



## EASA Newsletter 62

July 2014



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### 1. Letter from the president

Dear EASA member

We are getting ready for our [conference in Tallinn, Estonia](#). EASA's biennial meetings are undoubtedly the beating heart of our association. They provide not only an opportunity to hear the latest in (European) anthropology, but also allow you to network with colleagues and to make new friends from across Europe (and beyond). The scientific committee and the local team at our host institution, Tallinn University, have worked very hard. The result is a truly exciting academic programme. The theme of this year's conference is: [Collaboration, Intimacy & Revolution – Innovation and Continuity in an Interconnected World](#). The keynote speech, 3 plenaries, 8 invited panels, 114 panels, 13 laboratories, 17 films and a handful of network meetings and social events offer you plenty of opportunity to explore the multiple ways in which the key concepts of collaboration, intimacy and revolution are connected to one another. Through an [online interview series on Allegra](#) and presence in the Estonian press, we are ensuring that our conference will receive enough attention both inside and outside the anthropological community.

At Tallinn, we will also choose a new editor for our journal, [Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale](#), and the venue for EASA2016. We are thrilled this year to introduce 'laboratories', a

new presentation format constituted through experimentation, collaboration, interaction and improvisation. This edition of our biennial meeting will be special because we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of EASA's inaugural meeting in 1989. That our association is coming of age is also marked, unfortunately, by the passing of some of our more senior members. I want to mention here in particular [Gerd Baumann](#) (EASA executive committee member, 1997-1998, and Chair, 1999-2000) and William Kavanagh (co-founder and co-convenor of the [EASA Mediterraneanist Network](#) since its founding in 2004). May their engagement and dedication inspire us in our own work.

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, the executive committee is in the process of checking our governing document (the 'Constitution') for legal consistency. This has been prompted by the fact that the current versions showed some inconsistencies and elements that cannot be approved by the Charity Commission (EASA is officially registered as a charity in the UK). Thanks to the generous help of a solicitor specialized in charities, we now have a version that is legally solid and in line with the changed means of communication and the changed reality of the association. This will be one of the points on the agenda of the Members Forum in Tallinn.

Last May, I represented EASA in Berlin at the general assembly of EASH, the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities. Together with the presidents of the European Sociological Association, the European Confederation of Political Science Associations, the European Educational Research Association and the European Consortium of Humanities Institutes and Centres, I wrote a letter to the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science to [protest against the way the core research of the social sciences and humanities are being treated in Horizon 2020](#). The letter addresses the mainstreaming of SSH research and includes further suggestions on making the 6th challenge of Horizon 2020 on 'inclusive, innovative and reflective societies' a part of the new framework programme with a particularly strong SSH research dimension. The letter has since been endorsed by presidents of 28 other European learned societies.

EASA also joined an international initiative of learned societies to [protest against Nazi War Diggers](#), a planned National Geographic Channel International show about the excavation of World War II sites that showed a complete disregard for proper and respectful treatment of human remains. Because of this joint action, the [show was cancelled](#). To end, EASA was very well represented at the [50th anniversary conference](#) of the Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology, where we also participated in the meeting of the [World Council of Anthropological Associations](#) (WCAA). We hope to be welcoming colleagues from other continents at our conference too.

Looking forward to seeing you in Tallinn,

Noel B. Salazar,  
Your President

## 2. Letter from the EASA Book Series Editor

The EASA series published by Berghahn Books consists of monographs and edited volumes by members of the Association. Our books can be concerned with any part of the world and deal with any worthwhile issue of anthropological concern.

Whether you are just beginning to think about publishing your work, or have already started to compile a book proposal, I would be happy to hear from you. There is information about about the series and how to prepare a book proposal at [www.easaonline.org/bookseri.shtml](http://www.easaonline.org/bookseri.shtml) but I'm happy to answer queries, at any stage of the process, via email, [eeva.berglund@helsinki.fi](mailto:eeva.berglund@helsinki.fi).

I will also be taking part in EASA's Biennial Conference in Tallinn in the summer. I will be participating in panels and contributing to the Saturday lunchtime 'meet the editors' session, so do please come and talk to me there too.

To support me in producing a series that really serves the discipline and the Association, and quite specifically for finding the best possible people to review both proposals and manuscripts, I have gathered together a small group of Association members to act as an editorial board. I really look forward to working with them and thank them for taking up the invitation.

Knut Nustad, Oslo  
Sian Lazar, Cambridge  
Susana Narotzky, Barcelona  
Michal Buchowski, Poznan  
Manos Spyridakis, Peloponnese  
Birgit Muller, LAIOS, Paris

A list of acknowledgements of the many other people whose work has helped produced the series so far will be published later, the series is fundamentally indebted to them.

