

**Members' Forum and Annual general meeting of the members of the Association.
Friday, 22nd July 2016 at 17:00 at University of Milano-Bicocca.**

Attendees: 142 voting members of the Association signed in for the meeting, including 8 Trustees (members of the Executive Committee of the Association).

Chair: Thomas Hylland Eriksen
Secretary: Alberto Corsín Jiménez

1. Apologies for absence. No apologies sent.

2. Minutes of previous AGM held on Wednesday, 15th October 2015
The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting held in Prague.

3. Annual Reports and Accounts

I. President (Thomas Hylland Eriksen).

(a) The President reported on a number of petitions seeking EASA's support and endorsement in contexts of threats to academic freedom:

- The EASA Executive has expressed its concern in a letter to the Turkish government led by the Middle East Studies Association (see Annex I).

- Letter to Iranian authorities calling for the immediate release of Prof. Homa Hoodfar, an Iranian-Canadian colleague who has been detained by the authorities in Iran.

- Letter of concern regarding ABA: 'The Board of Directors of the Brazilian Association of Anthropology (ABA) hereby publicly expresses its extremely serious concern over the course of action taken by the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry (CPI) set up on 28th October 2015 to "investigate the activities of the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) and the National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA) in the demarcation of the lands of indigenous peoples and quilombo communities." The actions taken to date by the CPI reveal the intention to criminalize all activities aimed at protecting the human rights of indigenous peoples and quilombola communities in the face of the repeated and violent threats to which they are constantly exposed in contemporary Brazil.

- Letter of concern regarding the situation of the Italian MA student Roberta Chirolì, who has been sentenced to two months of prison (on probation) following her fieldwork on a social movement in northern Italy, due to what we understand to be a misunderstanding of the nature of ethnographic research.

(b) EASA and research policy in the EU. The President reports of his attendance, at the invitation of the European Commission, to the third External SSH Stakeholder Meeting on ‘the state of play of Societal Challenge 6 and Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in Horizon 2020’. There was a general concern that SSH are poorly integrated in key areas, notably ‘the 4th industrial revolution’. Second meeting of consultation organised by Net4Society confirmed this view.

(c) Collaboration. Talks with AAA about joint initiatives in public anthropology. SIEF as sister association. There is no direct competition and considerable complementarity between the associations, and there are good reasons for a closer relationship. Exploring possibilities for joint membership. ASA: looking at ways of strengthening ties and – mutual representation at each other's conferences. Representing EASA at forthcoming annual conferences of EAA, SIEF and ABA.

(d) EASA Archives: Carried out with the support of the Wenner-Gren and RAI. Under way, hopefully to be completed in a year's time.

(e) Outreach and public anthropology.

- Setting up a database of experts with Max Planck Institute.

- Task force on outreach incl. applied, engaged and public anthropology in the WCAA, linking this to efforts already taking place in EASA, such as the policy paper “Why anthropology matters”. For the time being, it exists in English, French, Spanish, German, Norwegian, Czech, Hungarian and Polish versions. We are hoping to make it available in more European languages soon, and meanwhile, we would like to encourage you to spread the policy paper in your networks.

II. Vice President (Hana Cervinkova).

The Vice-President reported on the AGM and interim Executive meeting and conference in Prague (October 2015). More than 50 anthropologists -EASA members - from 17 countries attended the AGM and the conference, which centred on issues of public and engaged anthropology. The conference, which the Executive Committee organised to provide an occasion for EASA members to meet in the interim period between EASA biennial conferences, was supported by a grant from the Czech Academy of Sciences, which made it possible to provide financial support for all who wanted to attend. The conference resulted in a statement, “Why Anthropology Matters”, which was translated into 7 languages and distributed through anthropological associations throughout the world. In addition, a thematic issue of the Czech Ethnological Journal was published that included the statement and papers from the conference. The success of the Prague conference points to the opportunities such smaller interim meetings may provide for EASA membership also in the future.

