

Quarterly Newsletter of the WCAA

Number IV – September 2016

# WCAA and IUAES Approve Formalised Collaboration

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## Both the WCAA and the IUAES Voted for a Bicameral Organisation

The election among the WCAA delegates for future relations with the IUAES, which started on June 15 and finished on September 15 had the following results:

40 of 52 ballots cast with no spoiled ballots.

To the question "Should WCAA and IUAES have a formalized collaboration?" The YES had 38 votes (95.0%) and the NO had 2 votes (5.0%).

The option of "A Strategic Alliance between WCAA and IUAES?" had 14 votes (36.8%).

And the option "A Bicameral Organisation with WCAA and IUAES Chambers?" had 24 votes (63.2%).

Thus, the majority of the Delegates of WCAA favor a Bicameral Organisation. We are now waiting for the final results of the IUAES vote to have a decision.

Among the IUAES voters a Bicameral Organisation was also approved, although by a narrower margin. Answering identical questions to those posed by the WCAA, for the first question, the results were overwhelmingly in favour of a formalized collaboration: the Yes vote had 215 (93.07%) and the No vote 16 (6.93%).

For the second question, the option of "A Strategic Alliance between WCAA and IUAES?" had 106 votes (49.3%) and the option "A Bicameral Organisation with WCAA and IUAES Chambers?" had 109 votes (50.7%).

Thus, by a narrow majority, the IUAES membership has also favoured a Bicameral Organisation. The WCAA and the IUAES will together begin the process of building a Bicameral Organisation to implement this democratic decision.

The election was the outcome of three years of intense exchanges between the two institutions that ended in two proposals regarding the IUAES-WCAA relationship. The task team constituted to discuss the future relationship between the two organisations reached two proposals, reflecting substantially different models for cooperation: a "Memorandum of Agreement" formalizing the existing alliance between the two organizations and a "Memorandum of Understanding", recommending the creation of an integrated organizational partnership with a bicameral structure. The two documents were approved by the WCAA and IUAES executives, and were offered for discussion at the WCAA Biennial Meeting and the IUAES Inter-Congress in Dubrovnik (May 2-9, 2016).

## New Organizing Committee of WCAA

WCAA has a new Organising Committee (OC), elected by the 33 WCAA member associations who attended the Dubrovnik Biennial Meeting and ratified by the other Associations by electronic consultation.

In accord with the Constitution, Chandana Mathur, Deputy Chair (Anthropological Association of Ireland and WCAA OC), will serve as the Chairperson for the next two years. Carmen Rial (Brazilian Anthropological Association and WCAA OC) was elected the new Deputy Chair; Clara Saraiva (Associação Portuguesa de Antropologia and International Society for Ethnology and Folklore) and Sachiko Kubota (Japanese Society for Cultural Anthropology) were elected as new ordinary member of the OC.

The terms of Isaac Nyamongo (Pan African Anthropological Association), Soumendra Patnaik (Indian Anthropological Association), Lorne Holyoak, Secretary (Canadian Anthropology Society/La Société Canadienne d'Antropologie), and David Shankland, Treasurer (Royal

Anthropological Institute), as well as Greg Acciaioli, Undesignated OC member (Australian Anthropological Society), continue for another two years.

Read the statements of the new Chair, Deputy Chair and Members further below



## The 2016 WCAA Biennial Meeting in Dubrovnik

The 2016 WCAA Biennial Meeting took place on May 2-3 in Dubrovnik, directly preceding the 2016 IUAES Inter-congress. The meeting was attended by 36 delegates, alternates, and Organizing Committee (OC) members.

The first day of the meeting started with the words of welcome by Vesna Vucinic Neskovic, the Chair of WCAA, and the welcome address by Pavao Rudan, the President of the Croatian Anthropological Society, followed by delegates' introductions. This session was devoted to reporting on the WCAA activities since the Taipei Biennial Meeting (October 2014). The WCAA Chair's Progress Report was followed by reports of the Organizing Committee members, Treasurer's report, and the reports of the WCAA Task Force Chairs. The extended version of these reports may be found in the Chair's Progress Report.

