

**International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, 3 February 2026

13h00 EST

Venue: 244 Northwestern Avenue, Ottawa, Canada

Present: Angela Sumegi, Kierra Beament, Pauline MacKenzie-Acoin, Marie-Francoise Guedon, Linnea Rowlatt, Idoia Arana-Beobide

Joining virtually: Hope MacLean, Patrick Jung, Gabriel Jones

Regrets:

Chair: Idoia Arana-Beobide

Minutes: Linnéa Rowlatt

Agenda

1. approval of agenda (Rowlatt)

Linnea moves to approve the Agenda; Angela seconds. Approved.

2. approval of Minutes 1 February 2025 (Aucoin)

Linnea moves to approve the Minutes of 1 February 2025; Marie-Francoise seconds. Approved.

3. statement from the President (Arana-Beobide) – See Appendix A. Idoia read through her report. Idoia mentions that Four Seasons Reconciliation is interested in allying with us; Idoia will provide a report on the conference at Puerta Vallarta at the next MatNet meeting. They may be interested in promoting the video. Should we do something like *The Powers That Be* again? CASCA 2026 will be in Halifax. Gabriel may be attending; Marie-Francoise will be driving down. Do we want to organize a panel there? We would have to find an engaging topic; we would need to release the Call by 7 February. What about Richard Lee's suggestion about how women and other usually subordinate segments of society manage to influence or control people who are ambitious? In other words, what are the levelling devices? Gabriel and Marie-Francoise will get together and work it out; if Linnea can participate, she will shape a CfP which can be released. We need to increase our membership; how? What about supporting members? CASCA Women's Network has an X account where they post information; do we want to get onto social media. Linnea will send a link for joining Mastodon. Let's have a special NoC meeting about memberships.

4. statement from the Treasurer, including approval of 2025 financial statements and approving a public accountant (Sumegi) – see Appendix B. Question re: Square account: Angela asks if we choose to distribute our products (video or books), how do we deliver

the product? Linnea describes the purchasing process through Square (where she set up an account for us) and Kierra volunteered to put the hard product in the post. Kierra will post the products on the UOttawa website; Angela will look into similar at Carleton. Linnea will figure out where to store and all the details; university people will have to figure out their institutions. Pauline needs a copy of *The Powers That Be*. Angela walked us through the Treasurer's Report.

5. statement from the Secretary (Aucoin) – See Appendix C. Pauline reads the Secretary's report. Send any changes of addresses or email addresses to Pauline.
6. statement from the Vice-President, Research (Guédon) – See Appendix D. Marie-Francoise read her report. We may want to explore serving our communities by conducting research that they need. The fact that we are an independent scholarly entity which is not controlled by any institution is a solid advantage, as the universities seem to be withdrawing from research in humanities and social sciences. The institutions are hiring people on a contract basis, which means their people cannot apply for research funding. We may need to seek new tools to support research and our colleagues. Anjali's danceography has moved to the Dance Museum in Toronto. We need to figure out how we want to proceed; our continuity is dependent on it. Our keywords are stability, reliability, and quality.
7. Confirming Directors and Officers (Arana-Beobide) – Idoia will return as President; Angela will return as Treasurer. Marie-Francoise will return as Vice-President (Research); Pauline will return as Secretary; Kierra will return as Bookkeeper; Linnea will return as Communications Officer. Patrick takes on the Honduras research project; he was there three weeks ago and has a very good relationship with a retired high school teacher.
8. Date of Next Meeting (Jung) – AGM 2027 will be held in the first week of February 2027.
9. Confirmation of Directors and Officers: Idoia will return as President for 2026; Angela will return as Treasurer for 2026; Pauline will return as Secretary for 2026; Marie-Francoise will return as Vice-President (Research) for 2026; Kierra will return as Bookkeeper for 2026; Linnea will return as Communications Officer for 2026. Patrick will take the lead on the Honduras research project.
10. Other
 - American threats (Rowlatt) – Linnea moves that we try EYRE Canada (<https://eyrecanada.ca/>); we will use EYRE for a few meetings and, if it works, allow our ZOOM membership to drop. Kierra seconds. Is it as easily accessible as ZOOM? Apparently. Approved; Linnea will make a membership when she returns to Whitehorse and we will give it a go.

