



The Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth

COMMITTEE MEETING

12 November 2010,

Room G.109, Arthur Lewis Building, Oxford Road, University of Manchester,

13-17hrs

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes of 29-06-2010**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Reports (Written reports to be circulated in advance, please, minimal and urgent verbal reports only at the meeting)**
 - a. Chair**
 - b. Administrator**
 - c. Treasurer**
 - d. Ethics**
 - e. Networks**
 - f. Publications**
 - g. Media**
- 5. New Treasurer and term of post**
- 6. Film Competition call**
- 7. C-SAP legacy materials**
- 8. ASA statement on Browne Review and CSR**
- 9. ASA conferences - review and plans**
 - a. Firth Lecture 2010**
 - b. ASA 2010**
 - c. ASA 2011**
 - d. ASA 2012**
- 10. Dates of meetings 2010**
- 11. A.O.B.**

Chair's Report

This period has been dominated by REF business

1. ASA followup to panel consultations & continued lobbying for autonomy

Dear Kim,

Many thanks for your mail of 8th July concerning continued dialogue around the REF panel structure. Once again, as an Association we welcome the thought that HEFCE have put into this vexing question.

As I suggested in our past correspondence, our Association is not able to endorse or suggest any particular sub-panel combinations, although we see some merits in the new one proposed.

We are of course pleased that anthropology is named in the panel. We are pleased also that HEFCE undertakes in this proposed joint panel to ensure that it includes members with the full breadth of expertise required to assess submissions. I would note that although anthropology is a small discipline in the UK, it is hard hitting globally across a very wide range of specialisms (as demonstrated in RAE 2008, and the ESRC International Research Benchmarking Review). In the RAE for 2008, the anthropology subpanel had twelve members, but even then liaised with at least twelve additional specialist readers. It would be exceptionally hard to reduce the scope of panel members and their number, while retaining panel legitimacy and credibility.

We are encouraged that under this arrangement, HEFCE intend to make arrangements for 'multiple' submissions to a single UOA, where an institution has substantive and clearly distinct areas of activity. It is important that an HEI could make both a Development Studies and an Anthropology submission to this panel, where the HEI had both disciplines. Whilst ASA does not speak for biological anthropology, our Association is pleased that this arrangement now seems to enable both separate and combined biological/social anthropology submissions within the panel.

Nevertheless, we have several outstanding concerns. First, given that this particular sub-panel combination with development studies remains ad hoc and has been proposed for bureaucratic reasons (relating to sub-panel size), we remain of the view that it makes no academic sense whatsoever for there to be a merged descriptor across anthropology and development studies. If there is, we remain acutely worried that anthropological research conducted in universities and departments which lies outside of this particular specialism will risk being submitted under other panels (relating to their interdisciplinary areas), thus rendering a very large proportion of anthropological research invisible, and leading to the dismantling of the discipline. This goes beyond the remit of REF. We thus remain of the view that in the proposed arrangement, anthropology (and Development Studies too) should remain visible as a subject with its own descriptor and own quality profile. On this basis separate UoAs would still make better sense.

Second, as we stated before, we still feel that leaving the evaluation of a discipline to an informal grouping (an informal 'sub sub panel' if you will) of such an ad hoc constituted sub-panel is unacceptable. Leaving the constitution of 'sub sub panels' as informal within an ad hoc grouping of disciplines risks damaging confidence in the panel's work process and its legitimacy. Given the important role of the sub-panel

chair, for example, we cannot see how it would be justifiable for either a Development Studies Chair to allocate the readers of Anthropology submissions, or vice versa.

Thirdly, there is an interesting dilemma raised in this proposed combination concerning how impact is to be measured which HEFCE might reflect on further. Development Studies as a discipline is, by its very nature, likely to have more easily measurable direct modes of impact. It will be important in any combined panel to be able to capture the different kinds of impact in both disciplines and to recognise the different criteria on which these are based. It will also be important, to capture the impact of anthropology outside of any relationship with development studies. This will require reassurance that the number and type of 'research users' recruited on to the panel will be appropriate to both disciplines.

Mid July, heard decision that anthropology was to be in a single sub-panel with Development Studies.

2. Coordinate the submissions of 'Case Studies of Impact' for Impact Workshops

3. Made ASA Nominations for the workshop convened by HEFCE/REF on 'impact in the social sciences'

Nominated: Professor Hastings Donnan; Professor Deborah James; Professor David Gellner; Professor Peter Wade; Professor Katy Gardner; Professor Jonathan Spencer; Dr. Michael Stewart.

