

Minutes of the First Business Meeting of the SIEF Young Scholars Working Group
held at the 12th SIEF Congress, 21-25 June 2015, Zagreb

Monday, June 22, 2015
5.50-6.50 pm

1) A short welcome and introduction of current board members Mathilde Lamothe, Arnika Peselmann, and Jón Þór Pétursson.

2) Outline of aims of the Working Group (Jón Þór Pétursson):

A brief account was given about the Working Group, how it started, the aims and (possible) future tasks of the YSWG. The overarching aim of the group is to explore and facilitate connections and collaborations between young scholars across institutions and disciplines. The upcoming YSWG Workshop at the congress was introduced and promoted as the perfect opportunity for the group to discuss which topics we see as the most relevant for the group to engage in.

3) Work Report of the last term of office 2013-2015 (Arnika Peselmann):

The Working Group was initially formulated in Lisbon in 2011 but was not active for the next two years. However, the YSWG was resurrected at the SIEF Congress in Tartu 2013 when Mathilde Lamothe, Arnika Peselmann, and Jón Þór Pétursson took over the group.

After Tartu, the board began its term of office by formulating a “stimulating” letter to all scholars in the early stages of their careers that was posted on the SIEF homepage. We also wrote a mission statement that was published in the SIEF Newsletter in November 2013.

We created a Facebook homepage and a mailing list in order to spread the word about the Working Group and thereby establishing connections with other young scholars, organizations and initiatives.

The board meeting had its first face-to-face meeting in Lund, Sweden (09/2014). On top of the agenda was to create an outline for the YSWG Workshop at the SIEF Congress in Zagreb. In Lund we composed guiding questions to launch discussions at the workshop: What are the major challenges facing young scholars today (funding, shortage of time, teaching etc.)?, What possibilities do we have for further collaborations between different institutions and disciplines? These and further questions were taken up at the lively discussion in the

workshop. The various topics raised at the workshop helped to draw up the aims of the YSWG and how to proceed for the next two years. One concrete suggestion was to explore the possibility to hold a YSWG conference in 2016.

4) Introduction of two new candidates running for the Working Group Board:

Nada Kujundžić und Alessandro Testa

5) Election: the board members Mathilde Lamothe, Arnika Peselmann and Jón Þór Pétursson are confirmed in their post with no dissentient. Nada Kujundžić and Alessandro Testa are appointed to the post with no dissentient. The board members in the new term are:

- Jón Þór Pétursson (University of Iceland/Lund): Co-Chair
- Alessandro Testa (University of Pardubice): Co-Chair
- Arnika Peselmann (University of Göttingen): Secretariat
- Mathilde Lamothe (University of Pau)
- Nada Kujundžić (University of Turku/Zagreb)

6) Open discussion between all participants attending the business meeting on various topics, many of which have been mentioned above. This discussion was then continued at the workshop. A member list was passed around, resulting in 35 members altogether.

7) Closing remarks: Announcement of the YSWG Workshop and invitation to the Young Scholars Wine Mixer

Please find attached a list of current Working Group members.

Keeper of the Minutes: Arnika Peselmann/ Jón Þór Pétursson August 5, 2015