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## COLLATED REPORTS FOR JUNE 2012 MEETING

### Chair's Report

#### 1. Research Councils

There is not much to discuss. AHRC have a 'Learned Societies' consultative meeting that I will attend on 20 June. ESRC do not seem to have one. They have, however, announced the **ESRC Advanced Training Network Consultation**.

#### 2. ASA in Delhi

ASA were involved in three events in Delhi.

The first was the biennial meeting of the World Council of Anthropological Associations of which ASA is a member. This involved:

##### a. Reporting on activities.

Details on WCAA activities can be found at <http://www.wcaanet.org> . This global association now has more than 40 members, most of which explicitly embrace social anthropology. We and our members should be aware that they run a blog and a forum as we do. They have a listing of members journals [http://www.wcaanet.org/publications/mem\\_pub.php](http://www.wcaanet.org/publications/mem_pub.php) and global anthropological journals [http://www.wcaanet.org/publications/other\\_pub.php](http://www.wcaanet.org/publications/other_pub.php) ). Several members are involved in developing an 'Anthropologists without borders' spin-off (ASF) which aspires to offer specialist anthropological advice to those who need it. A panel discussed this at the colloquium <http://www.indiananthropology.org/announcements.asp>

##### b. Updating the mission statement and developing a programme of work (see annexe I)

##### c. Electing members to the committee. WCAA is explicitly 'anti-hegemonic' and as ASA risks being taken as among the 'hegemon', I purposefully play a low profile. That said, Seth Low (formerly chair of AAA) was elected to be Vice-Chair (and thus is chair elect, which caused some discussion). Raminder Kaur was elected to be Ethnicity representative. WCAA also receives WG support and now has logistical support in the US.....

d. There was considerable discussion on how subscriptions to WCAA would operate. Eventually it was decided that each member would contribute financially, to the best of its ability, but that nobody shall be excluded or disadvantaged by financial limitations. **We agreed on self-assessment in which large and strong associations would contribute \$1000 min/annum (see attached). As a committee we need to agree this.**

e. WCAA will be holding an interim meeting at the IUAES Congress in Manchester in August 2013

Secondly, the ASA was involved as sponsor to the IAA/IAS led Symposium on 'The anthropology of global issues' held at Delhi University 1-3 April. This was a large international symposium at which many Indian anthropologists and the WCAA delegates presented papers and a wide variety of themes. It revealed the power and scope of contemporary anthropological research from India. A sense of this can be had from the call for papers at <http://www.indiananthropology.org/announcements.asp>. I represented ASA at the opening and closing of this event, and have thanked Professor Soumendra Patniak for his welcome and organisation of this event. I took the opportunity to float the idea that given WCAA and the associations that it represents from around the world, the ASA was considering dropping the 'of the UK and Commonwealth' from its name (as we discussed at the AGM).

Third, ASA held its annual conference at JNU in Delhi (see other items).

### **3. Firth Lecture**

I recently have written to invite Professor AM

### **4. Change of Name**

I have drafted but not sent the consultative letter concerning the change of name, and would propose to send this after our meeting (but how can I send this directly to all members?).

## **Admin report**

### **From Megan:**

I won't be at the meeting, but there is little to report on the admin front anyway, just that everything is ticking along nicely. I've completed the accounts ledger for the first four months of this year, and it's with Rohan who will probably send it on to Raminder/Lotte in time for the meeting. On the monos front, I've supplied the mailing list for the Shankland mono, which will be sent out sometime in July, and the Skinner mono is due to be mailed in September it seems.

I've just set up 7 new direct debits and am still gently pushing for other, and new, members to move over to that form of payment. If there are any specific queries I can try to answer those before the meeting, and I might be online early in the afternoon of 11 June if anything comes up in the meeting that needs a prompt reply.

### **From Rohan:**

I won't be at the meeting either but will be available by phone (07866 425805) and online. We have continued to update the website, both for the networks, the annals (any extra prompting of depts. to complete their entry and return to Megan would be welcome), social networking, etc. We have given Matt access to the blog, but at present the blog remains dormant. Simone asked that we create pages within the blog for the ASAonline articles when they were posted, which we did, but they have not attracted comment. Essentially, without regular and continual input on all these Web2.0 technologies, there is going to be little input from the public.

I am currently unable to give a final picture of the ASA12 finances, although I suspect there may be a small surplus.

