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COLLATED REPORTS FOR MARCH 2012 MEETING

Chair's Annual Report 2011-12 (DRAFT)

As Chair, I have continued to be preoccupied with REF and Research Council affairs – and thus with the funding of anthropology teaching and research in the UK

1. ASA and REF

The most significant inputs of the Chair over the last year have again been in relation to consultation with HEFCE over REF 2013, and the operation of Panel C and the Sub-Panel for Anthropology and Development. We coordinated a meeting of UK HODs of Anthropology Departments in September 2011 to discuss the HEFCE consultation document, and then filed a submission to HEFCE.

In particular we articulated the need for (a) a clearer and more comprehensive description of the discipline; (b) more reasonable rules concerning pregnancy and maternity leave ; (c) more clarity in accepting politically unpopular critique as impact; (d) clearer rules concerning overlap between submitted outputs; (e) the possibility for double weighting certain outputs and to file a reserve if this is rejected; (f) the importance of

The regular auditing of the quality and impact of the discipline and its research outputs shapes the conduct of anthropology and the conditions in which anthropologists work and are managed within departments and universities. It is also important in rendering visible the work of social anthropologists within the UK. This is the first REF auditing cycle in which anthropology is not a single subpanel, but is to be subsumed into a larger ‘anthropology and development’ panel. This, and the pressure that will be put on departments to submit fewer people to audit, with higher graded research, threatens to further reduce the number of anthropologists who will be submitted, and the visibility of anthropology as a discipline. This is a significant challenge to the discipline.

2. ASA and Research Councils

As Chair, I have attended several actual and virtual meetings where learned societies meet with Research Councils.

With ESRC, we continued to express our anxieties in the consultations which led to the development of the ESRC 'delivery plan' 2011-2015 that this framework downplayed qualitative social sciences, international social science and independent social science. Again, I think that our concerns were well taken, and our fears have always been somewhat allayed. Anthropology as a discipline has to be vigilant. A greater proportion of ESRC resources is being devoted to taking advantage of major surveys and their merging with other data sets (health, commercial etc.). Whilst there should be opportunities for anthropology in this – and we have consistently articulated the need for qualitative companion studies in this – it is the case that the significance and impact of modern anthropology is consistently under appreciated. It is vital – for the pursuit of public funds at least - that in the current REF round, anthropology articulates clearly and convincingly the multiple ways in which the discipline is significant to contemporary social debates and policies.

In the most recent ESRC briefing to learned societies, its Chief Executive, Paul Boyle outlined how the ESRC was refocusing in light of a 12% cut in real terms over the next 4 years. Anthropology has performed well in deriving ESRC finance and it is important to us that responsive mode funding is retained, and strategic funding embraces the importance of the discipline. Importantly responsive mode research has been protected. The key elements of the published ESRC deliver plan are (a) that economic and societal impact has become central to their activities; (b) that they have focused on three strategic priorities ; (c) that they have streamlined funding opportunities to focus resources on longer, larger grants; (d) that they are introducing, gradually, a 'demand management strategy'. They are also protecting core investments in the national data infrastructure and expanding collaborative activities with the private sector, and incorporate international perspectives across the full range of their activities.

The strategic priorities are 'Economic Performance and Sustainable Growth' ; 'Influencing Behaviour and Informing Interventions', and 'A Vibrant and Fair Society'. Whether these are focused or pretty broad depends on the spin, but Paul Boyle and others have made it clear that these are NOT (a) a list of new research programmes ; a steer to research grants (they remained commitment to vibrant, innovative response mode) ; a narrowly UK-centric agenda ; a narrow, applied agenda. Basically, ESRC are balancing upward accountability to paymasters with downward accountability to the academic community.

ESRC has seen a 33% increase in number of applications in the last five years, and a fall in success rates to 13%. They seek to halve the number of applications by 2015. If current HEI 'self regulation' (combined with new 'league tables' revealing research application grading) does not work, then ESRC will adopt 'researcher sanction'. The moral here is (a) internal peer review, and (b) 'don't submit proposals before they are ready.

