



About SIEF

The Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore (SIEF) is recognised as the main international scholarly association for European ethnology, founded in Athens in 1964 as successor to the Commission Internationale des Arts Populaires. Its official seat is Amsterdam.

Its key aims are to develop research in the field of European ethnology and folklore, and to facilitate international co-operation among scholars working within these and adjoining fields. The Society has a number of working groups with their own conferences and publishing programmes.

The SIEF congress takes place every 3-4 years and usually attracts around 4-500 participants from around the world, primarily from Europe and North America; it has never before been held in Ireland or Britain. The unanimous endorsement at the Society's latest congress in Marseilles (2004) of the proposal to hold the 9th congress in the United Kingdom reflects international recognition of the recent growth and strengthening of European ethnology in this part of Europe.

The University of Ulster, especially through investment in its Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages and related appointments since 2001, is taking a leading role at a time when this field of research is undergoing considerable transformations in terms of theory, methodology, subject matter, and practical outlook. The 9th SIEF congress (SIEF2008) will take place on 16th -20th June 2008 in Derry/Londonderry.

SIEF2008 - Liberating the Ethnological Imagination

SIEF2008 theme of 'Transcending European Heritages: Liberating the Ethnological Imagination' reflects this critical juncture. The congress aims to encourage boundary-crossing explorations of new research methodologies, fields and agendas. Contributions are invited from a broad range of academic fields to include medicine, politics, music, history, arts and new communication technologies.

Academic Programme

The congress will present academic and professional interests in an integrated format, and encourage debate between different traditions. The Academic programme consists of broad range of events which includes over thirty panels and workshops, film screenings and round tables. The conference will actively engage with the host city by holding events in venues throughout the city of Derry.



Craigavon Bridge - Derry/Londonderry

SIEF2008 at a Glance

When

16-20 June 2008

Theme

Transcending 'European Heritages':
Liberating the Ethnological imagination

Where

Magee campus, University of Ulster,

Local Organiser

Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages, University of Ulster
www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/research/aich/

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SIEF and the City

We could hardly have a more appropriate location to transcend language and cultural boundaries by combining creativity and traditions than the ancient city of Derry steeped in heritage and living traditions, with its resilient spirit of freedom.

The historic city will play an active part in our conference, providing venues for some of the workshops and panels as well as for the associated cultural programme. This will extend well beyond the conference at either end, and encompass the beautiful surrounding area, from the hills of Donegal to the Causeway Coast and the Fermanagh Lakeland. We are working on a programme of events and activities of interest to ethnologists and folklorists that will extend throughout much of June, in the hope to entice many of you to combine the conference with your annual holidays. For further information please refer to the conference website