- Frederica de Laguna Northern Books – biography (Guédon) – Yakutat woman Minnie Johnson’s biography was given to Marie-Francoise as a task by Frederica de Laguna, along with some money for whoever would work on the task. The MS and notes were given to Lucie Dufresne by the Yakutat Native board of directors with instructions to make the MS into a publication-ready book. There was no money for publishing the book; the board did not have money for that. Lucie died without sharing the whereabouts of the materials; Lisa Crandall had some, Marie-Francoise had some, and there was some at Lucie & Micheal’s house. All the materials were given to Dawn Ambler, who began to build a biography. Dawn had to learn three different Tlingit orthographies (1940s, 1960s, current); she worked for several years on this. Judith Ramos (Tlingit) agreed to work on it with Dawn. Unfortunately, Dawn’s health prevents her from finishing the work; Marie-Francoise retrieved the MS from Dawn, along with the genealogical records of the community. She will deliver the material concerning Minnie Johnson to Hope MacLean in Wakefield on 4 February 2026. Hope will evaluate the materials to see if she is interested in finishing the project. Funds are needed; Hope will let us know how much. When we have a figure in hand for concluding, we will begin to look for funds. It would be interesting to marry this project with the Eyak-English Dictionary project. Are there any recordings of the Eyak language? Any work is in the U Alaska Fairbanks. Current linguistics cannot access the language of written transcripts or notes from the earlier periods; the writing systems have changed orthographically since the initial documents were created. Translators of older orthographies are needed. Dawn Ambler collected all the varieties for terms; this is very valuable. The dictionary could conceivably include all the varieties of orthographies. Marie-Francoise moves that we adopt this project as a Network on Culture project; Angela seconds. Approved.
- Linnea is involved in the People and Land Relationships mentorship project, organised by Copper Joe Jack in Whitehorse (<https://www.respectcareshare.ca/mentorship-program>).
- World Exhibit – Marie-Francoise and Qiang Li are waking this up again as China opens to Canada once more. Lugu Lake has two museums where they do not control the contents, but they control the tourist information centre. The Mosuo have asked Marie-Francoise to provide material where it is shown that the Mosuo are not the only matrilineal society in the world. We promised the people who gave us the material that it would be exhibited in a certain style and quality. They want a presentation which can be installed in their tourist information centre. How big? Full size. The content would not be changed to suit the central government. There is no money to create the exhibit. Qiang would do the translation personally. Qiang suggests that we provide him with all the material; he would translate it and

bring it to China, where the Mosuo would manifest it. Are the panels part of our package or not? We need to check in with Gabriel; artistically, that may be part of his copyright. It would be under our copyright. The NoC could publish a book (catalogue) including the same materials and text in two languages (English and Chinese). If we produce the catalogue, we can verify the integrity of the translation. Our fee would be that Qiang provides the translation to us, as well as any moneys from the sale of the book. There are possibilities of translating it into Basque and Spanish, with Jauzerrea. We will release the images to Qiang when he provides us with the translation of the text. Linnea moves that Marie-Francoise makes an offer to Qiang Li as follows: that he translate the texts into Chinese of the matrilineal societies photo exhibit and that he provide that translation to us. Upon our receipt and verification of the translation, we will release the associated images to him for him to bring them to the Mosuo Tourist Information Centre in Lugu Lake to create the exhibit they want. Meanwhile, we retain ALL copyright on the text and the images. We will publish a book that can be used as a catalogue to accompany the exhibit in Lugu Lake if they wish. We publish, they can print a digital version once it's ready. Idoia seconds. Approved.

Meeting concluded: 16:06 EST

Next meeting: 1st week of February 2027

APPENDIX A

Network on Culture President's Report AGM 2026 Idoia Arana-Beobide

Activities

- Our video, *Matriculture: Society Through Women's Eyes* was warmly received when it launched after the Women's Network Luncheon in Montreal at CASCA 2025. Unfortunately, we have not yet found a distribution platform for the video, which has made marketing impossible. Linnéa will ask Aritz how to add purchasing option to the Network on Culture website and, hopefully, we will soon be able to sell it directly from our website.
- Published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, our volume *Matriculture, Shamanism, and the Authority of Women: The Powers That Be* was released in 2025. Co-edited by Angela and Linnéa, the volume features research from Marie-Françoise, Idoia, Patrick, and Linnéa, as well as Pi-Chen Liu (Taiwan) and Stefania Renda (Ca'Foscari, Italia), and Matthew Cerjak (Michigan).. This volume was a consequence of the panels hosted by

the Network on Culture at the 2023 joint AAA / CASCA conference in Toronto. This was a fruitful venture; should we consider doing something like this again?

