

EASA Newsletter No 81 July 2022



European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues



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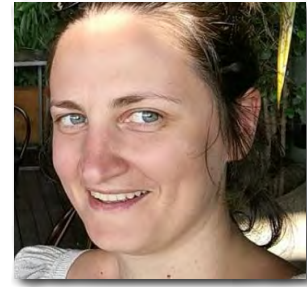




1. Letter from the President

Mariya summarises recent EASA activities

It has been a hectic period, the last few months, since our last newsletter, to say the least.



Without any overstatement, our whole activity and the life and work on our continent and beyond, has been overshadowed by the horrendous war that Russia waged on Ukraine in February 2022. Having issued [our statement condemning this war](#) and [supporting anthropologists in Russia who oppose it](#), we also had to make certain decisions about and changes to the accents of EASA activities to respond to this growing emergency, sadly still evolving at full speed. To this end, we co-organised with WCAA a meeting with chairs and representatives of all European anthropological associations, to discuss a co-ordinated action on the war and the crises shaking our continent: a sequel to this meeting will take place at EASA2022 in Belfast and will be communicated shortly. We also co-organised - with co-sponsorship of AAA's Society of the Anthropology of Europe, SOYUZ and SIEF - a fundraising webinar series on the humanitarian reactions to the war and the EU border crisis ([video 1](#)), as well as its effects on heritage sites in Ukraine and all knowledge of social alternatives that military action erases ([video 2](#)). We have also decided to establish a Film Award to commemorate the murder of award-winning filmmaker, anthropologist, archaeologist and EASA member, Mantas Kvedaravičius: he was taken prisoner and then shot in cold blood by the Russian military during the siege of Mariupol, the city he had documented over many years ([obituary](#)). The Award will be made at EASA2022, where we will also host a [Roundtable on the developments in Ukraine](#). We plan to continue working on this topic through our work with Scholars at Risk, and through further events, starting with a webinar in the fall on the effects of the war across the world, especially on the food and fuel crisis. We have, together with SIEF and also thanks to NomadIT, [produced a shared resource helping scholars at risk](#), especially from Ukraine (but not only), to access support.

While the war has really shown the ugly face of disaster capitalism, the main context of our work, European and global academia, has been suffering its own crises, which we have continued monitoring and responding to. Over the last six months, we have facilitated two consultancies. One was organised [in cooperation with the PrecAnthro group, dedicated to precarity and resistance](#) - it will culminate with a report by Dr Heather McKnight on cases of academic organising against precarity, and an event discussing our role and next steps in fall 2022. The other consultancy was devised together with the Integrity Committee, devoted to the



difficult but crucial questions of [bullying and sexual harassment in European Higher Education](#). These will feed into the work of EASA's executive against precarity, intersectional inequalities and toxic power dynamics in academia, which will also be discussed across different events at our conference. The newly formed - and by now fully functioning - Integrity Committee has also been busy defining its own remit, as part of which it has produced an outstanding [statement on bullying and sexual harassment](#) not only stating a firm political position, but also sharing a wealth of resources on the subject. In terms of academic integrity and freedom, we have continued to closely follow ongoing cases of enclosure of academic autonomy (Fariba Adelkhah, Ahmet Samir) and have also signaled our strong opposition to structurally violent reforms happening against Greek academia, and [cases of more straightforward physical violence](#) as in the case of the tragic deaths of Bruno Araújo Pereira and Dom Philips, investigating land and climate justice in Brazil.

