



Minutes of EAAS Board Meeting, Constanta 21 April 2016

Present and representing member associations:

**DGfA Carmen Birkle
IAAS Philip McGowan
BLASA Gert Buelens
RAAS Adina Ciugureanu (Treasurer EAAS)
BAAS Martin Halliwell
ASAT Tanfer Emin Tunc
AASSE Stipe Grgas
PAAS Zuzanna Ladyga
AISNA Andrea Mariani
AEDEAN Juan Ignacio Oliva
CSAA Michal Peprnik
AAAS Ralph Poole
HELAAS Tatiani Rapatzikou (Sec.-Gen. EAAS)
BELAAS Yuri V. Stulov
NASA Marietta Messmer
APEAA Teresa Botelho
NAAS Alf Tomas Tønnessen**

**Philip Davies (President EAAS)
Pawel Frelik (Vice President EAAS)
Jacques Pothier (Webmaster EAAS)**

Apologies for absence from the following member associations:

**AFEA Isabelle Alfandary
BASA Kostadin Grozev
HAAS Tibor Glant
RSAS Irina Arkhangelskaya
SANAS Boris Vejdovsky**

1. Opening address

- a. Formal welcome from Rector from Ovidius University, Constanta, Romania.
- b. EAAS President – Philip Davies (PD): special thank-you to Rector and Adina Ciugureanu (AC) for conference hosting and organization; warm welcome of EAAS board members; welcomes incoming and thanks outgoing EAAS board members.
- c. EAAS Treasurer – Adina Ciugureanu (AC): thanks everyone for traveling to Constanta and for their participation in the 2016 EAAS Board Meeting and EAAS Conference.

2. Approval of 2015 EAAS Board Meeting in Lublin

- a. EAAS Secretary General Tatiani Rapatzikou (TR) provided an overview of the Lublin EAAS Board Minutes, these having been circulated in pdf form to the board members after that meeting in Lublin by the Secretary General (TR).
- b. These Minutes were approved and added to the EAAS website.

3. EAAS Conference 2016 Report

- a. EAAS Treasurer, Local Host, Conference Organizer – AC:
Commented on the change of the conference format and the organizational challenges this has triggered. She also commented on the positive outcome of this change with regard to the diverse array of papers it has attracted from both well-established academics and young scholars. The big number of delegates (400) that the conference in Constanta has attracted needs to be considered as regards planning for the conference in 2018 in London.
- b. EAAS President – PD: He thanked the local team and referred to the international profile of the conference. He asked future candidacies to tailor the conferences to their needs. He commented on the new feature in the conference program, the Presidents' Breakfast, an initiative recommended by Isabel Duran Gimenez-Rico (President of the Spanish Association for American Studies)

4. Financial Report

- a. EAAS Treasurer – AC:
AC presented Sheet I (income and expenses 2015, changes in assets in 2015), Sheet II (income and expenses 2015, income and expenses 2014), and Sheet III (budget plan for 2017, budget plan for 2016). She pointed out that there has been an increase in income (+€20,307.73) in 2015 compared to the expenses (+€9,378.9) procured in 2014 (conference, travel grants, publications, bank fees, board meeting). She added that the amount of expenses in 2016 has gone up to +€12,900.00 for the same reasons but this amount is expected to be reduced in 2017 (difference income, expenses +€9,800). She then presented the Amsterdam Trust Fund Report provided by Hans Bak. The amount in 2014 came up to +€269.688. This has increased in 2015 to +€285.515. Due to the steady growth of the Trust Fund, the amount of € 16,000.00 (ABN-AMRO, former Mees Pierson Portfolio) is introduced to the budget plan for 2016 (see income, Sheet III). (The same action had been taken in 2014 when the amount of €10,000.00 was transferred from the Trust to the EAAS bank account.) Since the new transferred amount was not spent, this contributed to the increase that is noted in the total income in Sheet III (total €52,000.00).
- b. AC drew attention to the travel grants expenses. In Sheet I the amount noted is that of €11,040.00 even though the initial amount was up to €14,000.00. One of the recipients asked for the amount in 2016, another recipient did not claim the grant, and two recipients from Italy and Spain claimed €600 each. As a result, money has been saved. AC referred to 2016 conference travel grants. Instead of the initial decision for 48 travel grants, the number dropped to 42 due to various withdrawals. Also half of the grant amount (€4,400) was contributed from the RAAS funds. This resulted to further savings.
- c. Gert Buelens (GB) and Carmen Birkle (CB) asked AC whether the money that was transferred from the Trust Fund could be counted as income since it was

