

**President**

Professor Oleg Kharkhordin  
Rector, European University of St Petersburg

Professor Ilya Utekhin  
Dean, Department of Sociocultural Anthropology  
European University of St Petersburg

Prof. Thomas Hylland Eriksen  
Department of Social  
Anthropology  
University of Oslo  
<http://www.easaonline.org>

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Dear Professor Kharkhordin and Professor Utekhin,

It is with great sadness and dismay that EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists) has learned that the licence of the European University of St Petersburg has recently been revoked. In only two decades, the University has emerged as a leading force in research and teaching across a broad range of humanities and social sciences.

Its anthropology department, which is the special concern of EASA, is brilliant and wide-ranging. Not only does it teach the whole range of sociocultural anthropology, but it also serves as an intellectual bridge between anthropological traditions which have for historical and linguistic reasons been isolated from each other for too long. Its contributions to the European conversation on and in anthropology are indispensable.

It would therefore be a serious blow to European anthropology, and to the teaching and research of anthropology in Russia, if the Department of Sociocultural Anthropology at the EUStP were to be closed down. In EASA, we have strongly benefited from the membership, support and contributions of staff members from the European University. If there is anything we can do to help, please contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen  
President, EASA