Meeting of the WG on Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis
15th SIEF congress in Helsinki, Saturday 19th June 2021 12:45-14:30 (online)

12 participants

Members (10)
Hande Birkalan-Gedik
Carna Brkovic
Anna Caroline Haubold
Katre Kikas
Konrad Kuhn
Olga Levitan
Susanne Österlund-Pötzsch
Burkhard Pöttler
Hanna Snellman
Jiří Woitsch

Guests (2)
Matilda Marshall
Arzu Ozturkmen

1. Welcome
Konrad welcomes the participants of the meeting and introduces himself, the co-chair Katre and the secretary Caroline. He proposes the following agenda for the meeting: (1) Welcome, (2) Introduction of members and guests, (3) Reports from the current chairs and secretary: Current issues, (4) Report from the Historical Anthropology Network meeting (with EASA), (5) (Re-)Election of the chairs and secretary, (6) Discussion and future plans, and (7) Closing. The agenda is approved by the participants of the meeting. Konrad leads the meeting.

2. Introduction of members and guests
All participants of the meeting introduce themselves.

3. Reports from the current chairs and secretary: Current issues
Members. The working group has now 60 members. Before SIEF2021 it consisted of 59 members. During the congress Matilda Marshall (matilda.marshall@oru.se) joined the working group. The member list can be found at https://www.siefhome.org/wg/haca/members.shtml.

Panel. The working group has organised one panel at SIEF2021: Konrad Kuhn, Hanna Snellman and Lauri Turpeinen: “The legacies of nationalistic ideologies: challenging the epistemological rules of ethnological knowledge production after 1945” (22nd June 14:00-15:45 and 16:15-18:00)

Special issue. Since SIEF2019 there was published a special issue of “Cultural Analysis” (2021, vol. 19.2) edited by Konrad Kuhn and Magdalena Puchberger. It is entitled “Tracking Knowledge: On the History of Changing Disciplinary Identities after 1945”. This issue collects revised and expanded contributions of a panel of the same name held at SIEF2019 in Santiago de Compostela and combines them with three texts responding to them. It is available at https://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~culturalanalysis/#current.
Meeting of the SIEF working group leaders. As this meeting took place only after the working group meeting, we could not share any news directly at the working group meeting, but provide them hereafter:

- The SIEF board encourages cooperation between the working groups and the board.
- There will be a funding programme for events of the working groups. For events organized in 2021-2023 there will be 5000€ in total available. A working group can apply for 250-1000€. The new board will decide on the application process (as easy as possible) and funding criteria.
- The SIEF board advises the working groups of taking students and young scholars into account when organizing an event that it is for the latter also affordable. Intergenerational exchange is encouraged.
- SIEF will continue to make videos about the working groups (filming at the SIEF2023) and the series “Ethnological Matterings”
- SIEF thinks of ways to extend the mentoring programme.

Working group meeting. A working group meeting had been planned for September 2020 in Innsbruck (Austria). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it had to be delayed. It shall take place in September 2022. We will inform the working group members about the exact date as soon as there is a final decision on it.

4. Report from the History of Anthropology Network meeting (with EASA)
Hande Birkalan-Gedik is both a member of SIEF and EASA and functions as a liaison representative of the working group “Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis” and the “History of Anthropology Network” (HOAN). Hande encourages more collaboration between those two as they do similar work. There is the idea of a joined mini conference.

5. (Re-)Election of the chairs and secretary
The current board of the working group was elected in 2019 in Santiago de Compostela: Katre Kikas and Konrad Kuhn as co-chairs and Anna Caroline Haubold as secretary. Both co-chairs and the secretary can be re-elected as they have not yet served for two terms. All three are also willing to continue their work. Konrad asks the participants of the meeting whether somebody would like to be a candidate for one of the positions which was answered in the negative. The participants also voiced their support for an election of the whole board (instead on voting for each candidate separately) and for an open ballot. The board is unanimously re-elected.

6. Discussion and future plans
Katre introduces her idea to add the story about the beginning of the working group to the website as it is currently missing.
The next working group meeting shall take place in September 2022 in Innsbruck/Austria. There will be some financial support from the University of Innsbruck. The participants did some brainstorming about a possible topic for this meeting. The topic should be broad and definitely include a historical dimension.
- perception of Europe (borders, boundaries, crises and changes)
- pandemic situation
- unpredictability of the futures
Possible working titles are: “The insecurity/uncertainties of future”, “Ruptures”, “Coping with crisis”, ...
Publications (see also above)


Olga (co-)organizes an exhibition in Moscow (opening Dec 2021)
The present members welcome Olga’s idea to organize a Zoom event open to our Working group.

7. Closing
The meeting ends at 13:50.

Minutes by Secretary:

Anna Caroline Haubold (anna.caroline.haubold@ut.ee)
Tartu, 06.07.2021

Co-Chairs:

Katre Kikas (katre.kikas@folklore.ee)

Konrad Kuhn (konrad.kuhn@uibk.ac.at)
Innsbruck, 06.07.2021