



# The Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth

## COMMITTEE MEETING

### COMMITTEE MEETING

19 Amherst Road, Manchester. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, 14.00 – 19.00

#### MINUTES

**Present:** John Gledhill, Lisette Josephides, Rohan Jackson, Andrew Garner, Simone Abram, Trevor Marchand, John Postill

- 1. Apologies from:** Alberto Corsin-Jimenez, Ian Harper, Simone Abram.
- 2. Minutes** of the previous meeting were accepted. Today's Minutes taken by RJ.
- 3. Matters arising** none not covered under other report and agenda items.

#### **4a Chair's report.**

As a follow-up to the relevant section of his written report, JG circulated an agenda and discussion document for the HODs meeting at ASA 2006 which focuses on ESRC/RAE developments and the discipline's approach to these. He suggests a change of tack is necessary accepting a more multi-disciplinary approach. The International Benchmark Review could be the last peer-review opportunity the discipline has. He also reported that he had sent a letter of interest to the British Academy with regard to their possible Learned Societies Programme, proposing the scheme for supporting overseas scholars that was circulated by email before the meeting, given the March 31 deadline.

#### **4b Administrator's report**

RJ apologised for the late appearance of the report, and collated papers.

There was agreement that annals/directory should be reduced & unified by removing most of the info to the website, hence moving to more of an Annual Report. This is however part of a wider discussion on the ASA's membership/public face. RJ to circulate a proposal regarding this Annual Report.

RJ's new admin rates/hours agreed.

#### **4c Treasurer's report**

Firth fund donations have dried out and need to be republicised. LJ & JG to discuss the status of the different Firth Funds and possible integration of those held by ASA and RAI with Hilary Callan at Keele. The terms for giving are 'the discretion of the principal officers', so this could be used for Firth Lectures. We were asked to arrange a Firth lecture for the EASA (TM suggested Jean-Paul Colleyn as a speaker) and will have to have a Firth Lecture in 2008 to provide an opportunity to hold an ABM in the UK. JG reported that this could be combined with a conference that Olivia Harris and colleagues at LSE want to organise on Evidence and Ethnography as a rejoinder to those who constantly deny that anthropologists have a methodology. The chair will pursue these initiatives.

#### **4d Ethics & 4e Media report**

These were accepted as read.

#### **4f Networks report**

John was welcomed. The Networks officer need not look to create new networks – these should arise from a demand, from those wishing to set one up. There are currently 3: AM, AOB, Apply.

## **5 Publishing**

ASA03 & 05 monos will emerge in Jan 07. Still trying hard to find a publisher for the Research series. Suggested TM should revisit earlier committee idea of collaboration with Blackwells/RAI. TM also suggested an alternative route of speaking to JRAI regarding taking over an issue per year, for ASA issues.

## **6 PG courses**

In relation to the ESRC's rejection of our RDI bid last year and the ASA's inability to meet the 20% of FEC that would be required for ESRC support from now on, Stella was pursuing other avenues for funding. LJ pointed to unsustainable costs that had arisen in the past where ASA had been obliged to subsidise national courses that it sponsored and it was agreed that any future initiatives that ASA might support would have to be wholly funded by external agencies or self-financing. It was accepted that ASA courses had offered something smaller depts are unable to offer their students. TM suggested an alternative funding solution whereby ASA offered bursaries to allow students to get to other depts where this training is available.

## **7 Welcome pack**

Contract approved. The pack contents were discussed and amended slightly. Agreed to raise student subs to £18, including the monograph. RJ to inform RAI so as to rearrange the joint membership rate.

## **8 Profile of Anthropology**

This was discussed in brief at the end of the meeting. JP suggested that posting on the net gets readership if not feedback; JG commented that net distribution of films is increasing and has possibilities for the discipline to get around the poor TV portrayal of Anth currently. This item to be discussed further at next meeting.

## **9 Conferences**

After 2006 there needs to be a full analysis, of how to model future conferences, with a possible rewriting of the guidelines. RJ and JG to meet with ASA07 convenors in May.

AG to be liaison person for the present on ASA08. The theme was approved, but AG/JG to suggest that the comparative aspect should be highlighted.

SA, LJ & JG to email RJ their conference costs, so that he can invoice ASA06.

## **10 Membership**

All new members on the list were voted on and accepted.

RJ to pursue discussion of a joint discount for joining EASA and ASA.