REPORT on the Europeanist Network activities 2007-2008

October 2008

The Europeanist network held its regular 'business meeting' the 27th of August 2008 in the city of Ljubljana, on the occasion of the 10th EASA conference. The minutes of this meeting are available hereafter on the network's webpage. Andrés Barrera González, coordinator of the network at present, also attended a meeting convened by the executive committee on the 28th, with all chairs and coordinators of EASA's networks. Moreover, he read a report on the activities of the Europeanist network at the Member's Forum on the 29th. What follows is a general report on the activities and projects of the network, where the main issues at stake are summarised, referring to specific moments and events when it is relevant.

Membership:

About twelve people have requested to join the network after the Ljubljana conference, thus raising the total membership to seventy four. Let us remind whoever is interested in subscribing to the network that there exists a form, downloadable from the webpage, to fill in to this end. Data provided in this form is also required for building and updating the Directory of Members. Therefore, we call upon all present and future members please visit the site, download the Word file, and fill it in whenever you want to update your profile. This would be particularly advisable to do now, on the part of all members, if we are to take up Rohan Jackson's offer to build an online directory, as agreed it would be done for all networks during the above mentioned meeting with EASA's executive committee. A service by Nomadit which will be covered with EASA funds; as it is the case with the continuous provision of basic webpage support for networks. Incidentally, the issue was raised in this meeting that EASA networks do not have specific statutes, and whether this is a normative void that should be filled at some point.

Communication between members:

As already mentioned, there is a webpage set up within EASA's website where information about the activities of the network are regularly posted, as well as various files pertaining to its 'historical record', and other matters of interest for members. There has been a continuous debate about the need to broaden the means of communication between members. For instance, by setting up an independent fully fledged website, with all the regular features, that will allow for organising discussion fora, virtual or online seminars, and so on. Also there is the possibility of setting up a list-Serv or emailing list for the exchange of information among all members. The required cybernetic resources are readily available, and technically speaking it poses no great problem to set up a website or a list-Serv. However, all this requires the professional services and time of people who can take care of designing and administering the e-tools. Thus, either we can rely on some individual members' altruism, or we would have to look for the financial means needed to pay for these services externally. Then, we should carefully consider what we want these tools for, weighing the pros and cons, and making decisions as to how to go about it, notwithstanding the need to provide solid academic and scholarly contents for these activities.

Mid-term meetings:

The Europeanist network has been striving for some time to establish the 'tradition' of convening mid-term meetings, to be held the odd years in between EASA's conference dates. Yet, not having at hand the funding required to convene a workshop or conference exclusively dedicated to matters of direct interest to members of the network, the formula we are trying to apply is making informal arrangements for holding parallel meetings, with the involvement of a sizeable number of members of the network, in the framework of larger conferences, congresses or symposia. Like it was done at the end of October 2007 on the occasion of a workshop held in Paris, with

funding from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, related to the Anthropology in Europe scholarly endeavour. One such meeting, a workshop, will be organised by three members of the network in the framework of the International Association for Southeast European Anthropology's conference, which will take place in Ankara, 21-24 May 2009. An additional mid-term meeting of the Europeanist network will probably be called for in the autumn of this same year, making it coincide with the EASA's AGM.

Publications:

The coordinator and two other members of the network are in talks and negotiations with LIT Verlag Publishers, Berlin, with the aim to establish a book series on Europeanist Anthropology and Ethnology. The problem with LIT, and with other publishers similarly, is that they require the payment of a cash subsidy for each volume to be published. Now, if we can't count on a regular budget to tape from, like when you have an Institute or Department behind the initiative, things get enormously complicated. Therefore, the options in what regards publication plans are kept open. If you have any idea and specific proposal to make, please come forward.

The Anthropology in Europe scholarly endeavour:

A sizeable number of members of the Europeanist network are at present fully involved in bringing about the Anthropology in Europe scholarly endeavour. This has become, from the very moment when the network was established in 2004, a core part (with varying, evolving formulations) of the efforts and activities of the network as such. The second of the meetings linked to this project was held in Madrid the first week in September 2008. At the Madrid conference it was decided to go ahead with the endeavour as planned. Thus, the closing conference is to be convened in the autumn of 2010, in the city of Poznan. Information about the Anthropology in Europe project you can obtain it from the Paris07 webpage:

Or the Madrid08 conference website: http://www.ucm.es/info/antrosim .

