



European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux



EASA EASA
BARCELONA 2024

18th EASA Biennial Conference
EASA2024: Doing and Undoing with Anthropology University of Barcelona 23-26 July 2024.



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1. President's Letter

Dear members,

It has been a busy few months since our last AGM in December, and a few important developments for our association are worth mentioning.

We have been busy continuing the work undertaken by our executive to draft a strategy for our association that will put crucial issues on the table and provide a clear orientation for future executive committees. We have given impetus to - and lightly coordinated, together with a number of national associations - the first [European Anthropology Days in February](#). A number of inspiring events have taken place within this framework. For instance, the Association of Portuguese Anthropologists organised a conference reflecting on heritage and cultures of oil; I [saluted](#) our Portuguese colleagues for having chosen this topic as one of crucial importance in our current historical moment, where public anthropology seems more important than ever.

Those of you who were present at the AGM in December remember the Motion that a group of EASA members put forward, [Motion to create a Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom](#), to advise the Executive Committee on such matters. The Motion, proposing the modus operandi of the Working Group, is now open to the members' vote on our website. We waited with the opening of the voting procedure to make sure that more people will have access to this right following the renewal of the yearly membership dues in February. I take this opportunity to thank those involved in this important initiative, not only because it is a topic that concerns the work of many anthropologists, but also because initiatives like this make EASA a lively community that takes matters of human rights to heart. I therefore invite you all to exercise your democratic right to vote and express your choice with regards to the Motion.

Our EASA executive team will undergo some changes soon, as the mandates of our Secretary, Monica Heintz, and our Treasurer, David Mills, come to a close. We are looking for new, dedicated colleagues to work with us and undertake these crucial roles in the association; more on the requirements and the recruitment process below.





One of the initiatives we are undertaking during our mandate is the organisation of a mentorship programme for early career scholars. The initiative is still in its early development stage, but the first step in fostering the next generation of anthropologists is a summer school in experimental ethnography organised around EASA2024 in Barcelona. We are excited to present to you the summer school and detail the application process in this newsletter, and we encourage you to disseminate the news among your PhD students. EASA is financially supporting the summer school, offering partial bursaries to students in need.

Our Local Committee for EASA2024, together with our wonderful team at NomadIT have been busy with the organisation of what looks like the biggest EASA conference yet. We put that down to the attraction of Barcelona, certainly, but also to the generous and inspiring topic the Local Committee has chosen for the conference in a moment that feels like the undoing of certain worlds and the doing of others. We also spur the sense that the current moment demands of us collective action and the forging of a community around our goals. Many colleagues feel that EASA2024 will be the place where a number of important conversations will take place: around what kinds of public anthropology EASA should promote, or how best to resist the authoritarian backlash against academic freedom that is currently taking place in several national contexts.

This brings me to some of the worrying developments that EASA has recently been vocal against. In February, the Max Planck Society terminated Prof. Ghassan Hage's contract with the Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology in Halle, accusing him of antisemitism for his public views on Palestine. Together with many colleagues who have written in their own names or in the names of their associations, EASA has stood by Prof. Ghassan Hage and wrote a [letter](#) to the management of the MPS. We want to emphasise that we see this not as a single event directed at a high profile academic; we know of other cases in which anthropologists have been intimidated by the management of their universities for simply signing some of the numerous petitions that have circulated online and expressed criticism at the state violence directed against Palestinians. This is a worrying backlash against critical, reflexive scholarship, against certain kinds of public anthropology, and against academic freedom, and EASA is taking a clear stance against censorship and the intimidation of our colleagues, especially in German-speaking academia. We salute the [statement](#) issued in this sense by our colleagues at the DGSKA, and stand by their side in opposing the recent authoritarian turn in German academia.



Recently, two anthropology departments in the United Kingdom have been threatened by either total or partial closure: Kent University and Goldsmiths. We are following closely the developments and support our colleagues threatened by redundancy to organise against the decisions of their university management. If you have not done so yet, I strongly encourage you to sign the [petition](#) in defence of the Kent anthropology department, as well as to follow the developments at [Goldsmiths](#). We stand in full solidarity with our colleagues and welcome any initiative to resist the neoliberal developments we are witnessing.

