

## DICAN Disaster and Crisis Anthropology Network

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The network was convened by Mara Benadusi, Sandrine Revet and Susann Baez Ullberg in early 2014. We made an application to the EASA Executive Committee and got it accepted in late February that year. We then issued a call for membership and expressions of interest at the EASA network webpage. In addition we also spread the word in our respective networks. The response from EASA members and non-members was very good. We initially gathered 46 colleagues who were interested in joining. We were thereby in good standing to be formally accepted as a network and so it was. At the 13th EASA conference held in Tallinn, Estonia, we constituted the DICAN formally on August 2. Three coordinators were elected to run the network for the first two years:

- Kristoffer Albris, University of Copenhagen
- Seumas Bates, University of Glasgow
- Susann Baez Ullberg, Swedish National Defence College.

At the moment, the DICAN counts 63 members.

According to the goal of our network, which is to strengthen the anthropology of crises and disasters, we will do this by organising multiple activities such as arranging conference sessions, initiating joint publications, establishing communication platforms. Despite only a few months of existence, we have already managed to accomplish some of these.

To begin with, we have (with the help of NomadIT) set up our web page at the EASA site. Our listserv is also working and network members have started using it. We also have a Facebook group in which people exchange relevant information for research, teaching and policymaking in the area. The FB group has a larger membership than the network itself, at present 151 members. We view it as both a forum for discussion amongst DICAN members and for outreach to non-anthropologist academics and other interested non-academics. As such, we hope to foster future collaborations between anthropologists within DICAN and policy makers and stakeholders who are interested in issues related to the network.

Two DICAN members are editing a special issue on disaster anthropology in the journal *Nature and Culture*, expected to be published in 2016. The issue is based on the session *Living with Disasters: Hazards, Continuity and Change* that the editors organised at the EASA conference in Tallinn. The contributors to the special issue all participated in this session.

Three other DICAN members will be arranging the session *Anthropology and disaster studies: a symbiotic relationship* at the upcoming meeting of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA) held at the University of Exeter in April of 2015. The DICAN is sponsoring this double session.

For 2015, we plan to keep up the work in this vein; to encourage communication and enable collaboration.