

Annual General Meeting of the members of the Association

MINUTES

The 2025 EASA AGM took place online on 19 December 2025, 13:00–15:00 CET.

A G E N D A

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 - 4.1 Vote to establish the Working Group as a permanent structure within EASA
5. Any Other Business

1. Welcome

The Secretary, Jonas Tinius, chaired the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, members were invited to propose additions or amendments. No additions or amendments were raised in the discussion, and the Secretary passed the word to the President, Hayal Akarsu.

2. Reports and Accounts

2.1 President

Hayal Akarsu reported on the work of the Executive Committee since it took office in March 2025. The Executive had focused on establishing new working structures and initiatives, completing the Association’s strategic plan, and implementing commitments made to the membership during the election period.

The President highlighted preparations for EASA2026 in Poznań. A fifteen-member Scientific Committee had considered a large number of proposals and accepted approximately 200 panels. The call for papers was open at the time of the AGM, and the President thanked the Poznań local organising team.

The Executive had also published implementation guidelines arising from the membership motion concerning collaborations with Israeli academic institutions. The President stressed that the guidelines concern institutional relationships rather than individual scholars, and reaffirmed EASA’s opposition to discrimination, including antisemitism and anti-Palestinian racism.

Against the background of the war in Ukraine, the destruction and loss of life in Gaza, attacks on higher education and academic freedom, budget cuts, and academic precarity, the Executive had sought to support members through public activities, two community check-ins, and formal and

informal conversations. The President described this work as part of a broader effort to reconsider anthropology's public role and to sustain spaces in which members can think together despite differences.

The President concluded by noting EASA's growing international profile and thanked the membership and the Executive Committee for their support during a difficult year.

2.2 Secretary

Jonas Tinius thanked the outgoing Executive Committee, in particular former Secretary Monica Heintz and former Treasurer David Mills, for ensuring a smooth transfer of responsibilities after six years in office. The new Executive had held regular meetings and worked to translate the strategic plan into a longer-term framework that could provide continuity beyond the two-year term of an elected Executive. The plan would be published and discussed with the membership.

The Secretary reported that calls and appointments had been completed for a renewed Integrity Committee and a new Communications Officer, Anna Seeger. Selection of members for the new Working Group for Public Anthropology was under way, with the group expected to begin work in early 2026.

Members were reminded that bids to host EASA2028 remained open until March 2026 and that information for prospective hosts was available from the Secretary and NomadIT. Members were also invited to contribute events to European Anthropology Days 2026, consult EASA newsletters, submit jobs and calls through the website, and send feedback on EASA's communications and activities.

Membership in 2025 stood at 1,861, compared with 1,567 in the previous non-conference year. The five most represented nationalities were Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, and the Netherlands.

The redesigned EASA website, launched in May 2025 and maintained with NomadIT's web-support team, had increased use and visibility. The Secretary reported approximately 207,000 website visitors in 2025 compared with 156,000 in 2023. Since the launch, 83 events had been posted (63 past and 20 upcoming), bringing the site's total event listings to 712. The EASA2026 and jobs-and-calls pages were among the most visited.

The new website allows networks to manage their own pages and link events, profiles, and network activity. Twenty of the 54 network pages had nominated web editors, who had posted more than 40 items since May. The Communications Officer was working with editors to strengthen the reach and presentation of this content on social media.

2.3 Treasurer

Maarja Kaaristo presented the Association's financial report for 2024 and thanked David Mills for the handover. EASA's principal income derives from membership fees, conference registrations, and investments. Expenditure covers membership and conference administration, publications, events, governance, and related activities. Income and expenditure are substantially higher in conference years such as 2024 than in non-conference years.

EASA has an ongoing service contract with NomadIT and separately contracts communications support, but employs no staff and owns or rents no premises. This low-cost structure was identified as one reason membership fees had remained unchanged for more than ten years.

Association income supports network events in non-conference years, conference travel, summer schools, communications, and infrastructure such as the website redesign. The Treasurer noted that support for networks in 2025 had been the largest to date.

The membership was asked to approve the reappointment of Friend-James Ltd as the Association's accountants and to authorise the Trustees to determine their remuneration. No objection was recorded in the supplied transcript.

