

COMPILED REPORTS FOR ASA AGM 2008

Chair's Report for AGM, March 17 2008

Development of ASA activities and infrastructure

This has been a year in which the Association has made slow but significant progress towards expanding its role as a learned society and delivering better services to its members. Highlights include a revamped website, which will also serve as a platform for on-line publications that will be ASA's contribution to the open access revolution that now seems to be underway. We have also secured the agreement of the RAI's Film Committee to screen the prize-winners of our short film competition at the next RAI Film Festival, and I want to take this opportunity to thank our sister organization for that support. Monographs and the Annals are now going out to members on schedule. Thanks to Alberto Corsin-Jimenez and Nayanika Mookherjee, backed by Rohan's technical support, our second attempt to create an ASA blog is proving more successful than the first (see <http://blog.theasa.org/>). We would have liked to advance more rapidly with some of our new projects and facilities. But we are getting there.

Although there is always scope for further improvement, the figures for new members joining the Association over the last couple of years are very positive, bringing our total membership to around the 550 mark. The level of participation of younger colleagues, including colleagues from outside the UK, in our recent conferences is also a very encouraging sign that the ASA is renewing itself and remaining at the forefront of the subject's development internationally. The Association has also, as I will outline in more detail later in this report, been pursuing its function of representing the profession in the UK and maintaining a high profile for anthropology in the UK social science and humanities community more generally with some success. This is not to deny the difficulties that we face in the present funding climate, especially in relation to postgraduate awards, despite the very favourable outcome of the ESRC International Benchmarking Review. Nevertheless, we have been able to sustain our contributions to supporting postgraduates in the final stages of writing up through the Radcliffe-Brown awards, whilst also supporting some specific initiatives for student organized and ASA network events.

Rising costs, such as postage charges for ASA monographs, do now make it necessary to grasp the nettle of increasing subscription charges to guarantee the future continuity of our activities, but we have kept our own administrative costs down and members will be receiving more services in return for what will still remain a modest subscription. I am particularly pleased to be able to report that we have finally solved the problem of moving from the inconvenient system of payment by standing order to variable direct debit payment and will be able to simplify our banking arrangements to both ethical and financial advantage as a result. We also have the additional resources provided by Sir Raymond Firth's generous bequest to the Association. The Firth lecture that will follow this year's AGM will now, we envisage, now become a regular event in the calendar. Beyond subscription income, we have also signed a contract with Sage to produce a state of the art, 425,000 words, *Handbook of Social Anthropology*, to be edited by Richard Fardon and a group of other colleagues who have taken responsibility for its various sections, with an introduction by Jean and John Comaroff, to all of whom I am deeply grateful for their enthusiasm and commitment. The royalties from this publication will provide income to sustain our activities and in particular, ensure that we can continue to support the next generation of professional anthropologists through small grants.

Committee Membership Changes

We are therefore not simply maintaining but enriching our work across the full spectrum of the Association's mission and laying the basis for guaranteeing its long-term sustainability. All this has demanded a considerable amount of work by the members of the committee, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the colleagues who are now passing the torch to successors. Trevor Marchand

has been an absolutely outstanding publications officer, not only with regard to the monographs series but also in other initiatives, particularly our new venture into short films. Andrew Garner has contributed in multiple roles, but particularly as our liaison with the postgraduate community, of which one legacy will be the postgraduate “welcome pack” that will be distributed in the coming academic year. Ian Harper introduced many important developments as ethics officer, and Alberto Corsin-Jimenez patiently fielded the most bizarre of media enquiries whilst also working with Ian to lay the foundations for a more interactive approach to ethical debate. All deserve our thanks for both their service and for what will be an enduring contribution to new thinking about how we should approach fulfilling our mission.

To fill the gap that Andrew’s leaving the committee will create, I proposed co-opting Ian Fairweather, the new C-Sap Academic Coordinator for Anthropology, onto the committee. Ian has enthusiastically accepted. Ian’s participation will enable ASA to engage with C-Sap more effectively, and offer us new opportunities to make a contribution in the training field, which is, after all, part of ASA’s founding mission.

Conferences

Preparations for our 2008 conference in Auckland, New Zealand, on *Ownership and Appropriation*, shared with the Australian and New Zealand Associations, are going very well, and proposals for panels have been plentiful and imaginative. The difficulty, as always with overseas conferences, will be the cost of getting to the venue from the UK, but the Committee is investing £3000 from the surplus generated from the 2006 conference at Keele in assistance for postgraduates hoping to participate. Planning for the April 2009 Conference in Bristol on *Anthropology and the Past* is also advancing. Less encouraging is the absence, at the time of writing, of bids to host ASA 2010 and we will also be calling for bids for 2011 at this AGM.