And of course, in the meantime, together with the Queen's University Belfast local committee, we have all been busy organising the biennial conference [#easa2022](#). This one comes as a first attempt on our behalf, together with the tireless NomadIT, to combine the lessons from the pandemic and other crises and war and climate emergencies, and produce a truly hybrid conference. It also happens in a good place to reflect on ongoing violent conflict and understand better structures of desire, hopes and practices of future-building in its aftermaths. With hybrid being taken very seriously by both organisers and participants, we are anticipating a conference which is truly split between on- and offline participation. Some frustration has resulted from the overall price hikes and cancellations that flights to the UK have been affected by, due to the authorities' failure to provide adequate solutions to the EU border crisis and airport staff cuts during the pandemic. We have tried to mitigate these contingencies through funding. Around €23,000 was granted to help with 91 delegates' participation costs, based on financial need and taking into account cases of precarity and inequality. A further €5,000 has been allocated to help 20 delegates travel in a low-carbon way, contributing to a slight reduction in the conference footprint. Both totals have been affected by delegates switching their mode of attendance to online, or having to change their travel plans. Having 420 applications for participation assistance means we turned away 80% of applicants, many of whom were in clear financial need. Despite what this says about the structural problems of higher education and the discipline, a degree of ire was directed at our administrators. Yet funding all applicants would have required EASA to input a further €92,000, which is not within the scope of EASA's two-year budget. EASA had already ringfenced up to €30,000 to cover possible losses from the conference, in light of the fee levels agreed, and while the financial implications of SA/AS's move to OA remain uncertain. That said, it is clear that while our delegate funding offer is far larger than most similar association conferences, the need is yet greater still, and we will advise the



next Executive to consider increasing the funding pot for the next biennial.

With all this in mind, we continue. Looking forward to seeing many of you in Belfast, either in person or in Zoom. And as it is members who make the association, please to not forget to submit your motions/resolutions to our AGM: any motions/resolutions members wish to raise should be submitted to [easa\(at\)nomadit.co.uk](mailto:easa(at)nomadit.co.uk) no later than one week prior to the AGM (21st July). These will allow us to understand better where we are doing something right that needs deepening, and where we might be erring and in need of correction.

Onward and upward,
Mariya

Mariya Ivancheva
University of Strathclyde
EASA President 2021-2023

2. Preparing for the conference in Belfast 26-29th of July 2022



This year's conference has attracted over 1750 delegates, of which a significant 44% will be online, participating remotely. This embracing of hybridity is a result of many factors, including covid infection rate, illness and concern; travel chaos due to Covid and Brexit; travel cost inflation due to Covid, Brexit and War; the cost of living crisis affecting many countries;

as well as the precarious employment structure of the discipline, the possibilities exposed by lockdown, a concern for carbon-footprint and a shortage of time. All those participating are asked to remember 'the other' as we try to deliver an event which works for all.

The conference is upon us and all information can be found on the website:

<https://easaonline.org/conferences/easa2022/programme>

It's worth pointing out that there will not be a printed conference programme book, so it's worth getting used to the website programme now.



We'd ask the 150 who still need to settle their registration invoices and the 60 who need to settle their membership invoices to do so NOW, so as to smooth entry into the event - be it f2f or online. Those who haven't sorted this in advance will either lose time queuing at reception and then the NomadIT office (where they'll be asked to pay in GBP cash), or queuing within the website chat-bot (where we'll ask you to pay by card).

Registration remains open so members can still register to attend, either online or in person, but invoices must be settled more or less immediately.

3. EASA Integrity Committee Statement on sexual harassment and bullying

Sexual harassment, bullying and abuse of power are endemic, systemic issues in anthropology departments, as in other parts of higher education.¹ Graduate students and other precarious academics, extremely dependent on the goodwill of advisers, mentors and other faculty, are particularly at risk in the workplace - a risk often compounded by those they face while doing fieldwork and at home.² Institutional frameworks for addressing harassment, abuse and bullying, though crucial, are often weak, complicated and inadequate.³ Hence the profound importance of senior, permanent and tenured scholars actively fostering an atmosphere in which harassment and abuse are not tolerated and complaints are treated with respect, gravity and fairness. The Integrity Committee (IC) of the European Association of Social Anthropology unequivocally recognises the courage of those who step forward with their complaints despite the emotional, professional and political risks attached to doing so. We also recognise that not everyone feels they can speak out due to the calculated logics of institutional protectionism and offer our support to those who feel they have no adequate institutional method of redress.

