



European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux

EASA Newsletter No 87 October 2024

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1. President's Letter

President Ana Ivasiuc addresses the membership

Many of us have returned from the EASA2024 conference in Barcelona with new energy imprinted by the success of the conference, the many inspiring panels, presentations, labs, and events, and the passionate conversations on the past, present, and future of EASA in a world in turmoil. I wish to thank the tireless Barcelona Local Committee, the amazing NomadIT team, the dedicated



Scientific Committee, my inspiring fellow members of the Executive Committee and all those present at the conference for turning the 35th conference of our association into a success. My gratitude goes in particular to the many of you who stopped us, members of the Executive Committee, on the hallways of the University and on the streets of Barcelona to convey your appreciation of our work and to ask how you can get involved in the association's life. This is heartwarming on so many levels and true reward for the work of our team over the last 18 months. Thank you for your kind words and for your commitment to make EASA a truly inclusive and supportive community of peers.

We enter the final stage of our mandate as Executive Committee with this energy of community and of renewal. Let me briefly mention what we have been working on in the past few months and what our plans are for this autumn and winter.

My wonderful colleagues Hege Høyer Leivestad, Hayal Akarsu and Dominic Bryan have set up our piloting **Mentorship Programme**, pairing seventeen brilliant early career scholars with seventeen mentors who will provide them with personalised guidance and support over the current academic year. This initiative is part of our effort to shape EASA into a community that is supportive of early career, precarious scholars, and I am grateful to those who accepted to play this role in the first piloting phase of the program. We hope future executive committees will adopt the programme as a perennial feature and develop it further to support early career scholars.



We have announced plans for a [website redesign](#), which is now well under way. We have now settled on a new logo designed by Juhani Juurik, our designer-cum-anthropologist. The logo marks a continuity in EASA's identity while having more colour and vibrancy, reflecting the way EASA has evolved towards inclusivity and amplifying the voice of our early-career - often precarious - scholars in the community.

The **Strategy** of the association will be proposed towards the end of the year. In a bid to produce a strategy that is responsive to our members' needs and desires, we invite EASA members to fill out a [survey](#) aimed at sharing with us your vision, needs, and priorities, and attend the two participatory online workshops that we are organising in November to give further shape to the strategy and integrate our members' vision. The workshops are organised as fora where particular strategic directions regarding themes such as anti-precarity actions, public anthropology, publishing, communication, and lobby will be discussed and rendered concrete. You will find more information in the [topic on the Strategy](#).

This autumn our association will debate and vote on an important **Motion** proposed by members in accordance with the EASA bylaws. The Executive Committee takes this **Motion concerning collaborations with Israeli academic institutions** extremely seriously and acknowledges its importance as a peaceful method of pressure in light of the staggering Israeli violence against Palestinians. In light of debates held at the EASA2024 conference, it also acknowledges the diverging opinions of members on the issue, and the fact that some members might lack the necessary information to make an informed decision on their vote. This is why the Executive Committee worked together with NomadIT to add a [members-only forum to the EASA website](#), where members can debate and post information with the purpose of supporting EASA members' informed decision on the motion.

Access to the forum has been consciously limited to the EASA membership. It has come to our attention that a person from outside the association, unknown to any of our members, was present at the AGM in Barcelona and disrupted the debate on the Motion from the outset, expressing 'disgust' at the message of the Motion. Unfortunately, this tactic - that our Palestinian colleagues are familiar with and that is often used to disrupt debate - imprinted a confrontational tone to the discussions that should have been avoided for the sake of a truly open and respectful debate among anthropologists.



The Executive Committee urges all members to engage with each other on the forum respectfully and in the spirit of reflecting the discipline's ability to deal with complexity and conflicting opinions. The rules for engagement in the forum are stated clearly [in the forum](#). The forum will be moderated and expressions of disrespect or attacks ad hominem will be promptly removed.

The forum will be maintained as an internal tool of communication past the vote on the Motion and will be developed and embedded in the new website.

In what follows, you will read more about our work over the past few months and the changes that we brought to the association - changes that we hope reflect the majority of our members' vision and wishes. For those of you who want to get involved, there is ample opportunity to do so: the time has come to call for [new book series editors](#) and for [candidates for the next Executive Committee](#).

I end my message with immeasurable gratitude for the work of the Working Group on Academic Freedom and Human Rights, our outgoing book series editors, the NomadIT team, Juhani Juurik - our logo and website designer, Radu Racareanu - our strategy facilitator, and last but not least, my incredible fellow Executive Committee colleagues for all the work they put into what follows.