See: [http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/Chair's%20Report%20on%20WCAA%20Activities%20\(Oct%202014-May%202016\).pdf](http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/Chair's%20Report%20on%20WCAA%20Activities%20(Oct%202014-May%202016).pdf)

In the latter part of the first day, two sessions took place. In the first one, entitled "Future relations of WCAA and IUAES: Presentation and discussion of the two documents produced by the IUAES-WCAA Task Group", Vesna Vucinic who co-chaired the Task Group with Faye Harrison, the President of IUAES, presented in detail each of the two proposals for future cooperation between the two organizations, explaining their common features and accentuating qualitative differences. The presentation was followed by dynamic discussion, which positioned and examined the two proposals through the prism of the future of world anthropologies/anthropology, and

possible consequences if one or the other proposal was to be selected by the WCAA and IUAES members. The second session, organized by Chandana Mathur, the Deputy Chair of the WCAA, was called “The Future of WCAA: Strategic planning and discussion”. This session was meant to involve the delegates in the discussion on what directions WCAA should take regarding its intellectual, outreach, and financial paths. Much discussion was devoted to modes of being heard more distinctly by anthropological publics around the globe, especially through different forms of conventional and unconventional publishing. The day ended with a common delegates dinner at the Mimosa restaurant, where Dalmatian and Dubrovnik sea food dishes and drinks were shared with delight.

The second day of the Biennial Meeting was devoted to concrete planning and decision-making about the future of the WCAA. In the first session, chaired by Vesna Vucinic, called “Developing the WCAA Agenda for the Future” after suggesting the directions of developing further the work of the existing task forces and working groups, the delegates were asked to break up in small discussion groups according to their interests, where they would brainstorm new ideas and come back to report the suggestions they came up with. Four groups were formed: a group to expand the work of the existing Advocacy and Outreach Activities Task Force, a group to suggest new ideas for the Working Group on Language Diversity, a group to set up the new Global Cultural Policies Task Force, and a group to discuss the new Task Force on Danger, Violence and Ethics in Anthropological Fieldwork. Summary presentations of the small groups were delivered, with proposals for concrete action.

The latter part of the second day was devoted to decision-making sessions. In the session on “Proposals for Constitutional Changes”, chaired by Greg Acciaioli, the issues of the necessity of regulating mandates for Task Forces and their Chairs for the period of 4 years, co-opting one of the Deja Lu co-editors as an ex officio member of the OC, and changing the necessary quorum for elections of the WCAA officials from 2/3

to 1/2 were explicated. The Meeting accepted all the suggested proposals.

After lunch, kindly sponsored by the Croatian Anthropological Association, three more sessions followed. First, elections for the two new Organizing Committee members and a new Deputy Chair, as well as for the Task Force (co) chairs took place. The session was chaired by Vesna Vucinic and Greg Acciaioli, with the assistance of David Shankland. Each of the candidates had an opportunity to present her/himself. Voting for the new Organizing Committee officials took place on the spot through secret ballot, but since the Meeting was inquorate (by three delegates), the election results needed to be ratified through electronic voting which took place after the Dubrovnik Meeting.

The session on “Forthcoming WCAA Meetings”, chaired by Carmen Rial, was an opportunity for delegates to inform each other of their associations meetings planned for the period 2016-2018. At the very end, the “Summary Discussion”, chaired by Chandana Mathur, went back to some of the questions and proposals discussed in the first day’s session on “The Future of WCAA”.

The meeting successfully went through all the issues announced in the agenda and involved discussion on many questions that were important for the further development of WCAA activities. The next biannual meeting will take place in Florianópolis, Brazil, a few days before the IUAES Congress 2018.



2016 WCAA Biennial Meeting in Dubrovnik

## The WCAA presence at the 2016 IUAES Inter-congress in Dubrovnik

The WCAA presence at the IUAES Inter-congress in Dubrovnik was realized through the WCAA and the IUAES-WCAA organized panels and special sessions. They were as follows:

1. WCAA Panel Stream “Global Survey of Anthropological Practice” (Convened by Greg Acciaoli) comprised of 27 papers presented by delegates and Organizing Committee members within five full sessions, followed by the summary session where the future of the project and its publications were discussed.

2. WCAA-IUAES Roundtable “Anthropological Fieldwork and Risk in a Violent World” (Co-convened by Chandana Mathur and Faye Harrison) was a well-attended and lively event, where initial questions were put forwards, after which many good ideas were suggested on the part of participants. This was first in line of the sessions envisaged towards developing a new, joint WCAA-IUAES Task Force.