Resolutions from the 2007 AGM

As instructed by the AGM, I wrote to the ministers at the foreign and home offices responsible for Iraq and immigration on the matter of the situation of Iraqi academics. Kim Howells at the FCO did reply personally. The first paragraph of the letter conceded that the results of the Iraqi occupation were a cause for concern. The rest pointed out that the FCO has no say in immigration matters and was more formulaic. But I did appreciate his taking the matter seriously and acknowledging that this was an issue, in contrast to the response of the Home Office minister, Liam Byrne, who will only accept correspondence from constituents or letters passed to him via MPs on the behalf of their constituents. When my MP passed the ASA letter to him, he passed the matter to his parliamentary under-secretary, Joan Ryan, who sent my MP a completely formulaic response about asylum procedures and appeals. At no point did this letter recognize that this was a motion from an Academic Learned Society with some knowledge of the particular dilemmas faced by academic colleagues in Iraq, which was, to say the least, a disappointing reflection of the current state of our democracy.

ESRC, FCO and the Radicalisation and Violence Research Venture

The press did report our first AGM resolution of last year on this matter and took up the matter of continuing concerns with ESRC. Following the HODs meeting held at London Metropolitan after the ASA conference, I drafted a letter focusing on the governance issues as well as our basic objections to the call which was sent to all academic and lay members of ESRC Council (several of whom responded sympathetically in private emails). This letter was co-signed by the British Sociological Association, the Sociology HODs and the Development Studies Association, which had previously expressed independent concerns about broader trends towards the “securitization” of the UK research agenda. The response was slow in coming but when it came, it rejected all our arguments, although it offered a “dialogue” on how to avoid problems in the future. We responded to this with a reiteration of our objections, a call for any debate to be public and a reiterated call for an independent body to monitor the long-term impact of the programme. These requests were also

rejected, and the ESRC Council Chair, Lord Adair Turner, took the view that “no amount of correspondence will resolve the differences of perspective on these important matters”. Nevertheless, subsequent developments have demonstrated that our efforts have had a significant and positive impact.

Firstly, the commissioning panel took a very cautious approach and rejected a number of proposed projects on grounds of risk. Only one of the funded projects envisaged any research in a foreign country and that was simply the “possibility” of a few interviews. The funding was not fully used, and grants went to organizations such as DEMOS and the International Crisis Group to fund work that was ongoing. So although the risks the phrasing of the call itself had created could not be reversed, we can at least be confident that no further risks are likely to be created by the sponsored projects.

Secondly, the promised dialogue eventually took place in London on February 15 this year, in the form of a workshop on *Researching Sensitive and Controversial Research Issues*. At first sight this did not seem a very satisfactory response, since the event was focused on less controversial relations with government in the UK context and “Radicalisation and Violence” was included only as one of two cases to be discussed by Charlie Jeffery, Chair of the Strategic Research Board and of the redrafting committee from which Jonathan Spencer and John Sydel resigned over the insistence of FCO on the inclusion of the controversial paragraph 3.2. Most of those invited researched in the UK, and the group of invitees involved in the debates around “Radicalisation and Violence” was restricted to myself, James Fairhead (as our outgoing SRB member), Martha Mundy, representing BRISMES, Cecile Jackson, President of DSA, and Hilary Callan, for the RAI. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office was also represented, by Martin Williamson, its Senior Research Officer. In the event, although Charlie Jeffery insisted that not all disciplines had been concerned by the text of the *Radicalisation and Violence* call, he did open a space for discussion that Lord Turner as chair fostered, albeit on a tight rein. So it did prove possible to promote discussion of the issues to be learned from this experience in both the plenary sessions and at least some of the breakout groups, not least because colleagues who knew little about the matter expressed an eagerness to find out more. It became clear that ESRC has in fact changed its protocols for oversight of ventures for the better and was willing to do more to ensure that the problems we encountered with this programme did not occur in the future. The Council is negotiating a concordat with FCO on future collaboration that parallels those existing with other government departments and whose absence in the case of the FCO was widely recognized as one of the causes of the problems that emerged, along with ESRC’s less than adept handling of the original, not fully open, programme call. I proposed that in future specifications for programmes and ventures be drawn up over longer periods of time by larger and more inclusive groups of academics and government representatives to increase the likelihood that all possible problems could be identified before they went public. Ian Diamond, ESRC CEO, and Lord Turner welcomed that proposal. So whilst we may not be able to prevent the research agenda continuing to be “securitized” in various ways and there will no doubt be continuing concerns about future government-driven research agendas of other kinds, hopefully we will not be confronted by anything as problematic as the radicalisation brief again. I therefore feel that the meeting offered significant outcomes and proved more than the PR exercise we initially feared it might be on seeing the agenda.

