



## **WCAA delegates meeting 2013, University of Manchester @ IUAES2013**

7 August 2013

Attending: Thomas Reuter, Michal Buchowski, Soumendra Patnai

The meeting was chaired by WCAA Chair Michal Buchowski, who began by welcoming delegates.

### **Chair's update**

WCAA now has 46 member associations.

The new constitution is now in force since 30 associations have voted for it. It is now in line with the new mission statement text agreed at the 2012 Delhi biennial meeting. It was clarified that decisions are made on the basis of simple majority.

Setha Low suggested that it would be useful to have a training workshop for new delegates at each biennial meeting, given the frequent turnover of WCAA delegates. This would provide an introduction to the structure of the WCAA, e.g. each organising committee member has specific tasks.

**Action: Setha Low to organise a new delegates workshop at the next biennial meeting.**

### **Relationship with IUAES**

Vice-Chair Setha Low introduced this discussion, saying that it was being broached since the WCAA has a shared mission with the IUAES. She said that the WCAA organising committee had just met with the IUAES executive committee during this conference in Manchester. A working group had been constituted, to be led by Vesna Vucinic and Mugsy Spiegel, to come up with proposals about how the WCAA and the IUAES can work together. Some initial ideas include:

- liaison persons between the two organisations
- co-sponsorship of events
- IUAES Inter-Congress and WCAA biennial meeting to be held together in 2016.

In the ensuing discussion, David Shankland suggested that a merger of the two is a good idea because of the need for a single global forum, and also because fusing the two would create a stronger and more durable IUAES. When Leith Mullings asked if this was a discussion about the WCAA becoming a member of the IUAES or something more than that, Greg Acciaioli suggested that it would be more and Michal Buchowski pointed out that so far it is the IUAES which is a member of the WCAA. Leslie Aiello noted that a full merger is possible since the organisations have two quite different purposes and can fit together easily.

Junji Koizumi said of the new IUAES that its most important sphere of action is the Commissions, where most of the intellectual work will take place. Though the Commissions meeting was taking place at the same time as this WCAA meeting and thus would be missed by all WCAA delegates, he urged everyone to look out for the Call for new Commissions.

Mugsy Spiegel observed that the word 'merger' is usually used in a commercial sense where one entity swallows up the other, and that he prefers the notion of 'umbrella' to encapsulate the relationship between the IUAES and the WCAA. He added that being split into two organisations

weakens anthropology internationally. Leslie Aiello noted that funding both organisations is not sustainable for the Wenner Gren Foundation, and that she strongly supports David Shankland's view.

Setha Low suggested that the WCAA may be the stronger organisation since it is recruiting better. She also said that having two organisations could increase the chances for leadership for individuals. Virginia Dominguez suggested that a slower approach is better than a quick decision, given that the WCAA was created because there had been problems with the IUAES. Michal Buchowski said that it is good to have two organisations for the time being since they serve two different functions. We should ensure that the WCAA's specificity translates into the structure of the new integrated organisation. This should be borne in mind as we consider the precise way of building this new organisation.

Junji Koizumi noted that the IUAES has created in their new statutes a void that WCAA could fill, though, of course, the constitution will have to change entirely when the organisations come together.

Mugsy Spiegel said that there should be an imprint of both organisations on the new organisation, not of one on the other. He reminded the meeting that he and Vesna were going to create a forum for further discussion about this. Michal encouraged everyone to send their opinions to Mugsy and Vesna, and said that there would be still more discussion in Taiwan and subsequently.

**Action: Mugsy and Vesna will establish a forum for the discussion of the WCAA-IUAES relationship. All others will contribute to it.**

## **Financial report**

Greg Acciaoli noted that the current balance is x. There have been no major expenses this year, apart from a payment of £877 to NomadIT and 100 Euro for the trial membership of the International Social Science Council. In all, this year's outlay has been less than Aus\$1500.

WCAA operates on a system of tiered voluntary contributions, rather than membership dues. Requests for contribution were to go out at the end of August 2013. This process had raised Aus\$5,000 to 6,000 last year. The WCAA has funding from the Wenner Gren Foundation until 2015. It is hoped that there will be something like Aus\$40,000 available for the next biennial meeting in Taiwan.