3. Special Session: “Strategic Alliance between IUAES and WCAA” (Convened by Faye Harrison and Vesna Vucinic Neskovic) gave an opportunity to explain the process and character of the two proposals for stronger cooperation between the two organizations to the IUAES members and general attendants of the conference. David Shankland and Thomas Reuter presented the two proposals in more detail, after which discussion about them took place.

Other jointly organized and well-attended panels were:

1. IUAES-WCAA Panel (no. 312): “The Teaching of Anthropology in Schools” (Convened by David Shankland)

2. IUAES-WCAA Panel (no. 608): “Engaged Anthropology and Public Policy in Neo-liberal Economy” (Convened by Soumendra Patnaik and Tanya Yakimov)

3. IUAES-WCAA Panel (no. 436): “Social and Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology as/and Science: Addressing Contemporary Instrumentalist Threats to the Humanities” (Convened by Andrew ‘Mugsy’ Spiegel and Isaac Nyamongo)

Aside from the mentioned panels and sessions, three meetings of the WCAA and IUAES executives were held in Dubrovnik, and they were largely devoted to planning the procedures for memberships’ voting on the two proposals for future cooperation.

### Déjà Lu

The WCAA journal *Déjà-Lu* now has a new team of editors. In addition to Gordon Mathews (Hong Kong Anthropological Society), two new co-editors have come on board: Lia Ferrero (Colegio de Graduados en Antropología de la República Argentina) and Joy Owen (Anthropology Southern Africa). Gustavo Lins Ribeiro (Associação Brasileira de Antropologia), who had jointly founded and edited *Déjà-Lu* with Gordon, has stepped down as co-editor and will now serve as the Honorary Editor. *Déjà-Lu* now has the ISSN 2414-4444.



## 2014-2016: Very productive years for WCAA

During the Vesna Vusinic Neskovic mandate, the OC sent numerous letters in support of anthropology and anthropologists worldwide.



1) **A level Anthropology:** To the executive officers of the AQA Exam Board, UK to address its decision to discontinue the A-level anthropology course after 2018. (February 2015)

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

2) **NSF funding:** 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>

3) **Establishment of Social and Cultural Anthropology as an independent science discipline in Latvia:** 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>

4) **Guarani:** To the Brazilian President Dilma 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>

5) **VIBRANT** – To the President of CNPq (Brazilian National Research Council) to restore the funding for the journal *Vibrant*. As we know, *Vibrant* has been a quite important way of presenting Brazilian anthropological production to a broader non-lusophone audience. He responded to the letter saying CNPq would not reconsider the decision.

6) **Australian National University** – To the Chancellor, VC and Dean to oppose staff cuts at the School of Culture, History and Language at the Australian National University’s College of Asia and the Pacific. Additionally, a support letter was issued regarding the pending decision of the Australian National University to close down its School of Culture, History and Language. Staff at The School of Culture, History and Language (CHL) have been told that as many as one third of them may face dismissal next year. CHL is among

the highest performing academic units in the country. Current staff at CHL includes two Fukuoka Prize winners and four ARC Laureates, the greatest concentration of such academic awards in Australia.

+ info : <http://www.nteu.org.au/nu/article/Call-to-stop-cuts-to-School-of-Culture,-History-and-Language-18269>

All these WCAA letters were written by the Organizing Committee members in consultation with the presidents/delegates of associations coming from countries concerned.

Besides the letters, the OC lead by Vesna Vusic Neskovic organized 5 Business Meetings and panels in 7 national Anthropological events, published 2 issues of Déjà-Lu, the WCAA annual electronic journal, and 3 issues of the Newsletter, created in August 2015.

See in details all the activities of the OC chaired by Vesna Vusic at: [http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/Chair's%20Report%20on%20WCAA%20Activities%20\(Oct%202014-May%202016\).pdf](http://www.wcaanet.org/downloads/Chair's%20Report%20on%20WCAA%20Activities%20(Oct%202014-May%202016).pdf)

## 2016 Letters

**1) Brazilian Politics** - To the leaders of the Brazilian Congress and to the President of the Supreme Court against the violation of financial confidentiality of the Brazilian Anthropological Association, demanded by a congressional committee dominated by agribusiness interests who were trying to question the Constitutional rights of Indians and Quilombolas.