only a transfer. AC answered by referring to Sheet II (the balance there was corrected during the Lublin meeting by GB) when the €10,000.00 amount from the ABN-AMRO (former Mees Pierson Portfolio) had been transferred to the EAAS bank account and considered as income. The same action was taken in Sheet I. AC explained that the interest produced comes from the transferred amounts. GB asked AC whether the same action can be taken for the budget plan in 2017 (Sheet III) and whether such a calculation can be accurate. AC responded that her assumptions are based on Hans Bak's reports and PD added that the amounts for 2017 are only speculative. He suggested that AC inserts any changes recommended and asked for the approval of the financial report (including the approval of the travel grant sum noted there).

- d. Hans Bak asked to step down from the position of the Amsterdam Fund Officer position. PD asked whether anyone from NASA would be interested in the position. [**Action:** PD asked Marietta Messmer (MM) to ask her association for a replacement and report back to the EAAS board].
- e. PD called attention to EAAS membership dues in 2015 and 2016. He referred to the restructuring of BLASA. AC asked the members of the EAAS board whether they agree for the **BLASA 2015 dues to be waived** due to its restructuring. **Everyone agreed.** PD added that it is important for the EAAS membership fee to be announced every year for the tax office in Germany.
- f. **The President proposed that EAAS Membership subscriptions be maintained at their present level of €6 per person. This was agreed unanimously.**
- g. However, concessions need to be considered when it comes to unemployed members and PhD candidates. Pawel Frelik (PF) asked whether a fee just for PhD candidates could be considered. Teresa Botelho (TB) said that in APEAA a two-tier fee is used. CB added that in DGfA a three-tier system is used with everything calculated on the basis of income levels and not academic status. AC suggested that the fee of the PhD candidates could be covered by full members if the fee increased to €12.00. TR and Yuri Stulov (YS) said that not all associations share the same financial status and member numbers. [**Action:** The new EAAS President and Treasurer should consider whether a change in the membership fee could be applied. This needs to be seen in conjunction with the EAAS financial condition. This topic will be discussed in the EAAS board meeting in 2017. A subcommittee is formed to look into this issue: Philip McGowan (PM), CB, Andrea Mariani (AM), TB, Michal Peprnik (MP)].
- h. AC presented the EAAS Dues tables. Although members have slightly decreased the total amount gathered from the membership fees remains the same (2015=€26,514; 2016=€26,396). DGfA still has the largest membership.
- i. AC also thanks Hans Jurgen (HJ) for all the help and assistance he offered with all EAAS financial arrangements with the tax office in Germany.

5. Election of Auditors

- a. At this point PD asked for the appointment of two Auditors for a final check and confirmation of EAAS finances. The two board members selected are: GB and Stipe Grgas (SG).

