Space-lore and Place-lore working group

Co-chairs
- Dr. Karolína Pauknerová, Center for Theoretical Study, Charles University, Prague / Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic
- Dr. László Mód, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Szeged, Hungary
- Secretary Ms. Alice Bower, University of Iceland, Iceland

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Our history
1953 – Atlas and cartography group established within CIAP in Namur
1965 – WG breaks with SIEF and become independent as die Ständige Internationale Atlaskommission (SIA)
1990 – SIA transformed into International European Ethnocartography Working Group
2013 – Space-lore and Place-lore working group instituted at SIEF’s General Assembly

Our mission
Ever since ethnography emerged as a discipline it has devoted great attention to the spatial manifestation, spread, similarities and differences of cultural phenomena. Contemporary ethnology, folklore, adjacent fields and related disciplines work with a rich theoretical and methodological repertoire that allows us to approach the themes of space and place in plastic and diverse ways.

Our working group wishes to examine themes such as rural and urban spaces, landscapes, historical and contemporary spaces, various types of borders, borderlands and contact zones, non-places and spaces shaped by migration, globalisation or development in the (post-)Anthropocene world. We also wish to draw on the experiences of the International Ethnocartography Working Group regarded as our forerunner.

We welcome all researchers working on spatial aspects and experience from any relevant disciplinary angle.

Our latest activities
2021
SIEF Congress in Helsinki, 19-24 June 2021 – WG panels:
- (Staying with) post-anthropocene landscape in and beyond ethnology: breaking the status quo (convenors: Petr Gibas (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences) and Karolina Pauknerová (Charles University))
- How to communicate the locality? (convenors: Barbora Vacková (Masaryk University) and Monika Metykova (University of Sussex))

International conference: Rural and Small-town Communities: Local heritage and Identities in an Urbanizing World, 29-30 November 2021 Conference of the WG Space-Lore and Place-Lore in partnership with Department of Ethnology, Södertörn University; Institute of Ethnology & Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw; and Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences. (https://Rural2020.home.blog/) (source: SIEF newsletter, autumn 2021)

2022
6-7 October 2022.
Conference of the WG Space-Lore and Place-Lore in partnership with University of Szeged, Faculty of Arts, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology Szeged, Sólyomosy Sándor Association and Hungarian Ethnographic Society.
(https://www.siefhome.org/wg/ies/events)

University of Szeged
(source: SIEF newsletter, spring 2022)

2023
SIEF Congress in Brno, 7-10 June 2023 – WG panels:
- Living in the smart home: redesigning power dynamics through domestic space digitalization (convenors: Nina Fárová (Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences), Blanka Nyklova (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences), Sandra Fdyrsyak (University of Lodz) and Julia Gruhlich (University of Göttingen), Friday 9 June, 15:00-16:45)
- Landscapes in transition: tracing the past - facing uncertainties of the future (convenors: Karolina Pauknerová (Charles University) and Katharina Schuchardt (Institute for Saxon History and Cultural Anthropology)),

Prepare and organize a WG conference on a theme of “Abandoned landscapes” which will cover topics such as spaces and places abandoned due to changing climatic conditions, economics and politics, abandoned memorial places, migrant landscapes, abandoned technological landscapes etc.

Our plans
2024
Publishing contributions from WG panels from SIEF 2023 congress in Brno as a special journal issue.

Illustrative pictures from the papers in the workshop: Memorial site of Mohács (Hungary)

Vineyard landscape with wine cellars near lake Balaton (Hungary)

WWII War landscape in Italy (source: archive of László Mód)

More-than-human care in & of (un)certain homes (convenors: Petr Gibas (Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences), Julien Wacquez (CEFRES) and Chloé Mondémé (CNRS - Ecole Normale Supérieure Lyon), Thursday 8 June, 9:00-10:45, Thursday 8 June, 11:15-13:00)

Small and uncertain: remembering and forgetting uncertain times in a small town (convenors: Barbora Vacková (Masaryk University), Lenka Waschková Císařová (Masaryk University) and Monika Metykova (University of Sussex), Thursday 8 June, 17:00-18:45)