



European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux

Newsletter 64 April 2015

EASA Newsletter No 64 April 2015

1. Letter from the President
2. Letter from the Book Series Editor
3. Results from Elections to New Executive Committee
4. Voting on the Objects of the Association and Joint Membership Category
5. EASA AGM and Seminar
6. Anthropology in Schools
7. EASA Biennial Conference 2016
8. News from the networks
9. Featured titles from EASA's publisher, Berghahn books

1. Letter from the president

Dear EASA members,

Following the election of a new Executive Committee, a handover meeting between the old and new Executives was organised in Milan on 9-10 March. We also met with the local organising committee of EASA2016, were showed around the spacious Bicocca campus, and started to make plans for next year's conference. We thank the previous Executive Committee, represented in Milan by outgoing President Noel B. Salazar and outgoing Vice-President Jeanette Edwards, for having left us an organisation in excellent shape.

There is considerable continuity in the new Executive Committee. Hana Cervinkova serves her second term, now as Vice-President, and the Secretary, Alberto Corsin Jimenez, and the Treasurer, Rachael Goberman-Hill, have agreed to continue on the Exec. The new members are Valeria Siniscalchi (Marseille), Paolo Favero (Antwerp), Niko Besnier (Amsterdam) and Thomas Hylland Eriksen (Oslo, President). In keeping with EASA traditions, the journal editor is a co-opted member of the Exec., and currently, Patrick Laviolette (Tallinn) represents Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale in the Committee, the other editor being Sarah Green (Helsinki).

Our main priority in the coming two years consists in making contributions to strengthening the position of anthropology at all levels in Europe. Many departments have experienced a decline in student numbers, and the public visibility of anthropology – inside and outside academia – currently leaves a lot to be desired. The recent decision in the UK to cancel anthropology as an A Level subject (see separate item in this Newsletter) has led to strong reactions throughout the anthropological community, and indicates both the existence of a problem and a widespread desire to address it. We hope to be able to make a perceptible difference in the coming two years, hoping that we can draw on both the EASA networks and individual members in this endeavour.

The Executive Committee has identified a range of subject areas of central importance to the Association, and to the position of anthropology. These are some of the issues we will be working on:

Early Career Anthropologists (Hana Cervinkova and Paolo Favero). This initiative, a continuation of Hana Cervinkova's work in the previous period (supported by Karolina Follis), is mainly focused on strengthening EASA's role in supporting anthropologists who are starting their professional careers.

Network Liaison (Valeria Siniscalchi). EASA has 28 networks, nearly all of them very active, and we are looking for ways to involve them more in enhancing the position of anthropology.

Capacity Building (Niko Besnier). Research funding is extremely competitive, both at the national and the European levels, and there is a real need to improve our ability to write successful applications and research proposals.

Digital Agenda (Paolo Favero). The fact of communication becoming increasingly digital raises new (and recurrent) challenges regarding communication amongst ourselves in the professional community, and communication with the outside world. The digital agenda we hope to develop will range from social media to various electronic resources that may be offered to members.

Open Access and Creative Commons (Alberto Corsín Jiménez). Alberto has led the constitution of an Open Access coalition that includes a considerable number of associations, including HAU and the Wenner-Gren Foundation, with a view to create and promote open access publications. This work continues.

Lobbying (Thomas Hylland Eriksen). EASA is a member of [ISE](#) (Initiative for Science in Europe) and EASHH (European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities), two organisations operating at the European level, where anthropology needs to be present. Other lobbying initiatives are also important, not least at the national level. Suggestions are welcome.

As our work proceeds, we will report to the members about plans, activities and outcomes.

Building on an older database, we have begun updating and expanding a list of institutions that teach anthropology across Europe, and will eventually contact national associations for assistance. It should also be mentioned that the work with the physical EASA Archive, stored at the RAI, continues, largely thanks to a generous grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Prague on 14 October. In addition to the actual members' meeting, we will have keynote lectures and a workshop. The theme is the situation of anthropology in Europe in the 21st century; how we are doing, what we have to offer to the world, and how we can improve and learn from experiences in other countries (see also separate item in this Newsletter).