6. EAAS Conference 22-25 April 2018 in London, UK

- a. Martin Halliwell (MH) referred to the conference dates for the next EAAS conference, 4-7 April 2018. The institutions to host the conference are King's College London, University College London and Eccles Centre for American Studies (British Library). He added that the conference will start from King's College and gradually move to all other institutions so that is combined with a number of extracurricular activities in conjunction with the cultural institutions (museums and galleries) in the area.
- b. The conference organizing committee is made out of six (6) member representatives from all host organizations plus BAAS.
- c. The conference will start late morning on April 4th and finish late afternoon on April 7th. For all parallel sessions twenty (20) rooms have been booked.
- d. MH proposed three (3) thematic strands for the conference: global cities; 1968 and protest; new international relations (US in the 21st century and global politics). He added that BAAS is interested in attracting the attention of social scientists and performing artists. That is why the themes above have been suggested.
- e. As regards accommodation in London, MH said that different packages for all budgets will be proposed. An attempt will be made for keeping prices reasonable. For the Gala dinner, there is going to be an additional/optional cost.
- f. PD suggested the addition to the conference timetable of targeted meetings on career and research opportunities, professional development, and publications mentoring. MH said that this is going to be certainly part of the EAAS 2018 conference.
- g. MH referred to the set dates for meetings for the discussion of all the organizational/logistics details for the conference. He proposed that the new EAAS President and TR travel to London in June 2017 so as to participate in one of these meetings. MH said that he will report to EAAS during the board meeting in Lausanne in 2017 about the conference progress.
- h. MH asked the board members for suggestions concerning plenary speakers, additional thematic strands, ideas about cultural events. Alf Tomas Tønnessen suggested the themes of terrorism and refugee crisis. MH said that these could be rephrased as migration and security.
- i. YS expressed a concern about the delegates who participate in the EAAS conferences that are not necessarily members of the national associations. PD responded by saying that local membership recruitment is the responsibility of the national associations - but the attendance of non-members at the EAAS conference (who pay a higher conference fee) gives national associations the opportunity to solicit these Americanist colleagues as new recruits. PD asked MH to consider registration and cfp timelines. It is important that there is adequate time for certain problems to be resolved (in case of withdrawals and payment cancellations). MH said that registrations for the EAAS conference will terminate in February 2018. Also regular conference progress reports would be sent to EAAS board members via the EAAS Secretary General.

7. Candidacies for EAAS Conference 2020 and 2022

- a. AM reported that University of Venice, Italy, is interested in hosting the EAAS Conference 2020. There are members in its faculty working in the area of American Studies but there are no full professors.

- b. AM added that accommodation opportunities still need to be explored in the islands around Venice since the conference will coincide with the opening of the touristic season. Also, AM said that the conference fee would need to be reconsidered since people in Italy are not used to paying high conference fees.
- c. AM won't be able to report about the conference in the next board meeting since his term is coming to an end. PD asked whether AM's term could be extended. [**Action:** The University of Venice candidacy needs to be confirmed in the EAAS board meeting in 2017. Also candidacies for the EAAS conference in 2022 need to be confirmed.]

8. Nominations committee announcement of candidates for office

- a. TR assumes the chair. On behalf of the other two members of the nominations committee (Maria Holmgren Troy, Irina Arkhangelskaya) informs the EAAS board that nominations have been secured for the President's and Treasurer's positions. These are: President (PM, GB, AC) and Treasurer (AC, Zuzanna Ladyga). She added that these nominations do not preclude others from self-nominating. No other board members come forward.

9. Outgoing Officers - Address to the Board

- a. PD talked about the reforms he introduced to the EAAS board meeting in Moscow and how these were positively accepted by all the members. His changes have to do with modernizing the EAAS website, introducing the EAAS conference travel grants, altering the EAAS conference format, contributing to the organization/structure of EJAS. He said that he is hopeful of all the changes brought forward and he is thankful for everything that his participation in the EAAS board has offered him.
- b. AC referred to the challenges of being a Treasurer. She is keen on continuing the initiatives PD introduced in case she is reelected. One of her objectives is to increase the visibility of EAAS and promote certain collaboration initiatives and joint ventures between EAAS and other institutions, networks and associations with regard to conference organization and research opportunities. She is keen on increasing membership. She also believes that the EAAS publications strategy needs to be revisited.

10. Candidate Address to the Board

- a. GB talked about the connectedness he feels with the EAAS board since 2008. He believes that EAAS should be financing initiatives with networks plus publication ventures. He thinks that the EAAS publication strategy needs restructuring due to the low sales figures of EAAS book titles.
- b. PM talked about his experience in American Studies and the work he did in bringing IAAS back to life through an array of ventures and initiatives. He believes that EAAS member associations need to be more involved with EAAS actions. He is keen on forging links and connections. Also he thinks that the EAAS website and journal need to be refreshed so as to facilitate young scholar participation.

11. EAAS Elections – Ballots – Announcement of Results for the President and Treasurer Position

- a. The election results are as follows:

President:

Philip McGowan : 9 yes; no abstentions

Adina Ciugureanu: 4 yes; no abstentions

Gert Buelens: 4 yes; no abstentions

Treasurer:

Adina Ciugureanu: 13 yes; no abstentions

Zuzanna Ladyga: 4 yes; no abstentions

Philip McGowan and Adina Ciugureanu are duly elected as President and Treasurer respectively. They accept their election.

