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Report from the Anthropology of Security Network
2014

By Nils Zurawski

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The new Anthropology of Security Network has had a very productive twelve-month period. The network has grown substantially, it is increasingly productive in many areas, and has significant plans for future growth.

2013 Workshop

We are grateful to EASA for the funding we received in 2013. We organized a workshop in December in Ireland on Bodies of Evidence, with Jean Comaroff as keynote speaker and a number of other internationally significant anthropologists, from Ursula Rao to Christina Garsten. We envisaged this workshop as the start of a series of rolling scholarly conversations about evidence in the Anthropology of Security Network.

EASA 2014

The successes of the activities and discussions in our workshop led us to organize a panel at EASA 2014 in Tallinn on "Bodies of evidence, experts, and intimacy in the anthropology of security". The panel was flagged by Allegra as one not to miss.

Contributors included Gregory Feldman (Simon Fraser University) on "law, ethics, and an undercover police surveillance team"; "Human trafficking: the pivotal role played by the victims" by Desirée Pangerc (CIELS University Campus); "Suspicious bodies: camouflaged legality and tactics of security on the Argentina-Paraguay border" a paper by Ieva Jusionyte (University of Florida), and "Securitized immigration and the laboring body in the United States" by Daniel Goldstein (Rutgers University). There followed two papers on detention: "How serious is it?" Managing heavy diseases in a French immigration detention center" by Nicolas Fischer (Centre d'étude du droit et des institutions pénales), and Welcome to the myopticon: uncertain surveillance, removability and care in the Danish asylum system" by Zachary Whyte (University of Copenhagen); then Monika Weissensteiner's paper "Evidence of pain: medico-legal expertise on torture within asylum proceedings". The programme closed with presentations by Catarina Frois, Alexandra Schwell, Nadja Maurer, and Mark Maguire.

During EASA 2014 we held a network meeting attended by dozens of interested anthropologists and several members of the PACSA- Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology network interested in future collaborations.

We agreed to explore a number of new avenues of research (partly in collaboration), set up a listserve and web presence.

We also launched a new volume at EASA 2014:

Edited by Mark Maguire (Maynooth, Irland) Nils Zurawski (Hamburg) and Catarina Frois (Lisbon): The Anthropology of Security: Perspectives from the Frontline of Policing, Counter-terrorism and Border Control. London, Pluto Press 2014

Website

Our website is now live http://anthro-security.net/?page_id=41

New Activities

We are planning a new workshop on Agents and Performances in Security and will be extending our collaboration with PACSA in that regard.