

International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes

Friday, 21 January 2022

14h30 EST

hybrid meeting: in-person at 244 Northwestern Avenue, Ottawa, online through ZOOM

Present: Angela Sumegi, Kierra Beament, Qiang Li, Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Hope MacLean, Marie-Françoise Guédon, Idoia Arana-Beobide, Linnéa Rowlatt

Regrets: Heide Göttner-Abendroth

Chair: Linnéa Rowlatt

Minutes: Linnéa Rowlatt

Agenda

1. approval of agenda

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

2. approval of Minutes 2021.02.01 (Rowlatt)

Linnéa moves to approve the Minutes from 2 February 2021; Marie-Françoise seconds.

Approved.

3. statement from the President (Rowlatt)

See Appendix 1.

4. statement from the Treasurer (Sumegi)

See Appendix 2.

arrival of Idoia Arana-Beobide

5. statement from the Secretary (Aucoin)

See Appendix 3.

6. statement from the Vice-President, Research (Guédon)

See Appendix 4. Discussion of possible future projects; mapping matricultures against

Indigenous language families in North America continues to be of interest, and we could

also expand the project to a world-wide project. Project leaders would need to have a comprehensive understanding of a continent. Any work on having our own conferences, exhibits, or publications will need to wait until Covid crisis is done, but meanwhile, we can continue to work on existing projects. Working online inhibits effective working groups. We have diversified, we have creating a positive reputation.

This year has shown that we are able to work as a group; taking a bunch of individuals and working together with a common focus is not simple, and we have done well in that. The distinction between MatNet and the Network on Culture is working well, also. For further development, we have to account for the general slow-down of research projects; we are experiencing institutional blocks re: access to information, largely via paywalls. Exchanging ideas virtually is difficult; in-person conversation is crucial to this. This encourages us to consider meetings, colloquiums, and conferences; Network on Culture should move more explicitly towards an interdisciplinary approach. The universities have been responsible for diminishing opportunities for communication between researchers and between researchers and communities; we are a unique group and we could position ourselves explicitly as favouring scholarly communication through (1) in-person gatherings or very concrete projects, or (2) training about live communication technology (ie: phones). Linnéa will look into SSHRC Connections Grants, as part of developing a community of purpose.

7. approval of 2021 financial statements (Gaston)

Dr. Anthony J. Gaston, our public auditor, approved the Financial Statements of 2021. A letter of approval was provided. Angela moves that we approve the 2021 Financial Statements; Idoia seconds. Approved.

8. appoint a public accountant (Sumegi)

Angela Sumegi moves that Dr. Anthony J. Gaston serve the Network on Culture as public auditor for 2022. Marie-Françoise seconds. Approved.

9. Confirming Directors and Officers (Sumegi)

Linnéa Rowlett will continue as President; Angela Sumegi will continue to serve as Treasurer; Pauline McKenzie Aucoin will continue to serve as Secretary; Marie-Françoise

Guédon will continue to serve as VP Research; Kierra Beament will continue to serve as Bookkeeper.

10. Other

a) Dr. Qiang Li greets us warmly; knowing some of us for many years, he is pleased to meet new members. He congratulates us on our on-going journal *Matrix* and our acquisition of Frederica de Laguna Northern Books. He asks about the status of InterCulture at the University of Ottawa; Marie-Françoise confirms that InterCulture is no longer active. Dr. Li reminds us that several institutions in China think well of InterCulture and that an international conference in Lugu Lake was planned by the Yunnan government, as part of their goal of promoting Mosuo culture. It was cancelled due to the pandemic, but Dr. Li continues to uphold our relationships with China and the matricultural communities there. He recognizes that finding money is an important goal and suggests promoting Feng Lili's book published by Northern Books, to improve sales. Also, he recommends publishing the World Matricultures book, because he could promote it in China and we would generate income thereby. Once the book is published, we could organize an exhibit; there are museums in China that are interested and it could tour worldwide. SWUN was interested in funding it, but no longer.

Linnéa asks if there are companies that promote books; Idoia remarks that they exist, but they take a large percentage of the sale. Linnéa asks Marie-Françoise how Northern Books sold the book thus far; only 20 books sold, it's available to print-on-demand. Pauline asks if there are an ISBN number; yes, there is. Pauline tells us that at CASCA, there will always be a book room and we could include our books there. Northern Books could ask the book room organizing committee to be invited to join the book room. **Pauline will** contact Alex the coordinator to ask. If it is not in print, information about printing-on-demand will be provided. **Marie-Françoise will** forward the publishing information to Pauline. Angela notes that the book should be on Amazon and on the Network on Culture website. **Linnéa will** figure out how to put the book on Amazon. **Idoia will** provide a copy to Angela for a book review.

Marie-Françoise notes that at her recent conference on Nomads, they published the book first, then held the conference. Hope notes that Feng Li's book is quite unique, relating dance and shamanism, and that there may be a market among people interested in shamanism. The original Chinese layout was gorgeous; some of it is retained, but not with as much panache.

Angela notices that we need a project action plan. **We will** work on creating one and working with these.

Meeting closed at 16h07 EST.

