



IAAS Annual General Meeting (30.04.22)

Via Zoom

Present:

**Catherine Gander (CG), Katherine Fama (KF), Sarah McCreedy (SMcC),
Philip McGowan (PMcG), Janice Deitner (JD), Maria Manning (MM), Caroline
Schroeter (CS), Adam Kelly (AK).**

1. Apologies

Apologies from Tim Groenland (TG), Fionnghuala Sweeney (FS), and Nerys Young (NY).

2. Minutes and Matters arising

Catherine Leen's name is to be amended on the 2021 AGM minutes. CG would also like to clarify that money was moved from Maynooth into the IAAS account in order to pay keynote speakers, as this avoided the Maynooth payment system and potential issues with PPSN numbers for international payees.

3. Chair's Report

CG expresses sincere thanks to MH, and, as CG said in opening remarks, his conference team. CG thanks Thomas Caffrey for technical support, as well as

SMcC and Jack for tweeting. Big thanks go to TG, CS, and KF for always stepping up for the IAAS. It's been a fantastic conference with enriching papers. It has been quite mobilising: Joy Porter's keynote is one of the best talks CG has attended in a long time. CG does raise that it would have been lovely to see more people at the keynote, considering we have 40 or so delegates. The keynote was recorded and will be on the IAAS YouTube channel.

In other news, CG reports that the IAAS, as it has done in the past when PMcG was chair, got together with the Clinton Institute to support and assess the Dartmouth scholarship for 2022. Dartmouth run a week long American studies programme. The Clinton institute is funding 1 PhD or early career scholar to go, flights and accommodation will be paid for. The stipulation is that the recipient has to be a member of the IAAS. CG met with Liam Kennedy about this, and one lucky IAAS member will be going to Dartmouth in June. This scholarship will be going on for the next 3 years. Liam agrees with CG that we can push the publicity a bit more next year.

On a different note, CG extends the IAAS's condolences to two very dear friends and committee members: Nerys and Philip, who have both suffered bereavement lately. We're very sorry and send our love and condolences.

4. Treasurer's report

In absentia due to personal circumstances, NY sends this report:

The IAAS is doing well financially with both our income from memberships and our JSTOR revenue being slightly up on last year. Our current cash on hand is 7165.44. The other reason for our elevated finances is that over the last period we have not been giving out as much in bursaries and prizes due to covid, but with research trips starting to be thought of again this should start to go back to normal. There have also not been any large purchases or events in the last year which we have had to cover.

NY apologises that the report is short; she hopes the conference is going well and is very sad to have missed the great research and IAAS craic.

5. Membership Report

Currently we have 161 members with a total of 156 paying. There is a pretty even split with 76 concession members, 80 full members, and 5 emeritus members. TCD is still our highest institution on 16 members, UL is a close second on 15. SMcC also notes that we have 21 members from Europe. This is a significant increase due to the annual conference.

SMcC emphasises that this is the highest membership ever reported in the IAAS, which was recorded last year at 120. This is a real testament to the work of our chair and committee members to diversify the association: the kind of speakers we're inviting, the kind of community we're fostering to create a warm, respectful space for intellectual exchange. Well done everyone, long may it continue!

CG responds that the online events have enabled new members to join, of course we will move more towards in person events in the future, but we should think about how to best incorporate hybrid events.

In terms of this membership success, KF said there has also been stunning work done for ECR members and the resources we offer there.

6. Prizes report

KF reports that we've recruited readers for the next bursary round. For the book prize, we have JoAnne Mancini but we might need a third reader. We won't need as many readers as we did for anniversary season. KF notes that she does not always want CG to take on this extra work. CG clarifies that JoAnne was the last winner of the book prize.