III. Secretary (Alberto Corsín Jiménez).

(a) The Secretary provided a synoptic socio-demographic analysis of the Association (see Annex II):

- As of July 2016 the Association's membership is 2854 members.

- 63% of our members are under 45
- Average 7% decline in membership every two years in the age group 25-34
- Whilst the younger group (18-24) remains more or less stable
- Yet it is the on-going decline in membership in the 45-54 age band since 2006 that is perhaps most surprising and worrying

The Secretary further complemented this analysis with some insights from EASA's Facebook analytics, in particular the important role played by women in the shaping of the Association's public sphere:

- EASA has always been a predominantly female association. Our last census by gender in 2010 already reported that 61% of our members were women.
- Although we have not been able to get hold of similar data for our current membership structure, it is nonetheless interesting that this figure gets reproduced in terms of social media usage:
- 59% of the people that follow us on Facebook are women
- Whilst the figure goes yet further up when considering who is generating the anthropological content that circulates in our social media public sphere: 61% of all this content is produced by women.

(b) The Secretary further reported on LIBRARIA, an initiative for setting up an Open Access Publishing Cooperative in the Social Sciences and Humanities of which EASA is a founding member. The initiative is currently drafting an Expression of Interest to invite research libraries around the world to join the project.

IV. Treasurer (Rachael Gooberman-Hill).

The Treasurer provided background about EASA, presented the accounts and membership fees for 2017.

(a) General financial arrangements: She 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. The Treasurer reported on the Executive Committee's work to reflect on potential impact of the UK possibly leaving the EU on EASA's financial and governance arrangements. This was part of the Executive's work as Trustees to perform risk assessment for EASA. The Executive's view is that they can see no current impediment to the continued registration of EASA as a charity in the UK, and they expect that our banking arrangements are likely to be able to stay as they are. The Treasurer reported that the Executive's view is that the most sensible position for now is to maintain stability and that there is no current need to make changes to banking or governance arrangements. The Treasurer reported that the Executive Committee as Trustees will continue to review the situation and shall report back and discuss with the membership if there are any changes in the situation.

(b) Receipt of Accounts: To receive the accounts for the twelve months until 31st December 2015, members were provided with printed copies of the one page summary of the accounts and informed that full accounts could be viewed in the Autumn on the Charity Commission Website. 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 2015 were slightly over £268,000. 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 2017: The Treasurer informed the membership that the Executive Committee had set the membership fees for 2017, which have been fixed at the same amounts as 2016. These were displayed on a slide.

(d) Network funding allocation 2017: The Treasurer informed the membership that they have decided to allocated €25,000 Euros for Network funding in 2017.

(e) Reappointment of accountants and independent examiners: With the chair's permission to address this point immediately after the Treasurer's report rather than later in the meeting, 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

The Motion to reappoint Friend-James Ltd as accountants and independent examiners was approved with 134 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions.

V. Journal.

On behalf of the editorial team for the Association's journal *SA/AS*, Patrick Laviolette addressed EASA's Forum for Members in Milan. He provided only a brief report since the editors use the platform of journal's frequent Editorials which appear regularly for reporting on journal related activities to the membership.

(a) Featured Pieces. Since last October's AGM in Prague *SA/AS* has continued with the inaugural Rethinking Euro-Anthropology Forum which appeared in 23(3) with a second part, as well as a forthcoming Early Careers Forum to appear in August.

Under the new editorial team, *SA/AS* has published: i) its first Special Issue on the relation between utopianism and post-colonial archives (24/1); ii) a Special Section (24/2) on solidarity and the crisis in Greece; iii) a forum debate section of 24 short reflections on the UK's recent Brexit referendum (forthcoming 24/3). Much of this content has been made available online on Early View for several weeks for free to the general public.

