



The Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth

COMMITTEE MEETING

19 Amherst Road, Manchester. 29 February 2008, 12.00 – 17.00

Minutes

Present: John G (in the chair), Nayanika, Raminder, Simone, Andrew, Kate (by Skype)

Apologies

Georgie, James.

The meeting was preceded by an informal discussion with a representative of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who kindly agreed to discuss the FCO's involvement in the ESRC's 'Radicalisation Agenda', and to hear an explanation of the ASA's objections to it. The committee were very glad that this discussion took place, and that it ended on an agreement that further discussion would be held as necessary.

Minutes of 7.11.07 were accepted.

Matters arising were all covered in the agenda.

Reports: *NB all reports were pre-circulated, and only additional matters arising are noted in these minutes.*

Chair's report.

The chair noted that the a contract for an ASA Sage handbook of anthropology had been signed by Richard Fardon as chair of editors, and John Gledhill on behalf of ASA.

He noted also that the AHRC did not reply to his letter about not being consulted over the much-criticised journals index.

Treasurer's report

A draft report from the accountant was circulated by Raminder.

From Jan to Jun royalty receipts were put into the account, but it's not clear where they came from as we don't have receipts.

Action: Raminder will investigate what came from whom.

NSI passbook account has 26,684 pounds.

Increased conference returns in one account have raised the limit so that we have paid more (double) corporation tax. We may need to keep the conference account separate in order to return to the earlier position. **Committee agreed that Raminder should enquire of the accountant whether this is a position that anything can be done about.** This increase may be related to our extra profits from the Keele conference, or it may be a result of the constellation of our accounts.

The committee agreed to Raminder and Ro's suggestion to move accounts to the co-op bank. Ro will get back to us with interest rates.

The committee noted that the additional profits that Pnina has kept back from the Keele conference have gone to pay Berg for the additional size of the volume produced.

New subscription charges will be aired at the AGM.

Raminder notes that Durham still owe £315. **Action: Ro will chase this up again.**

Committee meeting expenses have gone down, but we need to ensure this continues.

The accountant's fee is still only £1800 and he provides an excellent service.

(NB student bursaries for ASA08 should come from the Firth fund. Out of the £6000 from the Keele conference, we put £3000 aside to go towards student bursaries).

Committee discussed guidelines for funds – **Raminder will formulate this list of conditions and circulate.**

Action: Ro please publicise this offer from .

Deadline will be after papers have been accepted. We meet June 13th, so we will need a **deadline for applications online to Ro 6th June.**

Administrator's report

ASA online and ASA Film. **The committee requested that ASA online should be advertised on Anthropology Matters.** It is fully refereed. Mukulika co-organised a London anthropology day, and **Simone should contact her to ask for papers for ASA online.** All committee members will be included in the board - **action: simone update the membership list.**

ASA Film is still stuck with technical issues – **John offered to assist Ro if he can.**

[NB Simone contacted Ro after the meeting and he confirmed that Darren is now back working with him and hopes to have the directory online within 3 months].

Networks

Kate has nothing to report except that the Aberdeen meeting was a success and Arnar has put in a receipt to claim the £300 we agreed to give him (and he has been paid).

Andrew noted that Apply network had a meeting in London a fortnight ago. Rachel G-H was tasked with updating Apply's Ethics page – on which she had circulated the network membership. Ian Fairweather may contribute as C-SAP rep to funding that work.

Publications

James met with Julie Scott and Tom Selwyn. Their revised proposal has been accepted by Berg and James has sent out contracts to be signed. Hannah Shakespeare is leaving Berg at the end of this month – no replacement as yet.

Media

Committee wish to **reassure Georgie that she is doing an excellent job** and that she is not expected to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of all anthropologists. The point of having an online searchable database was to be able to respond to requests for contacts.

The committee wished to ask Ro: is the database up? Any requests so far for searches? Ro had enquired how much we intended to charge for external search requests. The committee suggests that Ro tests the water, but perhaps charge commercial organisations between 50 and 100 pounds, but charge nominal rates for non-commercial enquiries. Committee felt that researchers should not exploit our goodwill, but that commercial organisations should expect to pay for our knowledge and time.