We do not yet have statistics on how anthropology has fared in the new doctoral funding arrangements (DTCs etc.). After this spring round, we need to compare statistics with pre-DTC doctoral funding and I will be asking HODs for data in the summer.

Concerning **AHRC**, we put the ASA name to public protestations (including letters to the Guardian) against the AHRC embracing the 'big society' as a research theme (as was widely reported in April – June 2011). We hold to the principal that adopting the term represents political interference, compromising research council independence and making the funding body an "arm of the Department for Education." The AHRC denied that they had adopted this language, but its delivery plan articulates in five references how its 'connected community' contributes to the 'big society' policy. Across the country several academics resigned from the AHRC peer review college. Later in the year the AHRC attempted to re-recruit, and rather unwittingly, I circulated the AHRC call without the context. Apologies. There is a balance to strike between 'withdrawing' and constructive participation. In research councils, peer review rules, and we need our work to be reviewed by our peers.

I also attended an AHRC convened event concerning impact – which was a little hijacked by the 'delivery of pleasure' agenda, rather than the delivery of social reflexivity and critique.

3. Anthropology and the new fee structure.

In early February, I attempted to coordinate with HODs to discern the impact of the new fee structure (essentially a fee hike to £9000 for virtually all anthropology departments in England) on student recruitment into anthropology. This is a VERY uncertain year, not only because of the new fees, but also because several universities (and anthropology departments) have altered their 'A level' ask in light of the new deregulation of numbers for AAB students.

Whilst some departments were happy to share figures, others are understandably hesitant due to questions of inter-departmental competition. From those who have felt able to share figures, no clear picture has yet emerged. Moreover, there is considerable uncertainty whether applicants will manifest into students, and whether those who begin study will be able to complete. This is an issue that we will have to monitor as a discipline over the next year.

4. Academy of Social Sciences

We have rejoined the new ACSS, but to date I have not found the time to properly engage with this important lobbying organisation. I suggest that liaison with ACSS becomes tasked to another member of the ASA Committee.

5. World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA)

The world of professional associations is increasingly globalized, and the World Council of Anthropological Associations is now an active body that articulates the interests of anthropology (and at times the interests of those we study) with a global voice.

The WCAA biennial meeting will be hosted in Delhi by the Indian IAA & IAS on 31 March, which is coordinated with both (a) a symposium on the anthropology of global issues which ASA is co-hosting with those associations, and then (b) the ASA conference in Delhi from 3-

6th April. I have not been able to play as strong a role in WCAA as I would like, and again it would be preferable for a member of the ASA committee to liaise for ASA with this organisation. WCAA have been very helpful in liaising with our sister associations in international lobbying and in making arrangements concerning our international conferences.

6. The name of the ASA

The ASA was founded simply as the Association of Social Anthropologists (ASA) in 1946, but then changed its name to the Association of Social Anthropologists of the Commonwealth as the discipline grew - and then changed again to the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth. As John Gledhill has noted, the addition 'of the UK and' to the earlier addition of 'of the Commonwealth' was in recognition of the fact that independent associations had been created in several Commonwealth countries, and ASA is equally welcoming to members from non-Commonwealth countries. Given (a) the emergence of almost 40 anthropology associations around the world (many of which are commonwealth members), and the existence of the World Council, it is perhaps time again to reflect on the name of the Association. We remain an international association and as the up-coming Delhi conference exemplifies, the Association now regularly holds its conferences outside the UK, meeting in Zimbabwe in 1997, Tanzania in 2002, and Auckland in partnership with sister associations. Nevertheless, we are not restricted to the UK or the commonwealth, and we do not speak for anthropologists of the commonwealth, many of whom are members of their own national associations (and some of whom find our appellation more than a little anachronistic).

