



EASA Newsletter No 65 November 2015



European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux

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Cover illustration By Hablot K. Browne (Phiz), from The Writings of Charles Dickens volume 20, A Tale of Two Cities, titled "The Sea rises".

1. Letter from the President

Dear EASA members,

'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,' reads the famous opening line of Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*. And he continues, 'it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us ...'

It almost feels as if Dickens were speaking of the state of the world in 2015. We live in a time of fast global changes reacted to through an infinite variety of local responses and strategies. Some academics defend universalist ideas of progress, arguing that the humanity is on the whole doing far better than at any time before in history. Others are concerned with new forms of exclusion, environmental devastation and climate change, social injustices, ruthless marketisation and hegemonic knowledge regimes that leave little space for diversity, complexity, doubt and slow thinking. Characteristically, some of the concepts that have predominated in the theoretical inventory of anthropology in the last few years are the Anthropocene, neoliberalism and the precariat.

The success of anthropological research and theory in the 20th century depended on the ability of its practitioners to find the balance between universalist ambitions and local particularities, between the timeless and the topical, the slow and the urgent. We should take inspiration from them and retain the ambition to speak simultaneously about what it entails to be human and about the world. Yet, in the present century, we are faced with a broad range of new challenges, from the popularity of reductionist accounts of the human condition to the need to carry out fieldwork, comparison and theory in new ways in a continuous, interconnected world.

With these reflections as a backdrop, it is my great pleasure to announce that the theme of the [next EASA conference](#) will be '[Anthropological legacies and human futures](#)'. It takes place at Milano-Bicocca University in beautiful Milan from 20 to 23 July 2016, and I am looking forward to seeing you all there! The call for papers and panels is being published these days, and we believe that the conference will show in no uncertain way why anthropological perspectives are more important than ever before in this 'age of wisdom, age of foolishness'.

Indeed, the academic world is directly affected by some of the broad, global tendencies I sketched above. A couple of the key terms – precarity and neoliberalism – may easily be applied to university life these days. The kind of knowledge and theory produced by anthropologists, by virtue of not being directly instrumentally useful, is under threat in different ways across our continent and beyond. The discontinuation of the anthropology BA in Hungary may be the most dramatic recent development, along with the announced closure of 'A' level anthropology in the UK; but across the continent, anthropology departments and institutes are struggling with funding, positions, student numbers and recognition in society. At the same time, funding for anthropological research has been severely reduced in the US, and the Japanese state recently demanded the closure of humanities and social science departments in 26 of 60 state universities. Last year, as if in a forewarning, Japan's president Shinzo Abe held a speech at OECD where he stated: 'Rather than deepening academic research that is highly theoretical, we will conduct more practical vocational education that better anticipates the needs of society.' The onus is now on us to prove that the 'highly theoretical' knowledge produced by social and cultural anthropologists is ultimately more 'useful' than narrowly conceived instrumental knowledge with a specific aim. Fredrik Barth once said, at a meeting in the Norwegian Research Council, 'The main difference between basic and applied research is that basic research is so much more applicable.' While this statement admittedly expresses an underestimation of the potentials and significance of applied research, the main point is that research driven by curiosity casts a wider net and may lead to greater rewards than narrowly conceived problem-solving.

It may well be the case that the Zeitgeist is not currently on the side of an academic endeavour which offers no quick fixes or quantifiable answers. It is certainly the case that anthropology has recently lost some ground in many European countries. Our response as a professional association consists in addressing the challenges directly, and the theme for the symposium we organised in connection with the [AGM](#) (annual general meeting) in Prague on 14–15 October was precisely [Making anthropology matter](#) (see separate item in this Newsletter). At the symposium, speakers from many European countries were discussing the situation of the discipline in their countries. What in effect emerged was a mini-festival of ideas, a mutual learning exercise concerning the state of our discipline and the ways in which we can improve its standing inside and outside the academy. It was a pleasure to see so many EASA members in Prague (we had 55 participants), and for those of you who were not able to make it, will soon be able to read about the outcomes at the EASA website and elsewhere.

Warm regards from chilly Oslo,
Thomas Hylland Eriksen
President

2. Letter from the Book Series Editor

The EASA book series has been publishing works that address anthropological questions in a cogent, persuasive and fluent way for over twenty years. If you are working on a monograph or edited collection or want to know more about the series, please email [eeva.berglund\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:eeva.berglund(at)helsinki.fi) or visit the website: easaonline.org/bookseries.html. The website also includes a list of volumes in the series, which has been published since 2003 by Berghahn Books.

The series showcases the excellent anthropology being carried out by the Association's members and thus it has no particular thematic or regional focus. This means, of course, that the series draws on the expertise and collegiality of many people. I acknowledge and am grateful for the input of the following people:

Alberto Corsin Jiménez, Anonymous, Anonymous, Birgit Muller, Caroline Humphrey, Dace Dzenovska, Deborah Reed-Danahay, Dimitri Karadimas, Eckehard Plstrick, Elissa Helms, Gavan Titley, Gisa Weszkalnys, Jessica Greenberg, Jim Butcher, Kim Fortun, Knut Nustad, Leah Burns, Manos Spyridakis, Marie Louise Sorensen, Marisol de la Cadena, Michael Rowlands, Michal Buchowski, Nathalie Peutz, Noel Salazar, Peter Hervik, Peter Wynn Kirby, Regina F. Bendix, Sian Lazar, Stef Jansen, Susana Narotzky, Wendy Gunn.

