

European Association of Social Anthropologists (“the Association”)

Company Number: 05181210; Charity Number: 1108186

Annual general meeting of the members of the Association.
Thursday, 16th August 2018 at 17:00 at University of Stockholm.

Attendees: 181 members including 6 Trustees (members of the Executive Committee of the Association)

Chair: Valeria Siniscalchi

Secretary: Alberto Corsín Jiménez

1. Apologies for absence: Apologies from Thomas Hylland Eriksen and Sarah Green
2. Minutes of previous AGM held on Thursday, 16th November 2017
The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting held in Bern.
3. Annual Reports and Accounts
 - President (Valeria Siniscalchi)
 - (a) Note on the important work carried out on questions of precarity by the Executive Committee.
 - (b) A brief account of our improved relationships with fellow learned associations: WCAA, SIEF.
 - (c) An appreciation of the important work of EASA’s networks.
 - Secretary (Alberto Corsín Jiménez)
 - a) Report on newsletters, administration, and open access work carried out by the Secretary over the last two years.
 - Treasurer (Rachael Goberman-Hill)
 - a) A one page summary of the Accounts of EASA for the year ending 31st December 2017 was provided on paper to members attending the meeting.
 - b) The Treasurer provided a verbal presentation of the set-up of EASA, the Accounts for 2017 and the membership fees for 2019.
 - c) EASA is a registered charity and limited company registered in the UK. Accounts are prepared by Friend-James. Administration is by NomadIT. The Treasurer thanked the NomadIT team for their work.
 - d) Income comes from sources including membership fees, publications, investments and events. Expenditure relates to administration, publications, governance, and events.
 - e) Accounts for 2017 were presented on screen and the Treasurer summarised income and expenditure. EASA’s reserves has increased in 2017 by just over £9,500. Reserves are held to protect EASA and they are based on the cost of a conference plus administration.
 - f) The Treasurer explained that the full accounts are available for view on the EASA website. Accounts will lodged at Companies House and the Charity Commission, and they are publicly available for view.

- g) Membership fees for 2019: Executive Committee has decided to freeze membership fees for next year. Invitation to the membership to check that they are declaring their correct income bracket on renewal.
- e) The Treasurer thanked the members for the opportunity to serve them over the past 5 years and announced that the new Treasurer from December 2018 would be David Mills.
- d) Reappointment of accountants and independent examiners. With the Chair's permission this item was addressed at this point in the agenda: the Treasurer asked members to vote on the following resolution:

“To reappoint Friend-James Ltd, Park Gate 161-163 Preston Road, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 6AF, UK, as the Association's accountants and to authorise the Trustees to approve the remuneration.”

The motion to reappoint Friend-James Ltd as accountants and independent examiners was approved with 181 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions.

- Journal (Patrick Laviolette)
 - a) Report on journal's special issues over the past two years.
 - b) New online only forum for special issues (given the large number of special issues that are submitted to the journal).
 - c) Social Anthropology has agreed to become a journal for #HAUrefugee special issue proposals.
- Book series (Aleksandar Boskovic)
 - a) In the last two years EASA has published five volumes; two more in the pipeline.
 - b) Invitation to the membership to consider the series an outlet for publishing anthropological work.
- Networks (Marcus Banks)
 - a) Thank you to the Network convenors
 - b) Report on Network convenors' meeting during the biennial conference
 - c) Network funding allocation for 2019 is going to be €26,000
 - d) Full details of all network activities in June 2018 Newsletter
- Precarity (Sabine Strasser)
 - a) Question of precarity first was raised at the AGM Milan 2016. Precarity Liaison Officer created at Executive Committee meeting in Stockholm in 2017.
 - b) Organisation of “Politics and Precarity” Seminar at the AGM in Bern in November 2017
 - c) Special issue on precarity to be published in Social Anthropology
 - d) Theme of the Early Career Plenary at Stockholm conference on precarity
 - e) Design and circulation of EASA/PrecAnthro survey on precarity, employment conditions and work security. More than 1000 respondents, 809 members of EASA, 57 nationalities; female 63%, male 32%, other self-description 0.62%, undisclosed 4%.
 - f) Martin Fotta reports on a preliminary analysis of the survey's results.
- Lobbying (Georgeta Stoica)

- a) Report on how to take the results of the survey: draft a policy statement on precarity to be circulated among university departments, institutes and up to the EU level
- b) Exchanges with lobbying associations (EASHH, ISE)
- c) Invitation to anthropologists to register as experts at the EU level
- d) Data Management: proposal to draft a statement on anthropology's position regarding data management plans

4. Any other business/ requests by members

Comments from the floor:

- a) One member of the association invites the survey designers to compare the results of the survey with other data sets from other contexts in order to put them into perspective. Martin Fotta responds that the data provides an original data set and a primer for learned societies. Another member of the association notes that precarity is rising across many sectors and there is very little data on the topic, so this data set offers a most valuable resource to take to policy makers and institutions. Another member worries that there might be a very serious generational gap in how anthropologists relate to the findings of the precarity survey. Moreover, the figures seem to testify that these figures might well be the “new normal”, in which case we need new forms of solidarity and organisation to respond to them. A junior but not-precious member observes that the gap is likely not generational but structural; however, it should be alright to ask questions about data.
- b) Another member asks about the consequences for EASA if there is no agreement between the EU and the UK regarding Brexit. The Treasurer responds that the Executive has carried out an assessment and asked for advice, as described to members at the AGM in Milan in 2015. The Executive Committee take the view that we do not think that there is an impact on our financial arrangements as far as we know: we can still carry out our banking, we can still operate across Europe. However, there is indeed a bigger question around Brexit regarding the free movement of people.
- c) Question regarding whether there is an element of ethnographic research in the analysis derived from the survey. There seems to be an element of irony in resorting to numbers to make an argument about precarity after spending days talking about the value of ethnography during the conference. Georgeta Stoica responds that ethnography and statistics are not exclusionary, plus data-sets are valuable policy tools at the European level. Martin Fotta invites the membership to carry out the necessary ethnographic research to help enrich the data sets.
- d) Motions from the floor:

i) Julie Billaud, Brian Callan, Mariya Ivancheva, Ana Ivasiuc, Matan Kaminer, Patrick Neveling request that the Members' Forum debate and adopt the following motion:

- “1. That on 12 February 2018 the Israeli Knesset passed a law extending the jurisdiction of the Israeli Council for Higher Education to academic institutions exclusively serving Israeli citizens but situated within the occupied Palestinian territory of the West Bank;
- 2. That the establishment of academic institutions intended exclusively to serve the population of an occupying power in an occupied territory while denying service to the occupied population, is not only illegal under international law but violates the basic ethical norms of the academy in general and of anthropology in particular;

3. That on 17 February the President and Vice-President of the Israeli Sociological Association (ISA) declared their association's opposition to this step and refusal to cooperate with the aforesaid institutions; that on 2 March, the Executive Committee of the Israeli Anthropological Association (IAA) also declared its opposition to the law, and that on 26 June the membership of the IAA voted by a large majority to affirm its opposition to the law and its refusal to cooperate with the aforesaid institutions;
4. That under the current political and legal climate in Israel, including the so-called "Boycott Law," our colleagues in both the ISA and the IAA have run a significant risk by taking this principled stance.

EASA therefore resolves:

1. To express its own opposition to the establishment and regularization of academic institutions intended exclusively to serve the population of an occupying power in occupied territories, and specifically of institutions exclusively serving Israeli citizens situated within the occupied Palestinian territory of the West Bank, and to pledge its own non-cooperation with these institutions;
2. To express its solidarity with Palestinian academics and students suffering the brunt of these discriminatory and illegal policies as well as with the Israeli colleagues of the ISA and IAA who have taken a brave stance in opposing the same policies."

Before calling the Members' Forum to vote, the Chair announces that, if the motion is approved, she will take the vote to the wider membership in an electronic poll. A number of people ask as to the rationale and justification for the decision, to which the Chair responds that it is her constitutional prerogative to do so when an important issue like this one may benefit from a wider consultation.

Members are then asked to raise their hands to vote and the result is as follows:

164 votes in favour
0 votes against
17 abstentions

The motion is passed.

ii) Olivia Barnett-Nagshineh, Judith Beyer, Antonio De Lauri, Felix Girke, Agathe Mora, Jon Schubert, Cris Shore, Jason Sumich call upon the Members' Forum to adopt the following motion:

"1. In its Rules, the EASA Constitution states, according to article 20.1, that, "The Trustees may from time to time make such rules or by-laws as they may deem necessary or expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Association and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing they may by such rules or by-laws regulate: ... the conduct of Members in relation to one another and to the Association's employees" (3);

2. The growing concerns about systemic and persistent instances of professional misconduct (including but not limited to abuse of power, psychological and sexual harassment and the exploitation of precarious labour, lack of accountability and code

of ethics/standards of professional conduct) in our discipline and institutions have created a momentum for the EASA to create measures and take concrete steps to address such systemic problems.

EASA therefore resolves to create a working group tasked with developing a code of conduct and working on the ways in which EASA can offer support in cases of allegations of professional misconduct.”

The Executive Committee agrees on the importance of the issue. For this reason, before calling attendants at the Members’ Forum to vote, the Chair announces that, if the motion is approved, she will take the vote to the wider membership in an electronic poll when the working group will have developed a code of conduct and a way to use it to help the membership.

Members are then asked to raise their hands to vote and the result is as follows:

154 votes for the motion
0 against the motion
5 abstentions

The motion is passed.

5. Prizes and Awards

- The President announced that EASA’s Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Adam Kuper.
- EASA’s Early Career Award: In 2018 for the first time EASA offered two early career awards of €500 and books kindly donated by Berghahn: (i) to Vita Peacock for the article “Academic Precarity as hierarchical dependence in the Max Planck Society”; (ii) to Francisco Martínez for the monograph *Remains of the Soviet Past in Estonia: an Anthropology of Forgetting, Repair, and Urban Traces*

6. Announcements

- Appointment of Monica Heintz as EASA’s new Secretary
- Appointment of David Mills as EASA’s new Treasurer
- Appointment of Nikolai Ssorin Chaikov as new Journal Editor
- Announcement of election of Trustees in the fall of 2018
- Nevena Skrbic Alempijevic, SIEF’s President announces the organisation of the next biannual conference of SIEF in Santiago de Compostela, April 2019
- Announcement of the next IUAES next intercongress in Poznan, August 2019
- Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography’s launch of *kritisk etnografi – Swedish Journal of Anthropology*
- EASA 2020 to be held in Lisbon