

# Annual Business Meeting of the Association of Social Anthropologists

Held at the University of Durham

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004, 12.45pm – 2.45pm

## 1. Present

Simone Abram; Maureen Bloom; Hilary Callan; Simon Coleman; Peter Collins; Alberto Corsin Jiménez; Kathryn Earle; Jeanette Edwards; Richard Fardon; Andrew Garner; Sarah Green; Ian Harper; Gustaaf Houtman; Rohan Jackson; Wendy James; Tamara Kohn; Trevor Marchand; David Mills; Martin Mills; Judith Okely; Sarah Pink; Nigel Rapport; Paul Sillitoe; Jonathan Skinner; Veronica Strang; Kathryn Tomlinson; Pnina Werbner

## 2. Apologies

Pat Caplan; Geert De Neve; Mary Douglas; Iris Jean-Klein; Lisette Josephides; Marilyn Strathern

## 3. Commemoration of members

The meeting opened with some moments of silence in remembrance of Professor Kenneth Maddock and Dr E J Miller whose deaths had been notified to the Association since the last ABM.

The Chair noted that the Association does not always learn immediately of the deaths of its members and asked for whatever help was possible in this regard.

## 4. Minutes of the last ABM, at Manchester on 17 July 2003

The Minutes were accepted without amendment. There were no matters arising that did not figure elsewhere on the Agenda.

## 5. Matters for Report

### a. Report from the Chair

The Chair updated the ABM on progress with the ASA's **administrative overhaul** announced at the last ABM. The new website was functioning well; a new database had been completed and was capable of generating the Association's *Directory of Members*; the *2004 Annals* were being edited; the main outstanding issue was the collection of unpaid and underpaid subscriptions. An effort was underway to recoup as much of this as possible, and to recruit eligible new members.

The ASA had signed a new contract for its **ASA Monographs** series of conference proceedings which would see a subscription volume being produced in paperback by Berg for sale to members at a heavily discounted price. Simultaneously, a hardback would be launched for general sale. A paperback edition would go on general sale in the second year. The members signalled their appreciation of Kathryn Earle, MD of Berg, for agreeing to this imaginative resolution to our publishing problems. The contract was for two years in the first instance, after which Berg and ASA would review the viability of the arrangement. Routledge had reissued ASA Monographs Volumes 1-12 in a hardback edition. Royalties from this, as well as from *We the Tikopia*, also reissued by Routledge and generously made over to ASA by Hugh Firth, would be expended on student support via the R-B and Firth Family Funds.

After an interlude of around three years, a well-attended meeting of the **Heads of UK Departments of Anthropology** had been held at SOAS in October 2003. Discussion on a wide range of topics had led immediately to concerted efforts to publicize anthropology at schools level. The London departments would hold a sixth-form day at the British Museum; the RAI and Durham

University were seeking funds to enhance web-based anthropology learning resources. A second meeting of Heads was scheduled for 20 May 2004 at LSE, along with a visit to the newly opened British Museum anthropology centre and attendance at the Malinowski Lecture. A new mailing list for Heads of Department had already proved its worth in organizing responses to requests for consultation and four agreed nominations for ESRC panels.

The meeting regretted the announced ending of anthropology provision at the **University of Wales, Swansea**. The Swansea staff thanked the ASA Chair and Committee, Heads of Department and anthropologists internationally whose well-made arguments for the continuation of the subject had been entirely unavailing.

Looking ahead, the Chair spoke of the need for the ASA to ensure that its support for **postgraduate research students** (which is substantial in relation to its income) was being spent in the most effective way. Currently, the ASA was paying 10% towards ESRC-supported training courses, providing small bursaries for these courses, giving ASA conference bursaries, and supporting a variety of other meetings and initiatives. A working party including postgraduates from the *anthropologymatters* network would be asked to review whether this was the best use of funds.

There had been several changes in the **ASA Committee** since last year, and the Chair thanked Ian Harper, Iris Jean-Klein and Lisette Josephides for their contributions as new members since July 2003. Sarah Green completed four years service on the Committee at the 2004 ABM in a variety of roles including conference liaison, webweaving and monitoring equal opportunities. In all of these her contribution had been invaluable. Since the Association was embarking upon a new phase in its publications, Christina Toren would stand down one year early from her role as publications officer to ensure continuity in our relationship with Berg. The Chair thanked her for help during protracted and unavailing negotiations with Routledge. The Committee wished to nominate new holders for both Sarah and Christina's roles.

