



## EASA Newsletter No 68 October 2016



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European Association of Social Anthropologists  
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux



## **EASA Newsletter No 68 October 2016**

1. Letter from the President
2. Letter from the Book Series Editor
3. Elections for a New Executive
4. Announcement of EASA Biennial Conference 2018
5. Network news
6. Conferences



# 1. Letter from the President

Thomas Hylland Eriksen

Dear EASA members,

A book which has led to some debate recently, admittedly written by two non-anthropologists, is *The Slow Professor* by the Canadian academics Maggie Berg and Barbara K. Seeber. Doubtless inspired by similar movements aiming to resist the relentless drive to increased productivity and accelerated lives, the authors point out that certain things can only be done slowly, serious scholarly work being one of them. (This may be true, but don't tell your PhD students and postdocs.)

Slowing down is doubtless a worthy goal under certain neoliberal regimes of production and consumption (at least if you have a secure source of livelihood). In the EASA, we have a stronger commitment to dealing with a different result of the increased academic productivity. As has often been pointed out by our Secretary, Alberto Corsín-Jimenez, in connection with his work on the LIBRARIA open access model, what is often at stake in academic publishing is discoverability. When the number of people who publish grows as fast as the number of papers each person publishes on average, the result is an exponential growth curve. Becoming visible and making one's work noticed has always been a challenge for knowledge workers. In the digital jungle, making yourself discoverable and legible is more difficult than before, but there are also new tools available to enhance our visibility.

A main priority for the present EASA Executive consists in making anthropology more visible in European public spheres. Through LIBRARIA, we have taken a leading role in developing genuinely open access alternatives; we have also taken initiatives to strengthen anthropology in schools and non-university programmes, to enhance our media presence and strengthen ties with non-anthropologists inside and outside academia; and we have written statements and letters of concern in support of colleagues and study programmes which are under pressure or threat from governments. I should also mention that several of the EASA networks do a great job in making anthropology visible and relevant in a larger public sphere, one of the most successful ones currently being the Applied Anthropology network. It organises annual events under the heading 'Why the world needs anthropologists'. These one-day conferences are well attended and covered by local media.

Presently, we are about to launch a new EASA project aimed to increase the visibility and relevance of anthropologists in Europe. In collaboration with the Max Planck Institute (Halle), we are developing an online directory of European anthropologists. As an EASA member, you will shortly receive an email from us asking whether you wish to register. The objective of the directory, or database, is to make European social anthropologists more easily discoverable to outsiders, such as NGOs, courts of law, journalists or academics working in other disciplines. At the outset, only EASA members are eligible to be included.

Although it represents a different kind of outreach, the EASA book series is also part and parcel of our larger aim to make anthropology matter more. It is a great pleasure for me hereby to welcome Professor Aleksandar Boskovic of the University of Belgrade as the new editor of the EASA book series. Boskovic brings with him a unique competence in world anthropologies and the history of the discipline, and we are looking very much forward to years of collaboration with him.

Finally – now that universities across the continent have reopened after the break, notwithstanding their frustratingly asynchronous rhythms, it seems appropriate to wish you all a productive and meaningful autumn semester, hopefully with a perfect mix of speed and slowness.

Thomas Hylland Eriksen  
President, EASA



## 2. Letter from the Book Series Editor

Aleksandar Bošković

I just took over from Eeva Berglund as the new Series editor on 1 August, and I hope to continue the tradition of helping excellent anthropological works reach as wide audience as possible. At the same time, the challenges of multiculturalism and globalization are more pronounced than ever, with the rise of xenophobic and insular sentiments throughout Europe. The fact that EASA's partner in the Book Series is one of the premier contemporary publishers, Berghahn Books, certainly helps.

The EASA book series has been showcasing the work of the Association's members since 1992. The series has been published by Berghahn Books since 2003 and includes both edited collections and monographs. I would like to see more monographs published in the future, as I believe that they tend to be more persuasive, and tend to be read more, but this will obviously depend on the quality of proposals that reach me. I also look forward to seeing more proposals that engage with new technologies and new forms (new media) of presenting ethnographic research.

In order to try to diversify and further strengthen the book series, and taking into account new developments in our discipline, an Advisory Board has been established. It comprises of four excellent scholars specializing in different areas of social anthropology:

- Dr Eeva Berglund (Department of Social Research, University of Helsinki, Finland);
- Professor Andre Gingrich (Institute for Social Anthropology, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria);
- Dr Maja Petrović Šteger (Scientific Research Centre, Slovenian Academy of Sciences & Arts, Ljubljana, Slovenia);
- Professor Nigel J. Rapport (Department of Social Anthropology, University of St Andrews, UK).

