



# Association of Social Anthropologists

of the UK & Commonwealth

## ASA AGM Minutes 2018

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018, ASA 2018 Oxford (Venue: Exam Schools, South School)

12:45-14:15

**Attendees:** Nigel Rapport (Chair), Cathrine Degnen (Minutes), Nayanika Mookherjee, Marcus Banks, David Shankland, Veronica Strang, Emma Gilberthorpe, David Gellner, Bob Simpson, Ben Campbell, Lola Martinez, Jude Robinson, Soumhya Venkatesan, Joy Hendry, Georgiana Gore, Laura Rival, Elizabeth Tonkin, Raman Sarro, Howard Morphy, Frances Morphy, Margaret Sleeboom-Faulkner, Mitchell Sedgwick, Maria Nakhshina, Franz Krause, Roger Nascimento

### 1. Minutes of last meeting

12<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Shifting States Conference, ASA/AAS/ANZ 2017 Adelaide (available here: <https://www.theasa.org/downloads/minutes/abm/agm17minutes.pdf> )

### 2. Matters arising

ASA Road Trip update: NR and CD have begun attending departmental staff meetings on behalf of the ASA to find out what things we are doing well, what needs to be done better, how to improve membership numbers, how to build profile of the ASA amongst early career academics, and to better communicate with members and potential members all the things the ASA does on behalf of our members. These visits are to continue into 2019, and have already been extremely valuable.

AGM recommends that as it is beginning of the academic year, the “what the ASA does for you” be sent to HoDs with the request to circulate to all postgrads and undergraduates. Broad discussion about other possible ways to continue getting this message out.

*ACTION: CD to circulate the document as requested.*

### 3. Presentation and Approval of accounts (Treasurer, Soumhya Venkatesan)

SV reports very little change or movement in figures from 2016 to 2017, but to note: Higher Firth Lecture costs than usual (Australian conference location in December 2017) and higher committee costs due to that conference, but also a student grant underspend for the same conference. No monograph mailing costs last year due to delay in production. Overall though, the accounts have more or less broken even.

SV lists ongoing commitments for next year: £2,000 student grants each year, supporting Anthropology Matters (to note however, the ASA Committee initiated fundraising via departments in 2018, many of whom have made a contribution to help supplement AM, for which the ASA notes its thanks); and membership costs of WCAA and AcSS.

NR notes that ASA Monograph from Scotland will be out later this year in 2018. Durham ASA volume is under production and should be out. Manuscript for Adelaide is now complete and is being reviewed. Also, Bloomsbury is seeking to increase cost of £10 per volume to £15 per volume, per member. ASA Committee will be working on this and reporting back in future AGMs. Calculus to be done of how much membership will cost, how to increase membership, but also in light of Bloomsbury's proposal. Various scenarios will be modelled to inform the decision making process.

The AGM formally approves the accounts for 2017 and approves continuing to use the services of the current accountants, now named *M.B. McGrady & Co.*

#### **4. Reviewing ASA Ethics Guidance** (Ethics Officer, Jude Robinson)

JR announces the launch earlier today of EthNav (by Margaret Sleebloom-Faulkener and Bob Simpson) on the ASA website; JR very happy to receive feedback on it as members begin to use it, and notes thanks to NomadIT for all their support in the process of getting EthNav up online.

JR updates the membership on Cathrine Degnen's work on a cross-disciplinary response to GDPR, via publication of a joint statement in Winter 2018 (by the ASA, BSA, ESA, and RGS-IBG). This statement is available to all members on the ASA website, should they need support in negotiating the implications of the GDPR for ethnographic participant-observation with their local Ethics Review boards.

JR to undertake review of ASA Ethics Guidelines (2011); not a root and branch approach, but rather an opportunity to refresh and update. Explains process to follow: seeking to build a working group of 8-10 people via open invitation to the membership; inviting comments from the entire membership about issues that need a closer look by the committee; proposed changes will be circulated to the membership for comment and feedback, with a view to ratifying the new updated guidance at the AGM in 2019.

