

European Association of Social Anthropologists (“the Association”)
Company Number: 05181210; Charity Number: 210807
Annual general meeting of the members of the Association
Thursday 16th November 2017, 4:30pm

A G E N D A

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of previous AGM held in Milan

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting held in Milan.

3. Annual Reports and Accounts

I. President (Valeria Siniscalchi)

(a) Thanks to organizers of the seminar “Politics and Precarity in Academia: Anthropological Perspectives”. Importance of promoting and consolidating EASA’s position as a tool for linking scholars in Europe on these topics. Part of the energies of the Executive have been devoted to this issue: we have decided to begin with the world of research in order to debate the situations of risk and insecurity found both inside and outside the academy. In 2015, following the EASA AGM organized in Prague, the Executive Committee wrote a policy paper, “Why anthropology matters”, to reinforce the visibility and the position of anthropology to understand the phenomena that characterize contemporaneity. With the results of this meetings we would like to produce a position paper focusing on scholars at risks and precarity in academia. EASA can play an important role as a professional association and also in raising the consciousness of public authorities and the research community about possible solutions.

(b) The editorial work (book series and the journal), network initiatives, and lobbying at the heart of Europe have been a central part of our actions: We consider networks a key resource and an opportunity for collaboration in areas of special interest. The dialogue with other anthropological associations is stronger than in the past and particularly our own participation at the WCAA, should help us to combine actions and experiences to strengthen anthropology and its visibility. During the first months of the mandate, the executive committee confirmed its participation in the principles of the LIBRARIA network to facilitate and develop scenarios for open access publishing in the social sciences and humanities, and to explore funding opportunities.

(c) The executive had three meetings this year (one virtual). Thanks to all the members of the executive for the time they devote to EASA. Special thanks to Thomas Hylland Eriksen, previous EASA President, who accepted the role of vice-president continuing to sharing his experience and competences with us for the EASA.

II. Secretary (Alberto Corsín Jiménez)

(a) The Secretary reports that the Association’s regular business and news are published three times a year in the Newsletter. The newsletter carries news on network activities, conferences, forthcoming publications in our book series, as well as notices regarding our biannual conferences

(calls for panels, papers and laboratories), elections, and calls for new positions (Secretary, Treasurer, book series and journal editors).

(b) The Secretary reports on the progress made by the Libraria collective for Open Access anthropology (of which EASA is a founding member). The collective is now embarked in a library-enlisting campaign and to-date has obtained support from Rice, Duke, MIT and the California Digital Library.

III. Treasurer (Rachael Gooberman-Hill)

(a) Statement of accounts

The Treasurer explained that EASA is registered charity and a limited company, registered in the UK and reporting annually to the Charity Commission and Companies House. Accounts are prepared and independently examined by accountants Friend-James and the day-to-day administration of EASA's finances is carried out by NomadIT. The Treasurer thanked the Nomad IT team for their work and there was applause from the members.

Question from the floor regarding fluctuations in membership over the years (due to conferences, but the overall tendency is upwards) and general reserve.

(b) Receipt of Accounts

To receive the accounts for the twelve months until 31st December 2016, members were provided with printed copies of the one page summary of the accounts. The one page summary of accounts were presented on a slide to the members and the Treasurer informed the members that the Executive had approved the accounts. The Treasurer explained that income comes from membership fees, publications, some interest from bank accounts and events and that expenditure relates to administration, publication, governance and events. Fluctuations in exchange rates are also reflected in the accounts, the accounting year runs from 1st January to 31st December and the accounting is in pounds. The Treasurer explained the accounts and explained that balance held at 31st December 2016 were slightly over £339,000. She reported that the overall accounts and balance were healthy and that EASA takes the stance that it is important to maintain a strong balance of protect EASA moving forwards, and to generate a small surplus each year so that this figure moves upwards by a small amount.

(c) Membership fees: Executive announces that the membership fees for 2018 will be the same as 2017.

Question from the floor: would it make sense to make concessions to postdocs or academics on flexible or precarious contracts.

Question from representative of the French Association of Anthropology (AFA) who asks whether they can join as an association. EASA has entered into sister relationships with other associations but we do not have a category for association members.

(d) Reappointment of accountants and independent examiners: The Treasurer asked members to vote on the following resolution: 'To reappoint Friend-James Ltd, Park Gate 161-163 Preston Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 6AF, UK, as the Association's accountants and to authorise the Trustees to approve the remuneration

IV. Journal (Sarah Green)

(a) Sarah Green reminds the membership that the journal is now available as a mobile app

(b) The editors have been exploring debates about the histories and traditions of European anthropology and their contemporary entanglements

- (c) We have shifted for an opt-in default option for print copies as part of membership
- (d) The Executive Committee has agreed moving to a 2 online-only special issues per year agreement with Wiley
- (e) Social Anthropology has now been added to the ‘Emerging Sources Citation Index’, which is one step away from entering JCI.
- (d) There will be a call for new editors in 2018

Question from the floor: Brexit featured prominently (and deservedly so) in SA but why not make room for other political crises (Ukraine, Cataluña)? Sarah Green responds that it took a great effort to mobilize authors so quickly. For reasons that include precarity, overwork, etc., it is becoming every more difficult to get people involved in reviewing/responding to urgent requests.

Suggestion from the floor to have the journal use a more dynamic approach to publishing some pieces, in a manner to how Focaal or Cultural Anthropology does with their Theorizing the Contemporary series.

V. Networks (Marcus Banks)

- (a) We have received three new proposal for networks
- (b) All networks are entitled to have one panel at our Stockholm conference in 2018.

VI. Book editor (Alberto Corsín Jiménez on behalf of Aleksandar Boskovic)

- (a) The Secretary reads the report sent by the book series editor, Aleksandar Boskovic.

VII. Scholars at risk and precarity (Sabine Strasser)

- (a) Sabine Strasser reports on the organisation of the workshop, ‘On politics and precarities in academia’, held in Bern alongside the Annual General Meeting.

Question from the floor: One of the founders of the PrecAnthro Group asks whether it would make sense for the Executive to have a permanent representative voice of the collective of precarious workers. The Executive Committee notes that similar questions have been raised in the past regarding the role of students or minority groups, and it has generally been agreed that it should be left to candidates to integrate these views in their manifestos for election.

VIII. Lobbying and links with the European institutions (Georgeta Stoica)

- (a) Georgeta Stoica reports on the lobbying work carried out on behalf of the association in Brussels, in particular our membership of EASSH.

4. Any other business/ requests by members

- (a) The Association will be opening a call for a new Secretary, Treasurer (6 year terms each) and Journal Editors in 2018.

5. Announcements: EASA 2018

- (a) The Association will hold its biannual conference in Stockholm, 14-17 August 2018