



EASA Newsletter No 67 July 2016



European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux



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1. Letter from the President

Dear EASA members,

Whether or not you will be going to Milan next month, I suggest you take a look at the programme for a glimpse into the vitality, creativity and diversity of European social anthropology (<http://www.easaonline.org/conferences/easa2016/index.shtml>). The fantastic audiovisual programme, curated by Paolo Favero and Ivan Bargna, would alone make for a filling meal. The laboratories, started as an experiment in Tallinn, continue in Milan with fifteen open-ended explorations of ways in which anthropology can be performed, interrogated or challenged to destabilise its own boundaries. And, as the programme shows, a variety of other events are also planned. While many will be attracted to these events, and with good reason, the bulk of the conference consists, as always, in panel presentations and discussions. The breadth and diversity of the 140-plus panels does not only testify to the intellectual vitality of European anthropology; it also seems to echo Anthony Wallace's 1961 statement about culture not being about the replication of uniformity, but rather the organisation of diversity.

A conference of this size, scope and popularity can easily be seen as a tangible reminder of the fact that although new technologies now enable alternative methods of teaching and dissemination of research, the old forms of communication continue to hold sway. Years ago, I heard about a job applicant at an anthropology department embarking on his trial lecture. Stating at the outset that he would now use state-of-the-art technology to aid him in his oral presentation, he was soon entangled in technical problems of a kind still all too familiar today. From what we heard, he did not get the job offer. At the time, the thought occurred to me that as an anthropologist, he might instead have introduced his lecture by stating that 'I will now use the most sophisticated communication technology available to humanity, namely the human voice, coupled with physical presence.'

When the new, deterritorialised and instantaneous communication technologies with which we are now all familiar first became available, some of us (and I include myself) believed that this was good news for people's calendars and the environment. Instead of getting up at five in the morning to catch a polluting flight somewhere, we could carry out our oral examinations from the comfort of our offices or even homes. Rather than jeopardising family life and normal sleep rhythms by travelling to remote places to give talks and lectures, we could perform the same work on-screen. Some even envisioned that academic workshops could be held more efficiently and smoothly online than in a shared physical space.

With the hindsight of a quarter century, we now know that none of this happened. It would be an understatement to say that electronic communication has taken off, and to most active academics it quickly became indispensable. Yet the new possibilities never transformed academic communication in the ways some predicted in the early 1990s. The value of being in the same room, with the entire register of human communication at one's disposal, from the raised eyebrow to the spontaneous burst of laughter, cannot be measured, but it can be experienced. This is why we, often *malgré nous*, continue to go, literally, out of our way in order to meet.

An EASA conference is about sharing the same physical space for a few intensive days. It is a form of multifaceted immersion. I therefore hope that those of you who make the trip to Milan will not only find time to take part in our formal conference programme and dip into various fringe events, but also to meet friends old and new over an espresso or a glass of red, and to catch a glimpse of the city itself – a luxury which is far too often forsaken at this time of academic overheating. So do immerse yourself in the abundant riches of European social anthropology in Milan, but it is allowed to have a good time while doing so.

Warm regards,

Thomas Hylland Eriksen

President



2. Letter from the Book Series Editor

The EASA book series is dedicated to showcasing the excellent anthropology being carried out by the Association's members. After July's conference in Milan, a new series editor will take over and I will turn my attentions to other projects. If you are thinking about publishing, information about how to go about making a proposal to the series is available on the EASA website (www.easaonline.org/bookseri.htm). The new series editor will be announced later in the summer on the site. The website also includes a list of volumes available in the series.

I hope I have been able to help those who have proposed titles for the series with at least some of the many issues involved in publishing. I'm particularly glad that despite the ever growing challenges of academic work, EASA members are clearly using the series to develop anthropology's globe-embracing tradition and doing so with conceptual and formal innovation as well as intellectual rigour.

I have learned that producing books is always a collective affair, and I would like to acknowledge the valuable input of all the staff at Berghahn involved with EASA's anthropology titles. I also want to thank the following people, including the members of the editorial board, without whom the editorial review process could not function:

Alberto Corsin Jiménez, Anonymous, Bill Maurer, Birgit Muller, Bjørn Enge Bertelsen, Jim Butcher, Caroline Humphrey, Dace Dzenovska, Deborah Reed-Danahay, Dimitri Karadimas, Elissa Helms, Emma Crewe, Gavan Tittley, Giuliana Prato, Jessica Greenberg, Jim Butcher, Kim Fortun, Knut Nustad, Leah Burns, Liz McFall, Manos Spyridakis, Marianne Lien, Marisol de la Cadena, Michal Buchowski, Nathalie Peutz, Paul Stubbs, Peter Hervik, Peter Wynn Kirby, Robert Hayden, Rochelle Spencer, Sian Lazar, Simon Lightfoot, Susana Narotzky.

With all best wishes,
Eeva Berglund, Helsinki

3. EASA 2016

EASA 2016, the 14th Biennial Conference titled "Anthropological legacies and human futures" will be commencing in a few days in Milan, Italy (20- 23 July, 2016).

EASA with the Department of Human Science for Education 'Riccardo Massa' and Department of Sociology and Social Research at University of Milano-Bicocca are looking very much forward to welcoming you in Milan.

Information about all the upcoming academic and other events taking place during the conference in Milan on EASA's website. Some of the highlights of the event include the keynote lecture by Didier Fassin, the Welcome reception, the Laboratories, Plenaries, film and audio-visual programme, as well as the Members' Forum.

