

November 3, 2023 – University of Neuchâtel and via Webex

Members' Assembly 2023 – Minutes

These minutes were approved at the members' assembly 2024 (October 25th).

Present are:

(13 participants on site): Andrea Maihofer, Janine Dahinden, Kwaku Adomako, Dominique Grisard, Katrin Meyer, Annelise da Silva Canavarro, Mariel Cabral, Cloé Vianin, Fiona Friedli, Liliane Meyer-Pitton, Sabine Kradolfer, Landra Bias, Helena Rust (minutes)

(11 participants online): Anika Thym, Bianca Prietl, Christa Binswanger, Diana Baumgarten, Matthias Luterbach, Bettina Dennerlein, Larissa Da Silva Araujo, Marion Schulze, Magali Delaloye, Sébastien Chauvin, Lombe Mwambwa

Excused: Edith Siegenthaler, Sonja Matter, Brigitte Studer, Dina Bolokan

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 members' assembly
4. Report on our activities in 2022
5. Review of our activities in 2023
6. Cashier's report on our annual accounts 2022
7. Auditors' report on our annual accounts 2022
8. Vote on account statement 2022
9. Presentation of our budget 2024
10. Vote on our budget 2024
11. Change in membership fees: Evaluation of trial phase and decision
12. Outlook on our activities in 2024
13. By-elections for the period 2023–2024
14. Presentation of our Research Networks
15. Miscellaneous

1. Welcome

Janine Dahinden welcomes the SAGS members online and onsite. She presents a small change in the agenda, concerning the by-elections: There is one additional candidate up for election: Katharina Pelzelmayr withdraws from the board as representative of FemWiss. Liliane Meyer-Pitton, who acted as substitute for Katharina in the last year is up for election.

2. Approval of the agenda

The meeting agenda is approved unanimously, including the mentioned change.

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

The minutes of the 2022 members' assembly are approved unanimously.

4. Report on our Activities in 2022

The report on our activities in 2022 can be read on our website:

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

5. Review of our Activities in 2023

SAGS Board and Membership

Currently the board consists of 17 members from nine Swiss universities, who represent two language regions and many disciplines.

SAGS currently has 377 members, as compared to 312 at the end of 2022 (84 joined in 2023, 19 left the association in 2023). The conference in Lausanne was a huge success also with regards to new members: 65 participants registered as new members, especially from the French speaking part of Switzerland.

SAGS Publication Series "Gender Issues"

Two books published were published in 2023: [Melanie Nussbaumer: Selbstverständlich und doch umstritten – Wie sich Organisationen bezüglich Gleichstellung legitimieren.](#)
[Julien Debonneville : Devenir travailleuse domestique. Perspectives Philippines.](#)

8 more books are in the pipeline and several of them will be published very soon, and we are currently considering three new manuscripts. We welcome manuscripts: If you have a manuscript you wish to publish with *Gender Issues*, please send us a book proposal.

The editorial board welcomed two new members in 2023: Ilana Eloit (Unige) and Faten Khazaei (Northumbria University).

SAGS Conference 2023

The SAGS conference was a huge success. It took place for the first time in the French speaking part of Switzerland – we are very happy that Lausanne did this amazing work. Also, many German speaking participants were present, and the conference really managed to bridge the gap between languages. Different research traditions were present in the conference, which could also be seen in the two very inspiring keynotes by Céline Bessiere and Sibylle Gollac as well as by Jane Ward. Janine thanks the organizers from the University of Lausanne and also Annelise da Silva Canavarro for coming up with this idea to have it in Lausanne.

Curating Difference

Dominique Grisard mentions an upcoming event organized by SAGS in collaboration with art of intervention, in the SAGW format of "cultural participation." All are welcome to the public event on December 4, 2023, at Kunstmuseum Basel, at 18.15.

Brigitte Schnegg Prize

This year, the Brigitte Schnegg Prize was awarded to Fiona Friedli and Rachel Huber. We received 21 eligible submissions (in German, French, Italian, and English), and the jury, chaired by Dominique Grisard, selected in a two-step process the recipients of this year's edition of the award. The award ceremony with talks by the recipients takes place immediately after this assembly.

Consultation Process of the ERI Message

The SAGS board participated in the consultation process on the on the message on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation (ERI message) 2025–2028. Many thanks to Katrin Meyer, Bianca Prietl and Fleur Weibel for their work on the statement!

[Read our statement here.](#)

6. Cashier's report on our annual accounts 2022

Matthias Luterbach presents the accounts for 2022. He states that we could not complete all transactions before the end of 2022. He highlights that in 2022 we received less in membership fees than budgeted (14'500 instead of 16'000). At the end of the year, we had a loss of approx. 2'000 CHF. The yearly turnover is a bit more than 20'000, and there are still 32'000 in our assets. There are some pending items from last year, so that eventually we will have a loss of 1'000 CHF for 2022.

Matthias opens the floor for questions on the accounting. One member asks for an explanation on the item "unknown payments." Matthias states that these are mostly membership fees that cannot be allocated to a specific member. This can happen when people pay via their institutions. With no further questions, he proceeds to present the auditor's report on the annual accounts 2022.

