Living Uncertainty

SIEF2023 16th Congress

Brno, Czech Republic:
7-10 June 2023

SIEF2023 programme

All panels

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Arch01
Back to basics: reconfiguring place in times of crisis

Arch02
(In-)significant stuff. Museums and meaning-making in times of uncertainty [Working Group of Museums and Material Culture]

03
Ethnological museums, (b)orders and epistemological uncertainties

Arch04

Crafting knowledge and creative material practices

Arch05

Documenting and living uncertainty in tradition archives today and in the future [Working Group on Archives]

Arch06

Responsibility, repair and representation in archival practices [Working Group on Archives]

Body01

The body in uncertain times: emancipations, transformations and debarments

Body02

The body of migrants: how migration shapes human bodies

Body03

Mediating affect in the world of uncertainties

Body04

Uncertain belongings: exploring the materiality of home among refugees and migrants

Digi01

Narrating the uncertainty of digitalised health and illness

Digi02

Precarious topics, precarious researchers

Digi03

Heroes and villains in the global digital space [Digital Ethnology and Folklore]

Digi04

Living in the smart home: redesigning power dynamics through domestic space digitalization [Space-lore and Place-lore]

Envi01

When knowledges meet in times of uncertainty: environmental knowledge between science and everyday life

Envi02

Sensing and materializing climate change

Envi03

Landscapes in transition: tracing the past – facing uncertainties of the future [SIEF Working Group on Space-lore and Place-lore]

Envi04

Changing communities in mountain areas between certainties and uncertainties

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Envi05

Contested futures? Sustainability conflicts and local practices in the age of global uncertainty

Envi06

Circular economy practices: facing global uncertainty through local strategies

Envi07

Belonging in a time of uncertainty: issues and perspectives - Panel [Place wisdom]

Envi08

Trajectories of resilience: redefining place, reshaping landscape and recreating a sense of belonging in Arctic tourism resorts

Envi09

Fighting back [tackling] the Anthropocene: ethnographies of other ways of living and doing

Envi10

Coexisting with underwater worlds

Food01

Agriculture, climate change and food security: a comparative approach on how small farmers mitigate global crises in an increasingly uncertain world

Food02

Food in times of uncertainty [Food research]

Food03

Stinky fish & other liminal foods

Food04

Ethnographies of foodwork in times of uncertainty

Heal01

Healthcare in the margins: alternative spaces of care and lay action against uncertainty

Heal02

Uncertain futures, uncertain bodies

Heal03

Medical precarity in uncertain times: understanding contemporary healthcare design, malfunction, and collapse [MAYS EASA]

Heal04

The politicisation of care and distributive struggles in crisis contexts

Heri01

The material waste of aggression. Dangerous resurfacings of past conflicts

Heri02

New horizons for SIEF engagement with UNESCO-ICH [Cultural Heritage and Property Working Group] (Roundtable)

Heri03

Awarded, and now what? Negotiating uncertainty and Intangible Cultural Heritage (UNESCO) in rural areas

Heri04

Living on the edge: the political economy of borders' patrimonialization processes

Heri05

Why 'folklore'? Seeking for belonging and identities

Heri07

Heritage as resistance – looking forward to cultural recovery

Heri08

Living heritage as a source of resilience in times of uncertainty

Heri09

Folklore revivals in non-democratic contexts

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Heri10

Digital heritage communities: between material uncertainties and virtual proximities

Hist01

The uncertainties of the afterlives of natural history

Hist02

Ethnology in Central and Eastern Europe before, during and after the Second World War

Hist03

Encountering uncertainties: ethnographic methods and national traditions [SIEF Working Group Historical Approaches in Cultural Analysis HACA and EASA-Network History of Anthropology Network HOAN]

Hist04

Skating on thin ice: methodological and ethical issues in research on Cold War ethnology and folkloristics

Hist05

Untangling the uncertainties of 'the living word': considering folk schools and informal education communities

Inte01

Uncertain gender? Affects and gender politics in current social movements

Inte02

Old age and uncertainty: challenging binaries in the light of empirical research and postcolonial theory

Inte03

Unsettling tradition: uncertainty of gender and sexuality in folklore

Inte04

Secret uncertainty: queer, crip and intersectional perspectives on everyday reorientation

Inte05

The uncertain "woman" in ethnology and folklore [Working Group "Feminist Approaches to Ethnology and Folklore"]

Know01

Who needs ethnological knowledge?

