

REPORT on the Europeanist Network activities 2007-2008

The Europeanist network held its regular 'business meeting' the 27th of August 2008 in the city of Ljubljana, on the occasion of the 10th EASA conference. The minutes of this meeting are available at the network's webpage, set up within the EASA website. Andrés Barrera González, coordinator of the network at present, also attended a meeting convened by the executive committee on the 28th, with all chairs and coordinators of EASA's networks. Moreover, he read a report on the activities of the Europeanist network at the Member's Forum on the 29th. What follows is a general report on the activities and projects of the network, where the main issues at stake are summarised, referring to specific moments and events when it is relevant.

Membership:

About twelve people have requested to join the network after the Ljubljana conference, thus raising the total membership to seventy four. Let us remind whoever is interested in subscribing to the network that there exists a form, downloadable from the webpage, to fill in to this end. Data provided in this form is also required for building and updating the Directory of Members. Therefore, we call upon all present and future members please visit the site, download the Word file, and fill it in whenever you want to update your profile. This would be particularly advisable to do now, on the part of all members, if we are to take up Rohan Jackson's offer to build an online directory, as agreed it would be done for all networks during the above mentioned meeting with EASA's executive committee. A service by Nomadit which will be covered with EASA funds; as it is the case with the continuous provision of basic webpage support for networks. Incidentally, the issue was raised in this meeting that EASA networks do not have specific statutes, and whether this is a normative void that should be filled at some point.

Communication between members:

As already mentioned, there is a webpage set up within EASA's website where information about the activities of the network are regularly posted, as well as various

files pertaining to its 'historical record', and other matters of interest for members. There has been a continuous debate about the need to broaden the means of communication between members. For instance, by setting up an independent fully fledged website, with all the regular features, that will allow for organising discussion fora, virtual or online seminars, and so on. Also there is the possibility of setting up a list-Serv or emailing list for the exchange of information among all members. The required cybernetic resources are readily available, and technically speaking it poses no great problem to set up a website or a list-Serv. However, all this requires the professional services and time of people who can take care of designing and administering the e-tools. Thus, either we can rely on some individual members' altruism, or we would have to look for the financial means needed to pay for these services externally. Then, we should carefully consider what we want these tools for, weighing the pros and cons, and making decisions as to how to go about it, notwithstanding the need to provide solid academic and scholarly contents for these activities.

Mid-term meetings:

The Europeanist network has been striving for some time to establish the 'tradition' of convening mid-term meetings, to be held the odd years in between EASA's conference dates. Yet, not having at hand the funding required to convene a workshop or conference exclusively dedicated to matters of direct interest to members of the network, the formula we are trying to apply is making informal arrangements for holding parallel meetings, with the involvement of a sizeable number of members of the network, in the framework of larger conferences, congresses or symposia. Like it was done at the end of October 2007 on the occasion of a workshop held in Paris, with funding from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, related to the Anthropology in Europe scholarly endeavour. One such meeting, a workshop, will be organised by three members of the network in the framework of the International Association for Southeast European Anthropology's conference, which will take place in Ankara, 21-24 May 2009. An additional mid-term meeting of the Europeanist network will probably be called for in the autumn of this same year, making it coincide with the EASA's AGM.

Publications:

The coordinator and two other members of the network are in talks and negotiations with LIT Verlag Publishers, Berlin, with the aim to establish a book series on Europeanist Anthropology and Ethnology. The problem with LIT, and with other publishers similarly, is that they require the payment of a cash subsidy for each volume to be published. Now, if we can't count on a regular budget to tap from, like when you have an Institute or Department behind the initiative, things get enormously complicated. Therefore, the options in what regards publication plans are kept open. If you have any idea and specific proposal to make, please come forward.

The Anthropology in Europe scholarly endeavour:

A sizeable number of members of the Europeanist network are at present fully involved in bringing about the Anthropology in Europe scholarly endeavour. This has become, from the very moment when the network was established in 2004, a core part (with varying, evolving formulations) of the efforts and activities of the network as such. The second of the meetings linked to this project was held in Madrid the first week in September 2008. At the Madrid conference it was decided to go ahead with the endeavour as planned. Thus, the closing conference is to be convened in the autumn of 2010, in the city of Poznan. Information about the Anthropology in Europe project you can obtain it from the Paris07 webpage:

http://www.u-paris10.fr/1191427395578/0/fiche__actualite/&RH=FR

Or the Madrid08 conference website: <http://www.ucm.es/info/antrosim> .

Collaborative research projects:

Conversations during the official meetings of network, and beyond them, go on as regards the convenience that we agree on drawing some priority research agendas on Europeanist themes; and then furthering the collaboration of members of the network in the development of the specific research projects that stem from them. Appropriate themes, as items of an open list, for these research agendas that have come up at one point or another in these exchanges of views, might be the following: a) Cultural dimensions in the process of European unification; b) The anthropology of supranational

and international institutions; c) Language diversity in Europe: ideologies, politics, policies. There is agreement between the more active members of the Europeanist network that this should be a most important line of action for the members of the network to pursue in the future. Namely, the furthering of cooperative and collaborative research endeavours.

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