

October 25, 2024 – University of Neuchâtel and via Webex

Members' Assembly 2024 – Minutes

Presents are:

12 participants on site: *Dominique Grisard, Helena Rust, Katrin Meyer, Bianca Prietl, Sabine Kradolfer, Damien Michelet, Kwaku Adomako, Liliane Meyer Pitton, Leandra Bias, Mariel Cabral, Janine Dahinden, Marion Picard (minutes)*

15 participants online: *Patricia Purtschert, Andrea Zimmermann, Annelise Erismann, Christa Binswanger, Diana Baumgarten, Gina Marcela Wirz, Laura Meier, Marion Schulze, Maya Ober, Michèle Amacker, Rafaela Wenk, Stefanie Boulila, Sebastien Chauvin, Matthias Luterbach, Anna Antonakis*

Excused: Edith Siegenthaler, Yvonne Schüpbach, Lilian Fankhauser, Isabelle Albisser, Magali Delaloye, Fleur Weibel, Brigitte Studer

These minutes will need to be approved at the next members' assembly the 31st October, 2025.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Members' Assembly
4. Report on our Activities in 2023
5. Review of our Activities in 2024
6. Cashier's Report on our Annual Accounts 2023
7. Auditors' Report on our Annual Accounts 2023
8. Vote on Account Statement 2023
9. Presentation of our Budget 2025
10. Vote on our Budget 2025
11. Change in the Statutes
12. Outlook on our Activities in 2025
13. Elections
14. Presentation of our Research Networks
15. Miscellaneous

1. Welcome

The president, Janine Dahinden welcomes the attending members to the 2024 members' assembly of the Swiss Association for Gender Studies (SAGS).

2. Approval of the agenda

The meeting agenda is approved unanimously.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Members' Assembly

The minutes of the 2023 members' assembly are approved by the majority with one abstention.

4. Report on our Activities in 2023

The report on our activities in 2023 can be read on our website:

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

5. Review of our Activities in 2024

SAGS Board and Membership

By the end of 2023, SAGS had 17 board members from nine Swiss universities. Several board members are leaving or already left the board. We thank them for their work and engagement with the association. Several new scholars are up for election to the board today – we will draw a change in the statutes of the association (see section 11).

There has been a change in the secretary position in summer 2024. Helena Rust, who started in May 2022, resigned her position. Marion Picard replaced her. Janine thanks Helena Rust warmly for her works and welcomes Marion Picard, who has been acting as the SAGS' secretary since August 2024.

This year we welcomed 18 new members to the association; 28 members have left and 3 have been clean out by the previous secretary (they did not answer emails nor pay the membership fee during the last years). We currently have 356 members, as compared to 369 at the end of 2023. This development is probably due to a change the association made this year with regards to the payment reminders. We sent out individualized reminders via email (instead of the postal reminders). Many people reacted to these emails. This led to more people paying their fees but also to more people responding to the reminders with a cancellation of the membership. Compared to 2023, we have a net loss of 11 members but simultaneously an increase in membership fees of about 1000 CHF.

SAGS Publication Series "Gender Issues"

This year, three books have been published so far :

- "Pauvres, immorales et contraintes. Les adversités des mères célibataires en Suisse" edited by Thierry Delessert, Chiara Boraschi, Nelly Valsangiacomo. In September 2024, Thierry Delessert and Chiara Boraschi were featured in an interview on the RTS program *Tribu*,

discussing the challenges faced by single mothers in an episode titled *Les adversités des mères célibataires*.

- "Unsichtbar unverzichtbar, Familien- und Berufsleben von Nurses aus Kerala in der Schweiz aus einer postmigrantischen Perspektive" by Philomina Bloch-Chakkalakkal. This book is the result of an excellent Master thesis.

- "Revisioning Democracy and Women's Suffrage" by Katrin Meyer, Stephanie Pfenninger Tuchs Schmid and Yunna Skliarova. This book is a result of the SAGS Conference in 2021. The book launch took place on October 24 at Paranoia City, a bookshop in Zürich, during the festival Zürich liest!. The event was moderated by Helena Rust and was a great success, engaging a broad audience.

