



EASA Newsletter 61 - January 2014

EASA NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014

Cover photo by Aet Annist

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1. Letter from the President

Dear EASA member

It has only been a couple of months since you received the previous newsletter. Many things have happened since. On Friday 4 October, EASA held its [Annual General Meeting](#) in Brussels. Over twenty colleagues from various European countries attended. The executive committee reported to the membership on all the association's recent activities. New [EASA networks](#) were approved and Eeva Berglund, the [EASA Book Series](#) editor, was officially presented. Nigel Rapport gave a keynote entitled 'Towards a Cosmopolitan Anthropology of Human Capacity and Individual Substance'. The closing reception created the perfect atmosphere to meet informally. In name of EASA, I'd like to thank the Université Libre de Bruxelles for hosting us.

The launch of the Call for Panels for our anniversary [conference in Tallinn](#) did not go unnoticed. We received over 180 proposals, far more than the venue in Estonia can possibly accommodate. This means that the scientific committee had to make some tough choices. The Call for Papers has now been launched. Please remember that you can also participate in Tallinn through the [Call for Laboratories](#) and the [Call for Films](#). We also welcome bids now from institutions wanting to host EASA's conference in 2016 (more information about this is available [online](#)). In addition, we are launching a call for editors for [Social Anthropology](#), as the term of the current team is coming to an end in 2014.

While EASA will certainly use the upcoming conference to celebrate its 25th birthday, there are also other ways in which we want to mark this milestone in the association's history. A quarter of a century of associative life has left us with a substantial amount of archival materials. Unfortunately, the lack of a permanent secretariat means that EASA's historical record is spread all over Europe. We have therefore launched the project of creating a true institutional archive. We have identified where most materials are located and are having everything shipped to the Archives of the [Royal Anthropological Institute](#) in London, where EASA's archives will be hosted. With the generous help of the [Wenner-Gren Foundation](#), all materials will be properly archived so that they can be safeguarded for future generations.

The association's anniversary is also a good occasion to reflect constructively about EASA's governance. EASA has grown tremendously since it was founded in 1989, but its governing document (commonly known as "[the Constitution](#)") has not followed suit. Since EASA is officially registered in the UK, we need to comply with the [Companies Act](#) and the [Charities Act](#). In light of the changed legal context, the changed means of communication and the changed reality of the association, we need expert legal help to clarify and redraft certain sections of our governing document. This is an important operation that the executive committee is preparing very carefully. Any professional help we can receive from the membership in this regard would be most appreciated.

At the European level, EASA was present at the launching event of [Horizon 2020](#) for the Social Sciences and Humanities in Brussels. This new EU framework programme offers interesting opportunities for anthropologists to engage in worthwhile research projects. I also had an informative meeting with Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, the new President of the [European Research Council](#). In February 2014, EASA will be hosting the Annual Meeting of the [Initiative for Science in Europe](#) in Leuven. Beyond Europe, EASA was well represented at the AAA Annual Meeting in Chicago. We participated in the meeting of the [World Council of Anthropological Associations](#) (WCAA) and an informal gathering of presidents of anthropological associations.

Definitely keep an eye open during 2014... it promises to be an exciting year for all EASA members!

Wishing you a prosperous New Year,
Noel B. Salazar,
your president

2. Letter from our Book Series Editor

I am the new editor of [EASA's book series](#) and I'd like to invite association members to consider submitting proposals for both edited collections and monographs for the series published by [Berghahn Books](#).

The series has several works in the pipeline, and it will continue to publish intellectually compelling work on current and emerging topics of interest, concerned with any part of the world. You can find out more about the series and how to prepare a book proposal at www.easaonline.org/bookseries.html.

Publishing is a collective enterprise and I would like to thank all the people who have submitted or reviewed proposals and manuscripts. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my predecessor, James Carrier, who is seeing through the publication of the books that he commissioned. A full list of acknowledgements will appear in the next Newsletter.

I took over as editor in October at the [AGM in Brussels](#). I live in Helsinki where I have an association with the University. For several years I've lived more on the edges of academia than at its core, and working with the EASA series was a natural step on a route I've been on for some time, one that appears to be leading me back to my early passion, anthropology.

I think I can explain why. Recently the discipline has expanded into domains of social life that were formerly not its primary concern, but anthropology has not lost its special features. While much social science and humanities research today is plagued by a sense of epistemological crisis, anthropology has the potential to make robust and consequential claims by respecting and building on a disciplinary tradition whose ethos is firmly grounded in empirical description and practical engagement. The best anthropology often draws simultaneously on current interdisciplinary trends and its own, genuinely globe-embracing, tradition. This does make demands of the

reader, and it means that anthropology may remain relatively marginal as measured by such novelties as scientometric indices. And yet, in its experience-near description and philosophical rigour, good anthropology is likely to remain as intellectually compelling as it is politically important.

