



Association of Social Anthropologists

of the UK & Commonwealth

ASA AGM Minutes 2017

Tuesday, 12th December 2017, Shifting States Conference, ASA/AAS/ANZ 2017 Adelaide
12:30-13:30 Napier 108

Apologies Paul Gilbert, Emma Gilberthorpe, Andrew Irving, Julie Scott, Soumhya Venkatesan

Attendance: Nigel Rapport (Chair), Cathrine Degnen (Minutes), Rohan Jackson, Marcus Banks, Wendy James, Andrew Russell, Jude Robinson, Felix Ringel, Anselma Gallinat, Peter Crawford, Sarah Winker-Reid, Peter Sutoris, Richard Vokes, Penny Harvey, Jeanette Edwards, Veronica Strang, Eric Hamley.

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes from 6th July 2016 were accepted as a true record.

2. Matters arising

All action points from the previous AGM have been completed; Nigel Rapport thanked Veronica Strang for her service as ASA Chair, and was welcomed as the incoming ASA Chair. NR clarified that work on exploring UKAN (item 10 in previous AGM minutes) as an idea and whether other organisations would see this as useful continues; ASA18 in September at Oxford will be the launch of this with a plenary discussion to explore it further.

3. Approval of accounts

Rohan Jackson (ASA Administrator) presented the financial accounts in Soumhya Venkatesan's (Treasurer) absence. He noted a small end of year surplus of £1,500; that the ASA seeks to ensure the £70,000 reserve (Firth funds aside) does not shrink further, but also that for an association of this size, such a figure is broadly sufficient. Discussion ensued about whether or not to invest some of the reserve in ethical funds (with easy access); the Committee recently discussed doing this with ~£25,000 and will canvass the wider membership before proceeding; the membership present supported this proposal. The membership approved the accounts and passed a motion to continue with Cavehill Accountants for another year. NR extended thanks to SV/RJ.

4. ASA Committee member appointments

The membership ratified the appointments of the new ASA Committee members as below:
ASA networks: Dr Julie Scott (Kent and TOUCHtd)

ASA series editor: Professor Andrew Irving (Manchester)
Conference officer: Dr Emma Gilberthorpe (UEA)
Media officer: Dr Paul Gilbert (Brighton)

5. Update membership on new EU Data Protection Act

Cathrine Degnen (ASA Honorary Secretary) explained that as of May 2018, new EU legislation is coming into effect. Some members have recently sought the support of the ASA to help protect their research interests against a UK university that has very proactively and aggressively interpreted this new legislation as a barrier to conducting participant-observation. CD has been liaising with BSA and RGS-IBS on a joint statement against such developments, and which our respective members might use to respond to university authorities if necessary. ASA ethics guidelines will need to be updated in light of new law and what the professional body's recommendation is on how members respond to these ethical issues. NR reminded those present that we are currently seeking a new Ethics Officer and asking colleagues to suggest candidates for this post. ASA as an association will also need to consider the new legislation and data protection of members' details.

Action: New ASA Ethics officer to review ASA ethics guidelines in light of the new law; ASA Committee to review Association practices in light of new law.

6. REF 2021 update

NR reported that ASA is a body asked to nominate members of the next REF panel; NR has emailed HoDs and all membership for nominations and those have been uploaded by NR, along with DSA who have put forward their nominations. Chair for the panel is now known, but not the members of the panel which will be made by REF next.

7. Upcoming ASA conferences

ASA 2019: Initial interest expressed by Sainsbury Centre at UEA.

ASA 2020: Firm interest expressed by St Andrews.

8. Membership numbers

These are slightly down from its peak in ASA2014, and increasing numbers will help build financial security for the association; building these up is part of the motivation of the NR/CD road trip to various UK departments mentioned below.

9. How the ASA can best serve its members

NR asked what else members might want from their professional association that we are not yet providing and how the ASA can best serve its membership. Discussion ensues about how we might generate conversations amongst ourselves about our interdisciplinary activities – how do we keep anthropology together intellectually and institutionally without becoming ghettoized; How the ASA is a professional body, making representations to the government and to funding bodies. This aspect of ASA work should be highlighted: it is a lobbying body and a professional union that can and does represent its membership; Discussion over how to make space for members who are not part of an anthropology department and an acknowledgement that anthropologists exist in the UK in multiple ways; NR and CD will do a national tour of UK departments in 2018 and to ask what they want from the ASA as part of building a larger membership; suggestion we might seek an online version of this for Anthropologists not in anthropology departments as part of the road trip; Early career members

might feel more precarious and might benefit from a different subscription rate for people who are not on permanent contracts; alternatively, ASA could consider the EASA model of tiers of membership based on income.

10. Notice of vacancy for Ethics Officer

11. List of new members

Ratified by membership:

Inayat Ali, Ramy Aly, Jamie Barnes, Magdalena Brzezinska, Jason Danely, Camelia Dewan, Leo Hopkinson, Gerry Mshana, Felix Ringel, Muntasir Sattar

12. AOB

No AOB.

13. Next AGM at ASA18 Oxford in September 2018.