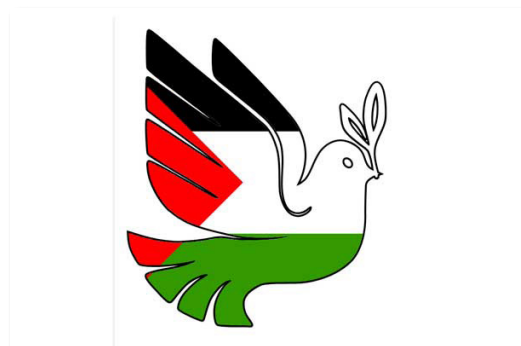
2. Vote on the Motion concerning collaborations with Israeli academic institutions

The membership is called to vote on a Motion concerning collaborations with Israeli academic institutions.

At the EASA2024 conference, a group of members presented a [Motion concerning collaborations with Israeli academic institutions](#) in light of the ongoing

systematic human rights violations in

Palestine, Israeli war crimes, crimes against humanity and plausible genocide committed in the Gaza strip, calling on EASA to resolve:





1. not to collaborate with Israeli academic institutions until Israel complies with International Law and International Humanitarian Law and ends the occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory;
2. to work in consultation with the Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom to give effect to the spirit and intent of this motion, in a manner consistent with EASA's bylaws as well as the relevant national laws of its members;
3. to encourage EASA members not to enter into institutional arrangements, e.g. through common research projects and grants, with Israeli academic institutions.

The membership is called to vote on this Motion by electronic vote. The vote will be open to all registered EASA members between 1-30 November 2024. Ballots will be sent by email in the last week of October. Please make sure your email address in the EASA directory is updated and working correctly, and check your spam folder before the 1st of November to ensure the ballot is not marked as such.

To promote informed debate on the Motion, the Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom has organised a **webinar that will be held on the 28th of October**, where Palestinian anthropologists Amahl Bishara and Sarah Ihmoud will engage in conversation with Israeli anthropologist Maya Wind and discuss the role of Israeli academic institutions in the current situation. Read more about this webinar in the [newsletter item on upcoming webinars](#).

EASA members are invited to express their opinions and post information relevant to the topic of the [vote on the forum page](#) that we have added to our website for the purpose of supporting debate among members.

3. Website redesign and new logo

EASA website is being redesigned and a new logo selected.

A logo has been chosen by the Executive Committee from a broader set of choices that our graphic designer, Juhani Juurik, presented. He is now finalising that logo. This is the first step in redesigning the website and our identity as a community.



Our next step in the website redesign is already happening: we have chosen a layout format and we are reorganising the content so that the website is clearer, more functional, more engaging, and more vibrant. We thank those who have provided feedback through our survey, and give warm thanks also to the anthropologists who have submitted their fieldwork photos for display on the new website.

This material will help us render our new website lively and dynamic, and present anthropology in all its fascinating facets. **We remind you that the call for photos is still open** and can be submitted to [web\(at\)easaonline.org](mailto:web@easaonline.org).

4. EASA Strategy - your input is needed on this survey!

EASA members are asked to provide feedback for EASA's strategy.

The preparation of the EASA strategy was started by the EASA Executive Committee with the following goals:

1. Ensure a foundation for how EASA adapts and develops according to the needs, constraints and opportunities existing and emerging in the outside world
2. Provide the organisation with a focus for functioning and development
3. Provide a general framework for continuity and coherence of future actions that reflect the vision and needs of its members
4. Support the stability of the organisation in terms of functioning and development on a longer term.

Several steps were undertaken to prepare a strategy that represents the perspectives of the members on how EASA should advance during the next years. So far, interviews, a swot analysis, an analysis of the EASA main domains of activity have been carried out, and we have organised an exec retreat to discuss in depth and decide on our priorities. The following aspects were underlined:

- Mentoring is a very important benefit that EASA could offer its early-career, precarious members – this has already been initiated.



- EASA is currently perceived more as a conference-centric association and its conferences are seen by many as the main benefit that EASA brings to its members; there's a need thus for EASA to develop and communicate more clearly its role and the benefits it brings.
- Networks are very strong grassroots subcommittees and some consider them even the biggest internal strength of EASA – the need for their involvement and development is crucial.
- EASA is the largest community of anthropologists in Europe – this means that it has a great potential for lobby and advocacy and for constituting a strong voice in academic policies, in particular with regards to anti-precarity measures.
- The turnover of the Executive Committee leads to lack of continuity – this structure needs to be promoted so that the involvement in the executive committee becomes more popular for members, supplemented by the creation of support groups on specific actions that could allow other members to get involved directly. A new working group (the Working Group on Academic Freedom and Human Rights) has already organically sprung out of the wish of members to get involved. We envisage the creation of similar groups for anti-precarity & lobbying, publishing, and public anthropology.
- Practical measures of inclusion should look at different types of vulnerabilities.
- More representation of various groups is needed.
- Crises, especially the climate crisis need to be acknowledged and addressed in practice.

