



## **WCAA delegates meeting 2014, Chiba City @ IUAES2014**

Minutes prepared by WCAA Secretary Chandana Mathur.

The meeting was chaired by WCAA Chair Michal Buchowski.

### **Report on Finances**

Greg Acciaioli, the WCAA Treasurer, presented a report on WCAA's current finances as it approaches the end of the period of Wenner Gren funding. Details below.

Current balance: \$33,702.52 AUD (as of 11 May 2014)

Recent expenditures:

\$178.40 AUD (includes \$22 AUD transfer fee) ISSC Associate Membership 2014

\$2,164.22 AUD (includes \$22 AUD transfer fee) NomadIT Services

Recent deposits:

\$16,103.44 AUD (i.e. \$15,000 USD) Wenner Gren annual payment

\$628.20 AUD Contribution from Swedish Anthropological Society

### **2013 Activities**

#### **I Wenner-Gren Grant Funds**

Wenner Gren's contribution (January 4 2013) \$13,835.30 AUD\*

\* Amount recorded in Commonwealth Bank of Australia account statements (bank fees deducted). These amounts thus give the amounts actually received from the \$15,000 USD grant sent in January 2013. The differences across amounts expended and received throughout the year reflect fluctuating exchange rates.

#### **II Other Income**

All other income was provided by voluntary contributions from 13 member associations (ranging from \$1000 USD to \$200 USD) and a minute amount of account interest:

Contributions by Member Associations: \$4527.68 AUD

Account Interest accrued: \$7.08 AUD

TOTAL INCOME without Wenner Gren grant: \$4534.76 AUD

TOTAL INCOME with Wenner Gren grant: \$18370.06 AUD

#### **III Expenditure of Grant Funds**

This is a year in which the biennial meeting of the WCAA was not held (the last biennial meeting was held in 2012 in Delhi). Hence there have been few expenditures. Although an interim business meeting was held in Manchester during the IUAES World Congress, no funds were expended to subsidise attendance at this conference.

The only expenditures were two payments to NomadIT for website construction, maintenance and other organisational activities and a membership fee to ISSC:

Payments (2) to NomadIT \$2887.72 AUD  
Annual Membership fee for ISSC \$135.15 AUD  
Internet Banking Transfer Fees (3) \$66.00 AUD  
TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$3088.87 AUD

Thirteen out of the forty four member associations have made voluntary contributions. Reminders will be sent out again in June, and it is hoped that this will raise \$4,000 AUD before the Taiwan WCAA meeting.

Carmen Rial asked if WCAA had applied for funding elsewhere, noting that the Ford Foundation had funded ABA. Greg said that funding sources explored thus far have said that an organisation like the WCAA does not fall within their remit, but he would wish to talk further to Carmen and others who may have suggestions.

[Minutes Update: On following up later with Carmen, Greg learnt that the Ford Foundation funding that ABA had received was for a specific project – preparing short documentaries for broadcast showing some of the activities of Brazilian anthropologists – rather than for recurrent operating costs and periodic business meetings/symposia of the organisation.]

Virginia Dominguez asked about the guidelines for funding delegates to attend WCAA biennial meetings. Greg responded that there will be a ceiling (to be determined shortly) on the amount made available to delegates for the Taiwan meeting. WCAA is based on an honesty system in assessing the requirements of each delegate. Setha Low said that the ideal is full funding, and full attendance!

Gustavo Ribeiro had a question about the costs associated with the latest issue of the WCAA journal, *Deja Lu*. Greg responded that it was in the region of \$800 USD. Although the initial costs have already been met, this issue was large and therefore expensive.

## **Report on Programme for Taipei Meeting**

This report was provided by Vesna Vucinic. There will be five WCAA panels at the Taiwan Society of Anthropology and Ethnology (TSAE) conference in October 2014, on pressing anthropological themes as well as world anthropologies themes.

1. Environmental Anthropology (organised by Greg Acciaioli) 4 participants
2. Anthropology in Asia (organised by Gordon Mathews) 4 participants
3. Regional Anthropologies and World Anthropologies (organised by Vesna Vucinic) 10 participants
4. Contemporary capitalism (organised by Chandana Mathur) 4 participants
5. WCAA 10th Anniversary panel (organised by Michal Buchowski and Setha Low) 8 participants

She hoped that these panels would become better balanced with Taiwanese participants joining in with some of the smaller panels.