A Special Issue on 'mobilities' produced from members who are part of the ANTHROMOB is currently in production for 2017 as well as a Special Section on 'waste'.

(b) New Initiatives. With the backing of the Executive, *SA/AS*'s editorial team is currently negotiating with Wiley as to whether a Special Issues Supplementary Series is feasible in the next year. This would be an online only series, perhaps with the possibility of print-on-demand. It would require that the Executive recruit an additional editorial assistant from the membership body in order to manage this particular output source. From the exceptionally high number of SI proposals that the journal receives, many of which are very good, there is certainly a niche for this format of dissemination.

Along with dozens of other journals from around the world, *SA/AS* is now cooperating closely with the Wenner-Gren's online platform for popularising anthropology – SAPIENS. Authors with topical articles or debate contributions should consider how to abbreviate their work into a concise, easily accessible and professionally illustrated piece (<http://www.wennergren.org/about/sapiens>)

The editorial team is actively working with Wiley on an application for accredited recognition in various source citation indices, such as Web of Science, Thompson Reuters citation index.

The Executive has accepted that during the next year the journal would work with Wiley to make the membership access to the journal online as easy and problem free as possible. The intention is to soon reverse the current situation whereby members currently opt-out of receiving the printed versions of *SA/AS* in the post. Instead, we shall reverse the process on EASA's website so that those still wishing to receive printed copies will have to opt-in. The two main justifications for this are environmental as well as to save money for the association.

There were no questions from the floor.

VI. Book series (Eeva Berglund).

Eeva Berglund let it be known to the membership that she is stepping down as Book Series Editor. She thanked everyone that made her editorship a memorable and rewarding experience: the Executive Committee, her Editorial Board, reviewers and authors. She congratulated the Association on having a strong anthropological series, and insisted on the importance of providing a venue for publishing excellent scholarship across the anthropological genre.

VII. Networks (Valeria Siniscalchi).

The creation of networks was improved some years ago to allow people based in different spaces / places to work together around a specific topic. The original idea for the creation of networks was to improve collaborations and connections between EASA members, and non-members in a less formal way than a thematic association. Today EASA has 29 networks, showing the diversity of interests inside EASA, aggregations around specific topics, and shifting interests during the time. Networks are great tools - for EASA members and for EASA as an association - to create links between scholars and to promote activities, also out from the congress. During this conference, 21 networks are organising one or more panels, and 24 organise a meeting. This is a good range of activity that add up to others activities (seminars, congress, meetings, publications) that networks organise in others moments of the year, announced in the EASA newsletter.

The debate with networks convenors that we have had here, Thomas Hylland Eriksen and I, during

this conference was very rich in terms of exchanges between networks and between networks and members of the executive. Around 20 networks were represented. It has been the occasion to share experiences and to have a better vision on the ways networks function and also of problems they could have. Moreover it has been the occasion to pay attention to what EASA can ameliorate and to others tools that we could put in place to help networks in their activities and to consolidate them. Firstly in terms of funding: as the treasurer has already announced, the executive has decided to devote a little more money than previous budget to networks activities in the years without congress, 25 000 euros. The global amount of money is a significant sum, not enormous for each network but enough to impulse networks activities, not only symbolically.

Then EASA can promote links between networks, during the congress and during others activities networks organise, also in terms of publications. Moreover, we need to help networks in terms of visibility: on the website, during the conference, for example with better communication that network meeting are open forums. Networks themselves are -and need to be - spaces open for others members interested in this or that topic. In the same spirit, we should continue to consider them not as permanent organisations but as flexible tools that can change over the time: some networks can loose members, some can decide to merge/join others networks, the centres of interest could change, impulsing others links and others configurations. In this sense, showing emerging centres of interest and also the shifting of topics, networks are a resource for EASA in terms of scientific vitality of our association. The Executive decided last year not to accept more networks. Thank you for your patience. Now we are working to reopen the possibility to create networks: this will be possible from the end of September, keeping in mind that ensuring the consolidation of existing networks, their openness and inclusiveness continue to be the main objectives for the actual Executive, in a joint effort with network and networks convenors.