**2) Homa Hoodfar** - To Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, concerned with the arrest and incarceration of Homa Hoodfar, Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. After three and a half months detention in the notorious Evin Prison, in Tehran, with extremely limited access to her lawyer and family, Homa Hoodfar was recently released. Read more at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37477020>

## WCAA at EASA 2016

The WCAA (co)sponsored two panels at the EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists) conference in Milan in July 2016.

Panel P025 – ““Refugee Crisis”, European Reactions and the Role of Anthropology”

Convenors: Michal Buchowski (Adam Mickiewicz University) and Vesna Vucinic-Neskovic (University of Belgrade)

Discussant: Werner Schiffauer

[http://www.nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4369\[nomadit.co.uk\]](http://www.nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4369[nomadit.co.uk])

P108 “Traditions of Anthropology, Prospects for Engagement: Have ‘world anthropologies’ tried to change the world?” (WCAA-IUAES session)

Convenors: Chandana Mathur (National University of Ireland, Maynooth) Faye Harrison (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

[http://www.nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4297\[nomadit.co.uk\]](http://www.nomadit.co.uk/easa/easa2016/panels.php5?PanelID=4297[nomadit.co.uk])



## Official Languages in WCAA

At a meeting of delegates to the WCAA in Mexico City, a proposal was brought forward to make Spanish an official language of the WCAA, a proposition reiterated at the Delegates' Meeting at RAM. There was not a quorum of delegates at this meeting, and it was not brought forward as a resolution, but rather as a proposal to be studied by the WCAA OC. A working group was formed (with Lorne Holyoak (Canadian Anthropology Society/La Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie), Gustavo Ribeiro (Brazilian Anthropological Association), Maria Mangahas (Anthropological Association of the Philippines) and Shu-min Huang (Association for Asian Social Science Research Forum) to study this matter and come up with recommendations for the Committee. The recommendations were read and discussed at the biennial meeting in Dubrovnik, and other recommendations were added, by a working group of delegates (Anita Siyoldric and Pavao Rudkin ((HAD, Croatian Anthropological Society), Marcy Brink-Danan (Israeli Anthropological Association) and Carmen Rial (Brazilian Anthropological Association/ OC). One of the results is that the blog of WCAA from now on will be edited by delegates from different languages, in their own language, starting with Lia Ferrero (Colegio de Graduados en Antropología de la República, Argentina) and Joy Owen (ASnA, Anthropology Southern Africa), each for six months.



## WCAA Task Forces

In addition to electing new members of the WCAA OC, the WCAA delegates present at the biennial meeting in Dubrovnik elected chairs of the WCAA Task Forces, to serve for the next four years:

Thomas Hylland Eriksen (European Association of Social Anthropologists) and Virginia Dominguez (American Anthropological Association), Co-Chairs of the Advocacy and Outreach Activities Task Force.

Rosita Henry (Australian Anthropological Society), Chair of the Ethics Task Force.

Vesna Vucinic Neskovic (International Association for Southeast European Anthropology), Chair of the Global Cultural Policies Task Force.

## Statements

Previous to the election of the OC in Dubrovnik, the candidates were asked to make a statement.

**Chandana Mantur**, the new Chairperson of WCAA, did not have to present a statement, since her status was automatically guaranteed. She wrote the following message for the newsletter:



Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vesna Vučinić-Nešković (International Association for Southeast European Anthropology), the Chair of the WCAA from 2014 to 2016, for the truly

exceptional contribution that she has made to the work of the WCAA during her tenure.

I would also like to thank Raminder Kaur Kahlon (Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth), who has now stepped down as the Chair of the Ethics Task Force, for leading this important area of work for the WCAA.

It is an enormous privilege to be working together with the newly elected Organising Committee, and with the WCAA delegates and Advisory Board, to further advance the WCAA project. Without wishing to de-emphasise other WCAA activities, I would like to draw your attention to a few of the key initiatives that will occupy us in the days ahead.

- The Global Survey of Anthropological Practice (GSAP), our collective research project directed at uncovering the true face of the anthropological profession today, made its first public appearance with a two day panel stream at the IUAES Inter-Congress at Dubrovnik. The intensive discussions and critical decisions taken there will inform the unfolding of the GSAP over the next two years. An established worldwide professional community, the WCAA has re-imagined itself as a unique, large-scale international research network for the purposes of this project.

