



Minutes of EAAS Virtual Board Meeting (via ZOOM), 4 May 2021

Present and representing member associations:

**Nathalie Caron AFEA
Carmen Birkle DGfA
Teresa Botelho APEAA
Jenny Woodley BAAS
Tanfer Emin Tunc ASAT
Tibor Glant HAAS
Aleksandra Izgarjan/Jelena Sesnic AASSEE
Madeleine Danova BASA
Alf Tomas Tønnessen NAAS
Zuzanna Ladyga PAAS (EAAS Vice President)
Andrea Carosso AISNA
Philip McGowan IAAS (EAAS President)
Silvia Martínez-Falquina AEDEAN/SAAS
Michal Peprnik CSAA
Ingrid Gessner AAAS
Tatiani Rapatzikou (EAAS Sec.-Gen.)
Theodora Tsimpouki HELAAS
Cecile Heim SANAS
Larisa Mikhaylova RSAS
Frank Mehring NASA
Yuri V. Stulov BELAAS**

Apologies for absence from the following member associations:

Eduard Vlad RAAS

Opening Address – Welcome – President Business

- a. EAAS Vice-President – Zuzanna Ladyga (ZL) – welcomes all attendees to the meeting.
- b. EAAS President – Philip McGowan (PM) – thanks PAAS and ZL for the overall organization and thanks everyone for their participation. He informs the members of the board that Yuri Stulov (YS) will be stepping down after the BELAAS conference in May 2021. He welcomes Silvia Martínez-Falquina (SMF) as the new board representative of AEDEAN/SAAS (replacing Cristina Alsina Risquez) and Ingrid Gessner (IG) as the new board representative of AAAS (replacing Silvia Schaltermandl).
- c. PM informs the board that Jelena Sesnic from the University of Zagreb (and who is the Vice-President of AASSEE) will be joining the meeting in case Aleksandra Izgarjan faces wifi connection problems. Also Cristina Garrigos (CG) will join in together with SMF in order to provide information about the EAAS 2022 Conference
- d. PM asks everyone for the approval of the EAAS 2020 online board minutes and everyone agrees.

PM continues with the President business by congratulating the steering team of the EAAS Women's Network for putting together their event which is going to be part of the EAAS online conference. He reflects on the success of the onsite EAAS Women's Network symposium which was held in Thessaloniki in 2019. So he encourages everyone to support the Network's current endeavor as well. He refers to the three other Networks that were launched in the context of the EAAS online conference. These are: the EAAS Poetry Network; the EAAS Digital Studies Network; the EAAS LGBTQ+ Network. He also touches upon the EAAS Policy of Harassment which was introduced for the first time at an EAAS conference. The Policy was announced on the EAAS 2020 online conference website. He then lists the forthcoming EAAS events: the EAAS 2022 Conference in Madrid; the EAAS 2024 Conference in Munich; the EAAS Women's Network Symposium in Debrecen; the EAAS Women's Network Symposium in Karlstad. PM continues by thanking everyone involved with the *European Journal of American Studies* (EJAS): those from the advisory board who stepped down after eight (8) years of service (Christine Bold, University of Guelph; Isabel Duran, Complutense University of Madrid; Alan Gibbs, University College Cork; Peter Schneck, University of Osnabrück; Maria Holmgren Troy, Karlstad University) and those who are stepping in for another eight (8) years (Johannes Völz, Frankfurt; Catherine Gander, Maynooth University, Dublin; Gilbert Khadiagala, Wits University, Johannesburg; Benita Heiskanen, University of Turku, Finland; Alex Calder, University of Auckland, New Zealand).

- e. He encourages everyone to get in touch with the journal with ideas about future special issues.
- f. PM invites the EAAS Treasurer – Carmen Birkle (CB) – to continue with her report.

