

EASA APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY NETWORK MEETING 2017

Report

On 28 and 29 October 2017, EASA Applied Anthropology Network co-organized the fifth edition of the annual symposium „**Why the World Needs Anthropologists**“ for 273 registered participants entitled „**Powering the Planet**“ in Durham, UK. Whereas the aim was to promote applied anthropology in Europe and to explore how energy professionals can cooperate with anthropologists to design and deploy energy innovations, among seven other organising partners, the key role of the event host was assigned to Durham Energy Institute. The four speakers presenting at Durham University were Benj Sykes, UK Country Manager of Ørsted, Tanja Winther, Associate Professor at Centre for Development and the Environment of University of Oslo, Sophie Bouly de Lesdain, Expert Researcher at Electricité de France, and Veronica Strang, Executive Director of the Institute of Advanced Study at Durham University. Energy Hotspot with exhibition stands of seventeen companies and institutions provided information on job opportunities for graduates and anthro-energy-related projects. The second day offered five thematic workshops focused on conflicted moralities of energy consumption (Energethics), building corporate cultures of sustainability (The Culture Academy), enculturating skills for renewable energy (The Low Carbon Energy for Development Network), adapting value of reflexive thinking (ASA Network of Applied Anthropologists), and exploring history of mining (Department of Anthropology). Additional information about the event are available here: <http://www.applied-anthropology.com/2017-powering-the-planet/>

On the second day of the event (29 October), i.e. after the thematic workshops, the EASA Applied Anthropology Network held an annual meeting. There were approx. 30 people at the meeting, which shows that the network is active and there is enough interest of members to join its activities. First, we evaluated the 2017 edition of „Why the World Needs Anthropologists“. Second, we started forming an extended organising team for 2018 event, which will be held on 26 and 27 October 2018 in Lisbon, Portugal. Third, Meta Gorup and Dan Podjed reported about other network activities, including the online media. Fourth, the network elected a new network convenor, Verónica Reyero, who will formally join EASA in 2018, and a new network manager, Pablo Mondragón Valero – since according to the rules only EASA members are eligible to vote, both candidates received 8 votes out of 8 EASA members present at the meeting. Fifth, we discussed about other relevant topics, including how to motivate network members for participating more actively in network events, meetings and other activities; the participants of the meeting also discusses about possibilities and opportunities to financialy support the future network events, e.g. by crowdfunding, etc.

Dan Podjed, Meta Gorup, Pavel Borecký, Verónica Reyero

EASA Applied Anthropology Network convenors