



European Association of Social Anthropologists  
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux

## Minutes of AGM 28/10/2019, ULB Brussels

Present: EASA Executive, plus Cris Shore, Cassandra Yuill and some others unidentified from signatures subsequently!

### Agenda Items

#### 1. Apologies

Prem, NomadIT

#### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

Approved.

#### 3. President Report (Sarah Green)

Sarah Green, new Exec president since February, updated the Exec on activities since then, noting that EASA's tasks have expanded beyond the traditional learned society's roles of holding a biannual conference and producing a journal:

- political statements were issued for Hungary, Brazil, and a researcher arrested in Iran; a joint letter to the EU, written together with other learned societies, was issued for reminding through proper labelling that « Research » is part of the portfolio of the EU « Youth and Innovation » Commissioner
- EASA introduced Near Carbon Neutral (visio) panels at the EASA 2020 conference. The conference has just closed its call for panels with 362 panel proposals (of which only half could be accepted, because of space restrictions). Networks still have one panel guaranteed in the conference (there are now 42 networks).
- A survey of online presence and need for social media communication was conducted by Nomad IT and Miia.
- Open access issues are going to have to be tackled carefully during EASA's Executive term. This not only concerns the journal, but also whether EASA wants to take a position on monographs - given the work done by the previous Exec on this issue (Libraria and Berghahn).
- Question from the audience: What would happen to the EASA archves stored at RAI in case of Brexit? Sarah answers that Brexit is unlikely to have an effect on that, but other issues related to RAI might (see later).
- Prem Kumar Rajaram was formally welcomed to the EASA Exec. It was **agreed** that he would take on the roles of Publications Liaison with David Mills; and would join Mariya Ivancheva in coordinating. Emerging Issues.

- Sarah thanked Mariya and Georgeta for the initiative and organisation in getting the AGM together in Brussels, and noted that it was quite a steep learning curve for all concerned. She also formally thanked ULB and Sasha Newell for being such generous hosts.

#### **4. Secretary Report (Monica Heintz)**

- Monica presented her tasks as Secretary of EASA (Newsletter, but not social media, drawing up agendas and minutes of meetings), but also additional roles as Ethics liaison and more particularly Code of conduct group liaison
- She presented for discussion the initiative of establishing a European Anthropology Day for which EASA would provide support- the extent to which has to be discussed, from simply sharing via a webpage members' public anthropology type of actions taking place on the EAD to having a Communications Officer who would help to promote local and national events (digitally)- counselling, design, branding.

#### **5. Treasurer Report (David Mills)**

- David Mills described the accounts, which are in a healthy state, so there is the possibility of spending a bit more, but we should keep an eye on short, medium and long-term consequences of spending decisions.
- There has been an analysis of Brexit impact conducted back in 2016 by the last Exec on EASA - which holds its accounts in Great Britain- and no danger was identified for the time being.
- Open access: there was a discussion on whether the journal should go completely open access, which led to no firm conclusions. The issue is complicated by the fact that 'open access' is a misnomer, in that payment has to come from somewhere - and while we are with Wiley, it would mean paying Wiley a huge sum, which, as Mariya pointed out, would help Wiley but not EASA. We need to get back to this issue.

#### **6. Journal Report (Sarah Green for Nikolai Ssorin Chaikov and Laia Soto Bermant)**

- The journal editors were not present. As ex journal editor, Sarah presented their written report, which arrived late. Up to two online-only special issues are issued annually in addition to four paper issues per year. The composition of the international advisory board has been extended from 15 to 33 members.
- David discussed the fast open access plan (Plan S) imposed by the EU up to 2024. This needs further work as it is a fast developing situation.

#### **7. Book Series Report (Aleksandar Boskovic)**

- As the book series editor was absent, Monica summarised his report. The series is in good health, publications are both from junior and senior colleagues, and are of edited volumes and monographs, etc., but the editor has trouble finding reviewers and asks potential reviewers to at least respond to his requests.
- His terms ends in 2020, so a call for a new book series editor should be carried out in time for Lisboa 2020.

#### **8. Networks Report (Cristiana Bastos)**

- Cristiana says liaising with networks is a challenging but interesting task, because it brings the bottom up approach to the association. 42 networks- shall we let them grow naturally in numbers? Pressure on guaranteed panels at conferences and on resources in uneven years.
- Coming from the WWNA meeting, Miia reported that AAN wishes to fully remain an EASA network, though they would probably need another legal entity to help manage

finances and activities linked to their outreach activities. She proposes funding for networks to help with organising costs (a student assistant for instance) should be eligible as well (for now just transport and hotel expenses are). This would involve EASA in employment and tax issues, so it needs to be discussed further.

## **9. Media, communication and membership (Miia Halme-Tuomisari-**

- social media should strengthen membership identity- there are 12000 followers on the FB page, but there is no predictable SM presence for now
- a survey on EASA's SM users and wishes was conducted with more than 600 respondents and is under analysis
- Discussion about possibilities for further developing our online presence and how to pay for it were unfinished and need to be completed.

## **10. Precanthro and lobbying Report (Mariya Ivancheva)**

- almost 200 people were present at the Precanthro meeting in EASA Milan (more than expected) – the Exec has had a Precanthro liaison officer ever since, set up by the previous Exec. Its role is to carry out a survey of precarity in anthropology and advocacy. There were panels on academic precarity at EASA 2018, IUAES 2019 (roundtable) and there will be a panel on mental health at EASA 2020.
- For lobbying: Mariya suggested we should work on identifying the top priorities so we aren't just reacting to anything that comes up. As expertise is acquired by exec members, it would be good to find a way to pass it on to new exec members.
- EASA has issued precarity position papers; they could be circulated at European level together with other similar statements issued by other scholarly organisations. A broader strategy could be issued to link separate actions.
- Example: the meeting with ERC representative in the morning showed that there has not been much thought given to the ethics of collaboration in projects, while some EASA members (Rita Astuti and Alice Tilche) have drafted Guidelines that could be made available beyond our discipline for European collaborative projects.

## **11. Code of Conduct Report (Georgeta Stoica)**

- There were difficulties in identifying people willing to sit on a review committee. The efforts were continuing.
- Chris Shore, member of code of conduct working group present at the AGM, gave an update on the idea of having permanently an Ombudsperson or similar within EASA. The idea was discussed but no final decision was made.

## **12. Emerging issues Report (Mariya Ivancheva)**

- Maryia gave a report on the events over the previous months and wondered whether we should remain only reactive, or whether it might be possible to be more proactive, for example, on issues related to scholars at risk?
- Sarah noted that we need to be active, but also develop these policies carefully, so that we remain within the limits of the constitution, the diverse views of the membership and the purpose of a learned society.

## **13. Any Other Business**

- Cristiana Bastos informs that the OECD that requires information under the Frascati manual now lists anthropology under sociology. This already has implications in Portugal for research funding and could affect other countries soon. She asked whether EASA could request a revision of the OECD manual?

ACTION: Cristiana to report who is responsible for it so we can address a letter to them.

#### **14. EASA Conference announcements**

Call for panels closed, call for papers and labs opens on the 2nd of December.

#### **15. Date of Next AGM**

Members' Forum scheduled for the Lisbon 2020 Conference.

#### **16. Closing of meeting 4:45 pm.**