Know02

Uncertainties of learning. Ethnological and folkloristic contributions to research in educational contexts

Know03

Shifting knowledge in times of uncertainty – mediating ethnological interpretations to young people

Know04

Methods in research on uncertain lives

Know05

Starting anew: ethnological trajectories in exile and displacement

Know06

Zavrt'sa ně cérečko - Moravian folklore on Czech National Radio

Know07

Autoethnography as an (uncertain) methodological experiment: suturing personal and collective experiences

Know08

Incertitudes et innovations en ethnologie européenne [Francophone WG]

Know09

Further steps into the unknown: walking methodologies as experimentation, experience, and exploration

Know10

Fragilités de l’enquête en temps d’incertitude

Know11

Creativity and opportunity in times of uncertainty

Mobi01

Recovering everyday life in an era of multiple crises

Mobi02

Modalities of deservingness in current solidarity spaces in Europe

Mobi03

Asylum infrastructures and the politics of uncertainty

Mobi04

Encampment in Europe in a comparative perspective

Convenors:
Carna Brkovic (University of Goettingen)
Marijana Hameršak (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research)
Marta Stojić Mitrović (The Institute of Ethnography of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts)

Chair:
Sabine Hess (Institute for Cultural AnthropologyEuropean Ethnology)

Stream: Mobilities

Format: Panel

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ort Abstract:

This panel offers a comparative ethnographic and historical perspective on processes of encampment in Europe and on refugee camps as spaces run by complex and ambiguous interweaving of humanitarian and security logics, as well as on forms of resistance to them.

Long Abstract:

This panel offers a comparative ethnographic and historical perspective on processes of encampment in Europe and on refugee camps as spaces run by complex and ambiguous interweaving of humanitarian and security logics. It approaches encampment as a specific architectural-political form of managing displacement that became possible with the establishing of the nation-state system. With the growth of the humanitarian industry and its 'mobile sovereignty' (Pandolfi 2003), refugee camp was dispersed globally as a preferred model of managing displacement.

The panel contributions could address one of the following key aspects:

1) the complex and shifting securitarian-humanitarian logics of governance that are reflected in the management of displacement through encampment;

2) how camps as infrastructures of immobilization, control and care change over time;

3) everyday life and encampment;

4) shifting logics of racialization and how they shape processes of encampment;

5) camps as places of resistance to racialisation and humanitarian-securitarian governance.

We invite papers that explore (in)visibility and (un)knowability of the management of European borders by empirically focusing on diverse process of encampment in European member states, as well as those looking at the processes of offshoring encampment from the EU to the countries in the Mediterranean, alongside the Balkan Route, in Africa etc. Papers for this panel would offer an ethnographically and historically grounded analysis of processes of encampment and refugee camps as racialized formations made possible by certain forms of governance in which boundaries between care and violence are increasingly blurred and of resistance to these.

Accepted papers:

The spatio-temporal governance of migration through the Hotspot Approach: a comparative analysis of law and practice in Greece and Italy

Karl Heyer (IMIS Osnabrueck)

The Reception Regime. How camps shape between Italy and Germany.

Giuseppe Platania (Scuola Normale Superiore)

The camp as method: infrastructural uncertainty in state reception for asylum seekers.