EAAS Financial Report/ Amsterdam Trust Fund/ EAAS Membership

- a. CB invites everyone to look at the expenses (€14.504, 64) and income (€43.352,96) of 2020. She confirms that this has been a good year despite the covid crisis. Regarding the EAAS dues, CB refers to the amount gathered: €21.000. She explains that there are membership fees not showing up in her report because they still haven't been paid into the bank account. CB mentions that due to covid there have been no travelling and board meeting expenses. The only expenses showing in the EAAS balance sheets relate to bank fees, postage expenses for the book reviews, the keynote speaker for the EAAS Women's Network, and Ina Batzke's compensation fee. As for the EAAS Travel Grant,

- she confirms that the money has been transferred to the nine (9) recipients. As for the 2021-2022 balance, CB informs the board that some money will be transferred from the EAAS holdings to the EAAS bank account on the basis of the bank's advice. In addition, EAAS needs to follow a low risk investment policy. With the right calculations this can lead to a better deal. As for 2022, the expenses to be covered have to do with the Rob Kroes Book Award, the EAAS Travel Grants, the EAAS website, and the possible travel expenses to Madrid.
- b. PM informs the board that Dora Tsimpouki (DT) will be stepping down from her position as a book reviews officer. PM has talked with *EJAS* whether a solution can be found and no postage has to be paid for the book-review titles. He believes that possibly publishers could be asked to send the books directly to the reviewers. Also he adds that the EAAS Brill series will not need any financial support and through sales more money may come into the EAAS bank account.
 - c. Larisa Mikhaylova (LM) asks whether the keynote speaker honoraria have been covered by EAAS.
 - d. CB explains that this is an additional expense. What now features in her 2021 calculations is provisional and will be adjusted as the year evolves.
 - e. PM adds here that it takes a while for the full business to transfer from one EAAS Treasurer to the other. Also he says that now that the EAAS holdings have transferred to Germany there will be no extra fees as it was the case with the bank in Romania.
 - f. PM invites Cecile Heim (CH) and Nathalie Caron (NC) to act as the two auditors. **They both agree.**
 - g. CB asks them to check the pdf balance sheets she has sent them and asks if there's anything else they need.
 - h. PM now asks CB about the Amsterdam Trust Fund.
 - i. CB says that only a small amount has been left there because it can't be transferred to the bank in Germany. She hopes that this can be resolved.
 - j. PM invites all board members to consider the EAAS membership fee for the next year. He reminds everyone of the reduction from €6 to €5. He suggests that the same amount should also be kept for the following year. He invites everyone to vote. **Action: All agree.**
 - k. CH says that SANAS will stick to €6 for solidarity reasons. CB agrees.
 - l. PM invites all board members to talk about any problems they have faced: Alf Tomas Tønnessen (ATT) says that his association's conference has been postponed for 2023. They have decided to move ahead with an online event instead. PM talks about IAAS: the postponement of conferences has had an impact on the finances of the association. Teresa Botelho (TB) says that their association has been facing similar problems but at the same time they have reduced expenses. PM adds here that this is the reason why EAAS has decided to reduce the fee to €5 even though this has an impact on the association.
 - m. CB says that despite all difficulties membership has risen.
 - n. ZL would like to know how some associations have been managing to promote American Studies and hold on to their members in the midst of the covid crisis.
 - o. PM says that IAAS has been managing thanks to the grants that encourage new members to join in. Also he believes that the EAAS website should function as a connection point for all associations as long as all associations feel that they are part of a wider association. He comments here on the EAAS Women's Network Symposium which grows year after year due to the EAAS support.

- p. CB says that in DGfA a low-income support system is implemented. The more one member earns the more this member pays into the association. The highest fee comes up to €130 while the lowest one comes down to €25 without calculating the money that comes into the association from the conferences it organizes. She believes that it is important that an association's conference shouldn't be connected to the association's membership fee even though she understands that things work differently across Europe.
- q. NC says that the AFEA finances have been stabilized. They do encourage doctoral students to join the association in case they'd like to make the most of certain opportunities AFEA offers.

