

Anthropology of Economy Network (AnthEcoN) EASA

Annual Network Report

November 2016

A temporary convenor committee

In 2012, Hugo Valenzuela García and Patty Gray launched the network. Until 2016 they were the network convenors. Patty Gray took a new position in the USA in 2016. The Network held a meeting at the EASA conference in Milan in July 2016 on which the participants decided to choose a new convenor committee after the conference. During this meeting and thanks to discussions through the mailing list later, the four candidates decided to work together as temporary convenors until the election of a new committee.

At the moment, the temporary convenors are four scholars affiliated with different European teaching and research institutions:

Detelina Tocheva – CNRS, Paris (tocheva.detelina@gmail.com);

Dimitra Kofti – Max Plank Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle (dimitra.kofti@yahoo.com) ;

Hugo Valenzuela García – Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (hugo.valenzuela@uab.es);

Martin Fotta – Institut für Ethnologie, Goethe Universität (Fotta@em.uni-frankfurt.de).

One of the tasks of this temporary committee is to hold an election. We are planning to organize this election through online vote before the next biannual conference in Stockholm in 2018.

Strengthening the activity of the AnthEcoN

At the 2016 EASA conference in Milan, the meeting of our network was attended by 23 persons. More than half of them were non-members; this was the occasion for them to join our network and subscribe to our mailing list. The participants in this meeting expressed strong interest in the continuation and strengthening of the activity of the network, among others concerning the sharing of information about events, ongoing research and syllabi for teaching. This clear expectation towards the network directly derives from the growing interest in the area of economic anthropology over the past ten years, the participants said. Some underlined their need to discuss with colleagues in the subfield of economic anthropology about issues of teaching and the supervision of students who are starting to conduct research in economic anthropology.

Thus, the exchange of relevant information has become now a crucial task of our mailing list. This is one of the main tools through which announcements circulate. The AnthEcoN is running currently a mailing list of over 180 members. Some of them have their profile on the webpage of the network. In sum, the network was given a new impulse during the meeting in Milan, with communication having been identified as a priority by most participants. As a

result, the incoming convenor team has defined several actions to be taken until the next biannual conference in Stockholm:

- Make the mailing list even more dynamic;
- Start using other social networks, including through the EASA accounts (Facebook, Twitter);
- Organise at least one panel or workshop every year (e.g. through the EASA Network Funding scheme);
- Find out additional convenient ways to share academic material through the network (syllabi, publications, information about research fellowships, grant and job opportunities, etc.);
- Create a more efficient database of members.

Events

Past events in 2016

Besides the network meeting held in Milan last July (see above), the 2016 EASA conference included two panels sponsored by our network: *“Emerging economic futures: the intersections of informality and formality”*:

<http://nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4067>

and *“New trends in the anthropology of unemployment after the economic crisis in 2008-2009”*:

<http://nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4199>

The organisers of this second workshop are now actively working to put together an edited volume which they will submit in priority to the EASA book series.

Hugo Valenzuela has had a panel accepted at the 2016 IUAES conference in Dubrovnik (Croatia), 4-9 May 2016:

<http://iuaes2016.com/congress-panel/panel-26-07-2015-160926-hugo-valenzuela-garcia/>

The panel was listed as being submitted on behalf of the EASA Anthropology of Economy Network. The title of the panel is: *“Extracting the Essence: Value Appropriation in post-2008 World Capitalism”*. Unfortunately this panel could not take place due to unforeseen family circumstances.

Possible event in 2017

The convenors of the Network have just submitted an application through the EASA Network Funding scheme (deadline 30 November 2016). After having examined three proposals submitted by teams in Vienna and Barcelona (two proposals), the convenors made the decision to apply with the workshop proposal *“Tracing senses of deservingness: perspectives on power, morality and distribution in contemporary Europe.”* Our choice has been determined by the novelty of the theme within economic anthropology and by its interlocking dimensions with other subfields represented in EASA, such as the anthropology of the state,

political anthropology in general and the study of morality. In other words, the proposed workshop combines a clear focus on deservingness with a wider interest in several connected themes. Moreover, the theme of the workshop is particularly topical, in Europe and beyond. It has a potential for establishing new collaborations between anthropologists who may not know each other yet and to bring together new ethnographies. Thus, it has a potential for creating new bonds within the EASA framework. Finally, it proposes significant funding from two additional sources.