I would like to extend my thanks also to staff at Berghahn Books, Molly Mosher, Duncan Ranslem and Leigh Waite who have helped with the smooth running of the series.

Eeva Berglund
Book Series Editor, EASA

3. Results from e-vote on Constitutional changes to the Objects of the Association

The EASA Executive proposed [three changes](#) to the membership categories, voting and application process. A letter to members invited feedback by mid-September. An online vote on these proposals was organized which ended 28th October.

The e-vote asked members to decide on the following proposed changes: (a) doing away with the distinction between the categories of Ordinary Member and Associate Member; (b) extending voting rights to Student Members; and (c) doing away with the requirement that an application for membership be supported by a current member of the association, or 'sponsor'.

The results of the vote are as follows:

Ballots cast: 202; Constituency: 1007; Turnout 20%

Votes in favour: 177; Votes against: 25

The turnout was comparable to the last few online elections/ballots.

The changes have now been put into effect, making the application procedure clearer and more streamlined. The Executive hopes this will make life easier for those joining next year as a consequence of involvement in EASA2016.

4. Making Anthropology Matter

In connection with the 2015 [AGM](#), we organised a symposium focusing on the situation of anthropology in Europe. The event took place at Villa Lanna, Prague, on 14–15 October 2015, with support from the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Czech Association for Social Anthropology. It was convened by our Vice-President, Hana Cervinkova (Czech Academy of Sciences). There were 55 participants, representing 17 countries and representing a broad range of perspectives on the state of the art.

In spite of a healthy growth in publications and recent success in funding large projects, especially at the ERC, all is not rosy. European anthropology is facing challenges at the institutional level, with programmes threatened by closure and declining student numbers in some countries. There is also a tendency that anthropological publications are rarely read outside the discipline, which reduces the impact of anthropologists in broader intellectual discourse.

On this background, participants were invited to present short (7 minutes) statements on the main priorities and challenges, and 26 speakers contributed, in addition to the two keynote speakers, an ex-President of EASA, Michal Buchowski (Poznan) and our current President, Thomas Hylland Eriksen (Oslo). Some had a focus on empirical areas such as health or the refugee crisis; some spoke about the asymmetry in funding opportunities between the different parts of Europe; some spoke about ways in which the messages of anthropology could be conveyed to broader audiences without compromising complexity and depth; some spoke of interdisciplinary and applied work; and others, taking their own work as a point of departure, showed ways in which anthropology generates knowledge which is both necessary and unique to anthropological practice.

At the end of the second day, Susana Narotzky (Barcelona) and Niko Besnier (Amsterdam) held a successful capacity-building workshop focusing on the writing of research applications. As many had pointed out earlier, there is a serious imbalance in favour of West European countries regarding success in obtaining funding at the European level.

Following up on the Prague symposium, we are currently producing a position paper on the importance of anthropological knowledge, with non-anthropologists as intended readership. It will be translated into as many European languages as possible and made available on the EASA website. Other publications from the symposium will also follow.

Download the [full programme](#) and the [abstracts](#).

5. EASA Biennial Conference 2016

'Anthropological legacies and human futures', the 15th [EASA2016](#) biennial conference will be hosted by the [Department of Human Science for Education 'Riccardo Massa'](#) and [Department of Sociology and Social Research at University of Milano-Bicocca](#) ("Unimib") located in Milan.

Milan is the capital of Lombardia in Northern Italy. Being crossed by different cultures and civilizations over the centuries, Milan still keeps a dynamic and a vibrant character and is considered the main industrial, financial and commercial centre of Italy, a major national and international centre of the performing arts (most notably opera) as well as the fashion capital of the world (sorry, Paris).

The University of Milano-Bicocca is a new university, established in 1998. The campus stands on the northern edge of Milan, which was entirely occupied by the Pirelli industrial complex until the late 1980s. As a modern and spacious campus, it will be the perfect nest for academic discussions, but also visual programmes and the new experimental form of Laboratories that was initiated in Tallinn at EASA2014.

EASA2016 is delighted to announce that the keynote speaker in Milan will be Prof Didier Fassin.

The [Call for Panels](#) closes 25th November.

Conference Theme

The recent years have seen EASA engaged in inspiring and fruitful discussions on margins, subjectivity and intimacy. It is time to pause and put the fundamental concerns of anthropology once again at the center of attention. The idea of legacies brings with it that of taking stocks, and taking stock is a way to prepare for the future. Anthropology has lived a time of change, innovation, and interdisciplinary dialogue, but has also struggled to define and establish its own research priorities against the tendency of other intellectual traditions to coopt its contributions. Political agendas external to the discipline have often bent the broader significance of our findings, and other fields of knowledge have partly appropriated, partly trivialized as anecdotal information, the strengths of the anthropological approach to the study of humans: the ethnographic method.