In pursuance of our terms of reference, which empower us to consider "wider questions of ethics or integrity" for the discipline and to "anticipate emerging issues and future challenges in relation to academic integrity,"⁴ the IC has been asked to consider the case of the two open letters published by senior anthropologists (and others) in support of Prof. John Comaroff, responding to Harvard's disciplinary procedures against him on multiple charges of sexual harassment.⁵ Our response recognizes that this is not a unique case, either within anthropology or in academia more broadly. We believe that we must work collectively against what Sara Ahmed has called 'institutional fatalism,' a culture of permissibility which allows some individuals to behave as they wish.⁶

Without taking any stance on the veracity of the claims against Prof. Comaroff – which are



currently under investigation by both Harvard University and the state courts of Massachusetts⁷ – we are of the view that the letters published in support of Prof. Comaroff were detrimental to the creation of an atmosphere of respect and fairness. The signatories took it upon themselves to adjudicate a case in which much relevant information has not been made public.⁸ In arguing for Prof. Comaroff's innocence, the signatories adduced his excellence as a scholar and their personal acquaintance with him. These factors are not only irrelevant; their citation as evidence sends a signal to vulnerable members of the academic community that the facts matter less than the professional status and social network of the accused. Such statements speak to the troubling extent to which patronage networks spanning different geographies and various institutional hierarchies serve as mechanisms of silencing and rank closure⁹.

We welcome the fact that many of the signatories to these letters subsequently retracted their signatures, citing public and private criticism and acknowledging its merits.¹⁰ As such, we do not set out herein to censure any individual in particular. Rather, we wish to sound a clear note that as anthropologists and as academics, professional ethics behoove us not only to refrain from harassment and abuse – that much is obvious – but also to struggle actively to reshape our discipline as an equitable, open and honest field of inquiry in which vertical relations of dependence are tempered to the greatest extent possible by increased transparency, survivor-led repair strategies, and cultivation of horizontal ties of solidarity and trust. We have a long way to go.

As the delegated committee dedicated to addressing wider questions of ethics (that is part of a continent-wide professional association), the Integrity Committee wishes to join other voices in signaling our strong support for institutional initiatives that foster equity and promote justice.¹¹ In addition to compiling a list of practical resources and guidance for those experiencing harassment and solidarity initiatives (see below), we will encourage the EASA Executive to commit additional resources to such initiatives¹². We also encourage colleagues who have experienced bullying or harassment, and who have not been able to gain institutional redress through other channels, to reach out to us for support, our email address is ethics(at) easaonline.org.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Bondestam, F. and Lundqvist, M. (2020). Sexual harassment in higher education – a systematic review. *European Journal of Higher Education*, [online] 10(4), pp.1–23. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21568235.2020.1729833>.

² fieldworkinitiative.org. (2020). *Handbooks and Reading Lists | The Fieldwork Initiative*. [online] Available at: <http://fieldworkinitiative.org/handbooks-reading-lists/> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].



- ³ Ahmed, S. (2021). *Complaint*. Duke University Press: USA.
- ⁴ See “Terms of Reference of the Integrity Committee,” Arts. a.ii., h., in “[Call for applications for the Integrity Committee](#),” EASA Online, 14 September 2021.
- ⁵ Isabella B. Cho and Ariel H. Kim, “[38 Harvard Faculty Sign Open Letter Questioning Results of Misconduct Investigations into Prof. John Comaroff](#),” *Harvard Crimson*, 4 February 2022; Carolyn Abbate et al., “Open Letter from Concerned Faculty,” n.d. (late January 2022), [PDF](#); Daniel Herwitz et al., “[Letter: Against Harvard’s Kangaroo Court](#),” National Association of Scholars Blog, 2 February 2022.
- ⁶ Ahmed, S. (2021). *Complaint*. Duke University Press: USA, pg 164.
- ⁷ Isabella B. Cho and Ariel H. Kim, “[Lawsuit Alleges Harvard Ignored Sexual Harassment Complaints Against Prof. John Comaroff for Years](#),” *Harvard Crimson*, 9 February 2022.
- ⁸ Letter from Dean Claudine Gay to Professor Ingrid Monson et al., 3 February 2022, [PDF](#). This fact was recognized by the signatories to the retraction letter (see below).
- ⁹ Walters, Holly. (2022). *#MeToo Anthropology and the Case Against Harvard*. [online] SAPIENS. Available at: <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/metoo-anthropology/>; Allegra Lab. On the use and abuse of networks in academia. February 2022 <https://allegralaboratory.net/on-the-use-and-abuse-of-networks-in-academia/> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].
- ¹⁰ Carolyn Abbate et al., “We Retract,” n.d. (early February 2022), [PDF](#)
- ¹¹ See, e.g., PrecAnthro Collective [Statement](#), 16 February 2022; Australian Anthropological Society Executive Committee, “[Statement Against Sexual Harassment and Assault](#),” 15 March 2022.
- ¹² This list of resources will be expanded by both the integrity committee and a consultant researcher.

