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Belgrade, 29 April 2016.

Chair's Report on the WCAA Activities Since the Biennial Meeting in Taipei (October 2014 - May 2016)

The World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) is steadily growing. In 2015 three new anthropological associations were accepted, namely: the Serbian Ethnological and Anthropological Society (SEAS), the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA), and the Uruguay Association for Social and Cultural Anthropology (AUAS). Currently, **fifty-two national, regional and international associations are members of WCAA.**

In accordance with its aims and mission, the World Council has been pursuing initiatives intended to increase advocacy for anthropology worldwide. The highlights of these undertakings will be summarized below.

Contributions of the Organizing Committee and Advisory Board Members

The **WCAA Organizing Committee** (Org Comm), elected at the Taipei Biennial Meeting, and ratified afterwards (in October 2014), has been very active and functioning in harmony. It comprises nine members, namely: Vesna Vucinic-Neskovic (Chair), Chandana Mathur (Deputy-Chair), David Shankland (Treasurer), Lorne Holyoak (Secretary), Isaac Nyamongo (documents and panels on special issues), Gordon Mathews (Deja Lu and other website activities), Carmen Rial (Newsletter), Soumendra Patnaik (new membership applications), and Greg Acciaioli (undesignated member for new projects, specifically “Global Survey of Anthropological Practice”).

The communication within the Organizing Committee has been very lively, both through exchanges of e-mails and discussions on the Agenda held during monthly or bimonthly skype meetings. The Organizing Committee also meets on an annual basis at principal WCAA delegates meetings (e.g. at the IUAES Intercongress in Bangkok, July 2015), while some members also meet at other conferences.

The **WCAA Advisory Board** (AB) has been very active since the establishment of the new Organizing Committee, and has been giving immense contribution to the workings of WCAA. It comprises 34 members – the past WCAA Chairs and a number of former WCAA delegates, who were invited to join the Board based on their previous contributions and interest in the ongoing WCAA activities and projects (AB members' names may be viewed at <http://www.wcaanet.org/about.shtml>). The degree and quality of the AB members' involvement was a result of regular communication with them through the AB mailing list, primarily by sending on the information that was shared with the WCAA delegates.

A number of productive discussions and debates initiated by the Advisory Board have been taking place with different WCAA constituencies (including the Organizing Committee, the Delegates, or/and the IUAES EC). Topics discussion have included: (1) Support for the continuation of the Anthropology A-Levels in the UK, followed by exchange of experiences of introducing non-university anthropology in other countries (AB and Delegates); (2) Discussion on whether WCAA should become involved in the AAA's proceedings upon request of part of its members to boycott Israeli academic institutions, including the AAI (AB and Org Comm); (3) Considering the possibility of establishing an international anthropology day with or aside from the AAA's celebration of the national anthropology day in the USA (since 2015), which has expanded to a „world anthropology day“ (in 2016) (AB, Org Comm, IUAES EC); (4) An initiative to tackle the problem of „Danger, violence and ethics in anthropological fieldwork,“ possibly in a joint effort with the IUAES (AB, Org Comm and IUAES EC).

Initiative (1) was concluded with joint WCAA-IUAES support of the A-Levels Anthropology (Letters to AQA and to *The Guardian*), discussion (2) was resolved in the strong stance of the WCAA Org Comm not to intervene, while keeping space open to all the member associations equally, while issues (3) and (4) should be discussed with the delegates at the WCAA Biennial Meeting and with the IUAES EC in Dubrovnik.

Business Meetings

1) Business meeting during the 113th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) held in Washington DC, USA, on 2-6 December 2014:

- a) Business meeting of all delegates/nominated representatives of the WCAA member associations took place on 5 December. Twenty delegates, AAA

CWA executives, and observers were present. The meeting was co-chaired by David Shankland, Carmen Rial and Gordon Mathews.

- b) Meeting of several associations' presidents during the Presidential Breakfast sponsored by the President of AAA, Monica Heller, on 6 December.

2) The principal WCAA Delegates Interim Meeting was held at the **2015 IUAES Intercongress in Bangkok on 14-18 July 2015**. (The conference was organized by the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and Thammasat University). The WCAA and joint meetings (with the IUAES EC) were chaired or co-chaired by Vesna Vucinic Neskovic. Seven members of the WCAA Org Comm were present. Altogether, six businesses meetings were held there, namely:

- a) Three WCAA Organizing Committee meetings held: (1) on Tuesday, 14 July, at 15:00-16:45, (2) on Wednesday, 15 July, at 13:30-15:15, and (3) on Saturday 18 July, at 9:00-11:00. These meetings were held in preparation for the WCAA Round Table, the Delegates' Meeting, and the meetings with the IUAES Executive on the matter of future relations between the two organizations.
- b) WCAA Delegates' Meeting held on Thursday, 16 May, at 15:15-16:45. Eighteen delegates and Org Comm members were present. For the Agenda, see Appendix 1.
- c) First WCAA-IUAES Executives' Meeting held on Thursday, 16 July, at 20:00-22:00.
- d) Second WCAA-IUAES Executives' Meeting held on Friday, 18 May, at 18:30-20:00.

The Intercongress timetable is available at: <http://socanth.tu.ac.th/iuaes2015/timetable/>

The Chair's report on the WCAA events in Bangkok may be found in the first issue of the WCAA Newsletter (p. 5)

http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/informativo/WCAA_informativo_0815.pdf

Minutes are available at the WCAA website (under Past Events).

