



## **WCAA interim delegates meeting Washington, D.C.**

5 December 2014

Minutes prepared by WCAA Secretary Lorne Holyoak.

The meeting was co-chaired by WCAA organising committee members David Shankland, Carmen Rial, and Gordon Mathews.

### **Reports**

#### **1. Report on Biennial Meeting in Taipei, October 1-2, 2014**

The WCAA Chair had provided a detailed report on the Taiwan meeting, which was welcomed, and read out.

It was noted that:

1. The question of the research councils increasingly requesting access to raw data was discussed at length. It was agreed that this was a worrying development and that this would be something that could be taken up potentially at the international as well as the national level.

**The meeting requested that the Chair of the WCAA make contact with the President of the IUAES on this matter, to see whether collective representations could usefully be made. It was also suggested that delegates contact the WCAA secretary in order to receive more information about this trend.**

2. The election results were reported to the delegates, and it was noted that quorum was not reached at the meeting in Taipei so the results were ratified by email. There were no questions from the delegates about the elections.
3. It was noted that the RAM conference in Montevideo in December 2015 will be the largest meeting of anthropologists in Latin America. It is hoped that WCAA participation in this conference will encourage other organizations in Latin America to join the WCAA in a more effective way. It was further noted that at every association meeting a WCAA panel could be held. Delegates were requested to talk to their associations about having a WCAA sponsored panel in their association's annual event. Proposers of the panels should be delegates and the participants can be anyone.
4. David Shankland, as the new Treasurer, explained that unfortunately the regular grant that has been awarded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation will shortly come to an end. This was because it is not their policy to fund the core costs of an organisation indefinitely. The Treasurer thanked the Wenner-Gren for their generosity, which has been vital in establishing the WCAA, and explained that henceforth this meant that regular dues would have to be solicited. These would have to be set according to the means of any respective institution to pay. He also added that this would mean

that it would not be possible in future to fund delegates simply to come to a meeting. Rather, that WCAA meetings would have to take place in the wider context of academic conferences for which funding to attend could be solicited in the normal way. He added too, that in order to save money the organisational committee would meet where at all possible by Skype.

## **Discussion**

There was some discussion about possible solutions to the funding problem. **It was suggested by David that the WCAA could ask the associations to pay a membership fee. He asked the delegates to ask their respective associations whether they would be willing to pay and what they would be ready to pay or can afford to pay to be part of the WCAA. The delegates agreed to enquire with their associations about this matter.**

In response to a question, the chairs clarified that the original Wenner-Gren grant was for 5 years, and that it was clear from the beginning that it was for a 5 years period. It is unlikely that they will fund for another 5 years, except if the WCAA re-applies for other project funds, but nothing is certain.

A delegate asked what type of project it could be and suggested that it might be a project to fund a financial plan and explore alternative funding models to what was proposed above. Are there other ways to generate revenues for the organisation that we could explore if we had a grant?

The question of joining IUAES to help with funding was raised. The chairs responded that it is possible the configuration of such a union would be complicated. Other projects could be supported by the Wenner-Gren but we have to identify something.

**The chairs requested that delegates email their funding ideas to the organising committee.**

5. In response to a question by Setha Low, it was reported that the view of the majority of the Organizing Committee was that politics should not enter into the WCAA with regard to the potential boycott of any one of its members.

## **6. Upcoming Interim Meetings**

There are a substantial number of associational conferences and these would provide a welcome opportunity for the WCAA to propose panels and for its delegates to meet each other. All were encouraged to advertise these conferences through the list. Once accepted by a conference, it was assumed that the panel would be open to paper proposals in the normal way, its distinctiveness being in the fact that it was sponsored by the WCAA. Interim meeting sites for delegates for 2015 include the AAI in Cork (March), the IUAES in Bangkok (June), the SIEF in Zagreb (July) the AAA in Denver (November) and the RAM in Montevideo (December).

## **7. WCAA Strategic Plan: Project-based Activity**

As WCAA approaches the end of its seed-funding period, it has been suggested that it could perhaps re-imagine itself as a large research network with a uniquely global reach. If all the member associations were to collaborate on collective research that can only be practicable for such an association of associations, WCAA can access project-specific funding for research symposia that will simultaneously serve as delegates' meetings. Greg Acciaioli has suggested that the WCAA could accurately map the actual face of anthropology today if member associations were to pool data about the kind of work their members do (whether academic or applied anthropologists, what kind of research they are employed to do etc.). The findings of this "Global

Survey of Anthropological Practice” could be shared at a symposium that would also be a biennial meeting.