2.4 Publications

Social Anthropology / Anthropologie Sociale

On behalf of the journal's editorial team, Martin Fotta reported that the transition between versions of the Open Journal Systems platform had produced technical problems, including failures in automated email notifications. The journal had consequently returned to the earlier platform. Authors who had experienced unusually long periods without communication were asked to contact the editors, as some submissions or decisions might not have transferred correctly between systems.

Four issues had been prepared for 2025, including two special issues, on childhood in Amazonia and on absurdity. Thirteen special-issue proposals had been evaluated and three advanced to the next stage. The editors were also developing the journal's forum format for shorter, timely, and potentially more experimental contributions, with revised guidance expected.

At the point covered by the reported July statistics, the journal had 114 active submissions, approximately half articles and half book reviews; an acceptance rate of 54%; and an average of 24 days to a first editorial decision. The editors cautioned that later statistics were affected by the platform migration.

The editorial team had undertaken outreach at disciplinary conferences and through publication webinars. A further webinar was planned for early 2026, and an open-house event would take place at EASA2026 in Poznań. Members were encouraged to accept peer-review requests, assign and cite journal articles, publicise the journal's open-access content, and ask institutional libraries to renew their support for Berghahn Open Anthro's Subscribe-to-Open model.

EASA Book Series

Ana Ivasiuc reported on the EASA Book Series. The new editorial team—Elisa Lanari, Magdalena Suerbaum, and Monika Palmberger—began its term in 2025. Five books were at proposal stage, four manuscripts were under review, and one manuscript had been accepted for publication. Three new titles had appeared during the year. Thanks were recorded to both the outgoing and incoming editors and to Berghahn Books.

2.5 Networks

Fabiola Mancinelli reported on behalf of the network liaisons, together with Ana Ivasiuc. EASA had 53 networks covering a wide range of anthropological fields. The Anthropology Across Ruralities Network was welcomed as a new network in 2025.

An online convenors' meeting had taken place in May 2025; a further online meeting was planned for January or February 2026, followed by an in-person meeting at EASA2026 in Poznań. Network convenors had supported migration to the new website and received training and written guidance to manage their own content. This had increased the visibility of network activity across the website and social media.

Forty-four annual network reports had been received. The network liaisons would contact networks that appeared inactive to determine whether they wished to resume activity or retire. Networks would have a substantial presence at EASA2026 through network-sponsored panels.

A total allocation of 70,000 was reported for network activities in 2025, reinforcing the Executive's view that networks are central to the Association. The current liaisons thanked all convenors and acknowledged the work of the previous network liaisons, Dominic Bryan and Hege Høyer Leivestad.

2.6 Working Groups and Integrity Committee

Working Group for Public Anthropology

Sultan Doughan introduced the newly forming Working Group for Public Anthropology. Its purpose is to broaden the visibility, accessibility, and public impact of anthropology and to support members' engagement with media, public institutions, communities, and policymakers in ethical, inclusive, and reflexive ways.

The group envisaged practical support and training for podcasts, exhibitions, policy briefs, public-facing communication, and educational collaboration, alongside renewed attention to European Anthropology Days and the question of why anthropology matters in relation to current social and political challenges. The group would also consider the presence of anthropology in schools and public cultural policy.

The founding liaisons were Hayal Akarsu, Sultan Doughan, Panas Karampampas, and Jonas Tinius. An open call had sought four additional members for a renewable two-year term. Applications were being reviewed, and the group was expected to be constituted and begin work in early 2026.

Integrity Committee

Rachel Spronk presented the work of the Integrity Committee. The redesigned EASA website now provides a dedicated page setting out the Committee's terms of reference, the importance of research integrity, and EASA's Code of Conduct.

Because EASA is not a legal adjudicatory body, the Committee's role is advisory. Members may approach it with questions or concerns, and it can help identify appropriate national or institutional procedures. The Committee's guiding principles are honesty, diligence, transparency, independence, and responsibility in research and in professional relations.

The Committee recognised that formal complaints often require complainants to identify themselves and may be especially difficult for junior scholars or those challenging people in positions of authority. It therefore provides confidential guidance while not disclosing individual cases. Its longer-term aim is to contribute to a culture in which researchers, interlocutors, and colleagues are safe and supported.