The change is to be reported to the Register of Associations.

12. European Journal of American Studies

- a. PD reported that EJAS introduced double issues to clear a backlog of high-quality material. Some issues were loaded in sections, but all current issues will be complete and online once the Senior Editor for the Journal's web presence (Cara Rodway) is back from maternity leave.
- b. The issues for 2016 are already mapped out. Dr. Frank Gerits is now part of the EJAS team of Senior Editors together with Dr. Cara Rodway and Dr. Marek Paryz.
- c. The Literature and Culture officer receives more submissions than the history and social sciences section.
- d. PD reminded the Board that the terms of five members of the EJAS Editorial Advisory Board would be completed by April 2017, and arrangements would need to be made in the forthcoming year to replace some of the membership of that Board. The details of the Advisory Board membership and terms of office are on the EJAS website.
- e. These issues will be discussed in a meeting during the Constanta conference between the outgoing and incoming Directors of the Journal and those of the editorial team present at the conference.

13. EAAS Publications and Rob Kroes Publication Award

- a. PD reported that the Rod Kroes and EAAS conference volume publications do not come out as originally scheduled. Also the production cost is very high. MM and Tanfer Emin Tunc ask whether the publisher can undertake the formatting of the book volumes so as to take the burden off Hans Jurgen's (HJ) hands. AC added here that she paid the amount of €700 to the PhD candidate who helped with the formatting of the volumes. The question is whether EAAS is willing to keep up with this practice.
- b. The number of libraries that hold these volumes is very small. HJ has already provided a list of all those Journals that have reviewed these volumes or are interested in reviewing. But reviewing again is not regular. GB asked whether a different publisher should be considered (ie. Cambridge Scholars Publishing). PF inquired about distribution of the volumes outside Europe and their promotion policy. **PM asked for a subcommittee to be formed to investigate the problem.** PD asked the EAAS board to commit to the publication of the next two volumes and report any thoughts they have on this issue to PM.

- c. Hans Jurgen (HJ) retired from his university position and EAAS cannot assume he will be able to continue his past voluntary commitment indefinitely. HJ asked whether EAAS board members could discuss with the Journals of their national associations the inclusion of such reviews. [**Action:** This is something that the new EAAS President will need to consider and resolve].
- d. The Rob Kroes Publication Award competition will be announced in fall 2016.
- e. AC shared thoughts about publication plans after the EAAS 2016 Conference. She reported that Peter Lang expressed an interest in getting a volume published. AC asked the EAAS board members whether the conference papers need to be organized thematically as well as about the evaluation and selection procedure to be followed. PF and CB suggested that a thematic organization of the conference papers needs to be considered. [**Action:** AC and TR will issue a call and send to all conference participants with information about publication opportunities].

14. Links with American Studies Association

- a. PD referred to the connection that was established with ASA members in The Hague EAAS Conference in 2014. He expressed the wish for such a connection to continue.
- b. PM said that he will be making contacts with ASA as well. MH added that an invitation will be extended to ASA for a special panel to be organized as part of the EAAS 2018 conference in London.

15. EAAS Travel Grants

- f. PF said that participation this year for the EAAS conference travel grants was low. He informed the members of the EAAS board that forty-seven (47) grants were awarded of €200 each. He suggested that a country list is posted on the EAAS website.
- a. PF added that for the transatlantic grants the selection procedure will take place after the EAAS 2016 Conference. The maximum amount requested was €2,000. Applicants needed to mention the lowest amount they could make ends meet with. The deadline of application was extended to April 17th, 2016. All applicants provided a project description and invitation letter. [**Action:** PF and TR will be meeting after the conference for a first evaluation of the applications that have been submitted. Then they will report to PD and AC for final selection.].

16. Auditors' Report

- a. The auditors (GB and SG) met, consulted the accounts and relevant documentation, and reported back to the EAAS board that the financial audit indicated that the handling of the accounts is correct.
- b. The Auditors signed a report to this effect (lodged with the Treasurer's files) and the EAAS board accepted the auditors' report unanimously.

