

## ASA COMMITTEE MEETING

BRUNEI GALLERY (SOAS), Room BG01, 5 March 2005

### MINUTES

**1. Present:** Office Holders Richard Fardon, Iris Jean-Klein, Lisette Josephides; Committee Members Simone Abram, Ian Harper,

**Apologies from:** Marcus Banks, Rohan Jackson, Alberto Corsin-Jiménez, Trevor Marchand, James Staples, Stella Mascarenhas-Keyes

**2. Minutes of the last meeting on 6 November 2004** (circulated via e-mail and posted on the ASA web-site, pass-word protected)

The minutes were approved without corrections.

### 3. Matters arising (RF)

The Committee Chair welcomed Dr Simone Abram who will be nominated at ABM to take over responsibility for ASA networks from Dr Sarah Pink. Simone kindly consented to attend because Sarah was on maternity leave. The Committee reiterated its warm appreciation of Sarah's innovatory role in establishing the principle of ASA networks, introducing two active networks, and organizing the successful series of ESRC supported meetings on anthropological outreach. On a personal level, the Committee also sends congratulations on the arrival of her second child.

### 4. Ethics Sub-Committee (IH)

Dr Ian Harper spoke to the officer's report that was circulated before the meeting. Highlights included (1) Ian's attendance at a meeting in December at IDS in Sussex to discuss the controversy aroused by David Mosse's book (2005 *Cultivating Development*) in which ASA had become involved. A report on that meeting is in preparation and will be circulated on the ASA web-site. (2) A report on the progress of the Edinburgh seminar series which Ian has been running with a colleague there. A book proposal for an edited volume – to be considered to launch the proposed ASA *Research Issues* series (we hope with Berg) is in preparation. ***The Committee asked Ian to send his outline to the committee's publication officer, Trevor Marchand, who would then submit it to Berg as part of our proposal for a new series.*** It was agreed that the outline ought to highlight how the approach taken in the current collection differs several existing works dealing with ethics (e.g through its focus on inter-disciplinary transactions). (3) An update on preparations made by Ian and Alberto for the lunchtime discussion of ways to keep the association's ethical guidelines in focus and up-to-date, scheduled to take place at the Aberdeen ASA conference. Ian outlined a proposal to be put to the membership for discussion, under which an interactive set of Guidelines would be posted (WIKY: allowing members to edit the ASA Guidelines); this was proposed as a participatory alternative to the conventional ways of attempting to elicit feedback. The committee endorsed the initiative with enthusiasm, but were reassured that the interactive and non-interactive Guidelines would both be retained during a trial period. ***Ian will need to speak to Rohan, in his IT consultant role, about setting up a secure log-on system to make the WIKY system work.*** Currently we have a single password for members which may not be sufficiently secure if we are going interactive. ***There were other reasons, for instance member services – like book discounts – to ask Ro to look into individual member passwords.*** An interactive site would need to be convened and monitored and ***it was agreed that a committee would be formed consisting of IH, AC-J, and SA.*** RF noted that, given his interest in these topics, the Ethics committee might *invite*

**Keith Hart to become involved** in setting up the initiative. (4) Ian reiterated the urgent need to set up an *ASA Ethics sub-committee* which would assume responsibility for issues relating to the Associations' Guidelines and professional ethics, including a steady, and likely growing, stream of enquiries (like that from Stanley Gaines in Brunel with which Richard and Ian had been dealing). **For this purpose it makes sense to use the Ethics Committee supplemented by the Chair and whoever else Ian wishes to consult on particular issues.** It was suggested that *IH might want to include something about already ongoing debates and consultations of this kind in his Introduction to the proposed edited volume.*

## 5. Annals Preparations Update

RF spoke to relevant points in the Administrator's and Chair's reports. Current Annals: Ro's report notes that that HoDs have been responding promptly to the call for updated reports (UK entries were gathered and forwarded to Mary Warren, editor). RF had annotated Parts 1 & 2 (and sent the copy to Mary Warren), with the exception of the publications list which Trevor Marchand has updated. Annals are to go into print *after* the ABM this year, and in future years (see below).

Ro's report flagged that Commonwealth entries were hard to reach; and that the Committee might have a general discussion of who should be included in the list,

Some reports from Committee officers are still outstanding. RF issued a ***reminder to all office holders and members on the committee to submit their annual reports to Ro a.s.a.p***

Future Annals production arrangements: RF suggested a revision to the current publications schedule (which we had failed to meet recently in any case). Instead of trying to publish Annals before the conference, all departmental reports should be gathered, collated and proofed before the AGM so as to be ready to go. But printing the Annals would be deferred until after the ABM, when the annual reports of activities from Committee officers and members that had been presented became available for inclusion. Hence information previously delayed for a year – such as new (and honorary) members accepted at the ABM – would appear in the current year's Annals and (where applicable) in the current year's Directory.

