

Minutes - Place Wisdom Working Group Meeting - Thursday 8th June 2023

University of Masaryk, Building B, B2.33, 7-8pm

WG Members Present: Pauliina Latvala-Harvilahti, Victoria Walters, Dace Bula, Kirsty Kay, Anne Dippel, Katriina Siivonen, Mare Kõiva.

VW and PL-H take notes.

1 and 2. Welcome and overview

VW opens the meeting and welcomes everyone, explaining to those who would like to join that Professor Ullrich Kockel initiated the working group in 2009, hence birthday greetings that morning. Gives overview of the agenda.

3. Introducing Members and Guests

PL-H gives a report of the current work of the network and current issues.

PL-H mentions the discussions the previous evening at the meeting of Working Group in terms of the interest expressed in working across working groups and the availability of some SIEF funding for working groups of up to 800 Euro. "Funding will mainly support activities such as seminars, conferences and workshops, preferably in the in-between years of the SIEF congresses. However, depending on their demonstrated necessity, other activities might be funded as well" (SIEF website). Terms will soon be refined with an emphasis on diversity and inclusion. She also mentions the workshop in Perth and the planned edited book "New Relationships with Nature", which is waiting for the review process of the Finnish publisher (no new submissions).

P L-H asks for members' news, any new funding /projects/ publications that would be worth mentioning?

KK discusses a funding application on folk music/dance and responses to climate crisis.

AD explains that she is currently in a *Habilitation* role and is exploring the Manifold as a model for thinking as explored in her panel paper. She also explains that there may be potential to connect the working group with a project being undertaken with Mari artist Joulia Strauss in connection with the Theater Haus Jena, looking at the Goddess and place, a project the artist is undertaking in response to Plato's Garden in Greece, as the park and its trees still exist. There may be an activist element to this work which seeks to prevent the garden from being turned into a coach park by the city council (following it being saved from Black Rock turning it into a shopping mall). Further discussion leads to a suggestion that a fruitful connecting factor between all attendees may be looking at trees.

Dace explains that she has two years remaining to complete her research project in relation to communities in Riga discussed in her panel paper, which will come to an end in 2025.

VW explains that she is currently working in professional services roles (Library and Digital Learning Development) but wishes to continue to undertake academic research in some capacity. Some concern about eligibility for funding.

PL-H discusses her work with Katriina Siivonen on one of six case labs working on the new Horizon Europe project 'IN SITU: Place-based innovation of cultural and creative industries in non-urban areas', proposing to use participatory Futures Studies methods.

MK discusses work she is undertaking in Estonia with local communities – “three stories to tell”. She asks whether the group may be interested in working with this methodology. When there are no responses, VW suggests that it would be helpful to hear more about it in follow up as further information would be helpful and aid a decision.

4. Election of new co-chair and secretary

VW explains the situation with regard to her temporary assistance with Co-Chairing on behalf of Caít O’Neil McCulloch. VW explains that she feels it is time to hand over to a voted member now that Caít has stepped down and given her current non-academic status working in professional services within Higher Education. Co-Chairs are unsure as to whether the vote can happen given that most of the attendees are not yet members and it is a lot to ask in that instance.

Katriina Siivonen joins the meeting. She explains that the vote needs to happen at SIEF and that this is acceptable in view of the fact that the panel members attending wish to join. All decide to vote for Co-Chairs rather than a Secretary as there are no expressions of interest, attendees decide that a Secretary may be something to think about at the next SIEF Congress.

All members and new members vote in agreement for PL-H to continue to Co-Chair (no no’s or abstentions). Kirsty Kay puts herself forward as the new Co-Chair, which is agreed by vote by all attendees (no no’s or abstentions).

5. Future plans

Further discussion of AD’s idea about pursuing work around trees. KK mentions her interest in the orchard-visiting wassal. AD mentions documenta. VW mentions her research interest in Beuys and the *7,000 Oaks* project initiated at documenta and AD refers to the gendering of trees, the oak as male, the linden as female, in relation to Strauss’ interest in the figure of the Goddess. Potential for development of this project is of interest to all.

6. Closing

PL-H explains that minutes will be sent to SIEF and published on the WG website.

Meeting ends