

MINUTES FROM THE THIRD BUSINESS MEETING OF THE SIEF YOUNG SCHOLARS WORKING GROUP (YSWG)

held at the 14th SIEF Congress, 14–17 April 2019, Santiago de Compostela
17 April 2019, 14:00–14:45

In Attendance

YSWG Board Members: Nada Kujundžić, Mathilde Lamothe-Castagnous, and Alessandro Testa

Present and future members of the YSWG

Participants in the 2019 SIEF Mentoring Program

1. Introduction

Alessandro Testa, Co-Chair of the YSWG Board, briefly introduced the attending Board Members, as well as Franziska Weidle, who was not able to come to Santiago. He also talked about the history and aims of the Young Scholars Working Group.

2. Report on Group activities

Individual Board Members reported on the various activities of the YSWG since its last meeting in 2017. Mathilde Lamothe reported on the Group's online presence via its website, mailing list, and Facebook page. The Group uses these venues primarily to communicate with its members, notifying them about its activities, and shares other content that may be interesting and useful to its members, such as calls for conference papers or funding applications. Nada Kujundžić reported on the YSWG's latest initiative, the Mentoring Program. The Program aims to increase the visibility of early-career scholars within SIEF, facilitate their integration into this organization, and enable them to make the most out of their participation in the SIEF Congress. To that end, it brings together early-career scholars (Mentees) with senior, more experienced researchers (Mentors). During the Santiago Congress, the Program brought together 92 Mentees and Mentors, who met over the course of the four Congress days to discuss the various questions the Mentees may have about their research and the various aspects of academic life, such as publishing, job hunting, teaching, and applying for funding. To facilitate their interaction, two informal events were organized in cooperation with the local organizers: a pre-Congress get-together (April 14), which included a tour of the City Museum and drinks at a local café, and a luncheon (April 17). The Mentors also attended their Mentees' presentations and provided them with feedback. The Program

also reached out to the chairs of the panels in which the Mentees were presenting, asking them to provide one-on-one feedback. In order to improve the Program in the future, participants will be asked to provide feedback and evaluate their experience via an online survey. Alessandro Testa reported that the Board and other Group members were invited to participate in the new SIEF video series “Showcasing SIEF’s Working Groups”. The aim of the series is to present the functioning and various activities of the SIEF groups, and increase their visibility. Board Members Alessandro Testa and Mathilde Lamothe, and YSWG Member Gunnar Óli Dagmararson were interviewed by filmmaker Áslaug Einarsdóttir on Tuesday, 16 April. The video will be available on SIEF online platforms.

3. Election

The election for the new Board of the YSWG was conducted. Mathilde Lamothe, Alessandro Testa, and Franziska Weidle (in absentio) stepped down, and the candidature of the following YSWG members was announced: Gunnar Óli Dagmararson, László Koppány Csáji, Nada Kujundžić, and Ana Svetel. The candidates introduced themselves and presented their visions of the future of the YSWG. All the candidates expressed the wish to continue with the Mentoring Program and organize another YSWG conference, similar to the one held in Göttingen in 2017. Other suggestions included initiatives aimed at making the Group Members more active and providing them with a platform for sharing their research interests, questions, and information, such as a special website or blog.

All candidatures were unanimously accepted, and the following new YSWG Board was formed:

- Nada Kujundžić (University of Turku/Zagreb): Chair
- Ana Svetel (University of Ljubljana): Co-Chair
- Gunnar Óli Dagmararson (University of Iceland): Secretariat
- László Koppány Csáji (University of Pécs)

4. Open discussion and final remarks

The new YSWG Board opened the floor to questions, comments and suggestions. YSWG members were also invited to express their suggestions and expectations from the Group in writing. New members joined the Group.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting of the YSWG will be held in 2021, during the 15th SIEF Congress in Helsinki.

Minute taker: Nada Kujundžić