

**European Association of Social Anthropologists (“the Association”)  
Company Number: 05181210; Charity Number: 210807**

## **Annual General Meeting of the members of the Association**

The 2023 EASA AGM took place online on **the 21st of December 14-16:00 CET.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of previous AGM held in Belfast in 2022 approved.
3. Annual Reports and Accounts

- a) President

Ana Ivasiuc, EASA’s president, presents the main fields of work of the exec committee since they took over in February 2023: networks, lobbying, integrity committee and the preparation of the next EASA conference, publications, anti-precarity and emerging issues.

In the domain of publications, she points out the steps towards a pro-active approach to recent challenges in publication:

How does the evolution of the digital influence academic publications?

How can we think through new platforms for publication that maintain academic rigour & raise to the level of prestige that traditional forms represent for academics?

How can we tackle the crisis of the peer-review system?

How to realize EASA’s promise of multilingualism?

How to support precarious academics whose first language is not English?

In the domain of Anti-precarity, she reminds the events organized by the exec in cooperation with the WCAA Task Force on precarity (IUAES round table) and the intention to launch the anti precarity report in February 2024. Is a fund for precarious scholars to be put in place, what form should it have? Focusing on structural precarity in academia through lobby & advocacy is on the WCAA agenda, of which EASA is a part.

Among the recent emerging issues, she mentions the EASA exec position in support of colleagues from the Goethe University Frankfurt (May 2023) that implicated a statement in support of

colleagues from the anthropology department of Goethe University & the German Anthro Association, a letter to the Presidium of the university, a letter to the Hessian Minister of Education

She reminds the recent re-emergence of far-right globally and the pressures on academic freedom; the instrumentalisation of academic freedom to push for harmful research agendas essentializing gender & race à anti-trans, anti-immigrationist, antisemitic, Islamophobic views

AAA 2023: organization of a panel on how anthropological organisations can and should react to the global rise of far-right authoritarianisms à focus on cooperation between regional and global associations.

New directions of work within the exec have been developed: in the domain of communication through the hiring of a communication officer who has revitalized the social media accounts (Twitter, facebook) and has organized training for networks (open also to national associations partners of EASA).

Networking and cooperation outside EASA has been advanced through the collaboration with national associations for the European Anthropology days and through lobbying and advocacy within ISE, EASSH, or other global anthropological associations such as WCAA.

Finally, for developing a strategic vision for EASA in order to ensure institutional continuity & effective fulfillment of EASA's goals, the exec organized a retreat in October 2023 and worked on a mid-term strategy taking into account members' needs & visions. This sketches the democratic involvement of members in EASA governance (through working/thinking groups). Once a draft strategy is ready, a consultation process with membership and democratic vote will follow.

#### b) Secretary

Monica Heintz reminds that her work as a secretary involved mostly agendas and minutes preparation for exec meetings and this AGM, the organization of elections that brought about this new exec, the handling of applications for the next 2026 conference, applications for the renewal of the integrity committee, as well as handling jointly with Nomad IT miscellaneous membership requests and information. It also involves newsletters and four were published since the last AGM in Belfast.

One of the important things this year was the preparation of the first (pilot) edition of the European Anthropology Days to take place on the 15-17 February 2024 (15th of February is the AAA World Anthropology Day). She reminds the role of national associations in the process- they met online on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 and took the main decisions concerning the date, time and organization of this event. They are organizing or supporting the events, while EASA has made social media training available for

networks and national associations and prepares the webpages and communication to surround the events. A meeting scheduled on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 with national association will allow

further discussing the governance model. There will be an assessment of first edition during the Barcelona conference, in preparation of the second year.

- c) Treasurer: receipt of accounts for year to 31/12/2022

David Mills reminds that EASA is a registered charity and a limited company, registered in the UK, that annual Accounts are prepared by Friend-James accountants and submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House. EASA Administration is provided by NomadIT.

**EASA Income** is from membership subscription fees, conference registration, publications, investments and events. Its **Expenditure** is for membership (and conference) administration, publications, governance and events. In conference years (eg 2022), EASA membership and conference income is much higher (as is expenditure) than in non-conference years. This having said, he presents the 2022 annual accounts for approval and asks members to approve the reappointment of 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 their remuneration. He reminds members that memberships fees have been unchanged since 2016 and are according to revenue.

- d) Journal

David Mills also presents the overview of the Social Anthropology journal's move from Wiley to Berghahn on behalf of its editors:

The Berghahn Open Anthro "Subscribe-to-Open" model (covering 15 journals) has been embraced by libraries due to the growing demand for equity and sustainability in open access models.