Following an in-depth general SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) as well as for each sub-domain (Publications, Anti-precarity & Lobbying, Mentorship and Representation, Networks, Public Anthropology and Communication and External Representation), the following six strategic directions were developed:

1. Ensure and promote the inclusivity of EASA activities, fostering equity and justice
2. Provide a diverse and high-quality range of activities and training for professional development



3. Strengthen public anthropology and diversify the flows of anthropological knowledge within and beyond EASA
4. Develop an infrastructure for advocacy & lobbying for Anthropology in Europe
5. Mobilise and support EASA networks in developing the organisation and promoting Anthropology for the general public
6. Establish inclusive structures and procedures for sustaining the governance of EASA.

Our next step is a consultative one, where we involve our members in making these strategic directions concrete and ensuring that they reflect the priorities, needs, and vision of our members. Our strategy facilitator, Radu Răcăreanu, prepared a [survey](#) where EASA members can provide feedback on these directions. **Please take a moment to share your vision with us and help us shape our future actions.** The deadline for filling in this survey is the 1st of November.

Two webinars will then be organised in November in order to operationalise each priority and include the feedback from the survey. [This newsletter item has a little more information about this.](#)

After the two webinars, a final meeting will take place between the facilitator and the executive committee to agree on the final strategy draft and ensure its coherence.

This final strategy will be then subjected to an electronic member vote.

5. Call for the new edition of the European Anthropology Days 20-22 February 2025 - take two!

The second edition of the [European Anthropology Days](#) will take place on 20-22 February 2025, thus resonating also with AAA World Anthropology Day to be held on 20 February 2025.





If you plan to organise local or national events that promote anthropology towards the wider public on or around these days, please approach your national associations and EASA with a title, paragraph of description of the event, an image, the date and place, a link to local webpage if available well in advance and in any case before the end of 2024. This would allow us to insure a wider publicity for the event. For EASA please address it to [monica.heintz\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:monica.heintz@gmail.com) and mark the email title as EA Days.

We will promote the event via the new page dedicated to the EA Days and social media before the event, and share images and texts after the event, among members and as part of our lobbying and outreach strategy.

EASA thanks all the national associations for their implication, support, feedback and follow up of this initiative, which is crucial for its promotion and sustainability.

6. Call for book series editor(s)

EASA seeks a new Book series editor or editorial team to take over from Annika Lems, Sabine Strasser and Jelena Tošić.

EASA seeks a new Book series editor or editorial team to take over from Annika Lems, Sabine Strasser and Jelena Tošić, whose term of office ends in 2024. We wish to thank Annika, Sabine, and Jelena for their incredible work promoting anthropology through the [EASA Book Series](#) over the last four years. We invite you to [browse through the recent and upcoming titles](#) they have been working on.

The Book Series editorial role involves:

- Communication with Berghahn Books and promoting the series
- Approaching possible authors and editors through: Networking with EASA members for submitting manuscripts (in particular at EASA conferences); Contacting EASA





Network convenors for possible publications; Reaching out to young/emerging scholars and advising them on their book project ideas via one-on-one Zoom calls

- Communication with authors and editors reg. manuscripts (advising them regarding submission of projects, revising of projects/manuscripts, the on-going production until the final book, negotiations with Berghahn Books, etc.
- Communication with the Treasurer regarding financial matters
- Communication with an advisory board for book series (to be created)
- Report to the EASA Executive Committee (~ twice per year)
- Provide information for the EASA website regarding the book series
- Annual report for AGM and for publication in the EASA Newsletter
- Presentation of the Book series outcome at the EASA Biennial Conferences (book launches)

The position of the Book series editor is for a maximum of four years (2025-2028).

Applications consisting of a short covering letter and a CV, should be sent to the Secretary, Monica Heintz, on [monica.heintz\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:monica.heintz(at)gmail.com) by 15 November 2024.

7. Announcement of new journal editors, new secretary and new treasurer

EASA is pleased to announce that two new editors will be joining Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale and two new executive appointments.