Collaborative research projects:

Conversations during the official meetings of network, and beyond them, go on as regards the convenience that we agree on drawing some priority research agendas on Europeanist themes; and then furthering the collaboration of members of the network in the development of the specific research projects that stem from them. Appropriate themes, as items of an open list, for these research agendas that have come up at one point or another in these exchanges of views, might be the following: a) Cultural dimensions in the process of European unification; b) The anthropology of supranational and international institutions; c) Language diversity in Europe: ideologies, politics, policies. There is agreement between the more active members of the Europeanist network that this should be a most important line of action for the members of the network to pursue in the future. Namely, the furthering of cooperative and collaborative research endeavours.

MINUTES of EASA's Europeanist Network (EN) business meeting
Ljubljana, 27th of August 2008
At the University of Ljubljana, Kongresni trg 12 (SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Members present: around 25. Meeting moderated by the coordinator of the network Andrés Barrera González. Minutes written by Lorena Anton.

AGENDA:
1.- Report from the coordinator and head of the steering committee.
2.- Organizational matters and sharing of responsibilities.
3.- Maintenance of the website and e-mailing list.
4.- Proposals for a mid-term meeting of the network in 2009.
5.- Proposals for cooperative and collaborative research.

6.- Election of a chair and a new steering or executive committee.

7.- Any other business

Points of discussion, in numerical order:

Andrés Barrera González, the present coordinator of the EN, starts the meeting by summarising the state of matters since the last EASA conference in Bristol (2006). In the aftermath of the Bristol conference, membership of the EN raised to 64. Communication with members has been kept mostly via email.

General discussion focuses on the necessity of holding additional meetings between EASA conferences, in the form of workshops on issues of interest for members of the network, and/or a 'midterm business meeting'. The options available for holding these meetings are either to meet at any of the members' institutions (for example, Clarissa Kugelberg tells of the possibility of meeting at Uppsala University, on the occasion of a research workshop she is planning to hold there); or within the framework of a major anthropological academic event that takes place between EASA's biennial conferences.

Andrés Barrera provides an exemplification of such a 'midterm meeting', namely the workshop organized at Université de Paris X Nanterre, France in October 2007, funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation. (for further details, visit: http://www.u-paris10.fr/1191427395578/0/fiche___actualite/&RH=FR.). The event was inscribed into a more general collaborative agenda, the "Anthropology in Europe. Facing the Challenges of European Convergence in Higher Education and Research" project, which goes forward with the conference to be held at University Complutense of Madrid, September 2008 (for further details, see http://www.ucm.es/info/antrosim/).

Anna Horolets also mentions one collaborative project suggested in the past by Cris Shore. It was devoted to mapping of the celebrations of 'Europe's day' in different national settings in 2007 and has produced noticeable response among the network members. Dmitri Bondarenko comes back to the idea of convening a midterm business meeting in the future, underlining the importance of linking it to some anthropological event or conference. Ullrich Kockel speaks of the possibility of doing this during

SIEF's conference. Lorena Anton proposes to meet on the occasion of one such regular event: The InASEA conference, which takes place exactly in between EASA's and SIEF's years of conference.

The discussion turns to the items on the meeting's Agenda. Remarks are made about the necessity of using the EN's mailing list, managed until now by Andrés Barrera, who underlines the necessity of a 'sharing of responsibilities' approach in the future, with or without external funding being available.

Ullrich Kockel suggests the idea of submitting applications to the ERA programmes for networking development, or to European agencies. Clarissa Kugelberg gives the example of one European project she's involved in, and discusses the challenges to face when applying for 'European funding'.

Andrés Barrera reminds the audience about the ESF´s 'exploratory workshop' held in the Czech Republic in 2004, on the theme 'Towards an Anthropology of Europe', where the idea to establish a Europeanist network within EASA was raised.

The necessity of more regular communication and stronger links between the members of the network is raised in the discussion. Past efforts to come up with an up-to-date and fully fledged directory of members, with an online rendering, have not been successful, as many of the members did not send a completed form with their academic profiles. William Kavanagh suggests that the form should be sent again. Anna Horolets underlines the freedom of each member to update his / her profile on the EASA official site, an operative option which is to be maintained in the specific case of the directory of members.

The discussion reaches item #6 in the Agenda, namely the election of a chair and a new steering or executive committee. Andrés Barrera declares his intention not to continue with coordinating the network, given the circumstance at present of his many other professional duties. Some members in the room underline the importance that Barrera continues in this role for better coordination of the network. Moreover, the statute of the EN does not imply the compulsory change of the coordinator every two years. Members present at the meeting point out to the fact that formal statues do not really exist for any of EASA's networks. Formal proposals for a new chair and new members of the steering committee are nevertheless called for, but no specific

proposal is brought forward. Given the situation, it is agreed that the coordination of the network will continue to be under Andrés Barrera González responsibility, but with more active assistance from other members of the network in carrying out the diverse coordination tasks.