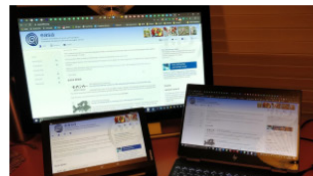
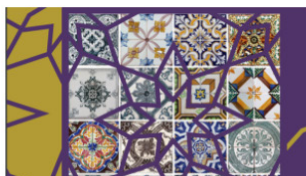
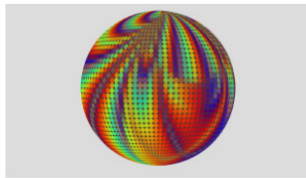


## EASA Newsletter No 79 October 2021

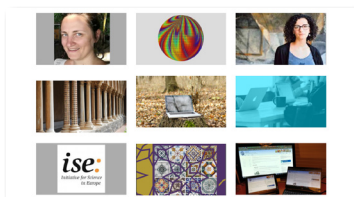


European Association of Social Anthropologists  
Association Européenne des Anthropologues



# EASA Newsletter No 79 October 2021

1. Letter from the President
2. EASA announces new Integrity Committee
3. Co-opted member executive committee
4. Collaborative research and authorship in anthropology: EASA good practice guidelines
5. EASA autumn webinars
6. Network news
7. ISE position paper on Horizon Europe
8. CfA: Database for anti-precarity practice in Higher Education in Europe and beyond
9. Call for EASA website redesign





# 1. Letter from the President

The EASA President summarises the issues the Executive is currently working on.



Dear members,

It is my pleasure and honour to address you with this letter as an incoming President of EASA in 2021-23. When I put forward my name for a [new mandate](#) as a new EASA exec committee member – at that point completely unaware that this might as well mean earning your confidence to become a President – I also did that on the back of the achievements of the previous EASA exec led by outgoing **President Sarah Green**. The previous exec came together with the promise to strengthen its work on the rise of precarious labour, the ever greater need to decolonise the discipline vis-à-vis the rise of new authoritarian and old capitalist forms of oppression and hierarchies within and outside anthropology. While making some steps to address these, we were also faced with further choices to make and positions to take, regarding the discipline's preparedness to face the new regimes of authorship, fundraising and publication enclosures, the impending climate and labour crises, and all that vis-a-vis the COVID-19 global pandemic that turned our lives - and our conference plans - upside down and accelerated the perils of the analogue and digital developments anthropologists have been discussing all along.

Faced with many of these emergencies, the previous exec had taken at earnest, discussed and made at least some first decisive steps on some of these new topics while continuing to engage with the already existing ones: with events organised, discussions hosted on- and offline and with broader publics, deeper engagement with lobbying processes and democratic decision-making, the outgoing exec will be remembered with its genuine attempt to take in and address critical feedback from the membership. Some bigger challenges remain, however, which not only our discipline, but also the world around us is facing – and, let us not fool ourselves – while winning battles, we are mostly losing the war, day by day. This present exec will still do the best to marshal our effort, together with other members of the anthropological and social sciences community to address these and further emergent issues in anthropology and in Europe, and beyond these rather privileged and confining remit we have. This current newsletter – the preferred form of communication with you, our



members, as the survey on social media engagement commissioned by the previous exec showed – is to draw attention to some achievements, some ongoing plans, and some challenges we are facing and changes we are making. We hope that these will all be addressed via active deliberation with our members.

The deeply discomfoting (if disturbingly unsurprising) findings of the [EASA-PrecAnthro report](#) published by a team led by **Martin Fotta** will now be addressed further through a [new initiative to collect knowledge](#) about and join efforts with kindred associations and efforts to fight precarity in anthropology in Europe and beyond. Our new **anti-precarity officers Cris Shore and Fiona Murphy** have worked closely with PrecAnthro members to craft this new agenda.

Our lobbying efforts with EU-level lobby groups such as the [ISE](#) and the EASSH, has now been strengthened through members of the exec joining the conversations about general directions that the lobby groups in Europe will be taking (EASA exec's new **lobbying officers Sharon McDonald and Chandana Mathur**) and working groups on more specific topics such as open science (**Monica Heintz**), and precarious researchers' careers (**Mariya Ivancheva**).

The 'Code of Conduct' group emerging around the HAU affair and its repercussions throughout the discipline and PrecAnthro's watchdog work, have laid the path toward two crucial initiatives such as the now officially accepted [Guidelines for Ethical Authorship](#) by Alice Tilche and Rita Astuti, and [EASA's Integrity Committee](#) which **Alice Tilche, Insa Koch, and Matan Kaminer** join along with two members of EASA exec – **David Mills and Fiona Murphy**.

