Report on the activities of the Sub-Study Group for Fieldwork Theory and Methods, 2023

This SSG is very strongly tied to projects in person and thus the recent pandemic has been extremely disruptive. Projects are very dependent on an active local organizer as a very committed volunteer. Issues of money for travel are also significant. Czech and Slovene colleagues led by Daniela Stavelova and Rebeka Kunej have profited from the bilateral agreement of both Academies of Sciences: EÚ CAS in Czech Republic and ZRC SAZU in Slovenia which provide the financial support. Both departments are working together on a project focusing on contemporary folk revivalism, which allows them to deal with contemporary festivalization and to jointly observe folk festivals in the Czech Republic and Slovenia. The subject of their joint research was the international festival in Strážnice (25.-26.6. 2022) and Jurevanie in Črnomelj in Bela Krajina (24.-25.6.2023). The research team observes both festivals from different positions determined by age, gender, insider and outsider positions. Comparisons of field notes are made, and the different missions of the festivals are discussed.

The main project here was a joint field research trip in Türkiye and Georgia 13 – 23 October 2023. It was an innovative collaboration between the SSG on Music and Dance in the Black Sea Cultural Basin (of the StG on Music and Dance in Southeastern Europe) and the SSG on Field Research Theory and Methods (of the StG on Ethnochoreology). The project was organized by ICTM Türkiye (Mehmet Öcal Özbilgin – National Organizer, Abdullah Akat – Local Organizer, İdris Ersan Küçük – Secretary), bringing together 7 ethnomusicologists and 4 ethnochoreologists from 6 different countries. Although there have been many ethnic and cultural layers and intersections across different regions of the Black Sea, there have been relatively few studies until today in the field of music and dance. They decided to explore new studies with diverse perspectives to re-think the music and dance in the Black Sea Cultural basin together. They visited 14 locations, conducting interviews and recording local music playing and singing in diverse settings.

On behalf of the the SSG Daniela Stavělová