I look forward to hearing from you at eeva.berglund@helsinki.fi
Eeva

3. Call for new Editors of Social Anthropology

With the beginning of 2014, EASA is looking for new editors for its journal, *Social Anthropology*, as the period of the current editors will come to an end.

Hearings will be held during the [EASA Conference in Tallinn](#).

Applications with CV should be sent to the Secretary alberto.corsin-jimenez@cchs.csic.es by April 1, 2014.

4. Call for application for EASA Biennial Conferences

The [EASA Executive Committee](#) welcomes and encourages institutions wishing to host the next EASA Conferences (2016, 2018) to submit their interest as early as possible and before 1 April 2014.

For organisational matters – please consult the detailed information on the [EASA website](#) and/or contact eesa-admin:eesa@nomadit.co.uk

Hearings will be held during the [EASA Conference in Tallinn](#) for EASA2016.

Application procedure

- a) The host institution has to be a Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, connected to a University;
- (b) The person submitting the application must be a member of EASA;
- (c) The application consists of:
 - Letter of approval of the President | Rector of the University acknowledging institutional support;
 - Letter of approval of the Head of Department acknowledging support of the unit;
 - Short description of the premises: size of the largest hall (for Opening Ceremony, Keynote,

Plenary Sessions, Round Tables, Members' Forum and Closing Ceremony), number of lecture and seminar rooms for workshops and various meetings; accommodation facilities;

– Charges the institution will levy on the use of the venue;

– Best time(s) for the conference given the local situation (between early July and mid-September);

(d) Applications can be submitted any time – please provide information for which year you are applying: the earlier the better, preferably three years ahead of the next Biennial Conference

(e) Applications should be sent to the Secretary of the Association, alberto.corsin-jimenez@cchs.csic.es

(f) The Executive Committee, however, is free to approach a candidate of its choice

(g) The Executive Committee decides after hearings with possible candidates.

5. News from the Networks

Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia (Russia, the Caucasus, Central Asia, China) (AMCE)

Chair: Pedram Khosronejad

We are happy to announce that the first issue of *The Journal of the Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia* (ACME), a journal that emerges from the work of our EASA network, has been launched during the *17th World Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences* which was held at the University of Manchester during August 2013.

The Second issue of our journal will be available by May 2014 during the *Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology (JASCA) 50th Anniversary Conference & IUAES Inter-Congress* which will be held at Tokyo, Japan.

Also during the academic year of 2014-2015 we will organise several panels and workshops in different venues on behalf of our network, including:

A. Two panels during the Fourth World Congress for Middle East Studies (WOCMES), 18th-22nd August 2014 in Ankara (Turkey).

URL: www.wocmes2014.org

- Tombs, Mausoleums, Shrines and Memorials of Religious/Political Leaders Middle East.

- Popular Religious Rituals and Folkloric Beliefs among Pastoral Nomads of the Middle East and Central Eurasia.

B. Two panel proposals for [EASA 2014](#):

- Digital pilgrimage: religious innovation, faith revolution an Interactive research laboratory on Shiite Cyberziyarat (cyber pilgrimage)
- The Future of the Anthropology and Anthropologists of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia

C. One panel during [Anthropology and Photography](#) conference by the RAI at the British Museum, London, UK; 29th - 31st May 2014

- Ethno-photography of/in Iran: Past, present, and Future

D. Also during academic year of 2014-2015 we will organise the first anthropological film festival of our network and we are waiting to confirm our venue.

Medical Anthropology Young Scholars Network (MAYS)

4th Annual Meeting *Impediments and Catalysts*
June 10-11, 2013, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona.

In 2013, another two-day MAYS meeting took place at the [University of Tarragona](#) right before the joint Medical Anthropology conference organized by [SMA/EASA Mednet/University Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona](#). The meeting was attended by approximately 100 students, PhD candidates, and postdoctoral researchers in Medical Anthropology from across the globe.

The 30 papers that were presented during the two days were grouped in 6 panels

1. Immersing in field work as a relational process
2. Meeting ethico-political responsibilities
3. Including embodied knowledge,
4. (Re)Shaping and enriching the methodology,
5. Navigating ideological divides,
6. Challenging political/structural/institutional frameworks.

For several of the speakers, this meeting constituted the first opportunity to present their work to their peers in a constructive atmosphere. This was highly appreciated by many of the speakers, and MAYS will continue to function as a platform for young scholars in this manner.

The MAYS 2014 meeting is currently being planned. It will be hosted by the [Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin](#), and will take place on July 4-5, 2014. This meeting will be a bit smaller in scale in order to allow participants to exchange thoughts on each others' work in a more intense manner. The meeting will also entail workshops on topics such as 'Anthropology and Policy' and 'Writing a research proposal in Medical Anthropology'. The MAYS coordinators thus hope that the MAYS network will continue being useful and inspiring to young scholars in Medical Anthropology. They also express their gratitude for the generous funding EASA provided for this year's meeting.