The series is thriving: six more books are in the pipeline, one of them has been through peer reviewing and another one is under review process. The editorial board decided to apply for SAGW funds for three new manuscripts in 2026.

We welcome manuscripts: if you have a manuscript you wish to publish with *Gender Issues*, please send us a book proposal.

Dominique Grisard thanks the editorial members and informs about the departure of Francesca Falk from the committee. She is thanked for her contribution. The board is currently looking for new members.

Janine Dahinden thanks Dominique Grisard for her great work and engagement with the series.

Retreat of June 28, 2024

The retreat this year was used to discuss the recent mobilization of students in response to the situation in Gaza and the significant variations in how different Swiss universities have responded to this mobilization. Concerns were raised about certain incidents that challenge academic democracy and academic freedom. These events underline the need for collective reflection on the values and practices upheld in academic institutions.

Given the representation of nearly all Swiss universities on the board, the retreat served as an opportunity to share updates and thoughts on what has occurred at different universities, to understand the responses of each institution to the mobilization and to discuss key principles such as academic citizenship and freedom of expression. A core part of the discussion revolved around the role of SAGS in addressing these issues leading us to create a small group to work on a Charta about Academic Democracy. The draft of the Charta is currently in progress, initiated by Katrin Meyer, Sebastien Chauvin, and Janine Dahinden and was discussed in today's board meeting, but it is not yet finalized. The Charta will not focus on Gaza, Hamas, or any specific political situation but the main messages to be communicated are: a firm commitment to the principles of academic democracy and academic freedom and an expression of support and solidarity in upholding these principles across Swiss universities.

SAGS Roundtable 2024

This year's roundtable "Feminist Approaches to political violence" is held right after the General Assembly. It is hosted on site and online at the University of Neuchâtel and was organized by Isabel Käser (University of Bern) and Elizabeth Mesok (University of Basel) from the Gender & Political Science Research Network of SAGS. This roundtable will seek to understand the role of gender, race, ethnicity, nationality and religion in the discourse and practice of war and violent conflict. As such, it brings together researchers and activists who insist on using feminist methods and theories to understand political violence - whether state-sponsored or not - and the structures that foster it.

Janine Dahinden extends her thanks to Isabel and Elizabeth for their outstanding work and expresses our enthusiasm regarding the event.

6. Cashier's report on our annual accounts 2023

Matthias Luterbach, the cashier of the SAGS, presents the accounts for 2023. He states that the overall budget is increasing, from year to year, mostly due to SAGW funding and I raise in membership fees. The income was in 2023 higher than our expenses, we made a profit of 4 100 CHF and ended the year with assets of 36 500 CHF. He emphasizes that in 2023, we collected more membership fees than in any other year since SAGS was established, representing 17 730 CHF received.

Matthias opens the floor for questions on the accounting. One member asks for the RN funding: Dominique Grisard clarifies that projects and budgets must be submitted to the board members, in principle each RN has 750 CHF / year for projects.

7. Auditors' report on our annual accounts 2023

Matthias shares the auditor's letters on screen and orally, Tina Bopp and Sabine Kradolfer do not mention any discrepancies in the annual accounts for 2023. They suggest the assembly to accept the accounting.

8. Vote on account statement 2023

As there are no questions from the assembly, Janine launches online and on-site voting. With 27 votes and 1 abstention, the member assembly unanimously approves the annual accounts for 2023.

9. Presentation of our budget 2025

Matthias presents and explains the budget for 2025, which the board has approved earlier the same day. Following the recent evolution of SAGS, we expect slightly more funds from membership fees: 19 250 CHF compared to 17 000 in 2024.

We are now in a good financial situation; the board suggests to not seek to grow, and the member's assembly agrees.

There are no questions or remarks on the presented budget.

10. Vote on our budget 2025

Janine launches online and on-site voting. With 28 votes, the members' assembly unanimously approves the budget for 2025.

11. 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 17 to 19. The reasons behind it are the following: this change will allow us to strengthen the representation of different Universities in the board.

The members' assembly unanimously approves this change in the statutes.