Questions from the floor regarding the Executive Committee's reports.

- A question from the floor about the impact of recent pound-Euro currency fluctuations on EASA's financial wellbeing (Benoit de l'Estoile):

-- Answer from the Treasurer: The Treasurer said that income was in Euros and in British Pounds (GBP) and EASA's banking is in Euros and GBP and this protected EASA from currency fluctuation to an extent. Also, she said that we could remember that the Euro-GBP rate is currently around 1.1 Euro:1 GBP and even as recently as 2009 the rate was 1:1. Currency fluctuations are reflected on the accounts.

- A question from the floor about the reason for maintaining EASA's balances at the current amounts (Marit Melhuus):

-- Answer from the Treasurer: EASA maintains strong balances to protect the association from risk, for instance conference failure or administrative requirements. Keeping healthy balances is intended to be protective.

- Benoît de l'Estoile: What happens to networks that have registered no action for a long time – how are they extinguished?

-- Answer from the Network Coordinator: Some network convenors make it be known that the network is not operating any longer and that it can be suppressed. Other networks contemplating mergers. We try to find the best solution for each specific situation.

- David Shankland announces a proposal to reactivate the network on the history of anthropology. He notes that anthropology in Europe was not created by any one nation and we should strive to preserve that tradition.

- Sarah Green invites members to check with their institutions that they are signed up to Scholars at Risk.

- A number of scholars took to the floor to express their concern with current situation of volatility and uncertainty in Turkey and the imminent risks it poses to academic freedom and public opinion.

4. Appointment of Auditors

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.

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

5. Special resolution to ratify the change of objects voted for online in June 2015, to:

“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 in Europe.”

RESOLUTION: 138 votes in favour, No votes against, 4 abstentions

6. Any other business/ requests by members

- A message from the Association of Social Anthropologists on the wake of the referendum on Brexit was delivered by its President, Veronica Strang. She noted that the members of ASA are deeply concerned about the Brexit vote and its potential long-term impact on relations with Europe. “Anthropologists in Britain”, Strang noted, “still love you and we don't want to divorce.”

- Dan Hirslund, Dimitra Kofti, Louisa Steur, Julie Billaud, Martin Fotta and Alice Elliot propose a motion to be voted by the Members Forum. The text of motion can be found in Annex III.

The motion is put to the vote: 142 votes in favour, No votes against, No abstentions. The motion is passed.

7. Announcements: EASA 2018; new book series editor; announcement of election of Trustees

The President announces that EASA's 2018 biannual conference will be held at the University of Stockholm; the new editor of EASA's Book Series is Aleksandar Boskovic; and elections for EASA's Trustees will be held in the winter, with the deadline for nominations being 25 November.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I. LETTER TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT

July 21, 2016

The Middle East Studies Association, American Anthropological Association, Executive Committee of the American Comparative Literature Association, American Studies Association, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, European Association for Middle Eastern Studies, German Middle East Studies Association for Contemporary Research and Documentation, German Studies Association, International Center for Medieval Art, Latin American Studies Association, Linguistic Society of America, The Medieval Academy of America, National Communication Association, and Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association collectively note with profound concern the apparent moves to dismantle much of the structure of Turkish higher education through purges, restrictions, and assertions of central control, a process begun earlier this year and accelerating now with alarming speed.

As scholarly associations, we are committed to the principles of academic freedom and freedom of expression. The recent moves in Turkey herald a massive and virtually unprecedented assault on those principles. One of the Middle East region's leading systems of higher education is under severe threat as a result, as are the careers and livelihoods of many of its faculty members and academic administrators.

Our concern about the situation in Turkish universities has been mounting over the past year, as Turkish authorities have moved to retaliate against academics for expressing their political views—some merely signing an “Academics for Peace” petition criticizing human rights violations.