3) Business meeting during the Congress of the Latin American Anthropological Association (ALA) held in Mexico City, Mexico, on 7-10 October 2015.

A business meeting of delegates/nominated representatives of the WCAA member associations was held on 10 October. Twelve delegates and observers were present. The meeting was chaired by Carmen Rial, the WCAA Org Comm member from Brazil.

A short report on the Delegates Meeting may be found in the second issue of the WCAA Newsletter (p. 4)

http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/informativo/WCAA_newsletter_1215.pdf

4) Business meeting during the 114th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) held in Denver, USA, on 18-22 November 2015:

- a) A business meeting of delegates/nominated representatives of the WCAA member associations took place on 20 December. The meeting was chaired by Vesna Vucinic Neskovic. Twenty delegates were present. For Agenda, see Appendix 2; minutes are available upon request.
- b) A meeting of several associations' presidents during the Presidential Breakfast sponsored by the President of AAA, Monica Heller, on 22 November.

The Chair's report on the Delegates Meeting may be found in the second issue of the WCAA Newsletter (p. 2):

http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/informativo/WCAA_newsletter_1215.pdf

5) Business meeting during the Mercosul Conference, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on 30 November – 4 December 2015:

A lunch business meeting of delegates/nominated representatives of the WCAA member associations was held on 3 December. Ten delegates and other Latin American association presidents were present. The meeting was chaired by Carmen Rial, the WCAA Org Comm member from Brazil. A short report on this meeting will be published in the third issue of the WCAA Newsletter.

Panels, Symposia and Sessions

In line with the WCAA strategy of widening the sphere of WCAA presence in regions where it has been underrepresented, and generally to reach to all the mega regions (i.e. continents) equally, a number of panels sponsored by the World Council were held at **seven** international and national societies' meetings. They took place at the: AAA Annual Meeting in Washington DC, USA (December 2015), AAI meeting in Cork, Ireland (March 2016), CASCA meeting in Quebec City, Canada (May), SIEF Conference in Zagreb, Croatia (June), IUAES Intercongress in Bangkok, Thailand (July), ALA Conference in Mexico City, Mexico (October), Mercosul (RAM) conference in Montevideo, Uruguay (November), and AAA Annual Meeting in Denver, USA (November).

1) At the AAA Annual Meeting in Washington DC, USA (2-7 December 2015) Setha Low (CUNY) and Zoltan Gluck (CUNY) organized a joint AAA CWA-WCAA roundtable (AAA Presidential session, ref. 5-0085) entitled **“Spaces of Security: Global, National and Local”**, on 5 December 2015 with 6 presenters. The roundtable participants were: Thomas G. Kirsch (U Konstanz), Alba Maria Zaluar (IESP/UEJR), Alejandro Grimson (U Nacional San Martin), Nurit H. Bird-David (The Hebrew U of Jerusalem), Limor Samiman-Darash (Hebrew U), and Mark H. Maguire (National U Ireland, Maynooth).

The session program may be viewed at:

<https://aaa.confex.com/aaa/2014/webprogram/Session11040.html>

2) At the **AAI meeting in Cork**, Ireland (6-7 March 2015), David Shankland (WCAA Treasurer), gave a lecture entitled “**Anthropology and Its Institutions: The Royal Anthropological Institute**”, on 7 March 2015. This plenary session was chaired by Chandana Mathur (WCAA Deputy Chair).

The Conference program may be viewed at:

<http://www.anthropologyireland.org/images/conference/Schedule-Final.pdf>

3) At the **CASCA meeting in Québec City**, Québec, Canada (13-16 May 2015), Lorne Holyoak (WCAA Secretary) organized a WCAA roundtable entitled “**The Global Practice of Anthropology**”/”**La pratique del’anthropologie à l’échelle mondiale**” (JP8) on 14 May 2015 with 6 participants. The participants were Noel Salazar (U Leuven), Noel Dyck (Simon Fraser U), Deirdre Meintel (U Montreal), Marie-Francoise Guedon (U Ottawa), Monica Heller (U Toronto), and Lorne Holyoak (Carleton U). The discussion was based on the question: What is your experience in anthropology globally and how is that experience reflected in your own practice? (This panel was organized as part of the principal WCAA Project entitled the “Global Survey of Anthropological Practice.” For more about the project, please see under the separate heading below).

The program may be viewed at <http://www.casca2015.ant.ulaval.ca/en/program>

4) At the **SIEF conference in Zagreb**, Croatia (21-25 June 2015), Vesna Vucinic Neskovic (WCAA Chair) and Klaus Roth (InASEA EC member) organized a WCAA panel “**Is there a Sense of Community Uniting Anthropology, Ethnology and Folklore Today?**” with 5 papers, given by Vesna Vucinic Neskovic (U Belgrade) and Klaus Roth (Institute of European Ethnology in Munich), Michael Vimont (U Oxford), Ignacio Fernandez de Mata (U Burgos), Vassiliki Chryssanthopolou (National and Capodistrian U. of Athens), and Laurent Fournier (U Nantes).