SAMPLE OF RESOURCES (TO BE EXPANDED)

General overview/systematic review articles

Aguilar, S.J. and Baek, C. (2020). Sexual harassment in academe is underreported, especially by students in the life and physical sciences. *PLOS ONE*, 15(3), p.e0230312.

Bondestam, F. and Lundqvist, M. (2020). Sexual harassment in higher education – a systematic



review. *European Journal of Higher Education*, [online] 10(4), pp.1–23. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21568235.2020.1729833>.

Bull, A. and Page, T. (2021). The Governance of Complaints in UK Higher Education: Critically Examining ‘Remedies’ for Staff Sexual Misconduct. *Social & Legal Studies*, p.096466392110022.

Dykstra-DeVette, T.A. and Tarin, C. (2019). Isolating Structures of Sexual Harassment in Crowdsourced Data on Higher Education. *Women’s Studies in Communication*, 42(3), pp.371–393.

Gender-Based Violence Specially Sexual Harassment Prevention In Higher Educational Institution. (2021). *Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences*, 4(2).

Page, T., Bull, A. and Chapman, E. (2019). Making Power Visible: ‘Slow Activism’ to Address Staff Sexual Misconduct in Higher Education. *Violence Against Women*, 25(11), pp.1309–1330.

Prothero, A. and Tadjewski, M. (2021). #MeToo and beyond: inequality and injustice in marketing practice and academia. *Journal of Marketing Management*, 37(1-2), pp.1–20.

Shandy, D. and Torres, M.G. (2021). Rules Matter: How Can Professional Associations Remap Intracommunity Norms around Sexual Violence? *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 47(1), pp.209–234.

Sundaram, V. and Jackson, C. (2018). ‘Monstrous men’ and ‘sex scandals’: the myth of exceptional deviance in sexual harassment and violence in education. *Palgrave Communications*, 4(1).

Torres, M.G. and Shandy, D. (2019). Transforming Teaching towards Empowered Learning: What #MeToo Taught Us about Anthropology. *Teaching and Learning Anthropology*, 2(2).

Veer, E., Zahrai, K. and Stevens, S. (2020). I stood by: the role of allies in developing an inclusive and supportive academic environment post #MeToo. *Journal of Marketing Management*, 37(1-2), pp.162–179.

Young, S. and Wiley, K. (2021). Erased: ending faculty sexual misconduct in academia: an open letter from women of public affairs education. *Public Management Review*, 23(6), pp.797–801.

SAMPLE OF ONLINE WRITING

Cantrell, K. (2018). *#MeToo: Sexual harassment by students can no longer be ignored*. Retrieved October 30, 2020, from <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/metoo-sexual-harassment-students-can-no-longer-be-ignored>. [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

Chakravartty, P. (2022). *Academic Hierarchies and Harassment*. [online] Medium. Available at:



<https://medium.com/@pauchakravartty/academic-hierarchies-and-harassment-f39c66b72b08>
[Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

Jacobs, S. (2022). "Letters of Recommendation". Retrieved from <https://africasacountry.com/2022/02/letters-of-recommendation> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

Leighton, M. (2022). *Coping with Conflictual Reactions to the Comaroff Story*. [online] Mary Leighton. Available at: <https://www.maryleighton.com/post/coping-with-conflictual-reactions-to-the-comaroff-story> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

Walters, H. (2022). *#MeToo Anthropology and the Case Against Harvard*. [online] SAPIENS. Available at: <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/metoo-anthropology/> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

Sample of Anthropology statements on sexual harassment and bullying

American Anthropological Association's Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault. (n.d.). [online] Available at: http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-aaa/files/production/public/AAA_SH_Policy_2018.pdf [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

physanth.org. (n.d.). *AABA Statements on Sexual and Other Harassment*. [online] Available at: <https://physanth.org/about/position-statements/sexual-and-other-harassment/> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

Society for Medical Anthropology. (2020). *Society for Medical Anthropology: Anti-Harassment Policy*. [online] Available at: <https://medanthro.net/policy/sma-anti-harassment-policy/> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

SAMPLE OF DATABASES

Kelsky, K. (2017). A crowdsourced survey of sexual harassment in the academy. Retrieved from <https://theprofessorin.com/2017/12/01/a-crowdsourced-survey-of-sexual-harassment-in-the-academy/> (accessed April 24th, 2022).

