



Space-lore and Place-lore working group



Chairs (2019–2021)

prof. Dr. Jelka Vince Pallua, Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, Zagreb, Croatia

Dr. Jiří Woitsch, Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic

Secretary (2019–2021)

Dr. László Mód, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Szeged, Hungary

Our history

1953 – atlas and cartography group established within CIAP in Namur

1965 – WG breaks with SIEF and become independent as die Ständige Internationale Atlaskommission (SIA)

1990 – SIA transformed into International European Ethnography Working Group

2013 – Space-lore and Place-lore working group instituted at SIEF's General Assembly

More information and contact

<https://www.siefhome.org/wg/iea/>



Our mission
The relationship of ethnology and cultural anthropology towards the notions of space and place in the history of our discipline has been manifold and is offering a multitude of theoretically and methodologically different approaches. People and their communities shape many spaces and places, that in turn influence them and their culture. Both scientific and popular concepts of space, place, locality or landscape have become extremely diverse in the course of the 20th century and political and natural, social, symbolical, religious, ethnic, linguistic and other borders criss-cross our lives, continuously shaping the space and place of our lives producing a distinctive regionalism and regional consciousness. By exploring the unique contexts and reactions to the preservation, removal, and transformation of spaces and places impacted by variety of sociocultural processes, we can learn much about the ways in which contested histories and futures are mediated through built and natural environments, and the emotions that they inspire.
Our working group wishes to examine these themes, mainly in ethnological and anthropological case studies, with a global and local outlook or comparative approach. We welcome all those researchers who wish to deal with spatial experience from any relevant disciplinary angle (European ethnology, geography, sociology, cultural studies, urban studies, anthropology, heritage studies, etc.).

Our latest activities

International conference *Heritages, Spaces, Borders*. Ljubljana, Slovenia, March 31 – April 2, 2020 (organized by Institute of Slovenian Ethnology, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts). **CANCELLED** due Covid-19.

SIEF2021 Congress panels in Helsinki (*Staying with*) *post-anthropocentric landscape in and beyond ethnology: breaking the status quo* (on June, 23, 2021, at 10:00 and 14:00 Helsinki time) and *How to communicate the locality?* (on June, 23, 2021, at 10:00 and 14:00 Helsinki time)

Our plans

2021, June: election of new WG leadership
2021–2022: publishing contributions from WG panels in Helsinki
2022: WG conference; venue, date, title and topic TBA

Our publications

Baltic Worlds 12, 4, 2019: special journal section *Places in transition: Remembering and reimagining rural communities* (editors Paul Sherfey and Jiří Woitsch)

BALTIC WORLDS
Special section: Remembering and reimagining rural communities

Guest editors: Jiří Woitsch & Paul Sherfey

Introduction.
Remembering & reimagining rural communities

The scientific image and reflection of rural communities has recently undergone a major change in Central Europe and Eastern Europe. From predominantly ethnographic research and the study of past relics, ethnologists, anthropologists and other scholars studying the terrain have more recently shifted towards interpreting the dynamic cultural and social changes that the region is experiencing. It is for this reason, among others, that we have chosen the theme for this special section. The selection of published contributions stems from a conference devoted to transformations of urban and rural landscapes and societies. Over four days in November 2008, more than 40 researchers representing countries spanning from Ukraine to the United States, and from Sweden to Serbia, gathered in Prague for the international conference *Space and Place in Transition: Urban and Rural Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe*. Organized by the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University, the conference was inspired by the theme of *Remembering and Reimagining Rural Communities*, from which this special section was inspired. As the keynote, Andrew Butler argued, understanding the changes facing rural communities in the current day is difficult to do without also engaging in an exploration of transnational interconnectedness – wherein the transformations which are occurring are not only local, but part of global processes and linkages: “The linkages between heritage and tourism in many rural communities have had a tendency to reduce local residents to spectators of change, as decision making and ownership in these communities has become increasingly externalised, with the fate of communities often being made in distant cities or

European Studies, Södertörn University, under the auspices of SIEF (International Society for Ethnology and Folklore) working group Space-lore and place-lore. A key theme running through the conference was the connection between landscape and identity, and how particular social fantasies acted out upon spaces try to legitimise certain values and erases or ignore certain histories or peoples in the process – including religious groups, industrial workers, residents of both rural and urban communities, or those whose political views may be considered

ouated. Many presenters highlighted a problematic trend regarding the externalisation of agency that denies or limits the voice and ability of local community members to influence decisions that affect the places in which they live. The connection between landscape and identity was especially at the fore during the second day of the conference and its theme of *Remembering and Reimagining Rural Communities*, from which this special section was inspired. As the keynote, Andrew Butler argued, understanding the changes facing rural communities in the current day is difficult to do without also engaging in an exploration of transnational interconnectedness – wherein the transformations which are occurring are not only local, but part of global processes and linkages: “The linkages between heritage and tourism in many rural communities have had a tendency to reduce local residents to spectators of change, as decision making and ownership in these communities has become increasingly externalised, with the fate of communities often being made in distant cities or

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HERITAGES, SPACES, BORDERS

International Conference, Ljubljana, March 31–April 2, 2020

I. THE SPACES OF REAL AND IMAGINED BORDERS
Conference of the SIEF Working Group Space-Lore and Place-Lore
Ljubljana, March 31–April 1, 2020

TUESDAY, March 31, 2020
8.30 Registration & Coffee

9.00 Welcome
Ingrid Slavec Gradišnik, Head of the ZRC SAZU Institute of Slovenian Ethnology
Jiří Woitsch, Chair of the SIEF Working Group “Space-Lore and Place-Lore”

9.15–10.35 **BORDER NARRATIVES**
Katharina Eisch-Angus, “The Southern Border is the Old Eastern Border”: Liminal Processes and the Narrative Shaping of European Border Landscapes
Monika Kropf Telban, The Changing Perception of Narrative Tradition on State Borders
Katarina Srimpf Vendramin, Stories and Borders: Narrative Tradition at the Border
Maja Dolinar, Transcending National Borders with Popular Television Series

Coffee Break

11.00–13.20 **CREATING AND REPEALING BORDERS**
Tatiana Bajuk Senčar, Bordering, Debordering, Rebordering: EU Integration at the Margins
Alessandro Ambrosino, “Alpen-Adria” Transcultural Trajectories beyond Nations from the Alps-Adriatic Region
Daša Ličen, Borders Overload: The Case of Trieste
Alexandra Schwell, Imaginaries of Sovereignty: The State of Exception as Affective Bordering Practice

Lunch