The WCAA panel program may be viewed at:

<http://www.nomadit.co.uk/sief/sief2015/panels.php5?PanelID=3522>

5) At the **IUAES Intercongress in Bangkok**, Thailand (14-18 July), Chandana Mathur (WCAA Deputy Chair) and Vesna Vucinic Neskovic (WCAA Chair) organized a WCAA roundtable “**Do Good Fences make Good Neighbours?: Perspectives on the Anthropology-Sociology Relationship from Plural Global Vantage Points**” on 17 July 2015, with 11 presentations by WCAA delegates and Org Comm members. The participants were Greg Acciaioli (U Western Australia), Vesna Vucinic Neskovic (U Belgrade), Andrei Golovnev (Institute of History and Archaeology, Ekaterinburg), Maria Mangahas (U Philippines), Carmen Rial and Miriam Grossi (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina), Michael Goldsmith (U Waikato, Hamilton), Ted Hammann (U Nebraska-Lincoln) and Victor Zuniga (U Monterrey), Gordon Mathews (Chinese U of Hong Kong), Chandana Mathur (National U of Ireland Maynooth), Soumendra Patnaik (U Delhi), and Michal Buchowski (Adam Mickiewicz U in Poznan).

The roundtable program may be viewed at:

<http://socanth.tu.ac.th/iaaes2015/2015/02/fp03-wcaa-roundtable-do-good-fences-make-good-neighbours-perspectives-on-the-anthropology-sociology-relationship-from-plural-global-vantage-points/>

6) At the **AAA Annual Meeting in Denver, USA** (18-22 November 2015), Susana Narotzky (U de Barcelona) organized a joint AAA CWA-WCAA roundtable (AAA Executive Program Committee Session, ref. 3-1370) entitled “**Between World Anthropologies and World Anthropology: Towards a Reflexive Critique of the Mediation Processes**”. The round table presenters were: Faye Harrison (U Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Sandra Lopez Varela (U Nacional Autonoma de Mexico), Gordon Mathews (Chinese U of Hong Kong), Yasmeen Arif (U of Delhi), Monica Heller (U of Toronto) and Antonio Carlos De Souza Lima (Museu Nacional – Federal U of Rio de Janeiro).

The session program may be seen at:

<https://aaa.confex.com/aaa/2015/webprogram/Session13264.html>

7) At the **Mercosul (RAM) Conference in Montevideo, Uruguay** (30 November – 4 December 2015), Carmen Rial (WCAA Org Comm member), Lia Ferrero (WCAA delegate of Colegio de Graduados en Antropología, Argentina) and Miriam Grossi (IUAES Vice-President) organized a joint IUAES-WCAA panel on “**Antropologías en el Mercosur y en el mundo**” (“**Anthropologies of Mercosul and the World**”) on 1-2 December, with 6 presentations. The participants were Carmen Rial (UFSC), Pablo Perazzi (ICA-UBA-CONICET), Antonio Carlos de Souza Lima (WCAA delegate of ABA, MN-UFRJ), Rodrigo Sepulveda (WCAA delegate of Colegio de Antropólogos de Chile, Universidad de Chile), Lydia De Souza (AUAS, Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Educación), and Junji Koizumi (IUAES Secretary-General, Osaka University). The papers were presented within two sessions: Local Anthropologies and Their Associations, and Global Politics and World Anthropologies.

The conference program may be viewed at: <http://xiram.com.uy/programa-completo-xiram.pdf>

The participants of the WCAA-sponsored panels were the WCAA international delegates, but also members of the host and other associations. All the WCAA panels were well attended and invited interesting discussions. We are very grateful to our colleagues in the hosting associations and institutions, namely AAI, CASCA, SIEF, IUAES, AAA, RAM, especially to their presidents and executive committee members, for the opportunity given to the WCAA to be present at their meetings.

The WCAA Principal Project “Global Survey of Anthropological Practice”

At the WCAA Biennial Meeting in Taipei (October 2014), the “Global Survey of Anthropological Practice” (GSAP) was approved as the WCAA’s principal research project. A task team comprising Greg Acciaioli (as the Project Coordinator), Lorne Holyoak, Chandana Mathur, and Vesna Vucinic Neskovic has been working on

conceptualizing a project that is supposed to map the actual face of anthropology today, which would include institutional/organizational as well as individual aspects of the profession. The project aim is to develop a survey questionnaire which would illustrate state of affairs in different countries regarding: (a) academic, research, and applied activities in anthropology; (b) anthropologists' employment, status, criteria for advancement etc. (in academic, research and applied domains); and (c) non-university education in anthropology through past and present initiatives and outcomes.

The first phase of the GSAP Project implementation required the compiling of surveys and other investigations that had already been undertaken by member associations. This activity was carried out in the first half of 2015 and reported on at the WCAA Delegates Meeting held in conjunction with the IUAES Intercongress in Bangkok, Thailand, in July, 2015. By that time the materials had been collected from: AAA and CWA (USA), AAI (Ireland), ABA (Brazil), AFA (France), DGV/GAA (Germany), InASEA (SE Europe), ISItA (Italy), and TAA (Tunisia).

This phase of the GSAP Project also included the WCAA-sponsored roundtable at the annual CASCA meetings entitled 'The Global Practice of Anthropology', organized by Lorne Holyoak (WCAA Secretary) in Québec City, Québec, Canada (13-16 May 2015). This panel was concerned with participants' reflections on the practice of anthropology across the globe rather than quantitative analysis of on-the-ground practice.