Our commitment for deepening the democratic dialogue with EASA's members throughout the two years between biennial conferences and to reducing our carbon footprint, will also result in a change of the way we conduct our AGM in the year between conferences: with a number of topical [webinars](#) carried out throughout the year to discuss emergent topics, and the AGM delivered fully online for members to propose and vote on new initiatives of EASA.

We also plan a discussion of ways ahead for our [EASA networks](#): EASA's building blocks that define the development and growth of the discipline. Together with network convenors, the **new network officers Sharon McDonald and Chandana Mathur** will be working toward a solution that can steer the proliferation of networks into productive collaborations that still guarantees funding and support, while encouraging a better network economy and ecology.



The new exec continues the David vs. Goliath struggle against the enclosures on academia and anthropology due to the rise of authoritarian political and capitalist managerial regimes. Our **emerging issues officers Chandana Mathur and Cris Shore** are joined by our **co-opted member Chowra Makaremi**, to strengthen our work on scholarship at risk, with Ahmed Samir Santawy's sentence and UWA's closure of anthropology as recent cases at stake but also vis-a-vis the currently deepening migrant crisis which will put many more students and scholars at risk of political and economic **precarity and vulnerability**.. Our **publications officers Sharon McDonald and Cris Shore** will continue spreading the word about our Social Anthropology/ Anthropologie Sociale journal's move toward open access with Berghahn, and the EASA Berghahn series under the new leadership of **Jelena Tošić, Sabine Strasser, and Annika Lems**. Together with NomadIT, our **social media officer Fiona Murphy** will share news about EASA exec, networks, members, and our website redevelopment.

So, stay tuned, and do share with us any ideas about where you find EASA can make a meaningful intervention. Email [monica.heintz\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:monica.heintz(at)gmail.com) or where you think anthropologists or EASA exec are getting it wrong, email [ethics\(at\)easaonline.org](mailto:ethics(at)easaonline.org).

Mariya Ivancheva, July 2021

## 2. EASA announces new Integrity Committee

EASA are setting up an Integrity Committee to provide independent review relating to issues of academic integrity raised by EASA members.

EASA would like to announce its new integrity committee. The committee is composed of five members, two of whom are executive committee members. The members are Dr. Aliche Tilche, Dr. Insa Koch, Dr. Matan Kaminer, Dr. David Mills and Dr. Fiona Murphy. The committee is chaired by Dr. Fiona Murphy. The Integrity committee will offer independent scrutiny and review of questions or complaints relating to academic integrity brought to it by one or more members of EASA. The committee will be able to make recommendations to the EASA Executive Committee. The integrity committee also aims to be a point of reference for good conduct within the discipline and to prepare guidelines



for good practice professional standards that we hope will be of use to other researchers and institutions.

Please send any queries relating to the integrity committee to [ethics\(at\)easaonline.org](mailto:ethics(at)easaonline.org)

### 3. Co-opted member executive committee



EASA has co-opted an eighth member to join the Executive

The current executive committee of EASA has co-opted an eighth member, Chowra Makaremi, researcher at IRIS (CNRS/EHESS), for the duration of its two-year mandate. A specialist of Iran, working on issues of state, violence and migration, Chowra Makaremi will particularly devote her mandate to EASA's support to scholars at risk.

### 4. Collaborative research and authorship in anthropology: EASA good practice guidelines

After a lengthy, collaborative process, we have final draft guidelines offering advice on good academic practice when carrying out research and writing in collaboration with others, or as part of a larger research team.

#### INTRODUCTION

These guidelines offer EASA members advice on good academic practice when carrying out research and writing in collaboration with others, or as part of a larger research team. They are written in recognition that significant sums of European research funding are now being channelled to large interdisciplinary teams and international collaborations. Whilst not every anthropologist will work as part of a research team led by a PI (Principal Investigator), these new modalities and structural hierarchies present new opportunities - and significant challenges - for anthropological practice, collegiality and integrity. Anthropologists at every stage – from research student to senior research



professor – will benefit from reflecting on the power dynamics within these relationships.

The guidelines are partly also a response to the increasingly precarious nature of academic employment, as documented in a 2020 EASA report (Fotta et al 2020). Postdocs are often employed in a sequence of short-term research posts within large projects, with little autonomy to develop their own research profile. They can be at risk of bullying and exploitation from PIs, and may not be given support by their institutions. At the same time, like temporary teaching-only staff, they are in competition for permanent positions. For permanent staff, career progression is increasingly linked to measurements of research productivity, income generation, or other forms of audit culture.