7. IUAES and ASA 2014 decennial conference

The 'International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences' is a further International organisation, and in 2013 it will hold their World Congress in the UK (in Manchester). ASA had agreed with a Consortium of Scottish Universities that it would also hold its usual decennial conference that year in Scotland. Yet as plans unfolded, a risk emerged that a conference on this scale might detract from ASA's (and UK anthropology's) support of IUAES and anthropology globally. The ASA committee felt that it was suitable to request the Scottish Consortium whether it might consider deferring their ASA decennial until 2014, which they agreed to, and with our thanks and our apologies.

8. Support to Anthropology Departments

ASA wrote to the VC of the University of Glasgow in March 2011 in support of anthropology there as a discipline (research and teaching) which was then under threat. We have been pleased to hear since that Glasgow University has acknowledged the importance of anthropology conducted there, and the worst of the threats were lifted. We should note as well the success of the ASA 2011 Conference at Lampeter (University of Wales, Trinity St. David) not only as an academic success, but also as an event that strongly supported social anthropology at that university, which is the last university to teach the discipline and support its research in Wales. It was strategically very important to have held the conference there.

James Fairhead, Chair
23 February 2012

Treasurer's report

This is my final Treasurer's report and it is out of a combined sense of relief and sadness that I pass the role onto Lotte Hoek who has been 'shadowing' for a year as expressed at the AGM last year.

Throughout my five year term, the accounts have gone from around £700 surplus on unrestricted funds in 2007 to one that is comparatively quite healthy. The total funds in our four accounts have exceeded the six figure mark for I should think the first time in the ASA's history. This is largely due to steps to set up DD with members so as membership dues are easy to collate, and cutting down on some recurrent costs such as developing an online annal (this in itself used to cost about £4,000 to produce and send to members). As a consequence, the ASA has been in a position to put some extra funds away in reserve and confidently approach the organisation of a conference in Delhi whilst funding students and scholars from the south to attend. However the outlook for this year is still a little tenuous due to the likelihood of increased expenditures this year (due largely to the ASA-JNU conference) and membership subscription income that is contracting.

1. Our surplus for 2011 is just over £21,000 as compared to over £2,000 in 2010, but the former figure has to take on board (i) funds accrued for the ASA-JNU conference from Wenner-Gren, (ii) C-SAP funds which have or will be allocated for teaching-related activities and prizes, and (iii) £1,000 towards the Olivia Harris award totalling approx £16,400. The actual annual surplus for 2011 is more in the region of £5,000.
2. We are delighted to announce the establishment of the Olivia Harris award out of contributors' royalties from the Sage Handbook of Anthropology. The award has been set up in memory of the late Professor Olivia Harris who was to be one of the Handbook editors in order to recognise excellent research amongst doctoral students. This is to add to the Firth and Radcliffe-Brown awards to aid students in the last 6 months of thesis submission. £500 advance had been received from the publisher in 2010, £1,000 in 2011, and a further £1,500 is expected on publication later this year. One award has already been made to an excellent and promising postgraduate that has been administered by the RAI in January this year. We are thankful to all the Handbook contributors for dedicating their royalties to supporting emerging scholars.
3. The ASA conference at Lampeter in 2011 came in a small gain of approx £800 which for a relatively small conference of 140 delegates is an excellent outcome.

4. For the ASA-JNU conference, funds have been raised not just from the Wenner-Gren (approx £9,200) but also with the help of colleagues at JNU, from Indian sources of approximately £2,600 (not listed here) to cover some of the costs of catering, room hire etc for which we are very grateful.
5. So far we have committed £2,800 and registration fee waivers to seven postgraduate students based in the UK to attend the ASA-JNU conference, plus about a total of £8,000 for 40 scholars/students from South Asia and one from Egypt to attend and present their papers. The conference organisation has involved a great deal of work from those on the organising committee – most of all for the administrators, NomadIT, who will need to be remunerated for the extra costs and time committed in organising the event.
6. Even though our membership numbers have remained more or less constant, income generated by his stream has actually dropped due to some members retiring and moving on to lower membership rates. Not enough new members are joining to make up for this shortfall. The current count is 527 of which 241 are full UK members. Our annual expenditure is hovering around the £15-17,000 mark and going to be more this year due largely to increased administration costs of the ASA-JNU conference, other work on the website, and inflation. We urge members to ‘bring in new blood’ by encouraging colleagues to join the ASA.
7. A final note is to recommend a small rise in membership fees within the next 2 years so as to countervail increasing expenses due to inflation, evident for instance in incremental rises in the accountancy fee, book postage, committee meeting expenses, and so forth. But if we can get new members to join, we could try to keep this balance down to between a £5-10 increase.