## 8. **WCAA-IUAES Future Relations: Ad Hoc Committee Report**

Support for negotiations leading to unification with the IUAES was reaffirmed at the meeting in Taipei. The negotiations to merge with the IUAES were being led through a bilateral series of talks. These were progressing well, though a number of details needed to be resolved. At present, it appeared that a formal vote on the question of unification would be made on the basis of written proposals at the IUAES Brazil meeting in 2018, though there would be ample occasion to hold discussions up to that point, and there may emerge opportunities to co-operate before then.

## 9. **Specific Issues**

### a. World anthropologies syllabi project

AAA Committee on World Anthropologies: It is proposed to put an invitation to WCAA members, sharing a call for syllabi. Then, they will gather syllabi and make them available on the WCAA and the AAA websites and make them available to other organizations. This could be a service for all anthropologists if it is productive. They have received only one syllabus since they launched the invitation to AAA members. They would like to determine how to do this with input from the WCAA.

**It was suggested that the call for syllabi be directed once again through the WCAA secretary for distribution to all WCAA member associations.**

The AAA Committee on World Anthropologies co-chairs, Bela Feldman-Bianco and Florence Babb, who participated in the meeting as observers, also made reference to their bibliography project on world anthropologies, which has doubled in size since last fall, and **which they would like to share with other associations.**

### b. WCAA website: How to improve the present list of journals

Gordon Matthews reported that Deja Lu was progressing well, and that he welcomed further contributions. He urged all present at the meeting to go through the journal listings relevant to their associations on the WCAA website to detect any errors, following the detection of a number of problems by the delegate from Brazil. He also noted that he will have a graduate student available to update those listings in spring 2015.

## 6. **Task Forces Report**

Ethics Task Force: Nayanika Mookherjee (substituting for Raminder Kaur) said that the Task Force has limited capacity to see through what they have identified. Clear and swift lines of administrative support are required to update the WCAA Ethics Taskforce page to connect member associations’ web pages with ethical guidelines where they are available.

Outreach Task Force: Virginia Dominguez reported that ASF (Antropologos Sem Fronteiras) is ready to start with activities, but that there has not yet been a request for it. She also reported that ASF-US was founded in 2014, and Soumendra Patnaik is establishing ASF-India.

## 7. **Other News and Announcements**

### **Upcoming events**

A few upcoming conferences were made note of:

IUAES Inter-congress, Bangkok

July 2015

Re-imagining anthropological and sociological boundaries

WCAA already submitted a panel on the relation between sociology and anthropology

2016 Dubrovnik, Croatia

May 2016

Theme: World Anthropologies and Privatization of Knowledge: Engaging Anthropology in Public

WCAA dialogue, intellectually with Croatian colleagues

Wide anthropological topics

Call for panels at the beginning of 2015

Everything will be on the website.

2017, New Zealand, Anthropology

CASCA 2017 Ottawa

IUAES 2018, Florianapolis, Brazil

2019 AAA-CASCA, Vancouver

3<sup>rd</sup> week of November

End of the meeting.

**List of Attendees:**

Florence Babb - incoming co-chair of the AAA Committee on World Anthropologies (observer)

Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, CASCA

Michal Buchowski, PEA (Polish Ethnological Association)

Hana Cervinkova, EASA

Virginia Dominguez, WCAA Outreach Task Force Chair

Bela Feldman-Bianco, continuing co-chair of the AAA Committee on World Anthropologies (observer)

Faye Harrison, IUAES

Monica Heller, AAA

Junji Koizumi, IUAES

Setha Low, WCAA Advisory Board Member

Gordon Mathews, WCAA Organizing Committee member and HKAA

Sasa Missoni, HAD (Croatian Anthropological Society)

Nayanika Mookherjee - WCAA Ethics Task Force member

Mary Beth Moss, Wenner-Gren Foundation

Karsten Paerregaard - Swedish Anthropological Association

Carmen Rial, WCAA Organizing Committee member and ABA

David Shankland, WCAA Treasurer and RAI

Alisse Waterston - AAA Vice-President and President-Elect (observer)

Filippo Zerilli - ANUAC (Italy)