Conference Reports: EAAS 2021 / EAAS 2022 / EAAS 2024

- a. PM invites ZL to provide a brief summary about the EAAS 2020 online conference.
- b. ZL says that the conference organizing committee was pleased with the feedback received as regards the online format. She reports that the online conference attracted 368 participants in total (298 presenters and 70 non-presenters). ASA members also participated in the conference. ZL adds that electronic attendance certificates will be sent upon request.
- c. FM agrees that the conference was excellently organized and he inquires about access to the keynote speeches.
- d. ZL informs the board that the speeches will be made available on youtube and the American Institute website.
- e. CB asks whether a link from the EAAS website could provide access to the keynote speakers' youtube channel.
- f. LM suggests that availability of the keynote speeches via the EAAS website will ensure and boost visibility.
- g. Teresa Botelho (TB) inquires about the certificates, and ZL confirms that this is going to be taken care of upon request.
- h. TB also expresses her concern about the conference participant presentations staying online in case their intellectual property value is jeopardized.
- i. ZL says that the material will stay online till May 15th so as to enable those participants who were not able to attend certain panels to still access the presentations. In case anyone wishes his/her material to be taken down, this can be taken care of.
- j. Regarding the EAAS 2020 website, PM confirms that it can be used by the organizers of the EAAS 2022 and 2024 conferences.
- k. ZL explains that more information will be provided by Pawel Frelik about how to pass the website domain to another organizer.
- l. PM welcomes Silvia Martínez-Falquina (SMF) who is about to talk about the EAAS 2022 conference.
- m. SMF introduces Cristina Garrigos (CG) who is in charge of the conference organizing committee.
- n. CG informs the EAAS board members about the conference theme: "Wastelands." The conference will be organized at the Humanities Building UNED between April 6-8, 2022, with the EAAS board meeting taking place on April 5, 2022. CG explains that the conference venue is 14 min by bus and 30 min on foot away from the Madrid city center. There are hotels and restaurants nearby. More information about hotels will be provided. The Universidad Complutense de Madrid is ready to offer its

support in case more seminar rooms are needed for the parallel sessions. Also Fundación Uned is going to help with the website since all payments will be going through it as well. The same institution will take care of the lunch and coffee breaks as well as the keynote speakers' lodging. CG adds that the EAAS 2022 conference is going to be part of the university's anniversary which means that more money will be secured. All the seminar rooms are well equipped and all bookings have been taken care of: 8 rooms are located in the Humanities building, 2 rooms in the Law building, 1 room in the Library. A preliminary conference timetable has been put together and the two plenary speakers have already confirmed participation. One more response is expected. A Puerto-Rican writer has been invited for April 7, 2022. For the first day of the conference, one plenary and one performance on T.S. Eliot's *Wasteland* have been planned. A wine reception and the conference dinner will be hosted on campus. A day trip in Madrid plus a painting exhibition at the Library space on the conference theme have also been planned. With Eliot's *Wasteland* – due to the centenary – being at the center of the conference theme, the organizing committee is hoping that many approaches/proposals on the meaning of “waste” will be submitted from a bodily/moral/cultural/ecological/digital/ethical/literary point of view. As for the presentation format, the organizing committee will welcome paper, panel, roundtable, workshop and education-centered workshop proposals. The cfp will be announced soon with the deadline of submissions being July 10th and notifications being sent by the end of September 2022. The plenary speakers are: David Chinitz, Giannina Braschi, and Eulalia Piñero Gil. Regarding registration fees, the amounts suggested are: regular €110; late €130; student early €50; student late €60; attendance only €40. Registration will include coffee, reception. The banquet and the Madrid trip will be charged extra. CG says that there is information about registrations and proposals on the website which will be soon activated.

- o. ZL thanks CG for all the information but expresses a concern about the Eliot-related theme in case the conference appears to be literature-oriented which would prevent participants from other disciplines to apply. She believes that diversity should be ensured.
- p. CG agrees but due to the funding available it was important that the Eliot connection was visible in the cfp. Also the majority of people in Spain working in American Studies come from literature, but she understands that people from other disciplines would need to be attracted to the conference.
- q. FM also agrees that even though literature is a strong pull more emphasis needs to be placed on other topics in relation to visuality, culture, music and other.
- r. Andrea Carosso (AC) thanks CG but he also agrees with ZL as regards the emphasis the cfp places on Eliot. He suggests the topic of reproduction justice so that people from the sciences are attracted to the conference.
- s. ZL says that since more and more young people turn to oceanic/anthropocene studies this could be a theme to be added to the cfp. As for the Eliot theme, this could appear later in the topic list.
- t. CG understands the importance of such a suggestion and she will place Eliot in the middle of the list.
- u. ZL adds that the list could start with global issues, move to political ones, and finish with literature/culture. In this way, people from other disciplines will be attracted to the conference.