## **Learning and teaching report**

### **Anthropology Associate**

I have been offered some consultancy days by HEA to be 'Anthropology Associate' to develop ways in which the HEA can better engage with anthropologists. I have already been doing this in a very light touch way for the last few months as I have had to do other things to pay bills, but I will be concentrating on this for a while now. Below are my current activities, any other suggestions welcome.

### **Learning and Teaching Network (LATAN)**

I haven't done much with this so far, but will be talking to Rachel and Ro about it this week.

#### **Aims and Objectives:**

Learning and Teaching in Anthropology Network (LATAN) aims to support all aspects of learning and teaching in anthropology whilst recognizing that these activities are separate from research. It has the following Objectives:

To Promote and share best practice in Teaching Anthropology

To Publicize learning and teaching events both within the discipline and across disciplines.

To provide a forum to discuss learning and teaching issues in anthropology and to disseminate pedagogical research

To monitor and feedback to the discipline on developments in the Higher Education Academy

To Identifying sources of funding for teaching and learning Activities and to support bids.

A JISCMAIL list has already been established, but this needs to be regularly used to develop a momentum. At the moment I send out information sporadically when I have it, but I propose to start a monthly bulletin message to all members of the list. This would encourage others to contribute ideas and information that they have. I would also actively encourage members to send information about teaching and learning activities/events happening in their institutions.

### **Network Meeting**

I would like to hold a first network meeting for the LATAN network, perhaps early July. To avoid small numbers I could suggest people apply to the ASA for travel funds to attend, but perhaps better to arrange an online or partially online meeting.

### **Early Career Events**

The HEA will continue to hold early career events for social scientists, which I will publicize via the LATAN and Anthropology matters networks. ASA could however apply to HEA for workshop funding to organize our own anthropology events (we got £500 from them for the Manchester event last time). One possibility is an event for postgraduates on getting and/or making the most of TA experience. One thing that has emerged from C-SAP early career events is that not all anthropology postgraduates are able to get such experience and for those who do, the training they receive is variable.

### **Teaching Anthropology Journal**

RAI are supporting a journal edited by David Mills and Dimitrina Spencer called [Teaching Anthropology](#) The journal also organizes events the next one being on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Oxford and

ASA supported this by paying for the keynote speakers from the C-SAP Bursary received by the ASA in November.

### **International Networks**

The European Association of Social Anthropologists already has a Teaching Anthropology network ([EASA Networks: teaching anthropology](#)) and hold workshops at their Biennial Conference. I will facilitate link-up between this network and LATAN. I can also look into the activities of the American Anthropological Association, to see if there is potential for link-up.

### **HEA Conference, HEA Social Sciences Conference**

I presented a paper on using online discussion forums at the HEA social sciences 'cluster conference', which was quite interesting. It attracted a similar audience to the C-SAP conferences, but I don't think was very visible to anthropologists. If this becomes an annual event I will try to raise its profile using the LATAN network. I also plan to attend at least one day of the HEA conference as a delegate.

### **Teaching Prize**

This year's HEA/ASA teaching prize was very successful and I hope HEA will be prepared to support this again. I need to arrange with Ro to make the prize payments and claim the money from HEA! This year the prize was advertised in January, but it might make sense to advertise the 2012/13 prize at the end of July with an autumn deadline to give plenty of time for applications. I will be responsible for putting out the publicity and arranging a judging panel etc. Another idea is to approach this year's prize winners to get them to write something for the website or the teaching anthropology Journal.

## **Media officer report**

There is little to report except for a few enquiries and responses. Before accepting the post of media officer I communicated with Garry Marvin, who predicted the occasional email from a documentary film company wishing to get in contact with a relevant anthropologist.

Given the current wariness of many anthropologists to be involved in the exoticising (eg Human Planet) and over dramatising agenda of many independent film companies, I wonder if there is not a better way of ensuring that more of our members have the opportunity to engage with documentary film companies in more productive terms, rather than through the process of the media officer going through the database of members and matching members interests and the enquiry. It would also be good to expand our ability to respond to all media enquiries, that might include radio and TV.

I wonder what the committee feels about such enquiries being posted to all members in a dedicated media network and developing a new strategy of engagement with independent film companies, that might involve a more participative and collaborative engagement, than us being consulted as experts for already formulated film projects. This might involve a section on our webpage, that would ask our members the question, 'What does visual anthropology or anthropological expertise have to offer documentary film companies?' Members could also frame the kinds of documentary projects they would be interested in engaging in (eg 'A documentary on perspectivism') Then at the very least companies would know what to expect and know what we are most enthusiastic about.