TASKS

- **All will** work on creating a project action plan.
- **Idoia will** provide a copy of Feng Li's book to Angela for a book review.
- **Linnéa will** figure out how to put Feng Li's book on Amazon.
- **Marie-Françoise will** forward publishing information for Feng Li's book to Pauline.
- **Pauline will** contact Alex the coordinator to ask. If it is not in print, information about printing-on-demand will be provided.

Appendix 1

President's Report

Network on Culture

21 January 2022

Linnéa Rowlatt

2021 was the second full year of the Network on Culture's and the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic. As was the case last year, I am so very happy to see all of us around the table or online, still relatively hale and hearty.

2021 also heralded the arrival of Frederica de Laguna Northern Books under the Network's umbrella. This small press has a strong reputation as a publisher of monographs and booklets about northern cultures, and its integration into the Network on Culture opens more avenues for our members to share their research. Hopefully, as well, other scholars and community members will be drawn to publish with Northern Books. Meanwhile, *Matrix: A Journal for Matricultural Studies* published an excellent second issue, a strong third issue will be published shortly, and the fourth and fifth issues are in production.

Due to Covid, our collaboration with Cultural Horizons to develop an archive of Anne-Marie Gaston's danceography remains paused, as does the World Matricultures project. Although we were accepted into the 2022 Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Societies in Saint Petersburg, Russia, our original plans to deliver our research in person have been changed to an online participation. Russia's military aggression towards Ukraine also contributed to this decision, showing here, too, how large-scale conditions play out among individuals.

A sorry loss this year was the death of founding member Dr. Martin Kalulambi. A long time colleague and friend, Martin's primary research was on Africa-related topics, and he was in the Congo organizing, among other things, an issue of *Matrix* focused on African matricultures when he passed away. Marie-Françoise Guédon, our VP Research, spoke at his well-attended Ottawa funeral; the Networks respects were also noted with a colourful bouquet of flowers at the ceremony.

A significant challenge for the Network on Culture continues to be the securing of external funds. While our circle of members and friends are supportive and we occasionally receive donations from them, we could benefit from more time given to identifying and wooing potential funders. External funders, though, will be attracted by the projects we have underway and planned, and, as Research Coordinator for this coming year, my goal is to develop at least one viable research project for the Network on Culture, likely mapping matricultures against North American Indigenous linguistic families. As President, I would also like to find funds to pay a part-time Managing Editor for *Matrix*, although until then, I will continue my support of the journal by acting as a volunteer Managing Editor.

Our continued presence during this globally trying period, individually and as an organization, is a clear sign of our strength and our commitment to the project. I congratulate the Network on Culture's capacity to endure adversity and am eager to see what the future holds for us!

Appendix 2

Treasurer's Report

Network on Culture AGM

Angela Sumegi

Friday, January 21, 2022

- 2021 was in many respects a pandemic clone of 2020 with lockdowns and restrictions alternating with easing of restrictions and then Omicron appeared! Same old, same old. However, WE'RE ALIVE.
- Through membership dues from 7 people, we brought in \$445 and spent \$615 – which means that there's less than \$200 difference between the end of year balance in 2020 and 2021. Holding steady, but time to consider revenue opportunities.
- As yet, 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 – time to start soliciting
- With an operating budget of less than \$250,000, we do not have to register for a GST/HST account with CRA. One day!
- Tony Gaston has kindly agreed to be our public accountant and to remain so for another year.

Appendix 3

Secretary's Annual Report for the International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture. Submitted by Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Secretary. 20 January 2022.

1 February 2021: Annual General Meeting of the INTERC Board held, and fees notice sent (for 2021) for annual fees, to be sent to Linnéa Rowlett by INTERC members.

3 May 2021: Panel organized for the annual CASCA conference cancelled, due to cancellation of the conference by CASCA.

17 June 2021: Board Meeting held, via Zoom. In attendance: Kiera Beaument, Linnéa Rowlett, Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Angela Sumegi, Marie-Françoise Guédon, Idoia Arana-Beobide.

27 June: Submission of the Ontario Corporations Annual Return, by Treasurer Angela Sumegi.

29 June 2021. Flowers and condolences sent on behalf of the Board of INTERC, to the family on the occasion of the Wake and Funeral of our colleague Dr. Martin Kalulambi (of Kinshasa and Ottawa).

4 October 2022: Meeting of the Board of Network on Culture held; Kiera Beaument, Linnéa Rowlett, Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Angela Sumegi, Marie-Françoise Guédon in attendance via Zoom. Discussion was held on the integration of Frederica de Laguna "Northern Book" publishers to INTERC. Consultation had been made previously with the Auditor, Eric Antilla. Approved unanimously by vote.

20 October 2021: Linnéa Rowlett reports that a submission has been made to the IUAES for a proposed Panel at the IUAES 2022 Congress in Saint-Petersburg, entitled the "Multi-Faceted Mobilities of Women," to be held May 2022.

22 October 2022: New Issue of 'Networks', the Newsletter of INTERC has been produced and circulated.

25 October 2021: Submission by Secretary of Annual Return Filing of Renewal of Non-Profit Status for The Network to Corporations Canada, with payment of annual renewal fees. Receipt confirmed by IC via email.