- v. CH thanks CG but expresses her concern about the proposal submission deadline. She is worried in case the SANAS members will not be able to respond.
- w. PM asks CG whether September would work and CG agrees.
- x. Michal Peprnik (MP) agrees with all the comments raised as regards the conference theme and inquires whether the third plenary speaker could come from history or politics.
- y. CB wishes to reconfirm the submission deadline and also inquires about the third plenary speaker.
- z. CG says that all depends on the number of proposals. In case of a big number, it will be difficult for the abstract evaluation committee to finish its job on time. So Sept. 1, 2022, would need to be the date. As for the plenary, CG says that they are still expecting a response.
- aa. CB confirms that EAAS could cover the expense for the third speaker and, in addition, she inquires whether a hybrid conference model is considered.
- bb. CG expresses the organizing committee's interest in holding an onsite conference but she confirms that all rooms provide live-streaming support.
- cc. PM hopes that everyone will be able to travel to Madrid. He also suggests that the anthropocene should appear earlier in the conference topic theme.
- dd. ZL asks whether popular culture could also be highlighted.
- ee. AC says that recently there has been work connecting Eliot with the 1918 pandemic. So he asks whether this topic could be added to the cfp.
- ff. LM also comments on the role of visibility in representations of waste. She is asking whether this connection could be added to the cfp as well.
- gg. SMF asks about the board meeting to be held in Madrid.
- hh. PM says that a room will be needed for the board members. As for the seminar rooms, he said that 12 rooms had been booked for the EAAS conference in London. So he suggests that the same number is considered for the EAAS conference in Madrid.
- ii. ZL inquires about the student conference fees.
- jj. PM finds the amounts suggested reasonable.
- kk. CH also finds the student fees reasonable, but she would like to know whether there is an alternative plan in case traveling to Madrid is still not possible due to covid restrictions.
- ll. CG confirms that an online conference could be supported, but she is hoping that everyone can be in Madrid in person. For this reason, she is asking about the EAAS conference travel grants.
- mm. PM also hopes for an onsite conference, but he suggests that presentations could possibly be uploaded prior to the conference so emphasis is placed on the onsite discussions.
- nn. CG says that this suggestion could be supported by asking all participants to upload their presentations in March.
- oo. TB does not agree because she thinks that there is no time for one to listen to all the presentations. She believes that the particular suggestion could work on a voluntary basis.
- pp. PM agrees.
- qq. FM thinks that attention should be paid to the actual discussion and not mere presentation of papers. He believes that the EAAS Warsaw conference format could be used. It is important, he adds, to benefit from what has already been learnt.

- rr. ZL believes that participants should be encouraged to upload their presentations not in pdf but in audio format.
- ss. PM suggests that only panel members could be the ones to upload their presentations.
- tt. NC understands TB's concerns so she suggests that a short description is sent – not the full paper – so that attendees are prepared in order to participate in the conversation.
- uu. SMF suggests that possibly paper presentations can be limited to 15min and only panel presenters upload papers.
- vv. PM agrees that paper presentations should be limited to 15min.
- ww. NC says that she really liked the idea of the organization of panel with emphasis on teaching.
- xx. PM concludes the discussion and suggests that workshop presentations should be uploaded while panel presentations should be delivered in the traditional way.
- yy. PM invites CB to report on the EAAS 2024 conference.
- zz. CB says that she still hasn't received full information but Munich is going to be the place to be hosting the conference. More information about the conference will be announced during the board meeting in Madrid in March 2022.
- aaa. CH asks whether the dates for the 2024 conference are negotiable since the Madrid conference is taking place during the week.
- bbb. CB confirms that dates are still negotiable.

EAAS Women's Network International Symposium

- a. PM asks IG to report on the EAAS Women's Network event.
- b. IG confirms that everything went well with the event starting in the evening with the conversation of the two keynote speakers. She adds that seventy-six (76) attendees joined while the next day twenty-six (26) papers were delivered. She thanks ZL and Pawel Frelik (PF) for all the technological support they provided. She adds that the conference was free which facilitated attendance. Also the Network steering team is already working on the next cfp for the Debrecen event. The symposium there will be held at the same time with the board meeting, while in 2025 the symposium will be held in Sweden. IG considers important that the particular events have no fee. She believes that this needs to be sustained so she asks whether EAAS will continue supporting the Network. She adds that the keynote speakers were offered no honoraria for their conversation and is asking whether a "thank you" amount could be offered.
- c. PM asks the members of the board whether they agree. **Action: All agree.**
- d. CB asks IG to get in touch with the two speakers so that all arrangements for the money transfer are made.
- e. IG adds that she also collaborated with the LGBTQ+ caucus for their panel.
- f. ZL confirms that the particular caucus was launched at the specific Warsaw conference and expressed the belief that it will continue to grow in the steps of the Women's Network.
- g. PM confirms the EAAS support to the caucus efforts so that they keep up with the organization of their free events.
- h. CH talks about the caucus she is thinking of creating. She congratulates IG on the great job of the EAAS Women's Network. She would like to introduce the creation of an Indigenous/Ethnic Writing caucus in collaboration with Aleksandra Izgarjan (AI). Both of

them are planning to reach out to more people so that their caucus is launched in Madrid 2022.