KF provides a reminder about the book prize. The Peggy O'Brien book prize recognises the best work of American studies broadly conceived published in the last two years, the person has to be normally resident on the island. To enter, send three reading copies which cannot be returned. Details are on the website and another email will go out in May and June. Send us your books, but KF also needs a third judge. This will not be a huge time commitment, if we got a lot of judges this would be split up into rounds. CG also reminds that the book prize is for a monograph; it discounts edited collections and co-written things.

7. EAAS Representative Report

The EAAS Board convened on 5 April 2022, the day before the Madrid 2022 conference: half of the Board were in Madrid and the other half dialled in via Zoom.

New Board members: Anthony Castet replaces Nathalie Caron as AFEA rep; Izabella Kimak joins us as the new PAAS representative, replacing Zuzanna Ladyga; Jorge Bastos da Silva replaces Teresa Botelho as the APEAA representative; Karsten Fitz is the new DGfA rep replacing Carmen Birkle, who remains as Treasurer; and Adina Ciugureanu returns to replace Eduard Vlad as the RAAS representative.

Elections: PMcG notes that the EAAS confirmed a new Secretary General and a new VP. Incoming as Tatiani Rapatzikou's replacement for SG is Ingrid Gessner, the Austrian Association representative and a leading force in the Women's Network. And replacing Zuzanna Ladyga as VP is Aleksandra Izgarjan, of the University of Novi Sad, Board representative of AASSEE.

The EAAS Book Series, "European Perspectives on the United States: The European Association for American Studies Series" – (hold up with pandemic but...) we now have our first publications in the offing (Sept. 2022) with *Up in Arms: Gun Imaginaries in Texas* ed. Benita Heiskanen, Albion Butters and Pekka Kolehmainen the first off the production line.

The Rob Kroes Book Award this year has been awarded to Giulia Crisanti for her manuscript "Europeans Are Lovin' it? Coca Cola, McDonald's, and the Responses

to American Global Business in Italy and France, 1886-2015.” Further details on next year’s Award available on eaas.eu – any and all manuscripts are welcome for submission.

European Journal of American Studies: both Frank Gerits and Andrew Gross completed their terms of office as editors; they have been replaced by Helen Gibson (Erfurt) and Florian Zappe (Göttingen).

Postgraduate Travel Grants:

PMcG notes that there are similar issues to those KF discussed with our own travel grants. These have proven slightly more challenging to administer during the pandemic – a decline in applications has been matched by an inability to travel, so the EAAS have allowed awardees more flexibility in terms of their dates of travel. Discussions focused on alternative and supplementary research support mechanisms (e.g., payment for pdfs, access to remote archives, in-country interns to undertake specific research and archival work).

PMcG notes that the new EAAS rep will ideally bring a strong voice for support for travel grants and postgraduate opportunities.

PMcG reports on Forthcoming EAAS Events:

2023 Women’s Network Symposium, Debrecen Hungary (hybrid events, all events will be hybrid from this point on) – 31 March/1 April 2023 [proposed theme on Reproductive Health & Rights to mark 50th anniversary of Roe v Wade]

– want to support colleagues in Hungary despite president’s support for invasion of Ukraine, this discussion will be revisited.

2024 Biennial Conference – Amerikahaus, Munich – 70th Anniversary – c. 3-6 April 2024 [proposed theme of The American Immigrant Narrative, 1924-2024; wider conditions of migration and diaspora studies will no doubt come into play here]

2025 Women’s Network Symposium, Karlstad, Sweden

2026 Biennial Conference – Bologna, Italy

2027 Women’s Network Symposium – University of Novi Sad, Serbia has been proposed

Subscription Dues:

At each annual Board meeting PMcG and the EAAS vote on the rate of subscription for individual memberships to the EAAS. At the start of the pandemic the Board lowered this rate from €6 pp to €5pp: the EAAS voted in Madrid to keep the tariff at €5pp for 2023.