- Our journal, *Matrix: A Journal for Matricultural Studies*, had a busy 2025. *Matrix* is now being distributed through three online distribution, two of which extend our reach globally: Érudit, Canada's own digital journal distribution platform, and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The Directory of Open Access Journals is particularly reputable and we have reached the gold standard for open access journal distribution. The last distribution platform is Feminist Periodicals, an online platform in the USA.

Our agreement with Érudit is financially profitable as well as academically. Since *Matrix* is published on the OJS platform, our costs per issue are the lowest possible (in 2025, \$ 498 per issue). Due to an agreement between Érudit and member libraries, funds are made available for open access journals; in 2025, we received \$ 4337.37 through this program.

- In 2025, *Matrix* published two issues: Volume 4, Issue 1, with a special theme of Women and Water: The Flow of Matriculture, included six research articles, three creative contributions, three book reviews, and Cheryl's obituary. Volume 4, Issue 2, explored Men and Masculinities from Matricultural Perspectives and, along with two research articles and three book reviews, brought us into a relatively new media with five video interviews (soon to be six). Women and Water has received 947 views on our OJS platform and 9870 on Érudit, Canada's digital journal distribution platform, from 8078 different visitors. Over 10,000 readers! Unfortunately, due to staff turnaround, Érudit has not yet uploaded Men and Matricultures; once this happens, they will also forward the necessary data to DOAJ and the issue will be uploaded on that platform as well.
- *Matrix* applied for a grant through the SSHRC program Aid to Scholarly Journals and, unfortunately, was removed from competition. We did not publish two issues per year during the assessment period (June 2023 – May 2025) and this is the minimum necessary schedule to enter the competition. We are on track to publish two issues in 2026 and plan to do this going forward.

Overall, 2025 was a stable year of interesting activities for the Network on Culture. However, we continue to be challenged with respect to membership (we have too few members); our application to the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences was rejected, for example, because they viewed the Network on Culture as a vanity project. Ultimately, if we would like to expand the Network, we, the members of the Board of Directors, need to make this a priority.

APPENDIX B

**Treasurer's Report for 2025
Network on Culture AGM
Tuesday, February 3, 2025**

Welcome to our Managing Editor who has made the long trip from Whitehorse to Ottawa to host our annual AGM in person.

Income from membership fees increases but slowly. In 2024, we received fees from 6 people amounting to \$405. This year, we gained 2 more members with fees amounting to \$520. Again, it might be worth discussing strategies to increase membership.

Other revenue amounted to \$4622.37. This included donations, sales from *Heart of India*, and a very welcome infusion of \$4337.37 from Érudit in support of our Journal *Matrix: A Journal for Matricultural Studies*. This allowed us to post total revenues of \$5142.37. We're still small potatoes but the trajectory reflects growth and we couldn't be more pleased.

Expenses for 2025 totaled \$2859.11. This included \$600 for the video editing of 6 interviews with Indigenous men who discussed their experiences related to the matricultural systems of their communities. These were profiled in the last issue "Men and Masculinities from Matricultural Perspectives". Another major expense of \$868.52 allowed us to join Érudit, a step that ensures the wide dissemination of the academic research presented in our journal.

As of now, we have not received money from public funds, so we are a non-soliciting organization and are not required to file finance statements with Corporations Canada. With an operating budget of less than \$250,000, we do not have to register for a GST/HST account with CRA.

Tony Gaston is unable to attend the AGM meeting but has kindly agreed to remain our public accountant for another year.

Respectfully submitted by

Angela Sumegi

APPENDIX C

Annual Secretary's Report

Submitted to the International Network for Training, Education and Training on Culture

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting on 2 February 2026 in Ottawa, ON.

30 January 2025 (In person and Via Zoom)

Submitted by Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Ph.D., Ottawa, Canada

Please accept the following Secretary's Report, submitted to the Board of the Network on Culture.

Administration

Over the past year Administration of the Network on Culture has gone smoothly. The business of the Network has been facilitated through Zoom facilitated and face-to-face meetings (including the AGM). Dr. Linnéa Rowlett provides typed minutes of meetings over the past year.

Corporations Canada confirmed via e-mail their receipt and processing of Inter-C's 2025 Annual Return for Not-for-Profit Status on 8 November 2025 (copy kept for our records), and the \$12.00 fee for online submission was paid. The Transaction ID is 18369956.