The second phase of the Project will be implemented through organization of the WCAA Symposium/Panel Stream, immediately following the Biennial Delegates Meeting in Dubrovnik (4-9 May 2016), and aimed at presentation of its preliminary results in accordance with guidelines that were promulgated among member associations by the GSAP committee. Papers were sought from the delegates of member associations to fit the following 4 streams that were seen as aspects of the Global Survey of Anthropological Practice: (1) Articulation of Applied and Academic Anthropology; (2) Institutional Distribution of Employment among Anthropologists Globally; (3) Challenges to Academic and Professional Anthropology; and (4) Anthropology in Non-University Education.

Abstracts for the GSAP Symposium papers were received until the end of February 2016, by which time 27 papers had been put forward. As there were many papers that crosscut the originally envisaged 4 streams, they have been organized into 5 sessions (with a roundtable discussion session at the end):

1. Profiling through Survey and Interviews What Anthropology Graduates Do and How They Identify
2. Relating Anthropological Practice to the State: Perils, Possibilities, and Policies
3. Confronting the Challenges of Neoliberalism and Globalization
4. Organizing the Diversity of Anthropological Practice through Associations
5. Teaching Anthropology outside the Traditional Anthropology Program

Presentation and discussion of the papers in these sessions within the “Global Survey of Anthropological Practice” Panel Stream (scheduled for 4-5 May 2016) at the IUAES Intercongress in Dubrovnik will be used to plan further steps in the elaboration of GSAP. For example, one topic will be the feasibility of adapting the survey that has been conducted by the Australian Anthropological Society specifically addressed to the GSAP foci for use among other member associations. The compilation of a global data set that can be analyzed quantitatively to yield a world-wide picture of anthropological activities that GSAP has conceptualized is seen as the eventual aim of this endeavor.

It is envisaged that the third phase of the Project will encompass production of a further set of papers building on such a survey. This and other GSAP-related research efforts will be presented at the IUAES World Congress in Florianopolis, Brazil, in August 2018. Dissemination of the results of GSAP will then be intensified through both electronic and conventional print media.

To summarize, the GSAP Project data can be used in two principal ways, namely: (a) to realistically assess the resources national, regional and world anthropology communities have in order to participate equally in the solving of major local and world problems (such as pandemics, involuntary migrations, inadequate cultural politics, ecological problems, etc.), and (b) as a resource for countering general erosion of financial support for and even attacks on the discipline throughout the world.

Publications

1) Electronic Publications

a) The **WCAA Newsletter** is a novel means of communication that was brought to life in August 2015, with two issues produced so far. The aim of the Newsletter, which will come out on a quarterly basis, is to inform the member associations about the plans and past events of WCAA, but it also gives the possibility for exchange of news from member associations. Most of the Newsletter space is devoted to events organized or by the WCAA member associations. So far, it is the only such platform in the world. The WCAA Newsletter is edited by Carmen Rial and Lorne Holyoak.

b) The WCAA annual electronic journal *Deja Lu*, edited by Gustavo Lins Ribeiro and Gordon Mathews, has proven to be a successful WCAA endeavor. The journal republishes articles selected by editors of the flagship journals of the WCAA association members and of other relevant journals in the field, and gives them global visibility. While the first issue of *Deja Lu* came out in April 2013, consisting of 15 articles, its fourth issue, which came out in February 2016, comprises 35 articles. The journal editors need to work out strategies to increase the number of articles from journals published outside the Euro-American geographic and linguistic sphere. They have been seeking more assistance from the WCAA delegates and Advisory Board members in encouraging the editors from their countries to reply to calls for submission of the best articles in the

previous year in a more active and timely manner. *Deja Lu* may be found at <http://www.wcaanet.org/dejalu/index.html>

c) The WCAA also communicates with the anthropological community through its **facebook** page and the **blog**, both facilitated by Gordon Mathews. Even though the WCAA blog has not been sufficiently active in the past two years, due to lack of people contributing and commenting on its posts, it remains open (<http://www.wcaanet.org/blog/>). The Facebook page contains both information specifically pertaining to WCAA and a variety of other on-line anthropological links, and has been more dynamic than the blog (<https://www.facebook.com/wcaanet>).

2) Printed Publications

a) While pursuing the WCAA research theme ‘Displacements and Immobility’, which was realized in a form of a WCAA panel at the IUAES World Congress in Manchester (2013), a special double issue of *Anthropological Forum*, under the guest editorship of Bela Feldman-Bianco, Monica Heller and Susana Narotzky, had been planned. Unfortunately, in the process, the papers were withdrawn and are now planned to be published as an edited book. Only one paper was published in the originally planned venue: Henry, Rosita, “Double Displacement: Indigenous Australians and Artefacts of the Wet Tropics.” *Anthropological Forum* 25.4 (2015).

b) In accordance with the WCAA research theme ‘Environmental Challenges and Local Knowledge’, Thomas Reuter, the former WCAA Chair, and the present WCAA Advisory Board member, produced an edited volume from papers that came out of the panel, co-organized by the WCAA and IUAES, entitled ‘Averting a Global Environmental Collapse: The Role of Anthropology and Local Knowledge’, and were presented at the IUAES World Congress in Manchester (2013).

Reuter, Thomas A. (ed) 2015. *Averting a Global Environmental Collapse: The Role of Anthropology and Local Knowledge*. London: Cambridge Scholars.