Do not hesitate to contact us with queries or suggestions – we are at your service. And, last but not least, I hope to see as many as possible of you in Prague in October.

Yours sincerely,
Thomas Hylland Eriksen

2. Letter from the EASA Book Series Editor

The EASA book series is published by Berghahn Books, and has produced about two dozen titles since 2003. Prior to that, Routledge published

another two dozen or so volumes starting in 1992. The full list of titles is on the EASA website, www.easaonline.org/bookseri.shtml. The series includes both edited collections and monographs. If you are thinking about producing a book, or want to know more about the series, please take a look at the website or email me:

[eeva.berglund\(AT\)helsinki.fi](mailto:eeva.berglund(AT)helsinki.fi)

[Berghahn Books](#) is a very well regarded publisher in anthropology and many other fields of interest to EASA members. Although Berghahn is the publisher, the series is run by an editor appointed by the EASA Executive. The editor's job includes liaising with prospective authors and editors, helping proposers improve a proposal or manuscript where possible, and arranging for their evaluation by expert reviewers. The editor also makes decisions about which proposals and manuscripts to accept for publication and submits these suggestions to Berghahn for approval.

Whether you are just beginning to think about publishing your work, or have already started to compile a book proposal or manuscript, I would be happy to hear from you. I often exchange ideas and suggestions with prospective EASA authors over email, or talk to them at events. I can make suggestions for strengthening a proposal before moving on to the next stage, that is, sending the proposal to specialist reviewers for expert comment.

It's unusual for people to send me a full manuscript in the first instance, it is more typical to start with a proposal. There is no fixed template for this, but the material you send in should show what the book will be about, persuade me that the topic is interesting and the argument coherent and convincing. Often the proposal reads like a short draft of the work's Introduction, making those points in a concise way. In addition, the proposal should include an abstract (not much more than 300 words) of each chapter (for monographs) or each contribution (for edited volumes). At some point, a form from Berghahn called the New Book Outline will also need to be filled in. Doing this is helpful to a proposer, as the form asks specific questions about the book, such as what other similar books are in production or recently published, and who is the intended readership.

The process of producing a book is a collective effort, and it has many stages. Only a few proposals are good enough to be offered a contract by Berghahn. Proposers may be invited to revise proposals in light of comments from specialists and from me, or they can be encouraged to get to work on a manuscript based on the comments received. Revisions to proposals or to completed manuscripts can be substantial or they can be minor, but clear requirements will be agreed between a proposer and me as the series editor.

In the last instance the decision to publish lies with Berghahn, but so far they have agreed with the series editor's suggestions. Getting a book published is not always straightforward, but the basics are fairly simple: a person proposes a project, we work to make it as strong as we can, we see what specialist readers have to say. I look forward to hearing from you.

Eeva Berglund
Book Series Editor, EASA

3. Results from Elections to New Executive Committee

The online election by members took place between 7th and 18th January 2015. 387 ballots were received from a constituency of 1205 voting members - a turnout of 32%.

The results were as follows:

Thomas Hylland Eriksen: 208

Paolo Favero: 150

Valeria Siniscalchi: 145

Hana Cervinkova: 145

Niko Besnier: 140

Susana de Matos Viegas: 137

Carlo Cubero: 124

Georgeta Stoica: 110

Cate Degnen: 89

Dan Podjed: 74

Marianna Betti: 69

Edward Simpson: 64

Àngels Trias i Valls: 55

Read more: www.easaonline.org/about/election_results.shtml

4. Voting on the Objects of the Association and Joint Membership Category

At the meeting of the Members' Forum in Tallinn, the Executive Committee asked members to consider and vote on two special resolutions.

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 promote education and research in social anthropology by improving understanding of world societies and encouraging professional communication and cooperation between anthropologists, especially those working in and on Europe.

Whilst Resolution 1 was carried unanimously, the proposal to vote on the new Objects opened up the floor to a lively discussion over the nature of the association.