17. Report on the EAAS website

- a. Jacques Pothier (JP) said that 253,000 visits were reported last year with 22,000 visits counted only in March 2016 compared to 16,000 that had taken place last year. All online activity connects with the uploading of EAAS documentation (minutes, grants, prizes) as well as conference and network

information. JP reported on high social media activity due to the upcoming conference.

- b. JP referred to the women.eaas.eu website which is part of the EAAS website that shows steadily increasing activity.
- c. The EAAS website needs to be redesigned. MH mentioned that the latest BAAS website design cost €12,000. PD considered this kind of upgrade necessary as this will contribute to the visibility and promotion of EAAS. [Action: PM, PF and JP will work together so as to report to the next board meeting].

18. Finalizing plans for EAAS Board Meeting in 2017

- a. Boris Vejdovsky (BV) reported to TR that the University of Lausanne (UNIL) will host the next EAAS board meeting in 2017. It will take place on Campus; the latter is 15 minutes away by public transport from town and from the hotels. Lausanne is located on the shores of Lake Léman, an hour away by train from Geneva (GVA) airport. GVA can be reached from all/most European capitals and transfer to Lausanne is very easy. Rooms will be reserved in one or two hotels through BV's department; hotels typically cost c. 140 €/night. BV said that he will seek to find some funding for coffee breaks. Another update will be sent to the members of the EAAS board in due course.

19. News from Networks and Member associations / Other items for discussion

- a. **DGfA Carmen Birkle:** The association had its annual conference, May 19-22, 2016 in Osnabrück on "The United States and the Question of Rights"; There will be the Conference of the Political Scientists in the GAAS: on "Balancing the Scales: The United States in an Age of Inequality" in November 10-12, 2016, in Berlin; Also the Conference of the Historians in the GAAS will have the title "The United States and World War I: Perspectives and Legacies" taking place February 10-12, 2017, in Heidelberg; the Conference of the Postgraduate Forum on no particular topic where the young scholars present their individual work is going to take place in October 6-8, 2016, in Hamburg and Bremen; the association awarded the following grants during its annual meeting: Fulbright American Studies Grant: Dr. Johanna Hartmann (Augsburg) Ambassador's Award for Young Scholars: Nicole Poppenhagen, M.A. (Flensburg) Ebeling Fellowship: Dr. Lukas Etter (Siegen) and Johanna Seibert (Mainz); The also GAAS mourns the sudden death of Dr. Rolf Hoffmann, Executive Director of the German American Fulbright Commission in Berlin, who died on April 21, 2016.
- b. **IAAS Philip McGowan:** The association had just had the joint conference with BAAS at Queen's in Belfast which was a huge success culminating in a reading by Richard Ford at Titanic Belfast. Ongoing successful postgraduate initiatives - symposium in November in Dublin - and a new Chair for the IAAS, Dr. Alan Gibbs from University College Cork.
- c. **BLASA Gert Buelens:** The Belgian and Luxemburg associations are going through restructuring. They would welcome the new EAAS President input in raising their membership. They are hoping that they will be able to implement all changes so as to manage the financial and membership restructuring as well.
- d. **RAAS Adina Ciugureanu:** RAAS has joined forces with EAAS for the organization of the conference in Constanta in April 2016. Also a volume

has been printed. Emphasis is placed on the promotion and indexing of their electronic journal. RAAS is considering the organization of a postgraduate conference. RAAS has also attracted lots of new members, in particular PhD candidates.

