

# Semi-annual report

*2018-2019*



31st board

SociologischEpicentrum (SEC)

*Dear reader,*

*It does not seem so long ago that I was writing the preface for our policy plan. By now, this is already more than five months ago. With great pleasure we have fulfilled the first half of our board year and the time has flown by. This being said, it is already time for the second GMM. Here we will discuss the following half year report and the half year realization as well.*

*In this report, each and every one of us looks back on the past five months. Hence we try to give you insight into the way we have run SEC the past half year. In this way you can get a good idea of how the events are organized behind the scenes, what went well in this process and what could have been done better. We also look back at our stated goals from our policy plan. Are we on track to achieve our goals? Or maybe we have already achieved them?*

*We hope you will read our report with pleasure. We would like to invite you for the GMM. Here you can ask us the questions you have after reading this report. We hope to see you February 7th to answer your questions.*

*In name of the 31st board of SEC,*

*Nordine Bendriss  
Chair- 2018/2019*

## Chair 2018/2019

*The past half year I have been the chair of SEC. When I started the board year, I did not know what to expect. Therefore, It was very much getting used to. I do feel that I have grown more and more in my job during the six months. Meetings, for example, went smoother and there was more structure. I hope that in the next six months I will have as much fun as in the past six months. Fortunately, I'm pretty sure that will be the case. I hope you enjoy reading my part of the semi annual report.*

### Internationalization

Due to the internationalization we hoped that our events would grow bigger than they were in the past years. Stated that the group of first years this year is twice as big as last year, this goal is very realistic. In general we can conclude that we managed to organize events with a bigger amount of people. The study related events were a succes and the parties has been sold out pretty quickly. Although the borrels have been busier than last year, I still think it could be better. Because of the bigger location and the fact that a lot of people sit down at the tables it sometimes look a bit empty. Only the first years and a few second- and third year students are active right now. That being stated I think that if the first years stay active, the upcoming years the borrels will attract more people than they do now.

We only wanted to organize events that are suitable for English speaking students, because we wanted to prevent a segregation between natives and internationals. I personally think that all students the students interact with each other and that there is no segregation at all.

### Communication

Communication may be the most important point to have a successful board. To bring structure into our meetings everybody has to send me their agenda points at Sundays. The agenda will be online at Monday morning so that my fellow board members can check the agenda before our meeting starts. Of course we had some flaws in our communication during the year. I think that now we have worked together for five months, we know how communication works best for us. As the chair it is my job to ask and know how everyone feels and if they are fulfilling there jobs. I think that I almost always know what my board

is busy with at the moment. An improvement could be to ask them more how they feel about their tasks. One of my points was planning more evaluation moments. I did not fulfill my expectations. We only had one evaluation yet and planned our second moment after the general assembly. The reason that I didn't plan as much evaluations as I wanted is because we evaluate a lot during our meetings. Still I think one evaluation so far is not sufficiently

Besides communicating with my own board I also represent SEC in meetings with the department and with the FV-FMG. At every department meeting we have our own agenda point, which is one thing we really wanted at the beginning of the year. The cooperation with the other chairs in the FV-FMG meetings is also good. But I will come back to this point at my other tasks that are worth mentioning.

### Association room

In my policy plan I stated that we wanted the members to feel welcome at our room and that we wanted to change the name of the room. Clearly we did change the name to association room instead of board room. I also think that we succeeded in making the members feel welcome. Unless we are in a meeting the door is always open. Also members regularly hang out in the room.

### Other tasks worth mentioning

As said I'm representing SEC in the FV-FMG. In this board I'm the coordinator of two committees and a participant in the third one. I coordinate the faculty party and the borrel committee. The location of the faculty party is already booked. The borrel committee is a committee that we started up this year. We organize borrels for all the board members of our faculty. The first borrel will take place in the beginning of February. I participate in organizing the faculty event. For this event I am responsible for the dinner and needed to provide one speaker.

Furthermore I'm also responsible for two committees of SEC. The planning was to only take a role in the study trip committee. I'm now coordinating our external activities committee as well because we came to the conclusion that the workload for Michael was too big. As the chair of the study trip committee we booked everything and are now planning our activities for the location. With the external activities committee we planned out our trip to Berlin. We also need to organize two other activities.

