

Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Association

Vila Lanna, Prague, Czech Republic, Wednesday 14th October 2015, 5pm

Attendees: 31 voting members of the Association signed in for the meeting, including 7 Trustees (members of the Executive Committee of the Association).

Minutes of the meeting

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The President of the Association Welcomed all to the AGM and conveyed apologies from the Secretary Alberto Corsin-Jimenez.

2. Minutes of previous AGM (Saturday, 2nd August 2014, Tallinn University).

This item was addressed at the end of the meeting and the minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting held in Tallinn.

3. Annual Reports and Accounts

President's Report (Thomas Hylland Eriksen)

The President reported that the Association's material for archiving was at the Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI) in London. A professional archivist is working through the material to provide a functioning historical record of the Association and material had been effectively collected from across Europe. There were some challenges in storage of digital communications that were under discussion with NomadIT. Past Presidents might be approached to ask if they could produce folders of the material that they had on file and that might be suitable for the archive. The President reported that cataloguing of the archive should be complete in 2016, and it was hoped that it would include minutes of early meetings of the Association.

The President reported that the Executive had been writing letters of support and letters to strengthen the position of anthropology in light of current challenges faced by anthropology.

The President reported that Marie-Claire Foblets (Max Planck Institute) had approached the Association about establishing a database of experts. There was no funding available from the Association for this, but the President would explore the collaboration further. He reassured members that inclusion on the database would be based on clear criteria and individual agreement. There would be exploration of parallels with a database held by Anthropologists Without Borders.

The President reported that SIEF had approached the Association about collaboration. The Executive Committee was exploring the possibility of joint membership between the Association and SIEF. This may complement existing relationships with national associations.

Secretary's Report (Niko Besnier; apology for absence from Alberto Corsin-Jimenez)

Niko Besnier described the rationale to proposed changes to membership categories, summarizing the text available online on the ballot page. These changes were put to the membership on 5th October 2015 for an electronic vote (closes 28th October 2015). A vote is required because the changes would constitute an alteration to the Association's Governing Document (EASA's 'constitution'). There are three proposed changes: 1) remove the distinction between associate and full membership to give members living outside of Europe the right to vote but not to stand for election to the Executive (as travel to Executive meetings incurs a cost to the Association); 2) provide student members with the right to vote; 3) remove the requirement that new members have a sponsor.

Treasurer's Report (Rachael Goberman-Hill)

The Treasurer explained that the Association is a registered charity and a limited company registered in the UK. Accounts are prepared and independently examined by Chartered Accountants Friend-James. Day-to-day administration of the Association's finances is carried out by NomadIT. Members at the meeting were provided with a printed summary of income and expenditure for the year ending 31st December 2014 which the Treasurer explained. The Treasurer reported that at 31st December 2014 the Association held approximately £258,000 in bank accounts (up from £235,000 at the end of 2013). This was held in a combination of Euros and British Pounds at four banks selected on the basis of their ethical credentials. However, despite this increase in our holdings from 2013 to 2014, it should be noted that in 2015 there would be extra expenditure because of Network funding allocation of €24,000. In 2015 there would also be a lower income from membership fees than in 2014, with fewer members in a non-conference year. The Treasurer summarised the Association's financial situation as healthy and explained that the Executive Committee's takes the view that it is prudent to hold a reserve of over £200,000. Members asked about the costs of the conference and administration and the Treasurer stated that in her view these costs were appropriate.

The Treasurer announced membership fees for 2016. In 2016 membership fees for students and those in the lowest income bracket would remain the same as in 2015. For each of the upper two income brackets there would be an increase of €5 in annual membership fees in 2016. After consultation with members, the Executive Committee had decided to end the joint membership category in and from 2016. In the survey of members, of those who responded approximately 55% were in favour of removing the joint membership category, 23% were against its removal, and 21% abstained. The Executive Committee has made their decision on the basis of these survey results as well as comments received from members. The removal of the joint membership category does not require a change to the Governing Document and the change reflects the move towards online access to the journal.

On the basis of a show of hands from members at the meeting the accounts were received, and the accountants and independent examiners were reappointed.

Journal Editors' Report (Patrick Laviolette)

Journal Editor Patrick Laviolette conveyed apologies from co-editor Sarah Green. Both are currently finalising the proofs of their second SA/AS issue (23:4). He thanked all peer reviewers and contributors and reported that the Forum 'Rethinking Euro-Anthropology' comprising 19 short pieces, would be followed up soon by another forum with 9 more contributions, some of which are long standing SIEF members. The editors are receiving many proposals for Special Issues, with a forthcoming SI for next year (24:1) and others in preparation. The Editor asked that authors consider proposing special sections. The journal is also interested in publishing reviews of books that are written in languages other than English or French, although the reviews themselves would be in English or French. The Editor encouraged members to opt for online-only access to the journal when renewing their membership. The Association is also involved in a co-operative 'Libraria' (<http://libraria.cc>), which is exploring new models for Open-Access publication. The Wenner-Gren Foundation has approached the Editors about collaboration with a new initiative designed to make anthropology accessible to those outside the discipline. Named 'SAPIENS' this will include all fields of

anthropology (as well as Social Anthropology). SAPIENS (www.sapiens.org) has recently been launched and the Editors will report as this collaborative initiative progresses.

Network Liaison (Valeria Siniscalchi)

As Executive member with responsibility for Networks, Valeria Siniscalchi reported that The Executive Committee had approved two new Networks: Human and Living Beings, and Anthropology and Language. The Association now has 30 networks. The Executive has placed a pause on the receipt of any new network proposals to allow consolidation of existing networks that are a great way to create links also with people outside the association. Networks have provide reports of their activities to Valeria and NomadIT, including reports of their past and future events. Valeria summarizes next events and activities, described with more details in the Association's newsletter.

Early Career Forum (Paolo Favero)

As Executive member with joint responsibility with Hana for this action Paolo Favero briefly introduced to the assembly the intention that EASA has to create an action/forum/database which regards early career scholars. Paolo explained that it is too early at this stage to give any more details about this but that the intention is to gather a better understanding of the situation of young scholars and also to generate more visibility for them.

4. Any other business/ requests by members

No other business or requests by members were announced.

5. Announcements: EASA 2016

The President reminded members that the 15th biennial conference would be at the University of Milano-Bicocca, 20-23 July 2016, where the next AGM (Member's Forum) will be held. He also mentioned that the deadline for panels was on 25 November 2015, and that the call for individual papers would open on 14 December 2015.

The Vice-President invited members to visit the EASA website and take part in the updating of the list of academic and research institutions of anthropology in different EU countries.

The meeting was closed at 18:10, and members were invited to attend the drinks reception.