Attending to the various issues raised at the meeting as recorded in its minutes, and following a proposal from the floor, the Executive Committee proposed the following amendment:

The objects of EASA are to promote education and research in social anthropology by improving understanding of world societies and encouraging professional communication and cooperation between anthropologists, especially in Europe.

The new wording was submitted to the Charity Commission for approval, which has now been confirmed. We hereby make the announcement of an electronic vote on the new Objects, which we plan to conduct in the early summer of 2015.

The EASA Executive will also be seeking members' views about removal or continuation of the joint membership category.

EASA currently offers a category of joint membership. This applies to two people living at the same address. The annual membership fee for a pair of joint members is slightly lower than the sum of two individual annual membership fees. A previous justification for the fee was that joint members received only one paper-copy of the journal between them. However, EASA now offers online-only journal access as an option for all members.

5. EASA AGM and Seminar

The 2015 EASA AGM will take place in Prague on October 14, 2015 and will be accompanied by a one-day seminar entitled, Making Anthropology Matter. We invite EASA members to attend the AGM and the seminar where we will discuss the role that anthropology as an academic discipline and intellectual endeavour plays and could play in Europe today. The seminar is tied to the current Executive Committee's priority of strengthening the position of anthropology at different levels across Europe drawing on the knowledge and resources of the EASA members. For inquiries about the AGM and the seminar and on how to make a contribution, please contact Hana Cervinkova (hana(at)post.pl). We hope to see you in Prague in October!6. EASA governing document

6. Anthropology in Schools

It was recently announced that the AQA Exam Board in the UK had decided to cancel anthropology as an optional subject in British schools, owing to low student numbers. However, anthropology had existed as an 'A' level subject only since 2010, and the decision led to strong reactions among anthropologists worldwide, as well as an electronic petition at change.org.

The Executive Director of the AAA, Ed Liebow, wrote a blog about the 'A' level anthropology affair in Huffington Post, and the IUAES

(International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) and the WCAA (World Council of Anthropological Associations) criticised the decision in the Guardian and the Observer. Noel Salazar wrote a letter to the AQA on behalf of EASA, signed by both incoming and outgoing Executive Committees.

As a side-effect of the depressing news from Britain, a vivid discussion about anthropology in schools in different countries has emerged. There are in fact many countries around the world where anthropology is being taught to secondary/high school students. Seeing the potential importance of anthropology as a school subject, the EASA will now proceed to collect data and produce an overview of the role of anthropology as a school subject in European countries.

Links

EASA letter to the AQA: www.easaonline.org/downloads/easa%20letter%20to%20AQA.pdf

WCAA/IUAES: www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA-IUAES%20letter%20to%20The%20Guardian%20and%20The%20Observer.pdf

Ed Liebow: www.huffingtonpost.com/american-anthropological-association/anthropology-in-schools-is-there-a-future_b_6834214.htm

Change.org: www.change.org/p/save-anthropology-a-level

7. EASA Biennial Conference 2016

We remind you that the next EASA biennial conference will be organised by and hosted at the Department of Human Science for Education "Riccardo Massa" and Department of Sociology and Social Research at The University of Milano-Bicocca.

The conference will take place from 20-23 July, 2016. The Call for panels will open in the autumn. We look forward to seeing you there!

8. News from the networks

[Applied Anthropology Network](#)

Report from recent event: [EXPULSION OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL DEMONS FROM THE IVORY TOWER](#). December 2014, Padua, Italy
The second international applied anthropology symposium . Authors: Meta Gorup & Dan Podjed

[Disaster and Crisis Anthropology Network \(DICAN\)](#)

Report from recent event: [Archiving and Memorializing Disasters](#), International Workshop March 2015, Tohoku University, Japan
Author: Sébastien Penmellen Boret

[Anthropology of Confinement Network](#)

The network is now on twitter: twitter.com/conf_net and has a twitter feed on their home page.