Finally, as a follow-up to this event, and through the good offices of Andrew Garner, the ASA committee had a lengthy private discussion with Martin Williamson of the FCO two weeks later, which has, I think, furthered mutual understanding.

ESRC International Benchmarking Review

On October 3 2007, we had a meeting of the slimmed down ESRC IBR steering committee that is to monitor developments arising from the exercise. ESRC floated the idea that in future they might simply consult with ASA and RAI separately but we voted to continue having a regular joint forum on which we would all sit down together. We did discuss some relatively positive developments

with Ian Diamond. One was how to involve more junior researchers in proposal refereeing and ESRC's willingness to fund more "risky" projects that asked important questions even if the value of the final outcomes could not be guaranteed in advance, as well as cross-disciplinary research. Disappointingly, the meeting had to take place before ESRC had determined the next round of quota allocations for PhD funding, since this depended on as yet uncompleted reviews of government expenditure for 2008-2009, but the point was made firmly that ESRC levels of support were falling to a level that threatened sustainability (which Ian Diamond conceded). On a more positive note, ESRC offered to reiterate to institutions the various kinds of extensions that it offers (for language learning and overseas institutional visits) since these were frequently ignored when it came to institutional calculations of submission dates. We also agreed that more still needed to be done to publicise the results of the IBR and I later drafted a letter to be sent round to institutions, co-signed by myself and Ian Diamond.

I also raised the matter of the European Science Foundations ERIH ranking of anthropology journals at this meeting, to be assured that ESRC had left this to ESF's other UK partner, AHRC, and did not consider that ERIH was likely to be taken very seriously. More follows on this below.

ESRC Postgraduate Studentships

When it finally came, the result of the ESRC quota studentship allocation for anthropology nationally for 2008-2010 was disappointing (in the light of the IBR report's strong recommendation for increased funding for the discipline). Yet the result (see table below) was more or less inevitable given continuing ESRC priority for quantitative research (and economics, which now brings an increased stipend for the lucky grant holders), the budget cuts ESRC suffered under the CSR, and the fact that a smaller total number of grants have to be shared out amongst a larger number of recognised outlets. In January 2008 I also had a conversation with ESRC's consultants over the system that will direct ESRC postgraduate funding after 2010. The abolition of allocations to disciplines and an AHRC-style block grant system are amongst the options being discussed, but I did not detect much enthusiasm for these alternatives at present and reiterated the need to protect smaller but excellent subject areas from any further decline in funding, since we are already close to a situation in which ESRC investment is dropping below the minimum level required to keep many departments motivated to retain training programmes that meet ESRC requirements. Although this allocation does produce a small increase in the number of departments benefiting from quotas, there are losers amongst those which held quotas previously as well as departments that remain without any quotas at all. The table compares the results of the 2008-2010 allocation with those for the previous two years:

Department	2008	2009	2010	Total 2008-10	2007	2006	Total 2006-7
Cambridge	2	2	3	7	2	3	5
Durham	1	1	2	4	1	2	3
Goldsmiths	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
Kent	1	1	2	4	1	2	3
LSE	2	2	3	7	2	3	5
Manchester	1	1	0	2	1	2	3
Oxford	1	1	2	4	1	2	3
Scottish Consortium (2)	1	2	2	5	1	2	3
Sussex (1)	1	1	1	3	1	1	2
UCL	2	2	3	7	3	3	6
Grand Totals	13	14	18	45	13	20	33

Notes

(1) Sussex has two quotas specifically for anthropology, but can compete for 3 more shared with other departments and gained 2 of the 3 in the last allocation, with shared supervision, so I have estimated 1 extra (for 2009)

(2) 2006-7 allocation was for Edinburgh alone: the new one is shared between Aberdeen, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Glasgow.

It is possible to obtain ESRC studentships through other routes, by attaching PhD students to research grant bids, for example, as well as through schemes such as CASE. There are also a few windows of opportunity for anthropology from AHRC, but these will now need to be negotiated institutionally in the Block Grant framework, and since AHRC's budget has been hit far harder proportionately than ESRC's in the CSR, and is much smaller in absolute terms, there seems no realistic alternative but to continue to try to negotiate more resource from our principal funder.

Representation on ESRC Boards

I consulted the HODs to produce the following nominations for the vacant posts on ESRC boards open to anthropologists. Sophie Day of Goldsmiths' went forward to replace James Fairhead on the crucially important Strategic Research Board. The competition here was with development Studies. Michael Carrithers of Durham was our candidate for the Research Resources Board (which was looking for a qualitative social scientist, with possible competition focused on Geography and Political Science). Finally Sarah Green of Manchester was nominated for the Training and Development Board (the one that deals with postgraduate studentships).

