

Alberto Corsín Jiménez, Jeanette Edwards, Adolfo Estalella, Ignacio Farías, Penny Harvey, Martin Holbraad, Susana Narotzky, Tomás Sánchez Criado and Soumhya Venkatesan request that the Members' Forum adopt the following motion:

Whereas, the Constitution of the EASA states that “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” (Article 6);

Whereas, one of the Association's primary vehicles for promoting education and research in social anthropology, as well as encouraging professional communication between anthropologists, is its flagship journal, *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale*;

Whereas, for over a decade now, the EASA's journal has been published by a commercial publisher (Wiley) and its output made available only to members and institutional subscribers, a state of affairs seemingly at odds with both the Association's stated aims and the ethical precepts of anthropological practice, which call for making our research available to the communities we work with;

Whereas, as the Open Access movement has amply documented, the enclosure of scholarship behind paywalls has detrimental effects, not just by restricting the availability of academic knowledge but also by abetting the overhaul of the scholarly communications ecology into a wider economy of data extraction, inequality, and profiteering;

Whereas; in the case of the EASA, **publication income has proven not to be the determinant of the Association's financial well-being.** Over the past five years, the income that the EASA has received from its publishing program has increased from £5,301 in 2014 to £22,850 in 2018, for an average of £12,579 per year. Meanwhile, the EASA's total income for the period 2014-2018 amounts to an average of £235,732 per year;

Whereas, the EASA's financial reserves have also consistently increased during this period, from £258,348 in 2014 to £424,873 in 2018;

And whereas, in recent years, projects such as the Open Library of Humanities, Berghahn Open Anthro and Coalition Publica have demonstrated the viability of open publishing models built on partnerships between researchers, libraries, and publishers and rooted in principles of sustainability, inclusion, and community control.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The European Association of Social Anthropologists will not renew its current publishing agreement with Wiley, and
2. The Executive Board will devise a new publishing strategy for an open access *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale* that is sustainable, inclusive, and community-controlled and that does not hinge on mechanisms like APCs or read-and-publish frameworks that exacerbate existing inequalities.

## Annex

The ecology of scholarly communications has been undergoing rapid and consequential changes in the past few years. We offer here some background information to better understand the context of the Motion we are submitting for consideration of the membership.

1. The launch of Plan S in 2018 has accelerated the transition to open access. The plan mandates that starting in 2021 all research funded by Plan S signatories will be open access. So-called “hybrid journals” (where open access obtains after paying an article processing charge) will not be compliant.
2. Publishers are adopting a variety of strategies towards compliance. The preferred strategy is signing so-called ‘Read and Publish’ agreements with national university consortiums. These agreements allow authors from signatory universities to publish open access articles in a publisher’s journals without paying article processing charges.
3. To this day, Wiley has signed Read and Publish agreements with Austria, Sweden, Netherlands, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Norway, and the UK. Scholars affiliated to institutions in these countries are able to publish their work open access in Wiley journals (including *Social Anthropology*) without additional payments.
4. In the case of EASA this means that the Society is inadvertently discriminating against the scholarship of its members in France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Denmark, Switzerland or Romania (to name but some of the society’s largest national memberships), who will not be able to publish open access in *Social Anthropology* unless they disburse the corresponding article processing charge. Not to mention all the authors from the Global South whose submissions will not be eligible for open access publishing either.
5. There are sustainable, inclusive, and community-controlled alternatives to commercial open access publishing. We note three here:
  - (i) *Subscribe-to-open* is an alternative model pioneered by Annual Reviews that is now being piloted by Berghahn Journals. Berghahn has flipped into open access its entire portfolio of anthropology journals (13 titles including *Social Anthropology*, *Religion and Society*, *Environment and Society*, *Focaal* or the *Cambridge Journal of Anthropology*).
  - (ii) *Library partnerships*: the Open Library of the Humanities is funded by an international consortium of libraries and publishes 26 open access journals. Another example: the Journal of the Swiss Anthropological Association is now published open access by the University of Bern’s Library.
  - (iii) *Membership surcharges*: starting in 2020, and following a majority vote by CASCAs membership to take the society’s journal, *Anthropologica*, open access, the Society is surcharging an open access levy on some categories of its membership.