Libarkin, J. (2019). Academic Sexual Misconduct Database. <https://academic-sexual-misconduct-database.org> (accessed April 24th, 2022).

Fieldwork and training guides (compiled by anthropologists)

fieldworkinitiative.org. (2020). *Handbooks and Reading Lists | The Fieldwork Initiative*. [online] Available at: <http://fieldworkinitiative.org/handbooks-reading-lists/> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

metooanthro. (2018). *Training Guides*. [online] Available at: <https://metooanthro.wordpress.com/training-guides/> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].



Quinn, Naomi, (n.d.) “What to Do About Sexual Harassment: A Short Course for Chairs.” Available at: <https://www.americananthro.org/ParticipateAndAdvocate/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=2151>[Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

DOCUMENTARIES

Dick, K. (2015). *The hunting ground*. Lantern Entertainment.

Sample of EU reporting on sexual harrassment and bullying

Arenas et al. (2015.) Definitions and legislation on sexual harassment across EU countries <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4678195/> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

Arenas, A., Giorgi, G., Montani, F., Mancuso, S., Perez, J.F., Mucci, N. and Arcangeli, G. (2015). Workplace Bullying in a Sample of Italian and Spanish Employees and Its Relationship with Job Satisfaction, and Psychological Well-Being. *Frontiers in Psychology*, [online] 6. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4678195/> [Accessed 19 May 2019].

Eurofound (2015). Violence and harassment in the European workplaces: Causes, impacts and policies, Dublin. https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_comparative_analytical_report/field_ef_documents/ef1473en.pdf [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

Framework Agreement on Harassment and Violence at Work: <https://www.etuc.org/en/framework-agreement-harassment-and-violence-work> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].

Union, P.O. of the E. (2018). *Bullying and sexual harassment at the workplace, in public spaces, and in political life in the EU*. [online] op.europa.eu. Available at: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/8b1bb35a-5801-11e8-ab41-01aa75ed71a1>.

Køhlert, BG. (2020) . ‘Bologna Ministerial Conference’ recommends the set up of higher education Ombuds within the European Higher Education Area – ENOHE. [online] Available at: <http://www.enohe.net/2020/12/bologna-ministerial-conference-recommends-the-set-up-of-higher-education-ombuds-within-the-european-higher-education-area/> [Accessed 26 Apr. 2022].



4. Summer webinars on Ukraine



EASA wanted to create spaces of discussions for our research community, deeply affected by the war in Ukraine. The need for discussion emerged around the question of Ukrainian refugee situation and the ways it is reshaping and can reshape EU's migration policies; notions of scholars at risk in Russia and resistance in the Russian academic community. Two webinars were organised addressed to the general public with crowdfunding, on the 7th of June and on the 6th of July 2022.

See: <https://easaonline.org/news/webinar0622> and <https://easaonline.org/news/webinar0722>

5. EASA AGM and Members' Forum

Location: Whitla Hall

All members are welcome to attend this hybrid meeting. (A Zoom link will be posted here in due course.) The agenda is as follows:

1. Welcome

2. Minutes of previous AGM held in Lisboa (online)

3. Annual Reports and Accounts

President; Secretary; Treasurer: receipt of accounts for the year to 31st December 2021; Journal; Book editor; Networks; Media, communication and membership; Precanthro; Lobbying; Emerging issues; Ethics & Integrity Committee

4. Any other business/ requests by members

5. Announcements: EASA2024

Any motions/resolutions members wish to raise should be submitted to easa@nomadit.co.uk by 21st July to give time for Exec feedback/discussion and so that the resolutions can be publicised amongst the membership in advance of the meeting.