A series of research townhalls held by the UK's Wellcome Trust in 2020 highlighted 12 shared challenges faced by researchers, including the pressure to publish. In these situations, negotiations over fair authorship can be highly sensitive. The code of practice for research issued by UKRIO, for example, includes specific advice on authorship and publication. COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) offers useful resources for agreeing authorship and negotiating authorship conflicts, including detailed advice for new researchers.

In recent years, some anthropologists have been accused of adopting questionable research strategies. This has included including treating colleagues, students or research assistants as data collectors, using co-produced research material without prior consultation or denying others access to fieldnotes. This can be a particular problem in large international projects, as highlighted in the Bukavu manifesto.

At the same time, PIs have sometimes not been given sufficient training, guidance and support by their universities in managing these collaborative projects, or for anticipating intellectual property issues and authorship. PIs should ensure that international project partners are not disadvantaged within formal institutional research agreements, and that all contributions to research are acknowledged.

This document sets out good practice guidelines for anthropologists on negotiating the rights and responsibilities that accompany research collaborations. It aims to be useful for negotiations within research teams and between PIs, universities and funding bodies.



Guidance is offered on negotiating authorship and the status of ethnographic fieldnotes, along with institutional responsibilities for career development and research oversight.

## AUTHORSHIP, CO-AUTHORSHIP AND CONTRIBUTORSHIP

This section sets out good practices for collaborative authorship, recognising that these decisions and negotiations often involve negotiating across differences in power and status.

1. Publication, credit and authorship, along with the different roles of collaborators within a research team, should be discussed at the very earliest stage of a research project, recognising that roles and contributions can change. These decisions should be agreed jointly, recorded and communicated to all members of the team.
2. Authorship entitlement should be based on significant intellectual or practical contribution to the work. Anyone listed as an author should be prepared to take public responsibility for the accuracy of that work.
3. Collectively authored publications should be based on sustained research collaboration, ideally through the whole process of design, fieldwork, analysis and writing. All named authors should make a substantial intellectual or practical contribution to the work.
4. The ordering of authors in publications should fairly represent their contribution to the production of the research. All contributions should be acknowledged. The CredIT taxonomy offers one way of listing these different contributions in an authorship statement (see also Allen et al 2019).
5. Researchers in anthropology are never to be treated as 'data collectors'. Instead, they should be listed as contributing to, or as an author of, any publication that utilises their co-produced research materials.
6. Every member of a research team has the right to appear as an author of any publication that draws on the research materials they have co-produced. When the work involves the contribution of multiple project participants, they should all appear as authors.





7. Where the contributions of team members to a publication coming out of the research are not sufficient to grant rights of authorship, these contributions should still be acknowledged, along with the grant that made the research possible. Assistance with research design or feedback on draft publications is not in itself sufficient to entitle authorship.
8. For members of the research team to publish work on the materials and analyses that emerge from the fieldwork of others, they should consult and work closely in the conceptualisation and writing with the member of the research team whose materials and analysis they are drawing upon.
9. No members of the research team (including the PIs) are entitled to control or inappropriately influence the interpretative work of others, or to discourage them from publishing. This is crucial to guarantee the intellectual freedom of all researchers.
10. Team members should be supported to publish sole-authored work while part of a research team as this is vital for their career development
11. Members of the research team should be able to continue to publish work that draws on the research materials they were involved in co-producing after their formal involvement in a research project ends.

## ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDNOTES

In 2018, EASA published its statement on data governance in ethnographic projects (EASA 2018). Its key principle is that anthropological knowledge is always co-produced, embedded in particular social contexts and, as such, ‘cannot be fully owned or controlled by researchers, research participants or third parties’, and standard IP licences or archiving requirements may not be appropriate (see also Pels et al. 2018 and Koning et al. 2019).

These principles highlight how ethnographic research materials - including fieldnotes - are co-produced through relations of trust - between the researcher and her interlocutors - and through the interpretative work of the researcher (Koning et al. 2019: 2). These relations of trust come with implications for the guardianship of ethnographic materials produced within research teams. This is particularly important when ethnographic research is being conducted in an interdisciplinary team with different understandings of research ‘data’.



