

November 5, 2020 – Via Webex

Minutes of the Members' Assembly 2020

Present are: Janine Dahinden, Alessandra Widmer, Anika Thym, Anna Sommer, Annelise Erismann, Bettina Dennerlein, Christa Binswanger, Clotilde Faas, Magali Delaloye, Dominique Grisard, Dominique Lysser, Eléonore Lépinard, Fleur Weibel, Julia Nentwich, Karine Duplan, Katharina Pelzelmayer, Katrin Meyer, Kristina Schulz, Leandra Bias, Marion Schulze, Marylène Lieber, Matthias Luterbach, Michèle Amacker, Monika Gsell, Nathalie Amstutz, Patricia Purtschert, Regina Wecker, Sabine Kradolfer, Sébastien Chauvin, Stefanie Boulila, Martine Schaer.

Entitled to vote: 31; Absolute majority: 16 votes.

Minutes: Martine Schaer

This version of the minutes has been approved at the members' assembly in 2021.

Minutes

1. Welcome
2. Approval of the agenda
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8. Cashier's report on our 2019 annual accounts
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1. Welcome

President Janine Dahinden welcomes the attending members to the 2020 Members' Assembly of the Swiss Association for Gender Studies SGGF/SSEG/SAGS.

2. Approval of the agenda

The meeting agenda at hand is approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 2019 members' assembly

The minutes of the 2019 Members' Assembly are approved.

4. Report on our activities in 2019

Janine mentions the 2019 activity report which has been published in English for the first time this year. Members were informed about this report via the SSEG-SGGF Bulletin (1/2020). The report is available online on our website:

https://www.gendercampus.ch/public/sggf/Activity_reports/SAGS_ActivityReport_2019.pdf

Janine highlights some of the information contained in the 2019 report:

- Concerning the secretariat, Sarah Schneider left at the end of 2019. The secretariat moved to the University of Neuchâtel and Martine Schaer replaced Sarah Schneider.
- The board members activities have in particular focused on three critical aspects that constitute the SAGS development strategy for the coming years: Visibility – Networking – Institutionalization resp. anchorage of Gender Studies in Swiss HEIs.
- A highlight of 2019 was our conference “Violent times, rising protests” held in September at the University of Bern. It was a success, with many panels (23) and papers (88) and two keynotes, Dr. Jack Halberstam, Columbia University, and Dr. Noémi Michel, University of Geneva. A report about the conference is available in German and in French:
<https://www.gendercampus.ch/de/blog/post/gewalt-und-protest-ein-nach-und-neudenken>
(deutsch)
<https://www.gendercampus.ch/fr/blog/post/gewalt-und-protest-ein-nach-und-neudenken>
(français)
- 2019 also featured the *Brigitte Schnegg Prize*, awarded to Dr. Nula Frei for her book. A *Honorable mention* was awarded to Mathilde Schnegg for her Master's Thesis.
- During 2019, our association also reinforced outward communication. This point will be presented later (Section 5 – Communication).

5. Review of our activities in 2020

Janine reviews our activities in 2020 and points out to the following:

- Since 2020, the SAGS has its own publication series “*Gender Issues*”. This series was founded by Prof. Lorena Parini in 2005 and directed by the Institut des Etudes genre of the University of Geneva until the end of 2019. In 2020, the SAGS took over the editorial direction of the series which is now open to different languages (German, English and French) and disciplines. It is peer-reviewed and open-access. The direction of the series comprises SAGS board members and others scholars. Furthermore, since 2021, the series is supported by the SAGW/ASSH.

Two first books will be published in the series in 2021:

- AG Transformation von Männlichkeit (Ed.). *Zeitdiagnose Männlichkeiten in der Schweiz*.

To be published in March 2021. A book vernissage will be organized on this occasion.

- Dahinden, Erismann and Grisard (Eds.). *Violent Times, Rising Resistance: An Interdisciplinary Gender Perspective*.

To be published later in 2021. All papers have been reviewed and the book/contributions are now in the second round.

