

November 4, 2022 – University of Neuchâtel and via Webex

Members' Assembly 2022 – Minutes

Present are: Michèle Amacker, Sabine Kradolfer, Bettina Dennerlein, Magali Delaloye, Ilana Eloit, Fiona Friedli, Dominique Grisard, Katrin Meyer, Liliane Meyer-Pitton, Virginia León Torrez, Matthias Luterbach, Diana Baumgarten, Kristina Schulz, Annika Thym, Gina Wirz-Suárez, Helena Rust (minutes).

Excused: Nathalie Amstutz, Janine Dahinden, Annelise Erismann, Sébastien Chauvin, Elisabeth Joris, Lilian Fankhauser, Clara Guardado, Anne Lavanchy, Marion Schulze.

These minutes were approved at the members' assembly 2023 (November 3rd).

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2021 members' assembly
4. Report on our activities in 2021
5. Review of our activities in 2022
6. Cashier's report on our annual accounts 2021
7. Auditors' report on our annual accounts 2021
8. Vote on account statement 2021
9. Presentation of our budget 2023
10. Vote on our budget 2023
11. Change in membership fees
12. Change in the Statutes: number of board members
13. Outlook on our activities in 2023
14. Elections
15. Miscellaneous

1. Welcome

The Vice-President, Dominique Grisard, welcomes the attending members to the 2022 members' assembly of the SAGS. She presides the present assembly since Janine Dahinden is currently on sabbatical.

2. Approval of the agenda

The meeting agenda is approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Members' Assembly

The minutes of the 2021 members' assembly are approved unanimously.

4. Report on our Activities in 2021

The report on our activities in 2021 can be read on our website:

<https://www.gendercampus.ch/en/sags/activities>

Highlights from 2021 were the book launch by our research network TransforMen, the conference "Women's Suffrage and Democracy Today: Critique, Memory, Visions" held at the University of Zurich, awarding the Brigitte Schnegg Prize to two promising junior scholars, and intensifying and formalizing our cooperation with other networks, most prominently the "Think tank Gender and Diversity." We are proud of our active working groups (recently re-named research networks), particularly the group „Feminisms, Marxism and Decoloniality“ (in short: FMD) formed in 2021.

5. Review of our Activities in 2022

SAGS Board and Membership

Several board members are leaving or already left the board. We thank them for their work.

Luckily, several engaged new scholars are up for election to the board today.

There has been a change in the secretary position in spring 2022. Martine Schaer resigned from this position, Helena Rust replaced her. Dominique thanks Martine Schaer for her outstanding work and welcomes Helena Rust, who has been acting as the SAGS' secretary since May 2022.

This year, we welcomed 24 new members to the association, ten members have left.

As announced last year, Dominique has taken over the role of vice president. She and Janine have split their tasks. The vice presidency is now responsible for the editorial committee of "Gender Issues" and Chair of the Jury of the Brigitte Schnegg Prize. All other tasks remain with the presidency. Thus far this division of tasks has worked well.

SAGS Publication Series "Gender Issues"

This year one book has been published so far: "Violent Times, Rising Resistance. An Interdisciplinary Gender Perspective" edited by Dominique Grisard, Annelise Erismann and Janine Dahinden. The book launch took place on June 23 at Queerbooks, a bookstore in the old city center of Bern, with short inputs by the editors and a poetic reading by one of the authors, Patrizia Zanella. In December, there will be a reading at the Biel Book fair "Edicion" with Annelise Erismann and Virginia León Torres. Also forthcoming this year (or early next year) is Naussbaumer, Melanie: *Selbstverständlich – und doch umstritten. Wie sich Organisationen bezüglich Gleichstellung legitimieren*.

The series is thriving: Five more books are in the pipeline, and we are currently considering three new manuscripts. If you have a manuscript you wish to publish with *Gender Issues*, please send us a book proposal.

SAGS Roundtable 2022

This year's roundtable "Ecofeminisms. Critical Perspectives on Theory and Activism" was held yesterday. It was hosted online by the University of Zurich and organized by Sébastien Chauvin (UNIL) and Bettina Dennerlein (UZH). It included different perspectives on the theme and was attended by approximately 40 people. Dominique extends her thanks to Bettina and Sébastien for their outstanding work.

The roundtable was recorded and will be available on our website soon.

Brigitte Schnegg Prize

In 2022, there have been no fundamental changes to our biannual work cycle, meaning that: the international conference and awarding the Brigitte Schnegg Prize will be awarded again in 2023.

The board has concluded their revisions of the Brigitte Schnegg Prize regulations in February 2022. The revisions particularly concerned the conditions of participation, clarifying that we are interested in submissions of scholarly works published (or, in the case of dissertations, defended) during the last two years prior to the publication of the call for applications. The submitted scholarly research can be in one of the Swiss national languages or English by an early- or mid-career scholar. You can find the guidelines online on our website:

<https://www.gendercampus.ch/en/sags/brigitte-schnegg-prize>

The jury for the 2023 award will be constituted early next year.