I wish the committee and in particular Lotte well in her new role as Treasurer.

Raminder Kaur, Honorary Treasurer

February 2012

Secretary's report

Since our meeting November 2011 I have concentrated on four main topics: 1) Untangling and clarifying ASA roles, 2) Researched plausibility of ASA Blogging Competition on WebEthics, 3) Considered the Question of Digital Clutter and 4) Looking into improving the ASAs public profile vis-a-vis the website.

A summary of Offices and Election Protocol follows (Appendix I), which includes all our offices as well as a consideration of the archive position, with input from David Mills and Ro.

Regarding the other three points I have been liasing with NomadIT to find out what are the potentials and limitations with what we have. In summary here, and in my words, they are:

A) Yes, a blog competition is certainly possible and will be a first. The main problem seen at the moment is that in order to prevent spamming, articles need to be emailed and then posted up by one of us/NomadIT. Someone definitely needs to curate it. Who and how still to be defined.

B) Also, Forums and Calendars are possible, but there is a concern that it may not simplify communication, as it will require each committee member to adapt. To be discussed at meeting.

C) A re-design of the ASA Website was done in 2010

- Ro discussed a new rebrand with web-designer Eli, and theres a consensus that the current site is very wordy, and could be improved with images
- They suggest we a) commission a graphics designer to draw a new-logo, b) provide them with examples of websites we like
- Then provide them with a brief of what we want, well written material and source photos (both for eye-candy and to deliver a message), then well be cooking on gas.

Best wishes to all,
Zem

Admin report

Dear All

Apologies for my silence on most stuff recently. I have given feedback where necessary and am pleased to see Zem's energy driving things forward. I've been more than a little taken up with the Delhi conference work; but also the end/beginning of the year are disproportionately busy for us with finances and membership issues. Megan is very much on top of all that, and the hard work done in the last couple of years over direct debits is paying off. If the suggestion to increase subscriptions is taken up, then we will be in a good position to be able to do this without an accumulation of arrears as was the case around 2004.

Membership picture

Current member count: 527; Invoiced: 15.5k; Collected already: 11k; Full (UK) members: 241. ASA membership doesn't grow - it just ages. The number is more or less constant, but our receipts are falling as members age. It averages ten full members/UK dept. This needs attention (see below).

Webwork

There has been quite a lot of work done on the ASA website in recent months. AM double issue; new section Higher Ed; and 3 new issues of ASAonline (to be publicised shortly). The latter suffered from similar problems to the AM release, due to late-process edits and non-use of templates. (Eli has again worked with Simone on this.) There is a lack of understanding of web publishing by most academics, and with fresh authors each time, this work is consequently more labour intensive for Eli than it should be. The solution is for better editorial control of these aspects, and hopefully that is now in place in both AM and ASAonline.

We have so far failed to add Social networks as planned but this is scheduled for this week.

Conference

Delhi is making progress with over 250 registrations. The big complication is over accommodation which I am still trying to resolve. But the precis is that we don't have any and whatever we get will be last minute, so this means people will need to book their own. I am informing them of this change of plans this in the next 24hrs. Finances are so-so, although at this stage there are more uncertainties than would normally be the case. It's a good thing we're having a rest next year...