Shao-hua Liu responded that the panels will need to be smaller (4 participants in each, preferably), and that the TSAE and WCAA programmes have been set up separately, so it will not be possible to have Taiwanese participants in WCAA panels.

[Minutes Update: Panels were subsequently reordered for the final programme.]

She noted that bilingual activities are being planned, and it is possible that there will be PowerPoints in English even if the papers are presented in Chinese.

Mugsy thanked Shao-hua and also pointed out that our not knowing Chinese is really our problem, not theirs. Shao-hua replied that he is a real anthropologist!

Carmen Rial asked if WCAA delegates' PowerPoints could be translated into Chinese, and Shao-hua said that it was possible if they arrived three weeks in advance. She noted that this would be very useful for Taiwanese students.

She also said that there was going to be a 'photos from the field' competition which would be open to WCAA members. Each anthropologist may submit just one photo with a very brief introduction.

## **Task Force Reports**

### **Publications**

This report was presented by Gordon Mathews, the Organising Committee member in charge of the WCAA blog and one of the two co-editors of the WCAA journal *Deja Lu*. *Deja Lu* aims at pluralizing the dissemination of anthropological knowledge on a global level by republishing articles selected by the journals of the member associations of the WCAA (and other relevant journals in the field). It is a journal that respects the academic decisions made by the reviewers of the author's community of origin to avoid the imposition of hegemonic international styles or canons.

Gordon noted that *Deja Lu* is getting bigger, with 22 or 23 articles in the current issue. It is now linked to the IUAES website to ensure wider readership. There are still copyright issues with American journals.

The WCAA blog is in dire need of input from members. It was suggested that papers from the Chiba conference panel commemorating the 10th anniversary of the WCAA should be placed on the blog.

In response to the copyright difficulties mentioned by Gordon, Ed Liebow suggested that AAA can help make material available for *Deja Lu*. *Cultural Anthropology*, for example, is open access.

Gustavo Ribeiro, co-editor of the journal with Gordon Mathews, made a number of points regarding *Deja Lu*.

1. It is important for us to collect statistics on the use of *Deja Lu*.
2. The link to *Deja Lu* must be sent to all members of their associations by WCAA delegates. The second issue is out, and really should be read widely.
3. All WCAA member associations should have a link to *Deja Lu* on their websites.

Clara Saraiva suggested that the WCAA website should have links to national journals just beside the descriptions of associations. Carmen Rial said that associations should be asked which journals they wish to have listed on the WCAA website.

### **Advocacy and Outreach Activities (AOA) Task Force**

This report was provided by AOA Task Force Chair Virginia Dominguez, who circulated flyers for ASF, Antropólogos Sem Fronteiras.

Established by the AOA Task Force, ASF will make it possible for a global network of anthropologists to take action in cases in which groups of people belonging to self-identified communities face political, economic, or even survival challenges. ASF establishes links between groups seeking anthropological specialists who can act as critical readers, analysts, and reviewers of reports and documents with respect to which such groups may have substantial doubt. The cultural familiarity and insight that anthropologists can bring to such situations is of great interest to the social groups as well as to the non-governmental entities that support them, to governments, and to international organizations, and is potentially crucial to the peaceful and just resolution of disputes and conflicts.

She mentioned that the ASF Treasurer had passed away recently.

She said that the ASF website is being created, and that Tim Landry has been hired to do so. The statutes have been translated. Volunteer experts can now sign up on the website. ASF has not yet been approached by potential clients.

ASF was set up in Brazil in March 2013, and now is the time to set up branches elsewhere. Given the major work involved in getting this new organisation on its feet, the other AOA activities have been on the back burner.

Carmen Rial asked about the nature of the relationship between WCAA and ASF and the decision to establish ASF in Brazil. Virginia said that the parent-child metaphor describes it best. It was the decision of the Task Force to launch it in Brazil. Even though ASF, the 'child', is independent, it is very much in communication with WCAA, and there is an overlap of personnel between the two.

Carmen suggested that national associations should be involved in such decisions. Gustavo Ribeiro noted that Bela Feldman-Bianco, then President of ABA, was consulted at the time.

### **Ethics Task Force**

This report was presented by Task Force member Clara Saraiva. The WCAA is collecting ethics guidelines of member associations, but has no intention of imposing a single set of guidelines on all associations. The Task Force has organised a panel at the ASA (UK Association of Social Anthropologists) conference on 'Postcolonial Enlightenment and Ethics'.