12. Outlook on our activities in 2025

Brigitte Schnegg Prize

The Brigitte Schnegg Prize (CHF 2000.-) was created in honor of Prof. Dr. Brigitte Schnegg who directed the Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies at the University of Bern until her unexpected death in spring 2014. The purpose of the award is to honor outstanding academic work in the field of gender studies in Switzerland contributing to social and political change. We hold this event every two year. Next year it will be the fifth time.

The call for submissions will be published in spring 2025 and the submission deadline will be the 30th of April, 2025. It concerns dissertation, books, articles or any other kinds of publication.

The award ceremony will take place after next year's members' assembly, the October, 31 2025.

2025 conference "Wissen – savoir – sapere – know(-ledges)"

Next year the biannual SAGS conference will take place in Basel. It is organized and conceptualized by Nathalie Amstutz (FHNW), Aden Kumler (Unibas), Bianca Prietl (Unibas) and Marion Schulze (Unibas).

The conference takes place on September 8-9 2025 at the University of Basel. The call for paper is currently being written and has been reviewed with the board members right before the Members' Assembly. It will be circulated at the End of the year. Contributions can be in French, German and English.

There are no questions, and Janine thanks the organizing committee.

13. Elections

Before presenting the candidates for election to the board, Janine warmly thanks Helena Rust and shares with her a gift for her outstanding work at the association. She warmly welcomes Marion Picard, as the new secretary of SAGS.

Board & Presidency

Janine presents the candidates for election and thanks the board members who are leaving the board at the end of 2023: Anna Sommer from the University of Zurich, Virginia León Torrez from the University of Zürich, Gina-Wirz-Suaréz from Geneva Graduate Institute and Bianca Prietl from the University of Basel. She explains that Bianca and Marion Schulze are alternating the position every two years.

6 members are newly standing for elections: Binswanger Christa (University of St. Gallen), Boulila Stefanie Claudine (University of Lucerne), Michelet Damien (Gender Campus), Purtschert Patricia (University of Bern), Rust Helena (University of Zurich) and Mariel Alves Cabral de Miranda (University of Lausanne).

In addition, 13 members are standing for re-elections, including the presidency and the co-presidency with Janine Dahinden and Dominique Grisard: Michèle Amacker, Nathalie Amstutz, Laurence Bachmann, Sébastien Chauvin, Bettina Dennerlein, Ilana Eloit, Matthias Luterbach, Liliane Meyer Pitton, Katrin Meyer, Marion Schulze, Fleur Weibel.

The members unanimously elect the board as suggested. We thank the board members and applause this election.

Auditors & Honorary board

Auditors stand for re-elections. The members unanimously elect the auditors as suggested. Janine thanks the auditors for their continued engagement.

14. Presentation of our research networks

An important part of our activities is done by our research networks. From a past decision made in 2022, we decided to support the research networks financially (here the [guidelines](#)) 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”. We currently have six research networks; each research network presents its activities shortly to the assembly:

- [Affects, Feelings and Emotions](#), presented by Christa Binswanger
- [Transformation of Masculinities](#), presented by Diana Baumgarten
- [Feminism and Marxism and Decoloniality \(FMD\)](#), presented by Maya Ober
- [Gender and Political Science](#), presented by Leandra Bias
- [GRAU \(Globalization, Race and Alterity within and beyond the University\)](#), presented by Kwaku Adomako

- [Research Art Gender \(RAG\)](#), presented by Christa Binswanger

Dominique asks the Research Networks if they would like to organize the roundtable in 2026. Some of them might be interested to submit an idea. This event will be covered by SAGW, the demand will be sent the 1st of March in 2025.

15. Miscellaneous

RINGS

Anika Thym represents SAGS at the International Conference of RINGS. 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.

The annual Conference took place on October 23rd to 25th at Delhi University, India. The focus this year is on technology and gender issues. The General Assembly of RINGS will follow on the 26th. Anika attends the meeting online.

Every SAGS member is also a RINGS member and is welcome to participate in its conferences (all take place in hybrid format).

P7 Program

Sabine Kradolfer shares information about the P7 program, namely that there are strong financial cuts. The P7 Conference meeting will discuss this situation and will make decision regarding 2025. We will follow these developments very closely.

Janine closes the members' assembly and thanks all attendants.

Save the date: The date for the next members' assembly is Friday October 31, 2025 at 16:30