Anthropology treasures lessons learnt that enable the questioning of 'evidence' and the sensitive understanding of shifting realities. Its relentless contextualization of human experiences and institutional powers liberates the ability to envision and build new frameworks of civic coexistence. Its bottom-up gaze and long-term engagement with the rich diversity of ways to be human play a fundamental role in re-shaping and sharpening general concepts (i.e. gender, relativism, culture, tradition, and so on) by now widely employed, if often superficially, among media of all sorts. The interest of anthropology for the subjective navigation of broader social systems always carries with it an implicit cultural critique.

To stimulate such engaging tasks, the 14th EASA conference invites anthropological work anchored in the legacies of the discipline, but dealing with new forms of livelihoods, symbolic practices and material conditions. These could concern political collective actions and collective selves, as much as local and transnational structural forms of inequalities (i.e. social class and implicit or explicit hierarchy). Other paths to explore are the continued,

if shifting relevance of kinship (political, structural, symbolic), the significance of religion and of its institutions in an interconnected and highly conflictual world, ideas of nature and the various relationships between nature and human societies, different normative systems, languages, technologies and the contested construction of powerful knowledge, human dignity and the exploitation of labor.

Six broad themes have been identified as a platform for discussion. Each theme opens up a discussion on how, if and when the legacies of anthropology enable to decrypt human futures. What are the potentials and limits of the mainstream approaches developed so far? Are there marginal traditions of thought that should be reconsidered as a source of inspiration? Which are the awkward legacies of anthropology, i.e. the questions unsolved?

Power

We intend to approach the study of power through the examination of the relationship between local and transnational hierarchies and institutions and new forms of political collective selves and actions. At the core of this analysis lies the importance of the notions of structure, class and identity. We look at power from both a symbolic and material perspective, with an emphasis on its discursive and normative language, the inequities and the reactions it produces.

Economy

The interest in economy lies in the study of forms of production and consumption, exchange of commodities and reciprocity, as well as in the different moral economies. From this starting point, we try to unpack the modern ideology of neoliberalism and the global market through the investigation of social practices, communal forms of sharing economy and conflictual access to natural resources. With reference to this last point anthropology today looks back at some of the key issues within the history of the discipline: the relationship between the environment and social groups, how climate changes influence the economic life and the circulation of people, how the quality of natural resources impacts on the quality of material life.

Kinship

The study of kinship is at the heart of the discipline. Since its beginning anthropologists have examined kinship from a social, economic and political perspective, as the basis on which family relationships, economic activities and alliances were constructed and reiterated. Moreover, kinship has provided a language to talk about social identities, post national conflicts and internal relations between political entities. It offered a cognitive schema to frame society in its multiple aspects and elements. Today, anthropologists situate themselves within this line of research and use kinship to challenge and critique ideologies, normative ideas and ethical issues and to pay close attention to the asymmetries produced by new reproductive technologies.

Religion

Anthropologists are concerned with the symbolic and material aspects of religion: how does religion create meaningful social relations and social cohesion? How does it exacerbate conflict and cultural differences? How does religious morality affect political identity? What is the relationship between religion and scientific knowledge in the current global scenario?

Knowledge and form of expressions

We decline the multiple nuances of the broad concept of knowledge. We certainly look at modes of transmission, in line with the anthropological tradition and its interest in the construction of histories, in oral cultures and written sources. We look at how knowledge is produced, circulated or contested through different channels both locally

and globally. We consider arts and hybrid disciplines as fundamental. We also question the kind of knowledge that anthropologists can produce today and how other disciplines engage with anthropological knowledge.

Work

The ideas and meanings of work have been questioned by anthropologists for the past few decades by analysing how work is perceived and experienced by social actors in their everyday lives. Underneath these accounts of subjective experiences and local ideas of work we want to focus on the 'infrastructure' of work itself: the institutions, laws and the economic interests that regulate the impact of work on society. Against a backdrop of a global neoliberal work market we invite to question the notion of human dignity in a comparative and historical perspective.

Organisers

Convenors: Silvia Vignato, Simone Ghezzi, Alice Bellagamba

Scientific committee: Alice Bellagamba, Simone Ghezzi, Alessandro Monsutti, Silvia Vignato (University of Milano-Bicocca); Thomas Hylland Eriksen (University of Oslo); Paolo Favero (University of Antwerp); Susana Matos Viegas (Universidade de Lisboa, ICS); Valeria Siniscalchi (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Marseille)

Local committee: Matteo Alcano, Silvia Barberani, Ivan Bargna, Alice Bellagamba, Antonio De Lauri, Ugo E.M. Fabiotti, Roberto Malighetti, Claudia Mattalucci, Manuela Tassan, Mauro Van Aken, Silvia Vignato - all of Department of Human Science for Education 'Riccardo Massa' at University of Milano-Bicocca

Simone Ghezzi, Vincenzo Matera - of Department of Sociology and Social Research at University of Milano-Bicocca.