Caterina Borelli (Università Ca' Foscari)

Swedish quarantine camps as a form of biopolitical borderwork in the end of World War II

Markus Idvall (Stockholm University)

Mobi05

Into the unknown: uncertainness as the common condition of mobilities [Working Group on Migration and Mobility]

Convenors:
Ignacio Fradejas-García (University of Oviedo)
Kristín Loftsdóttir (University of Iceland)

Stream: Mobilities

Format: Panel

Short Abstract:

In this panel we explore mobility and uncertainty, asking more specifically: how mobilities are used to deal with uncertain circumstances; how uncertainty can hinder or encourage mobilities; as well as how dealing with uncertainty during mobilities.

Long Abstract:

Mobility uncertainness might be structural or/and provoked by unexpected events. The acceleration of interconnected crisis of identity, environment and economy (Eriksen 2016) produces states of uncertainty that can be aggravated by sudden events. The pandemic radical uncertainties produced 'shock mobilities,' reconfiguring mobilities routines (Xiang et al. 2022) and revealing striking differences between essential and existential mobilities (Salazar 2021). Uncertainness is shaped by gender, race, origin, or class, where subaltern and unprivileged people on the move are especially affected. People on the move enter in unknown territories with different socio-cultural rules and legal systems that shape their position within society as gendered, racialized bodies. Some migrants are impacted by political uncertainties in origin while being in precarious situations during movement (Loftsdóttir 2016). Uncertainty also links with agency and power for choosing/forcing go/stay or destination/routes, while concerned with tempo, duration and intensity of mobilities (Amit and Salazar 2020). Disruptions in travels have long been a common characteristic of everyday life (Pooley 2013) and the same argument might be applied to all spatial mobilities: anything can happen on the move. In times of permanent crisis, tolerating and dealing with uncertainty has become a highly valued capacity, and can encourage creativity, resistance and imagination. This panel seeks to illustrate how uncertainty operates on the move and we call for proposals on a broad range of mobilities/immobilities engaging with: How mobilities are used to deal with uncertain circumstances; how uncertainty can hinder or encourage mobilities; as well as how dealing with uncertainty during mobilities.

Accepted papers:

Uncertainties, Unevenness and Mobility in the Touristic Swiss Alps

Danaé Leitenberg (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany)

What's Next? Examining the Experiences of International Scholars in Latvia

Ieva Puzo (Riga Stradins University)

'Emigration is luck': Destiny, uncertainty and witchcraft in migratory journeys from the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau

Magdalena Brzezińska (The University of Gdańsk)

Reverse migration during the COVID-19 pandemic and the energetic crisis. Routes of Romanian migrants in Germany

Antonia Jeflea (University of Tübingen)

Mobility indeterminacy and grass-roots rescue infrastructure on Kolyma roads, Russia

Asya Karaseva (University of Tartu)

Between a rock and a hard place: Border regime analysis in and beyond the Canary Islands

Zina Weisner (Danube University Krems), Kristín Loftsdóttir (University of Iceland), Ignacio Fradejas-García (University of Oviedo)

The precariousness of privileged mobility: Turkish migrant doctors in contemporary Germany

Erkan Tümkaya

The Railway and Clandestine Migration along the Balkan Migratory Trail

Marijana Hameršak (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research), Marta Stojić Mitrović (The Institute of Ethnography of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts), Simon Campbell (University of Graz)

Paper short abstract:

Based on long-term ethnographic research along the Balkan migratory trail, we discuss how the railway, as a mobility structure shaped by the ideology of progress, coordination and certainty, is simultaneously used and reshaped in the context of uncertainty of clandestine migration.

Paper long abstract:

As a product of modernity, the railway is a mobility (infra)structure shaped by the ideology of progress, coordination and certainty (Beaumont and Freeman 2007). In this presentation, we ask how this structure works in the context of uncertainty. We are interested in the interactions of prolonged and repeated situations of uncertainty related to clandestine or irregularized migration, on the one side, with the railway, on the other. Our main question is how railways are utilized for both containing and enabling mobilities towards the EU. Based on long-term ethnographic research along the Balkan migratory trail, we discuss how railways are used by clandestine migrants for facilitating movement (as leads, resting infrastructures, etc.), and how they are used by state authorities to hinder and revert this movement (as detention, backward-paths, etc). We examine the relation of tragic events and border deaths associated with railway-use in the context of irregularized migration with changes in migration practices and discourses. The use of railways to prevent unwanted movement toward the EU has also resulted in physical changes of railway infrastructure. We

investigate how the usages of active/abandoned railways inform and reshape everyday geographies of movement along the route, intercity mobility and life on the EU administrative border.