4. Asked to endorse for REF Chair application (Anthropology and Development Studies)

Only Hastings Donnan (Chair of Anthropology sub-panel in REF 2008) was proposed by ASA and DSA

5. Liaised with HODs, DSA and Hastings Donnan over the composition of the Anthropology Panel

Ranked Nominations made to HEFCE (On the basis of one nomination only from each institution, and those prepared to be nominated with experience of REF ranked higher)

6. Attendance as ESRC post CSR meeting

7. Attendance at BA convened meeting on Impact, on Brown Review and beyond.

Other Chair business:

Raminder Kaur (Treasurer) represented ASA to the WCAA at conference in Ireland

Admin report

1) Membership

With about 100 members still outstanding, we have sent a final reminder. This elicited about 25 responses.

We will shortly circulate a list of 60 members whose membership we suggest is lapsed, due to their being 2yrs overdue.

Arrears will then be ~1k out of 17k.

Nearly 170 members have set up direct debits.

2) Website

We have nearly completed the redesign requested by the committee. While updating the navigation, we have also modernised the design. It was my intention that this would be completed in time for the meeting but we are just finalising how to represent 3rd level menus... I can show the new homepage in the meeting.

3) Directory

Launch of the directory, which was planned for August, was held up by a gap in communication with the Chair. Receipt of the go-ahead came just prior to EASA2010, and so had to be delayed. We have now decided it is best to await the redesign of the site before launching the directory. All being well this will be launched by an email to all members next week.

4) Conferences

There has been a sudden flurry of communication from ASA11 at Lampeter - now called Trinity College St Davids (TCD). The title and theme were circulated I think; I am hoping to have some feedback on the proto-budget in time for the meeting. They have written an application to British Academy to cover the costs of two plenary speakers. We should discuss the size of the conference and the length.

ASA12 - Nayanika and I had useful meetings with the colleagues in Delhi and I will send a separate email report in the next couple of hours. But in essence, we have dates, title, theme, local committee, and advisory committee (at that end) established. I've checked out the venue and we also met with the President of the IAS. We should discuss the advisory committee, the plenary speakers, the panel arrangement, and budget/finances in our meeting.

Treasurer's report

1. Balances

Main/subscriptions account - approx. 22,000
Conference – 7,200
Reserves - 30,000
Firth bond – 29,600
TOTAL = 88,800

2. Of the £17,905 in subscriptions, £16,228 has been collected so far (but this includes arrears from previous years). An outstanding number of 101 people owe the ASA a total of £7,500. (Just think how many students and other initiatives we could support with this!) Still, this is no reflection on Ro or Megan, who have done an excellent job in chasing people up and, so far, have managed to get 40 people to pay up, thereby decreasing the arrears from £9,000 earlier this year.

Ro has suggested that we terminate membership for 60 people who are in arrears over two years, at a loss of a potential £6,000 to the ASA (no monographs have been sent to them). Our membership numbers would then be 536.

3. After accounts were finalised, the ASA conference in Belfast 2010 came in at a loss of approx £2,000. The ash cloud contributed to at least £600 of extra costs here (in accommodating and returning the keynote speaker). So it would have been closer to a £1,400 loss, which is a few hundred worse off than the original budget prediction (a loss of £800-1000) that was signed off in September 2009.

We have agreed to split the loss of a further £1,000 each, and have not requested the seed money *on this occasion* as nothing was agreed in writing beforehand. So in sum the conference cost the ASA £1,500. This is an unfortunate situation, but as we had not dedicated funds to students for this conference, we could see this amount as coming out of that pot.

4. I have sent a template to Atryee regarding a letter of agreement with future conference organisers in Britain stipulating that the ASA will provide a *loan* of £500 for the conference, and that it will take half of any profits. However the ASA is not in any position to bail out any conference losses.

5. There was no blog this year (perhaps we could have one on the current state of affair in education as well as the one on media agreed at the last meeting). The allocated £1,000 for the blog maintenance has been put towards the website redesign.

6. The costs for the online journal, Anthropology Matters, will incur an extra £300 including training of editor to use the system. The AM is now redesigned in a new open journal system format.

7. Overall, the annual income covers the main costs but I doubt there would be much surplus this year due to extra costs including the approx. £650 dedicated so far to organising the conference at JNU. (This is calculated on the following basis: Income £16,000 per year and royalties £4,000. Expenditure: £7,500 on admin, £4,000 on mailing 1 monograph, £500 on

AM, £1,000 on meetings, £1,500 on accountants and tax, and £500 on sundries eg JNU conference, directory £800, ACSS £300, prizes £500, and grant for students and scholars from south £2,000 - this time put towards Belfast conference loss)

8. Mailing 2 books could cost about £8,000 next year and there is a chance that the income does not cover expenses in 2011.

9. Any further requests for out-of-the-norm or already agreed expenses would have to come from the ASA's accrued reserves, and thus needs to be carefully considered.

Raminder Kaur, Honorary Treasurer.

Ethics

Belfast panel on ethics and reconciliation: I convened and chaired an open forum in the Belfast ASA on ethics and reconciliation. I am in the process of getting all the contribution together.

ASA Ethics code Finally I will be updating the ASA ethics code and send it to all the committee members for their feedback before sending it out to all ASA members and then take it to the **next AGM – where would that be in Lampeter or before that?**

Blog – Ian Harper promised to start a blog in January 2010 as well as October 2010. This has not materialised yet though he had contributors and theme lined up. I have written to him recently asking if he wants to do it from Jan. I know he is keen to do it as we had a long chat on the phone in September 2010 about it. The topic [experiences of ethical review committees] would also draw attention. If this does not materialise, I might approach others who have expressed interest in the blog. **What happened to our proposal to rotate the role of the co-ordinator of the blog among the committee members? Any takers yet? Raminder? James S? Garry? [ethics and media]**

ASA 2012 – it was a fruitful visit to JNU. More after we get ro's report. We need to decide on our 12 plenary speakers **[how many confirmed plenary speakers do we have now], advisory committee [I would propose asking Howard Morphy (ANU), Sharon Macdonald (Manchester), Chris Pinney (UCL), Ravi Sundaram (CSDS, Delhi)]** to be part of the advisory committee. Atreyee would need to write to them now to seek permission to include them in the advisory committee. The final theme, names of organising and advisory committee needs to be on website by early- mid December along with maybe the names of confirmed plenary speakers.

Contributing to the **ASA Sage handbook** [ed by Fardon and Gledhill], co-authoring a piece on ethics with Michael Lambeck

C-SAP Update

Future of HEA/C-SAP

The future of the entire HEA remains uncertain until after the implications of the CSR and Lord Browne's report are clear. The assumption is that the Academy will still exist and maintain a commitment to disciplinary engagement, but there will almost certainly be fewer subject centres working across more disciplines, so anthropology faces becoming part of a larger collective of cognate disciplines. (In other words much the same as I said last time).

Disciplinary Interest Group(DIG)

The C-SAP reference group was officially wound up in July and will be replaced with the disciplinary interest group. I have been appointed as DIG associate to convene the new group. The rationale is that whereas the reference group was a formal structure which had an advisory function the new group will be independent of C-SAP. It will have flexible membership and be able to set its own agenda and have the opportunity to bid for project funding. Its primary role will be to articulate the teaching and learning concerns of anthropology so that we have a strong voice in the new climate to ensure continued support from the HEA even if C-SAP is merged into a larger collective. The first meeting will be on 24th November. I am looking for interested new members to attend.

Legacy Materials

Over the years C-SAP has accumulated a large amount of resources developed by anthropology staff and students. These are currently housed on the C-SAP website. In the event that C-SAP ceases to exist in any recognisable form after the re-structuring it would be a shame if this material were to be lost or buried somewhere inaccessible because no-one is specifically tasked with making it available. It has been suggested that the ASA may like to house some or all of the anthropology specific resources on our website.

Early Careers Event

There will be a 2-day early careers event on the 2nd-3rd December at Birmingham University for early career staff and doctoral students across the C-SAP disciplines. I will be attending to represent anthropology. We agreed to commit the £800 that was committed last year but not spent to sponsor 8 places for ASA members. Randal proposed that this be increased to £1000 again. Did we ever discuss this? I will re-post the publicity on anthropology matters.

Teaching Prize

We only received one application this time. I have been holding off awarding the prize to see if any other applicants emerged. Shall we re-advertise or just consider awarding the prize to the one applicant.

ESD/Ellen MacArthur Foundation

My other remaining responsibility at C-SAP is for 'education for sustainable development' (ESD). This remains a priority area for the HEA, although funding is less generous than it has been. I am of the opinion that this is an area that anthropology ought to be able to capitalise on, particularly since we are now partnered with development studies in the REF. In relation to this, the Academy ESD project has recently formed a partnership with the Ellen MacArthur

foundation. This organisation seems to have quite a lot of money available and is interested in funding initiatives that further a particular sustainable development agenda that they call 'closed loop thinking'. This could include both teaching and research. They seem very open to suggestions within their rather narrow remit.

Anthropology Matters

AM is seeking to 1) expand the on-line journal and 2) develop a web resource providing information, support and skills training that are not provided by formal structures, but crucial to navigating and surviving fieldwork and academic institutions, and to render anthropology postgraduates more employable both within and beyond academia. The new committee hope that the ASA can help with the development of the on-line journal. This will involve the costs for NomadIT (an extra £100per year), costs incurred in doing research for the new content (maximum 8 sets of travel & 8 sets of dinner/drinks for persons interviewed and purchase of methodology books etc per year), travel costs to enable the 7 members of the committee to meet in person twice a year (other meetings can be done online) and publicity for AM and the ASA at conferences . As to the web resource, the initial setup costs could be up to £1000, yearly maintenance £200 and then the money required for travel, books, interviews etc. They are looking to source funding from elsewhere.