Raminder requested clarification whether the extra hours involved in running this event (and the accom) are in the current budget - they are not. I am unsure quite how much extra time this amounts to yet, but feel we should perhaps discuss this after the event, given the many variables in the budget already.

Moving forward - what do we focus on?

While we can work with the committee to improve the aesthetics of the website, I am somewhat disappointed to be receiving a request to update the aesthetic within 18 months of our having done so. It's a clean, clear site, albeit without much eye-candy. I accept Zem's point that it needs more images to make it more attractive, and it might need some restructuring as content changes. However as I made clear several months ago, what the website needs most is content:

the homepage text needs to be more inviting; the behind the scenes activity of the Assocn needs exposing/promoting. This is not something your administrators are responsible for - this content has to come from you.

The other initiative that I think needs taking is a full-scale membership drive. There are far more active anths in the UK than are members, and our membership is ageing. While this has been mentioned before I don't feel this has been approached systematically. I propose that Megan circulates a list of depts to the committee, and that these are equally divided up between all current members of the committee. Current - this means outgoing, as who better person to advocate than someone who's just served on the committee. Once we have an allocation of Depts, NomadIT will forward to each member a list of the members in those depts. I propose that each committee member then looks at the list of anths on each dept site (our annals lists are somewhat out of date, and Megan is currently gathering the latest version), and writes an individual email to each non-member anth.

Is this too heavy? Previous methods have not yielded much result. I think it is reasonable. They can just ignore your letters.

My feeling is that people join assocns cos they have to (the ASA mercifully doesn't do that), or because they want the journal (an old model, and one which has increasing challenges, and anyway the ASA doesn't produce a printed journal), or because they think this association is something they should support. Our website could be more attractive, but it also needs to show why this is something worth supporting.

Sorry I can't be with you.

Ro

Learning and Teaching report

To follow

Networks Report

1) Since our last meeting I have created a new ASA webpage on the crisis in HE. With Ro's help, this webpage is now live. It is linked from a box on the right hand side of the main home page. This is the direct link : http://www.theasa.org/he_crisis.shtml

The two main portions of the page are currently 1) essays I solicited from Judith Okely (Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology, Hull and Research Associate, School of Anthropology, Oxford) and Dimitris Dalakoglou (Lecturer in Anthropology, University of Sussex) and 2) links to related points of debate (such as previously published essays) and other sources of information (such as the campaign for social sciences and the BSA).

The site should be considered a work in progress. If committee members have anyone in mind that would consider writing another essay on the topic, please point them towards what is there and encourage them to write.

I hope the Committee will put time and energy into continuing this project, but this is not clearly part of the Networks remit. How to support work like this might be a point of discussion for the future.

For the record, and so as not to duplicate effort, people already approached who were not able or willing to write are: Nigel Rapport, Paloma Gay y Blasco, Jeanette Edwards and Jonathan Spencer. People that have been suggested that I haven't had time to contact: Richard Fardon and John Gledhill.

2) I have also prepared the paperwork for the new Network on Teaching and Learning that Ian Fairweather wishes to propose, and sent this on to Ian.

3) This is my last committee meeting as I will be handing over to Rachel Goberman-Hill (Bristol) at the end of March. I have enjoyed working with all of you (and your predecessors) immeasurably since November 2006, and will miss the committee work and activity a great deal. Thanks to all for creating such a vibrant and professional committee; I look forward to cheering you on in your activities from the position as normal ASA member.

CD

24 February 2012

Ethics Report

This is my last ASA report as I am now stepping down from the position of the ASA ethics officer from end of March 2012 and Matt Candea (Durham University) is taking over as the ethics officer from 1st April 2012. The 5 years (2007-2012) of being an ethics officer of the ASA has been a dynamic and fun experience. The following tasks took up a large part of my commitments to this position:

- Engaging and responding to the debates on Counterinsurgency and sending feedbacks to research Councils.
- Setting up and coordinating the ASA ethics blog
- Organised open forums on apology and reconciliation at the ASA conference in Auckland (New Zealand) and Belfast. The commentary on apology was published in Critique of anthropology and the commentary on reconciliation is currently being prepared for publication.
- Amending and updating the ASA Ethics Guidelines [after nearly a decade] following a yearlong consultation with ASA members.
- Being in communication with AREC (Academic Research Ethics Council) relating to the development of an umbrella ethics code for social science.