*RF proposed that Commonwealth departments would be listed only if they sent in their updates when annually invited to do so. Ro had noted that the representation of Commonwealth departments was patchy. In this he was correct. However, some departments had recently asked for inclusion (ANU was an instance) and the Committee did not have the resources to pursue an inclusive representation. Out of date entries would be retained for one reprinting, but subsequently omitted from Annals (as is made clear in Annals already).* The committee approved these suggestions.

2005 Annals to go out in April or May. ***Colour of the next Annals Cover:*** to differentiate it from the last two it was suggested to use silver or a blue that is sufficiently distinct from the 2003 livery.

## 6 Membership Issues in Preparation of ABM

### 6.1 List of members Still in Arrears

The Committee was unable to see the full list of arrears since Rohan is still at work on this. However, the materials Rohan sent for consideration of Hon Members included a category of senior/retired category members in arrears. **Ro is asked to please circulate a full list to committee officers by e-mail once it is available, so that any cases undeserving of a termination notice (death, illness, unnotified change of address ....) might be spotted.**

Of senior members in arrears: committee officers noted that Anton Ploeg, who has not paid his subscription for two consecutive years, made a donation to the Firth fund two years ago. **Ro to check this with him directly to see whether there has been a miscommunication.**

*Other names of the 'retired' category who appear to be arrears were to subject to a quick google search by Iris: D P Gamble (nothing on Google), Mosche Shokeid (IJK tried to make contact by e-mail, no reply so far; she noted however that Shokeid, as well as Dr Don Handelman, are on the Tel Aviv University's Social Anthropology Department listing and not marked as retired there), William Newell (Google search yielded no result), Ruth Salzberger, and J S Uberoi.*

The Chair suggested, and the committee approved, that if Iris's searches turn up no special circumstances all those listed should be sent termination of membership letters.

The committee would asked **Ro's opinion of the current geographically defined membership rates (this year Ro and the Chair already decided to move Singapore from the 'other' category; what of Israel?). Presumably the tariffs were designed to offer a lower rate of membership for those in low income countries. Was this effectively the case? Presumably the number of members paying the 'other' region rate would be very small.** Simone asked whether it was possible to base a differential subscription on income rather than geography (as some US associations did).

## **6. 2 Secretary's Termination Letter to Non-Payers**

The draft termination to be sent by the secretary to members still in arrear was reviewed at the meeting. Three minor typographic and/or grammatical errors were spotted, and it was decided to prepare a special version of the letter to members in the 'retired' category to point out that the addressee would only need to pay at the reduced rate. ***IJK to send corrected standard version and special 'retired' version to Ro.*** Letters to the retired members identified above could be sent now. However, letters to other members would need to be deferred until the committee had checked the list of addressees. Since this would be after the ABM, *the last two lines of the letter referring to the ABM would have to be removed in these cases.*

## **6. 3 Ratification of New Membership Applications**

For the first time intending new members had filled in applications electronically this year, and reference letters were also sent in by e-mail. Ro was congratulated for streamlining the application process. However, the committee would prefer to see full applications in future years rather than simply a list of names. In order to expedite its business, the Committee endorsed the candidacies of applicants whose circumstances were known not to those present:

*Mils Hill; Gill Daryn; Simon Roberts; Joost Fontein; Richard Whitecross; Andrew Irving; Wenzel Geissler; Karen Lysaght; Tobias Kelly;*

There remained applicants whose papers the Committee would like to see in full before the ABM, preferably by electronic circulation, so that any problematic cases under the membership criteria could be identified:

*Sal Buckler; Ulrich Kockel; Martin Holbrad; Lionel Sims; Wendy Gunn; Merl Storr; Peter Sutton.*

[By the time these minutes were drafted, papers for these applicants on this list had been circulated]

The Committee hopes that reference letters for applicant **Diana Young** (ANU) will come in on *time to be circulated by Ro to committee officers before the ABM*, and for her name to be included on the list submitted to the ABM for ratification. *Ro to circulate any other new applications that arrive, with references reports, before the ABM.*

The administrator's list had flagged a few problematic cases: *Panagiotis Pantel* applied for student membership but received his PhD one year ago; the committee decided that under these circumstances he was ineligible for student membership. *Dr Christopher Freudenberg* will need to supply referees; and Ro is trying to make contact with Prof. *Ade Ademola*, whose application included out of date information (he is now retired) and references.