ERIH

As noted above, I raised the issue of the ESF's *European Reference Index for the Humanities* (ERIH) at the October IBR Steering Committee. I subsequently wrote to the European Science Foundation about the evident anomalies in the categorization of journals relative to the ostensible criteria used and the total absence of UK representation on the committee responsible for producing the index. It turned out that AHRC had failed to ask the anthropology community to respond to an earlier call for reactions to the project, which was strongly negative on the part of all the disciplines that were consulted. The British Academy's Report on Peer Reviewing concluded, correctly in my view and that of pretty well everyone I have talked to inside and beyond anthropology, that the problems with ERIH are so fundamental that it requires a root and branch rethink of the entire approach rather than simply tinkering with the original. However, it did seem important to me that we tried to get ESF to do something less catastrophic, since peer review alternatives to the ISI are desirable, and it is difficult not to support any effort that recognizes that scholarship is not simply conducted in English. The initial reply I received from the ESF colleague responsible was sadly not encouraging, and he did not reply at all to a second letter that bent over backward to be constructive. His line was that only European-level associations (i.e. EASA in our case) should be direct interlocutors. Having discovered, belatedly, since ASA was again not invited, that AHRC had convened a meeting of subject associations in London on February 27th in London to discuss the ERIH after having received calls from other subject associations to disown it, I wrote a letter to protesting at continuing lack of direct consultation. I had had a number of protests from our own community about ERIH, and was also disturbed by the fact that some publishers have started treating ERIH as if it was a journal ranking system in their publicity. The usefulness of an exercise that requires a long list of disclaimers about the purposes to which it can be put and the interpretations that can be made of the data is surely questionable a priori. But beyond adding our voice to the criticisms already so eloquently made by others, I felt that it was essential that

anthropology now object strongly to AHRC's lack of consultation with our community on a matter in which its expertise is surely rather limited, as well as stressing our complete dissatisfaction with ERIH as it now stands. Yet I did not receive the courtesy of a response from AHRC to this letter and see from the updated website that, far from disowning the ERIH, AHRC leaves those disgruntled by existing lists to pursue the matter through ERIH's website, i.e. accepts the principle that improving the existing lists is the way forward, and "will be working with subject communities via learned societies and subject associations to prepare a UK submission to ERIH and to nominate Expert Panel members" for the new disciplines to be included in the ERIH lists. It therefore seems appropriate to discuss what, if anything, we should do further about this issue at this AGM.

RAE 2008 and beyond

I have responded to a number of requests by HEFCE to ratify our sub-panel's nominations for specialist readers to deal with "outputs" for which specialist expertise is lacking on the panel, all of which have been uncontroversial. I did not respond to the recent HEFCE consultation on the post-RAE 2008 scenario, as I was told that HEFCE were not interested in the views of subject associations at this stage (presumably that will come later) but I did pass Roy Ellen our past thoughts on the relevant issues for the British Academy response, with which I think we can be very happy for the time being. Leaving aside the still to be clarified issues of what "light touch peer review informed by metrics" would actually look like, we need (like the BA) to be particularly concerned about the proposal to extend the concept of "broader subject groupings" proposed for the "hard sciences" to the social sciences and humanities, and given the nature of anthropology in its broadest sense, the distinction between science and non-science that will be at the heart of the proposed new system of evaluation and selective funding allocations. The BA's proposal that the timetable for deciding the system for social sciences and humanities should be brought forward was also welcome, given that funding decisions will be informed by the new regime in the not very distant future and institutions need time to plan for the changes.

Full Economic Cost Research Funding

I conducted a survey of anthropology departments about the way the transition to full economic cost funding is being handled in their institutions. The picture is variable, especially between institutions that still have departments as budgetary units and those in which departments are part of schools. But by and large the implication is that we will do less well as researchers out of the new regime and there may be special problems for people whose research is overseas. Since it is now clear that there will be no advance to a situation in which the Research Councils can pay 100% of FEC in the near future, funding of field research costs, time buy-outs from teaching and other duties, and the kinds of contracts that people hired as replacement teachers will receive, are all potentially affected by the specific ways in which institutions implement the FEC system. FEC affects both research grants and the cost of postdoctoral fellowships and funders are already drawing our attention to the fact that fewer awards can be made under the current system and government financial settlement. It is also important to be aware that there are not only important differences between institutions in the way FEC is being implemented from the point of view of researchers, but also quite large differences in the amounts that different institutions are requesting from the funding bodies in terms of indirect and estates costs. My main purpose in raising this issue was to alert colleagues to these issues and the need to address them in intra-institutional negotiations, encouraging the sharing of information, but as the system becomes more settled in, the implications would be worth a more general discussion at a HODs meeting.