The activities of other committee members were outlined in his report, but the Chair wished particularly to bring to members' attention Sarah Pink's establishing both in conception and practice of **ASA Networks**. Sarah had brought two networks to the committee for ratification: a Network of Applied Anthropologists, and a network on the Anthropology of Britain (AOB). Sarah had also brought her ASA/ESRC/C-SAP series of workshops in applied anthropology to a successful conclusion and launched a book series with Berghahn. It was hoped that ASA Networks would continue to develop into a valuable feature of the Association's diversity.

Questions involving **research ethics** were increasingly coming to the attention of the Committee. Ian Harper was undertaking a review of the ASA's Ethical Guidelines (available at [www.theasa.org](http://www.theasa.org)). These are widely used by institutions and in grant applications. Ian envisaged broad consultation and one or more workshop meetings. Feedback to him about the Guidelines in use would be welcomed.

#### **b. Report from the Hon. Treasurer**

Jonathan Skinner presented the ASA's accounts for 2003 on behalf of Lisette Josephides who was unable to attend. Jonathan had himself been ASA Treasurer until the July 2003 ABM. Jonathan drew attention to the 2003 deficit which was attributable to a range of factors. Most of these were non-recurrent: the ASA was investing in an IT overhaul which would yield savings in future years; unfortunately, we had to reprint the *Directory of Members* in 2003; the accountants had adjusted our 2002 figures which had overestimated some of our assets and underestimated some of our costs. A one-off payment had been made to the Firth Funds' Tikopia Appeal. Furthermore, on the revenue side, there were outstanding issues to be resolved in our ESRC training courses, and we still anticipated receiving substantial income from the ASA 2003 Decennial Conference. Although there was an underlying deficit, it was much lower than the single year figures suggested. Resumption of *Annals* as annual, and the *Directory of Members* as biennial, publications would however entail annual expense. This might be reduced if and when the membership felt ready to receive these publications solely in electronic form. The Treasurer supported the Chair's contention

of a need to review postgraduate expenditure to ensure it was good value for money, particularly in relation to our contribution to ESRC-funded training courses.

## **6. Election of new officers**

Alberto Corsin-Jiménez (Manchester) was elected as Equal Opportunities and Conference Liaison officer (2004-8) in succession to Sarah Green.

Trevor Marchand (SOAS) was elected as Publications Officer (2004-8) in succession to Christina Toren. Trevor will work closely with Kathryn Earle at Berg and the ASA's Monograph editors to ensure the success of the ASA's Monograph Series.

## **7. Election of New Members and Nomination of Honorary Members**

The ASA Committee presented its recommendations for 25 new members, all of which were approved by the ABM.

Dr Catherine Allerton, Dr Donald Brenneis, Professor Elisabeth Croll, Dr Cathrine Degnen, Dr Penny Dransart, Dr Adam Drazin, Dr Mark-Anthony Falzon, Dr Mattia Fumanti, Dr Anselma Gallinat, Dr Andrew Garner, Dr Fiona Harris, Dr Mary Huber, Dr Stephen Hughes, Dr Jakob Klein, Dr Bryan Maddox, Dr Dawn Nafus, Dr Dario Novellino, Dr Kaori O'Connor, Dr David Prendergast, Dr Jacqueline Ryle, Dr Charles Stafford, Dr Kathryn Tomlinson, Dr Katherine Tyler, Dr Maya Warrior, Dr Thomas Wilson.

It has become the custom of the Association to propose Honorary Memberships in alternate years: the ABM conferred this honour on two past Chairs – Sandra Wallman and Pat Caplan, and two distinguished, long-standing members – Paul Baxter and Ian Cunnison.

## **8. ASA Conference in 2006**

The Meeting considered at considerable length the five applications to host the ASA Conference in 2006. By consensus, it was decided that the conference would be convened by Pnina Werbner at the University of Keele on the topic 'Cosmopolitanism and Anthropology'. Strong applications were also received from Bristol, Edinburgh, LSE and Sheffield. Edinburgh was encouraged to consider whether its conference theme might be appropriate for the 2007 Commonwealth Conference in India. The ABM generated feedback to the other three applicants which was to be conveyed by the Chair along with encouragement to resubmit next year. If no definite proposal for a 2007 conference in India was submitted to the 2005 ABM then a UK venue would be agreed.

In closing the meeting, the Chair reminded members that he was one of several committee members whose term would end at the next ABM. Nominations were actively being sought for these positions.

**The meeting closed at 2.45 pm. The next ABM will be held during the 2005 Conference in Aberdeen.**