### **Enquiries**

- transcript of Marilyn Strathern's speech at Keele---(responded)
- possible blog post on the issue of sustainability and public policy (forwarded)
- researcher from the BBC Human Planet series (pending)

### **Proposals**

- emails to come straight to my kent address (faster, and more efficient and greater functionality than squirrel mail)
- new network for those interested in engaging with the media to which all media enquiries would be posted (members could also then share media invitation that they cannot do themselves) –non anthropologists could also potentially be part of this network
- members post brief synopsis of what they would like or feel should be addressed through documentary and other multi media projects.

## Ethics officer report

I have four items to report, but will begin with the main one which also forms a suggested agenda item, namely data storage.

I received two separate enquiries concerning data storage. One was (via James F.) from a social anthropologist expressing concern and asking for advice following a request from the ESDS (Economic and Social Data Archive) for him to provide his research data for permanent storage, ostensibly as a condition of an ESRC grant award. The other was, on the contrary, an enquiry from a PhD student who was faced with ethics committees requiring him to destroy his research data – he was asking us to consider storing his research data. I responded to the latter enquiry that we were unable to do so at present, and to both, that I would investigate the current position of the ESRC on data storage and its implication, ethical and otherwise, and bring a report to the ASA committee, for us to discuss what further steps we might take.

The (informal!) report is in Annexe II. It includes a brief summary of the state of play as I understand it, and some concerns which this raises, for me at least. We could perhaps consider whether and how the ASA should respond to this new development?

The other three items are

1. Hilary Callan contacted us for a final decision on a discussion which had been ongoing with Nayanika before I joined the committee, concerning the publication of the ASA ethics guidelines as part of a reader aimed primarily at A-level anthropology students. The editors had initially suggested a number of fairly extensive cuts (in particular of the sections concerning responsibilities to sponsors and relations to own and foreign governments). Nayanika had asked for some of the cut passages to be reinstated. In the end, in consultation with James F. we asked for some key passages of both sections to be reinstated and the publishers agreed.
2. I was passed on a request for a blog entry for the general ASA blog. As the topic seemed slightly oblique, in consultation with Zem, I asked the proponent whether the post would specifically address anthropology. There has been no response to date.
3. I looked into the draft Concordat to Support Research Integrity, following the ACSS statements of concern passed on by James F. This has been discussed in emails to the committee, so I will not go into much detail here, but the outcome was that following some research and a phone enquiry, no further information was available, beyond that provided by the draft itself, and it was felt this was insufficient basis upon which to take further action. But we could perhaps discuss this further at the meeting?

## Publications officer report

1. **ASA Monograph 48:** David Shankland's volume *Archaeology and Anthropology: Past, Present and Future* will be published in **July 2012**
2. **ASA Monograph 49:** Jonathan Skinner's *Anthropology and the Interview* ms was completed and sent to Berg in September 2011, and will come out in **September 2012**.
3. **ASA Monograph 50:** A first ms of Penny Dransart's volume is scheduled to be with me in October 2012, and chapters will – for the first time – be sent out for peer review. Comments need to be returned to the authors in December 2012, and corrected versions – collated by the editor – need to be back with the PO, to send to Berg, early in February 2013. This would allow for a publication date of **September 2013** (and, allowing for likely slippages – given Penny's work schedule *and* our additional layer of peer review, should hopefully ensure the volume comes out at least by the end of the year and in time for the REF submission).
4. **ASA Monograph 51:** Raminder Kaur (ASA) and Parul Mookerjee (JNU) have agreed to edit the volume of our *Arts and Aesthetics* 2012 conference, with Raminder taking the lead in ensuring the publication schedule is maintained. I have requested a book proposal prior to our June meeting, and then:
  - **June 2012:** Final proposal to Berg for approval (decision usually comes within one month)
  - **March 2013:** Near ready manuscripts from authors to editors (make this earlier if you want longer to work on them before they go out for peer review)
  - **April 2013:** MS to ASA PO to send out chapters for review
  - **June/July 2013:** Comments from reviewers back to editors and to authors
  - **mid-Sept 2013:** All revised chapters back to editors for approval
  - **October 2013:** MS to Berg
  - **May 2014:** Publication comes out