JR has identified scope for engaging with UKRI and liaising more directly with them on ethics issues, as well as the possibility of the ASA forming its own Ethical Review panel. The idea here is that it might serve as a backstop for members who are having difficulties with their home institutions, or who are not working in institutions with much knowledge of Anthropology and need support of their colleagues.

AGM expresses its thanks to JR and the Committee for their work on ethics on behalf of the profession.

## **5. Upcoming ASA conferences**

NR and EG announce these are to be: ASA 2019 UEA (3rd-6th September 2019) “Anthropological Perspectives on Global Challenges” and ASA 2020 St. Andrews (24th-27th August 2020) “Responsibility”.

## **6. Notice of vacancy for ASA Honorary Sec't (From Sept 2019)**

CD's term of office coming to an end next year; NR announces opening of post. Call for interest to go out in October 2018 ASA Newsletter. Membership is invited to consider putting themselves, or others who might be interested, forward,

## **7. List of new members**

Presented via slide, approved by the Membership.

### **Associate members**

Rosalie Allain, Chiara Arnavas, Liana Chase, Sinibaldo De Rosa, Jiazhi Fengjiang, Hao-Tzu Ho, Thomas Krippner, Ewa Majczak, Roslyn Malcolm, Melyn McKay, Mayanka Mukherji, Natallia Paulovich, Sally Raudon, Vlad Schüler-Costa, Sandro Simon, Elisa Tamburo, Radu Umbres, Rine Vieth, Wanting Wu, Inna Yaneva-Toraman

### **Joint Associate members**

Jawaher Ali-Redha, Michael Allen, Jaskiran Bhogal, Julia Binter, Joseph Bonnell, Stefania Cardinale, Daniel Cardoza, Yu Chun Chen, Christine Conlon, Joanna Deacon, Sally Dennehy, Amanda Drummond, Donald Garcia-Dwyer, David Griggs, Keiko Kanno, Elena Miltiadis, Jessie Mundy, Johana Musalkova, Maryam Pirdehghan, Matthew Porges, Carrie Sear, Rosie Sims, Peter Sutoris, Maryam Tafakory, Mirjana Uzelac, Johanne Verbockhaven, Jaanika Vider, Ricky Whitefield, Ellen Wiles, Elvin Xing Yifu

### **Full members**

Mark Burchell, Timothy Carroll, Thomas Cousins, Sarah Curtis, Janette Davies, Nigel Eltringham, Michele Feder-Nadoff, Clare Harris, Amin Hashemi, Cecile Jackson, Jong-Min Jeong, Anna-Riikka Kauppinen, Esra Kaytaz, Hannah Knox, Scott Lash, Mark Leopold, Loretta Ieng Tak Lou, Jialing Luo, Maureen Matthews, Patrick McKearney, Perveez Mody, Tehseen Noorani, Fernande Pool, Jasmijn Rana, Maria Salaru, Alison Shaw, Alan Smith, Rachel Smith, Jed Stevenson, Soumhya Venkatesan, Kamming Wu

## **8. Membership numbers update and reminder**

Numbers are relatively stable, but there is the perceived need to alter the age pyramid issue, as discussed earlier in the meeting. Members to encourage ECR colleagues to join, and to share knowledge of benefits of ASA membership as widely as possible.

## **9. AOB**

NR notes thanks on behalf of the membership to Paul Gilbert and NomadIT for seeing the new ASA website into fruition.

NR explains that a proposal of an Equity ASA committee member has been made as one of the issues that has emerged from the ASA Road show, and seeks the AGM's opinion on this. Support expressed for this, perhaps on a trial period; perhaps to expand the post's remit to “Equity and Engagement”.

Suggestion from the floor for ASA champions in departments to do the work of disseminating ASA message.

*ACTION: To be discussed at October 2018 ASA Committee meeting.*

Suggestion from the floor that teachers of Anthropology might also be able to join under a bespoke membership status.

*ACTION: To be discussed at October 2018 ASA Committee meeting.*

Suggestion from the floor that the ASA create possibilities for more student-facing (and student-enticing) workshops on how to write an article, on how to get your book published, on ethics.

*ACTION: EG (conference officer) to explore possibility of building this in at ASA19 at UEA.*