Eeva Berglund  
Book series editor

### Recently published

Florian Mühlfried *Being a State and States of Being in Highland Georgia* May 2014 - see next item

### Forthcoming

Kathryn Rountree (ed.) *Contemporary Pagan and Native Faith Movements in Europe*  
Jens Kjaerulff (ed.) *Flexible Capitalism: Exchange and Ambiguity at Work*

## 3. Being a State and States of being in Highland Georgia

Florian Mühlfried

"It is an important contribution to the anthropology of the state, the Caucasus and it especially helps to conceptualise a group of people without falling in the trap of ethnic 'groupism', so present in many writings on the Caucasus."

Stephane Voell, Philipps University Marburg

The highland region of the republic of Georgia, has long been legendary for its beauty. It is often assumed that the state has only made partial inroads into this region, and is mostly perceived as alien. Taking a fresh look at the Georgian highlands allows the author to consider perennial questions of citizenship, belonging, and mobility in a context that has otherwise been known only for its folkloric dimensions. The author argues that citizenship is both a sought-after means of entitlement and a way of guarding against the state.

This book not only challenges theories in the study of citizenship but also the axioms of integration in Western social sciences in general.

[www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=MuehlfriedBeing](http://www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=MuehlfriedBeing)

#### 4. Early-Career Anthropologists Initiative

The EASA Executive Committee invites all members to take part in a new initiative whose goal is to seek ways of strengthening EASA's role in helping early-career anthropologists navigate both the available and the yet-to-be-created (or discovered) opportunities for anthropologists in Europe today. We are launching this project with a discussion panel in Tallinn designed as a forum for exchange on career prospects and concerns of early-career anthropologists from an international perspective specific to European anthropology. The panel and discussion forum, [Anthropology as a Vocation and Occupation](#), will take place on August 3, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. On behalf of the EASA Executive Committee the conveners warmly welcome all members to attend this meeting and/or to write to us with comments and suggestions.

For questions about the panel and the initiative, please contact: Hana Cervinkova ([hana@post.pl](mailto:hana@post.pl)) or Karolina Follis ([k.follis@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:k.follis@lancaster.ac.uk))

#### 5. EASA2014

[EASA2014](#), the 13th Biennial Conference titled "Collaboration, Intimacy & Revolution – innovation and continuity in an interconnected world" will be commencing in 20 days in Tallinn, Estonia (31st July - 3rd August, 2014). EASA with the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn University are looking very much forward to welcoming you in Tallinn. Please browse the information about all the upcoming academic and other events taking place during the conference in Tallinn, including the keynote lecture by Elizabeth Povinelli, the Welcome reception, the Laboratories, Plenaries, film programme, and excursions in Estonia and Tallinn (the latter need to be pre-booked). We strongly recommend buying a banquet ticket for the final conference dinner before they run out!

#### 6. EASA governing document

Dear EASA members

As we mentioned in the last newsletter we were advised to seek legal advice regarding our Constitution. As you may know, as a 'limited company' registered in the UK, we have to comply with both Company and Charity Law and both have changed since the document was written. Our constitution has served us well, but with tweaks over the years and a confusing amalgamation of the memorandum of agreement and the articles it is no longer clear or coherent.

A solicitor specialising in charity law has reworked the document as we instructed to comply with both current Charity and Company law and to bring it up to date and inline with our current practice.

Summary of changes:

1. The memorandum has been incorporated into the Articles (with no substantive changes)
2. The interpretation section has been moved up front and includes additional definitions
3. Anomalies in the ability of Members to attend speak, vote and hold office are removed by distinguishing voting Members from Members in general throughout the draft Articles (no changes have been made to the classes of members or criteria - however we would urge the next executive committee to look at the status of Associate Members now that the regulations have been clarified in the document)
4. Use of electronic communication and e-voting is permitted (what we do already, for example when electing a new executive committee)
5. The number and manner in which Trustees are appointed has been clarified (again in line with current practice and with no changes to number or manner of appointment)
6. The manner in which general meetings are held has been clarified and brought into line with what is required of us (e.g. specifying quorum for trustee meetings, means of notifying members, and the fact that the Member's Forum is also an AGM)

The changes summarised above (1-6) address ambiguities and contradictions in the current document, and add things that need to be in there

(according to current legislation). They do not represent any substantive change to the way in which EASA currently operates.