Janine emphasizes the need to promote our series and encourages members to send ideas of books to be published, and to circulate the information in their networks.

- Linked to the covid-19 situation, Janine underlies that the SAGS has been active with different contributions:
 - It contributed to the policy brief *Gender aspects of COVID-19 and pandemic response* of the Swiss National COVID-19 Science Task Force. The SAGS contribution had to be conducted within a few days between different SAGS members and others, and the collaboration worked quite nicely. The expert group “Ethics, legal, social issues” is led by Prof. Samia Hurst from the University of Geneva.
 - The SAGS also contributed with a blog entry published on the Gender Campus website. It is entitled *The corona crisis from a gender perspective: Opening up a debate*. This contribution entailed collaboration between the same people as for the policy brief and made it possible to raise many points. See: <https://www.gendercampus.ch/de/blog/post/the-corona-crisis-from-a-gender-perspective-opening-up-a-debate/>
 - Following these contributions, the SAGS was invited by National Councilor Melanie Mettler to provide inputs to the “Parlamentarische Frauengruppe”. Janine and Vice-president Nathalie Amstutz represented the SAGS and gave inputs during a meeting with the “Parlamentarische Frauengruppe”.
- The SAGS is a member of the SAGW/ASSH, following Andrea Maihofer’s initiative, and is now part of the Fachportal “Kulturen und Gesellschaft” of the SAGW/ASSH. Members

of the SAGS were invited to present Gender Studies during an interview for the Fachportal: <https://www.cult-soc.ch/beruf/berufsportraits/dahinden-schaer-erismann.html>.

- This evening, the public roundtable “Shared memories of equality movements – An intergenerational dialogue” will be held following the Members’ Assembly. This roundtable is a highlight of this year’s activities.

Janine hands the floor to Nathalie.

Nathalie reviews the different networking activities of the SAGS in 2020, which took place in a context in which the former *Network Gender Studies Switzerland* has been dissolved and its activities integrated into other bodies. The SAGS took over the institutionalization of Gender Studies (teaching and research).

- An important aspect with regard to networking activities in 2020 was to reflect and implement cooperation and synergies between the different bodies of Gender studies and to foster their cooperation with one another. This has led to implementing mutual representation in the boards of these different bodies.
- The objective is to be in a position allowing to influence higher education policy in gender studies, with regard to teaching as well as research.
- Together with Gender Campus, the SAGS will develop an overview of the different issues in the institutionalization of Gender studies in swiss HEIs.
- Think Tank Gender & Diversity (TTGD) aims to foster the collaboration between research institutions, the public, and other audiences. TTGD organizes a conference that will be held online later this month. TTGD also coordinates the AG politics (collaboration between Ursina Anderegg, Simona Isler and Fleur Weibel), which will invite members of the different networks and groups (SAGS, IDEAS, SNSF, Swissuniversities, etc.) that are influential in gender politics in order to strengthen their influence on higher education politics (e.g. BFI-Botschaft/Message FRI).

Nathalie hands the floor to Anika Thym. Anika is the contact person between gender studies in Switzerland and RINGS. She briefly presents RINGS, an international association of institutions in gender studies, interested in connecting Gender studies in different contexts, what challenges they face, etc. RINGS annual conference will take place online on December 4 this year. It is still possible to join the conference. Anika also invites interested members to join her to form a group of people that keeps contacts with RINGS and its different institutional members. More info about RINGS may be found on their website: <http://ringsgender.org/> and in a blog post that Anika co-wrote in December 2018: <https://www.gendercampus.ch/fr/blog/post/rings-conference-report-the-state-of-the-art-of-feminist-and-gender-studies>.

Annelise Erismann, in charge of SAGS public relations with Fleur presents the different tools of online communication:

- The Bulletin SSEG-SGGF has been redesigned and has a new layout. It is in German and French, issued 3 times a year, online. It currently has 297 subscribers (SAGS members + other people interested in SAGS activities). The Bulletin is managed collectively.
- Facebook: we currently have 247 likes and 276 subscribers. The Facebook page is also managed collectively. If you haven't yet, please follow/like us. Recently, some money was invested to boost the visibility of this evenings' roundtable. This action seems to have paid off.
- Twitter: The SAGS twitter account is @Sggfsseg. Again, it is collectively managed. It currently has 319/318 followers.