EASA Network Anthropology of Law and Rights

Heike Drotbohm

heike.drotbohm@ethno.uni-freiburg.de

The network "anthropology of law and rights" contributed to an interdisciplinary and international workshop on [Migration within and To the Global South: Alternative Histories, Labour Policies, and Citizenship Regimes](#), carried out at University of Cologne (5-7 Dec.). It was opened by a keynote by Prof Bela Feldman-Bianco, former president of the [Associação Brasileira de Antropologia - ABA](#). In this workshop the meanings of migrant sociability, networks, migration and citizenship regimes as well as alternative epistemologies and collaborative methodologies were discussed in order to critically discuss the 'Global South' notion.

Anthropology and Mobility Network (ANTHROMOB)

Fielding Challenges, Challenging the Field: The methodologies of mobility

27-28 Sept, 2013, University of Oxford

URL: www.compas.ox.ac.uk/mobmeth

This past September, the [EASA Anthropology and Mobility Network \(ANTHROMOB\)](#) held the international, cross-disciplinary workshop, [Fielding Challenges, Challenging the Field: The methodologies of mobility](#). In response to the methodological challenges that had been expressed

by many of colleagues, the network's co-convenors Jamie Coates and Roger Norum developed a workshop focusing on how mobility informs and challenges contemporary ethnographic research and writing. The event was hosted by the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford, with EASA funding set aside to cover accommodation and travel costs for EASA members. Cultural Mobilities Research (CuMoRe) in Leuven also provided support with Alice Elliot and Noel Salazar joining the workshop coordination team. Even Berghahn Books showed up, providing some funding and support for (and many books at) the event.

In total, the event saw the participation of 85 delegates from all around the world including leading universities in Europe, the USA, Australia and China, with 32 paper presentations and keynote speeches by [Noel Salazar](#) and Hans Lucht. The research interests of attendees also spanned mobility within and between all the continents of the globe (yes, even Antarctica), showing a wide range of interdisciplinary approaches to the question of mobility. Considering the range of nationalities, research topics and disciplines present at the workshop, it was perhaps, as one participant commented, the "most mobile conference on mobility" held in the region to date.

In addition to fostering widespread interest in [EASA's biennial conference in Tallinn](#), with several possible network-linked panels proposed, the workshop also generated discussion surrounding several joint publications. The network and workshop co-convenors are currently putting in a proposal for a compiled volume/journal special issue of papers from the event.

The ANTHROMOB convenors are extremely grateful for the very generous funding which EASA awarded to the workshop, which allowed for the participation of many students and other early-career scholars who would otherwise not have been able to attend. We hope that the network will continue to inspire cross-disciplinary collaboration and innovative engagement among scholars working on mobility. Suggestions are currently being accepted for possible topics for the next ANTHROMOB workshop/conference, to be held in 2015.

Network for the Anthropology of International Governance

The Workshops of the EASA Network for the Anthropology of International Governance have led to a first publication edited by [Birgit Müller](#):

2013 [The Gloss of Harmony. The Politics of Policy-Making in Multilateral Organisations](#), London: Pluto Press ISBN: 9780745333748, Paperback.

The Gloss of Harmony focuses on agencies of the United Nations, examining the paradox of entrusting relatively powerless and underfunded organisations with the responsibility of tackling some of the essential problems of our time. The book shows how international organisations shape the world in often unexpected and unpredictable ways.

The authors of this collection look not only at the official objectives and unintended consequences of international governance but also at how international organisations involve collective and individual actors in policy making, absorb critique, attempt to neutralise political conflict and create new political fields with local actors and national governments.

The Gloss of Harmony identifies the micro-social processes and complexities within multilateral organisations which have, up to now, been largely invisible. This book will have wide appeal not only to students and academics in anthropology, business studies and sociology but also to all practitioners concerned with international governance.

Applied Anthropology Network

[Why the world needs anthropologists](#). New fields for applied anthropology in Europe. An international symposium with over 180 participants was held in [Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam](#), on 29 November 2013 and explored possibilities for the applications of anthropological skills and knowledge outside of academia. It sought to show that anthropology can be useful in various institutions, and to explain why anthropologists in Europe should not only describe the past and comment the present, but also shape the future.

The event was organised by [VU University Amsterdam](#), [University of Ljubljana](#), [Applied Anthropology Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists \(EASA\)](#), [Dutch Anthropological Society](#), [Tropenmuseum](#) and [Institute for Innovation and Development of](#)

the University of Ljubljana, and sponsored by the [Vamos Bien! foundation](#), [Slovenian Research Agency](#) and a Slovenia-based company [Metronik](#). It was opened by Dutch anthropologist Ellen Bal, an associate professor at the VU University Amsterdam, and featured three experienced speakers who presented best practices of product development, service improvement and organisational change by employing anthropological skills and knowledge.

