



# Association of Social Anthropologists

of the UK

## Minutes from 2021 AGM

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, Hopin

ASA Conference 2021: Responsibility, Hosted by University of St Andrews.

### Present:

Simone Abram, Jean Paul Bikorimana, Stephanie Bunn, Shuhua Chen, Melissa Demian, , Michele Fontefrancesco, Mattia Fumanti, Narmala Halstead, Joy Hendry, Eve Houghton, Tim Ingold, Hannah Knox, Rohan Jackson, James Leach , Triinu Mets, Maryon McDonald, Nayanika Mookherjee, Misheck Nkhata, Chakad Ojani, Deborah Platzbecker, Mike Poltorak, Nigel Rapport , Jude Robinson, Julie Scott, David Shankland, Laura Siragusa, Marta Songin-Mokrzan, Jennifer Speirs, Maila Stivens, Maria Stoicescu, Veronica Strang, Marilyn Strathern, Asha Titus, Soumhya Venkatesan, Xinwei Zhang.

**Apologies:** Andrea Pia

**Chaired by:** Simone Abram

1. Minutes – approved. One amendment to typographical error in point 8.
2. SA noted that the committee has discussed and updated the ASA grievance policy on the ASA website.
3. The treasurer (SV) presented the 2020 accounts. Closing balances remain more or less unchanged. SV reported that discussions about shift to an ethical bank account are ongoing. Membership approved continued use of same accountancy firm for the next year.
4. The Chair (SA) presented an update of activities for the past six months (since the last ASA AGM held in September 2020). Topics covered in chairs report were: 1) change to the ASA annual conference to biannual large event and biannual smaller workshop 2) need to improve communication to members and potential members about the role of the ASA 3) reinstatement of annals of anthropology 4) new register of recently completed PhDs to be established on ASA website 5) Update on ASA support/representation of members in various forms. SA requested suggestions for a new user representative with expertise in social policy in the third sector for ESRC review panel C.

The chair thanked outgoing committee members SV (treasurer), EG (conferences), AI (publications), JS (networks). The chair also thanked SV for her work on organising events (GDAT debate and workshops) related to the topic of decolonising anthropology.

5. Reports
  - a. JS presented networks report. Little activity this year due to COVID. Six networks continue. Some have only been recently established and are still awaiting a launch. Only request for network activities this year came from request for support for Apply panel at ASA2021 conference. SA thanked JS for continuing in networks position for the time being.
  - b. JR presented ethics report. Little to report on ethics due to COVID. At end of 2020 Kirsty Bell at University of Roehampton completed her survey of ethics in ASA and wider

- anthropology community – the report is on the website. Ethics group have completed review of guidelines on ethical research, which is awaiting final check from JR. JR to approve soon.
- c. AI presented publications report via chat function. Reported on move from Bloomsbury to Routledge and updated on the status of current publications from prior conferences. NR asked for reflection on move to Routledge and whether it was working. AI said this is under review on both sides. MD raised potential issue about permissions for book chapters to be republished elsewhere. SA thanked AI for bringing publications into order.
  6. AGM ratifies appointment of AP as media officer with no objections raised.
  7. SA announced notifications of vacancies for Conference Officer, Publications Officer, Treasurer, Networks. (NB: there is also an outstanding vacancy for Education officer - HK). SA requested that membership make suggestions as to potential candidates for these positions.
  8. Conference 2022. SA reported back on planning for conferences in 2022/3. One dept has shown interested in hosting 2023 conference – we are waiting to hear back as to whether they are still willing to host the next conference. While this remains unresolved, continue to look for a department to host smaller conference again next year. SA to write to HoDs to invite proposals. Conference host could also be another organisation (does not need to be an anthropology department). SA reiterated that expressions of interests now being accepted for ASA 2022 and 2023.
  9. Membership Numbers. Total number of members: 536. New Members list displayed and approved. Slight increase in numbers.
  10. AOB:  
No further points raised.