Membership

Membership information (names and contact information) was updated in June 2025

The **Directors and Officers** include the following members:

President: Linnéa Rowlett

Chairperson: Idoia Arana-Beobide (student member)

Treasurer: Angela Sumegi

Secretary: Pauline McKenzie Aucoin

Vice-President (Research): Marie-François Guédon

Director, Bookkeeper: Kierra Beaumont (student member)

Dr. Anthony J. Gaston continued to serve the Network on Culture as Public Auditor during 2024.

APPENDIX D

Network on Culture: Annual General Meeting - February 2026.

Annual Report by Marie-Françoise Guédon, Vice-President Research.

As an introduction, I would like to note that for this group, research is not limited to research projects, it intervenes in all and every task that defines our activities. From launching and writing calls for papers, reviewing manuscripts, assessing the historical, social and cultural situation of communities, to preparing lectures and presentations, writing funding demands, participate in colloquium and conferences, responding to requests, and even to preparing video film or, eventually, displays or virtual exhibits. The largest amount of research work is demanded of course by the management of the Matrix journal.

A - Taking this kind of research into consideration and looking at the overall research activities in the Network, the past year was a year of assessment dominated by three dominant pragmatic concerns:

1. The coming to fruition of previous research, and especially the completion and publication of several projects, including our participation in CASCA annual meeting and especially the session we sponsored on matriculture that has seen the resulting manuscript that was prodded, guided and edited by Linnéa, accepted for publication, without corrections;

2. The writing of a SSHRC grant for the publication of *Matrix* - accomplished mostly by Linnéa Rowlatt assisted by Angela Sumegi and by myself, with its detailed description of past achievements;
3. The attempt to distribute our video film on the notion of matriculture and more generally to increase our reach, which was were framed by the difficulties encountered by the IUAES where we had planned originally to present our film (at the International World IUAES international meeting, held in November 2025 in Guatemala.
4. The international political situation, especially in China, in the United States of America, and in Russia, had direct consequences on our research work. It prevented us from pursuing research projects with the Mosuo people in Lugu Lake, in spite of the local demand for assistance (transmitted to us by Li Qiang); it limited our travel to Juneau (Alaska) and curtained the field work component of Kierra Beament work on Tlingit's women's involvement with crest art, as well as our contacts with the Tlingit people in Juneau, and the people of Yakutat (who, thanks to Linnéa Rowlatt's continuing attention, finally managed to collect Frederica de Laguna's library stored in Whitehorse;) following the pause imposed by the situation in Ukraine, we had to cancel for the moment our hopes of developing a project on matricultural systems in Siberia.

Therefore, we are now actively exploring potential new research projects for us to be involved as teams; we have begun the exercise by investigating the complex and interesting situation of Indigenous communities in South-Eastern Honduras proposed by Patrick Young, with our thanks to Hope MacLean who has done quite a bit of preparatory research in response to our concerns.

5. We continued our (almost) customary active participation in the CASCA annual meeting (2025). Instead of a symposium, we decided to present our video project on *Matriculture*, complemented by a seminar on *Matriculture* which was jointly organised by the CASCA women Network. We are now poised to enter the next round of annual conferences and are waiting for your suggestions.
6. This year also saw *Matriculture, Shamanism, and the Authority of Women: The Powers That Be*, edited by Linnea Rowlatt and Angela Sumegi, published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

In short this was a year of assessment: assessment of work done, of resources (and I do not mean just financial), and of work needing to be done. On that last item, we may want to explore how to best concretely serve the communities that may get involved in our projects, or to expand our reach into indigenous and minorities populations.

B - Most of our work is serving an essential aspect of research that is the continuity of a scholarly network. This is more than a side-benefit; it is an essential duty and part of our initial goals. It operates at various levels: Most of us are involved in teaching in various functions.

From full-time teaching (Patrick Jung; Pauline McKenzie-Aucoin;) to serving on M.A or PhD defense examination, to offering graduate seminars.

With *Matrix*, of course, we are connected with a wide range of scholars, a community of researchers, much strengthened by the participation of Patrick Jung and Christine Mathieu. Our thanks to all the peer-reviewers, and to those who contributed their assistance.

Our individual research agendas also dovetail into each others' and contribute both to the strength and continuity of our connections.

Let me repeat what I said last year: the fact that we are an independent scholarly entity not controlled by a university appears to be a solid advantage. To be blunt, the universities have disengaged more and more from research in social sciences and humanities. We may have to search for tools to meet and support our research collaborators. One of them is our participation in lecture meetings, colloquia, and formal or informal encounters with our colleagues. Another is to maintain the high quality and ideological independence of our work.