Other Chair activities

I participated in the public debate on *Anthropology on Television* at the RAI film festival in June. I also wrote to the AQA awarding body in support of the RAI's efforts to establish an Anthropology A-Level and am delighted to be able to report that AQA has agreed to collaborate with RAI on the detailed development work necessary to secure accreditation.

In Memoriam

Since my last report we have lost Mary Douglas, Lisa Croll, and Charles Jedrej. Although it was sadly only possible for me to attend the memorial service for Mary, I wrote to all the families. All these ASA members offered important service to the profession as well as intellectual inspiration. We will long cherish their memory and benefit from their legacy.

John Gledhill

Treasurer's Report
AGM
March 17th 2009

My first year as a Treasurer has run relatively smoothly once banks finally conceded that I was the new replacement for Lisette Josephides. This year, we hope to rationalise our 4 bank accounts (with Lloyds, our main bank account, Barclays for subscriptions, Co-op for conferences and NSI for the Firth fund) so that they are with one (the Co-op) or, at the maximum, with two banks. Transfers to further treasurers will then entail less bank bureaucracy.

ASA accounts remain in the black, even though we have had extra expenses this year in view of the ASA website redesign which cost just under £1,400. £300 was granted to a workshop, Anthropology in Britain, at the University of Aberdeen. We have also allocated £3,000 from the Firth Fund to aid postgraduate and unemployed anthropologists to attend the ASA conference in New Zealand this year.

General ASA running costs have increased substantially in 2007. Monograph costs have shot up by £2,395 in 2007. Administration costs have increased by £987 to cover extra meetings and to be in line with current rates. Corporation tax has doubled to £492 (calculated at 19.75% of interest receivable on bank balances). Expenses for annals preparations and postage have gone up by £599. The only saving has been on committee meeting expenses which have gone down by £418 primarily due to airfares from Northern Ireland (for Lisette) not having to be met.

We have retained the same accountant based in Belfast for the sake of continuity and fees that are much more preferable to London rates. We are also considering trying out at least one virtual meeting a year with the aid of an academic meeting tool in order to cut down on costs and time.

Income has not kept in line with the rise in expenditure. Income from the 2007 ASA conference was not as high as the £6,200 we received from the 2006 Keele conference, but it was still a sizeable £1,645. It needs to be borne in mind that the conference surplus in 2006 was not shared with the host as the one in 2007 was. Subscription income has gone up by £3,096 mainly due to the chasing up of membership arrears. Income from royalties has gone up by £2,402.

As an overall assessment, we are close to 'scraping the bottom of the barrel' as it were, with a surplus last year of only £786 on unrestricted funds, down from the previous year by £3,434. This is not a healthy means of functioning for any professional association.

If we are to continue providing an excellent service for all members as well as fund postgraduate research and grants, we need to bring the subscription levels up to an amount which is in line at least with current rates for publishing and postal charges in 2008. Subscription charges have not moved for the last decade and an increase that ranges from £2.50-£10 for members (depending upon status and geography) is proposed simply to keep up with rising basic costs.

The proposed changes are as follows:

- Members resident in the UK: currently £40 to go up to £50 (this includes the ASA Monograph volume incl. p&p)
- Members resident in Western Europe, Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, and UK low-wage members (income below 15,000): £29 (Europe) or £31 (elsewhere), both rates to be converged and to go up to £35 (this includes ASA Monograph volume incl. p&p)

- Retired, Unwaged, Members resident in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean etc, Associate Members: currently £7.50 to go up to £10 (no monograph included, although the same preferential prices are available).

Those aged above 70 continue to have free membership as Longstanding/Senior members.

These rates are for next year and with approval will start from January 2009. With an estimated increase in income of about £4,000 from these raises, I'm sure members would agree that a small increase can make the continuing work of the ASA a viable proposition in the future.

Raminder Kaur
Honorary Treasurer

Ethics Officer Report, 2nd March 2008

I took up the position of the ASA Ethics Officer from August 2007 and am happy to say that the ASA Globalog <http://blog.theasa.org/> is finally up and running. The aim was make the Blog a forum for discussing various topical and contemporary themes which raises various theoretical, ethical dilemmas and questions. This would also enable locating classical anthropological concerns within contemporary and policy-related contexts. The posts have been varied, interesting and has elicited a fair amount of comments. There has been quite a lot of positive feedback about the blog from various members within and outside the ASA and Anthropology. It has been a pretty busy time but also hopefully productive.