Thomas Reuter also wrote a briefing report (with Hans Baer) on behalf of the WCAA and IUAES, entitled ‘Anthropological perspectives on climate change and sustainability: Implications for policy and action’, which was included in the *United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2015*, as commissioned and endorsed by IUAES and WCAA on behalf of the discipline of anthropology.

<https://gsdr2015.wordpress.com/tag/anthropology/>
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=111&nr=5834&menu=35>

c) Following the an important objective of the WCAA to promote the idea of World Anthropologies, theoretically and in practice, former and present WCAA delegates and officers published short texts in the Forum “Rethinking Euro-Anthropology” included in two issues of the EASA journal *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie sociale*

(August & November 2015), namely: João de Pina Cabral, Benoit L'Estoile, Michal Buchowski, Thomas Hylland Eriksen, and Vesna Vucinic Neskovic.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1469-8676.12216/abstract>

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1469-8676.12269/full>

On the theme of world anthropologies, Thomas Reuter also published a paper: 'Imagining Globalisation in Anthropology: Diversity, Equality and the Politics of Knowledge. *Focaal: Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology* 71 (2015): 18–28. Oxford, U.K.: Berghahn. <http://www.berghahn.publisher.ingentaconnect.com>

Maria Mangahas, the delegate of Ugnayang Pang-AghamTao, Inc. / Anthropological Association of the Philippines, prepared two papers initially presented at the WCAA panels for publication: (1) Mangahas M.F. & Rodriguez-Roldan S. 'Recovering Filipino Production of a Maritime Anthropology'. In: Thompson EC (Ed.), *Theory and Practice in Southeast Asian Anthropologies*. [Submitted, under review.], and (2) Mangahas M. F. 'Ang Antropolohiya/Agham Tao at ang Agham Panlipunang Pilipino'. Paper presented at the Round Table Discussion *Pag-Uugat at Pagsasanga: antropolohiya katambal ang iba-t-ibang larangang akademiko*. 2 October 2015, Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman.

A number of WCAA officers and delegates have submitted shorter text for the "World Anthropology" section of the *American Anthropologists*. Articles were submitted by: Gordon Mathews, 'East Asian Anthropology in the World,' and Andrew Spiegel with Heike Becker, 'Anthropology or Anthropologies?'). Comments on articles related to national or regional anthropologies were submitted by: Chandana Mathur, Huang Shu-min, Thomas Reuter, Lia Ferrero, and Paul Nkwi Nchoji.

A number of WCAA delegates and Advisory Board members were invited to contribute to the "World Anthropologies" section (edited by Gustavo Lins Ribeiro) of *The International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, edited by Hilary Callan, and to be published by Wiley-Blackwell. Thomas Reuter was invited to write an entry on the 'World Council of Anthropological Associations', Vesna Vucinic Neskovic on the 'International Association for Southeast European Anthropology', Greg Acciaioli on the 'Australian Anthropological Society', Michal Buchowski on the development of ethnology and anthropology in Poland, etc.

WCAA Working Group on Language Diversity

The WCAA Working Group on Language Diversity was constituted after the decision of the WCAA Organizing Committee's skype meeting (held on 8 November, 2015) to examine the possibility of diversifying the use of languages within WCAA in response to the recommendation of the WCAA Delegates Meeting held during the ALA Meeting in Mexico City (October 2015) to adopt Spanish as an "official WCAA language".

Members of the WCAA Working Group on Language Diversity, namely Lorne Holyoak (Chair), Shu-min Huang, Maria Mangahas, Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, and Isaac Nyamongo,

analysed the present WCAA Constitution regarding the issue of “official WCAA language,” as well as similar discussions in their own pan-regional and national associations, and wrote a “Statement of Language Use” to be recommended to the WCAA Organizing Committee.

The major conclusions of the Report are: (1) The WCAA’s mission is to foster cooperation within a diverse global anthropological community, and in order to reach its goal one language needs to be used as the lingua franca; (2) English is used as the lingua franca for historical reasons and not because of any linguistic or political preference; (3) The WCAA has no official language(s); (4) The Council cannot afford the costs of translating its documents and meetings; and (5) The WCAA is convinced that language politics is important in a globalised community and thus will make all efforts to further linguistic diversity in its daily operations, especially by making use of its own existing internal diversity. The Report further recommended a few strategies that would lead to fostering linguistic diversity. The Report conclusions and recommendations will be discussed at the WCAA Biennial Meeting in Dubrovnik.

Activities of the WCAA Task Forces

1) **The Ethics Task Force**, chaired by Raminder Kaur, continues to work on ethical issues in anthropology. Another call was sent out to the WCAA delegates to update the Ethics Taskforce page on the WCAA website in order to connect to the url-s of member associations for ethical guidelines where they are available. Also, Carmen Rial, a member of the WCAA OrgComm offered assistance in connecting her colleagues from Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, led by Miram Grossi, in writing a study analyzing the existing ethics codes, as had been initially planned by the Ethics Taskforce.