- e. **BAAS Martine Halliwell:** Earlier in April BAAS elected the 20th Chair of the Association, Professor Brian Ward, Professor of American Studies at Northumbria University. His term will be 2016-19. The Association sends its formal thanks to Dr Sue Currell of Sussex University, the outgoing Chair who has done a phenomenal amount of work for BAAS during her three-year term (2013-16); BAAS colleagues were pleased that the former Chair of BAAS, Professor Judie Newman of the University of Nottingham, was awarded a CBE in 2015; BAAS and the Irish Association for American Studies ran a successful joint conference at Queen's University Belfast, 7-9 April 2016 and a joint Postgraduate Conference between BAAS and the Historians of Twentieth Century United States (HOTCUS) at the University of Glasgow and Strathclyde University in December 2015; The BAAS Paperback Series at Edinburgh University Press continues to look for new titles and authors: <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/series-baas-paperbacks.html> For enquiries please contact the Commissioning Editor, Michelle Houston (Michelle.Houston@eup.ed.ac.uk) or the Series Editors Martin Halliwell (mrh17@le.ac.uk) or Emily West (e.r.west@reading.ac.uk). The *Journal of American Studies* continues to encourage quality articles from across the global American Studies community: see <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=AMS>
- f. **ASAT Tanfer Emin Tunc:** Conferences: November 2015: 37th International ASAT Conference in Antalya (Akdeniz University) on the theme of Transnational American Studies; Fall 2017: 38th International ASAT Conference in Ankara (Hacettepe University) on the theme of Love. A CFP will be sent through the EAAS mailing list in a few months. Journal of American Studies of Turkey: Issue 41 (Spring 2015, General Issue); Issue 42 (Fall 2015, Latino/a Studies); Issue 43 (Winter 2016, Supplemental Book Review Issue); Issue 44 (Spring 2016, General Issue); forthcoming: Issue 45 on F. Scott Fitzgerald (Fall 2016).
- g. **AASSE Stipe Grgas:** Certain members from Bosnia have formed an association which has connected with the regional one. This is an important move coming from the colleagues in Bosnia.
- h. **PAAS Zuzanna Ladyga:** In the past year PAAS has proven to grow in membership and attract Poland's young American Studies scholars. PAAS has developed its website to serve as a successful platform for popularizing conference and publication calls, both those directly connected to the discipline of American Studies and those encouraging transdisciplinary activity (<http://www.paas.org.pl/>). As of 2015, Polish Journal of American Studies, the peer-reviewed journal of PAAS is an indexed publication and EAAS members as well as members of peer associations are invited to consider submissions (<http://www.paas.org.pl/pjas/>). The 2015 PAAS Annual Conference, which was organized by the Department of Anglophone Cultures and Literatures, University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, attracted international participants and successfully consolidated Poland's Americanist Community. The 2016 PAAS Annual Conference will take place on 27-29 October 2016 in American Studies Center in Warsaw. The topic of

this year's conference is “Transnational American Studies: Histories, Methodologies, Perspectives” and all EAAS and peer association’s members are invited to consider the CFP featured on PAAS website as well as the EAAS website (direct link: <http://www.paas.org.pl/2016/02/2016-paas-conference/#more-1246>). The conference will be preceded by a two-day graduate students' workshop -- PAAS outreach initiative since 2012 -- the announcement of which will soon be posted on PAAS and EAAS e-platforms.

- i. **AISNA Andrea Mariani:** The biennial conference of the association is going to take place in late September in Naples. Membership is increasing due to PhD candidates who wish to join the association. Next year a new representative to the EAAS board will be sent.
- j. **AEDEAN Juan Ignacio Oliva:** The Spanish Asociacion for Anglo-American Studies (AEDEAN) held its 39th conference in Deusto (Basque Country) last November 2015, and will hold its 40th Anniversary from 11-13 November 2016 in Huesca, Aragon. Next year 2017 (also in November) the annual conference will be held in La Laguna (Tenerife, Canary Islands). The Spanish Association for American Studies (SAAS) will hold its biennial conference 4-7 April 2017 in Cáceres, Extremadura, having the topic of “Understanding (Human) Nature.”
- k. **CSAA Michal Peprnik:** The Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies organized together with Palacký University Olomouc the 20th International Colloquium of American Studies. The topic of this international conference was Assimilation in America – a Good or a Bad Word? (June 18–19, 2015). The Keynote speakers were Berndt Ostendorf, Professor Emeritus of North American Cultural History, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich and Vincent N. Parrillo, Professor and Graduate Director at William Paterson University, Director of Paterson Metropolitan Region Research Center. The volume of selected papers came out in June 2016 (review copies on request, write to american.studies@upol.cz). The next colloquium will take place September 14-16, 2017, the topic is Place, Home and Territory (see <http://colloquium.upol.cz/>).
- l. **AAAS Ralph Poole:** The next conference of the association is going to take place in November 2016 on Television/Transformation. A postgraduate conference is also going to be organized. There’s also the 19th century Literature Group with conferences in France, Germany and Cyprus.
- m. **HELAAS Tatiani Rapatzikou:** The association is organizing its 2nd Summer School with the title “Crossing Borders and Civic Engagement in a Changing World.” It is also working on the launching of its online journal in January 2017. The title of the online journal is *Excentric Narratives: Journal of Literature, Culture and Media*. Its inaugural issue will tackle the theme “Ethics and Narrative” (guest editors Dr. Theodora Tsimpouki and Dr. Helena Maragou).
- n. **BELAAS Yuri V. Stulov:** Their association is organizing their 25th conference. The workshop format that was introduced attracted the attention of a number of students interested in American Studies. The BelAAS annual conference with the title “Culture and literature in the epoch of postindustrialism and humanitarian crisis” was held in May 2015 and attracted academics and students from Belarus, neighboring countries, Iran and the USA. There are lots of young teachers interested in American Studies. Two PhD dissertations were defended in American literature and culture. In terms