Thanks to Alberto for being the first guest blogger who contributed to it from end November till mid January. It was already decided in November that we would be starting the discussion on the Counter-Insurgency Programmes from Mid January till Mid March so as to ensure adequate time for a debate before the ASA AGM. Since middle of January, ten guest bloggers [Rahnuma Ahmed (Anthropology, Dhaka, Bangladesh), Irfan Ahmad (Anthropology, ISIM, Leiden), Anjan Ghosh (Anthropology, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, India), Kriti Kapila (Anthropology, Cambridge U), Nancy Lindisfarne (Anthropology, SOAS), Filippo and Caroline Osella (Anthropology, Sussex U and SOAS), David Price (Anthropology, Saint Martin's U, Washington), Subir Sinha (Development Studies, SOAS), Jonathan Spencer (Anthropology, Edinburgh U), Rashmi Verma (English, Warwick U)] have been contributing to the blog on the **role of social scientists in government counterinsurgency programmes**. I suggested a 'rota' to the bloggers so as to ensure a steady flow of contribution. I thank Ro for clarifying my various queries and also appreciate his advice. David Price who is a member of the Concerned Network of Anthropologists and one of the authors of the AAA's Human Terrain Programme Report has contributed actively to the blog. Recently he also posted **an international version of the Counterinsurgency pledge** which is being proposed as a resolution at the ASA AGM. As a result we might also think of the blog as a forum through which ASA policies, positions might be proposed.

Various posts on the blog have also received multiple comments and an interesting discussion seems to be underway. The Sitemeter gives us a good indication of where the blog is being read from and it seems to be from very different parts of the world: UK, US, Italy, India, Bangladesh, Colombia, Australia, Taiwan, Argentina, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Poland, Nepal, Kuwait, Iran, Sudan, Turkey, Greece, Germany, Peru, Finland, Ecuador. It also shows that each day the blog is visited around 50 times and till date the total visits amount to 3276.

The blog has also generated interesting exchanges with other disciplines, area studies and from within the ASA members itself. This has opened up the discussion and debate within various networks much more widely and also highlights the initiative taken up by the ASA to address topical and thematic discussions. This to a certain extent has contributed to Social Anthropology's public engagement beyond academic milieus. Along those lines the discussion on the Blog would focus on **Immigration** from mid April till end June. Other potential themes for the blog hereafter include **the environment, disability, the nuclear debate, China, ethical differences between biological and social anthropology** etc. Please email me if you have specific suggestions related to themes for the blog.

The ASA ethics have been acknowledged by the journal, International Refugee Studies which published an amended version of the Ethics framework. Other Ethical discussions seem to be emerging between Biological and Social Anthropologists in some anthropology departments. I will wait and see how that discussion unfolds. Till then keep on visiting, commenting and engaging with the discussion on the blog.

Dr. Nayanika Mookherjee, Ethics Officer

Publications Officer Report 2008 for the ASA AGM, March 17th 2008

ASA Conference Monographs Update

Both the decennial volume, *Anthropology & Science* (edited by J. Edwards, P. Harvey, & P. Wade), and 2005 conference volume, *Creativity & Cultural Improvisation* (edited by E. Hallam & T. Ingold), were posted to members in a combined mailing last April. The 2006 conference volume, titled *Anthropology and the New Cosmopolitanism* (edited by P. Werbner), is scheduled for publication by Berg in April 2008 and an early paperback version will be posted to ASA members.

A proposal for *Anthropology & Tourism* (edited by J. Scott & T. Selwyn) was approved by Berg in February, with a scheduled publication date of May 2009.

Rising Postage Costs

The original agreement between the ASA and Berg Publishers established a pay rate of £10/13/15 for UK, European and Overseas members respectively to cover annual production and postage costs of the paperback monograph. In face of rising costs of both production and postage, however, Berg is experiencing a diminishing budget. It was therefore agreed that the ASA will subsidise annual increments to postage without imposing any immediate increase to individual subscription rates.

Web Advertisement & Annals Listing

The Berg Publishers' website was redesigned last autumn and the ASA monographs are now advertised on the site both individually and together under Berg's 'Series in Anthropology'. It was agreed that in order to reduce the number of pages and production costs of the printed ASA Annals, a full listing of the Association's monographs would be removed to an electronic listing on the official ASA website. The ASA site provides direct links to the Berg site for monographs number 41 onward.

New ASAFilm Site

ASAFilm has been launched on the Association's website. In our aim to make anthropological research relevant and more accessible to a wider public, the Association initiated ASAFilm to complement the Royal Anthropological Institute's longstanding efforts in this endeavour. The ASA encourages a wider distribution of ethnographic film in festivals, conferences, library holdings, course curricula and television programming. Short film submission from anthropologists and students are welcome and will be considered by the review committee for posting on the site. The Association is hosting a bi-annual competition for new entries completed after February 1st 2007. The deadline for the first ASAFilm competition is January 31st 2009, and winning entries will be screened at the next RAI festival. Submission guidelines and further details about the competition can be found on the ASA website.