Our solidarity extends globally too, as we stand with our colleagues in Argentina. The new government has threatened to cut the budget for science, affecting all academic areas, anthropology included. Argentinian colleagues have mobilised to request [letters](#) and [videos](#) of support for their work, and EASA has [sent its own letter](#), to be presented to the Argentine government. We encourage you to express your support for Argentine science and send your own messages to defensaSTEMargentina@gmail.com. This address is used not only for STEM, but for all scientific domains.

I close my letter to you with a message of resistance and solidarity in the face of these developments and those to come, in a world that seems on the verge of major shifts. I know anthropology has much to offer in defence of life, of critical questioning, and of collective action. It has the potential to imagine coming, better worlds, and to make them possible. As anthropologist David Graeber - whose birth we commemorated on 12 February - said: “The ultimate, hidden truth of the world, is that it is something that we make, and could just as easily make differently.”

2. EASA Strategy in the making

At the December AGM we informed you about our plan to finalise EASA’s mid-term strategy. The first steps of this process were undertaken during a retreat of the Executive Committee in October 2023. We identified several directions of action that need some work and input from our members, and reflected on questions like: How to ensure the inclusivity of EASA activities and foster equity and justice? Which activities of professional development to prioritise and offer to our members? How to strengthen public anthropology and diversify the flows of anthropological knowledge both within and beyond EASA? How to



strengthen and further develop an infrastructure for EASA's lobbying activities?
How to mobilise and support EASA networks in their development, as well as in promoting anthropology for the general public?

A draft strategy, with developed lines of action for all these points, will be available before EASA2024 and there will be space within the AGM in Barcelona, to discuss the strategy and receive member feedback. We will then subject the strategy to a membership vote for adoption. Everyone's input is highly appreciated and welcome!

3. EASA is looking for a new Treasurer: could this be you?

EASA seeks to appoint a new Treasurer from Autumn 2024. This is an important and influential role in which you'll shape EASA's long-term future. You will work closely with the President, Secretary and elected EASA committee to support the association's strategic priorities, stewarding and deploying the association's financial resources.

Responsibilities include: working with EASA's administrative team in NomadIT in matters financial; presenting clear information to EASA's Executive Committee about EASA's finances including preparation of an annual budget; liaison with EASA's publishers; preparing reports and presenting the annual accounts at EASA's members forum and AGM and answering queries from members; preparing and updating documentation related to governance including EASA's risk register; updating guidance on expenses and related documentation; liaison with EASA's accountants who prepare the annual accounts; To achieve this the Treasurer needs to be willing to gain a good understanding of charity governance as set out by the UK's Charity Commission.

The Treasurer is a co-opted member of the Executive Committee, a Trustee of the Charity and is also the official company secretary (although the actual secretarial work is done by EASA's secretary). According to EASA's constitution, the Treasurer and Secretary are appointed for up to six years. This length of term provides EASA with valuable financial and governance continuity, and also ensures that they are able to take a longer-term perspective, providing elected Trustees with support.



Essential and desirable criteria for the role are:

Essential: Experience of budget management and financial matters. Willing and eligible to be a Trustee of a Charity. Ability to travel to bank branches (UK) to present identification credentials as needed. Commitment to good governance.

Desirable: Member of EASA of good standing.

Further information: There is a detailed handover document for the new Treasurer and the current incumbent will work closely to support them during the handover period. If you are interested please send a covering email and CV to monica.heintz@parisnanterre.fr by 31st March 2024. In your letter please explain why you are interested in the role and what knowledge and skills you bring. Interviews for the role will be held at EASA's biennial conference at Barcelona in July 2024. The Executive Committee would like the new Treasurer to take up their role in Autumn 2024. This position is by appointment rather than by election.