EAAS Finances & Assets:

As of 31 December 2021, the balance of the EAAS current account (held at Sparkasse Bank in Marburg, Germany) stood at €76.539,24. The committee may recall that the EAAS had to move the Amsterdam Trust Fund from the

Netherlands to Germany due to changes to regulatory requirements in the EU. Part of that Trust Fund remains in Amsterdam, totalling a modest €1.471,07 – this will be released once the investment portfolio in which this money is currently held is released from a legal proceeding totally unrelated to EAAS business. The remainder of the Trust Fund was transferred to 2 parallel financial mechanisms in Germany, divided 85% in a Tresor fund, and the remainder in Swisscanto. The value of those assets as of 31 December 2021 was €342.624,61. PMcG notes the decision to maintain a defensive risk strategy to our investments and to invest only in ethical portfolios has, to date, proved beneficial. Total EAAS assets as of 31 December 2021 stood at €420.634,92.

Because of tax exemption, PMcG points out that we can do two things: We can support American studies and we can support it in Europe.

PMcG reports on the new initiative for the Scholars at Risk Fund. A subcommittee was appointed comprising new incoming VP Aleksandra, Carmen the EAAS Treasurer, Andrea Carosso the Italian Association rep and the new Polish rep Izabella Kimak to oversee the management of a new financial support stream for Scholars at Risk. The fund could be open to anyone outside of Europe who wants to come to Europe because they are at risk. This came from colleagues in Ukraine, Belarus, but maybe it can support American studies in Europe from students coming from anywhere.

As EAAS President, PMcG wrote to Board members on 8 March with an emergency proposal: that the Ukrainian Association for American Studies

(UAAS) be admitted to full Board membership of the EAAS. All votes were in favour of this proposal. While this may, for now, be only of symbolic value to anyone in Ukraine and the UAAS, in the future, when this war is over, our Ukrainian colleagues and their postgraduate communities will need our help and, PMcG hopes, will benefit from our network as they seek to rebuild their lives and their careers, where possible.

When PMcG called the online vote to admit the Ukrainian Association, two of the first votes in favour came from our colleagues in Belarus and in Russia, Yuri Stulov and Larisa Mikhaylova. We must also keep our friends and colleagues in both Belarus and in Russia in our thoughts as they too are facing challenging circumstances. The very practice of their teaching and research, if not already curtailed, is the subject of continual surveillance. They too will need all the support and backing that we can give them, both now and in the coming months and years.

At the Madrid Board meeting, the EAAS ratified UAAS's full Board membership.

In conjunction with the Madrid conference hosts UNED, the EAAS has donated €4,300 from the proceeds of the 2022 conference to the International Red Cross.

PMcG reminds that the EAAS stands for freedom in all of its forms and practices: academic, religious, political, sexual, cultural, racial, and an individual's choice of their gender identification. The EAAS is and will remain an inclusive family of scholars and researchers.

CG responds that the scholars at risk fund is vital and asks when it will be enacted. PMcG says the EAAS is looking to have terms of reference by the end of the summer. It did take 3 hours to get people on Zoom and in the room to agree to this, PMcG tells us.

And with that, Philip's final EAAS report comes to a close - we're all very sorry that this will be the last meeting with him.

8. PG Report

This will also be MM's last report, CG notes we're sad to see MM go and thanks her for all the work done.

One of the big things JD has been doing work on is the discord server, where we will try to keep connections we have made at the conference to build a vibrant ECR community.

JD reports on the Write Together sessions that the group has been meeting once a week with 90 minutes sessions, this has just moved to two hours. There's no obligation to talk about your writing, just to chat and build community around writing. JD says they're trying to find the best time to do it. Current meetings are on Wednesdays at 1pm. The consensus is that meetings should be during the week, but at a time when people from all over the world could join in.

On the server, there is a section to continue the conversations and a conference hangout section.

JD will circulate a flyer made about the writing together programme. SMcC will put this in the next newsletter.

There might be some trial and error of timings with the programme, and going into the summer people might have more time to join. CG notes it is a great idea, and she has seen it shared on Twitter.