Sébastien Chauvin underlines that as a strategy to increase the number of followers, it is important to follow others, who then would follow us back.

6. Changes in our statutes

Janine presents the changes proposed in our statutes, namely the creation of an additional body in the form of an *advisory board* (in German *Beirat*; in French *Conseil consultatif*), see Art. 12 of the statutes. This new body makes it possible to keep in closer contact with former board members or other people active in gender studies and in the SAGS, and to rely on their insights and expertise when needed.

Regina Wecker, who wrote this new article in our statutes, indicates that it was initially a suggestion of Andrea Maihofer, who had knowledge of the existence of such bodies in other associations.

7. Vote on our statutes

Janine launches online voting. 30 members out of 30 said yes.

The amendments to the statutes are therefore accepted unanimously and come into force immediately.

8. Cashier's report on our 2019 annual accounts

Cashier Matthias Luterbach presents the accounts for 2019. In 2019, a profit of CHF 2812.76 was recorded. Thus, the total assets amount to CHF 21'909.70 (as of 31.12.2019).

9. Auditors' report on our 2019 annual accounts

The reports of auditors Fabienne Amlinger and Kristina Schulz do not mention any discrepancies in the annual accounts for 2019 and sign off on it.

10. Vote on our 2019 annual accounts

Janine launches online voting. 25 members out of 29 accepted the 2019 accounts; 4 did not answer (among whom Kristina Schulz who, as auditor, does not vote on this matter).

The Members' Assembly discharges the board of its responsibility and approves the annual accounts for 2019.

11. Presentation of our 2021 budget

Matthias presents the budget for 2021. The income comes from membership fees and from funds allocated by the SAGW. Expenses include the *2021 biennial conference* and the *Brigitte Schnegg prize*.

12. Vote on our 2021 budget

Janine launches online voting. The budget is unanimously approved by the Members Assembly (28 out of 28 votes).

13. Outlook on our activities in 2021

Janine indicates that the 2021 Conference of the SAGS will be held on November 26 to 27 at the University of Zurich. It is entitled "Wom*n's Suffrage and Democracy: Critique, Memory, Visions". The deadline for submissions is on February 1, 2021.

Another event taking place in 2021 is the Brigitte Schnegg Prize. Janine announces that the call for submissions will be issued at the end of February 2021, and that the deadline for submissions is at the end of May 2021.

Besides organizing these events, Janine emphasizes that the SAGS will keep its focus on visibility, networking, and anchorage of gender studies.

14. Elections

Janine briefly presents the candidates to the board and thanks the board members who are leaving the board at the end of 2020: Lilian Fankhauser, Marylène Lieber, Andrea Maihofer and Regina Wecker. Janine warmly thanks them for their commitment and their work within the board. Marylène, Andrea and Regina are candidates for the newly created advisory board. The presidency (Janine and Nathalie) and 9 board members are standing for re-election. Four newcomers are joining the board: Sébastien Chauvin, Hélène Martin, Marion Schulze, and Anna Sommer. With regard to the two auditors, Kristina Schulz is standing for re-election; She is joined by Beatrice Ziegler in replacement of Fabienne Amlinger who withdraws. Janine thanks Fabienne for her work as a controller over the past years.

Janine proposes that, if members agree, all candidates be elected at once. She launches online voting about this question.

27 out of 30 members agree to elect all candidates at once; 2 did not answer.

Janine launches the election: Do you elect the candidates?

26 members out of 30 said yes; 3 did not answer.

The presidency, board members, controllers and advisory board members were elected with a majority of 26 out 30 members attending the assembly.

15. Miscellaneous

No miscellaneous.

Janine closes the Members' Assembly and thanks all attendants.

The date for the next Members' Assembly is November 5, 2021.