[Anthropology and Social Movements Network](#)

Upcoming Event: Theorizing Social Movements and Shifting Globalizations. 13-14-15 May 2015 at Northwestern University, Chicago.

[Anthropology and Mobility network \(ANTHROMOB\)](#)

Upcoming Event: [Grounding \(im\)mobility: Embodiment, ephemera, ecologies](#) Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal Thursday 10 – Friday 11 September, 2015

[Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia \(AMCE\)](#)

[The Journal of the Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia](#). Special Issue (Winter 2014/15) - Ritual and Local Traditions of Funerary Practice in Islam

Report from recent event: [ISA - AMCE Ethnographic Film Series](#) (the fifth event of the series).

[Medical Anthropology Network](#)

Upcoming event: [MAGic2015 conference: Anthropology and Global Health: interrogating theory, policy and practice](#) University of Sussex, UK, 9-11th September 2015

[Medical Anthropology Young Scholars](#)

Upcoming event: 11-12 June 2015, 6th Medical Anthropology Young Scholars (MAYS) Annual Meeting, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research

[Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology \(PACSA\)](#)

Upcoming event: [Im/mobilities as products and generators of conflict](#) 2-4 September 2015, Frankfurt. The conference is organised in collaboration with the Peace Research Institute of Frankfurt and Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Goethe-University Frankfurt.

New Networks

[Anthropology of Race and Ethnicity \(ARE\)](#)

[Anthropology of Confinement Network \(ConfinementNet\)](#)

[Anthropology of Mining](#)

[Network of Ethnographic Theory \(NET\)](#)

9. Featured titles from EASA's publisher, Berghahn books

[FLEXIBLE CAPITALISM](#)

Exchange and Ambiguity at Work Edited by Jens Kjaerulff Afterword by Keir Martin Volume 25, EASA Series from Berghahn Books (NEW)

This volume comprises a series of insightful essays that apply existing debates in anthropology...to new empirical contexts of work under flexible capitalism. While each of the chapters makes a valuable contribution in itself, taken together the essays raise a wealth of new issues and question some long-standing assumptions within economic anthropology about work and its lived experience. Geert De Neve, University of Sussex

Approaching “work” as at heart a practice of exchange, this volume explores sociality in work environments marked by the kind of structural changes that have come to define contemporary “flexible” capitalism. It introduces anthropological exchange theory to a wider readership, and shows how the perspective offers new ways to enquire about the flexible capitalism’s social dimensions. The essays contribute to a trans-disciplinary

scholarship on contemporary economic practice and change by documenting how, across diverse settings, “gift-like” socialities proliferate, and even sustain the intensified flexible commoditization that more commonly is touted as tearing social relations apart. By interrogating a keenly debated contemporary work regime through an approach to sociality rooted in a rich and distinct anthropological legacy, the volume also makes a novel contribution to the anthropological literature on work and on exchange.

[CONTEMPORARY PAGAN AND NATIVE FAITH MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE](#)

Colonialist and Nationalist Impulses Edited by Kathryn Rountree Volume 26, EASA Series from Berghahn Books (FORTHCOMING)

Rountree's welcome and timely edited volume addresses topical, cutting-edge issues with regard to contemporary European Pagan and Native Faith movements. Focusing on the theoretical richness born out of the tensions found between 'the local' and 'the global,' past and present, the volume provides a refreshing approach to understanding these movements. Amy Whitehead, University of Wales, Trinity Saint David

Pagan and Native Faith movements have sprung up across Europe in recent decades, yet little has been published about them compared with their British and American counterparts. Though all such movements valorize human relationships with nature and embrace polytheistic cosmologies, practitioners' beliefs, practices, goals, and agendas are diverse. Often side by side are groups trying to reconstruct ancient religions motivated by ethnonationalism - especially in post-Soviet societies - and others attracted by imported traditions, such as Wicca, Druidry, Goddess Spirituality, and Core Shamanism. Drawing on ethnographic cases, contributors explore the interplay of neo-nationalistic and neo-colonialist impulses in contemporary Paganism, showing how these impulses play out, intersect, collide, and transform.