

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the AE-Section of Literary and Theatrical Studies, Monday 31 May 2021, 17:15 to 18:00 CET, by Zoom.

Attendants:

Vladimir Biti, Françoise Lavocat, Vivian Liska, Martin Middeke, Catriona Seth

Excused: César Dominguez

1. Approval of 2020 Minutes

The Minutes of the 2020 Committee meeting are unanimously approved.

2. Nominations

V. Biti: There are two problems:

1) This year we had 18 candidates from thirteen countries (China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States). They have different profiles and interests, which is appropriate, but only four of them are female. We have to reach a balance and invest extra effort to nominate female experts.

The whole group agrees with this remark.

2) We want to include scholars from underrepresented countries. They work and shape their academic careers under less favorable circumstances than the scholars from developed countries and deserve to become visible. But at the same time we have to consider their scholarly merits. How to reach a balance between these different criteria?

M. Middeke, after remarking that this was the most unpleasant part of our work, explains that the number of publications is not necessarily decisive. If a nominee is extremely prolific, this does not imply that his or her research outputs reach an impact. This has to be checked in each particular case.

F. Lavocat remarks that too many publications raise doubt about their quality.

Other members agree that each case is different and has to be considered carefully within the given context.

3. Election of the Vice-Chair

V. Biti proposes Catriona Seth. She is unanimously elected.

4. Section webpage

V. Biti: In February 2021 we have established a new Section webpage that, in order to become vibrant and to foster a proper interaction between our members, has to be

continuously filled with our members' publications, awards, conferences, workshop, panels, and so on.

Committee members oblige themselves to take care of this.

5. Other business

The 2020 annual AE meeting in Barcelona did not take place. At the moment, we don't know if we will have the opportunity to develop our usual activities. The Chair will keep the members informed about the further developments in this regard.

Catriona Seth, who proposed Arlette Farge for the Holberg Prize (with the agreement of the whole group), is invited to write a two- or three-page argument in support of her nomination.