It's been busy on the ASA 2012 conference front which I will be attending in Delhi. In the last few months things have been quiet on the ethics front. The Amended ASA guidelines are being used by ASA committee members and beyond and I have had a lot of positive feedback from academics and PhD students relating to the amendments. The ASA blog has been waiting to spring into action once Matt gets his bloggers ready for the purpose. As I sign off, I need to remind Matt as the next ethics officer that the ASA ethics guidelines is a live document and any amendments to it should be proposed for approval annually at the ASA AGM and added as an addendum. Overall, I really enjoyed my time as the ASA Ethics Officer and ASA committee member. Thanks to all committee members for their collegiality and support and friendships and to Ro for keeping the system going smoothly.

Thanks,
Nayanika Mookherjee
22.02.2012

Publications report

James Staples

- 1. ASA Monograph 48 & 49:** David Shankland's volume *Archaeology and Anthropology: Past, Present and Future* and Jonathan Skinner's *Anthropology and the Interview* have both gone to press, and should be ready for mailing out to members in August/September.
- 2. ASA Monograph 50:** I had expected to have a proposal from Penny Dransart to put to the committee so we could forward it on to Berg before now, but things have fallen a bit silent. I am still chasing, and still want us to aim for a publication date of May 2013 (to allow time for slippage and still be in time for the REF).
- 3. ASA Monographs 51 and 52:** There are issues to anticipate with both these volumes – first, there is no obvious editor for the **ASA51** volume from the Delhi conference, but, having spoken to the ASA-side of the organising committee, I'd suggest Raminder Kaur as the most likely editor, perhaps – depending on discussions when we're at JNU – with a co-editor from the Indian side of the organising committee. Note also point 4, below, which might ease (or not...) the process. Re **ASA52**, we don't actually have a conference of our own, although I propose we ask John Gledhill (or whoever he nominates) to edit an appropriate volume from the IUEAS conference running at Manchester instead.
- 4. Future Monographs:** I have also been exploring ways of trying to ensure quality/consistency in future ASA monographs (and, without wanting to let the tail wag the dog, make the chapters in them as acceptable as they can be as REF publications), and I'm thinking that probably the most effective way of doing this is to formalise a system of peer-reviewing the chapters in much the same way as a special issue of a journal might. Having spoken to Berg and having toyed with a few suggestions (including running the monograph as an annual journal, which ended up seeming overly complicated), my suggestion is to have an editorial board (of, eg, former ASA chairs) and perhaps other committee members, inc. the serving publications officer. The volume editor (conference convenor, usually), who would advise on suitable peer reviewers for each of the chapters submitted. The publications officer would then manage the review process (inviting reviewers, sending them the chapters, collating and passing on their responses) and would pass on reviewers' comments to the authors and editor. The editor would ensure concerns were met appropriately.
- 5.** I discussed this by email with two former chairs: one was broadly supportive, the other expressed concerns that this 'would represent a diminution of our faith in the chosen editors/conference organizers, plus a loss of faith in our selection process' and might put off younger scholars. Both were also concerned (as I am) at the additional time this might add to the process (although I am asking Berg to comment on this. It might be that the editor would also save some time this way). **Comments/thoughts on this one, please!**
- 6. Ethics, consent forms and Berg:** I expressed concern when Berg asked the editor of one of our volumes to confirm that formal, written consent had been obtained by all those whose interview transcripts had been included in the book. The publisher has also been very cautious concerning the images that might be used in the publications, particularly on the cover. In the event, the editor was able to satisfy them, and I have sent Berg the relevant sections from our ethics code, but I do think we need to watch this in order to prevent 'ethics' from becoming a tick-box exercise (and a particularly arduous, counter-productive one at that). **Again, a brief discussion might be called for.**
- 7. My term as PO ends in April 2012:** As agreed at the last meeting, happy to stay on a bit longer, but also willing to go if/when we have someone!