*Since our first general assembly the time flew. I'm fulfilling my tasks with a lot of joy and hope that the second half year will be as much fun as the first one.*

Nordine Bendriss

Chair 2018/2019

## Secretary 2018/2019

*As a secretary, I have been responsible for communication with SEC during the past six months. I have been involved in communication from SEC to members and companies. I have also taken on the coordination of promotion committee.*

### Minutes

As a secretary, it is my job to keep the minutes during our board meetings. I think taking minutes during our meetings is going well. So far I didn't come across many challenges. When I need more time to write down something I just tell my fellow board members to wait so I can write it down. I do however sometimes forget to mention all the to do's at the end of the meeting, but I'll work on that.

### Website

The website was completely changed last year, so I am just keeping it up-to-date. I made a slideshow on the home page about the weekly borrel, our social media accounts and what SEC is. We want our members to be able to pay through the website, so I am still working on arranging that.

### Promotion

As a secretary, I want to do my best to have a good relationship with the members. I want to make sure that the threshold to be present at events is lower and that people walk in with us more easily.

We of course want our members to attend our events, and by achieving this I promote the events we organize on social media, the newsletter, and by interacting with the members. I post announcements of events on all our social media accounts, so Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook. On Snapchat I announce events and reminders, and I send videos of what the events is like. I do the same on Instagram, I use Canva (this website where you can create designs) to make Insta Stories and posts. On Facebook I create events, I post about the event and post reminders. I also put other news on Facebook, like announcements about the membersweaters, committees, trips et cetera.

I made a promotion scheme so it is clear that all events are promoted sufficiently and that promotion of events doesn't overlap (too much).

I redesigned the newsletter a bit this year. The newsletter contains the agenda of that month, and it goes into more detail regarding those events. After that there are several other details which vary with every newsletter. Then comes a baby picture of a member of SEC, and at the end of the newsletter who that baby is. The newsletter also always contains promotion of Athenaeum Boekhandel. It used to be always the same, but recently Athenaeum Boekhandel provides tips regarding books that might interest Sociology students. So the promotion is now less plain and maybe more interesting.

### Promotion Commission

I am the head of the Promotion Committee and I make sure tasks are divided and I set deadlines. The Promotion Committee has designed beautiful posts, stories and banners on social media. They also use Canva and they are doing an amazing job. We will still create promotion video's and after-movies for coming events.

### Member file

The membership file must be carefully updated every year. I maintain the member file with the treasurer. At the beginning of the year we immediately added all new members. It turned out it was hard to make sure all personal data was registered and that every new member paid and filled in the mandatory forms. I made sure all personal data was registered and Birgit made sure everyone filled in the forms. Some people did that during the second round of the book sales.

### AVG

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (NL: De Algemene verordening gegevensbescherming (AVG)) is an European regulation that standardizes the rules for the processing of personal data by private companies and public authorities throughout the European Union. SEC also needed to write a privacy statement, so I looked into the requirements regarding this GDPR and wrote of Privacy Statement for SEC. This privacy statement aims to explain how your personal data will be managed and administered by SEC. It explains what SEC is, what the purpose is of collecting personal data, who the administrators are, what the retention period is, what your rights as a member are, why certain information is required and it goes into how personal data is protected, so the

security. With this statement we are hopefully compliant with the rules of the GDPR. You can always read it on the website.

Moreover, we were worried we had to take our member file of Google Docs because it wasn't compliant with the rules of the GDPR. But it turned out it is fine to have to on Google Docs. So that saved us a lot of work..

### [Kring Amsterdamse Sociologen \(KAS\)](#)

I am also in the board of KAS. KAS is the alumni association for sociologists who studied at the UvA. KAS organizes lectures, discussions and a tour through the city for alumni. So far we organized a lecture about levels of poorness in the Netherlands and the truth in the media.

### [Landelijk Overleg Sociologie \(LOS\)](#)

I am also in the board of LOS together with Birgit and for LOS we have meetings at all Sociology associations in the Netherlands to organize a Sociology Congress.