1. Every researcher in a project has a scientific and ethical responsibility to protect the integrity of the ethnographic materials they help to co-produce. This means establishing clear understandings around: how confidentiality will be assured, how materials will be curated, stored, preserved or disposed of, and how/when they will be shared with third parties. This applies to qualitative, quantitative, experimental and visual ethnographic data, as well as to interviews and fieldnotes.
2. All members of a research team – including Principal Investigators (PIs) – should agree on the status of ethnographic fieldnotes and other materials that cannot be easily and meaningfully anonymised. E.g. whether or not they will be shared within the team. Given the guardianship responsibility placed upon the authors of fieldnotes, the sharing of fieldnotes within (or beyond) a project should not be assumed.
3. Ethnographers have a special duty to consider requests by research participants to share materials, but they also have the right to insist on the continuing confidentiality of materials that cannot be anonymised.
4. After a project ends, researchers seeking to continue to use project materials should consult with the research team members who co-produced them.
5. Different projects and different agencies have different understanding of how to handle ethnographic materials: some funders will require curation and deposition of data. Whilst EASA welcomes the broad principles of Open Science, the terms guiding the curation and guardianship of ethnographic materials have to be project-specific. It is not possible to determine general rules applicable to every situation.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

1. PIs should ensure that all members of the research team are given enough time and resources to pursue their career development. This is particularly crucial to early-career researchers who are typically in precarious employment.
2. We recommend that, where possible, PIs and universities consider the guidance offered in the UK Research Concordat, signed by all research funders and most UK universities, recommend that researchers should be allocated at least 10 days a year (pro-rata) for their personal and professional development, e.g. for attending conferences, training and publishing independently of the focus of the project.



3. PIs and other senior members of the research team should prioritise giving support to early career researchers in producing publications, attending conferences, and engaging in other career-development activities, such as grant writing, that are appropriate to their career needs (this could mean single- or co-authored publications, depending on the discipline).

## INSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT

The rise of team-based research funding environment presents new oversight responsibilities for research organisations and universities:

1. Protocols to ensure equitable research collaborations (e.g. around authorship, use of data, intellectual property, data management etc) should be put in place at the very beginning of any project. Existing template authorship agreements may be useful.
2. In situations where large interdisciplinary teams are being assembled, it may be appropriate to consult or involve an external facilitator or research manager. This person should be familiar with and take into account the ethical principles and research protocols of different discipline. The facilitator should ensure that the needs of all participants are taken into account, and be available should the ongoing nature of the project require further advice.
3. Projects should be closely embedded in the life of a relevant academic unit (e.g. a department) to ensure researchers benefit from the broader research environment. Host institutions should ensure that all researchers are included in that unit's activities and offer them opportunities for intellectual exchange and development beyond the specific focus of the project.
4. Host institutions should provide PIs with initial and ongoing training on how to manage large projects. This should include training on how to effectively mentor early career researchers and on how to create and maintain a healthy working environment in the face of the challenges of precarity. Host institutions should also facilitate dialogue and networking amongst PIs to ensure that the funding and reporting expectations are understood.
5. Host institutions should provide training, as appropriate, to PIs and the of a research team on the technicalities of the grant (e.g. reporting mechanisms) so that everyone is clear about their rights and obligations.



6. Co-investigators and collaborators involved in a project should be consulted about the reporting process to project funders (e.g. by signing off interim and final reports) and should have independent channels with funders to raise concerns about the project.
7. Although PIs should provide early career researchers with ongoing mentorship, an external source of advice and recourse should also be available to them. Researchers should thus have a designated person/mentor within a relevant academic unit but independent of the project, who will act as an impartial source of career development review and advice.
8. Funding agencies should require host institutions to provide appropriate support, training and mentorship. Where appropriate these initiatives should be fully costed within grant applications. They should not become an added burden to either academic units or individual members of staff.

## USEFUL RESOURCES

Athena's Angels: This Netherlands based group of four female academics offer advice and guidance to support women in Science

APA : Offers advice on negotiating authorship from Psychology, including useful template contracts

COPE – Committee on Publication Ethics offers valuable guidance on negotiating authorship, including case-studies, webinars, and flowcharts

RIOs - Many European states have established independent research integrity offices (RIOs). Their guidelines on good practice in research should inform guidelines issued by universities and funders.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND HISTORY

These authorship and data management guidelines have been developed in consultation with EASA members and other interested parties, building on a first draft written by Alice Tilche and Rita Astuti, and with input from a number of workshops. At EASA 2018, Alice Tilche and Giacomo Loperfido organised a panel discussion on the ethics and politics of big projects with the support of the PrecAnthro collective. In May 2019, with the support of the LSE Anthropology Department and its RIIF Fund, Alice Tilche and Rita Astuti organised a follow up workshop at the London School of Economics to inform the first draft of these guidelines.

