

MINUTES of EASA's Europeanist Network (EN) business meeting

Ljubljana, 27th of August 2008

At the University of Ljubljana, Kongresni trg 12 (SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Members present: around 25. Meeting moderated by the coordinator of the network Andrés Barrera González. Minutes written by Lorena Anton.

AGENDA:

- 1.- Report from the coordinator and head of the steering committee.
- 2.- Organizational matters and sharing of responsibilities.
- 3.- Maintenance of the website and e-mailing list.
- 4.- Proposals for a mid-term meeting of the network in 2009.
- 5.- Proposals for cooperative and collaborative research.
- 6.- Election of a chair and a new steering or executive committee.
- 7.- Any other business

Points of discussion, in numerical order:

Andrés Barrera González, the present coordinator of the EN, starts the meeting by summarising the state of matters since the last EASA conference in Bristol (2006). In the aftermath of the Bristol conference, membership of the EN raised to 64. Communication with members has been kept mostly via email.

General discussion focuses on the necessity of holding additional meetings between EASA conferences, in the form of workshops on issues of interest for members of the network, and/or a 'midterm business meeting'. The options available for holding these meetings are either to meet at any of the members' institutions (for example, Clarissa Kugelberg tells of the possibility of meeting at Uppsala University, on the occasion of a research workshop she is planning to hold there); or within the framework of a major anthropological academic event that takes place between EASA's biennial conferences.

Andrés Barrera provides an exemplification of such a 'midterm meeting', namely the workshop organized at Université de Paris X Nanterre, France in October 2007,

funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation. (for further details, visit: http://www.u-paris10.fr/1191427395578/0/fiche_actualite/&RH=FR). The event was inscribed into a more general collaborative agenda, the “Anthropology in Europe. Facing the Challenges of European Convergence in Higher Education and Research” project, which goes forward with the conference to be held at University Complutense of Madrid, September 2008 (for further details, see <http://www.ucm.es/info/antrosim/>).

Anna Horolets also mentions one collaborative project suggested in the past by Cris Shore. It was devoted to mapping of the celebrations of 'Europe's day' in different national settings in 2007 and has produced noticeable response among the network members. Dmitri Bondarenko comes back to the idea of convening a midterm business meeting in the future, underlining the importance of linking it to some anthropological event or conference. Ullrich Kockel speaks of the possibility of doing this during SIEF's conference. Lorena Anton proposes to meet on the occasion of one such regular event: The InASEA conference, which takes place exactly in between EASA's and SIEF's years of conference.

The discussion turns to the items on the meeting's Agenda. Remarks are made about the necessity of using the EN's mailing list, managed until now by Andrés Barrera, who underlines the necessity of a 'sharing of responsibilities' approach in the future, with or without external funding being available.

Ullrich Kockel suggests the idea of submitting applications to the ERA programmes for networking development, or to European agencies. Clarissa Kugelberg gives the example of one European project she's involved in, and discusses the challenges to face when applying for 'European funding'.

Andrés Barrera reminds the audience about the ESF's 'exploratory workshop' held in the Czech Republic in 2004, on the theme 'Towards an Anthropology of Europe', where the idea to establish a Europeanist network within EASA was raised.

The necessity of more regular communication and stronger links between the members of the network is raised in the discussion. Past efforts to come up with an up-to-date and fully fledged directory of members, with an online rendering, have not been successful, as many of the members did not send a completed form with their academic profiles. William Kavanagh suggests that the form should be sent again.

Anna Horolets underlines the freedom of each member to update his / her profile on the EASA official site, an operative option which is to be maintained in the specific case of the directory of members.

The discussion reaches item #6 in the Agenda, namely the election of a chair and a new steering or executive committee. Andrés Barrera declares his intention not to continue with coordinating the network, given the circumstance at present of his many other professional duties. Some members in the room underline the importance that Barrera continues in this role for better coordination of the network. Moreover, the statute of the EN does not imply the compulsory change of the coordinator every two years. Members present at the meeting point out to the fact that formal statutes do not really exist for any of EASA's networks. Formal proposals for a new chair and new members of the steering committee are nevertheless called for, but no specific proposal is brought forward. Given the situation, it is agreed that the coordination of the network will continue to be under Andrés Barrera González responsibility, but with more active assistance from other members of the network in carrying out the diverse coordination tasks.