## **6.4 Nominations for Honorary Membership**

In view of their services to ASA as monograph editors and, in David Riches' case Hon Treasurer, the committee nominates the following retired members for Honorary Membership in 2005:

*Ralph Grillo; Judith Okely; David Riches;*

The committee also proposed colleagues to be considered for nominations during the next round of nominations in 2007:

*Maurice Bloch; Simon Charsley; Paul Spencer*

## **7. Composition of Committee and Function of Members**

At the ABM the Chair will propose *Dr Simone Abram* as the new networking officers in succession to Dr Sarah Pink (see point 3). *Dr Alberto Corsin-Jiménez* and the Chair had decided, with advice from Rohan, that the role of conference liaison was now redundant. Alberto's role as equality opportunities officer involved periodic use of the database to check issues of gender and age composition of the profession (we do not collect other information). Alberto would be asked whether he would consider succeeding Professor Marcus Banks as the ASA's media and publicity officer. *Dr Iris Jean-Klein*, the current Hon. Secretary offered to take up responsibility for membership recruitment for which Mukulika Bannerjee had previously been responsible. *Dr Ian Harper* will be asked to continue as the Committee's Ethics Guidelines officer and to pursue the exciting initiatives he has proposed (above); *Dr Trevor Marchand* will be asked to continue as the ASA publications officer, a role he has been developing very actively in close collaboration with Berg; *Dr Lisette Josephides* will be asked to continue her vigilant surveillance of ASA funds.

Supposing that the ABM endorses these suggestions, the 2005-6 committee composition will be:

Chair: Prof. John Gledhill

Treasurer: Dr Lisette Josephides (continuing)

Hon. Secretary (and membership): Dr Iris Jean-Klein (continuing)

IT Consultant/web design/membership secretary/conference admin: Mr Rohan Jackson (continuing)

Ethics Guidelines officer: Dr Ian Harper (continuing)

Publications officer: Dr Trevor Marchand (continuing)

Media and Publicity officer: Dr Alberto Corsin-Jimenez (redeployed)

Networks officer: Dr Simone Abram (new officer)

On behalf of the ASA, the committee expressed gratitude for all their efforts to the outgoing officers: Professor Marcus Banks, Dr Mukulika Bannerjee, and Dr Sarah Pink.

## **8. Officers' Reports**

### **8.1 Chair's Report**

The Chair had circulated his draft report to the 2005 ABM in advance of the meeting, and in the meeting spoke to selected items.

We urgently need more postgraduate activity. No representative of the anthropology matters had attended the meeting. While Dr Ian Harper very ably represented this constituency, postgraduate involvement was to be encouraged. (Ian's report [see points 4 and 8.8] made the same point and noted his own withdrawal from extensive involvement in *anthropologymatters*, which ought to be

run by postgraduate student themselves. See point 8.) The Committee expressed strong encouragement of the continuing efforts by Stella Marcarenhas-Keyes to secure ESRC funding for postgraduate training courses (and congratulated her for raising the 10% Association contribution from other sources this year). The Chair expressed his hope that the ASA Committee play a more central role in the coordination, if not the provision, of national postgraduate training courses. [This may involve nomination of another committee member, and the Chair notes he has been approached by Andrew Garner willing to help in this capacity.]

The Chair reported he and John Gledhill attended a meeting with Dawn Woodgate of ESRC. They particularly asked for clarification of the procedures by which the ASA's nominees for ESRC committees were treated. There was disappointment that the replacement for Tim Ingold on the ESRC grants board, while an anthropologist, did not work in an anthropology department or belong to ASA, or routinely publish in mainstream anthropology journals. They were pleased to learn that the ESRC plans to lower the emphasis on thematic funding in the future.

RF reiterated a call that had gone out to HoDs and Committee, inviting suggestions for new AHRC priority themes. He reported that there had been a weak response, and so the present committee members ventured a few suggestions: *activism, social movements, ethics, inter-disciplinary transactions*, and *inter-faith relations* were mentioned. [RF subsequently drew on some of these ideas in making a submission on behalf of ASA.]

## **8.2 Treasurer's Report**

LJ spoke to her tabled draft report to the ABM. The good news was that the revenue from membership subscriptions arrears was more than £ 6,000; a sum which more than covered what had been spent on new database development. The Treasurer and Committee saluted Rohan's persistent and diplomatic efforts!

The Firth Fund has now been moved to an interest-bearing National Savings Investment Account. The resources at the disposal of Firth Fund trustees now exceeded Sir Raymond's original donation. A Firth Award should be made in any Radcliffe-Brown round to a deserving candidate; however, trustees were not compelled to make such an award if no candidate stood out.

A separate account to handle income and expenditure on ESRC training courses has been opened. This should prevent confusion with the ASA's own accounts in future. .

The treasurer reported continuing problems tracing the surplus on the 2004 Durham conference apparently paid directly into an ASA account. Rohan continues to discuss with the university why this money does not show up in the conference account. (His ongoing investigations are mentioned in the Administrators Report.) The Treasurer noted that this income (something under £2k) should appear in this year's accounts.

