



# The Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth

## Minutes of ASA committee meeting 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010, Manchester

### Present

James Fairhead, Garry Marvin, James Staples, Raminder Kaur, Cathrine Degnen, Ian Fairweather, Atreyee Sen, Rohan Jackson

### 1. Apologies

Catherine Alexander and Nayanika Mookherjee

### 2. Previous minutes

These were accepted with one amendment to the Publications section: the volume on tourism was from the London conference.

### 3. Matters arising from last minutes

Blog: see 4d below; Film: see 6 below.

### 4. Reports

The majority were pre-circulated somewhat late in the day!

#### a. Chair

It should be noted that Hastings Donnan has been exceptionally helpful in orchestrating nominations to the HEFCE/REF panel. The ESRC will know about their finances in January 2011; they are currently very interested in 'ventures' – collaborations with other funders, be they Govt or trusts, etc. Ian Diamond has moved on and the new head is a demographer from St. Andrew's.

*ACTION: JF to circulate the nominations list to the committee, who are asked to handle those with sensitivity please!*

RK's WCAA report has already been circulated.

*ACTION: CA to write to the Chair of South Africa's anthropology association expressing our interest in collaborating with over a conference in the near future.*

#### b. Admin

*ACTION: RJ to circulate outstanding members list; the committee to email individuals known to them, copying RJ, offering an amnesty on condition of setting up a DD for 2011 onwards. RJ to email the remainder offering a one-off amnesty under same conditions.*

In light of this and our current finances, it seems prudent to have a memberships drive. What the ASA 'gives' for subs was discussed. RK raised the possibility of member-only access to aspects of the website. RJ felt the new directory might meet that criteria. It was felt that we needed to create a paragraph describing what the ASA does.

*ACTION: RJ to liaise with JF and RK to create marketing paragraph.*

#### **c. Treasurer**

The possibility of mailing monographs to UK departments to save mailing costs was discussed, but finally dismissed as yielding an insignificant saving. RK suggest we discuss subscription rates at the next meeting.

CD sought clarification over the figure relating to ASA12. 3k in the report was a dollar figure, so should really be 2k. The expenses incurred to-date are not part of that 2k.

#### **d. Ethics**

Ian Harper's blog on Ethics Review Committee is not forthcoming. It was agreed that we should encourage members to blog on what the ASA/discipline's response should be to the Browne Review.

*ACTION: RJ to invite bloggers in an open call over AM and members list, but perhaps suggest the topic of "The Browne Review and the implications it has for the discipline in the UK". Or widen it to 'the privatisation of higher education'?*

*ACTION: IF & JF to take up coordination of the blog, from NM, and seek other topics. JF to email HoDs seeking new blog leaders on subject of Browne Review.*

*ACTION: RJ to ensure a disclaimer is placed on the blog.*

#### **e. Networks**

Verbal report: Apply had a recent network meeting. Apply sought committee advice as to whether to pursue a merger with AiA. This was discussed and it was agreed they should take this forward. AoB is hosting a workshop in January. AM plans to reinvigorate committee and expand the journal, and seeks ASA support. They also plan an additional web resource, and will be seeking external funds.

*ACTION: RK to investigate if Firth can fund the journal expansion, as a PG activity.*

*ACTION: IF to inform AM that we are looking into finding finance for this. There is the possibility of some CSAP funds for the web resource. IF to suggest one of AM's meetings should be at the annual conference, thus saving on travel costs (to the ASA).*

#### **f. Publications**

ASA08 and ASA09 volumes are proceeding well. JS noted that there is currently no internal review of the monographs. JF: wondered if longer term we might move towards a journal instead of a monograph, as our conference output. There appears to be a bias in many institutions towards counting only journals and not chapters in books. CD stated that the monographs are an important history of our discipline, so there'd be a need to not lose that in dealing with the pressures towards publishing in journals.

*ACTION: JS to monitor progress of ASA10 to ensure timely delivery of manuscript to Berg. JS to discuss possibilities of mono/journal with Anna at Berg.*

#### **g. Media**

Verbal report: GM has been fielding enquiries, and the release of the directory will help him with this, enormously. The Cambridge drama has gone quiet but may be ongoing. GM has a meeting with the Independent Producers Association.

#### **h. C-SAP**

It was agreed not to commit more than the £800 left from last Early Careers event to the next one, due to concerns about our annual balance. Only one entry received to the teaching prize competition. The call time was quite short.

*ACTION: IF to initiate the judging and award of the teaching prize; to circulate news of the Macarthur fund to departments via HoDs.*

## **5. New treasurer**

RK raised issue of embodied knowledge, and possibility of extending term for Secretary and Treasurer, and allowing for a year's shadow/deputy to allow handing over knowledge.

*ACTION: RK to consider Scottish colleagues as possible next incumbents.*

## **6. Film competition**

RK raised possibility of films being longer than 5 minutes. Our blipTV channel does not impose a limit on length although the file size may not exceed 1GB.

*ACTION: GM to seek opinion of Granada Centre team on length; to add a sentence to the competition description regarding the value of entries which will have a use in teaching.*

## **7. C-SAP legacy materials**

The committee agreed to the proposal of putting C-SAP online legacy materials on the ASA site, if C-SAP is closed.

## **8. Browne Review**

See 4d above.

## **9. Conferences**

### **a. Firth 2010**

CA has written to Crapanzano seeking his paper, following no response to RJ's request.

### **b. Firth 2011**

Donna Haraway, ('When species meet' – published 09) is the first choice. Consider Descola if she turns us down.

*ACTION: JF to invite Donna via [haraway@ucsc.edu](mailto:haraway@ucsc.edu).*

### **c. ASA/host contract**

*ACTION: AS to add 'endeavour to' to the offering of student and southern grants, as we may not always be able to fund these.*

### **d. AGM 2011 event**

Aim to plan a half day event in March at the British Museum: AGM plus an Ethics meeting.

*ACTION: JS to investigate obtaining room for free*

***NOTE: no-one assigned to carry this forward. NB our ethics officer only returns to UK in Feb.***

### **e. ASA11**

It was agreed the format should be multi-stream, over the standard 3.5 days, aiming for 300 delegates. GM offered help to advertise the conference.

*ACTION: AS to send updated contract to TCD.*

### **e. ASA12**

RJ gave verbal report on recent visit. Committee suggested investigating JNU or external bus service to move delegates about. Currently we have 7 plenary speakers from the ASA side; while the Firth is our remit, we could consider any wishes JNU have. The makeup and balance of the OC was discussed, but no overall decision agreed.

*ACTION: AS to circulate list of plenaries; AS/NM to consult with IAA for their suggestions; AS/NM to consult with OC regarding Firth. RJ to circulate full report and continue discussion over OC and AC by email.*

## **10. Next meeting**

March 2011 at the RAI.

## **11. AOB**

There was no time!