The model is going from strength to strength: full-text downloads multiplied by ten between 2020 and 2023.

Berghahn helped the journal transition from Wiley with former SA/AS team; the new editorial team took over in Sept. 2022.

There has been a reduction of SA/AS issue size to improve quality.

SA/AS in 2023 saw 4 issues published (3 special issues); 30 articles + 20 book reviews) ; 100 articles submitted; 15 special issues submitted; more than 100 reviews provided.

The journal intends to grow its readership and diversify its authorship.

- e) Book series' report

Since the last AGM, two books were published, 4 manuscripts were accepted, 3 NBOs were accepted and 3 are under review.

f) Networks

Dominic Bryan and Hege Leivestad report that currently there are 51 EASA networks. There was a network convenors' meeting in May 2023. New online meeting planned for January/February 2024 and an in-person-meeting in Barcelona in July. Networks could benefit from a social media training course with Rowena Harding, October 2023. Their annual reports were submitted and are under review. They have an important presence at the EASA biannual conference in Barcelona 2024 with many network-sponsored panels.

The new networks created during the last twelve months are:

<a href="#">Sensory EASA Network</a>	<a href="#">Media for an Anthropology of History</a>	<a href="#">Anthropology of the Sea(s) Network</a>	<a href="#">The Anthropology of Surveillance Network</a>	<a href="#">European Network for Digital Anthropology</a>	<a href="#">Creative Anthropology Network</a>
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g) Conference update

Roger Sansi provides the 2024 conference update. The call for Panels has been resolved. The call for panels proved very popular, but there were limits on the hosting venue and available time. The Scientific Committee could accept only 271 out of the 395 submitted proposals, making this the largest EASA conference so far. Unfortunately, a number of good proposals had to be rejected. 71 panels will be online, 15 will be in Spanish, and 1 in Catalan. He reminds the new deadlines ahead of members before the conference.

h) Public anthropology

Dom Bryan intervenes in support of public forms of anthropology, using networks as a resource, as well as for the development of SM and communication as means.

i) Lobbying

Alexandra Oanca reports on lobbying as **European Alliance for Social Science & Humanities (EASSH)** fellow, part of the Secretariat of EASSH, and part of the Exec board of **Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE)**. As such she attends their AGMs, board meetings and is aware of policy discussions in Brussels on research evaluation frameworks, career frameworks, interdisciplinary research

There are two interesting working groups within ISE: Working Group Horizon Europe long-term mandate (until 2027 and beyond) and WG Researchers' Careers long-term mandate (until 2027 and beyond).

Both ISE & EASSH feel excluded or uncounted within discussions with policy-makers and demand inclusion in negotiations for the new research frameworks / FP; Horizon Europe post-

2017 – central. EASSH was excluded from the evaluation frameworks of SSH grants.

Alexandra Oanca says advocacy & lobbying should be a long-term priority for EASA, which should constitute working groups – valuable for the knowledge transfer and long-term commitment of learned societies such as EASA in EU-level advocacy on the social sciences and humanities.

She notes that a webinar was co-organised with REMO on October 10 for the World Mental Health Day. REMO (Researcher Mental Health Observatory) is an international network focussed on wellbeing and mental health within academia, and one of the signatories of the ISE manifesto.

j) Emerging issues

Hayal Akarsu speaks about the Israel/Palestine conflict that haunts us since October 2023: the EASA exec statement and the numerous responses received since pro or against it by its members were published and made available to members in the Newsletter number 84.

k) Ethics and Integrity Committee

**Current membership:** Rachel Spronk (Chair), Michele Filippo Fontefrancesco, Kathleen Openshaw, Matan Kaminer, Alexandra Oanca and David Mills

**Update to Terms of Reference (underlined):** The committee's membership will consist of two members of the EASA Exec committee, one EASA member nominated by the EASA Exec committee and two other EASA members who are elected by the membership. The term of membership for the elected members is four years, and for the EASA nominated member two years. Elections for one post will be held every two years at the same time as the Exec election. The committee is normally chaired by one of the elected or nominated members.

**Future activities** include a webinar series on different aspects of research integrity, the development of further integrity guidelines (building on the collaborative research and authorship guidelines) and a workshop at EASA 2024

4. Any other business - any motions received:  
[Motion to create a Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom](#)

After discussion and voting (69 for), motion approved and moved to general voting.