This is a fairly tight schedule, but should ensure that even if some of the deadlines slip, we still get a volume out within 12 months of the previous one.
5. **Editorial board:** Since the last meeting an invitation was sent out to all our members requesting volunteers for an editorial board for the monograph, with view to establishing a board of 15-20 members, and a larger pool of potential peer reviewers. Professors **Pat Caplan** and **John Gledhill** – as former chairs of the ASA – had already agreed to be part of the board. We have had nearly 60 responses, and I have replied to them all to say that we will agree a final list at our June 2012 meeting. Those not selected will be invited to become part of our pool of potential reviewers and potential replacement board members when the others complete their five-year terms. We now need to get this up and running as soon as possible so that it is in place for reviewing the Dransart volume. A full list of 'applicants' is appended below. (I've highlighted in red those who, in addition to John and Pat, I thought we might appoint – trying to balance regional/topical coverage along with a sprinkling of gravitas – although the list is still quite long and committee members might have additional ideas...)



## Networks officer report

I have just taken over from Cathrine Degnen as Networks Officer. I'm grateful to Cathrine for helpful handover information and hope that I can keep up her good work. This brief report outlines the current state of play within Networks.

### 1. Current networks

There are three ASA networks:

- i. **Anthropology of Britain Network:** convened by Katharine Tyler and Cathrine Degnen (outgoing Networks Officer). This network holds regular workshops and meetings.
- ii. **Network of Applied Anthropologists ('Apply'):** convened by Kathryn Tomlinson and Rachael Gooberman-Hill. This network holds regular discussion meetings and is hosting a stall at the RAI conference 8th-10th June 2012.
- iii. **Postgraduate Network ('Anthropology Matters'):** Anthropology Matters operates primarily as an email list, with frequent traffic. I have made contact with the previously recorded convenors of Anthropology Matters (Amy Pollard and Gemma John). Amy and Gemma say that they're no longer involved, and have suggested contacting Jennifer Peachey. I've yet to hear back from Jennifer but shall keep trying. I'd like to establish contact to see if this network requires any support.

### 2. New Network

There have already been discussions about a new network, which would be proposed by Ian Fairweather. Cathrine has already sent the necessary documentation to Ian.

### 3. Website Section: crisis in HE

Cathrine has arranged content for a section of the ASA website, about the crisis in HE. This has commentaries from Dimitris Dalakoglou and Judith Oakley, links to published essays on other sites, and links to The British Sociological Association (Blog and Statement) and the Campaign for the Public University. Cathrine hoped that this work would continue, and it would be helpful to hear committee members' thoughts about content that could be added now or in the future.

### 4. ASA Representatives in University Departments

The question of ASA reps has been discussed previously. It would be helpful to pick up on this at the committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

## **Liaison officer report**

There is little to report from the liaison side.

ASA New Delhi 2012: Have sent out an elaborate range of thank you e-mails to various organisers, plenary speakers, participants etc. There were some plenary speakers like Jyoti Sahi who wanted to get in touch with more scholars in relation to his work. That was a bit tough but I did get some people in JNU connected in strange ways to academics in the UK, even through facebook, which was odd.

Manchester conference 2013/ASA sponsorship: Have been in touch with J Gledhill. The deadline for the paper submissions is in July and there is little to do before that. John thinks there is a respectable amount of panels, but he would still like to wait until the deadline before he decides what panels the ASA should sponsor. He said JF offered to host the Firth Lecture for the conference. So is that going to be the official keynote or is that in addition to the IUEAS keynote? Do we have a mechanism in place for deciding which panels get sponsorship from us (i.e, do we fund all the panels chosen by JG, or does he propose a list of panels to us and then we choose, or are we sponsoring individual speakers in panels? what is our budget?) I am concerned because I am getting a few enquiries from panel convenors about getting sponsorship for their panels or about individual participants. I do think we should wait till the deadline is over and the panels have been confirmed, but it may worthwhile to think whether we have a strategy in place from our side. I presume all panels have to go through JG and his selection team, and scholars cannot make independent requests to us?

ASA 2014: This will be my last liaise effort I guess. I will be in touch with Ian and Jonathan by the end of the year and rekindle the funding conversation.

## Annexe I: WCAA Strategic plan

Draft by Setha Low with input from all members 4/15/12

### WCAA Strategic Plan Elements

#### 1. Mission Statement: to be modified in the following manner:

##### A: Existing constitution

###### Article 1

The World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) is a network of national and international associations and organizations that aims to promote worldwide communication and cooperation in anthropology.