### **Membership Report**

The report was presented by Mugsy Spiegel, the Organising Committee member in charge of recruiting new member associations, who said that the WCAA currently has 44 members. There will be applications forthcoming from China, Jordan and Latvia, and there was a recent query from Pakistan. Leslie Aiello noted that the American Association of Physical Anthropologists would like to join WCAA.

### **The WCAA-IUAES Relationship**

This discussion was chaired by WCAA Vice-Chair SETHA Low, and concerned the WCAA's relationship with the International Union for the Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES), the global association that was first established in the early 20th Century. She noted that there were ongoing discussions at Chiba between the two executives in the hope of establishing a closer relationship. She mentioned that Thomas Reuter had put forward a proposal for finances for the unified entity.

She said that it is important for us to clarify why the WCAA is important, regardless of this coming together. The organising committee had been asked and had offered their perspectives on this -- the WCAA enables exposure to other anthropologies, is a leadership incubator, has produced important intellectual work and concrete products such as *Deja Lu*, has been a force for democratisation etc.

For the future, international meetings of WCAA delegates will need to be less frequent and may give way to more local and regional meetings. It will be even more important for Organising Committee members to have broader regional distribution, since individual OC members may need to be responsible for their regions.

To bring about a closer relationship with IUAES, SETHA said we would suggest a joint committee of the two organisations.

Funding for the WCAA would be a challenge after the end of the Wenner Gren grant period. SETHA noted that Thomas Reuter had suggested that each WCAA member association should charge their members a minimal amount of \$1 or 2 each, which can then be contributed to the WCAA and IUAES.

Monica Heller said that members of associations will need to know what they are getting in return. Francine Saillant talked about the unique intellectual project of the WCAA, which in her view was a transformational moment for anthropology. Virginia Dominguez noted that the WCAA does things that the IUAES does not do, and suggested that the WCAA should also try to fund raise privately from individual anthropologists.

Sachiko Kubota noted that bringing IUAES and WCAA together was important since it was hard to explain to JASCA members why JASCA was contributing to both.

Mugsy Spiegel observed that both IUAES and WCAA would be changed in coming together, and that there would be three legs to the new entity -- the IUAES Council of Commissions, the WCAA as a parallel council, and the IUAES general assembly. It would be good to aim to bring IUAES and WCAA together by the 2018 IUAES Congress in Brazil. He referred to the history of the IUAES and the WCAA, and the role that the WCAA has played in the recent rejuvenation of the IUAES.

IUAES President Faye Harrison spoke of her involvement with the IUAES for 21 years, and said that while the WCAA and IUAES are complementary, they are positioned differently on the global terrain. She noted that conversations about world anthropologies (though articulated differently) have been ongoing in different IUAES commissions over the decades. IUAES is now experiencing a resurgence after a period of crisis, and the nature of its collaboration with WCAA will need to be worked out.

Gustavo Ribeiro noted that the WCAA was founded in response to that crisis within IUAES.

## End of meeting.

### Attendees

Name (institution)	Country - Association represented (Acronym)
Ana Raissa T. Trindad	Anthropological Association of the Philippines
Arturo ?	Brazil (ABA Regional Director)
Carmen Rial	Brazil (ABA)
Chandana Mathur	WCAA and Anthropological Association of Ireland
Clara Saraiva	Portugal, Europe (APA, SIEF)
Ed Liebow	USA (AAA)
Faye Harrison	IUAES
Francine Saillant	Canada (CASCA)
Gordon Mathews	WCAA, Hong Kong Anthropological Society
Greg Acciaioli	WCAA
Gustavo Lins Ribeiro	Brazil - (IUAES, ABA Advisory Committee)
Hector Guazon	Anthropological Association of the Philippines
Junji Koizumi	Japan (JASCA, IUAES)
Leslie Aiello	WCAA, WGF
Luis Roberto Caroso du Olivera	Brazil (ABA Advisory Committee)
Michal Buchowski	WCAA and Polish Ethnological Society
Monica Heller	USA (AAA)
Mugsy Spiegel	WCAA and IUAES
Olga Orlec	Croatian Anthropological Association
Petr Skalnik	Czech Republic (CASA)
Sachiko Kubota	Japan (JASCA)
Setha Low	WCAA
Shao-hua Liu	Taiwan (TSAE)
Soumendra Patnaik	Indian Anthropological Association
Vesna Vucinic-Neskovic	WCAA
Virginia Dominguez	Chair, WCAA Task Force on Advocacy and Outreach Activities