Yet the threat to academic freedom and higher education has recently worsened in a dramatic fashion. In the aftermath of the failed coup attempt of July 15-16, 2016, the Turkish government has moved to purge government officials in the Ministry of Education and has called for the resignation of all university deans across the country's public and private universities. As of this writing, it appears that more than 15,000 employees at the education ministry have been fired and nearly 1600 deans—1176 from public universities and 401 from private universities—have been asked to resign. In addition, 21,000 private school teachers have had their teaching licenses cancelled. Further, reports suggest that travel restrictions have been imposed on academics at public universities and that Turkish academics abroad were required to return to Turkey. The scale of the travel restrictions, suspension and imposed resignations in the education sector seemingly go much farther than the targeting of individuals who might have had any connection to the attempted coup.

The crackdown on the education sector creates the appearance of a purge of those deemed inadequately loyal to the current government. Moreover, the removal of all of the deans across the country represents a direct assault on the institutional autonomy of Turkey's universities. The replacement of every university's administration simultaneously by the executive-controlled Higher Education Council would give the government direct administrative control of all Turkish

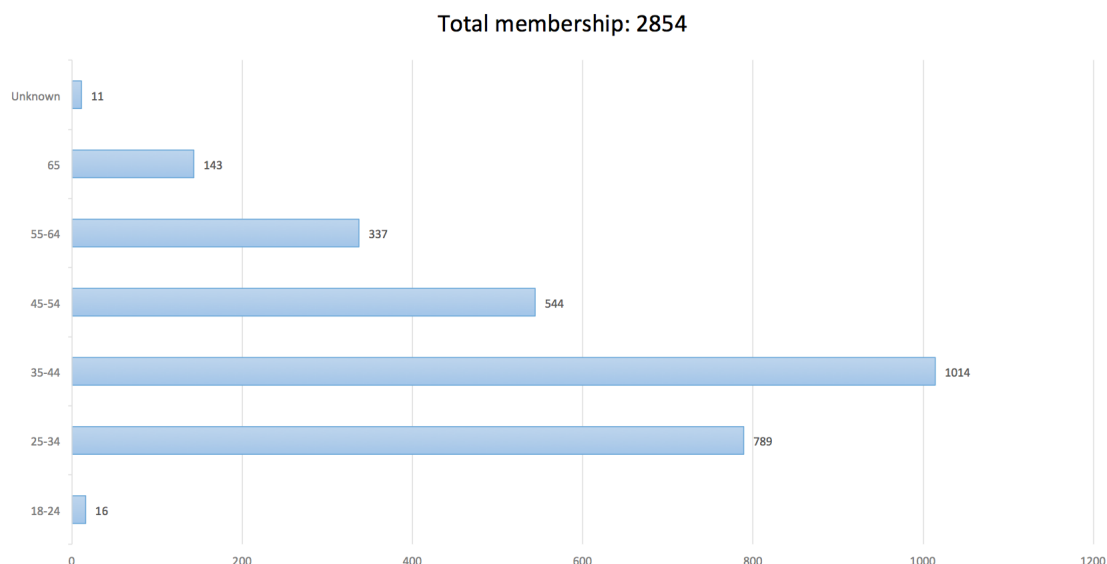
universities. Such concentration and centralization of power over all universities is clearly inimical to academic freedom. Moreover, the government’s existing record of requiring university administrators’ to undertake sweeping disciplinary actions against perceived opponents—as was the case against the Academics for Peace petition signatories—lends credence to fears that the change in university administrations will be the first step in an even broader purge against academics in Turkey.

Earlier this year, it was already clear that the Turkish government, in a matter of months, had amassed a staggering record of violations of academic freedom and freedom of expression. The aftermath of the attempted coup may have accelerated those attacks on academic freedom in even more alarming ways.