<http://www.easaonline.org/conferences/easa2016>

4. Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale: Brexit comment

SA/AS has compiled a reaction to Brexit from 24 anthropologists around the world.

<http://www.easaonline.org/journal/brexit.shtml>



5. News from the Networks

Thomas H. Eriksen (EASA President) and Valeria Siniscalchi (Networks liaison) invite the Networks convenors to a meeting on Thursday, July 21st (from 13:15 to 14:30)

This will be the occasion for those who convene the different EASA networks to get together to discuss the future of networks, some propositions about networks by the executive and the possibilities related to the growing number of active networks.

EASA Applied Anthropology Network

Title: Why the World Needs Anthropologists: Humanise IT!

Place: Tartu, Estonia, 4-5 November 2016

Plenary speakers: Dimitris Dalakoglou, Amber Case, Daniel Miller

More info and registration details available on: <http://www.applied-anthropology.com/>

Facebook page of the event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1766649690237059/>

About the event: Information and communication technologies are integral to our world. Digital engineers, designers, and computer programmers are the inventors and innovators of our time who greatly affect people's everyday lives – and they need the assistance of anthropology in making human-friendly solutions. The symposium explores how digital designers and anthropologists benefit from each other's knowledge and approaches. What is the role of culture in technology? How can technology-based thinking be humanised? And how can we get the most out of new technologies for those that use them

Sacral Communication and Healing Network

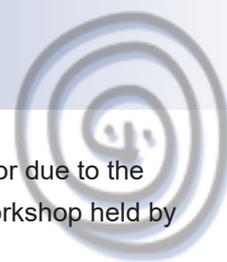
A new book has been published: Imre Lázár *Dance of the Avatar : Embodying Gender and Culture through Dance*, Nova Science New York :

Dance of the Avatar" is a comprehensive work and includes cultural studies and anthropology of revival movements from a historical perspective; it is focused on the Dance House phenomenon, which includes gender and ethnic aspects from a cultural and medical anthropological context. This book deals with the theory of tradition and cultural transfer of heritage through pedagogy and counter-culture movements, with an emphasis on the the Wundtian contribution and its Hungarian counterparts. The Dance House phenomenon is presented through an auto-anthropological perspective, including the author's field work results.

Mediterraneanist Network (MedNet)

Following the successful MedNet panel Networking, collaboration and intimacy in the Mediterranean during the 13th EASA Biennial Conference in Tallinn, a proposal was submitted to the editors of the journal "Ethnologia Europaea" for preparing a special issue on new forms of social practices of networking. This proposal was accepted and Jutta Lauth Bacas (coordinator of the EASA MedNet network) and Marion Näser-Lather (University of Marburg) will act as guest editors preparing a special issue with the title "Practices of Resistance and Change in the Mediterranean" to be published in 2017/18.

The paperback edition of the volume *Border Encounters: Asymmetry and Proximity at Europe's Frontiers*, edited by Jutta Lauth Bacas and William Kavanagh, was published by Berghahn Books in March 2016 (ISBN 978-1-78533-219-7; also available as eBook). The volume presents a series of eleven European case studies on how, and to what extent, the border context influences the social relations between people at a political frontier. All of these are set in



the context of rapidly evolving European borders, be it in the aftermath of the fall of the Soviet Union or due to the expansion and strengthening of the EU. The collection of case studies has grown out of a MedNet workshop held by William Kavanagh and Jutta Lauth Bacas at the 8th EASA Biennial Conference in Vienna.

<http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=BacasBorder>

The SC&H Network prepares its fifth Summer Course under the preliminary working title : “Spiritualism and Healing in Organic and Organized Cultures” Risks and Resources in Cultures of Organizations. The Summer Course will be held in Budapest and Nagykrös in late June and early July of 2017.

Last not least the EASA MedNet network had the pleasure to welcome a number of new members in 2015/16, based in Canada, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Spain, U.K., and the U.S.E

6. Notice to all Members of the Association of an Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Association

To be held on Friday, 22nd July 2016 at 17:00 at the University of Milano-Bicocca.

European Association of Social Anthropologists (“the Association”)

Company Number: 05181210; Charity Number: 210807

An agenda detailing the business to be transacted and resolutions to be proposed at this annual general meeting is attached to this Notice.

Members’ rights to appoint proxies

Each voting member of the Association has a right pursuant to the Companies Act 2006 to appoint another person (“Proxy”) to attend, speak and vote at the annual general meeting on Friday, 22nd July 2016 on his or her behalf. Any person wishing to appoint another person as his or her Proxy must deliver the Proxy Notice to the Association’s registered office (for the attention of The Secretary) not less than 48 hours before the annual general meeting on Friday, 22nd July 2016 (in our case this would normally be done by email).

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM held on Wednesday, 15th October 2015: to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
3. Annual Reports and Accounts

President

Secretary

Treasurer: receipt of accounts for the year to 31st December 2015

Journal

Book series

Networks

4. Appointment of Auditors: to reappoint Friend-James Ltd, Park Gate 161-163 Preston Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 6AF, UK, as the Association’s accountants and to authorise the Trustees to approve the remuneration.



5. Special resolution to ratify the change of objects voted for online in June 2015, to:

The objects of the Association are to promote education and research in social anthropology by improving understanding of world societies and encouraging professional communication and cooperation between anthropologists, especially in Europe.

6. Any other business/ requests by members

7. Announcements: EASA 2018; new book series editor; announcement of election of Trustees