Andriichuk). In November we also published our first official FAEF [newsletter](#).

## 2026 WG FAEF Workshop ‘Embodiment Revisited’ Helsinki, 13–15 August 2026

Early 2025, we also started making plans for our interim meeting in 2026. Our next interim workshop will take place from 13 – 15 August 2026 in Helsinki and focus on the theme of revisiting embodiment. Although embodiment has long been a central concern of feminist theory, we consider the topic as it intersects with feminist theory to be unfinished business. During this two-day workshop, we will revisit the concept and its uses for feminist theory. The workshop will be over two days, with opening lectures each morning and afternoon, followed by “break out” groups on a specific sub-topic. The [Call for Applications](#) was published in November 2025.

## Board members

JoAnn Conrad and Niina Hämäläinen stayed on as our chair and co-chair in 2025. Dagrún Ósk Jónsdóttir left the board during the AGM in 2025 and Rozemarijn van de Wal then took over her work as secretary. Yuliia Andriichuk stayed on as board member and technical advisor. Lastly, Colleen Deatherage joined the board during the AGM.