6. Call for proposals for Biennial Conference 2018

The EASA Executive Committee welcomes and encourages institutions wishing to host the next EASA Conference (2018) to submit their interest as early as possible and before 1 April 2016. Hearings will be held during the EASA Conference in Milan for EASA2018.

For organisational matters, consult the EASA website and/or contact [easa\(AT\)nomadit.co.uk](mailto: easa(AT)nomadit.co.uk)

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\(at\)cchs.csic.es](mailto: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.

7. Social Anthropology App

We are delighted to be able to tell you that the Social Anthropology/Anthropologie Sociale app is now complete and approved by Apple, and available for you to download from the iTunes store: itunes.apple.com/us/app/social-anthropology/id1017297840?ls=1&mt=8

The app has been developed by our publishers, Wiley-Blackwell. An android app is being developed.

We describe here the three main methods for accessing content on the journal app: easaonline.org/newsletter/65-1115/socanth_app.shtml

If you enjoy reading SA using this app and no longer require a printed copy of the journal being mailed to you, please let us know on [membership\(at\)easaonline.org](mailto:membership@easaonline.org).

8. News from the Networks

Two new networks created this summer

“Humans and Other Living Beings” (convenor Sara Asu Schroer, Department of Anthropology, University of Aberdeen)

“Anthropology and Language” (convenor David Parkin, University of Oxford, All Souls College)

Their sub-sites will appear on the EASA site soon.

With thirty networks in place, the Executive Committee has decided to now stop creating new networks and consolidate existing ones.

Africanists network

David O’Kane, the convenor of the Africanists network is anxious to hear from fellow members of that network as we approach EASA’s 2016 meeting in Milan. Suggestions for the next meeting of the network are needed. Also, Dr. O’Kane would like to announce the creation of the EASA Africanists Network Facebook group, and urges all network members to join.

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

The Second Ethnographic Film and Media Program of the Middle East and Central Eurasia of EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists), The Department of Sociology, University of Nantes, Nantes, France, November 2015

Programme and organiser:

Dr. P. Khosronejad Institut du Pluralisme Religieux et de l'Athéisme – IPRA/MSHG (Nantes)
Pedram.khosronejad(at)univ-nantes.fr

We are pleased to announce the second Ethnographic Film and Media Program of the Middle East and Central Eurasia, which will be held annually in conjunction with the Anthropology of the Middle East and Central Eurasia Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists.

Our second program will be held with the collaboration of the Department of Sociology of the University of Nantes and Institut du Pluralisme Religieux et de l'Athéisme – IPRA/MSHG (Nantes) during 19th and 20th November 2015 (University of Nantes, Nantes, France).

The goal of our program is to promote original ethnographic films and visual media, not only in the area of anthropology, but also in sociology, folklore, religion, material culture and related topics. Our program encompasses all areas of the contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia (the Russian Federation, the Caucasus, Central Asia, China), including topics on minority groups and religious themes.

ANTHROMOB - Anthropology and Mobility network

In September, ANTHROMOB and the Instituto de Ciências Sociais (ICS), collaborated last month to organize the ANTHROMOB 2015 workshop. Titled “Grounding (im)mobility: embodiment, ecologies ephemera” the workshop focused on approaches to mobility that ground the at times abstract notion of mobility today. The workshop included papers in 6 themed sessions covering subjects of embodiment, belonging, morality, media, borders and infrastructure among others, as well as 2 parallel sessions on Mobile Participatory Methods and on Visual Collaboration. In particular, filmmaker and curator Daniela Swarovsky screened her most recently completed second film in the Messages from Paradise trilogy (www.zimweb.nl/mfp2/?l=en), on perceptions about life and migration outcomes between Morocco and the Netherlands. Further, Samuli Schielke facilitated a fascinating final roundtable on the state of mobility research today. You can view the full programme here

In October, ANTHROMOB is also co-organising a doctoral student summer school titled MOBILE WORK-LIFE ARRANGEMENTS Exploring Conceptual and Methodological Challenges in concert with the research group Cultures of Mobility in Europe (COME), led by Dr. Anna Lipphardt. Running over a week (9-18 October, 2015) in Freiburg, Germany, this engaging, multidisciplinary event will bring together junior scholars carrying out research on mobile or multi-local work-life arrangements. The summer school will encourage participants to ponder contexts in which mobile practices are an integral part of the quotidian negotiation between different forms of work/subsistence and other spheres of life, such as family life and social networks, housing, political involvement, religion, or leisure. It will offer the opportunity for postgraduate students to learn from junior and senior scholars who work across both the social sciences and the humanities. View the full programme and papers for the summer school here.

Applied Anthropology Network

“WHY THE WORLD NEEDS ANTHROPOLOGISTS. Burning issues of our hot planet”

On Friday, 27 November 2015, Ljubljana (Slovenia) will host the third international symposium ‘Why the world needs anthropologists’. The theme of this year’s event is ‘Burning issues of our hot planet’. The main purpose of the symposium, which will be attended by 400 participants from around the globe, is the integration of anthropological knowledge and skills with other scientific areas as well as business, governmental, and non-governmental sectors. The event aims at attracting the general public and participation at the symposium is free of charge. Exciting presentations in TED style will be given by well-known speakers presenting their views on resolving the vital issues our society is facing.

