

Annual report for the DICAN network 2017

By Kristoffer Albris, Seumas Bates, and Mara Benadusi, on behalf of the DICAN network.

This report outlines of the activities of DICAN in 2017, and highlights some ambitions for the year 2018. In 2017, DICAN has continued to expand its membership base, both on the network mail list and on social media. Several academic events has seen the presence of DICAN scholars including panels arranged under the official auspice of DICAN. There will be more activity in terms of conferences and seminars with the presence of DICAN in 2018.

Network size and social media

DICAN is still a relatively new network, founded at the EASA conference in August 2014 in Tallinn, Estonia. The aim of the network is to facilitate discussions and information between anthropologists working on disasters and related topics. In the course of 2016, more and more anthropologists based in Europe and beyond have signed on to DICAN in one way or another. Anyone who has signed up to the DICAN mailing list is automatically and official network member. As of December 1st 2017, this number is 80 people. The Facebook group has as of December 1st 2017 a total number of 551 members. Group membership on Facebook is open to everyone appearing to have a scholarly interest in the field, but requires acceptance from one of the administrators (i.e. the DICAN convenors). In 2017, a Twitter profile for DICAN was added, which now has 60 followers. In 2018, more presence on social media will be prioritized by engaging members to do more sharing on both social media platforms.

Online Bibliography

In 2017 DICAN has created the Disaster and Crisis Anthropology Network bibliography platform, with the aim of building a database of anthropological writing on the broad topic of disaster. The purpose of this service is NOT to map the existing available literature on the general field of disaster studies, but to focus specifically on the contribution anthropologists have made to the on-going study of disaster. Until now 11 members of the network have contributed to the list upgrade.

Panels at conferences in 2017 and upcoming events in 2018

DICAN sponsored a panel on disaster within the Fifth National Conference of the Italian Society for Applied Anthropology (SIAA) hosted by the University of Catania, in Sicily, Italy, December 14-17. TITLE: Anthropology of Disasters between Public Commitment and Collaboration
Coordinators: Irene Falconieri, University of Catania (irene.falconieri@gmail.com) and Silvia Pitzalis, anthropologist (silv.pitzalis@gmail.com). Discussant: Mara Benadusi, University of Catania, DICAN coordinator

In 2018, DICAN will be sponsoring, hosting and facilitating the following events:

Panel at NEEDS 2018 conference in Amsterdam, 21-23 of March:

TITLE: Disaster and the Politics of Sympathy. Conveners: Susanna Hoffman and Kristoffer Albris

Panel at the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) in Philadelphia, 3-7 of April:
TITLE: Disasters and the Politics of Sympathy. Convenors: Roberto Barrios, Susanna Hoffman.

Two panel at EASA 2018 in Stockholm, the details about which are in the process of being decided upon.

Pre-conference workshop in Stockholm before the EASA conference, working towards a joint DICAN publication, hosted by Susann Baez Ullberg.

Work continues on the network hosting a small conference and workshop event of its own, as proposed at the network meeting in Milan, 2016. Unfortunately, efforts to host a combined symposium and exhibition of art for DICAN relating to disasters in Berlin in late 2017 were unsuccessful, but the committee is hopeful that a fresh proposal might be more successful in 2018.

Aspirations for the coming years (2018-2021)

For the next four years, DICAN has the following aspirations for activities and outputs:

- To expand the networks base, and to strengthen the network's presence on social media in particular.
- To host two bi-annual DICAN conference events, focused on disaster and crisis anthropology, to be held at a university in Europe, which could be organized in conjunction with conference events in anthropology and/or disaster studies. The first of these will be in Stockholm 2018.
- Publications sponsored, hosted and/or edited by DICAN members: The aspiration here is to do an edited volume or edited special issue, which would provide the groundwork for a European perspective on disaster anthropology, to balance the overwhelming influence of the American approach in the field. Preparations for this will be made in Stockholm 2018.
- Cooperation with other international networks on disasters is furthermore a priority for 2018, exemplified by a joint panel hosted by DICAN and the Topical Interest Group on Risk and Disasters at the SFAA annual conference in Philadelphia, April 2018.
- A final aspiration is to be attentive to climate change issues in relation to DICANs topical areas of disasters and crisis, for instance through joint panels with other EASA networks, such as PACSA or ANTHROMOB.

The co-conveners of DICAN for the term 2016-2018

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