EASA is pleased to announce that two new editors will be joining the team at Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale with immediate effect: [Martin Fotta](#) and [Leonardo Schiocchet](#).





They will be working with the current editors [Arne Harms](#) and [Dimitra Kofti](#) for the remainder of their term, and then continuing till December 2028. This will strengthen the journal's editorial profile and expertise.

Isabelle Rivoal will be stepping down as Editor in December 2024, and we would like to thank her for her dedicated work and insightful support for the journal over the past two years.

We are also pleased to announce two key new Executive appointments. The new EASA secretary from 2025 will be [Jonas Tinius](#) and the new EASA Treasurer will be [Maarja Kaaristo](#). Both are appointed for six-year terms to provide continuity and support for the EASA Exec. They will be working with the current post-holders, Monica Heintz and David Mills, until February 2025 to ensure a smooth handover.

8. Elections of new Easa exec members: Call for candidates

The term of office of the elected members of the present Executive Committee of EASA is coming to an end. We invite applications/nominations from members to stand for election.

The term of office of the elected members of the present Executive Committee of EASA is coming to an end. We invite applications/nominations from members to stand for election. Candidates must be nominated and supported by two members.

EASA is a self-governing democratic body. The EASA Executive is made up of seven EASA members, five of whom are elected on a biennial basis. The composition of [successive Executive Committees](#) shows the pan-European character and remit of EASA. Candidates for election as Trustees must be a resident of Europe or primarily affiliated with a European institution, and their nomination must be supported by another member. All members are strongly encouraged to consider standing for election in order to support a flourishing and scholarly society and European discipline.



By convention the elected members of the Exec with the highest numbers of votes become President and Vice-President. Other roles within the current Exec include Networks Liaison, Lobbying, PrecAnthro liaison and Publications liaison. On average Exec members spend about one to two days a month (from 0-5hrs/week) on EASA business, depending on their role, but this can greatly vary from role to role and from period to period - for example, the months preceding the conference are always busy. The Exec meets virtually on a regular basis and everyday business is conducted via email and Rocket Chat. Key roles for the committee include overseeing the biennial conference, supporting EASA networks, defending the interests of members (e.g. by investigating working conditions within the academy), supporting precarious scholars and undertaking anti-precarity lobbying and other policy priorities, working with other European associations, and promoting the work of the association and the discipline more broadly.

EASA is registered with the [UK's Companies House](#) and with the [Charity Commission](#). As such it is bound by its [constitution](#), relevant laws and EASA adheres to guidance on [proper governance](#).

We will publish the list of candidates shortly after closing the deadline to submit candidatures on 30 November. Online vote will take place from 15 December until 16 January. The results will be made available the day after. The handover meeting for the new Executive Committee will take place in March 2025 in Poznan.

Any interested members who would like to know more about the job or the nomination process are free to contact the Secretary ([monica.heintz\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:monica.heintz(at)gmail.com)), or other current executive committee members whose email addresses can be obtained from the EASA membership directory.

9. Call for funding network events

This year's call for funding has now opened for the EASA networks. The 2024 funding round is now open - deadline for applications is 18 November. With €54,000 allocated to EASA network activity in 2023, the pot for distribution in 2025 has been increased to €60,000. [Information can be found here](#).



10. Announcement autumn webinars

We invite you to debate and think with us on three important topics this Autumn.



We invite you to debate and think with us on three important topics this Autumn:

Mental Health in Social Sciences

25 October, 5-7pm CEST

With Brian Cahill, Sara Nikolić, Alexandra Oancă, Ana Pastor Pérez, and Klemen Senica. [View more details and register to attend.](#)

Anthropological Responses to Scholasticide

28 October, 7pm CET

Maya Wind, Amahl Bishara & Sarah Ihmoud in conversation with Ruba Salih on Israeli academic institutions and the motion before EASA members. [View more details and register to attend.](#)

Anti-precarity organising in Europe: launch of the EASA report

30 October, 4pm CET

Speakers: Fiona Murphy, Heather McKnight, Petra Ezzedine, Nasrin Khandoker, Isabel Bredenbröker. [View more details and register to attend.](#)

EASA will also hold two participatory workshops for the upcoming EASA Strategy which will be facilitated by Radu Răcăreanu and are the perfect opportunity to gather members' feedback on the strategic directions we identified, and on how to render them concrete over the next few years.

Strengthening public anthropology in Europe

8 November, 14.00-15.30 CET

An inclusive, equitable, and knowledgeable community of anthropologists

15 November, 15.00-16.30 CET

Information on these and links to register will be added to the website in early November.