- i. PM expresses his full support.
- j. AI says that there is a lot of interest in the creation of such a caucus which she thinks corresponds to the Madrid conference theme.
- k. CB expresses a concern as regards the financial support that EAAS would need to provide to such initiatives.
- l. PM thinks that money needs to be saved from other expenses so that an annual allowance is available for the support of various network activities.
- m. AI says that it is important that all such initiatives continue being free and she asks whether the expenses for a caucus keynote speaker could be covered.
- n. PM affirms that an amount needs to be set aside and TR adds that other networks have been launched at the Warsaw conference also needing the EAAS support.

EAAS Board Meeting in Debrecen 2023

- a. PM invites Tibor Glant (TG) to talk about the board meeting in Debrecen.
- b. TG says that he may not be in charge in 2023 but he believes that all will move smoothly with the new representative.
- c. PM refers to the next board meetings: 2024 in Munich and 2025 in Karlstad. He is asking about 2026.
- d. AC volunteers saying that Torino University, which is where he works, could be considered for the 2026 board meeting. AC adds that he would like to talk with his association in case there is a decision for the EAAS 2026 conference.
- e. PM says that if AISNA is willing to host the 2026 conference, EAAS will fully support such a decision.
- f. AC says that he will inform the board about any decisions.
- g. PM adds that it is important for the board meeting to be moving to different locations around Europe.
- h. AC confirmed that he will have more news in the next 2-3 months.

EAAS Travel Grants

- a. PM says invites ZL to inform the board about the Travel Grants.
- b. ZL says that fifteen (15) applications were submitted and ten (10) were selected. As for the financial support to be offered, this was distributed evenly on the basis of the applicant needs. She is hoping that more applications will be submitted in 2021. She mentions that the majority of the applications come from specific countries. It is important that the Travel Grant call is promoted much more intensely. ZL says that more support should have been provided by the board postgraduate ambassador so that attention is shifted to young scholars.
- c. PM says that the postgraduate web interns could help in making the young scholar work more visible on the EAAS website.
- d. CH says that the interns have already helped a lot.
- e. CB adds that young scholars have been uncertain about their travel plans due to the pandemic. As a result, their travel could be extended to 2022 and 2023 so as to make things easier for them.
- f. ZL suggests that as soon as the grants are announced a zoom meeting could be arranged between the grantees and the EAAS Vice-President as well as EAAS Treasurer. Also it is

- important that their reports are uploaded on the EAAS website and feature as EAAS grant alumni. This could boost the visibility of the EAAS Travel Grants.
- g. TB says that in the Portuguese association doctoral symposia are organized, now via zoom, which facilitates networking between young scholars.
 - h. ATT suggests that EAAS should consider the Heidelberg Spring Academy format of annual events.
 - i. CB believes that there are too many meetings already. What is important is that young scholars should be encouraged to participate in the EAAS conferences. She agrees with what ZL suggested. Also she doesn't think that another conference is needed.
 - j. ZL thinks that the more young scholars are included in the main EAAS events the more bottom-up (and not top down) initiatives will be organized.
 - k. AI agrees with CB. She believes that when it comes to young scholars it is their integration and not the organization of multiple events that is needed.
 - l. LM inquires whether for the EAAS Travel grants not only graduate students but also early career scholars are eligible to apply. She believes that the latter could potentially become new members.
 - m. PM believes that EAAS should integrate its postgraduate community into its main activities. This is the kind of support that they need. He agrees that zoom meetings could be helpful. Also he thinks that the web interns could help by making the postgraduate community more visible via the EAAS website. EAAS certainly needs more applications to be submitted.
 - n. AI says that she has reached out to the graduate students of her association. EAAS Travel Grants focus on archival research which limits the opportunities graduate students have access to. If EAAS extends the opportunities offered, she believes that more people will apply.
 - o. CB suggests that the wording in the EAAS Travel Grant call should be revised. She adds that a similar decrease has been noted in the Fulbright post-doctoral applications. It seems as if people are not interested in conducting their research onsite.