4. EASA is looking for a new Secretary: could this be you?

EASA seeks to appoint a new Secretary from Autumn 2024. This is an important and influential role in which you'll shape EASA's long-term future. You will work closely with the President, Treasurer and elected EASA committee to support the association's objectives, liaise with members and support executive committee members in their activities.

Responsibilities include: keeping agendas and minutes of exec meetings and AGMs, keeping the correspondence with members together with NomadIT, manage elections and bids for hosting EASA conferences, manage applications for Integrity Committee, Book Series or SA/AS positions, preparing the newsletters, other duties according to the share of tasks within the executive committee.

The Secretary is a co-opted member of the Executive Committee and a Trustee of the Charity. According to EASA's constitution, the Secretary and Treasurer are appointed for up to six years. This length of term provides EASA with valuable financial and governance continuity, and also ensures that they are able to take a longer-term perspective, providing elected Trustees with support.

Essential and desirable criteria for the role are:

Essential: Good organisational skills and knowledge of the academic



environment. Availability and commitment to serve the association and its elected members. Willing and eligible to be a Trustee of a Charity. Commitment to good governance.

Desirable: Member of EASA of good standing.

Further information: There is a detailed handover document for the new Secretary and the current incumbent will work closely to support them during the handover period. If you are interested please send a covering email and CV to the current EASA secretary monica.heintz@parisnante.fr by 31st March 2024. In your letter please explain why you are interested in the role and what knowledge and skills you bring. Interviews for the role will be held at EASA's biennial conference at Barcelona in July 2024. The Executive Committee would like the new Secretary to take up their role in Autumn 2024. This position is by appointment rather than by election.

5. SA/AS Book Review Editor: Call for applications

Members are invited to apply for the role of the Social Anthropology Book review editor.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the SA/AS editorial team. The book review editor solicits and edits reviews of books across all subfields of social and cultural anthropology. This involves negotiating with publishers, advertising available books, sending out books and working with reviewers on their drafts of either book reviews or review articles.

In addition, the book review editor solicits and edits SA/AS's annual review article, which provides a critical discussion of current themes across all major European anthropology journals. The book review editor works closely with editors and the editorial assistant and contributes to discussions of and decisions on editorial matters of the journal on all levels.

A generous annual travel allowance is provided for the review editor, along with support to attend editorial board meetings.





This is a three year appointment. To apply, send a short two-page CV and covering email to Monica Heintz , EASA secretary monica.heintz@parisnanterre.fr.

fr. Closing date is 31st March 2024.

6. European Anthropology Days

The first edition of the European Anthropology Days took place on or around the 15-17th of February. [Eight national associations](#) participated in this first edition with events

held in Poland, Italy, Portugal, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, France, Greece and Sweden between the 9th and the 22nd of February. You can find descriptions and links to these activities on [our dedicated webpage](#).



7. Update conference Barcelona

EASA BARCELONA 2024

18th EASA Biennial Conference

[EASA2024: Doing and Undoing with Anthropology University of Barcelona 23-26 July 2024.](#)

We are getting closer and closer to [Barcelona](#)! The calls for papers, labs, films and young scholar awards closed in late January, bringing in a record 3800 proposals for panels and roundtables, 109 films submitted to the film programme and 57 proposals to the Labs stream. Convenors have now marked up their decisions, with over 2300 papers accepted (560 or 24% of these online) and 34 labs (5 online). The transfer process ends shortly, while the film selection will be announced in April.



Please note that the online day takes place the week before the in-person conference days, on Thursday, 18 July 2024. Online access will also include the keynote and plenaries during the face-to-face days (23-26 July) of the conference.

The organisers are finalising the daily timetable, trying to offer one that will not overly tax delegates in what's likely to be a hot Catalanian summer. We hope to publish the daily timetable next week; with the panel schedule to be announced with the opening of Early Bird Registration in early April.

We strongly recommend looking for [accommodation](#) ASAP, as the conference takes place in Barcelona's peak tourism season and accommodation may become scarce soon enough!

