

SIEF Working on Group “Place Wisdom”

Administrative Meeting

SIEF Göttingen Wednesday 29 March 12:30-14:00 Mensa am Turm

Minutes

Participants:

Dorothee Birke
Zuzanna Bułat Silva
Stella Butter (**chair**)
Laya Gonzales
Ullrich Kockel
Jaana Kouri
Tatjana Lacko (new member)
Judith Laister
Cait (Catherine) McCullagh
Nourit Melcer-Padon
Katriina Siivonen (**chair**)
Vitalija Stepušaitytė
Victoria Walters

1. Appointment of note-taker for the meeting

Co-chair Katriina Siivonen

2. Report on activities since SIEF Zagreb 2015

Members of ‘Place Wisdom’ have been working on three themes:

- “Waterscapes” led by Prof. Ullrich Kockel (Heriot-Watt university, Edinburgh)
- “Scales of Home in Today’s Europe” (<http://www.scalesofhome.eu/>) led by Dr Stella Butter (Universität Koblenz, Landau, Germany) and Dr Nourit Melcer-Padon (Hebrew University)
- “Sacred Places/Routes” led by Dr. Valentina Bold.

A defining characteristic of a ‘waterscape’ – in contrast to a ‘landscape’ – perspective is the absence of any firm, stable vantage point for the narrative. The aim is better to understand fluctuating developments by looking at them quasi “from the inside” through a range of local lenses. For current PhD projects, see for example: <http://irc.hw.ac.uk/research/jws2015.html> and <http://irc.hw.ac.uk/research/sgsah-arcs.html>.

The research project Scales of Home in today’s Europe concentrates on how scales of home are imagined and socially constructed in Europe since the 1990s. For further information, please visit our website: www.scalesofhome.eu.

a. Conferences etc.

Unlike other WGs, the focus of Working Group Place Wisdom has not been on inter-congress conferences but on the development of collaborative research themes.

Research team groups have had several meetings and workshops since SIEF conference in Zagreb 2015.

The team group “Scales of Home in Today’s Europe”

- SIEF 2017: Panel “Temporalities of dwelling elsewhere: placing and displacing home” (Organisation: Vitalija Stepušaitytė, Christos Kakalis)
- SIEF 2017: Panel “(Dis)Comforts of Home: Historical and Cultural Perspectives” (Organisation: Zuzanna Bulat-Silva, Stella Butter, and Nourit Melcer-Padon)

The team group “Waterscape”

- SIEF 2017: Workshop: “The Changing Time and Rhythms of Water” (Organisation: Katriina Siivonen, Jaana Kouri, and Ullrich Kockel)

b. Publications

WG didn’t publish any common publications.

Publications of the team group “Scales of Home in Today’s Europe”:

- August-Zarębska Agnieszka & Bułat Silva Zuzanna (2016) “Recalling the Past. The Linguistic and Cultural Images of Kurtijo, Sephardic Courtyard”, *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*, Vol. 25, N° 1 (2016), p. 96–117.
- Butter, Stella (2016) “Representations of Ideal Homes in English Culture: Gracious Living and the Creative Self in Matthew Reynolds’ *Designs for a Happy Home*.” In: Nora Kuster, Stella Butter & Sarah Heinz (eds.) *Subject Cultures: The English Novel from the 18th to the 21st Century*. Tübingen: Narr, p. 251–268.
- Butter, Stella (2015) “No place like home? Conceptualizations of ‘Home’ in Salman Rushdie’s ‘At the Auction of the Ruby Slippers’ and Roshi Fernando’s *Homesick*.” In: Florian Kläger & Klaus Stierstorfer (eds.). *Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging*. New York: De Gruyter, p. 349–365.

c. Grant applications

Non.

d. Other activities

See attachment for activities: Poster for SIEF2017 Göttingen.

3. Plans for 2017-19

Members of ‘Place Wisdom’ continue to work on three themes: “Waterscapes”, “Scales of Home in Today’s Europe”, and “Sacred Places/Routes”. The Group aims to establish a repository of multi-media, ethnographically-inflected records relating to understandings of place that contest conventional divisions between culture and nature.

The research agenda of the working group is situated at the interface of human ecology, geography, anthropology, art, archaeology, performance studies, literature, linguistics, futures research and philosophy. We are very keen for this Working Group to develop an active research programme, and to engage with research users outside academia. To this end we encourage collaborative international research projects with the potential to attract significant financial support, and have already initiated a number of bids to different research funding bodies.

a. Conferences etc.

The Group will continue with the focus of Working Group Place Wisdom to organize meetings and seminars to support the development of collaborative research themes.

b. Publications

The Group will continue with the focus of Working Group Place Wisdom to publish under the of collaborative research themes.

c. Grant applications

The group aims to initiate collaborative research projects under the research themes.

d. Other activities

Prof. Ullrich Kockel aims to build a network with funding from United Kingdom with a possibility to have 3 official members outside of United Kingdom. The network is planned to cover 1-3 research themes of the WG Place Wisdom and to touch e.g. such themes as scales of (dis)comfort, practicing liminal, fluid places/spaces, sensations, and wellbeing.

4. Review of operation (ref: 2014 Statutes)

a. Mission/vision of the group

Please see the attached poster of the WG on Place Wisdom.

b. Membership

Currently the Place Wisdom Working Group has 48 members who comes from multiple universities from different parts of Europe.

The Place Wisdom Working Group was founded in 2008 by colleagues associated with the Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages (University of Ulster), the Ethnological Research Unit (UWE Bristol), and the Centre for Human Ecology (University of Strathclyde).

c. Web presence

The WG Place Wisdom is presented on the web pages of SIEF.

5. Election of at least two co-chairs and a secretary (who can be one of the co-chairs) for 2017-19

WG elected Prof. Dr. Stella Butter and Adj. Prof., PhD Katriina Siivonen to continue their second period as co-chairs for the years 2017-2019.