Conference liaison report

To follow

APPENDIX I

Offices and Election Protocol

Current Offices

1) Chair **James Fairhead** until 2013

*The Chair of the committee liaises with the Honorary Secretary over agendas for meetings, and chairs at least three Committee meetings per annum as well as the **Annual Business Meeting** of members. This also entails agreeing minutes with the Honorary Secretary, checking that action agreed in minutes is followed up, and writing an annual report on the Committee's activities.*

The role of Chair involves discussion with the Honorary Treasurer over decisions on spending matters, wherever possible in conjunction with the remainder of the Committee. There is also liaison with other Committee members over their various tasks and decisions.

The Chair is in touch with various outside bodies, including:

- Heads of UK Anthropology Departments
- Royal Anthropological Institute
- Economic and Social Research Council
- British Academy
- Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences
- British Association for the Advancement of Science
- HEFCE
- Anthropology in Action
- World Council of Anthropological Associations

The Chair responds to consultation documents and to requests for nominations for their committees, representing the ASA at joint meetings. This includes reading papers for and chairing meetings of the Radcliffe-Brown and Firth Funds joint ASA/RAI panel twice a year, and conveying the panel's decision to the RAI administrator.

The role of Chair also involves giving support to members who are in dispute with their employers or have other problems connected with their professional work as anthropologists.

2) Honorary Secretary **Zemirah Moffat** - just joined

The Honorary Secretary prepares Agendas for meetings, in consultation with the Chair, and writes up and distributes the Minutes of both committee meetings and the Annual Business Meeting. In collaboration with the administrator and Chair, the Secretary prepares the Annals and Directory of Members. The Secretary may also provide the RAI with appropriate items of ASA News for inclusion in 'Anthropology Today'. Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer deal with matters arising between meetings of the ASA Committee, including ASA/RAI support to postgraduate students.

3) Honorary Treasurer **Raminder Kaur** passes to **Lotte Hoek** @ ASA 2012

The Honorary Treasurer liaises closely with the Chair and Administrator to manage the ASA finances. The ASA's income derives from a range of sources: mainly subscriptions, royalties, the Firth Family Fund and sales. Its major expenditures are on conferences, donations and sponsorships, the Committee, taxes and royalties. The Treasurer also deals with the financial aspects of ASA correspondence, negotiations and special projects.

4) Administrator **Rohan Jackson/Megan Caine** (On-going)

The ASA Administrator provides general support for the Association, managing and updating the database and communicating information to the membership. The Administrator collects and

collates information for the production of Annals, collects and records subscriptions, and presents new membership applications to the *Annual Business Meeting*.

5) Learning and Teaching Officer [Ian Fairweather](#) - until 2013

The Learning and teaching officer supports and maintains the Learning and Teaching in Anthropology Network (LATIN) and promotes the development of learning and teaching initiatives in anthropology. The role also involves liaison with the Higher Education Academy and other bodies supporting learning and teaching in higher education to represent the interests of anthropology as a discipline. The L&T officer also acts as a representative for the postgraduate network to ensure that the network remains active, that its concerns are represented on the ASA Committee – not least by inviting a postgraduate student representative, and that its needs are promoted.

6) ASA Networks [Cate Degnen](#) passes onto [Rachel Goberman-Hill](#) @ ASA 2012

The networking officer promotes ASA contacts with anthropologists working either outside the academy entirely, or within the academy but outside university anthropology departments. The networking officer also encourages the formation of ASA Networks, brings formal applications to establish networks to the ASA Committee, and assists established networks to function.