28 November 2021: Confirmation received of the Notice of Change of Directors, submitted to Corporations Canada, to include the following: Kiera Beaument, Linnéa Rowlett, Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Angela Sumegi, Marie-Françoise Guédon, Idoia Arana-Beobide.

12 November 2021: The board was notified that Eric Anttila has resigned as the Auditor of the Network on Culture, and a vote was called in order to confirm that the responsibilities will be transferred to Dr. Tony Gaston.

13 November 2021: Following a vote by the Board of Network on Culture, Dr. Tony Gaston has assumed the responsibilities of the Auditor for the Network.

21 January 2022: AGM scheduled for INTERC Board, 2:30pm.

Appendix 4

VP Research Annual Report for the International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture. Submitted by Marie-Françoise Guédon, Vice President Research. 20 January 2022.

The Network on Culture has been active on several fronts this year, some of which we inherited from previous years, some of which were recently opened. Of course I have to mention the consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic on our activities, especially as far as conferences and workshops are concerned; but otherwise we have been busy.

1- Unhappily, in June 2021, we lost one of our colleagues, Martin Kalulambi Pongo died in Kinshasa, Congo. His wake and funerals took place in Ottawa, Canada on the 29 of June, and were able to send flowers and cards, while I was invited to participate in the eulogy. With Martin, we loose a great friend, and also our main connection with the African continent

2- Continuing on our past commitments, we have kept a steady participation in the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) annual meeting and conferences with several sessions supported by our GMRS (MatNet) members and guests, therefore our sessions revolving around matricultural issues.

Thanks to Linnéa Rowlett's efforts, we have added a planned participation to the coming IUAES international meeting, originally in person in Saint Petersburg in Russia, but now planned in a virtual format. The Global Matricultures Research Network (MatNet), has organized a panel entitled *Matricultures on the Move Through Space and Time* for the 2022 IUAES virtual conference with two sessions.

Session 1 - *Moving Between Worlds: Matricultures and Shamanism*

Session 2 - *Matricultures of Eastern Europe and North Asia*

3- Most of our research activities have centered on the journal *Matrix*, with its first two issues circulating internationally, with very positive reviews, and a third one (vol. 2, issue 2) almost ready to go. This allows us to keep abreast of current research and enlarge our sphere of influence.

The editorial collective had to join efforts to achieve its goal and this work had a much positive effect on our members who had to teach each other and learn about new methodologies and new fields of research. My thanks to all of you. Several questions are now being explored as a result of the work of this editorial collective, including consultations on the proper ways to identify and quote Indigenous and community sources

4- In October 2021: Discussions were held on the integration of Frederica de Laguna "Northern Book" publishers to the Network on Culture. This integration was approved, and the Network on Culture now has a new tool to communicate with scholars and with the general public, as well as with the Indigenous communities for whom Northern Books was intended in the first place,

5- Several of us are involved in teaching undergraduate and graduate level courses or seminars. Our linkage with the University of Ottawa resulted in our assisting two graduate students in pursuing their goals. Congratulations to Jean Claude Ingoli Mboka for a successful Ph.D. defense; Jean Claude has worked with Dr. Martin Kalulambi Pongo and I was on his Ph.D. committee.

Congratulations also to Kierra Beament for her PhD Thesis early research work, producing a research report accepted for publication in the coming issue of *Matrix*.

6- On the personal front, and benefiting from a lull in the pandemic restrictions, I was able to participate, in November 24-25, 2021, in an international colloquium held in Paris at the Musée national d'histoire naturelle : *Qu'est ce qu'être nomade au fil des temps passés, présents et futurs?* (What does it mean to be nomadic in the past, present and future?). This was organized by Aline Averbouh (CNRS) Serge Bahuchet (MNHN) Nejma Goutas (CNRS), and Sylvie Mazzella (CNRS). I participated as a member of the organizing committee, as one of the authors selected for the book on the topic, and as a presenter on "the influences held by international NGOs on the fate of nomadic and semi-nomadic populations". (My thanks to Dr. Cheryl Gaver and to Dr. Hope McLean for their most useful information on a topic that may become a new area for research and already looking for collaborators). We developed useful (and pleasant) connections with an international community of interdisciplinary scholars (from paleontology, prehistory, history, geography, sociology and anthropology), but, together with the book already in print, the project took over 8 months of steady involvement to prepare. The book, entitled *Nomad Lives, from Prehistoric Times to the Present Day*, and dedicated to Claudine Karlin, was peer reviewed; it was edited by Aline, Nejma, and Sophie Mer, with contributions from more than 50 authors, and was published by the Collection « Nature en Sociétés » Publications Scientifiques du Musée national d'histoire Naturelle, France. It is available on line in French and in English. We are now working toward follow-up initiatives.

7- The Network on Culture is a most successful venture from the point of view of research. My most heartfelt thanks to an excellent team of colleagues, and my congratulation to Linnéa Rowlett for holding us together and at the wheel.

Marie-Françoise Guédon