The symposium is organised by the EASA Applied Anthropology Network, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, VU University Amsterdam, University Campus CIELS Padova, Slovene ethnological and anthropological association KULA, and University of Delaware. Sponsors of the event are Comtrade and EASA. Media partners are the publishing house Delo, magazine Razpotja, and web portals Metina lista and Tromba.

Place: Festivalna dvorana (Pionirski dom), Vilharjeva cesta 11, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Date and time: Friday, 27 November 2015, 13:00 – 20:00

Website: www.applied-anthropology.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/events/382741788600305/

For additional information please contact EASA Applied Anthropology Network: [easa.applied.anthropology \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:easa.applied.anthropology@gmail.com)

Further information also available via phone +386 31 820 198 (Dan Podjed).

Anthropology of Children and Youth Network

Seminar series

13 October 2015 ‘Individual abilities embedded in social processes: children’s empathy.’ Simone Roerig – Department of Educational Neuroscience (LEARN!), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

18 September 2015, How to Survive a Residence Permit? Integration Assessments of Young Refugees (aged 12-23) in the Netherlands Through the Lens of Code-Switching, Moos Pozzo, PhD Candidate, VU University Amsterdam

16 June 2015, Implementing Needs and Interest of Adolescent Girls in Nicaragua into Sexuality Educational Programs, Yoah Kerkvliet, Research Master Student of International Development Studies, UvA Amsterdam

9 May 2015, Time to look at girls: Adolescents girls’ migration and development in Ethiopia, Marina de Regt, Assistant Professor in Anthropology, VU University Amsterdam

14 April 2015, Toxic But Intoxicating: Towards a critical and comparative medical anthropology of inhalant use in Mexico City, Delhi and Aboriginal Australia, Roy Gigengack, Research Fellow VU University Amsterdam

17 March 2015, Children and land grabs: Development, social reproduction and the future in a nature park in Senegal, Davide Cirillo, University of Padova & VU University Amsterdam

On 17 February 2015 members of the Network participated in an interdisciplinary workshop on the ethics of research with children. This workshop replaced the monthly seminar.

16 January 2015, Infant male circumcision: Should the practice be regulated?, Barbora Palesova, King's College London

DICAN - Disaster and Crisis Anthropology Network

Archiving and Memorializing Disasters, International Workshop, 16th March 2015, Tohoku University, Japan

Sébastien Penmellen Boret and Akihiro Shibayama

The World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan (March 14-18, 2015) brought together several members of DICAN and other fellow anthropologists of disasters during a public forum, Archiving and Memorializing Disasters. For this international and interdisciplinary workshop, Sébastien Penmellen Boret and Akihiro Shibayama invited anthropologists, historians and information scientists from the USA, Europe and Asia to discuss the roles of digital archives, collective memory and memorialization in the aftermath and the prevention of disasters.

Anthropology and disaster studies: a symbiotic relationship ASA15, 13th-16th April 2015, University of Exeter, UK

DICAN members Seumas Bates, Andrea Butcher and Sébastien Boret Penmellen arranged the session Anthropology and disaster studies: a symbiotic relationship at the meeting of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (ASA) held at the University of Exeter in April of 2015. The DICAN sponsored this double session.

Read more at: www.nomadit.co.uk/asa/asa2015/panels.php?PanelID=3354

Moral landscapes in crisis, conflict and catastrophe, SANT 17th-19th April 2015, Lund University, Sweden

Carolina Holgersson Ivarsson and Susann Baez Ullberg convened a DICAN sponsored session called Moral landscapes in crisis, conflict and catastrophe at the annual conference of the Swedish Association of Social Anthropology held at Lund University on 17-19 April 2015. The theme of this year's conference was anthropology and morality. The DICAN sponsored session addressed how moral arguments and actions are voiced, articulated, negotiated and contested in social contexts of upheaval in which values are at stake, such as in communities affected by disaster and conflict. Read more about the conference and the session here (in Swedish and English):

santkonferens2015.blogg.lu.se

The role and contribution of anthropology to the interdisciplinary disaster studies, IUAES Conference, May 4th-9th 2016, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Susanna Hoffman has submitted a panel proposal to the Inter-Congress of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in May 2016 with the joint support of the DICAN and the Risk and Disaster Topical Interest Group of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

“Over the past thirty years, disasters of both geophysical and technological origin had become ever more frequent and severe across our planet. The alarming situation was due in large part to the increasing conditions of vulnerability among the human community, affecting ever larger numbers of people. The previous set of driving factors of disaster is now combined with grave new components, global warming, coastward migration, and urban densification. Coincident with the increase in number and severity of disasters and the growing vulnerability of the human populations, the level of interest concerning the issues that surround both calamities and hazard has markedly expanded in the field of anthropology. Indeed, anthropology has become a major contributor to the understanding of risk, hazard, human vulnerability, and disaster. Along with anthropology's holistic approach, engaging the environmental, biological, and socio-cultural, and its comprehensive perspective encompassing the developmental and comparative, recently the key concept of the discipline, culture, has risen to the forefront in almost every arena dealing with risk, disaster and sustainability.”