## **8.3 Administrator's Report**

The administrator's report flagged a number of issues he wished the Committee to discuss in his absence.

Rohan thought that the index to the Directory could be improved by an anthropologist revising its headings and sub-headings, hence making the Directory more concise, useful and cheaper to produce. The Chair noted that the new committee might consider looking for a volunteer; so far we have worked on the 'good enough' principle. Iris volunteered in her role as Hon Secretary at least to look at the task, and wondered whether Trevor Marchand in his role as publications officer might be willing to take a look at it. The Chair thought the current index reasonably serviceable should both members find themselves pushed for time.

## **8.4 and 8.5**

No matters for report

## 8.6 Publications

The publications officer's report informed the Committee that the organisers of the 2003 Manchester Decennial Conference had decided (with the publisher's consent) to produce two volumes. They needed more time to produce an ASA monograph and so the 2004 Durham conference volume would appear as Volume 42 and the Manchester papers as Volume 43. (Contracts for volume 43 had been sent to the editors)

The second Manchester volume will be a textbook about the anthropology of new technology. A proposal is due to be submitted to the publishers by June 2005 without an assurance of publication. This volume will not be marketed together with the ASA monograph since it will have a different focus.

The Committee once more expressed its keen support for a relaunch of the research Methods series, which the committee recommends be renamed as the 'Research Issues Series'. TM reported that an agreement between the ASA and Berg had not yet been reached, but the Committee hopes that the volume on *Ethics and Interdisciplinarity* edited by Ian Harper and Anthony Good, based on a seminar series of this name, will be the first volume launching the new series. Ian Harper to send proposal to Trevor, who is to discuss it with Berg.

The committee carefully considered the book proposal by Collins and Gallinat, and came to the decision that it was not suitable to launch a proposed new Research Issues series. ***Trevor is to send a reply to the editors*** explaining that we do not have a series as yet, are in the process of defining our priorities, and then intend to commission works. The committee recommends therefore the editors explore alternative possibilities, and wish them luck with this project. [The committee may wish to bear in mind, should Berg not want this series, that Trevor and Richard had a meeting at Routledge's request when they seemed interested to continue/revise the existing series.]

## 8.7 Conferences

Diamond Jubilee ASA Celebrations 2006: The Chair reported that Pnina Werbner has come up with various good ideas to mark the event, some of which require ASA investment. Pnina put the idea of a photographic exhibition to Committee, similar to that held to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Manchester department. One idea put before the Committee was a special photographic exhibition. Having discussed various alternatives, the committee favoured an exhibition that would illustrate the ASA's history, rather than that of the whole profession, and thought ancestor worship should be avoided at all cost. The idea was floated of e-mailing HoDs and ASA members for the loan of photographs taken at ASA conferences and other events. This might also keep the documentation of the association's life celebratory. ***RF to reply to Pnina.***

## 8. *anthropologymatters*

Ian Harper reported that he had attended a meeting of *anthropologymatters* the previous evening, and had indicated that he would be less involved in this postgraduate network in future. IH spoke to points that had been included in his Ethics Officer report: two postgraduate conferences are upcoming, both at Edinburgh University, in April of 2005. Two special editions of *anthropologymatters* based on these events are planned.

IH regretted that certain ideas had been halted after the ASA had been unable to fund them Ian: **I missed this bit, could you clarify please; especially since I have a message from James that the network is not yet short of funds and has £1.5k in the bank!** A full budget of prospective activities, which the ASA Committee recommended at its last meeting, is being prepared now and will be discussed in the second week of March. Simone Abram mentioned that the Roberts Report had

released substantial funds for PG training to universities, and suggested that *anthropologymatter* activists contacted universities for information on how the money was being spent used and to investigate the possibility of contributions from universities' special funds from this source. IH or preferably James Staples in his role as secretary to do this by using HoDs e-mail list. Dr James Staples is no longer a postgrad either

*Anthropologymatters* needs reinforcement of its steering group as Ian retires from active involvement, Ian reported that there is now a 2-year rota system for officers, and initiative are under discussion to make the steering committee more representative (although wider geographical membership will entail expenses to attend meetings). Ian: I was chasing lists during this part of the meeting and so missed the burden of conversation. It sounds as if AM is at one of those crossroads all p/g networks reach as the founders step down. The question is can it be sustained? James is not a postgrad now and is about to do fieldwork again I believe. I was unwilling to circulate the previous proposal because it was not properly costed and the RAI is unlikely to look kindly on something like that (and we should not lend the ASA's name to an unpolished application). The letter to HoDs for funding also needed a proper statement of what the money would buy them. Moreover, my enquiries of HoDs did suggest that there would be problems transferring funds to third parties: there would have to be invoices, some departments had no such funds (SOAS!) ... Could you please revise this section of the minutes since I am having difficulty recording discussions I did not witness. Thanks, R