New Publications Officer

Trevor Marchand completed his four-year term as Publications Officer in December and is replaced by James Staples.

Trevor HJ Marchand and James Staples

Publication officers

Postgraduate and membership Officer's report

Over the last seven months with both new jobs and new family, it has become clear that I am not able to commit the required time to this post and I would like to stand down from the Committee. It has been an honour and pleasure to serve with you and wish you all the best for the future. As agreed with John, I will see the Welcome Pack through to completion for the beginning of the next academic year.

Welcome Pack

There are currently about 40 pages of information collated by Rebecca Marsland for the Welcome Pack which I have been sorting through. This consists of some initial pages, which, together with advertising leaflets from the ASA, RAI, C-SAP and AM, will form the hard copy to be circulated to Anthropology Departments. The rest of the information should be placed on the ASA website. I have sorted the material into Welcome Pack materials for printing and circulating, material for uploading to the website, material we may or may not want to develop further as they will take more time and effort (for instance, student reviews of their Departments).

There are various options for distributing the Pack.

1. A single poster which points to the relevant part of the ASA website, circulated to each Department.
2. A poster, together with a limited number of Welcome Packs (3 per Department) including information about the sponsoring organisations, and giving more details about the resources available on the website – 'taster' paragraphs.
3. Website based welcome pack alone.

We thought, that at least for the first run, having using option 2, and then, moving to option 1 if costs were too high to sustain.

Ian Fairweather at C-SAP has confirmed support of £500 towards getting hard copies printed and posted out. Can the ASA cover the cost of placing the rest of the material on the website under the existing contract arrangements? Once I have completed the costings for printing and circulation there may be some funds left over from the C-SAP pot to support the website work.

The welcome pack and associated web material are likely to need updating each year. This should take about 2 days worth of work and maybe something we could contract out to AM. If the material meets with success and is considered worth continuing, updating the material and sending some hard copy out will, at a rough estimate, cost about £200 per year. I suggest the Committee re-assess this at the end of the year.

I will ensure the first version of this Pack is in place for the next academic year.

Next steps:

Circulating material for the Committee's comments.

Printing and circulation costs

Website costs

Circulating material to relevant organisations for their input and comments

Finalising material, printing, collating and posting.

Updating Apply ethics pages

As I was involved in producing the first version of these I have been helping Rachel Gooberman-Hill of the Apply network set things in train. One of her post-graduates Becci Lynch is doing the work. We have contacted C-SAP to see if they would be prepared to support the updating of the pages as they supporting the original work when David Mills was co-ordinator. Ian thinks it will be

acceptable but is investigating which funds he could assign. In the meantime Rachael and I have been responding to Becci's requests for clarification and direction. Essentially this has been to broaden the focus from postgraduates to a wider applied audience.

Anthropology Matters

The most important concern is one that we anticipated all along. As all the members of the original group have moved on activities have dropped off – despite efforts to recruit and motivate replacements. AM still have an active mailing list, and the Journal appeared on time last year. I have not heard from Ingie yet as to how this year's issues are proceeding. Overall the group needs rejuvenating. While Rebecca and I plan to meet up with current members, in my opinion AM needs one or two staff members of an Academic Department to lead and provide co-ordination. We would welcome suggestions on whom to approach.

Key issue is funding for travel to attend AM meetings. Without a means to get postgraduate students together it will run out of steam. There has been some suggestion that a regional focus might reduce these costs but I am not convinced that this does anything but weaken the sense of identity. AM have been incredibly successful in eking out their original grant. Given that the ASA have not been spending much on postgraduate training could we consider allocating say £600 for the next three years to see if that provides a driver to maintain momentum?

Andrew Garner
Postgraduate Liaison officer

Report of Media Officer

I took over as the ASA media officer in late summer 2007. Since then there has been a slow trickle of enquiries and requests for advice and information from documentary film-makers, sometimes from independent producers, at other times from the main BBC documentary strands. The topics of the planned films were invariably on extreme topics easy to sell to the commissioners: for example, cultural differences in perceptions of the size of bottoms and how body shapes have changed historically; aggression and violence cross-culturally, with a focus on societies with a very high level of aggression and violence; and a vague approach to do with attitudes to the body, for which a biological anthropologist's help was sought. Moves are afoot to create an accessible database of ASA members with keywords of expertise so that those enquiring can be asked to make direct use of the database. This may enable us to rethink the role of the media officer in future.

Unfortunately, due to commitments in Cambridge, I have not been able to attend Committee meetings in Manchester. I have been greatly supported this year by John Gledhill and Rohan Jackson, to whom I am very grateful.

Georgie Born
Media Officer

New (full) members list for AGM ratification: Dr Daljeet Singh Arora, Dr Gillian Evans, Dr Geoffrey Gowlland, Ms Dianne Hinds, Prof Michael Lambek, Dr Anna Portisch, Dr Iain Walker.