of publications, three (3) volumes have been published. One of them in collaboration with St. Petersburg Company of the Arts.

- o. **NASA Marietta Messmer:** NASA regularly organizes several activities on a national level: an annual American Studies Day during which graduate and advanced undergraduate American Studies students from across the Netherlands can present research based on their BA or MA dissertations to a larger audience. This year's Amerikanistendag will be hosted by the Free University of Amsterdam on June 10. In addition, NASA also organizes an annual one-day fall conference and a biannual international conference. In 2015, the fall conference took place at Leiden University and focused on the theme "From Reconstruction to Ferguson: 150 Years of African American Civil Rights, 1865-2015." In 2016, Dutch and international American Studies scholars will convene for a two-day international conference at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg in September to discuss the role of "American Studies after the Digital Turn." NASA has also been invited to prepare a lecture and seminar series for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will take place during the months of June and July 2016. Apart from these national events, all BA and MA American Studies programs across the Netherlands also routinely organize a wide range of local conferences, workshops and events, including a conference on "Political Participation and the Post-Democratic Era," jointly organized by the universities of Groningen and Oldenburg in June 2015, "American Evangelicals in Europe," a conference that took place in Middelburg in July 2015, "Reconsidering Democracy and the Nation State in a Global Perspective" (at Leiden University in January 2016), and "World War II and the Transformation of U.S. Internationalism" (at the University of Nijmegen in October 2016). In addition, our student branch, Student-NASA, has also been immensely active during the past couple of years and has organized a range of guest lectures and activities, including an educational excursion to Washington, D.C., in 2015, and a career day titled "Is there Life after American Studies?" in February 2016.
- p. **APEAA Teresa Botelho:** The association touches upon Anglo-American studies. As for its membership, there are lots of graduate students who have recently joined. The association organized its conference in March 2016 with an open format. A guest writer was amongst the invited speakers. A new board has been elected.
- q. **NAAS Alf Tomas Tønnessen:** The 24th Nordic Association for American Studies Conference was organized by FASA (Finnish American Studies Association) at the University of Oulu in Finland on May 11-13, 2015. The conference gathered over eighty (80) speakers to discuss the theme of "American Values: Public Virtues, Private Vices?" among them four American Pulitzer Prize -winning historians. The 25th Nordic Association for American Studies Conference is organized by DAAS (Danish Association for American Studies) at the University of Southern Denmark, May 22-24, 2017. The theme is "American Colors: Across the Disciplinary Spectrum." Ninth Biennial Conference of the Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS) is going to be organized in Gothenburg, September 30-October 1, 2016 with the title "Fear and Friendliness in the United States." The American studies Association of Norway is holding its 41st annual conference, 28-30 October, Oslo, Norway. THE MACHINE IN THE GARDEN: ENERGY,

INDUSTRY, & TECHNOLOGY in AMERICAN CULTURE: 40th Annual Conference of the American Studies Association of Norway 23-25 October 2015, Stavanger, Norway. The Finnish Association for American Studies 2015 is organizing a Seminar, Aug. 27-28, 2015 in University of Turku, Calonia Building (Caloniankuja 3) with the title "Transnational and Transracial Adoption in American Culture."

Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou
EAAS Sec.-General