It will be impossible to fund travel for all delegates for this meeting. Working with Michal Buchowski and Gordon Mathews, Greg will issue guidelines for funding. It is likely that the maximum amount available per association will be Aus\$1,000. He suggested that WCAA delegates as well as the organising committee should consider the possibility of developing a common financial platform.

Virginia Dominguez asked if other funding possibilities have been explored, given this situation and given that Wenner Gren would probably like the WCAA to be looking for other grants. Greg said that several years of searching has not revealed any other funding sources, although project-specific activities (e.g. Task Forces) may find funds, or a specific biennial meeting may receive funding from city councils etc.

Setha noted that WCAA hosts have sometimes found funding for biennial meetings. Michal pointed out that we all volunteer time, which is also money.

## **Taiwan biennial meeting**

Shu-Min Huang said that there would be a new election for the Taiwanese association in October 2013 and that the exact dates of the biennial meeting would be decided thereafter. The original proposal was for a meeting in the first or second week of October 2014. He solicited ideas for a conference theme and Vesna Vucinic suggested that it could perhaps be decided jointly by the WCAA and the Taiwanese association. Michal clarified that the WCAA business meeting will take place before the conference.

There was a query about the 50th anniversary conference of JASCA, the Japanese association, and Sachiko Kubota confirmed that it will take place on 15th to 18th May 2014, and the conference theme is 'Future with/of Anthropology'. It is hoped that WCAA will have a significant presence there.

**Action: Shu-Min will notify the organising committee as soon as possible of the biennial meeting dates.**

## **Publications update**

Gordon Mathews spoke about the journal *Deja Lu* and the WCAA blog. *Deja Lu* brings together each WCAA association journal editor's pick of the best article of one year ago published by them. Articles in languages other than English have an English-language abstract, but appear in *Deja Lu* in their original language.

Gordon noted that not enough people are writing in for the WCAA blog. People should make use of this open forum: 600-800 word pieces are needed, and English editing can be provided for those who require it.

Greg Acciaoli asked about the possibility of joint WCAA-IUAES sponsorship of *Deja Lu*, and Gordon agreed that it should be on both websites.

Noel Salazar queried the purpose of the blog, suggesting that it may be too open-ended, which is why nobody knows what to write. Raminder Kahlon said that the blog could be used as a Task Force platform, to help build WCAA Task Forces.

## **Advocacy and Outreach Task Force report**

Virginia Dominguez, Task Force Chair, said that this Task Force was founded three years ago with the intention of starting the *Antropologos Sem Frontieras* initiative (ASF). This process has begun, and she asked Carlos Caroso to describe the steps taken thus far.

Carlos Caroso said that the organisation has already been established as an international NGO in Brazil with six members, and that there was to be a fuller discussion of categories of membership at the Task Force meeting the following day. In response to a question about ASF's work, Carlos explained that ASF will match up groups of people facing economic, legal, political and even survival challenges with anthropologists who can assist by serving as critical readers of reports and other key documents. Carlos Caroso is the ASF President and Virginia Dominguez is the ASF Vice-President, and the first task before this WCAA pilot project is to compile a database of volunteers.

## **Ethics Task Force report**

Raminder Kahlon, Chair of the Ethics Task Force, reported on their compilation of member associations' ethics guidelines. She said that they were looking for the translation of some of the ethics codes. The Task Force does not wish to promote universal guidelines, but they would like to propose some principles, e.g., that written consent goes against anonymity. This becomes an issue particularly where there is increasing insistence on the archiving and documentation of fieldwork notes, as is currently the case in Britain.

The Task Force is interested in organising panels at upcoming JASCA and ASA conferences. Potential topics include graduate student level of awareness of ethics; ethics in the context of interdisciplinary research; making an anthropological case for ethics.

Finally, Raminder noted that the Ethics Task Force will work jointly with the Advocacy and Outreach Task Force.

In the discussion that followed, Leith Mullings suggested that anthropology students should be required to look at the ethics code in effect at the place where they are doing their fieldwork. Atreyee Sen commented that there was a particular need for ethics guidelines aimed at supporting anthropologists teaching in non-anthropology departments.