Other issues that the Ethics Task Force has been dealing with include:

- (1) Open Access of PhDs, publications: What issues does such access raise in terms of public access to research?
- (2) Moves by various funders (on top of UK’s ESRC) such as the German anthropological funds and the ERC to require data depositing: How can this requirement be dealt with from a global platform? In this there seems to be a positive recent tendency within ESRC to back off re-depositing field notes and recognizing the nuances needed for anthropological research;
- (3) Recent debates as to the ‘tick-box mentality’ that ethical reviews encourage: The main question here is “When is ethics review too constrictive and when too permissive?” The task force aims to formulate the basis for feasible, fair and effective ethical review at home and in transnational collaborative research;
- (4) Collaborative work on visual ethics in the digital age at James Cook University: The aim of the project is to produce a series of resources that will assist researchers working with visual media to weigh up – and proactively respond to – the ethical implications of their research in the context of

international best practice. The team offered to present this work at the Dubrovnik Biennial Meeting in May 2016.

2) **The Advocacy and Outreach Activities Task Force**, chaired by Virginia Dominguez, is still working in collaboration with *Anthropologos sem Fronteiras*, ASF (Anthropologists without Borders). There are also plans to extend the activities of this taskforce in other directions, such as non-university education. Further activities regarding non-university education will be determined at the 2016 WCAA Biennial Meeting in Dubrovnik. In parallel, Virginia Dominguez is promoting the WCAA mission as the World Anthropology Section Editor of the *American Anthropologist*, where she largely relies on the WCAA delegates' network.

3) **Anthropologos sem Fronteiras**, a sister organization initiated by WCAA at its meeting at EASA conference in Maynooth (Ireland) in 2010, has expanded its activities. An easy-to-use website has been created, and translations of the ASF ByLaws (from Portuguese into English & Spanish) have been made and posted. A Volunteer Expert data base has been created (with about 80 fellow anthropologists), and announcements sent to foundations and NGOs. ASF is also multiplying its chapters. Besides the chapter established in Bahia, Brazil in 2013, the second chapter has been established in Illinois, USA in 2014, and the third is in the process of being established in India.

WCAA-IUAES Task Group Activities: State of Affairs in the WCAA-IUAES Partnership Negotiations

The WCAA-IUAES Task Group discussing future relations between the two organizations was constituted during the IUAES World Congress in Manchester (August 2013) and expanded at the IUAES Intercongress in Chiba City (May 2014) and in its aftermath. Since the beginning of 2015, the WCAA-IUAES Task Group, co-convened by Vesna Vucinic Neskovic and Faye Harrison, intensified its work on modes of future cooperation. The task group members are: Chandana Mathur, Greg Acciaioli, David Shankland and Carmen Rial (from the WCAA Org Comm), and Junji Koizumi, Mugsy Spiegel, Thomas Reuter and Rajko Mursic (from the IUAES EC).

By the end of June 2015, an interim document called the Draft Constitution of the World Anthropology Union (WAU) was prepared for review of the executive committees of the two organizations, with the hope that the reactions would provide the groundwork for agreement on further steps.

An important part of the WCAA business meetings held at the IUAES Intercongress in Bangkok (15-18 July, 2015) was the discussion on the potential modalities of partnership between the WCAA and IUAES. The updated results of the work of the WCAA-IUAES Task Group were presented at the WCAA Delegates Meeting, and discussed at the WCAA Organizing Committee meetings, Open Session on the IUAES-WCAA relations, as well as at two meetings of the WCAA and IUAES executives.

The full report on the WCAA-IUAES Task Group work and the Draft Constitution of the WAU (written by Vesna Vucinic) may be found in the Bangkok Delegates Meeting Minutes.

http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/mtgrpts/Bangkok_Delegates_Mtg_Minutes_Final.pdf

The Draft Constitution of the WAU proposed the following:

1. Two chambers allied with one another in a consolidated umbrella structure:
 - a. The WCAA chamber would comprise the present WCAA structures;
 - b. The IUAES chamber would comprise all of the present IUAES structures, including the Council of Commissions and the individual Commissions.

2. As regards the umbrella structure into which the above two chambers would be consolidated:
 - a. Effectively the new organization would be led by a steering committee comprising equal numbers of members from and elected by the WCAA's Organising Committee and IUAES's Executive Committee;
 - b. It would represent the two chambers only where cooperative representation is in their mutual best interests; and
 - c. It would not have authority to over-rule decisions by either chamber;
 - d. A proposed name for the umbrella structure is World Anthropology Union (WAU) – but, as is the case for everything else, that is open for further discussion.

The result of discussion of the two meetings of the WCAA and IUAES executives at the Bangkok Intercongress (July 2015) was that another form of cooperation between the two organizations could be defined, that being through a Memorandum of Agreement, which would preserve the independence of the two organizations at the present level, but intensify their collaboration.

The conclusion reached at the final executives' meeting in Bangkok, written in one short paragraph on the board, was as follows: "This meeting resolves to offer to the respective members of IUAES and WCAA two plans for future cooperation:

--Plan A: a new constitution [indicating that this did not result in consensus in Bangkok].

--Plan B: a memorandum of agreement which envisages cooperation while leaving existing organizational structures untouched.

An introductory letter will be signed by the chairs of WCAA and IUAES highlighting our common commitment to the world anthropologies project, and outlining the pros and cons of both plans."

Since the 2015 Intercongress in Bangkok, the WCAA-IUAES Task Group continued its work on the two documents. The WAU Draft Constitution has been improved and transformed into a short document comprising only the essential principles of unification. At the same time, the Memorandum of Agreement has been drafted from anew to define the common points at which the two organizations could find interest in collaborating in the future.