I expect that, with their input and advice, and with continuous flow of high quality proposals from EASA members, this series will continue to promote the most interesting and innovative work that will offer answers to the challenges of the world we live in.

Aleksandar Bošković

Professor of Anthropology, University of Belgrade and Director of Research, Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade

## 3. Elections for a New Executive

Over the coming months the Association will begin the electoral process for e-voting of its new Executive. Details of the procedure will be advertised and posted on our website shortly.

Similarly to the timeline of previous elections, candidate nominations should be received by December 5, so we can publish the list of candidates by mid-December, enabling online voting for two weeks in January, and publishing the results at the end of that month.

The handover meeting for the new Executive Committee will take place in Stockholm on April 4-5. It is expected of candidates that, if elected, they will be available to attend the meeting.

## 4. Announcement of EASA Biennial Conference 2018

We are delighted to announce that the next EASA biennial conference will be organized by and hosted at the Department of Social Anthropology at The University of Stockholm, from 14-17th August 2018.



## 5. Network news

### Networks in Milan Conference

During Milan conference, 21 networks organised one or more panels, and 24 organised a meeting. This is a good range of activity that adds to others activities (seminars, congress, meetings, publications) that networks organise at other moments of the year.

The debate with network convenors held in Milan (Networks convenors' Meeting, July the 22nd 2016) was very rich in exchanges between networks and between networks and members of the executive. Around twenty networks were represented. It was an occasion to share experiences; to consider the ways networks function and the problems they face and see what EASA can do to ameliorate these; to think what other tools could be put in place to help networks in their activities or to consolidate them – considering foundation, output and publications, visibility, technical support, etc.

Networks need to be spaces open to members interested in this or that topic: we should consider them not as permanent organisations but as flexible tools that can change over the time. Showing emerging centres of interest and the shifting of topics, networks are a resource bringing scientific vitality to our association. The Executive is working to reopen the possibility to create networks and to improve the Network rules, bearing in mind that ensuring the maintenance, openness and inclusiveness of existing networks, continue to be the Executive's main objectives, in a joint effort with network and networks convenors.

Valeria Siniscalchi (EASA Network liaison officer)

### News from networks

#### Teaching Anthropology Network (TAN)

The Teaching Anthropology Network has created a page where you can find information about issues that relate to the teaching of anthropology.

[www.facebook.com/EASATeaching/](http://www.facebook.com/EASATeaching/)

The Network is working creating a TAN logo and publishing a newsletter about the network activities.

#### Network for the Anthropology of law, rights and governance (LAW NET)

At the last biennial conference in Milan the networks for the anthropology of law and rights and for the anthropology of international governance decided to merge. Members of both networks agreed that the merger could create synergies and inspire new initiatives exploring themes common to both, the anthropology of law and the anthropology of governance. The new network will provide a platform to all EASA members who are interested in the anthropological study of law and legal institutions, rights discourses and practices of governance. It covers the codified law and specialised agencies of the modern nation-state and the wide range of customary legal and indigenous political institutions that have been studied by anthropologists since the early 20th century. In addition, the network pays particular attention to the transnational and international dimension, especially the anthropology of international organisations, international human rights discourse, international indigenous rights, migration law, and international development.

The network convenors are Gerhard Anders (University of Edinburgh) and Birgit Muller (EHES).



## Applied Anthropology



4th international symposium «Why the World Needs Anthropologists: Humanise IT!», Tartu, Estonia, 4-5 November, 2016

Programme and registration: [www.applied-anthropology.com](http://www.applied-anthropology.com)

About the 2016 theme: Information and communication technologies are integral to our world. Engineers, designers, and computer programmers are the inventors and innovators of our time who greatly affect people's everyday lives – and they need the assistance of anthropology in making human-friendly solutions. The symposium explores how digital designers and anthropologists benefit from each other's knowledge and approaches. What is the role of culture in technology? How can technology-based thinking be humanised? And how can we get the most out of new technologies for those that use them?

Plenary speakers: Sten Tamkivi (Teleport), Dimitris Dalakoglou (VU University Amsterdam), Melissa Cefkin (Nissan), Daniel Miller (University College London)

Throughout the Day 1, co-organisers and sponsors will present themselves at the Intercultural Hotspot. Do not miss the opportunity to mingle with enthusiasts representing all sorts of different 'tribes' - anthropologists, IT experts, marketing specialists, designers, artists.

Day 2 of the symposium is intended for all visitors who are eager to put theory into practice. During 5 thematic workshops combining insights from anthropology, design, IT industry, art, and marketing, participants will be able to develop prototypes, projects, and campaigns – in just a day!