*In the next half year I will try to continue my tasks as well as possible and improve where necessary.*

[Nina Hooijer](#)

[Secretary 2018/2019](#)



## Treasurer 2018/2019

*The past half year I have fulfilled the function of treasure with great pleasure. I have learned a lot on a personal level as well as how to be a treasurer. I've encountered some difficulties and had to get used to being a treasurer. But along the way I have enjoyed every minute! All together I think it has been a great half year and we can be proud of ourselves. In this report I will look back at my decisions and evaluate them.*

### Budgets per event

In my mission statement I stated that I planned on having a budget per committee. It turned out that budgets per event are way more useful. Before the start and most of the times before the launch of an event, Michael or one of the committee chairs delivers a budget. I can fully trust on them to stay within budget, so I'm very happy with this collaboration.

### How members pay for events

One of my goals was to digitalize the process of declarations and invoices. I didn't work on this goal yet, because I found the way in which members pay for events a more urgent case. Members used to sign up for an event via a google forum. They would check the last box which stated that they declared to pay by transferring the money to the bank account of SEC. I noticed that people would check the box, but didn't pay afterwards. This had multiple reasons: some expected a conformation email with a paying link. Others simply forgot, because it required people's own initiative to transfer the money. I have inventoried how other associations handled this issue. Most of them worked with the webshop Mollie. But since that costs approximately 30 cents per transaction and I didn't include the costs of a webshop in my budget at the beginning of this year, I think it's better to transfer to a webshop in consultation with the next treasurer and see if we can finance it next year. For now I'm working with payment requests, which members receive after signing up. It works quite well, members pay a lot faster and I'm losing less time with mailing members that they still have to pay. One of the downsides is that I still have to close the forum manually if we are sold out. Since I can't monitor the registrations 24/7 and non-members tend to buy member tickets if the non-members tickets are sold out,

this leads to some refunds which take up some time. I hope that I can find a solution for this the upcoming months and that we can buy a webshop next year.

Moreover Nina and I are working on doing the registrations via the website instead of google forum. We think this looks more professional and increases the visitations of our website. Unfortunately we need the website builders to make this change and they are responding very slowly. So we are for now still using google forum.

### Half-yearly result

I will now go through my half-yearly result and highlight some posts.

I didn't collect the contribution of the second and third years yet. So this result only consists of the first years. I have good faith that we will reach our goal, because we're already over two thirds.

The book sale was a huge success. We generated a profit of almost 500 euros with only one book sale. With the second coming up, the profit will only increase. I'm planning to distribute the profit mostly to the study trip. They were having some difficulties and could use the money. Another part of the profit I used to fund the prom in collaboration with Machiavelli and Pegasus. The earnings are way over our goal due to the new contract, we now get a share of 8% and the enormous increase of first years compared to previous years.

On to the introduction weekend, as you can see we have 156 euros left. This is due to the extra rent the location charged, but did not collect. At first we would come with 40 students, but we changed this to 48. They told me this meant an extra charge of 156 euros, however they never sent me an invoice. I'm not planning on spending this money, in case they do send me a invoice at the end of the year.

Another noteworthy event was our first party in collaboration with other associatons. It was a successful one and we generated a profit of 77,93 euros. I've used half of it to host a Sinterklaas event at our association room. We are planning on organizing more of those casual events and want to fund them with the achieved profit.

Regarding the association costs, such as office supplies and association representation, I have been a bit to hesitant with spending. So there is quite a bit to spend left. However I still want to make thoughtful purchases which benefit SEC.

### Additional tasks

Next to treasurer I am also part of the Program Committee of Sociology. I'm merely a auditor and my addition isn't therefore that big. But they are discussing the topic mental health, which may be interesting for us in the future.

Aside from my task in the PC, I am also the representative of SEC for the Landelijk Overleg Sociologie (LOS). The National Sociology Congress will be held on the 18th of February in Utrecht. We have almost gathered all the speakers we need and the location and food is arranged. So the Congress is going fluently.