Anthropology of Economy

The network was launched at EASA2012 in Nanterre and held its first workshop at the UAB (Spain) in February 2014 with the theme “Solidarity, reciprocity, and economy in times of downturn” (grupsderecerca.uab.cat/egolab/content/solidarity-reciprocity-and-economy-times-downturn-understanding-and-articulating-logics-old). Several of the papers from this workshop were published in a special issue of *Ars & Humanitas* (revije.ff.uni-lj.si/arshumanitas/issue/view/237).

A panel was organized at EASA2014 in Tallinn with the title: “Local entrepreneurial responses to global forces” (www.nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2014/panels.php5?PanelID=3013) There was also a Network meeting where it was agreed upon the topic and place of the next annual meeting.

The Network proposes to host a second conference on the theme, “Extracting the Essence: Value Appropriation in post-2008 World Capitalism”, to be held in Dubrovnik in May 2016: 4th-9th May 2016 Dubrovnik (Croatia) (iuaes2016.com/).

Proposals for the next EASA meeting in Milan (2006) are very welcome!

Coordinating members

- Patty Gray (University of Maynooth) Patty.Gray@nuim.ie
- Hugo Valenzuela García (University Autonomous of Barcelona) Hugo.valenzuela@uab.es

Coordinating guests

- Peter Simonic (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia)
- Marta Lobato (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)
- Allen Batteau (Wayne State University, US)
- Carmen Bueno (Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico DF)

Anthropology of Law and Rights

EASA network workshop at the University of Edinburgh, 22 January 2016

The workshop invites contributions that examine the state of legal anthropology in Europe. Due to the rise of the anthropology of human rights and a growing interest in governance in the context of the nation-state and beyond there has been a welcome shift to legal matters within anthropology as a whole. In political anthropology the state and governance have emerged as major research interests. In general, there is a growing number of anthropological studies of bureaucracies, national courts, international tribunals, truth commissions and other sites.

What does this shift towards legal matters, defined most broadly to include forms of non-state normative orders, mean for anthropologists who see themselves primarily as legal anthropologists? What is the significance of this ‘welcome, exciting renaissance’ (John Comaroff, 2006) for social anthropology in Europe and beyond? These will be among the questions the workshop will address by drawing on ethnographic studies of law, rights and social order.

The workshop will be held at the University of Edinburgh on 22 January 2016. Abstracts of not more than 300 words and enquiries should be addressed to Gerhard Anders, School of Social and Political Science, gerhard.anders@ed.ac.uk. For more details see easaonline.org/networks/law/events.shtml

Medical Anthropology Network

The activities of the network in 2015 can be summarized into two main points.

- Dissemination of information. Information on MAN activities are disseminated through the mailing list. We are considering also having a blog and Facebook page, in the new year.
- Conferences. A joint conference was organized with the RAI Medical Anthropology Committee, “Anthropology and Global Health: interrogating theory, policy and practice”, at the University of Sussex, UK, on 9-11th September 2015. The conference was very successful with around 400 delegates. Read more: www.easaonline.org/magic2015
- Teaching Medical Anthropology. During the conference an informal group initiating a reflection on the teaching of Medical Anthropology to (future) Health Professionals in Europe was started.

The target group is defined as “(future) health professionals”, and includes professionals and students from medicine and nursing, midwives, public health officials, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychotherapists, and medical technicians among others (more than 30 can be listed depending on the country’s rules). We believe that teaching medical anthropology to (future) health professionals can help improve care in our health systems. Our first three-hour meeting was a lively and productive exchange of ideas and experiences.

If you are interested in participating in the group and already have teaching experience, please fill out the questionnaire soon to be posted on the network site: easaonline.org/networks/medical/index.shtml

If you are interested, but do not yet have teaching experience, we are still interested in your feedback. We will collect the information and may plan future meetings based on your needs and interests.

MAYS - Medical Anthropology Young Scholars

Intergenerations, temporalities, and medical anthropology. 7th Medical Anthropology Young Scholars (MAYS) Annual Meeting, 23-24 June 2016, Institute of Social Sciences (ICS), University of Lisbon

Emerging from the field of medical anthropology, the MAYS 2016 conference will explore the temporal and intergenerational dynamics of health, illness, and medicine. Illnesses, health diagnostics, aging, and politics of prevention are life events that require us to reinterpret our past and to negotiate with medical professionals, public health institutions, and healthcare systems. As we negotiate such events, we learn how to intervene in the present as well as to plan or “design” our hypothetical future. Health conditions and healing processes force us to reflect on our life course in profoundly new ways. Life course temporalities allow us to enter into new systems of commitments and purposes regarding health and well-being.