The first keynote speaker at the event was Anna Kirah, Making Waves (Norway), who has a background as a design anthropologist and psychologist. She is internationally recognised as a pioneer using human-centred innovation in the design of services and products at leading companies, including Microsoft and Boeing. Her speech was followed by Jitske Kramer, HumanDimensions. Jitske is a highly sought-after Dutch facilitator, coach and presenter in the area of diversity, inclusion, cross-cultural issues and change in the commercial sector. The final speaker at the event was Simon Roberts, Stripe Partners, who is a business anthropologist from the UK with over 15 years of experience in technology research, innovation and strategy development. He has pioneered the use of ethnography in commercial settings, running his own consultancy and working in R&D at Intel.

The symposium also featured a panel discussion, which hosted by anthropologist Dan Podjed, an assistant professor at the University of Ljubljana and the coordinator of the EASA Applied Anthropology Network. One of his guests, who critically reflected on engagement of anthropologists in profit and non-profit sector, was Rajko Muršič, a full professor at the University of Ljubljana, who is critical of capitalism, but strongly supports practical applications of anthropological knowledge. Another panellist was Marina de Regt, an assistant professor at the VU University Amsterdam. Marina cooperated in several development projects which made her critical of the 'development industry.' Among the discussants was Wayne Modest, the head of the curatorial department at the Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, and Dutch anthropologist Nadia Moussaid who talked about the uses of anthropological skills at her work as a reporter and editor at the AT5 TV station in Amsterdam. An opinion on inclusion of anthropologists in interdisciplinary teams was presented by Gregor Cerinšek, researcher and project manager at the Institute for Innovation and

Development of the University of Ljubljana, who is an expert on creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation and competence development.

6. 2014 Subscriptions

Direct debits

Those of you who have a direct debit agreement set up will be debited and then receipted for your 2014 subs on or around 1 February, as per your existing instructions. If your subs rate or bank information has changed you will receive a separate email from us confirming the new details.

If you have a UK bank account and do not have a direct debit with us but would like to set one up, you can access the form [here](#).

Futurepay agreements

Those of you who have previously set up a Futurepay agreement will also be debited automatically on the 1st of February, unless you have recently received an email to say that your agreement has expired. If your agreement has expired, we will send out an invoice in the coming weeks for you to set up a new agreement or pay by one of the other alternative methods.

If by any chance you wish to cancel your Futurepay agreement, cancel your membership or have any other queries please email: membership@easaonline.org

All other members will be invoiced over the coming week, but if you wish to pay now before the new term starts and your inboxes fill to overflowing once more, you can log in to [Cocoa](#) and settle what is owing for 2014. We thank you in advance for your prompt payment now, or on receipt of your invoice.

8. Other WCAA association news

IUAES2013 Congress

You may now access videos of three plenary addresses from the [IUAES2013 Congress](#), three plenary debates and a plenary roundtable from the 17th World Congress held in Manchester in August 2013. [The video archive is here](#), and the final report of the Manchester World Congress is available from the [IUAES homepage](#).

Ethnologia Europaea 43:2

Journal of European Ethnology and SIEF's European scientific platform.

Special Issue out now: *Foodways Redux*

Edited by Marie Sandberg and Regina Bendix

URL: [www.mtp.hum.ku.dk/details.](http://www.mtp.hum.ku.dk/details.asp?eln=300335&lang=en)

[asp?eln=300335&lang=en](http://www.mtp.hum.ku.dk/details.asp?eln=300335&lang=en)

8. Your address for Social Anthropology

The first volume of the 2014 issue will be mailed out shortly. If you have recently changed your address please ensure you have updated the data we hold in [Cocoa](#), now!

9. EASA Young Scholars Forum

In connection to this year's EASA Biennial Conference theme, the Young Scholars Forum looks forward to capturing collaboration, intimacy and revolution both in form and content. Read more about this exciting new format. URL: www.nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2014/panels.php5?PanelID=3210.

10. EASA on Facebook and Twitter

We are delighted to see the number of our Facebook and Twitter friends and followers grow. These have now become the main channels through which we regularly post news on EASA's activities and Networks, as well as general anthropological reportage and information, including occasional job postings or conference announcements that reach us. Follow us at: twitter.com/EASAINFO and www.facebook.com/EASAINFO

11. Gerd Baumann 13/11/1953 - 15/01/2014

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of anthropologist Gerd Baumann on 15 January 2014. Baumann was a member of EASA's Executive Committee from 1997 to 2000, holding its Chair in the years 1999-2000. We wish to express our sincere condolences to his family.