



European Association of Social Anthropologists  
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux

**Members Forum, Tallinn University, Room A002, 2nd August, 2014, 2-3:40pm**

Chair: Noel Salazar

Minutes: Alberto Corsin Jimenez

1. Apologies for absence: Apologies received from Hana Cervinkova
2. Minutes of previous AGM, held on Friday, 4th October, 2013, Brussels

The minutes were approved by members as an accurate record of proceedings

3. Annual reports and receipt of accounts

- President.

Reports on internal association business and external representation.

Internal report:

EASA has 1800 members, of which 68% are full members, 24% student members, and 8% associate members. There are currently 24 active networks.

External report:

EASA's presence in various international for a: membership of Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) and European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASH); WCAA; collaboration with AAA, CASCA, ABA in the organisation of an online webinar (October 2013).

- Secretary.

Reports on increased presence of EASA in social media.

- Treasurer.

The treasurer explained that EASA is a registered charity and limited company in the UK. She presented a summary of accounts for the year to 31st December, 2013 and provided a brief narrative overview. There were no questions or comments from the floor. The treasurer reported that the Executive Committee had decided to keep membership fees for 2015 at the same rates as 2014 and 2015. These are on a sliding scale according to income, where income is self-reported according to income before deduction of tax.

The members received and approved the accounts for the year to 31st December 2013.

- Journal

Forthcoming choice to opt-in for online access only.

- Book series

Question from the floor: A member asked about acceptance of book proposals from conference panels.

Eeva Berglund (EASA Book Series editor) responded that she would like to see the books to be brilliant, coherent, worthy of publication, no matter where they come from. Perhaps the rumour pointed at how before submitting a proposal, one should consider securing its editorial coherence first.

Jon Mitchell (from the floor) wonders whether it might not be conference proceedings that publishers would rather see reworked into coherent edited projects rather than book proposals.

- Networks

#### 4. Governing document.

The Executive Committee asks members to consider and pass the special resolutions set out in the Appendix attached to the agenda.

Resolution 1: That the Association adopt as its Articles of Association the draft Articles set out in the document annexed hereto in substitution for its present Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Resolution 2: That the Association adopts as its Objects of the Association:

"The objects of the Association are to promote education and research in social anthropology by improving understanding of world societies and encouraging professional communication and cooperation between anthropologists, especially those working in and on Europe."

The proposal to vote on a new Objects opens up the floor to a lively discussion over the nature of the association, which brought attention to the following issues and controversies:

- A general sense of confusion over the formula "especially working in and on Europe", including specific questions about: (i) whether "especially" plays a role in Charity Law; (ii) whether "working" refers to one's workplace or one's field site.
- Whether it might not be a contradiction to say that the association wants to improve understanding of world societies and that we want to promote work in and on Europe at the same time. There is a suggestion thus to have "on Europe" deleted from the Objects.
- It is suggested that the proposal would seem to typologize what kind of person a "standard" member ought to be, that is, someone working in and on Europe. Yet, it is further argued, the association does not want to become, say, an association of North Americans working on Europe.
- At least one member argues that the intention of the founders was to create an association of Europeans, not Europeanists. The new formula, it is said, would seem to veer towards the latter.
- On the other hand, there is a strong feeling that the proposed formula is encompassing in its capacity to both be inclusive and not leave anyone out: the formula refers to anthropologists at large (general inclusiveness), such that the clause "especially those working in and on Europe" is simply a sub-set of the larger anthropological community (no exclusions are therefore exacted).
- Some members draw attention to the importance of having the Objects reference the "European" in EASA.
- There is an endorsement from others to have all references to Europe deleted, leaving it simply at "anthropologists".
- This provoked an ironic response "we might as well take the E out of EASA then"
- In the end, the following alternative formulations were aired: "Europe's anthropology", "cooperation between anthropologists, especially in Europe", "anthropologists".
- A suggestion is further made to have the resolution put to a general e-vote, once Resolution 1 is passed.

On a different matter, Thomas Fillitz (from the floor) expresses his puzzlement at the new formulation of trustees (12.8) because the treasurer may be coopted as a member of the Exec. Jeanette Edwards (Vicepresident) explains that it is the same as in the current document except that now and in line with current EASA practice, the Treasurer is a full member of the association. We need the Treasurer to be able to vote and the new formulation allows for that.

**RESOLUTION 1 to the VOTE: 100 votes in favour. The motion is carried.**

**RESOLUTION 2 to the VOTE: 34 yes, 41 no, 26 abstentions. The motion does not pass.**

As a result a modification of the Objects will be proposed to the membership through e-vote and then submitted to CC for approval.

#### 5. Appointment of auditors.

Reappointment of Friend-James Ltd as the Association's accountants and auditors, and authorisation to the Trustees for approving the remuneration.

Reappointment of Friend-James Ltd was approved by the members.

## 6. AOB.

Julie Billaud, Erdem Evren, Martin Fotta, Aymon Kreil, and Samuli Schielke propose a motion to be voted by the Members Forum on the question of Gaza. The motion is presented by Samuli Schielke and Alice Elliot:

"With our long European history of turning a blind eye to massacres happening either amongst us or at our doorstep, we feel that as anthropologists we must refuse to participate in this history of silence, and today denounce the massacre that is currently being perpetuated by the state of Israel in Gaza. The European Association of Social Anthropologists condemns the ongoing war and blockade against the inhabitants of the Gaza strip."

Additionally to this motion, as a separate point, we also propose that a serious and frank discussion is opened amongst EASA members regarding the global campaign for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanction against Israel, and that the possibility of supporting the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel is discussed amongst members and at the coming EASA meeting."

- A member notes that massacres are also on-going in Syria, Libya, Iraq, and wonders whether these are going to be included in the resolution.
- Some members feel this is a highly political issue that compromises the status of the association and draws attention to it as an activist organisation. This, it is said, is not a scholarly procedure.
- There was also a feeling that there was not enough time available to debate the motion properly and agree on the wording
- The President of EASA reminds the floor that our Constitution allows for a motion to be put forward when it is seconded by 5 or more members.

**Motion put to the vote: 50 yes, 28 no, 28 abstentions. The motion is not passed.**

## 7. Announcements.

- EASA 2016 to be held at the University of Milano-Bicocco. Silvia Vignato and Antonio de Lauri have led the presentation of the bid.
- Announcement of new editorial team for the Association's journal: Sarah Green, University of Helsinki, and Patrick Laviolette, Tallinn University. Thanks to outgoing team, Mark Maguire and David Berliner.
- Announcement of young scholars and future careers forum organised by Hana and Karolina at the conference.
- Terms of office of current Executive Committee are coming to an end - thank you to Noel, Jeanette, Susana, Abdullahi - and Hana who is eligible to run for re-election.
- Announcement of elections of the trustees / new Exec in November / December

The meeting was concluded at 3.40 pm