

# **Place Wisdom Working Group Meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland**

## ***Meeting Minutes***

**Time:**

Wednesday 4th June, 2025 at 13-14 (1-2 PM)

**Place:**

Mac Robert Building, MR304, a Zoom link will be provided by SIEF

**Present:**

Pauliina Latvala-Harvilahti

Ullrich Kockel

Anne Dippel

Sarah Squire

Niamh MacKenzie

Alena Mathis

**Agenda:**

1. Opening, welcome and approval of the agenda
2. Choosing the author of the notes of the meeting
3. Introducing members and guests
4. Reports from the chair: Current issues
5. Election of co-chairs and possible secretary/board
6. Future plans
7. Discussion
8. Closing

*Minutes begin on the next page.*

1. **Opening, welcome and approval of the agenda**
2. **Choosing the author of the notes of the meeting**

Alena Mathis

3. **Introducing (present) members and guests**

**Pauliina Latvala-Harvilahti:** Adjunct Professor at the University of Turku/Finland; Senior Researcher at the Finland Futures Research Centre; currently co-chairing the Working Group on Place Wisdom with Dr. Kirsty Kay (University of Sheffield/UK), excuses Kirsty Kay and announces the search for two new co-chairs + secretary.

**Ullrich Kockel:** Professor of Creative Ethnology, University of the Highlands and Islands/Scotland; once involved in the founding of the Working Group on Place Wisdom, character of the working groups has changed significantly over time, application for funding for the working group in 2024 (successful until the new political agenda in the UK, then rejected/failed); recalls working group conferences held between the main SIEF conferences.

**Sarah Squire:** PhD Candidate, 1<sup>st</sup> year, UHI (supervisor Ullrich Kockel), doctorate on sustainability education, land work, and culture making.

**Niamh MacKenzie:** PhD Candidate, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Perth College (supervisors Ullrich Kockel, Mairéad Nic Craith), doctorate on regional dry stone walling practices.

**Anne Dippel:** Dr. phil. habil., research assistant at the University of Jena, administrator of the Chair for Knowledge Cultures in the Digital Age, Institute for Design Research at the University of Göttingen-Braunschweig/Germany; universalist; sees creative potential in and increasing relevance of topic of Working Group on Place Wisdom.

**Alena Mathis:** PhD Candidate, 1<sup>st</sup> year, University of Bamberg/Germany (supervisor Barbara Wittmann); doctorate on place-based forms of grief in the climate crisis; assisting Ullrich Kockel at the official working group panel at SIEF 2025.

4. **Reports from the chair: Current issues**

**Report from the General Meeting of Working Group Chairs (SIEF 2025, Tue, June 3<sup>rd</sup>):**

- Sophie Elpers (reelected as Executive Vice President) and Marie Sandberg (2021-2025 President) from the SIEF main board were present.
- Currently, there are 17 working groups.
- Two main topics in the Chairs' meeting: Funding & Communication.

### **Funding - Financial support for SIEF working group activities**

- Working groups can apply for €1,000 (every second year) from SIEF, application deadline around December. See <https://www.siefhome.org/wg/funding>.
- Working groups can collaborate to pool their SIEF funding in which case the amount requested can be increased (i.e. max €2,000 for two WGs applying together).
- Funds are released only after expenses are incurred, with proof of use required, reimbursed retroactively by SIEF.
- Funds will be distributed based on quality and the number of applications received.
- Emphasis on early career support.
- Pay attention to keeping participant fees low for events funded by SIEF.
  - o Suggestion from Pauliina: pre-Christmas meeting; face-to-face seminar; working group conferences.
  - o Proposal from Anne: to provide rooms in Braunschweig for the interim working group conference in 2026.
- Consider additional funding options.
  - o Niamh: PhD funding supports get-togethers through a 'cohort development fund,' conditions: applications must be collaborative from two institutions, and the event must not be socially closed.

### **Communication**

- Currently, there are two peer-reviewed SIEF journals:
  - 1) [Ethnologia Europaea. Journal of European Ethnology](#)
  - 2) [Cultural Analysis](#)
- New [book series](#) with Berhahn Books.
- Posters for the working groups at SIEF conferences (2025 WG poster was printed, but it will be published also online in the webpage, for online version, there might still be room for some news to be included e.g., new research funding/projects, publications, activities of members etc. related to the working group please send information to new Chairs by the end of June. Online poster to be sent to [web.admin@nomadit.co.uk](mailto:web.admin@nomadit.co.uk)).

### **Other**

- Preliminary information: forthcoming of 18<sup>th</sup> working group "Folk art in/and the Contemporary" after a lengthy planning process.

## 5. Election of co-chairs and possible secretary/board

Distribution of tasks for Co-Chairs and Secretary:

- Co-Chairs: broader perspective, long-term future planning.
- Secretary: responsible for the website (including the current member overview), communication with the SIEF main board, paperwork.

Election of new Co-Chairs and Secretary:

Candidates for the Co-chairs were Anne Dippel and Sarah Squire. Both of them were supported. Candidate for secretary was Niamh MacKenzie, who was also supported by members.

- Co-Chairs: Anne Dippel, Sarah Squire.
- Secretary: Niamh MacKenzie.
- Pauliina is willing to help in the beginning.

## 6. Future plans

- Ulli: announces two book projects.
  - o Edited book will be published soon, based on the earlier SIEF congress WG session (edited by Mairéad Nic Craith, Ullrich Kockel, Riina Haanpää and Katriina Siivonen)
  - o Book plans as an outcome of the official panel of WG Place Wisdom, SIEF 2025, Thu, June 5<sup>th</sup> (paper + discussion contributions)
- Anne: renews invitation to Braunschweig for the interim conference in 2026.

## 5. Discussion

see 6. Future Plans

## 7. Closing

The meeting was closed at 2 PM.