EASA acknowledges the important work of the PrecAnthro collective which made this discussion possible in the first place, along with the support of the Anthropology Department at the LSE and all those who participated in the workshops for their contributions.

A set of draft guidelines were then published in EASA Newsletter 73, and then discussed further at a members' webinar in November 2020. This final draft is informed by the discussions that took place at these workshops, and seeks to find



a consensus position, based on the different views expressed by participants and commentators

1 [https://www.vitae.ac.uk/news/copy\\_of\\_concordat-strategy-group-report](https://www.vitae.ac.uk/news/copy_of_concordat-strategy-group-report), accessed 02/07/2019

## 5. EASA autumn webinars

Following a positive response to EASA's 2020 webinars, a series for this autumn has been proposed.



Renewing the EASA series of webinars that took place in 2020, EASA proposes a new series of webinars for Autumn 2021. Please mark the dates in your agenda.

- Webinar on Policy use of research findings - this took place on 17/09
- Webinar on Open Science and its new EU policies- Friday 22nd October, 15-16:30 CEST.
- Webinar on Open Access and biblio-diversity in anthropology: from journals to monograph and beyond- Friday 12th November, time TBD
- Webinar on Open Data and its impact on anthropological research- Friday 10th December, time TBD

## 6. Network news

EASA's networks remain busy despite the pandemic, with most workshops and conferences happening virtually.

On 19 May there was a webinar open to all network convenors or their representatives. It met a large attendance (around 50 participants) and engaged in very productive discussions together with EASA exec network officers, Sharon



Macdonald and Chandana Mathur. The issue of the expanding numbers of networks was evoked and the discussion focused especially on its implications in relation to the biennial conference. Exec colleagues explained that the format of the 2022 conference will have to be confirmed nearer the time and also that having a conference online does not mean it can grow in size without limits, the management of online conferences involves also important IT and administrative costs. During the discussions, a consensus emerged around the idea that networks should be guaranteed one panel at the conference but that they can compete for more and may get special treatment, especially if they collaborate with each other; that there may be a supplementary online part (a 'green day') organised at the conference.

Network funding – 20 applications were received from the 42 networks, requesting a total of €28k. 12 networks requested €11K for online events, and 8 networks requested €17k for face-to-face events. In total EASA has €26k budgeted for network activities in 2021. The online events were all supported, and the decision was made to revisit the applications for f2f events later on and eventually relaunch the call for other networks to apply, if national regulations and university procedures made this more easily possible in the second half of the year.

## 7. ISE position paper on Horizon Europe



EASA members are asked to give feedback on the Initiative for Science in Europe's position paper.

Considering the relatively low funding budgeted for Horizon Europe (i.e., no substantial increase with respect to H2020), it is important to address from the beginning structural features to make it effective and balanced among the three pillars. The analysis of the framework programme presented in the position paper takes into account its impact on many sectors, disciplines, and geographies.

There are three main areas that need more consideration to further enhance the effectiveness and pan-European societal impact of the programme:



- foster interdisciplinary approaches within the programme
- increase the efforts towards supporting EU-13 countries improve their R&I system
- strengthen the R&I cycle in pillar 2

These three aspects are strongly interconnected and tackling them together will improve European R&I capabilities well beyond the time span of this framework programme.

ISE is interested in getting feedback from members in different EU countries to better understand the perspective of local research communities. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate your comments on the paper.

Note: EASA is one of the members of Initiative for Science in Europe, a lobbying umbrella organisation working for the EU support for the advancement of science in Europe.

## 8. CfA: Database for anti-precarity practice in Higher Education in Europe and beyond

EASA is recruiting a consultant researcher so as to extend its work on precarity and casualisation.

EASA seeks to recruit a consultant researcher to collect comprehensive information on the initiatives, policies and actions of other disciplines and professional associations in Europe and the ways they are addressing problems of casualisation and precarity in their respective areas. The researcher will work closely with the EASA Exec to develop a database of activities and organise a seminar to publicise EASA's work in this area, including its 2020 report [The Anthropological Career in Europe](#) survey report and its new Authorship guidelines. The work should be completed by 15th February 2022. Full details of the consultancy are [available here](#). To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter to Cris Shore [C.Shore@gold.ac.uk](mailto:C.Shore@gold.ac.uk) by **30 October**.







## 9. Call for EASA website redesign

EASA is calling for bids from designers to overhaul their web presence.

EASA is looking to redesign its website, which has maintained the same basic format for over a decade. EASA invites bids from designers to be received by 29th February 2020, with a view to launching the new website in time for the biennial on 21st July.

[Full information can be found here](#) .