While specific generational temporalities open new relations with the body and with social and medical environments, intergenerational exchanges reveal divergent expectations and perceptions of life. Understanding temporalities as an inherent and intimate part of all lived experience calls into question how health plays a role in the ways we practice and understand the temporal flow of past, present, and future, and how time influences the relationship human beings develop with health.

The MAYS 2016 conference invites anthropologists to focus on the different ways that humans understand and undergo times of illness, as well as the plurality of temporalities they experience in health related contexts. The discipline of medical anthropology has long been accustomed to confronting health and illness experiences and has much to offer in this area.

For more information: www.mays-easa.org/

PACSA - Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology Network

Biannual meeting: Im/mobilities as products and generators of conflict

PACSA, the Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology network, held its 5th bi-annual meeting in Frankfurt this September. The conference explored im/mobilities in the context of peace, violence, and conflict in two days of exciting discussion, exchange and presentations. Co-hosted by the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) and the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the Goethe University, the meeting drew some 40 participants who addressed the mobility-conflict nexus from a variety of perspectives, among them displacement, memory and identity, transnational networks, activism and state violence. Tobias Kelly, Head of Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh, delivered the keynote lecture on the "Immobility of Human Rights," discussing the unequal distribution and mobility of human rights claims. If you are interested to get in touch with PACSA or stay updated about future events, you can sign up for the e-mail list here or follow us on Facebook.

PACSA board: Erella Grassiani, Andreas Hackl, Michael Lidauer, Nerina Weiss.

ENQA - European Network for Queer Anthropology

Workshop

On September 11-13 ENQA held its first workshop titled 'Queer Devices' at the Central European University, Budapest. It gathered twenty scholars and scholar-activists from different countries, in different stages of their careers, to discuss their work, research collaborations, publishing initiatives, and network. The workshop organized two open panels at CEU on queer anthropology and the current refugee crisis in Europe, with specific focus on the Hungarian and southeast European perspectives. The workshop participants have decided to organize a pre-EASA conference workshop on Ethics in Milan next July, and submit at least one sponsored panel to the main conference.

Publication

Roundtable discussion titled 'Anthropologists are talking about queer anthropology' published online in *Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology*, sept. 7, 2015. DOI: 10.1080/00141844.2015.1084021. The roundtable took place at the EASA conference in Tallinn in 2014, with the following contributors: Paul Boyce, Elisabeth Engebretsen, Silvia Posocco, EJ Gonzalez-Polledo, Hadley Renkin, Heather Tucker, Thomas Hendriks, Mark Graham, Adnan Hossain, Taylor Riley.

NAGS - Network of Anthropology of sexuality and gender

Last summer, Anna Fedele and Kim Knibbe organized a panel at the IAHR conference in Erfurt titled "the role of gender in the distinctions between religion, secularity and spirituality", which generated quite a lot of interest.

Starting in January 2016, Kim Knibbe, one of the network convenors, and Rachel Spronk will be leading a five-year research programme funded by the Netherlands Foundation for Scientific Research (NWO) on Sexuality, Religion and Secularism, Cultural Encounters in the African Diaspora in the Netherlands. The project will be based at Groningen University and the University of Amsterdam.

We are in the process of recruiting PhD candidates and a post-doc for this project, and will maintain a mailing list to keep interested parties up to date on events organised as part of the programme. If you wish to sign up, e-mail [k.e.knibbe\(at\)rug.nl](mailto:k.e.knibbe@rug.nl).

Since our inaugural panel at the 2014 EASA conference in Tallinn, we set up a mailing list. We would like to encourage anyone with an interest in gender and sexuality to sign up, and use the list to send around any announcements that may be of interest to colleagues working on these topics: lists.easaonline.org/listinfo.cgi/genderandsexuality-easaonline.org

Furthermore, we would like to invite people to mail us with ideas for panels for the next conference. We are looking forward to intensifying our network the coming year! Let us know your ideas, or use the email list to get people together.

Anthropology and Social Movements

EMERGING ECO-MOVEMENTS: NEW CHALLENGES OF URBAN AND RURAL ACTIVISM IN AND BEYOND EUROPE II. Workshop of the EASA-Network “Anthropology and Social Movements”, November 30th 2015, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, EHESS – Tram/IIAC (Institut Interdisciplinaire d’Anthropologie du Contemporain), Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS, Paris.

Novel actors have begun to rethink ecology in various terms. Environmental movements have affirmed themselves as major political actors with a truly global dimension not only in urban spaces, but increasingly in rural spaces as well. At the same time, anthropological research engages increasingly with new forms of environmental activism related to concepts such as bioregionalism, permaculture principles, and ‘deep ecology’ that rethink ecology, activism and society. The theme of the workshop is inspired by a growing literature about eco-movements in environmental and ecological anthropology, political ecology and debates about nature and culture (Haenn and Wilk 2006; Kopnina and Shoreman-Ouimet 2011). From an anthropological perspective, these approaches call to rethink categories and the power to define what means ‘nature’, ‘culture’ (Argyrou 2005; Ingold 2000), but also presumed dichotomies such as ‘global’ and ‘rural’ (Duijzings 2014).