The Committee intended to make its availability more visible online and at EASA2026, including through an accessible or open-door format. Its current members were Alexandra Oancă, Jonas Tinius, Rachel Spronk, Michele Filippo Fontefrancesco, Aastha Tyagi, and Falia Varelaki.

2.7 Emerging Issues: Advocacy and Lobbying

Alexandra Oancă reported on EASA's advocacy and lobbying work and its engagement with the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH), and related European organisations. Participation in larger alliances was described as essential for ensuring that anthropological and social-science perspectives enter European research-policy discussions.

A major issue during the year concerned proposals to absorb the European Union's next research framework programme (FP10) into a broader European Competitiveness Fund. ISE and EASSH had argued successfully that research and innovation funding should retain a distinct framework rather than be subordinated entirely to a competitiveness agenda.

The meeting was informed that one of the partner organisations was facing funding and secretariat difficulties, which had reduced its recent capacity. Work was nevertheless continuing through Eurodoc, the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers, including comparative country reports on employment conditions, advocacy for doctoral researchers, and a collection of mental-health best practices.

EASA was developing a webinar series on the employment status and regulatory conditions of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, including whether they are treated as students or workers and the consequences of those classifications. Members interested in contributing to relevant working groups were invited to contact Alexandra Oancă.

3. Mentorship Programme

The Mentorship Programme was presented together with the Public Anthropology report. Sultan Doughan and Panas Karampampas were coordinating the programme, which pairs more junior EASA members with more senior members for one-to-one support. A series of webinars and workshops, open beyond the formal mentoring pairs and not restricted to EASA members, accompanies the programme.

Two workshops had already taken place: one on women in academia and strategies for navigating academic life, and one on publication, including turning a dissertation into a book and responding to reviews and negative feedback. Further sessions were being planned on motherhood, disability, and political engagement in difficult environments, continuing through the academic year.

Applications open annually and matches are made according to mentees' needs and mentors' experience. The programme regularly receives more applications from prospective mentees than offers from mentors. Senior members willing to serve as mentors were therefore encouraged to contact the coordinators.

4. Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom

The President introduced the proposal to establish the Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom as a permanent structure within EASA. The group originated in a motion submitted by members at the December 2023 AGM, when the proposal received 93% support and the group was constituted with an initial limited mandate.

Two principal reasons were given for permanency. First, a standing structure would preserve institutional memory and prevent each two-year Executive Committee from having to rebuild the same capacity. Second, working groups provide a more inclusive and horizontal form of governance by bringing members with relevant expertise into the Association's work while maintaining an accountable relationship with the elected Executive.

The current Working Group comprised Julie Billaud, Ruba Salih, Chandana Mathur, Helena Zohdi, and Hayal Akarsu as Executive liaison. Its activities included collecting monitoring information, consulting members facing infringements or complaints, organising community check-ins, and preparing a substantial report on threats to anthropologists' academic freedom and human rights. The report was expected before EASA2026 and was intended both to document cases and to support longer-term structural responses.

In response to a question from Sultan Doughan about rotation and accountability, the President explained that future members would be selected through an open application process reviewed by the Executive Committee. Members would normally serve two-year terms. The Working Group would have operational autonomy, while a liaison communicates its recommendations and obtains Executive approval. Urgent matters could be handled within 48 hours; standard matters would normally be considered within two weeks. The current group was expected to continue for one further term.

4.1 Vote

Question	Do you agree to making the EASA Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom a permanent structure within EASA?
Participation	73 votes cast (78 participants were present when voting opened).
Result	63 voted Yes (86%); 7% voted No; 7% abstained.
Decision	The motion was carried. The Working Group on Human Rights and Academic Freedom was established as a permanent structure within EASA.

The constitutional quorum of 20 members was confirmed as satisfied. NomadIT administered the Zoom poll and reported the result. The President acknowledged and respected the votes against the motion and invited members with concerns or reservations to discuss them with the Working Group.

5. Any Other Business

The Chair opened Any Other Business and noted that a question had been posted in the chat. The minutes end at this point.