By focusing on the entanglements of railway and clandestine migration, this presentation seeks to illustrate how uncertainty operates on the move, unpacking the way train infrastructure spatially interfaces mobile bodies with the potentials and foreclosures of crossing borders, contributing to a non-linear understanding of migration.

Home Balloon. The prints of belonging and uncertainty in the international mobility of Romanian Roma

Stefania Toma (Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities)

"Most of the times I have to move, I am never in the same place" - mobilities and the emotional experiences of places in the city of Zagreb among people in street homelessness

Paula Greiner (Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar)

Mobi06

Uncertain temporalities of children and youth with a migrant background

Mobi07

Intimate uncertainties: powers, subjectivities, and the inner workings for a better future

Narr01

Family as a safe haven? Families in social practice and narratives in times of crises

Narr02

Uncertain death: narrative and physical death and the spaces in between

Narr03

Open paths – coping with uncertainty through ambiguity in and of narratives [Narrative Cultures Working Group]

Narr04

Narrating the uncertainty at the time of political crises: rumors, conspiracy theories, trolling and propaganda

Narr05

Legend and politics: civic uncertainty and fragmentary narrative

Perf01

Uncertainty, improvisation and constancy in the ritual year [Ritual Year Working Group]

Perf02

Funeral rituals

Perf03

Documenting performance-based cultural heritage in times of crisis

Perf04

Crisis ritual, ritual crisis: the making of ritual in an uncertain world

Perf05

Art and uncertainty: adversity, creativity, and vernacular expression

Poli01

Europe uncertain. Redressing Eurocentrism

Poli02

Europe in times of uncertainty, risk and disintegration: everyday experiences and imagined futures

Poli03

Settler colonial uncertainties: subjectivities in settler societies and ethnographic methods

Poli04

Events and uncertainty in the times of war

Poli05

Cultural, linguistic, and political divides in a time of crisis: examining the use of everyday folklore in the rhetoric of racial and state boundaries

Poli06

Dependence and livelihood in times of uncertainty

t01

More-than-human care in & of (un)certain homes [SIEF Working Group on Space-lore and Place-lore]

Post02

Entanglements in uncertain times: human-plant relations in agrarian life worlds

Post03

Mapping entangled migrations in the Anthropocene: connections, ruptures and metamorphosis of shifting worlds

Post04

Belonging in a time of uncertainty: issues and perspectives (Roundtable)

Post05

Interspecies relations in contexts of climate and ecosystem uncertainty

Post06

Animals in the crosshairs: what do we know about Europe's hunting nature-cultures?

Post07

More-than-human care in uncertain times

Posters00

SIEF2023 poster stream

Reli01

Religious (un)certainties in times of upheaval (Working Group Ethnology of Religion)

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Reli02

Living with other-than-human beings in uncertain times: demons, spirits, apparitions in ethnographic and historical perspectives

Reli03

Religion, geopolitics, and conspiracy theories in post-socialist societies

04

Ecclesiastical remedies for the uncertainties of everyday life – religious services offered by the lower clergy in past and present

Reli05

Provincializing Christian heritage in Europe: exploring methods for expanding the canon

Reli06

Rituals of faith and religion during uncertain times [The Ritual Year]

Urba01

Small and uncertain: remembering and forgetting uncertain times in a small town [Space-lore and Place-lore]

Urba02

Let's get lost! Exploring the cityscape of Brno without using our smartphones

Urba03

Living in the uncertain city: micromobilities, boundary making and multilocal care

Urba04

Where is my home and who lives there? Uncertainties about housing and ways of living

Urba05

Affective engagements with the historic urban landscape – how do we proceed?