Report
WCAA Biannual Meeting
National University of Ireland, Maynooth, 23-24 July 2010

Session 1

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Prof Thomas Reuter, welcoming delegates from more than 20 member associations, including Raminder Kaur (ASA), Soumendra patnaik (IAA), Chandana Mathur (AAI), Vesna Vucinic-Neskovic (InASEA), Verena Stolcke (ICA), Karl-Heinz Kohl (GAA/DGV), Gordon Matheus (HAA), Margarita Bolanes Arquin (ALA), Virginia Dominguez (AAA), Carlos Caroso (ABA), Mugsy Spiegel (ASnA), Michael Goldsmith (ASAA/NZ), Sachiko Kubota (JSCA), Janice graham (CASCA), Laurent Bazin (AFA), David Shankland and Hilary Callan (RAI), William Kavanagh (AAACL), Leslie Aiello (WGF), Linda Connor (AAS), Gustavo Lins Ribeiro (WCAA-OC), and Junji Koizumi (IUAES, WCAA-OC). Yuri Chistov (RAA) and Robert Akoko (PAAA) had to cancel late due to visa issues.

Members presented brief reports to update the council on the state of their associations and any new developments in their respective countries which affect the work of anthropologists. Some of the common issues include the increasing audit culture within universities, the ranking of journals for research quality assessment, and changing funding conditions. Generally, associations are coping well with these challenges and have a stable or growing membership base. It is planned to make the reports available on the WCAA website.

Session 2

1. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair discussed the following (pre-circulated) report for the period since the last major meeting, in Kunming, China.

Interim Meetings were held at the AAA meeting in Philadelphia 2009 and the ABA meeting in Belem, 2010. Smaller meetings were held in Buenos Aires and Berlin.

New Members (6) who joined the WCAA this year are CGA (Argentine Assoc. of Anthropology; Colegio de Graduados en Antropología de la República Argentina); AAI (Anthropological Association of Ireland); CAC (Colegio de Antropólogos de Chile); AACL (Asociación De Antropología De Castilla Y León, Spain); InASEA (International Assoc. for Southeast European Anthropology); IAA (Indian Anthropological Association). Other inquiries were received from Israel and Iran. A special welcome was extended to the first time delegates of these associations.

Political Activities included
- Statement Regarding Indigenous Human and Political Rights in Peru, July 2009
- Signed Petition against violence in Honduras, August 2009
- Disseminated a letter from a Nyungar Aboriginal Elder to protect the remnants of the heritage of his people from the onslaught of development (Darling Range, Australia)
- Letter of support requested by French Association in response to Pres. Sarkozy's plan to undermine the university sector, and again in support of an AFA statement of concern about French government efforts to institute a ethno-national identity, 2009
- Protest letter to OECD, regarding their "Fields of Science and Technology" (FOS) reclassification of anthropology as a subcategory of sociology; April 2010

Other Activities included
- Reorganization of the WCAA Organizing Committee in the aftermath of Kunming (early resignation of former chair Junji Koizumi, replaced by deputy chair Thomas Reuter; Shahlini Randeria appointed acting deputy chair)
- Collected eleven papers from the Kunming symposium for publication
- Website development (strategic plan, grant application, negotiating an arrangement with NomadIT, liaising with NomadIT in the process of executing the website proposal)
- Extensive preparations for biannual meeting in Maynooth: incl. liaison with EASA organizers, grant application and symposium organization (special thanks to Laurent Bazin and Mugsy Spiegel)
- Continuous information dissemination work regarding member associations' events etc.
- Continuous internal management work (e.g. maintaining membership data and contacts)

Finances:
The WCAA does not charge member fees and does not have a regular funding stream. This has some disadvantages, but the advantage has been that free membership has encouraged growth and has helped us to be inclusive toward associations that are small or financially weak for other reasons, and may otherwise have hesitated to join.
We have had to fund biannual international meetings, four times so far – if we include the meeting in Recife, Brazil, that led to the formation of WCAA. We have been able to do this with the support of conference grants from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, and we are very grateful for this support. However, there are limitations for conference grants and we have therefore had to prioritize delegates from developing countries or small associations. In addition, the funding is not officially for our biannual meeting but for the associated symposium. This creates difficulties in terms of coordination with the organizers of the conference to which the symposium is attached, in this case EASA. Finally, we have had expenses relating to our website. Once more, the Wenner-Gren Foundation has supported us, this time with a special initiatives grant of US $8210. This funding is on a once-only basis and does not cover the cost of website maintenance. As a consequence, we had to raise funds from members. We decided, at our last meeting in Kunming, that we would not establish a membership-fee system but would ask some of the larger associations for donations. Donations of approximately US $500 were received with thanks from AAA, EASA, JASCA, ABA and EASA. A tax-free not-for-profit-organization bank account was established in Australia in the name of WCAA with Porf Reuter as the trustee. The account currently holds AU$ 2638 (see account statement). No withdrawals have been made to date because the website is still under construction. According to our agreement with Nomad IT the maintenance will cost approximately GBP 1120 per annum. We thus have sufficient funds for the website until the end of 2011.
A proposal for on-going funding was received from Wenner-Gren, subject to a five-yearly review and conditional on regular reporting and appropriate planning.