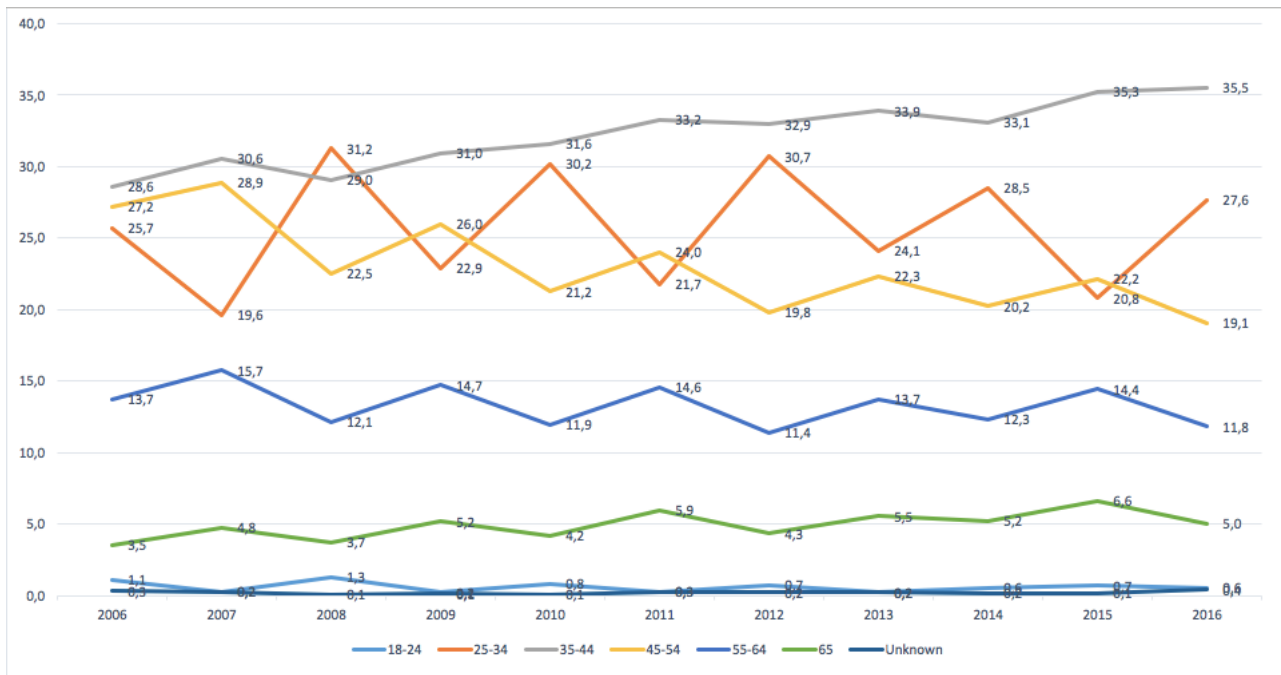
As scholarly organizations, we collectively call for respect for academic freedom—including freedom of expression, opinion, association and travel—and the autonomy of universities in Turkey, offer our support to our Turkish colleagues, [second the Middle East Studies Association’s “call for action” of January 15](#), request that Turkey’s diplomatic interlocutors (both states and international organizations) advocate vigorously for the rights of Turkish scholars and the autonomy of Turkish universities, suggest other scholarly organizations speak forcefully about the threat to the Turkish academy, and alert academic institutions throughout the world that Turkish colleagues are likely to need moral and substantive support in the days ahead.