###### Article 2

Its primary objectives are:

- To promote the discipline of anthropology in an international context.
- To promote cooperation and the sharing of information among anthropologists worldwide.
- To promote jointly organized events of scientific debate and cooperation in research activities.
- To disseminate anthropological knowledge globally within both the academic and the public spheres.

##### B. Proposed mission statement

The World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) is a network of regional, national and international associations that aims to promote worldwide communication and cooperation in anthropology. Its primary objective is to promote:

- the discipline of anthropology in an international context, **with full recognition of the inherent plurality of its constituent national, linguistic and regional traditions;**
- cooperation and the sharing of information among anthropologists worldwide **and between the different anthropological communities represented by its member associations;**
- jointly organized events of scientific debate, and co-operation in research activities and dissemination of anthropological knowledge;

In pursuit of this objective WCAA is concerned with recognizing and debating a diversity of views and perspectives within world anthropologies whilst also seeking to identify and disseminate common concerns and conclusions. WCAA acts as a forum for communication of news, ideas and knowledge, and as a network facilitating the exchange and flow of information. This includes ethical codes and global discussion about how the profession can best respond to contemporary challenges that are themselves often the product of forces and relations beyond the level of the individual nation-state. WCAA aims to strengthen the circulation of ideas and knowledge by facilitating the dissemination of anthropological work in a multiplicity of languages to improve knowledge of world anthropologies, counteract the hegemony

of English-based knowledge production, and to enable different local publics to learn about the results of anthropological research in their own languages. WCAA-sponsored panels are to be organized at meetings of member associations and its website has been developed to make it an effective instrument for providing up-to-date information and facilitating scholarly exchange. WCAA seeks to promote international networks of postgraduate students.

WCAA works to improve the profile and image of the discipline through various forms of public engagement. These include a focus on deepening and broadening anthropology's presence in the education system and encouraging anthropologists to contribute to public debates on issues such as multiculturalism, cultural diversity and immigration, by seeking to clarify the meaning of key terms on which anthropologists hold expertise and by practicing appropriate forms of political advocacy. The WCAA itself seeks, when there is a consensus among its member associations, to issue public statements that reflect anthropological knowledge on issues such as the rights of indigenous and minority groups, as well as draw attention to arbitrary acts by states and others towards such groups and to threats to the lives and welfare of anthropologists and others. WCAA also issues statements on matters of worldwide professional concern. These include the impacts and potential biases of academic evaluation processes on the development of anthropology and of changes in funding models and the institutional organization of teaching and research in different national contexts. In some cases, such developments raise ethical concerns and pose threats to academic freedom.

**(This needs to be voted upon to be completed)**

## **2. Intellectual Engagement**

It was agreed that while WCAA does not have any pretensions to be a research Institute, one of the roles of the World Council is to promote what we do as anthropologists, including that we try to make a difference through research. Thus, the group discussed ways that WCAA could be a space to enable collaboration in shared research interests of global import.

It was agreed that it was appropriate for WCAA to nominate one or more areas of research priority (that could be reviewed every two years) and list these on the website. These research priorities would, in turn, inform other WCAA priority areas including publications and media outreach.

We proposed the following two areas of research priority:

1) Environmental Challenges and Local Knowledge

2) Displacement and Immobility

And a third developing area:

3) War, Securitization and Financialization of Social Life

A task force could be set up to fine tune and develop abstracts for each of these. It was recommended that these research priorities be practically addressed over the next couple of years in WCAA panels/sessions at the national conferences of the various member Associations. Each association could choose one (or more) to be addressed at its conference. In addition, one (or more) of these themes would form the theme of the next biennial WCAA symposium and publication outcomes.

### **3.Strategies for strengthening the position of anthropology in National Contexts**

- Promotion of anthropological knowledge(s) and other knowledge(s) in general in the context of valorising cultural diversity
- Autonomy of the discipline in the nation-state, including university curricula
- Engaging with government research, policy makers and educational institutions
- Recruiting individual members of member associations into WCAA projects

We began by turning to the need to support the visibility of anthropology in each nation, region, and university. A problem is that anthropology tends to be twinned administratively or in audit procedures with other disciplines (archaeology, sociology and other small departments). WCAA can support national associations in institutional struggles to maintain the visibility of anthropology. There is not a need to 'do battle' with other social sciences (a strong social science is something to support) but there is a need to support the visibility of anthropology within them.