Finally, Raminder informed the meeting that an interim report on their project was already available online.

## **Miscellaneous announcements**

Bela Feldman-Bianco made announcements about the following initiatives:

Experimental virtual seminar on language and the production of anthropological knowledge, sponsored jointly by AAA, EASA, ABA and CASCA.

CWA-AAA has managed to secure a 'World Anthropologies' section in the American Anthropologist twice a year. There is space for three to four essays in each issue. Bela would like to receive ideas for essays, perhaps about major anthropologists who were never published in English.

Leslie Aiello announced that the Wenner Gren Foundation were working with CWA-AAA towards a portal for open access anthropological material worldwide.

## **AOB**

Shu-Min Huang brought up the point that Thomas Reuter had mentioned that the IUAES would like to be involved in the Taiwan biennial meeting. Sachiko Kubota pointed out that the IUAES was holding an Inter-Congress at the JASCA meeting, very shortly before the Taiwan meeting. There was consensus that the IUAES should be invited to organise a panel at the Taiwan meeting, but it should not be an IUAES Inter-Congress.

Finally, Vesna Vucinic reminded everyone that we should be seeking to convert WCAA conference sessions into publications.

End of meeting.

## Attendees

Name (institution)	Country - Association represented (Acronym)
Greg Acciaioli (University of Western Australia)	OrgComm
Leslie Aiello (Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research)	OrgComm
Michal Buchowski (University of Poznan)	OrgComm
Carlos Caroso (Universidade Federal da Bahia)	ESF (Taskforce Anth without borders)
Virginia Dominguez (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)	Task force on Advocacy
Bela Feldman-Bianco (University of Campinas)	CWA
Gareth Hamilton (University of Latvia & Durham University)	Latvia - Latvijas Antropologu Biedriba (LAB)
Rosita Henry (James Cook University)	Australia - Australian Anthropological Society (AAS)
Shu-Min Huang (Academia Sinica)	Taiwan - Taiwan Society for Anthropology and Ethnology (TSAE)
Monica Ibanez-Angulo (University of Burgos)	Spain - Anthropological Association of Castile and Leon (AAC-LMK)
Rohan Jackson (NomadIT)	WCAA admin
Ellen Judd (University of Manitoba)	Canada - La Societe Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA)
Raminder Kaur (Sussex University)	Task force on Ethics
Junji Koizumi (Osaka University)	OrgComm
Mari Korpela (University of Tampere)	Finland - Finnish Anthropological Society (FAS)
Sachiko Kubota (Kobe University)	Japan - Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology (JASCA)
Shao-hua Liu (Academia Sinica)	Taiwan - Taiwan Society for Anthropology and Ethnology (TSAE)
Setha Low (Graduate Center, CUNY)	OrgComm
Gordon Mathews (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)	Hong Kong - Hong Kong Anthropological Society (HKAS)
Fiona McCormack (University of Waikato)	New Zealand - Association of Social Anthropologists of New Zealand/Aoteroa (ASAA/NZ)
Leith Mullings (American Anthropological Association)	USA - American Anthropological Association (AAA)
Cristina Oehmichen (UNAM)	Mexico - Colegio de Etnólogos y Antropólogos Sociales (CEAS)
Soumendra Mohan Patnaik (University of Delhi)	India - Indian Anthropological Association (IAA)
Carmen Rial (Federal University of Santa Catarina)	Brazil - Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (ABA)
Francine Saillant (Laval University)	Canada - La Societe Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA)
Noel Salazar (University of Leuven)	International - European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA)
Atrayee Sen (University of Manchester)	International - Association of Social Anthropologists UK & Commonwealth (ASA)
David Shankland (Royal Anthropological Institute)	UK - Royal Anthropological Institute (RAI)
Mugsy Spiegel (University of Cape Town)	OrgComm
Anita Sujoldzic (Institute for Anthropological Research)	Croatia - Croatian Anthropological Society (HAD)
Zdenek Uherek (Institute of Ethnology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)	Czech Republic - Czech Association for Social Anthropology (CASA)
Vesna Vucinic-Neškovic (University of Belgrade)	Orgcomm and International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA)