



European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux

Members' Forum Minutes

23rd of July 2020, 14-16:00 Lisbon (UTC+1)

Shindig: <https://shindig.com/login/event/easamembersforum>

1. Welcome
2. The minutes of previous AGM (Brussels 2019) are approved.
3. Annual Reports and Accounts are presented

- a. President

Sarah Green presents the main events that have marked the life of the association since the Stockholm conference in August 2018, when the issue of climate change and of precarity and academia were prominent. Since the handover to the current executive committee in February 2019 in Lisboa, many more challenges to academic freedom took place. This is why EASA decided to hold its 2019 AGM in October in Brussels to meet with EU lobby groups and academic funding groups in Brussels directly to confront these political and funding challenges for anthropology directly. The meeting in February in Paris was devoted to the follow up of these new activities that the reports that follow will detail, but Covid arrived, the conference was transformed in the online event we are living through today and the future is uncertain. Despite that, since October 2021, the executive has issued multiple statements of support for academic institutions and threats against academic freedom; it has conducted a survey of membership on their website and online presence, it has conducted a major analysis of research on academic precarity through its PrecAnthro Group, it took the major decision to take EASA biennial conference online, following outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, it has established an Ethics Conduct Working Group which issued a first set of recommendations and continued its close work with the networks.

- b. Secretary

Monica Heintz presents her work as secretary of the association : agenda and minutes keeping for the executive committee meetings and the AGM, preparation of the next 2022 conference location, renewal of editors for the EASA book series, responses to members' question, together with NomadIT, and the compilation of newsletters that members receive via email thrice a year. In addition to this, she presents the project of a European Anthropology Day, which the pandemic renders nowadays difficult. This project presented in the newsletter aims at federating public anthropology actions all over Europe in order to increase the visibility of the discipline; to give a sense of European solidarity to our local actions; to have a say in public debates; to enhance creativity in the dissemination of research findings. Defining a date in the year for such an event at the European scale (on the model of AAA Anthropology Day or that of the European Archeology Days) would be accompanied by lobbying and increased media attention through communication support

from EASA for local actions via its website or the designation of a communication officer, depending on the final decision. She is aware that this project is now to be put on hold.

c. Treasurer: receipt of accounts for the year to 31st December 2019

David Mills reminds the functioning of the association. EASA is a registered charity and a limited company, registered in the UK. The accounts are prepared by Friend-James accountants. The administration is by NomadIT. **Income** comes from membership fees, publications, investments and events. **Expenditure** relates to administration, publications, governance and events. In conference years (eg 2018), membership and charitable income is much higher (as is expenditure). The accounts could be consulted by members.

The membership fees in 2021 are differentiated by category of income: students (30€), up to 24999 euros (40€); 25000-49000 euros (80€), beyond 50 000 euros (105€).

Members are asked to approve the reappointment of 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 their remuneration.

d. Journal

Since November 2021 there were two issues published and one in press. This last one contains a Forum on Covid and is much larger than usual, with more than 100 contributions from many established anthropologists and promises a large visibility. SAAS together with Anthropological Theory are organizing a Roundtable on the Globalisation of Academic Knowledge during the conference.

e. Book editor

Aleksandar Boskovic is presenting his last report, as he is leaving after 4 years his position as EASA book editor. Since taking over as Series Editor, volumes 31-38 have been published. Two more (39 and 40) will be published by the end of this year, and another two (41 and 42) in early 2021. Seven more volumes are in different stages of the reviewing process – most of them have had their NBOs accepted, and the authors or editors are now working on submitting the final manuscripts. The Series reflects the diversity of topics and the uniqueness of anthropology. Of the volumes 31-40, six are monographs (with genders equally distributed), and four edited collections.

The new editors of the series are announced, they are three: Sabine Strasser (University of Bern), Annika Lems (MPI) and Jelena Tomic (U of St Gallen/University of Vienna).

f. Networks

Cristiana Bastos and Miia Halme-Tuomisaari present their report. They remind that the total number of networks keeps growing: 41 and counting. They show great vitality: networks are a platform of affinities and possibilities. But this also presents us with some challenges: some networks grow to relative independence; too many networks bring extra issues regarding funding and coordination. There are ongoing discussions to find solutions to particular problems linked to networks' growing number, governance (the pros and cons of the 'society' model of AAA considered as a possible alternative) and activities. New network proposals keep arriving, putting pressure on the network funds and on conference panels- there are customary rules and new directions to be taken. The perspective of EASA website redesign is directly linked to the need for extra visibility and flexibility of networks on EASA's website.

g. Media, communication and membership

Miia Halme-Tuomisaari and Mariya Ivancheva present their report. They militate for an active EASA presence in social media crucial as anthropology & independent scholarship are under attack in numerous countries in Europe and the world, on which they took a good start. In order to learn more about membership desires, a social questionnaire was launched in October and received over 400 responses. They propose that a new website including update on existing graphic design should be designed for EASA (multiple users, sub-pages for networks; blog; modern social media share functions), to update social media outlets & create a communication plan and to engage a Communications Officer to act as editor-in-chief of website & social media.

h. Lobbying and precarity issues

Georgeta Stoica reminds that EASA is member of two main lobbying associations: *European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASHH)* and *Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE)*. EASA should be monitoring the link between research and education (commissioner Mariya Gabriel) ex. Erasmus +/- HE careers. Following up re: Chart of Human Resources launched by the EC - European universities to introduce "at their discretion" gender balance, promotion etc. but no sanctions, no focus on precarity, authorship, ethics. The AGM in Brussels was accompanied by a lobbying event and reflection on ethics of hiring, authorship, teaching.

After the precarity survey report initiated and carried out during the last executive mandate, the new exec set to address root causes of precarity, by looking at the ethics of hiring – female & BME careers, prof development, etc; the ethics of research – anthropology, GDPR & ethics protecting power; the ethics of authorship – esp PhDs/Postdocs on grants Tilche & Astuti (see the Authorship guidance discussed by members thorough the newsletter pages). Special focus on big projects as breeding ground of precarity, both in research (exploiting PhDs & PDs), and in teaching ('buy-outs').

i. Code of conduct working group

The final report from the Code of Conduct Working Group (external to the EASA exec) recommends a 'live' code of conduct and a 'Code of Conduct' committee. The exec will work with the Group to quickly implement these proposals. This current exec spent 6 months seeking to recruit an independent HAU review panel: it is a source of much regret that this proved to be impossible. However, the broader issues raised by 2018 AGM motion continue to be a priority, hence the birth of a permanent committee in the future.

j. Emerging issues

Prem Kumar Rajaram reminds that the Exec intervenes on behalf of the EASA on social and political issues that impact specifically on anthropologists and academics. The Exec intervenes also on broader issues, commenting on areas that typically concern anthropologists and within the remit of the EASA constitution and keeping in mind the diversity of EASA membership. Statements and letters were addresses to support academic freedom in Hungary and in Brazil; to monitor the situation of Fariba Adelkhah, imprisoned in Iran; to highlight the Hebrew University and police harassment of Palestinian residents in areas neighbouring the university.

Statements, in support and solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. However questions remain: should the exec be more proactive? What could they do besides writing letters and statements? What are the issues that resonate best with members' interests?

4. Any other business/ requests by members

5. Announcements: EASA2022 will take place in Belfast. A teaser is presented for this new venue.

The AGM closes at 4pm Lisboa time.