This could be considered as a 'branding problem. We discussed how to project the nature and importance of anthropology. Some ideas discussed included (a) building a roster of examples of important contributions of anthropology to wider society ; (b) encourage the writing of histories of anthropology that would bring this out. Arenas of impact are innumerable, but might include arenas ranging from international development, to migration, health, heritage etc. etc.

We reflected that there is a problem of anthropologists sometimes being 'complicit' in the invisibility of the discipline – in shying away from branding our work as 'anthropologists' (perhaps for fear that audiences may not recognise the term, and even describing ourselves publically as 'sociologists' which has stronger social recognition). We produce many thousands of students annually, yet in what way do they identify themselves in their subsequent life and work as 'anthropologists'? One might envisage initiatives such as a 'World Anthropology Day' that WCAA could coordinate, or some other practices that can capture and project anthropology in wider society.

On the second question: whilst there are many examples and circumstances in which anthropologists work well with governments, there are also pressures in which such links can compromise the ethical conduct of the discipline and its reputation. Examples include the recent work anthropologists have been asked to do for armed forces. WCAA needs to support national anthropological associations in their efforts to maintain the independence, reputation and ethical standards against such cooptation.

There is not only a concern with cooptation of anthropologists by government, but also by other anthropologists – with those from the ‘global north’ sometimes using those from less well funded countries simply as field researchers, not true colleagues.

### **5. Publications**

WCAA will begin publishing an e-journal in 2012-2013. This journal will consist of articles chosen by different national associations from their flagship journals, dealing with a common theme, such as ‘gender’ or ‘globalization’ (very broad themes so that no national or regional anthropologies are excluded). The e-journal will reprint these articles on the web, in both the article’s original language and in English, in a translation provided by each national association. The e-journal will thus require no money from WCAA. Translations into other languages will also be strongly encouraged, and will be included in the journal if translators can be found. Linkages to WAN, the World Anthropology Network, will be pursued. Gordon Mathews and Gustavo Lins Ribeiro are named as the initial editors of this e-journal, although this is still being confirmed.

It is important that WCAA have research outputs on the basis of its conferences, but that is difficult, since most of the people coming to the WCAA meetings are association presidents, having in common the fact that they are organizational presidents, rather than shared research interests. It would be best if different members of WCAA member associations could meet on the basis of common intellectual concerns and research topics. This is already happening, to a degree. We need to have special editions of journals, or edited books, to justify our funding, and are off to a start, but we need to work harder to make this process happen.

### **6. Dues Structure: the following due structure was proposed**

Association Name \*

Re: Your Contribution to WCAA

Dear \*,

At the recent biennial meeting in New Delhi we discussed at some length the financial basis of WCAA and levels at which it was reasonable to expect member associations to share the costs. We arrived at the following framework:

#### **Principles:**

1. We all contribute financially, to the best of our ability, but
2. nobody shall be excluded or disadvantaged by financial limitations.

#### **Relevant Factors/Criteria:**

1. Size - ie number of members
2. Economic Strength, measured by
  - National income levels
  - Exchange rates
3. any other speccific/local factors

**The ideal solution** would be a sliding scale based on these variables, but

it was felt that this would be mathematically complex and administratively burdensome, so we agreed on

**Self-assessment** based on the principles and factors above, and guided by a simplified 4-level framework:

Level 1 (large and strong associations)	\$1000 min
Level 2 (large or strong associations)	\$500 min
Level 3 (small or not so strong)	\$100?\$200 min
Level 4 (really limited circumstances)	\$ token payment

What we are asking you to do is assess your own ability and obligation to contribute as honestly and generously as you can and pay accordingly.

## 7. Ethics

a. The WCAA not attempt to produce a set of guidelines based on the guidelines of the various countries because there is too wide a range of opinions as regards ethics and ethical codes amongst WCAA members.

-The colleague from Taiwan mentioned the case of Taiwan and medical issues and how in medical work there is a code that is law; for the humanities it is not law, only guidelines

-Spiegel mentioned the case of South Africa where the codes for the medical sciences are hegemonic

-Committees: anthropologists must be on every level of ethics committee. WCAA should approach institutions such as Unesco, etc. to work towards such a goal being achieved

2 options identified (but shown not to be mutually exclusive):

-Representation by anthropologists at the top level (large/state or university committees)

-Devolving the issue to the grassroots (i.e., committees for each of anthropology, psychology, etc.)