7) Ethics [Nayanika Mookherjee](#) passes onto [Matt Candea](#) April 2012

The principle responsibilities of this position are to coordinate the running of the ASA Globalog, monitor the use of the ASA's Ethical Guideline, to encourage discussion of the ASA's recommendations, and to propose revision of the Guidelines to the AGM annually and to add the revisions to the guidelines as Addenda, on approval at the ASA AGM.

8) Media [Mike Poltorak](#) - just joined

The committee member responsible for relations with the media and with publicity both receives enquiries from the media and seeks ways to enhance the public profile of anthropology.

9) Publications [James Staples](#) - until end of 2012

The Publications Officer coordinates relations between the ASA Committee and the ASA's past and present publishers – since 2004, Berg. This has entailed overseeing publication of the ASA Monographs and ASA Methods series, and organising reprints, the fees from which subsidise ASA ventures, such as the Radcliffe-Brown Fund to support postgraduate students. The ASA has also produced a CD-ROM of the first ten volumes of the ASA monographs, which is available for purchase from the administrator.

10) Conference Liaison [Atreyee Sen](#) - until 2013

Establishes links and facilitates communication between the ASA and other organisations, institutions, universities and academics who participate in the ASA conferences.

11) Archivist?

I managed to trace back the Archivist Role to David Mills, via Ro. Here's what David wrote: "I deposited far too many boxes of ASA ephemera in the BLPES about a decade ago, and was made Honorary Archivist for my troubles. I am not attached to this title at all, but I don't know if you really need to maintain the position."

- He recommends someone keeps a watching eye to ensure that some sort of institutional record is kept, and to worry about what that means in a digital age.

- And said he and Rohan are in dialogue with the LSE 'digital archivist' and "they've been giving us ideas about how best to archive emails etc"

- And recommended we asked who is responsible for editing and making deposits? Secretary? Administrator? ??

And on, "A different issue (and one that is much more interesting really) is whether and how to encourage anthropologists to deposit their own materials at some point in the future, to create what George Marcus once called 'the once and future ethnographic archive'. Most anths are pretty reluctant to think about this (especially given the ESRC's hypocrisy around some of this), but the riches available at the LSE or the RAI (eg Firth's papers. Richard's papers, Gluckman's papers) could convince them otherwise. But perhaps this is a separate conversation. This is where might well need someone on the committee to do the lobbying..."

Which process?

Currently here is how Ro put the ASA's Election Protocol (24/11/2011):

"the committee is made up of nominations by existing committee ratified by the generally small attendance at the AGM - a forum which does not lend itself to coming up with new nominees. Not very 'open' even if it has served reasonably well to-date. EASA has a call for its exec which is voted every two years using NomadIT's balloting system. It does seem a little more democratic or transparent. It perhaps also results in only those with time/energy/commitment standing. Our current situation can lead to those asked feeling obliged.

We could adopt something similar for ASA - but we'd need to check the constitution to see if it's allowed to work that way. If not, then there could still be a call and then the committee decide."

To consider:

- request nominations from heads to be put to committee then committee
- put request to ASA membership and HoDs
- but how to reach anthropologists not working in anthropology departments or those outside the academy?

Current Officers Election Process:

b) All officers are elected for a term of two years and are eligible for re-election for a further term after which they are not eligible for further office for four years except that an officer, after serving a term on the committee, may be elected Chair, Secretary or Treasurer for two years with an optional re-election for a further term of two years. No officer may serve for more than six consecutive years.

c) The election of officers shall take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

d) Nomination to offices must be made in writing to the Secretary by October 1st of the academic year of election. Such a nomination will imply that the proposer has the candidate's consent; obtaining such consent will be the responsibility of the proposer.

e) The Committee will prepare the list of candidates for election to office for presentation to the Annual General Meeting for election. If necessary there will be a secret ballot. The candidates with the greatest number of votes will be declared elected.

f) One vacancy on the Committee shall be reserved for a member who at the time of election had qualified for membership within the last two years.