Networks Officer's Report for AGM, March 17 2008

Anthropology Matters

The network published two volumes of its Journal last year (*Fielding Emotions* and *Writing Up and Fielding Down*) under the editorship of Ingie Hovland.

AOB network

The Anthropology of Britain Network held two events in 2007-2008: a general meeting in April 2007 at ASA 07 at London Metropolitan University, and a workshop at the University of Aberdeen in January 2008 entitled *Learning and unlearning to be British*. Members of the network are planning a panel for ASA 08 on the topic of *Social Transformation in the United Kingdom: Appropriation, Class and Identity*.

Apply

The most recent meeting of the Apply Network was held in London on January 29, 2008. The network is currently planning to update the ethics pages on its website in order to broaden the current focus from postgraduates to a wider applied audience.

Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth

Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 2007

Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth

Contents

	Page
Accountants' report	1
Income and expenditure account	2
Balance sheet	3
Notes to the accounts	4

**Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth
Year ended 31 December 2007**

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

We have prepared, without audit, the attached accounts set out on pages 2 to 4 from the books and records of the association and from information and explanations given to me, and hereby confirm that they are in agreement therewith.

Cavehill Accountancy Services Ltd
Chartered Accountants
638a Antrim Road
Belfast BT15 5GP

14 March 2008

Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2007

		2007		2006	
<u>Restricted funds</u>	note	£	£	£	£
<u>Income:</u>					
Firth fund interest received		1,219		940	
		<u>1,219</u>		<u>940</u>	
<u>Expenditure:</u>					
		-		-	
Surplus on restricted funds		<u>1,219</u>	1,219	<u>940</u>	940
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
<u>Income:</u>					
Subscriptions		16,308		13,212	
Royalties	2	5,193		2,791	
Conference surplus		1,645		6,200	
Interest receivable		894		680	
Miscellaneous		-		31	
		<u>24,041</u>		<u>22,914</u>	
<u>Expenditure:</u>					
Annals and newsletters		3,885		3,286	
Administration costs		6,589		5,602	
Committee expenses		1,780		2,198	
Website costs		1,395		-	
Monographs		8,852		6,457	
Networks		400		605	
ALCS dues		-		208	
Accountancy		1,080		1,028	
Bank charges		-		18	
		<u>23,982</u>		<u>19,402</u>	
Surplus on unrestricted funds		<u>59</u>	59	<u>3,512</u>	3,512
Surplus before taxation			1,279		4,452
Taxation	3		<u>492</u>		<u>232</u>
Surplus after taxation			<u>786</u>		<u>4,220</u>

Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2007

		2007	2006
	note	£	£
Current assets			
Barclays - community account		3,000	2,302
National Savings Firth Fund account		27,979	27,295
Lloyds number one account		8,124	5,110
Lloyds number two account		-	906
National Savings passbook account		16,684	15,110
Co-operative bank account		1,525	
Sundry debtors	4	-	680
		<u>57,312</u>	<u>51,403</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	5	<u>6,384</u>	<u>1,260</u>
Net assets		<u><u>50,929</u></u>	<u><u>50,143</u></u>
Represented by reserves:			
Opening balance		50,143	45,923
Surplus for the year		786	4,220
Closing balance	6	<u><u>50,929</u></u>	<u><u>50,143</u></u>

Signed:
Raminder Kaur
Honorary Traeasurer

Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth
Notes to the accounts for year ended 31 December 2007

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting:

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

Membership subscriptions received are accounted for on a cash-received basis.

2 Royalties	2007	2006
	£	£
Taylor and Francis	2,601	2,519
Berg	2,157	-
ALCS & Elsevier	435	272
	<u>5,193</u>	<u>2,791</u>

3 Taxation	2007	2006
	£	£
Corporation tax payable on deposit interest	497	232
Less supplement received from HMRC	(4)	-
	<u>492</u>	<u>232</u>

4 Sundry debtors	2007	2006
	£	£
Accrued deposit interest	-	680
	<u>-</u>	<u>680</u>

5 Creditors and accrued expenses	2007	2006
	£	£
Corporation tax	497	232
Administration costs	2,058	-
Conference costs	1,815	-
Accountancy fees (inc.vat)	1,081	1,028
Berg invoices	933	-
	<u>6,384</u>	<u>1,260</u>

6 Reserves	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted Firth Fund
	£	£	£
Opening balances	50,143	22,848	27,295
Surplus for the year	786	(433)	1,219
Closing balances	<u>50,929</u>	<u>22,415</u>	<u>28,514</u>

The Firth Centenary Fund was set up to (a) establish an annual Firth Lecture and
(b) to assist young scholars.