-But agreed that anthropologists do need to sit on larger national committees, even whilst we also need autonomy

-We cannot have a universal committee of ethics

-WCAA can post the different guidelines from the different countries on its website

-WCAA's ethics task force should analyze these several guidelines and make recommendations as to how WCAA might proceed

-WCAA should fight for an autonomy of anthropology; for this, WCAA has to analyze and find arguments to defend such a position

(some discussion regarding whether cultural relativism runs against human rights. Agreed that they are both social constructs so that we have to keep asking: Is there a reason to intervene?)

## Annexe II: Report on ESRC's Data storage policy

by Matt Candea

### 1) The current data storage situation in brief:

- ESRC research data policy came into force 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011
- Basic summary in my own words, to the best of my understanding (see resources below for official documentation):
  - All ESRC award holders will be required to provide data for archiving and re-use, unless they can get a waiver from the ESRC
  - Confidentiality, sensitivity or ethics are not per se reasons for a waiver – rather, researchers are expected to deal with these issues as part of the research design by
    - getting explicit agreements from research participants as part of informed consent
    - Anonymising
    - Setting up access restrictions to the archived data ahead of time
  - Research proposals are now evaluated partly on the strength of the 'data management plan' – including amongst others the criteria that
    - New data is not being produced when existing archived data will do
    - All data that is going to be generated in the research is explicitly covered in the plan
    - Explicit information is given on 'quality assurance' of data, validation etc.
  - Within three months of the end of the research, data must be handed over to a 'data service provider' –the main named one being the ESDS, who will store it and manage access.
    - The data service provider issues its own guidelines on the format in which data should be provided.
    - The ESDS, for instance, requires that the data submitted
      - have no ethical, legal or rights issues which might prevent sharing
      - have sufficient documentation to enable secondary use of data
      - be in a condition and format suitable for accession (they have pretty strict requirements in this respect, cf. document link below)
- The sources:
  - ESRC
    - ESRC's data policy introduction: <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/about-esrc/information/data-policy.aspx>
    - Full policy: [http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Research\\_Data\\_Policy\\_2010\\_tcm8-4595.pdf](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Research_Data_Policy_2010_tcm8-4595.pdf)
    - Particularly interesting - the guidelines for reviewers: [http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/DMP%20Guidance%20for%20Peer%20reviewers\\_tcm8-15569.pdf](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/DMP%20Guidance%20for%20Peer%20reviewers_tcm8-15569.pdf)
  - ESDS
    - General information: <http://www.esds.ac.uk/about/about.asp>
    - specific guidelines on qualitative data formatting and processing, see here: <http://data-archive.ac.uk/media/54767/ukda093-ds-qualitativeprocessingprocedures.pdf>



## 2) Some potential concerns

- Generic definition of data, with many built-in assumptions which are problematic for ethnographic 'data', such as that data
  - Can be clearly separated from interpretation or from 'meta-data'
  - Is portable across disciplinary boundaries
  - Can straightforwardly be 'validated' (and thus presumably 'invalidated') by secondary re-interpretation
  - Is required only if questions cannot be answered based on existing data – which rather misses the point of ethnographic experience as a source of insight in and of itself
  - It should be noted that in referring to qualitative data, the ESDS refers almost exclusively to interview data. This confirms the drift towards redefining ethnographic data along the lines of the formal interview which has been associated with the increasing formalisation of ethical review procedures (cf. Simpson 2011 - <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-9655.2011.01685.x/full> )
- These definitional issues have 'bite', since the policy is clearly putting pressure on the researcher to design their research in ways which fit with the above model. This thereby risks not simply misrecognising but actually working against a crucial element of flexibility and open-endedness of ethnographic research.
- In particular, this has an impact on ethics
  - ESRC seems to require that consent for data sharing be built into initial informed consent agreements. As the ESDS puts it, "A key stage in acquisition and processing is the comprehension of the researchers' consent agreements. These are the foundation reuse lies upon." It is hard to see how this (or indeed the whole procedure above, including its definition of data) can be compatible with the ASA's current position on informed consent and research as an ongoing process.
  - One implication of this policy is that research which does not produce data which can be archived and shared in the way described above, could henceforth be denied funding. This in turn has implications on the types of research which could be conducted.