



The Changing of the Guard

Frog

Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies

After nearly a decade of leadership, Pekka Hakamies has stepped down as chair of the Folklore Fellows' Executive Committee. He has seen us through many changes, including the revision of the Rules of the FF, published in the current number.

It is my honour and privilege to take over this position at such an important time. My new role comes among additional changes to the FF Executive Committee. The current members of the EC are now Professor emeritus **Pekka Hakamies**, Professor emeritus **Lauri Harvilahti**, Professor **Anne Heimo**, Professor **Tuulikki Kurki**, Professor **Lena Marander-Eklund**, Professor emerita **Aili Nenola**, and Professor **Lotte Tarkka**. These changes have not altered the FF's priorities of maintaining FF Communications as a high-quality publication venue and organizing FF Summer Schools. FFC is running strong, and plans for the next FFSS are currently being organized by a team at the University of Helsinki

Of course, the FF does not exist in a vacuum, and we seem to be advancing into an era of increasingly troubling times. The FF is a global network, which means that we are each situated differently in relation to the particular ongoing conflicts and crises, and we must all recognize that many among our colleagues work and live with their families in the midst of these situations. The FF has endured through well over a century of conflicts in which nations have been pitted against one another. We wish all strength and support to those suffering hardship and stress, and hope that we can maintain our international academic relations and networks of support through the difficult times we face today.

The current changes in the FF Executive Committee will hopefully stimulate interest and activity within the FF and strengthen our international networks. Alongside FFC and the FFSS, additional activities and development projects are being considered and we welcome suggestions from our members. I am excited to work with the EC for the development of the FF, and how we can both serve and nurture the field in these times of rapid change.



Photo by Veikko Somerpuro for Yliopisto lehti, 2024/7.