Objects:

As you may also know, the Objects of EASA were changed by special resolution at the Member's forum in Maynooth, in 2010. The changes agreed were as follows:

From:

The Objects of the Association ("the Objects") are to advance the education of the public in social anthropology in particular but not exclusively by:

(a) promoting undertaking and supporting research and publishing the useful results thereof

(b) organising conferences symposia workshops and other like events and

(c) supporting and funding networks of scholars (known as scholarly networks) who are advancing the education of the public in social anthropology

Anthropology is the study of the origins of human beings and their cultures worldwide. Social anthropology is that branch of anthropology that deals with human culture and society

To:

The Objects of the Association are to improve understanding of world societies by promoting professional communication and cooperation between European social anthropologists

Unfortunately, the Charity Commission (CC) were not sent a notification of the changes to the Objects at the time. When we sent the revised document to them in 2014, noting the changes that had been approved by the membership in 2010, the CC informed us that these Objects do not fulfil the aims of a charity and cannot be approved. We have therefore proposed the following, and are waiting to hear from them.

The objects of the Association are to improve understanding of world societies by promoting education and research in social anthropology, and encouraging professional communication and cooperation between anthropologists, especially those working in and on Europe

Note

We have made available the following on the website:

[1. revised document with new objects \(PDF\)](#)

[2. revised document with old objects \(PDF\)](#)

[3. the version with track changes \(Word\)](#)

You will also find our current constitution on the website for comparison. We aim to put forward two resolutions at the AGM in Tallinn: the first for approval of the amendments to the document (summarised above in 1-6) and the second for the change to the Objects (assuming the CC agree to it). We are obliged to give formal notice of these and of the AGM, and to inform you that you can send a proxy to vote (please excuse the legalese in these notices). The notices can be found here:

The appendix to the notices also contains links to the relevant documents. We hope that this is clear and welcome any comments or questions you may have in advance.

EASA executive committee  
July 2014

## **7. Notice to all Members of the Association of an annual general meeting of the members of the Association**

To be held on Saturday, 2nd August 2014 at 14:00 at Tallinn University.

European Association of Social Anthropologists ("the Association")  
Company Number: 05181210; Charity Number: 210807

An agenda detailing the business to be transacted and resolutions to be proposed at this annual general meeting is attached to this Notice.

Members' rights to appoint proxies

Each voting member of the Association has a right pursuant to the Companies Act 2006 to appoint another person ("Proxy") to attend, speak and vote at the annual general meeting on Saturday, 2nd August 2014 on his or her behalf. Any person wishing to appoint another person as his or her Proxy must deliver the Proxy Notice to the Association's registered office (for the attention of The Secretary) not less than 48 hours before the

annual general meeting on Saturday, 2nd August 2014 (in our case this would normally be done by email).

## Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

2. Minutes of previous AGM held on Friday, 5th October 2013

To approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

3. Annual Report and Accounts

To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 31st December 2013.

4. Appointment of Auditors

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

5. Other Executive reports

President, Secretary, Journal editors, Book series editor, Network editor

6. Governing document

The Association members will be asked to consider and pass the special resolutions set out in the Appendix attached to this Agenda.

7. Executive and Journal information

End of term offices, New appointments, Elections 2015 (dates)

8. EASA 2016

9. Any other business/ requests by members

Appendix to Agenda: Special Resolutions

The Executive committee has been working on bringing the EASA 'constitution' into a form that better fits current company and charity law, and current practice within EASA. Consequently the Executive proposes the following amendments to its governing document.

Resolution 1.

That the Association adopt as its Articles of Association the draft Articles set out in the document annexed hereto in substitution for its present Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Resolution 2.

That the Association adopts as its Objects of the Association:

The objects of the Association are to improve understanding of world societies by promoting education and research in social anthropology, and encouraging professional communication and cooperation between anthropologists, especially those working in and on Europe.

Summary of changes

1. Clauses 1 to 8 of the Association's Memorandum of Association which, by virtue of section 28 of the Companies Act 2006, are to be treated as provisions of the Articles, are now within the Articles and the said clauses 1 to 8 and the existing Articles are numbered according to the order in which they appear in the draft Articles

2. Clause 9 (Interpretation) of the Association's Memorandum of Association (now treated as a provision of the Articles for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006) is deleted and the current Article 23 ( Interpretation ) is amended to include additional definitions and numbered Article 3

3. Anomalies in the ability of Members to attend speak and vote and hold office are removed by distinguishing voting Members from Members in general throughout the draft Articles

4. Use of electronic communication for notices meetings and voting is permitted

5. The number and manner in which Trustee appointments are made is clarified

6. The manner in which general meetings are held has been clarified

We have made available the following on the website:

[1. revised document with new objects \(PDF\)](#)

[2. revised document with old objects \(PDF\)](#)

[3. the version with track changes \(Word\)](#)