ANNEX II. EASA’S MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL MEDIA DATA ANALYSES

1. Membership as of July 2016

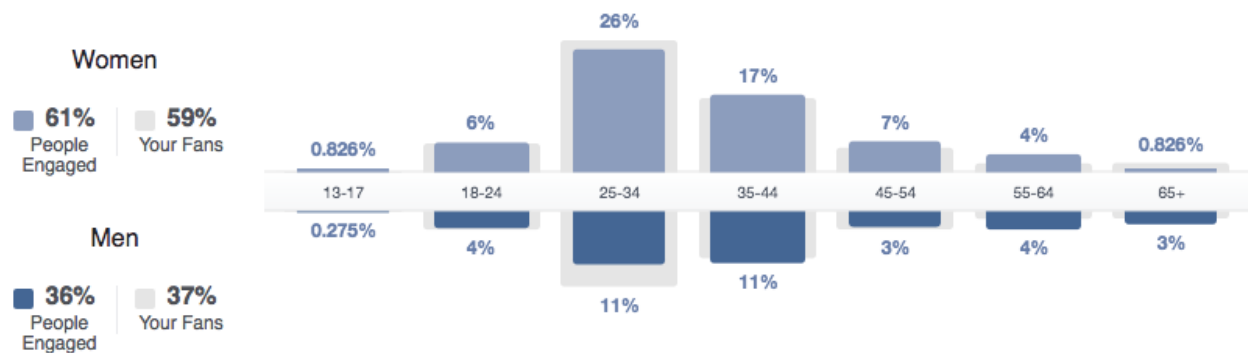


2. Membership by age groups, 2006-2016

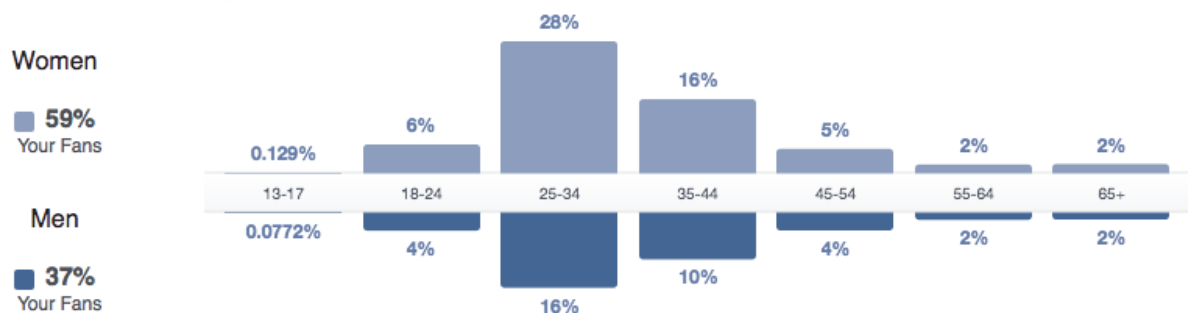


2. Facebook “likes” and “engagers”

The people who have liked, commented on, or shared your posts or engaged with your Page in the past 28 days.



The people who like your Page



ANNEX III. Motion on Precarity in Europe.

On the 22nd of July a meeting took place during the EASA biannual conference.

Organized and attended by precarious anthropologists on PhD, teaching and researchers' contracts, it asked EASA as a professional organisation to support the plight of precarious anthropologists in a number of ways.

- Preparing a declaration in which EASA – acknowledging the overall predicament of the academic profession in the era of advanced capitalism – declares itself against the proliferation of precarity in anthropology departments across Europe and beyond
- Updating – with input by those affected - the existing database on number and types of contracts on anthropology departments across Europe in order to better understand the current situation with precarity in the profession
- Discussing concrete ways in which the association – with help and input of those affected – can help watchdog efforts and assert influence in clear cases of exploitation and proliferation of precarity in departments of anthropology or among members of EASA
- Creating a policy of good practice in recruitment and employment
- Involving precarious academics in the efforts to lobby the European commission on issues of the structuring requirements and procedures of hiring (of researchers and replacement teaching staff), research, administration and academic production within EU projects

We ask the EASA executive to discuss these points at their next meeting and vote on these proposals.

Dan Hirslund; Dimitra Kofti; Louisa Steur; Julie Billaud; Martin Fotta; Alice Elliot