Workshops on Day 2: 1. Idea Garage: Anthropology Meets Technology (Garage48 Workshop) 2. Humanising Open Data (Antropologerne Workshop) 3. Start Your Own Interdisciplinary Project (DriveGreen Workshop) 4. Crea: Expanding Ethnographic Boundaries by Cross-disciplinary Cooperation with Design and Creative Methods (IADE ID:CO.LAB Workshop) 5. Applying Anthropology in the Consultancy Circuit, Step 1: Understanding Your Client and Task (AnthroAnalysis Workshop)

Participation at the event in Tartu is free of charge, however, the number of participants is limited and therefore registration is mandatory. All the workshops have already reached the maximum number of participants, but you can still register to attend the symposium. The (optional) reception and party on Friday evening will cost you €10.



## Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology (PACSA)

The Peace and Conflict Studies in Anthropology (PACSA) network is proud to announce that its 6th bi-annual meeting will be held at the University of Amsterdam in the upcoming summer of 2017. Date and theme have yet to be finalised but we encourage everyone interested in convening panels and in participating to stay in touch. Updates and a call for this meeting will be distributed through our email list ([lists.easaonline.org/listinfo.cgi/pacsa-easaonline.org](mailto:lists.easaonline.org/listinfo.cgi/pacsa-easaonline.org)) and on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/peaceandconflictstudiesinanthropology](https://www.facebook.com/peaceandconflictstudiesinanthropology)). What we already know is that we would like to conceptualise panels well in advance as collaborative projects rather than loose conversations, ideally with the goal of producing concrete outputs, such as joint publications, collaborative research projects or applied work with practitioners. But as always, there will also be plenty of space for informal exchange and open debates. We are looking forward to seeing you in Amsterdam, while also looking back at a number of highly successful previous summits convened in partnership with local organisations, such as the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) in 2015.

## Network of Ethnographic Theory (NET)

The Network of Ethnographic Theory has a new blog:

[networkofethnographictheory.wordpress.com](http://networkofethnographictheory.wordpress.com)

## 6. Conferences

### **Ways of Dwelling: Crisis - Craft - Creativity", 13th SIEF congress that will be held in Göttingen, Germany, 26-30 March 2017**

URL: [siefhome.org/congresses/sief2017/index.shtml](http://siefhome.org/congresses/sief2017/index.shtml)

The Call for Posters and Papers, and the Call for Audiovisual media contributions are now open.

The accepted panels of SIEF2017 have been divided into thematic streams: Archives; Bodies, Affects, Senses, Emotions; Food; Gender and sexuality; Heritage; Home; Migration; Narrative; Religion; Rural; Urban; Work. These streams are complemented by a "Sui generis" stream that includes panels that address the conference theme from thematic angles unique to the panel.

Please read the [instructions](#), browse the [panel abstracts](#) and then submit your paper proposal (note that you can only make one proposal!) from the panel page (the link for submitting papers is at the bottom of each panel page).

The congress theme is ideally suited for the visual dimensions of posters which the organisers plan to showcase prominently, including a 'people's choice' award for the best poster and for the most creative poster. Please submit a poster proposal via [this link](#).

There will be opportunity to show and discuss movies and interactive audiovisual formats in a cinema-like atmosphere. A further format welcomed are media experiments: there will be a room designated for open engagement with audiovisual research and its emerging knowledge formats such as installations, photos or digital arrangements not suitable for cinematic screening with space for discussion in a studio-atmosphere. Please read further about the Call for AV contributions [here](#).



**The Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) and International Union of Ethnological and Anthropological Sciences (IUAES) will be holding a joint conference in Ottawa, Canada, May 2-7, 2017.**

URL: [nomadit.co.uk/cascaiuaes2017/fr/](http://nomadit.co.uk/cascaiuaes2017/fr/)

The theme for this conference is Movement/Mouvement.

Movement - as diverse knowledges, practices and problematizations - has once again become a focal point of public discussion and scholarly intervention. As such, 'ancient' ontologies that focused more on movement than on stasis and of which sight has been lost through the colonial encounter, are now reappearing as particularly meaningful, and transformative of the discipline. A longstanding concern of anthropologists, movement has most prominently been discussed through the rubric of mobility, and its attendant terminologies of flows and scapes, flexibilities and foreclosures, disjunctions and "frictions." The notion of movement resonates in studies of political, ecological, religious and economic life as well as of kinship, gender and embodiment. In so doing it highlights the promiscuous nature of the analytical space opened by the processes of life forms, things and ideas enmeshing through relationships in space and time.

Read more on the conference theme and location [here](#).

The CASCA/IUAES2017 [call for panel proposals](#) is open; the deadline for panel proposals is October 26th.

The Call for Papers will be open November 7 - December 19, 2016.

Please direct CASCA/IUAES2017 inquiries to [cascaiuaes2017\(at\)nomadit.co.uk](mailto:cascaiuaes2017(at)nomadit.co.uk)