In this workshop we would like to take up these theoretical challenges and explore the way how new synthesis between categories emerge. These may include the urban-rural polarity, the nature-culture nexus, as well emerging farmer movements that redefine the polarity ‘farmer’ and ‘activist’, challenging the relationship between producers and consumers. Should anthropology consider this new, hybrid categories of “new farmers” (van der Ploeg 2009) with classical theoretical tools? Or, how can we produce new a more pertinent tools in order to better understand a social-movement phenomenon which is changing the European social landscape?

We also think about the diffusion of ‘urban gardens’ and ‘city farmers’, that are more and more diffused in European small-size cities and, for example, metropolis as Paris. In addition, emerging eco-movements in Southern Europe try to regain the control over democratic citizenship through a specific kind of agro-food activism (as the anti-mafia association “Libera Terra” in South Italy, for example). In the same territory, migrants are forming new movements that are growing-up as a response to the intense exploitation of his agricultural seasonal work. In addition, throughout Europe and beyond we can observe local movements that promotes the local production and consumption, in order to control the entire food-chain. In central and North Italy for example small farmers promotes the introduction of agricultural goods into local markets that are ‘self-certified’ through participatory mechanisms and organize the distribution of products outside the institutional conventions, placing themselves in opposition to the practices of official certification.

In times of global economic crisis new models of food-related rural and urban activism, seems able to express a radical critic to the capitalist order, re-discussing logics as profit and growth. The claims are always related to attempts to improve participation and/or democratization. Food sovereignty is one of the most important logics that roots into a democratic ideology this new citizenship experiments.

We invite ethnographic studies that explore these themes and papers that engage with these theoretical challenges. What new avenues of anthropological enquiry are suggested? What are the prospects for a fruitful engagement? What are the critical points for anthropologists?

Contact information: Alex Koensler alexanderiht(at)yahoo.de, Elena Apostoli Cappello elena.apostolicappello(at)gmail.com

TAN - Teaching Anthropology Network

On 3-4 September 2015 the TAN network organised a conference in Copenhagen, 'One Discipline, Many Ways. Teaching Anthropology in Changing Contexts'

easaonline.org/networks/teaching/events.shtml)

The conference focused on teaching anthropology at master's level-and went beyond and looked at post graduate training and looked at the changing job market of candidates- and how that reflects back on changing course content and teaching practices. We had contributions from Holland, from Germany, France, Sweden, and Denmark. The covered thus a wide territory, both geographically and thematically, and also with regards to genres of presentation.

Apart from organising conferences we are currently working on a plan to set up a 'Teaching Materials Exchange' in collaboration with other EASA networks. The point is to encourage the sharing of course plans, reading lists and ideas for teaching from anthropology courses across Europe.

The convenor of the network is Jakob Krause-Jensen, Aarhus University, jakj(at)edu.au.dk.

VANEASA - Visual Anthropology Network

VANEASA has begun creating special interest groups: www.easaonline.org/networks/vaneasa/Interest-groups/Interest-groups.shtml

The Anthropology of Art interest group organised a workshop in June 2015 on "Encountering Concepts in Art and Anthropology" in Barcelona. Further information: rogersansi[at]gmail.com.

The online journal AnthroVision is now in the third year of publishing peer-reviewed articles. After having had special topic issues on "Anthropology and Digital Technologies" and "Digital Visual Engagements" in 2014 the next issue (due to be published imminently) will contain a variety of articles opening up a new section such as "Research and experiment" and "Discussion" too. See: anthrovision.revues.org/

9. Other news

EASA members directory

Members were recently reminded to make use of this directory of members' contact details, interests, conference panels/papers and publications. In response to feedback, we've now added a 'Website' field to the membership data. This means that members can input a URL of their institutional or personal homepage, etc, as desired.

We now encourage all members to login either via Cocoa or the Directory, and add their preferred URL. Not only does this make it easier for those using the directory to learn more about you, but it saves you from having to add your publications to the directory, if they're already listed on your webpage/site.

Group for Debates in Anthropological Theory (GDAT) 2015

Saturday 28th November 2015. 2-6pm

Alexander Theatre, Samuel Alexander Building, University of Manchester

Directions: www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/maps/

Attention to infrastructure offers a welcome reconfiguration of anthropological approaches to the political. The motion will be proposed by Laura Bear, LSE (www.lse.ac.uk/anthropology/people/bear.aspx) and AbdouMaliq Simone, Max Planck Institute and Goldsmiths College (www.abdoulmalisimone.com). It will be opposed by Laura Rival, Oxford (www.isca.ox.ac.uk/about-us/staff/anthropologists-in-other-departments/httpwwwanthrooxacukabout-usdr-laura-rival/) and Sian Lazar, Cambridge (sianlazar.wordpress.com). GDAT is free to attend and everyone is warmly welcomed. We will go for drinks and dinner after the debate - do join us

Queries to soumhya.venkatesan@manchester.ac.uk

URL: www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/subjects/social-anthropology/our-research/group-debates-in-anthropological-theory/