Research networks

The board convened at a retreat to regroup and revisit the SAGS' "vision" and goals. The board decided on strengthening the research networks, formerly known as working groups, making sure they are visible, and that we include them in the planning of our roundtables and conferences.

We are very proud of the newest research network "Gender and Political Science."

The existing research networks are open for new members. You find contact information on our website. SAGS members are also welcome to propose new research networks in their fields of research.

Feminisms, Marxism and Decoloniality (FMD)

The Research network Feminisms, Marxism and Decoloniality organized a SAGS funded workshop to solidify the research network's agenda and objectives for next year, it took place at the University of Bern on April 29, 2022.

Gender and Political Science

The newest research network will officially launch their activities with a kick-off event on "Feminist Political Science as A Bulwark Against Anti-Feminist Politics" on Nov. 18 at the University of Basel.

PR and communication

As the current but outgoing PR team cannot be present in the meeting, Gina Wirz-Suárez presents a statement prepared by Annelise Erismann:

2021–2022 was the last year of operations for the current public relations team, composed of Fleur Weibel and Annelise Erismann, who will focus on their academic trajectories and other projects. Fleur Weibel stays as a SAGS board member as a Think Tank Gender and Diversity representative, and Annelise Erismann is replaced on the board by Gina Wirz-Suarez as a representative of Ph.D. students in francophone institutions. Clara Guardado also joins the SAGS board as a representative of the research network Feminisms, Marxism, and Decoloniality, of which Gina Wirz-Suarez is also a member. Depending upon the election result during this SAGS member assembly, Gina and Clara will be responsible for SAGS' PR work in the next term.

Regarding communication in 2021–2022, we can state the continuity of the bulletin, published three times a year together with the SAGS secretary. In addition, we can communicate some excellent news and increases in our digital community:

- On Facebook, we now have 458 followers, an increase of 13% when compared to last year's figure, and 413 likes, a rise of 15% when compared to the previous year's figure;
- On Twitter, we are now following 547 accounts, an increase of 4% when compared to last year's figures, and we are followed by 718 accounts, an increase of 28% when compared to the previous year;
- We have launched an Instagram account (don't forget to follow us at sggfsseg!), which remains a priority in the PR portfolio for the upcoming year.

A task for the coming year will be to rethink our strategies on how to reach our intended audience. In the graphs presented in the slide it can be seen that on Twitter, the social network in which we are most active, an investment of 100CHF for sponsoring a single tweet on the roundtable for four days led to a remarkable increase in impressions and engagement. Yet, when we break this down by gender and age, we seem to reach an odd audience of mostly men between 20–29 years old, which makes sense when we consider the nature of remarks and comments being left on our Twitter account page since. On the subsequent slide some examples are given of aggressively anti-feminist comments.

It remains a challenge for the next PR team to decide which types of advertisement and online attention we want (or do not want) to have. Which types of audience are we trying to reach? What engagement are we trying to cultivate by marketizing our presence online? Is a moderate increase in engagement worth it in the sense that "even bad attention is good attention"? Does that anti-feminist reception improve the quality of networking or our likelihood of reaching new audiences as an association? These are only a few among the many questions and decisions the new PR team will face.

Dominique thanks Gina for conveying Annelise's report and thoughts. She thanks Annelise and Fleur for all the work they put into making SAGS visible in the past years.

6. Cashier's report on our annual accounts 2021

Matthias Luterbach, the cashier of the SAGS, presents the accounts for 2021.

We started with a balance of 25'000 CHF. We made a profit of 8'700 CHF and ended the year with assets of 34'500 CHF. The funds received from SAGW/ASSH were spent mostly

honorariums and salaries of board members (e.g. the PR team) and the secretary. For the 2021 conference we only spent CHF 1000, which is one of the reasons why we made this profit. Matthias opens the floor for questions on the accounting. As there are none, he proceeds to present the auditor's report on the annual accounts 2021.

7. Auditors' report on our annual accounts 2021

The reports of auditors Kristina Schulz and Beatrice Ziegler do not mention any discrepancies in the annual accounts for 2021 approved it. They suggest the members assembly to accept the accounting.

8. Vote on account statement 2021

As there are no questions from the assembly, Dominique launches online and on-site voting. With 13 yes and 1 abstention (Kristina who has audited the annual accounts 2021), the members' assembly unanimously approves the annual accounts for 2021.

9. Presentation of our budget 2023

Matthias presents and explains the budget for 2023, which the board has approved earlier the same day. We expect a loss of about 3'000 this year. However, if the conference organizers will not need the deficit guarantee we would be exactly even. But we still have the funds to take this small risk.