2. WEBMASTER'S REPORT
Rohan Jackson of NomadIT was appointed as the WCAA webmaster last year, following lengthy consultation, planning and a successful funding application to Wenner-Gren. Rohan has begun the process of refurbishing the WCAA website, and establishing streamlines procedures for its on-going maintenance. Eli Bugler is the webweaver.
The website has been upgraded to allow for greater accessibility, access keys and added search functions. The website is being moved out of the content management system used previously, because it was limiting. It is now hosted directly by NomadIT. An on-line list of WCAA delegates has been established at wcaa@net.org.
Discussion:
Rohan mentioned the ideal of having one common address list of all the different associations' membership administrators, whereby conference information could be published worldwide. It was decided that because webmasters of national associations are often busy, it is best to convey information both to Rohan and to the national webweavers on the list.

Verena Stolke brought up the language issue and the possible hegemony of English in the WCAA website. Rohan stated that he can provide translations into French and Spanish. Beyond that, each association is asked to provide a translation into English of the text which describes the association, and of any other material which they wish to be available in their native language. ACTION: All Delegates

Rohan discussed the plan for a research database, but said that it would require a common language to be effective: presumably this would be English. The content of the database should aid research collaboration. A search of available data bases is required to avoid duplication. ACTION: Rohan Jackson & Shalini Randeria.

The discussion turned to blogging. Blogs need constant new content, and rapidly die out otherwise. ASA has tried to recruit people to run a blog for a limited period of time: two months, for example, to prevent blogs from dying out. As for WCAA, a small team of people—not just techies—will need to take this on, and develop this. Content must come from different associations and their delegates. ACTION: Rohan and Shalini Randeria are to explore these options.

Issues Arising from the Reports:
Interim Meetings scheduled for the next 2 years so far include: IUAES IC Antalya 2010, AAA New Orleans 2010; IUAES IC/AAS/AASNZ Perth 2011, EASA 2012. When any association has a regional meeting, possible meetings with WCAA should be explored.

Next biennial meeting, in 2012, will be located in India (ASA offshore/IAA/IAS conference) or in Chile (ALA/CAC conference) or in South Africa (AsnA, PAAA conference). ACTION: Organising Committee to consult, discuss and decide.

New members: The WCAA prefers to have unanimous decisions on admission of members, made by all existing members. We have not necessarily followed the UN model of only admitting associations based on the nation-state. Diaspora groups of dissident researchers are difficult to classify, and we have so far not admitted associations dealing with anthropological subfields but organizations (like RIA and Wenner-Gren) can be members (not just associations). WCAA needs to consider a more detailed set of principles for deciding who can be a member. Also, new members should be recruited by active invitation. ACTION: Setha Low

Website: There might be possible to build a database of our individual members, to allow individual researchers to find members in other countries, particularly to find research partners in developing countries. This data base would extend to all associations' members, allowing them to network.

OECD classification issue needs to be addressed:. ACTION: Laurent Bazin, Thomas Reuter, Shalini Randeria

Finances:
In the future, WCAA will require more detailed account-keeping and therefore it will be necessary to have a treasurer. Refer to constitutional amendment, below.
It was decided to continue to raise money through periodic requests for donations from larger member associations, rather than raise membership fees across the board.
Other sources of funding are to be explored by a designated executive member (below).
Most importantly, WCAA received an offer from Leslie Aiello that Wenner-Gren Foundation will provide ongoing support—$15,000 per annum—on a five-year review basis. Until now, maximum funding for Wenner-Gren for conferences was $15,000 every two years. This is thus a huge step forward. However, Wenner-Gren will need to monitor and be accountable for how that money is spent, and an annual report on expenditure will be necessary, to satisfy "due diligence" laws in the US. Wenner-Gren will not specify exactly how the money should be spent. However, it has asked whether

Wenner-Gren can have membership on the organizing committee of WCAA, so that it can be aware of where the money is going before it is spent, although without a veto power. Thomas Reuter asked the members of WCAA, "Are we willing to enter into this closer relation to Wenner-Gren?" with he himself recommending that WCAA do so. An extensive discussion ensued, mainly exploring whether this would compromise WCAA autonomy. The conclusion was that it would not, but would rather enable a good working relationship.

A vote was then held and a unanimous decision was made by acclamation to amend the constitution, as follows:

Article 5

An Organizing Committee made up of the WCAA Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and four other International Delegates from different world regions will be elected to ensure the efficient management of the WCAA's business. In addition there will be one appointed voting member of the Organizing Committee and one further appointed non-voting member of the Organizing Committee who holds the Treasurer portfolio.

- The Organizing Committee supersedes the earlier "Executive Secretariat" of the WCAA
- The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the WCAA (see Article 4) are simultaneously the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Organizing Committee
- The four other, ordinary members and the appointed members of the Organizing Committee will all serve for a period of four years.
- Two ordinary members of the first Organizing Committee elected in 2008 will rotate off and be replaced in two years time (at the 2010 election), and thereafter, two ordinary members will rotate off and be replaced at every subsequent biannual election. The two longest serving ordinary members will normally rotate off first, unless another member chooses to step down instead.
- The undesignated appointed member will be appointed first at the 2010 biennial meeting with the appointment reconsidered every second biennial meeting thereafter.
- The appointed Treasurer will be appointed by the voting members of the Organizing Committee on the recommendation of the Chair.