- Following up on an urgent concern identified by the WCAA's Advisory Board, we held an open forum session on 'Anthropological Fieldwork and Risk in a Violent World' at the Dubrovnik Inter-Congress. This was the first of the wider conversations we will have about this critical issue as we seek out concrete ways of addressing it. The WCAA and the IUAES have resolved to work together on this.

- Finally, you are aware that all WCAA delegates and all IUAES members have voted on a proposal to bring these two international bodies closer together, and agreed to do so through the creation of a new bicameral organisation with WCAA and IUAES chambers. It will be our task to implement this decision in a timely manner.

I am honoured and excited to be working with you over the next two years.

**Carmen Rial** (Deputy Chairperson)



Ten years after its founding, WCAA is still in the process of establishing itself and we face financial insecurity. While conducting my fellowship in New York, I intended to contact the Ford Foundation (and others) to propose a common project.

Much has been done to expand the dialogue between WCAA and the Latin American Anthropological Associations, but important associations on the continent are still not members of WCAA. It would be important for WCAA to have someone from Latin America in a leadership position, since three major congresses will soon be held in South America: the congress of the Latin American Association (Colombia, 2017), RAM (Mercosul Congress, Brazil 2017) and the IUAES (Brazil, 2018).

The newsletter that I planned (and have been editing with Lorne) has been an important tool for improving relations among our associations. We can consider other instruments. I believe that my experience can contribute to achieving these goals. I participated in the creation of VIBRANT – ABA's online English journal – and have been its co-editor since 2004. I am currently on the editorial board of more than 20 journals, including the American Ethnologist (AAA) and Etnográfica (APA).

Curriculum at: <http://lattes.cnpq.br/4874148638654662>

**Sachiko Kubota**



I am a professor of Cultural Anthropology at the graduate school of Intercultural Studies, Kobe University, Japan.

Since 1987, I have been an active member of JASCA, Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology, and been elected as board member for 6 times (two years for each term) since 2000. As well as various teaching and administrative commitments at university, I have been serving as a member of Science Council of Japan since 2014, which is the representing body of the entire academic community in Japan to make recommendations to the government. Also, since 2013 until last March, I was an anthropology researcher in Research Center for Science System, in Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science, the main public research funding agency in Japan.

In 2008 when WCAA meeting was held in Osaka, Japan, I attended the meeting as a board member of JASCA for the first time. Since then, I attended WCAA meetings; Maynooth (2010), Perth (2011), AAA, San Francisco (2012), Manchester (2013), Taiwan (2013), AAA, Chicago (2013), Chiba (2014) and AAA, Washington (2014). Through these participations and communications with the members, I have learnt and understood about the role and importance of WCAA.

I really think that it is important to have a diversity of the members in the organizing committee of WCAA considering its purpose. I regret that the current representation is not balanced enough, in other words, not enough East-Asian representation. As the delegate of JASCA Japan, I hope to serve WCAA in the next term.

Clara Saraiva



I am a senior researcher at the Center for Comparative Studies in Lisbon, University of Lisbon, a researcher of the Center for Research in Anthropology (CRIA), and a Professor at the Department of Anthropology, Universidade Nova de Lisboa. I was a Visiting Professor at University of California Berkeley (2013) and Brown University, and a Research Fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown (2001-2002 and 2008) and at the Université d'Aix-en-Provence (France-2005).

My main fields of research deal with religion and ritual, drawing especially on death rituals from a cross-cultural perspective and transnational religions.

I have been serving on the board of the Society for International Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) since 2008, and was elected vice-president in 2015. I organised the Lisbon 2011 Congress; as Vice-president I have been in charge of international relations and coordinating the Scientific Collaboration Task Force. My duty as SIEF vice-president will reach its end in April 2017, in the Gottingen congress. The SIEF experience has taught me a great deal on managing international academic associations, which is an expertise that I feel is useful for WCAA. I am also, since March 2013, the President of the Portuguese Anthropological Association (APA). Being a delegate, representing both SIEF and APA, I have been present in many of the WCAA/IUAES events and meetings. As a WCAA delegate I have also served in the Ethics Task Force. The experience as WCAA delegate has also been a fruitful one.

As a WCAA organizing committee member I would like to work on the issue of scientific collaboration among its members, but I am open to suggestions and decisions we make, as delegates, on what are the most important tasks for WCAA to undertake.

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The WCAA newsletter is written from news sent by the members of the OC, National Associations or taken from their corresponding websites. We thank them all for their help.