



The Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth

Quarterly Committee Meeting

2.30pm, 2nd March 2012

Arthur Lewis Building, University of Manchester

Present: James Fairhead (Chair), Zemirah Moffat (Hon. Secretary), Raminder Kaur, Lotte Hoek (Hon. Treasurer), Megan Caine (Administrator), Ian Fairweather (Learning and Teaching Officer), Cathrine Degnen (Network Officer), Nayanika Mookherjee, James Staples (Publications Officer), Atreyee Sen (Conference Liason Officer), Simone Abram, Matei Candea (Ethics Officer), Mike Poltorak (Media Officer), Rohan Jackson (via Skype)

1. Apologies: None

2. Previous Minutes: Approved

3. Matters Arising:

a) Committee Roles: James Fairhead (JF) opened discussion on ASA committee roles. James Staples (JS) raised question of whether the committee needed more senior people or ...? The general sense was the need for a more open nomination policy, particularly as complaints about current 'closed-door' nomination process have been noted. Discussion of how to avoid clique criticism, yet still solicit/convince people to board. Discussed too the question of the possibility of having international board members. The main problem, after expenses, raised was whether they could fulfill their role from afar, the ASA being primarily engaged with UK policy etc. An on-line ballot was also discussed. Rohan Jackson (RJ) confirmed that NomadIT could set it up and implement first ballot for £1000 (as has done for EASA).

Agreed: To implement an open call for nominations, so that when a position comes up, a call is put out to membership list.

b) ASA On-Line: Simone Abram (SA) explained how ASA On-line was initiated to provide a platform for mid-length pieces, something between a book and a journal, works that don't get into smaller publications. It is peer reviewed, but currently has negligible ISA impact. It had a gentle start, and she would appreciate support from ASA board. The question was raised as to whether the publications officer should automatically take it on-board. JF questioned too whether younger academics would be hesitant to put their material in, given its current lack of ISA impact. It was concluded that there was no need to merge the

ASA On-Line editors role with Publications Officer Role, but that better links did need to be made between ASA-Online and the ASA board. It was proposed that some members of committee to join editorial board.

Agreed: 4 ASA committee members to be part of editorial board. These are to liaise with SA, and be the link between ASA-Online and the Committee. This must include Media Officer (MP) and Publications Officer (JS).

Action: 2 Committee Members to volunteer for ASA OnLine Editorial Board, and liaise with SA.

c) ASA Reps: Mike Poltorak (MP) suggested having ASA reps in every department HoDs list. This to be co-ordinated by Networks Officer (see 4,c,iv. below)

Action: **JF** In co-ordination with Networks Officer, to send email around HoDs inviting and formally instituting ASA Reps

Action: **MC** In consultation with Networks Officer, to draft someone from Cambridge to be ASA rep

d) On-Line Forum: Matei Candea (MC) proposed creating an on-line forum for current issues, i.e. contract law. Discussion arose as to whether we should be monitoring more the changes in contractual obligations? Can we provide an anonymous forum, where members can dialogue. ie r/e contractual statuses, probably need to be more aware of it through unions. RJ said NomadIT can set-up a forum, but couldn't limit to members only.

Action: **JF** to write to HoDs highlighting website, encouraging discussion

Action: **MC** to send out membership affiliation request, and blog r/e on-line forum proposal

4) Reports:

a) Chair (as at AGM)

b) Treasurer (as at AGM)

[Nb. at next AGM, just Chair and Treasurer report. All other posts to report to JF (in good time), so their work can be included in Chair's report.]

c) Secretary: Zemirah Moffat (ZM) goes through each ASA committee role, confirms, clarifies and makes changes.

i) In discussion of *Chair's Role*:

Agreed: **JF** committed to working closer with ACSS

Agreed: **JF** to stay on until IAUES August 2013

ii) In discussion of *Secretary's Role*:

Action: **JF** to write to SA saying that with the change in ASA roles ZM will now take over role of allocating awards

iii) In discussion of *Media Officer's Role*: Lotte Hoek (LH) questioned whether it could be more ambitious? JF responded that what needs to be in the role is a more proactive engagement with the media, ideally to build strong relationships with media people in other anth

organisations. For example, there's a Tsunami... we need to get on the BBC's media hit lists, and anticipate future events. Need to be very quick turnaround. LH advocated stimulating anthropologists to write and set the agenda; make anthropologists speak as public intellectuals; solicit opinionated pieces ie. letters to the editor. LH asked whether there was an archive of ASA Interventions? Suggested this would be a good thing to have on the website.

Action: ZM to add following sentence to Media Officers role, "to be proactive with forging links with media outlets, enhancing the profile of public anthropology." To lead on Film Festival collaborations.

iv) In discussion of *Network Officer's* role:

Action: Cathrine Degnen (CD) to let new officer, Rachel Gooberman-Hill (RGH), know about additional tasks to her role of co-ordinating ASA Reps.

Action: JF to contact RGH about ASA Rep proposal

v) In discussion of *Publications Officer's* role: JS sought clarification on statement of copyright and how one should field questions of copyright.

Action: JS to seek help unraveling this copyright conundrum

vi) In discussion of *Conference Liason Officer's* role:

Agreed: Atreyee Sen (AS) to replace RK in WCAA liason

vii) In discussion of re-instating *Archiving Officer*: CD proposed we need a minimum of archiving minutes and reports. LH continued with question of data collection/data management, suggesting we also needed to map ASA history and access deep memory. Question of should we have a Wiki Page?

Agreed: to hold off on electing a new officer, but to effect an interim strategy whereby all committee reports are logged and deposited. We shall return to question of archivist next year and keep considering the question of emails.

Overall Action: ZM to send ASA committee new role blurbs for approval. Once confirmed, **Megan Caine (MeC)** to replace on website and circulate around HoDs and mailing list.

Due to lack of time, discussion of website was shifted to next meeting

d) Learning and Teaching: Ian Fairhead (IF) discussed Learning and Teaching Award.

Agreed: IF to continue liasing with HEA

Action: ZM to write to Gustav, in Anth Today Announcing Prizes

f) Ethics: Nayanika Mookherjee (NM) reported that feedback on Ethics Document is overwhelmingly positive. Raised discussion of ethics blog.

Action: RJ to give MC permissions and access to manage blog

g) Publications: James Staples (JS) placed request for more members on the Peer Review Panel of Monograph.

Action: JS to message members asking for people to become peer reviewers for monograph.

Agreed: ASA board to become editorial board for monograph, and to assist in reviewing papers.

h) Conference Liason: Atreyee Sen (AS) noted that to date of the 11 speakers for JNE conference, only 4 had submitted abstracts with title.

4) Conferences: RK discussed ASA-JNU Budget. Noted current loss of £2,500 with contingency only £248. Discussion with RJ as to particulars. Decided RJ would investigate buses for conveying delegates between station and conference.

Action: Committee members to register ASAP

5) ASA support to IUAES (and Firth Lecturer etc.)

Action: JF - to liase with IUAES to sponsor plenaries

Action: AS - to liase with John Gledhill over sponsoring plenaries

Action: JF - to contact Amb r/e Firth Lecture

6) Next Meeting

Will be take place in June in London

Action: ZM to Doodle dates

7) AOB - none

Meeting Finished 6.30pm