8. EASA PhD Summer school Barcelona



Photo: Interactive workshop at Medialab-Prado in Madrid (Medialab-Prado)

Anthropology and ethnographic experimentation

17-22 July 2024

Hall Hub, Open University of Catalonia (UOC),
Rambla del Poblenou 154, 08018 Barcelona

EASA is pleased to announce its first PhD summer school, supporting the development of early career scholars. This will be held in Barcelona in the week before the 18th EASA Biennial Conference. The focus of the six-day school will be ethnographic experimentation.



Ethnographic experimentation is an anthropological response to the epistemic challenges of our contemporary world. Beyond traditional norms and forms of ethnography, there are all kinds of projects that experiment with forms of representation, fieldwork, and analysis. The 'experiment' emerges in all these ethnographies as a distinctive epistemic practice, different from observational activities that are the foundation for its empirical engagements. Experimentation is an opportunity to reconceptualise and transform the empirical practices of anthropology.

This summer school, organised by Adolfo Estalella and Tomás Criado, brings together a programme exploring the analysis, characterisation, and design of ethnographic experiments, along with opportunities to try them in practice. The school combines conceptual sessions with group debates and hands-on practical activities. Field experiments will be designed to respond to a situated ethnographic challenge. The school will foster a convivial atmosphere of mutual learning between participants and an openness to local actors with whom relevant approaches could be discussed and explored. Participants will be equipped with an analytic repertoire as well as a series of practical skills to attempt their own ethnographic experiments.

Funded and promoted by EASA; organized by xcol. An Ethnographic Inventory; Curated by Adolfo Estalella (UCM) and Tomás Criado (UOC)

Partners:

Open University of Catalonia (UOC)

Social Anthropology and Social Psychology Dept., Complutense University of Madrid (UCM)

Anthropology Department, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

Spanish Association of Social Anthropology (ASAEE)

Who can apply?: PhD students who are paid-up members of EASA. Selection will be based on application fit and diversity criteria.

Registration fee: €150. Dinners during the summer school are included.

Travel Bursary: partial travel bursaries will be available from EASA based on need.

How to apply: applicants are asked to explain how they plan to use, or have used, experimentation in their own PhD research. [Apply here](#).



9. Vote on Motion to create a Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom

All members are invited to vote on the Motion.

Following recent developments and discussions with regards to the censorship of - and retaliation against - academics who speak up against state violence in the Occupied Palestinian territories, a group of EASA members (Yazid Ben Hounet, Alice von Bieberstein, Julie Billaud, Rebecca Bryant, Manuela Ciotti, Jane Cowan, Antonio De Lauri, Sarah Green, Shahram Khosravi, Prem Kumar Rajaram, Annelies Moors, Agathe Mora, Till Mostowlansky, Pedro Silva Rocha Lima, Umut Yildirim, Filippo Zerilli) put forward a motion at the December AGM. At the meeting, the Motion received a favourable vote from 60 of the 66 members present (2 against and 4 abstained). However, in view of the importance of the Motion's topic and of the weight that the Executive Committee places on democratic process, the EC has decided to subject the Motion to an electronic vote by the entire EASA membership.

The motion proposes the creation of a [Motion to create a Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom](#) with the mandate to act as an advisory body to EASA's Executive Committee and to:

1. Examine the growing restrictions on academic freedom in Europe and within European universities.
2. Formulate suggestions to address the restrictions on academic freedom in Europe and within European universities.
3. Examine cases of academics, students and academic collectives who face reprisals and/or attacks for publicly sharing their anthropological analysis of colonialism and structural violence.
4. Propose a mechanism through which such cases can be addressed by EASA.
5. Suggest ways to address the situation of Palestinian and Israeli academics and students in Europe and the Middle East who speak up against state violence and censorship, and suffer punitive consequences for their actions.
6. Draft recommendations in response to these issues. The recommendations will be presented and discussed at EASA's AGM in Barcelona in July 2024.



The vote on this proposal will open shortly after publication of this newsletter and all members are kindly requested to read the Motion and cast their vote. Results will be announced immediately after the end of the voting period.