The two proposals have been drafted by the Task Group and approved by the two executives in the end of April. A document entitled “**Two alternative proposals regarding the WCAA-IUAES relationship**” has been signed by the WCAA Chair Vesna Vucinic Neskovic and the IUAES President, Faye Harrison, and sent out to the WCAA delegates and IUAES members for review on 29 April 2016. The document may be viewed at: <http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/Two%20Proposals%20on%20WCAA-IUAES%20Relations.pdf> .

The two proposals present quite different arrangements for bringing the two organizations together. The first document, called “Memorandum of Agreement” (MoA), is an agreement to formalize the existing alliance between the two organizations. The second document, called “Memorandum of Understanding” (MoU), recommends creating an integrated organizational partnership with a bicameral structure. The latter is accompanied by a draft constitution for regulating the integrative principles and the functioning of the proposed World Anthropologies Organization WAO, of which the IUAES and WCAA will remain intact as separate chambers. (Note: The proposed name of the integrated organization has been changed in the meantime from WAU to WAO, but is still open for discussion).

The two proposals have been approved by the WCAA and IUAES executives, and are now offered for discussion at the WCAA Biennial Meeting and the IUAES Inter-Congress in Dubrovnik on May 2-9. In the wake of the Inter-Congress, the proposals will be put to an electronic vote. The discussion will be open to suggestions on the contents of both proposals, including the name suggested for the new organization described in the second document.

Public Statements and Letters to Support Anthropological Organizations, Institutions, Programs and Projects

1) **The WCAA Statement on Ebola:** The WCAA Organizing Committee issued the “Statement on Ebola Virus Disease”, a document which was decided upon at the WCAA Biennial Meeting in Taipei. The Statement aims to facilitate communication between the governments of the affected countries, international and local health organizations, and anthropologists with relevant knowledge and expertise, in order to curb the effects of EVD as well as to open the doors for participation of anthropologists in long-term planning for prevention of this and other epidemic diseases throughout the world. The principal creators of this statement were Isaac Nyamongo (U Nairobi) and Liu Shao-hua (Academia Sinica). Isaak Nyamongo has been invited to join the Advisory Board of the Emergency Ebola Anthropology Network (December 2014). <http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA%20Statement%20on%20Ebola.pdf>

2) **The WCAA Fights for A level Anthropology:** The WCAA Organizing Committee wrote a letter to the executive officers of the AQA Exam Board, UK to address its

decision to discontinue the A-level anthropology course after 2018. The letter took a stance that this is an unwise move, which will impoverish the educational opportunities available to secondary students in the UK and diminish the capacity of emerging adults to deal as informed citizens with the world's most pressing social and environmental issues. The letter was initially drafted by John Gledhill (U Manchester), in his capacity as a WCAA Advisory Board member, and signed by Vesna Vucinic Neskovic (WCAA Chair) and Virginia Dominguez (Chair of the WCAA Advocacy and Outreach Activities Taskforce). (February 2015)

<http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA%20letter%20to%20UK%20AQ%20A.pdf>

An open joint WCAA-IUAES letter supporting the continuation of A-levels in the UK, and entitled "An advance from which British secondary education should not retreat," was sent to *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, but has not been published. (March 2015)

<http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA-IUAES%20letter%20to%20The%20Guardian%20and%20The%20Observer.pdf>

3) **The WCAA fights cuts to NSF funding:** The WCAA Organizing Committee wrote a letter to the House of Representatives against the US Congress Bill cutting NSF funding for social sciences, including anthropology. (May 2015)

<http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA%20Letter%20to%20the%20USA%20Congress.pdf>

4) **The WCAA supports establishment of Social and Cultural Anthropology as an independent science discipline in Latvia:** The WCAA Organizing Committee wrote a letter to the Chairman of the Latvian Council of Science to support the establishment of Social and Cultural Anthropology as an independent science discipline in Latvia. This was a response to the plea of the Latvian Anthropological Association to affirm and strengthen the academic standing of Social and Cultural Anthropology in their country. The lack of official academic status of the discipline would delay the formation of a Professorial Council in Anthropology, a prerequisite for a doctoral program under the Latvian Law on Institutions of Higher Education. (October 2015)

<http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA%20letter%20to%20the%20Latvian%20Council%20of%20Science.pdf>

5) **The WCAA supports the ABA position on Guarani:** The WCAA Organizing Committee sent a letter to the **Brazilian President** Dilma Vana Rousseff to support the position of the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (ABA) in protesting the recent treatment of the **Guarani Indigenous Peoples in Brazil**. (December 2015)

<http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA%20letter%20on%20Guarani%20situation.pdf>

6) **The WCAA supports efforts to prevent staff cuts at the School of Culture, History and Language at the Australian National University's College of Asia and the Pacific:**

The WCAA Organizing Committee sent a letter to the Australian National University (ANU) Chancellor and Vice Chancellor, as well as to the Dean of the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, to voice concerns about the proposed debilitating staff cuts at their School of Culture, History and Language (CHL). The Dean, Prof. Taylor, responded explaining that the University has intentions to maintain the strength of CHL, describing it as one of the world's leading centers for the study of Asia and the Pacific. Other WCAA member associations followed action in a similar way (e.g. AAS, AAA, IUAES). (January 2016)

[http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA%20Open%20Letter%20to%20ANU%20\(110116\).pdf](http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA%20Open%20Letter%20to%20ANU%20(110116).pdf)