C- On the individual level, every member of the network has been involved in personal research projects which, I must note, do benefit from access to colleagues' support, advices and suggestions. Several of those must be mentioned here.

- Kierra Beament is more and more engaged in her Ph.D. research project on Northern Northwest Coast female arts, even though it presented a big hurdle when access to Juneau and her Alaska fieldwork was cut due to the situation in the USA.
- Idoia is reorganising her work on Basque matricultural tradition.
- Linnéa Rowlatt was busy with the journal *Matrix*, learning about new online platforms, writing grant applications, and editing two issues to publication. In August, she travelled to the annual conferences of the European Society for Environmental Historians in Uppsala, Sweden, and the International Association for the Historians of Religion in Krakow, Poland, to make presentations on her book *Weathering the Reformation*. These were well received, and she had two invitations to present her findings to seminars exploring climate change and culture (Scotland and Germany).
- Angela Sumegi is gathering the benefit of her book on Death and Dying from the point of view of world religions, and she is now talking about her research in Europe. In January, she spoke on the notion of Matriculture to the Women's Issues and Perspectives (WIP) group of the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome (CACOR). In May, at a seminar on "The History of Mind", she presented the highlights of a paper entitled: "Conceptualizing Mind: Encounters between Buddhism and Shamanism", using the conceptualization of dreaming. This paper was presented at Engelsbergs Ironworks, a heritage site outside of Stockholm, Sweden and hosted by the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit. A subsequent interview associated with the presentation is available in its entirety on <https://www.axesstelevision.com/> (requires an account which is free). The paper is currently in press with the Bokförlaget Stolpe publishing house.
- Frederique Darragon is expanding her work on matricultural systems and matrilineal societies in Eastern Asia
- Marie Françoise Guédon spent most of her research time on preparing her participation in an international colloquium on Archaeology and Religion, entitled *Le fait religieux*. The event was organised by Aline AVERBOUH for the Musée de l'homme in Paris in

November 2025 (CNRS, UMR 7209 AASPE, MNHN, Paris). Her original intervention was upgraded to a public inaugural address, plus an introduction to the fourth and last session; both texts are being prepared for publication. The first address developed the theme of the hunter gatherers to denounce the association between primitiveness and the late Paleolithic (50 000 years ago);

Prior to that engagement, she also wrote two sections of the catalogue for an exhibition on the North Pacific Coast to be held in the Musée du Quai d'Orsay in Paris to open in May 2026, she used the opportunity to review two research themes the first one to reaffirm in the first section the cultural diversity of the North West Coast, and in the second section to present the so-called Secret Societies as a historical development stemming from the presence of and perception by the local aboriginal population of the European colonists.

D- On the back-burner:

Following her previous year attempt to investigate Canadian Universities and their response to climate change (The Off-Grid Faculty Club) and except for sending the report resulting from this enquiry to anyone asking for it (less than 10 demands), nothing much has happened on that front. But that absence of response confirmed her initial conclusion about the tight control maintained by universities administrations and by funding bodies on anything resembling political intervention on climate change issues, with the exception of Quebec and the Maritimes where municipal authorities and universities often offer joint intervention projects, though only on the consequences of climate change rather than on its root causes

As mentioned last year, projects on the back burner also include a virtual photographic exhibition on World matrilineal societies, which is still in demand by our Mosuo friends in Lugu Lake. The exhibit catalogue could also be presented as a stand alone publication. The original project was brought to a standstill by the Covid quarantine. But we still have the content if needed, and it could provide the basis for an introductory manual on Matrilineal/matrilocal societies.

Still on holds, Gabriel Jones' proposal of a digital synthesis.

And we have not moved very fast in our project support for Digital Archiving for Cultural Horizon - This is part of our Cultural Research Archives established to welcome scholarly material otherwise endangered or inaccessible. Unfortunately, preparing material to be archived demands time and, again, research efforts, and therefore bodies, hands and brains.

Conclusions: We have to reassess both our goals and our organisation if we want to be better involved in our purpose as previously defined. We have done well and done much more than surviving; but we are evolving and are going to need resources if we want to weather fast-coming changes. That in itself might become one of the main services to offer the scholarly community involved in the studies of cultural processes, and in human sciences in general simply because stability, reliability and quality are fast becoming rare commodities.