

# **Collated reports from ASA Officers for the 2022 AGM**

## **Conference Liaison Officer: Anthony Pickles (University of East Anglia)**

- I took up the role of Conference Liaison Officer in September 2021, replacing Prof. Emma Gilberthorpe (UEA), so began with information gathering about the successes and problems of ASA conferences. I was given a detailed briefing by Triinu Mets of NomadIT. The Committee also informed me that we already had an online conference planned for 2022, and were close to securing a host for the 2023 conference.
- A meeting was held with the Head of Department and again with central administration figures and the hosting of the 2023 conference was agreed for 11th -14th April (host to be announced at the AGM).
- The current thinking on the long-term pattern of ASA conferences is that they will alternate annually between small, online conferences and large, traditional ASA-style conferences hosted in university departments. However, an open discussion was held in Dec 2021 around the future direction of ASA activities and how best to ensure our events are distinctive and valuable, especially the off-year, non-traditional conferences. No decision was made and the discussion is set to continue over the coming year.
- In early 2022 I approached another of the UK's departments with the prospect of hosting the ASA Conference in 2025. Following a positive response, a meeting was set up between myself, Triinu Mets of NomadIT and members of the Department. The meeting was positive and I am expecting a response from them in the coming week.

## **Membership Officer: Chima Michael Anyadike-Danes (University of Durham)**

I formally took office as the committee member responsible for membership in January 2022. Prior to that I compiled a comprehensive list of anthropologists in the UK and compared it against ASA membership. Engaging in this exercise led to the following observations: that ASA is now largely a UK organisation with a tiny membership base outside of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; that relative to the total number of social anthropologists in the UK we have failed to recruit ASA members. This is especially true of junior scholars both graduate students and ECRs; and, that in general the ASA, and British Social Anthropology more generally, continues to be a largely white public space with minimal participation from Global majorities this being particularly the case with respect to those of African Heritage.

In seeking to address these issues I have focused my efforts on the following:

- Collaborating with Olivia Barnett-Naghshineh, Andrea Pia, and Toyin Agbetu to organise the ASA's participation in the upcoming London Anthropology Day.
- Co-ordinating with Phaedra Douzina-Bakalaki and Ana Chiritoiu, the editors of Anthropology Matters, to re-orientate the journal towards an engagement with Master's students.

- Collaborating with Andrea Pia and Toyin Agbetu to organise an upcoming event engaging with anthropologist with African Heritage.
- Working with Simone Abram to identify past scholars of African heritage who ASA can celebrate as part of UK Black History Month this coming October.

## **Education officer: Sarah Winkler-Reid (University of Newcastle)**

I took up the position of Education officer in September 2021. Since then, my focus has been on organising ASA2022: Anthropology Educates conference series, chairing the organising committee. With the aim of providing opportunities for more sustained engagement between delegates around the world we have devised an experimental format with a series of five studios stretching over 6 months (with a three-month break in the middle). Each studio extends over a month, with an opening studio and closing session, and opportunities for synchronous and asynchronous engagement during this period, utilising the virtual conference platform. Studio 3 is currently running and will wrap up June 6<sup>th</sup>. We will then have a three-month summer break before starting again September 10<sup>th</sup>. This break will also provide us an opportunity to reflect on how the format is working so far and to make any adjustments necessary. More details and registration info here:

