

European Network for Queer Anthropology (ENQA) – Annual Report 2016

In its third year of existence, ENQA has broadened its member base and continued its network activities. This report will give an overview of the three main areas constituting ENQA's work in 2016: a) network activities, b) membership development, c) board work.

a) Network activities:

Following the two successful ENQA panels at the EASA meeting in Tallin in 2014 and the first ENQA workshop at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest in 2015, ENQA organized two panels at the 2016 EASA meeting in Milan. In an attempt to intensify network relations with the Association for Queer Anthropology (AQA) of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), panels were organized in collaboration with AQA-representatives. One panel attended to the constitution of sexual lifeworlds at the nexus of geosociality and physicality (P135 – Public and private redrawn: geosocial sex and the offline), while the second panel explored the futures of queer anthropology by discussing the manifold connections between and contestations of anthropological knowledge and other disciplinary ways of inquiry (P140 – Connection and contestation in queer anthropology). Both panels enjoyed attendance from an audience beyond network members and facilitated scholarly exchange across a variety of empirical fields.

Currently, the board is working to prepare the 2nd ENQA workshop to be held in the spring of 2017. The call for a bi-annual Young Scholar Award honoring outstanding work of MA-students and PhD candidates in European queer anthropology is also well underway.

b) Membership development:

Currently, ENQA has 48 registered members. Following the ENQA business meeting at the 2016 meeting in Milan, the ENQA board decided to establish a membership database in order to lay the groundwork for future mentorship programs and international research collaboration. Registered members represent all academic levels (undergraduate/BA-students (BA), graduate/MA-students, PhD candidates, post-doctoral researchers, Asst., Assoc. and Full Professors) as well as a broad range of different European countries. The number of followers on ENQA's official facebook account is well over 900.

c) Board work:

The ENQA business meeting at the 2016 EASA meeting in Milan took place on the 21st of July, between 17:00 and 18:45. 21 members of ENQA attended the meeting which was led by the outgoing co-convenor Elisabeth Lund Engebretsen. After a short round of introduction of all present network members, the outgoing co-convenor presented the past activities of the network. Following this report, different topics were discussed among the members: the development of a mentorship program, the development of collaborate research applications, the future collaboration with other EASA networks and the organization of a joint network reception at the next EASA meeting in 2018, the future ENQA workshop in 2017, publishing activities of network members. Next, the present members elected the incoming ENQA board: co-convenors Hadley Renkin (Central European University), Sebastian Mohr (Aarhus University); post-graduate representatives Rebekah Cupitt (KTH Royal Institute of Technology), Heather Tucker (University of Sussex); independent scholar representative Matthew McGuire (Cambridge); social media officer Linda Solveigar (University of Iceland);

AQA liaison officer: Michael Connors Jackman (Memorial University of Newfoundland). Following the meeting, network members participated in a joint dinner and continued discussion of future ENQA activities.

The board had two meetings following the business meeting in Milan: a board meeting on the 17.09.2016 and a board meeting on the 12.11.2016. Following these meetings, ENQA now has an official membership database and continues to recruit members. The board is currently working on developing a mentorship program, preparing the 2017 workshop and a bi-annual Young Scholar Award to be announced for the first time at the 2018 EASA meeting.

ENQA board members participated in the annual meeting of the AAA in Minneapolis in November 2016. The collaboration with AQA was continued as board members of ENQA and AQA met to discuss future joint activities. Joint panels at both the next EASA meeting in 2018 and at the next AAA meeting in 2017 are planned. In addition, ENQA and AQA want to strengthen their collaboration on mentorship programs and outreach activities.