A further vote was then conducted and Leslie Aiello was elected as the first appointed member. The Chair was charged with the task of identifying a suitable person for the office of treasurer (preferably in Australia where the account is located, and where it is required for the account holder to be an Australian citizen. It was agreed that it is impractical to keep relocating the account.)

Session 3
In order to discuss and plan the activities of the WCAA over the next two years, a discussion was held in small groups on a range of current topics, as follows:
1. *Ethics is important because common values are a foundation for joint action.* Should we develop some general ethical statement based on the ethics statements we have received from members? Are there some basic principles we agree on that would be useful to articulate? Should we have a database of national ethics codes?
2. Are there any global issues to which WCAA should give priority focus on over the next two-year period? We could make these priority issues the topic of our forthcoming sessions at major conferences.
3. What is the state of publishing in different associations and what are the problems that we are facing? Can we collect this information and create a report on-line that might guide us in our thinking about what we could contribute? Could WCAA be a clearing-house for issues to do with international publishing?
4. What are greatest needs of member associations, and how WCAA can be of assistance in solving some of these problems?
5. What kinds of concerns might we encounter if we grow even larger?
6. Do we need to offer our members more information services? Should we increase communication and, if so, at what level - between delegates or between members?

Results were collated and discussed, with the aim of producing a strategic plan.

Strategic plan:
A strategic plan was set forth for WCAA, and three task forces were set up to address the major concerns identified in the group discussions..

A task force on ethics issues was established. Members are Janice Graham, Laurent Bazin and Leslie Aiello. Other interested delegates, however, may join this or any of the other task forces. The ethics task force will collect codes of ethics from all different member anthropological associations to analyze their differences and commonalities. The aim is to arrive at a common statement of basic principles, to be endorsed by the WCAA.
ACTION: Ethics Task Force

A second task force was established consider global human rights and justice issues that are of concern to our discipline, and on which we can provide expert advice to other organisations or institutions. WCAA is able to comment and act upon important issues in an "anthropology without borders." In particular, WCAA needs to engage in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Virginia Dominguez argued that WCAA needs some sort of public project presence: "We need not just to identify things we care about, but more, to begin to do something about issues we really care about. This could be like 'Medicins Sans Frontiéres' and other similar organizations." Delegates agreed that this could be an umbrella project of WCAA. A task force was formed, chaired by Virginia Dominguez and co-chaired by Chandana Mathur. Other members volunteering to serve include Carlos Caroso, Soumendra Patnaik, Mugsy Spiegel, Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, Verena Stolcke, Vesna Vucinic-Neskovic and Janice Graham.
ACTION: Global Issues Task Force

A third task force will examine publishing and performance assessment, and will endeavor to establish an on-line journal, republishing from existing associations' journals, that have already been peer-reviewed by these associations. The title "Deja-Lu" was suggested. The task force chair is Gordon Mathews, and members are Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, Karl-Heinz Kohl and Margarita Bolanos Arquin.
ACTION: World Publications task Force

Other points of discussion: Needs of Member Organizations etc
This was not fully explored, because of lack of time, but is still open; Thomas Reuter said that anyone could e-mail him any time about any concerns. Among needs that must be considered are those of funding, the reproduction of the discipline through undergraduate membership and job availability for new persons in the profession; the feminization of the profession, with implications for professional prestige and perceived authority; tensions in links between museum and university anthropology (could museology be within WCAA?), as well as tensions regarding public and private sector anthropology and university anthropology. Should there be a WCAA affiliate organization category (e.g. museology)?
ACTION: Chair

Session 4
This session was to discuss the distribution of responsibilities within the executive and beyond. The task forces have been mentioned already. The members of the organizing Committee agreed to take on duties as follows:
1. Membership (encouraging organizations to join)   Setha Low
2. Finances (account, invoicing organizational donations, etc)   Treasurer (tba)
3. Governance (votes, communication, general WCAA affairs)   Thomas Reuter
4. Website oversight (liaison with NomadIT)   Shalini Randeria
5. Political outreach (letters, initiatives)   Michal Buchowski
6. Grants (identifying funding sources and writing proposals)   Carlos Caroso
7. Meetings organization (WCAA sessions at big conferences)   Mugsy Spiegel

Session 5

Three members of the organizing Committee ended their term with the Maynooth meeting, Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, Junji Koizumi and Henk Pauw; WCAA thanks them for their generous service.

Newly elected in Maynooth are Carlos Caroso (Brazil), Mugsy Spiegel (South Africa) as committee members, and Michal Buchowski (Poland) as Deputy Chair. Michal will become the next Chair of WCAA in 2012.

Also newly appointed to the Organizing Commitee, as its seventh member, is Leslie Aiello (President, Wenner-Gren Foundation). A treasurer, who will be a non-voting executive by appointment, will also be selected.