<https://www.theasa.org/conferences/asa2022/>

## **Media Officer: Andrea E. Pia (LSE)**

- Redevelopment of the ASA webpage and committee members profiles ([sample](#) interview); We have produced and uploaded interviews with ASA committee members to showcase current project and what they bring to the association. This is part of an effort in making the ASA more publicly visible, members-friendly and transparent.
- Redevelopment of the *ASAonline* [webpage](#) and [blog contribution](#) on the Ukrainian war; The *ASAonline* used to be one of the online publications of the association. It is now being re-tailored as a open forum to present the public relevance of ethnographic projects conducted by the association members;
- Development of an interactive web tool for PhD students to expand the association membership base (in progress); An interactive introduction based on google slides which is intended for prospective members of the ASA. It serves to highlight to early career anthropologists the benefits of membership.
- Development of an intra-committee sub-group for the organization of events around decolonisation; This brings together four different committee members to plan an ASA hosted event during Black history months;
- Data collection on HE admission trends in anthropology and development of strategies to boost UG numbers across the sector; This is part of an effort to understand and future-proof academic anthropology against declining Home/UK UG numbers across the whole sector.
- Coordinating ASA attendance to LAD 2022. The idea here is to organise an Anthropology Day in the North on the model of the London Anthro Day to expand the student pool.

## **Publications officer: Camilla Morelli (University of Bristol)**

### Monographs

***Re-Creating Anthropology*** eds. Gellner and Martinez (ASA 2018) – this manuscript is in production and currently scheduled to publish in late April. We are finalising arrangements for the special sale paperback for members to have a designed cover.

***How to Live Through a Pandemic*** eds. Abram, Lambert and Robinson (ASA 2020) is in final revisions. Routledge have requested a written response to the reviewer feedback so I can present the book to their editorial board for formal approval.

***Anthropology and Responsibility*** eds. Demian, Fumanti and Lynteris (ASA 2021) – a contract has been sent to the editors and the expected submission date for the manuscript is the end of March. TBC (ASA2019) ed. Gilberthorpe – Routledge has requested a proposal document for review.

We are in discussion with Routledge about open access and the possibility of converting selected backlist titles. The key question concerns the costs of accessing backlist volumes in bulk.

## **Networks officer: Olivia Barnett-Naghshineh (University of Exeter)**

I took over from Julie Scott in November 2021 as Networks Committee Officer and have since sought to get in touch with the ASA Networks, including an open Zoom meeting (attended by AM and AoB). I have also made contact with the organisers of London Anthropology Day and with the support of Chima, and Andrea, we have guaranteed a place sharing with LSE at the event. We have also been asked to contribute to the panel discussion on careers in anthropology.

As former networks officer Julie Scott noted last year, “We have a pot of funds available each year to assist networks in mounting initiatives or running events, but very little of this money has ever been applied for or used. Opportunities have been limited over the past couple of years, but ASA remains in a position to support networks in their ambitions.”

### **Anthropology of Britain**

The AoB network is growing successfully with a rapid increase in membership and successful informal seminar meetings for people to share their work. They have established a list of members' publications and have held quarterly seminars. They also have a twitter account at @AoB\_network.

### **Apply**

The APPLY Network recently held an event on the potential for Anthropology in Scottish Education, which has opened up some potential links for us for advancing Anthropology in this context. The convenors are currently looking for volunteers to help coordinate the network. Please contact Mark Hindley-Highfield for more information.

The Apply network's Journal, *Anthropology in Action*, has new editors (Andy Dawson, Simone Dennis) and can be freely accessed now on the Berghahn journal website.

### **Anthropology Matters**

The AM List is widely used.

The AM journal editors put in an inordinate amount of labour in securing reviews and working with authors to develop their work to publishable standard. It is therefore disappointing when authors

withdraw their edited papers prior to publication, especially if then taken to more prestigious journals despite the AM editors' time and effort taken to review articles. The editors would welcome some discussion among PGRs and departments about the ethics of publishing but would also like further encouragement of ECRs and students to use the journal as an opportunity to publish their work, especially post-graduate theses.

Hence the editors are working on a new way of organising the journal, highlighting its role as a potential training ground for editors and reviewers as well as authors and have proposed to establish a new editorial board. They have adopted an 'early view' system to give flexibility of publication dates, and will promote the journal at the forthcoming EASA conference.

### [Anthropology of time](#)

No report received.

### [UK Network for the Anthropology of Christianity](#)

No report received.