In addition, he states that the accounts for 2023 look good with no loss to be expected.

7. Auditors' report on our annual accounts 2022

The reports of auditors Kristina Schulz and Beatrice Ziegler do not mention any discrepancies in the annual accounts for 2022. They recommend to the members assembly to accept the accounting.

8. Vote on account statement 2022

The present members unanimously approve the annual accounts for 2022.

9. Presentation of our budget 2024

Matthias Luterbach presents and explains the budget for 2024, which the board has agreed to present to the assembly earlier the same day: The most relevant changes (as compared to previous years) are: We expect slightly more funds from membership fees. The board suggests raising the secretary's annual salary by 1500 CHF and also raising the funds that the Research Networks can apply for to 750 CHF for each network (as compared to 500 each in previous years).

With these changes, we expect a loss of 6'000 CHF, which will be compensated from our assets. We gained funds in the previous years (our assets grew steadily, and amount to approx. 32'000 CHF) and are now in a good situation. The board suggests making use of these assets money rather than accumulate more. Matthias states that it is still a rather conservative budget, and that he does not expect the loss to amount to the full 6'000 CHF. There are no questions or remarks on the presented budget.

10. Vote on our budget 2024

With one abstention the members' assembly unanimously approves the budget for 2024.

11. Change in membership fees

In the members' assembly of 2022 the members approved a one-year trial phase for a change in our membership fees. The board argued that our activities steadily increased, and we introduced the possibility for members to buy a book of our series at a reduced price. Janine presents the numbers to evaluate this trial phase. We did not lose members because of this, and the influx of fees increased. Janine proposes that we decide for this new system and change the statutes accordingly. (The members had received a draft for the change of statutes with the invitation.)

There are no questions, and with 1 abstention the members approve this change of statutes. One member suggests that we add a donation button on our website and make it more visible in general, particularly towards the end of the year.

12. Outlook on our activities in 2024

2024 Roundtable

Next year, SAGS will again organize a roundtable. In 2024, the organization will be in collaboration with the Research Network [Gender & Political Science](#) on the topic of "Feminist approaches to political violence." It will take place on **October 25th, 2024**, immediately after the annual members' assembly.

13. By-Elections

Board

Clara Guardado, Anne Lavanchy, and Katharina Pelzelmayer are withdrawing from the board. Janine thanks these board members for their work for SAGS.

Newly stand for election: Laurence Bachmann (HETS Geneva), Virginia León Torrez (UZH), Bianca Prietl (Unibas), Liliane Meyer-Pitton (FemWiss)

Janine presents these candidates. They are unanimously elected by the assembly. A warm welcome to the new board members!

Auditors

Kristina Schulz and Béatrice Ziegler withdraw from their positions as auditors. Many thanks for their longstanding work for SAGS!

Newly stand for election: Dina Bolokan (University of Münster) and Sabine Kradolfer (HES-SO). They are unanimously elected.

14. Presentation of our research networks

An important part of our activities is done by our research networks. At a retreat in 2022, we decided to give these research networks – formerly called working groups – a new role within our association, because they are the places where gender studies are done.

We decided to support the research networks financially and to offer them visibility on our website, the possibility of communicating via our online bulletin and the possibility of publishing in the series “Gender Issues.” They also took on a new role in the conference: several of our networks had thematic panels at the conference in Lausanne, and the *RN FMD* and *RN Affects, Feelings, and Emotions* both presented a semi-plenary keynote during the conference.

In 2023, two new research networks were created: GRAU (Globalization, Race and Alterity within and beyond the University) and RAG (Research Art Gender).

There are currently [six research networks](#). Members of each of the research networks shortly present what they are doing. Many thanks for their great work!

We invite you to create new thematic networks. Guidelines for new research networks can be found [on our website](#).

15. Miscellaneous

RINGS

Anika Thym, our representative at RINGS, shortly presents this association. RINGS is a global association of gender studies institutions. The association’s goal is to share what is going on in terms of Gender Equality and Gender Studies globally and to support threatened institutions and scholars. (E.g., there is an ongoing discussion about a solidarity fund – as the distribution of resources is unequal.)

The annual RINGS conference took place in October in Paderborn (Germany) on Gender, Climate, Movement. Anika participated together with Christa Binswanger. The next conference is scheduled for Oct / Nov 2024 at Delhi University, India. The focus is going to be on technology and gender issues.

Every SAGS member is also a RINGS member and is welcome to participate in its conferences (all take place in hybrid format). Also, if you know of any gender studies institutes you know, especially in the global south, invite them to the network.

Christa Binswanger supports this statement by Anika and stresses that it is a very welcoming network for young scholars.

KEG

Christa adds that on the 17th of November the KEG (Konferenz der Einrichtungen für Frauen- und Geschlechterstudien im deutschsprachigen Raum) conference takes place. Unfortunately, the network is German speaking. If you would like to receive information by the KEG, get in touch with them here: <https://www.keg-online.eu/startseite/kontakt/>

There are no further announcements from the present members. Janine closes the assembly.

Save the date: The date for the next members' assembly is Friday, October 25th, at 16:30. It will be followed by the public roundtable on "Feminist approaches to political violence."