

PACSA-Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology

Annual Report 2016

Affiliated panels at EASA Milano 2016

One of this year's affiliated EASA panels offered a critical perspective on human rights from the perspective of 'moral entrepreneurship', thus continuing some strings of thoughts that emerged from Tobias Kelly's keynote lecture on 'the im/mobility of Human Rights' at our bi-annual network summit in 2016. The PACSA panel in Milano argued that Human Rights have become a transnational industry that continues to grow and absorbs funds, even if, in many cases, the actors who form part of these 'industry' are unable to deliver their promises. It asked whether one can speak of new forms of moral entrepreneurship. At PACSA we have long tried to be as inclusive as possible with respect to conflict and peace related themes, including dynamics of displacement and human rights, among many other affiliated sub-themes.

The second affiliated panel at EASA 2016 in Milano continued our close cooperation with the Anthropology of Security network. The panel was titled 'Spaces of Security' and aimed at a better theoretical and conceptual understanding of (in)security as an everyday and lived dimension. The panel put particular emphasis on security in relation to the European border regime. This area of research is increasingly important and also formed an essential part of our summit in 2015, which focused on the relationship between im/mobility and conflict.

Network meeting at EASA Milano

PACSA also looks back at a successful network meeting in Milano, to which we welcomed both veteran members and new ones. The meeting of some 25 delegates began with an overview of PACSA's past and present work, discussing achievements and challenges. It then moved on to discuss various trends in the contemporary anthropology of peace and conflict and turned to collecting ideas and possible themes for our upcoming summit in 2017. We also managed to generate interest to be more actively involved among some scholars who have not previously taken part in any organizing activities. All in all it was an inspiring and successful

network meeting. It was particularly successful in jumpstarting the process of organising and conceptualizing our upcoming bi-yearly conference.

Preparations for PACSA summit 2017

PACSA is proud to announce that its 6th bi-annual meeting will be held at the University of Amsterdam in the upcoming summer of 2017. It will be held on 28th-30th of August in cooperation with the anthropology of Security network.

The title of the conference will be ‘The Making of Peace, Conflict and Security: Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion’. Since Milano, several active PACSA members, the conveners and the host institution have worked together to produce a Call for Panels, which is now finished and will be distributed soon. The theme and objective of the meeting will be to look closer at the processes of inclusion and exclusion that accompany conflicts and the efforts to resolve, transform or secure them. Updates and a call for panels will be distributed through the PACSA mailing list and the EASA social media channels.

One novelty of our summit in 2017 will be that we seek to conceptualise panels well in advance as close-knit collaborative projects rather than loose conversations, ideally with the goal of producing concrete outputs, such as joint publications, collaborative research projects or applied work with practitioners. However, there will also be plenty of space for informal exchange and open debates.

PACSA publications

PACSA founder Ronald Stade has initiated a spin-off from PACSA in the form of the journal: *Conflict and Society: Advances in Research*, published by Berghahn since 2015. PACSA convener Erella Grassiani is its editor-in-chief and we hope to be able to use it as an outlet for future PACSA related publications.

A special issue for submission to *Social Identities* is in progress, which is based on one of the panels of PACSA 2015 in Frankfurt. The issue’s title is ‘Patterns of im/mobility, conflict and the re/making of identity narratives’, edited by Birgit Bräuchler, Monash University, Melbourne.