7) The WCAA supports efforts to restore the Brazilian National Research Council's funding for the journal *Vibrant*: Following a request for assistance received from Antonio Carlos de Souza Lima, the President of the ABA (Brazilian Association of Anthropology) that their journal *Vibrant* was in a crisis due to budget cuts by the Brazilian Research Council, the Org Comm sent a letter to Prof. Hernan Chaimovic Guralnik, the President of Brazil's CNPq (National Research Council) to make a plea for the restoration of funding to *Vibrant*, especially due to its international orientation. (January 2016)

<http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/submissions/WCAA%20letter%20to%20CNPq.pdf>

(8) The WCAA supports the AAA's application to the CDC (Center for Disease Control) Foundation: The WCAA Organizing Committee, after consultations with the IUAES on the matter, wrote a support letter for the AAA's application for the project "Social Mobilization Platform for Global Public Health Crisis Response" to the CDC Foundation. Along with the support letter, the WCAA Organizing Committee wrote the "WCAA Organizing Committee Suggestions for the Amendments to the AAA's Initial Platform Proposal to the CDC Foundation." The stance was that these suggestions should be included into the proposal before its submission to the initial reviewers so as to make the project generally more convincing as well as truly international. (March 2016)

Major Events Planned for 2016

Preparations for the WCAA Biennial Meeting and the WCAA panels, round tables, and interim business meetings planned for 2016 are well under way. The WCAA will organize different events within four major international conferences.

1) The WCAA Biennial Meeting will take place in Dubrovnik (2-3 May), directly preceding the IUAES Intercongress (4-9 May). Thirty-five delegates and WCAA Org Comm members plan to attend. The meeting Agenda will include: Chair's report, reports of the Org Comm members, and Task Forces Chairs reports on the WCAA activities since the previous Biennial Meeting in Taipei (1-2 October 2014), presentation and discussion of the two alternative documents produced by the IUAES-WCAA Task Group on the future relations between WCAA and IUAES and endorsed by both executives, strategic planning for activities within WCAA, changes in the Constitution, elections of

the WCAA officials, and planning WCAA panels and meetings at the forthcoming conferences. See the Agenda at:

[http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/meetings/Agenda%20for%20WCAA%20Biennial%20Meeting%20in%20Dubrovnik%20\(2-3%20May\).pdf](http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/meetings/Agenda%20for%20WCAA%20Biennial%20Meeting%20in%20Dubrovnik%20(2-3%20May).pdf)

2) At the IUAES Intercongress in Dubrovnik (4-9 May 2016), WCAA will organize a WCAA Panel Stream on “Global Survey of Anthropological Practice” (GSAP). This event will take place on 4 -5 May in 6 consecutive sessions – the first five sessions will be devoted to presentation of 27 papers submitted by the WCAA delegates, and the sixth session will be conceived as a round table to primarily plan the continuation of the GSAP project into the next two years, to be rounded up by the 2018 IUAES World Congress in Brazil. The event is convened by Greg Acciaioli (WCAA Org Comm member designated for leading the GSAP Project), while the sessions will be chaired by the three members of the GSAP task group able to attend the IUAES Intercongress: Greg Acciaioli, Chandana Mathur, and Vesna Vucinic-Neskovic.

[http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/meetings/WCAA%20Panel%20Stream%20at%20IUAES%202016%20Dubrovnik%20\(Program\).pdf](http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/meetings/WCAA%20Panel%20Stream%20at%20IUAES%202016%20Dubrovnik%20(Program).pdf)

<http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/meetings/IUAES%202016%20Program.pdf>

3) At the Conference of the Royal Anthropological Institute in London (27-29 May 2016) entitled “Anthropology, Weather and Climate Change”, the WCAA and IUAES will jointly organize a panel entitled “Disciplinary Dalliances and Disciplinary Transformations in an Age of Climate Chaos” (P22). Convened by Chandana Mathur (Deputy Chair) and Mugsy Spiegel (IUAES Treasurer), the panel will feature 7 papers.

<http://www.nomadit.co.uk/rai/events/rai2016/panels.php5?PanelID=3818>

4) At the EASA conference in Milan (20-23 July 2016), the WCAA will organize two panels. The WCAA panel on “Refugee Crisis, European Reactions and the Role of Anthropology” (P025), convened by Michal Buchowski (former WCAA Chair) and Vesna Vucinic Neskovic (WCAA Chair), will comprise two sessions with 10 paper presentations. The WCAA-IUAES co-sponsored panel on “Traditions of Anthropology, Prospects for Engagement,” (P108) convened by Chandana Mathur (WCAA Deputy Chair) and Faye Harrison (IUAES President), will comprise one session with 6 papers. WCAA Delegates Meeting will be organized there as well.

<http://nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4369>

<http://nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4297>

5) At the AAA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis (November 2016), the AAA Committee on World Anthropologies and WCAA will jointly organize a panel on “World Anthropologies, Global Epidemics, and Imaginative Collaborations,” to be convened by Cristiana Bastos (CWA) and Isaac Nyamongo (WCAA Organizing Committee member).

Events at other conferences in the later part of 2016 still need to be determined.

In summary, the period between the 2014 Biennial Meeting in Taipei and the 2016 Biennial Meeting in Dubrovnik has been a very lively and productive period for the WCAA.



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