*The past half year has flown by and I'm looking forward to the following months!*

[Birgit Peters](#)

[Treasurer 2018/2019](#)

## Coordinator Committees 2018/2019

*During the past months, I have served as Coordinator Committees to organize various activities for SEC. The past few months have been fun and I learned a lot from fulfilling this function. All committees have active and enthusiastic chairwomen and committee members. So far, I am very satisfied with and proud of the committees. In this semi-annual report I will look back on the activities and events that have been organized in the first semester in collaboration with various committees.*

### Social events committee

#### American Slumber Party

The first party was the American Slumber Party on the 14th of November at Club Up. We collaborated with four other associations: Kwakiutl, Comenius, Pegasus and Mercurius. The cooperation went well, we consulted a lot and tasks were fairly distributed. We should have started organizing a bit earlier. Fortunately, everything went well anyway. The party was sold out very quickly, and for many it was very successful. And because of the low threshold of the theme, everyone took the effort to dress up. In addition, the party has also worked out financially very well, every association made a profit. The involvement of the Social events committee went very well, mainly because we did the decoration of the party.

#### December dinner

The December dinner on 7th of December was very successful this year. The theme of the dinner was inspired by the Great Gatsby movie. All members were dressed up in the roaring twenties theme of the movie. The dinner was held at Bar restaurant Nesst. The location was very nice and well decorated. We also invited teachers and other staff member from the Sociology department. Even though only one teacher was present, we were happy he came and we enjoyed his company. We played games, ate some burgers with fries and people got to know each other.

#### Prom 2019

On the 17th of January SEC hosted a prom together with Machiavelli and Pegasus. We did not plan this at the beginning of the year. They approached us about this idea and we

decided to join. The prom was very nice and well organized. Marit and Donya, the chairwomen of the committee, were in charge of the organization. They did a great job. The prom consisted of a dinner at restaurant Happyhappyjoyjoy, where we had a three-course dinner with Asian streetfood. Afterwards, the prom continued with a party at Club Panama.

### Borrel committee

The borrels are generally well attended, especially the themed borrels. The first themed borrel was 'SEC and Kwak in the jungle' in collaboration with Kwakiutl. It was very nice and a lot of people were dressed up. The turnout was very good, both from SEC and from Kwakiutl. The cooperation and communication with Kwakiutl was not always smooth. It started with the title of the themed borrel. We could not agree whether it should be 'SEC and Kwak in the jungle' or 'SEC and Kwak in the zoo'. But I have certainly learned that we must discuss everything with each other so that no misunderstandings arise.

In addition, we organized the Christmas and New Year's borrel. This year we held the Christmas borrel on Friday afternoon at Café Verhoeff. We did this without Kwakiutl because our first-year students would not be able to come to the borrel on Thursday. The Christmas borrel was very fun, especially the pub quiz. The New Year's borrel was also nice and went well. The whole borrel was about reliving New Year's Eve.

### Academic Activities Committee

#### De Andere Blik/ The Other Perspective

The first DAB took place on November 21 in cooperation with Kwakiutl and was based on the theme 'Mental Health'. The plan was to invite a sociologist / anthropologist and a psychologist to discuss the theme from their own field. Unfortunately, this did not succeed because we could not find a psychologist. Luckily, Patrick Brown and Christian Bröer from the Sociology department were willing to speak at this event. The lectures were very interesting, the discussion got off to a good start and we got many positive reactions afterwards. So it was ultimately a successful DAB. Hopefully, we do succeed in giving the last DAB in April an interdisciplinary character.

### SECinema

Our first film event called 'SECinema' took place on 29 November. We watched the movie 'Her' in CREA Muziekzaal. The movie was about artificial intelligence and love. We invited seminar teacher Yoren Lausberg who gave a great presentation about the sociological aspects of artificial intelligence and provided some more in-depth information about the movie. Afterwards we had a borrel at Cafe de Roeter.

### Master market

On the 16th of January we held our annual Master market. This event gave bachelor students an opportunity to learn more about and get acquainted with all the different tracks that the Sociology master has to offer. We tried to get students from all tracks who could tell something about their track. Unfortunately, we did not succeed in arranging this. In addition to the Master market, we also invited students who did an internship during their studies to tell all about the experiences they gained there.

### Committee external activities

The external activities committee has been taken over by Nordine. It turned out to be too much work to take charge of this committee in addition to the social events committee, the academic activities committee and the borrel committee.

*In general, I have had a good half-year, I am looking forward to the next coming months with great pleasure.*

Michael Takyi

Coordinator Commiteess 2018/2019