RAI said they would enter into dialogue with the media – do we know if they are doing this?

We can talk to georgie on the 17th about potentially pro-active roles.

Ethics

Ro had asked whether the blog should continue or not. There has been an average of 6-7 comments on blogs, sometimes none. There were some problems with British Association of South Asian Studies whose chair refused to pass on information about the blog. Raminder has had very positive response about the blog, even if the online discussion has been limited. The debate about the pledge has been useful.

Action: Nayanika provide a summary of readership for the AGM – Nayanika will show/demonstrate the blog at the AGM.

Nayanika invited members of the committee to take turns in moderating the blog and propose bloggers. This can also be raised at the AGM. The committee discussed potential bloggers:

Nayanika suggested the next blog could be on the theme of immigration. Perhaps invite Nina Glick-Schiller to blog? **JG will also speak to her and ask if she's interested.** Also Nicholas Di Genova at Warwick. Nayanika asked if Raminder might also contribute. Katy Gardener is running a big research project currently too. Potential activists who might contribute: Catherine Isaacs, immigration lawyer came to ESRC IBR committee meeting. Tony Good. Paru Raman. Verinder Kalra. Other themes? Sports and human rights? Olympics? Perhaps better to have a regional-specific blog – eg one on China.

We should do this during term-time only.

Raminder would like to do a blog on nuclear power issues, after the govt makes an announcement about nuclear policy, later in the year (when she returns from maternity leave).

Postgraduate and membership. (Andrew)

Andrew will ensure that the welcome pack happens.

Anthropology Matters would benefit from being driven by a permanent member of staff and perhaps a small budget. Few departments now have budgets from which they could make contributions, so instead, the committee agreed that the ASA should support it with funds from the Firth fund as it is for postgraduate matters. AM started with a budget of a few thousand and has a small amount remaining, but a reasonable budget would help to motivate action.

The committee agreed it would be useful to invite an experienced member of staff, perhaps retired, to support AM as an adviser, general mentor, etc. such as Lionel Kaplan who lives in London, is still involved in anthropology, etc.

Andrew will meet steering group about re-energising it, and James will attend.

The chair proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew for his contributions to the ASA now that he is stepping down.

Membership applications.

A list of applications with complete references was reviewed by the committee and all applicants were accepted.

Conferences.

The programme for the forthcoming LSE conference on 17-18 March is online. We are paying costs of Firth lecture speaker, Janice Boddy. We will take her out for dinner (paying only for Janice – the rest of us pay for ourselves).

ASA08. See Ro's report. **Action:** Need to do something about honouring Mary Douglas. Very little response from UCL, so we will ask Richard Fardon at the LSE conference.

Action: Simone/Ro Remind Veronica that we will need a progress report at the AGM.

NB BA conference grant deadline is April 15th.

ASA09. Accommodation is secured. A preliminary programme was circulated by email. The committee agreed the importance of reminding the organisers of the need to pay attention to age and gender issues with keynote speakers. **Action: Committee will provide some suggestions of other people who would be appropriate and exciting speakers. We should also ask Trevor for suggestions.**

NB ASA AGM should be given a lunchtime spot.

NB ASA moneys are not a contribution but a loan.

Action: Call for 2011 should be made at the AGM – and Ro will broadcast this call. Ro – recast call for 2010.

Conflict conference (from ASA07, Rafi Shubeli). No action has been taken. **Action: John will remind Tom Selwyn and Emmanuel Marx.**

AGM requires reports from Chair, Treasurer, Administrator. Other reports should go on the website – all committee members should send a report for public consumption to Ro for the website by end of next week.

Annals and directory. Ro needs to report on this to AGM.

Simone needs to ask for Annals material from HoDs now.

Ro please let us know the costs of printing copies of the Annals/Directory on demand?

Printed copy could be a little more lively – eg. illustration on cover!!

The meeting was closed before 5pm.