9. Early Career Caucus Report

CS reports that the chairs will draw upon the annual conference's event to work towards a syllabus bank (to be launched some time soon). Both reps are also targeting the PG conference later in the year for another event, probably on funding/grant applications. CS highly recommends attendance at the ECR event later in the day.

TG cannot be here but will be present for the ECR workshop later. That's one of the main things for CS to report, that both have been working hard behind the scenes to get this event organised and the event later in the year. CS thanks KF and FS and TG who will do a presentation on their own syllabi to help ECRs and PGs joining later this afternoon.

CS reports that the ECR survey was sent out earlier in the year and both reps are trying to work towards the responses from that and to fulfil their election

promises. Both are hoping to continue this at the postgrad conference via a workshop to get people engaged and to have the opportunity to do practical work as well. The postgrad event will be about funding and applications.

CS says that they are hoping to offer the syllabus bank later this year, and expresses thanks to KF, FS and others who have offered to share some of their syllabi in anonymised form. CS and TG will talk about this more at the event later on.

CS's report comes to a close, and the committee congratulates her on an incoming family member; CS is pregnant and expecting in August.

10. IJAS Online Report

In their absence, TG and FS send this report:

Since the last committee meeting, *IJAS Online* has “published” Issue 10, with the full issue completed online (the PDFs are almost ready and will be sent to JSTOR in the coming weeks). As well as introducing the issue, our editorial pays tribute to David Coughlan for his work in establishing *IJAS* as an important platform for the multidiscipline and making it a flagship for American Studies in Ireland.

It also outlines some of the kinds of work that we're keen to see more of (“work that advances understanding of the human relationship with the natural, rural, urban and oceanic environment, or wider ecosystemic questions, past or present; that addresses questions of social justice, struggle and citizenship; or

that focuses on the cultural or artistic practice of marginal or marginalized individuals or communities”).

Our Marketing Officer Stephanie has started to promote the issue and is also working on a marketing plan that can be used for future issues (a mailing list of relevant organisations, scheduled social media posts across different platforms, etc.)

We’ve also started publishing Issue 11: just yesterday we published the first piece from the issue, a superb essay by Lily Ní Dhomhnaill on Susan Howe’s work entitled “‘a settled place’: Reproductive Performance in the Liberties and *The Liberties*.” We will shortly be publishing some reviews that Reviews Editor Keira has lined up, and we have more essays in the pipeline (including one of the winners of last year’s IAAS writing prize), so this year’s issue looks set to be a strong one.

CG reiterates the IAAS’s thanks to those working so hard on the journal, from David Coughlan, to TG and FS.

11. Elections to Executive Committee

There are three positions up for election: Postgraduate Representative, Ordinary Member and EAAS representative.

There are two nominations for the PG rep, namely Andrew Clarke (Maynooth University) and Ginevra Bianchini (TCD). The nominated parties were asked to leave the meeting to respect the election process and there was some deliberation. Andrew Clarke was duly elected to the committee, but CG thanked

Ginevra for her support and highlighted that the association would love to have her involved going forward.

There are two nominations for ordinary member: Richard Hargy (QUB) and Dolores Resano (UCD). Richard was absent and Dolores was also asked to leave the meeting briefly while the committee deliberated. Dolores Resano was duly elected to the committee as ordinary member.

Finally, Michael Hinds was put forward for the EAAS representative role. With some healthy encouragement from the committee, he graciously accepted the position.

12. AOB

In his last meeting as a committee member, PMcG says the association is amazing. He thanks CG, KF and SMcC as well as everyone for their hard work. And the committee warmly thanks Philip; the association would not be where it is today without him.

Finally, AK wishes to highlight the IAAS's acknowledgement of the death of Richard H. King, who passed away during the last couple of weeks. Richard was a giant of Americanist scholarship in this part of the world, and a longstanding member of BAAS. He was a mentor to AK and to many others, and there is great sadness at his passing.