There are no questions or remarks on the presented budget.

10. Vote on our budget 2023

Dominique launches online and on-site voting.

With 13 yes and 1 abstention (by the cashier, Matthias) the members' assembly unanimously approves the budget for 2023.

11. Change in membership fees

Dominique presents the proposal to raise the membership fees (sent to all members with the invitation, attachment no. 4). The board has deliberated on changing our membership fees to reflect current inflation, differences in salaries, and help the SAGS' financial situation.

The board suggests this change for a trial period of one year and, if members agree, will suggest the respective changes in the statutes to the members' assembly in November 2023.

Dominique stresses that for people with low income the proposed changes make little difference. However, the changes affect individuals with high income.

For new members the fee includes the purchase of a book of the Gender Issues series at a reduced rate.

As there are no remarks or questions, Dominique launches online and on-site voting. The members' assembly unanimously (without abstentions) approves the trial phase.

12. Change in the Statutes: number of board members

The board proposes a slight change in the statutes, to increase the number of maximum board members from currently 15 to 17.

The reasons behind it are the following: this change will allow us to strengthen the representation of our research networks, PhD and junior scholars as well as scholars from the Romandie. The members' assembly unanimously accepts this change in the statutes.

13. Outlook on our activities in 2022 and 2023

2023 conference "Gender(ed) Labor"

Next year the biannual SAGS conference will take place in Lausanne. Fiona Friedli from PlaGe UNIL from the organizing committee shares some information:

The conference is jointly hosted by the PlaGe and HES-SO (with Sabine Kradolfer). The theme is "Gender(ed) Labor." They play with the double idea of gender in (paid and unpaid) labor as well as that gender is a kind of labor. The conference takes place on September 14–15 2023 at the University of Lausanne.

The call for papers is currently being written. It will be circulated early next year. Contributions can be in French, German, and English.

Katrin Meyer asks if they plan to include a time slot for attendants to informally meet with SAGS board members ("Meet the SAGS") as it was done in previous conferences?

Fiona answers that they have not discussed this yet. She will suggest it to the scientific coordinators.

There are no further questions, and Dominique thanks the organizing committee.

Workshop and roundtable "Curating differences, enabling participation/inclusivity"

SAGW awarded SAGS CHF 5000 through their "Cultural Participation"-scheme. An art & research lab and host club for art museum curators is planned to be taking place at "Kunstmuseum Basel Gegenwart," in spring 2023.

Brigitte Schnegg Prize

The call for submissions for the Brigitte Schnegg Prize will be published in Spring 2023. The award ceremony will take place after next year's members' assembly.

14. Elections

Presidency

Dominique briefly presents the candidates for presidency and vice-presidency. Janine stands for re-election, and Dominique thanks her for the continued commitment to SAGS. Dominique stands for election as vice-president, and extends her thanks also to Nathalie Amstutz who is leaving the office of vice-president but stands for re-election to the board.

Dominique launches the election. The members vote unanimously for their (re-)election (with Dominique's abstention).

Board

Dominique presents the candidates for election to the board and thanks the board members who are leaving the board at the end of 2022: Claudia D'Andrea, Annelise Erismann, and Hélène Martin.

In addition to the presidency, 10 board members are standing for re-election: Michèle Amacker, Nathalie Amstutz, Sébastien Chauvin, Bettina Dennerlein, Matthias Luterbach, Katrin Meyer, Katharina Pelzelmayer, Fleur Weibel, Marion Schulze, Anna Sommer.

Four candidates are joining the board: Anne Lavanchy (who has been acting as replacement since 2021), Ilana Eloit, Clara Guardado, and Gina Wirz-Suárez.

The members unanimously elect the board as suggested. We thank the board members, especially the cashier, for their continued work for the association.

Auditors & Honorary board

Both auditors and the three members of the honorary board stand for re-election.

The members unanimously elect the auditors and the honorary board as suggested (with the abstention of Kristina Schulz who is re-elected as auditor).

We also thank the auditors for their continued engagement.

15. Miscellaneous

Dominique asks members if they would like to share topical issues that SAGS could be involved in:

Anika Thym represented SAGS at the annual RINGS conference in on “Decolonising Feminism,” 26th & 27th October 2022, Durban, South Africa. Next year the annual conference will take place in Paderborn, Germany (18–19 October 2023).

Sabine Kradolfer gives feedback on the roundtable of the previous evening. It was very interesting, but a pity that the panelists did not have time to interact with each other. When we organize roundtables it is important to have more time for discussion among the guests.

On a different note, Sabine would like to stress the importance of the 2nd pillar of the pension for secretary positions in associations such as SAGS. We should not neglect this, as the secretary's coordinating work is truly essential.

Dominique closes the members' assembly and thanks all attendants.

Save the date: The date for the next members' assembly is Friday November 3, 2023 at 16:30.