



Association of Social Anthropologists

of the UK & Commonwealth

Ethics Report AGM 2020

1. Responding to the community

There have been few requests this year for ethical guidance from the ASA community, perhaps because concerns over GDPR have lessened and also due to the disruption of all research activity during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

2. The ASA's Ethical Guidelines Group (EGG)

EGG have continued to meet over the last year to consider revisions to the ASA Ethical Guidelines 2011. Membership of EGG is currently:

Prof Kirsty Bell, University of Roehampton

Sarah Bourke, Postgraduate student, University of Oxford*

Prof Garry Marvin, University of Roehampton

Prof Jude Robinson, University of Glasgow, (ASA Ethics Officer and EGG Chair)

Dr Heike Schaumburg, University of Reading

Prof David Zeitlyn, University of Oxford

- *Sarah stepped down from EGG in March due to work commitments. As all EGG members have struggled to find time to work on ethics, I secured money from the University of Glasgow to employ a PGR intern in March 2020. This appointment coincided with the COVID-19 shut down and so is currently suspended.
- Kirsty Bell has completed her draft report from the ASA EGG ethics survey sent to the membership last year. Using the 87 responses, less than 10% of ASA membership, a report has been compiled and is available on the [ASA website here](#). The insights have been used to inform the revisions to the ASA Ethics Guidelines.
- We have completed our initial revision of the ASA Ethical Guidelines and circulated to the ASA Executive for their comments in July 2020. Once those comments have been addresses, we propose to post the ASA Ethical Guidelines 2020 as a living document on the ASA with a clear invitation for comment. This continues the practice in place for the previous 2011 deadlines.
- The role of the ASA Ethical Officer continues to be to respond to comments and the changing research landscape and update the guidance accordingly. If the external landscape changes significantly, it may be necessary to set up further working groups in line with EGG. We propose that the current EGG continues to act as a critical body to respond to comments/ queries around ethics from the ASA community for 2020/21
- We also propose that each year at the AGM, the ASA membership agrees the current version of the ASA Guidelines, and so the date after the Guidelines (e.g. ASA Ethical Guidelines 2020, ASA Ethical Guidelines 2021 etc.) is updated each year.

3. Authorship guidelines

Following discussion at the ASA Exec Meeting, we agreed to liaise with the EASA ethical officers to see what they are planning, and this will be followed up in 2020/21.

Jude Robinson
22nd August 2020