Report on the *European Journal of American Studies (EJAS)*

- a. PM reports that all moves smoothly with the journal which now is going to move to a quarterly publication.
- b. PM asks the Rob Kroes evaluation committee to say a few words.
- c. FM says that is good that the Rob Kroes Book Award is offered again, but most of the applications come from Germany due to the habilitation. This also has an impact on the quality of the submitted manuscripts. For this reason, the committee has decided for this year to split the award between a PhD dissertation and a habilitation manuscript as long as the board agrees with it.
- d. Tanfer Emin Tunc (TET) agrees with FM. She said that the committee received nine (9) applications. She believes that splitting the award was fair.
- e. PM says that the Rob Kroes Book Award reflects the quality work that is carried out in EAAS. He hopes that more applications will be submitted.
- f. CB asks whether there are any specifications that are provided with the call. She wants to know whether any book publication can be submitted.
- g. PM says that the call is open to everyone.
- h. TET says that they had applications from PhD holders and senior researchers.
- i. CB agrees with the call being open to everyone and with the splitting of the award, but she believes that quality should be the top priority.

- j. PM says that possibly the call should be open to all scholars.
- k. CB asks whether two types of the Rob Kroes Book Award should be available. One for dissertations and one for monographs.
- l. FM thinks that this is a good idea but it is the visibility of the award that should be taken into consideration first. He adds that some of the applications were dismissed immediately due to their poor quality. He believes that the applicants need to be aware of the important role this award could play in their career. He asks whether an interview of the current Rob Kroes Book Award holders could feature on the EAAS website with emphasis placed on its benefits.
- m. ZL agrees with the idea but she would like to know about the person who could conduct the interview.
- n. PM suggests that a former Rob Kroes Book Award grantee could conduct the interview.
- o. ZL suggests that possibly the members of the evaluation committee could be involved since they know the manuscripts.
- p. FM says that he could do the interview with Pia Wiegink (*Reconfiguring the Nation*).
- q. PM agrees to do the interview with Martina Mastandrea (*F.Scott Fitzgerald on Silent Film*).
- r. ZL believes that the interviews will popularize the award but again the number of the awards and the deadlines for applications need to be considered.
- s. IG thinks that the Rob Kroes Book Award is beneficial as a first book award. She wouldn't agree to a second Rob Kroes Book Award. Also she thinks that the publication of the winning manuscripts via Brill will increase visibility.
- t. PM agrees that the two awards will create confusion. He thinks that EAAS should aim at the best book.
- u. FM likes the idea of a first book award.
- v. CB says that it's important that the book award is named after Rob Kroes who left a big amount of money to EAAS. It would be difficult to use the same name for an additional award. A different name that is equally meaningful to EAAS should be considered.
- w. AI asks whether it is possible to move money from Rob Kroes to the funding of another award. She wonders whether this will trigger any legal implications with the Rob Kroes Institute.
- x. CB says that EAAS is not tied to the original sum, but putting two awards side by side may create problems. She suggests that the board should think carefully and does not invent something on the spot.
- y. CH asks whether a second award needs to be connected to a name.
- z. PM agrees with CB. He says that EAAS may need to create a first-book award and consider its name at a later stage. He asks if all board members agree. **Action: All agree.**
- aa. FM says that due to the fact that awards are competitive, people need to be persuaded that the effort put into such a process is worth it.
- bb. PM says that EAAS should wait for the Brill Series to be established. Then another award could be decided.
- cc. NC doesn't fully agree with the first-book award. She says that in France all PhDs are written in French. For a first-book award, one would need to translate the dissertation into English which is costly. For this reason, she finds the first-book award problematic.
- dd. PM agrees with the point. He suggests that EAAS should wait. He suggests that the Rob Kroes Book Award should be promoted with emphasis placed on quality. Then the idea of a first-book award could be reconsidered.

Report on the EAAS Website

- a. PM informs the board that the officers will meet with Patricia Lobo who now oversees the EAAS website. She is happy to continue with the website maintenance. However, EAAS needs something current and visible. The website could be reviewed every three months. In case there is no improvement till Madrid, then the website issue should be discussed again.

News from Member Associations

- a. NC informs the board that AFEA has been accused of islamoleftism. The accusation has come from the Minister of Higher Education. She asks for EAAS to support AFEA in its motion. She believes that academic freedom is threatened especially when criticism comes from the government about what is taught at the public universities. It appears that subjects that touch upon race, gender and intersectionality create problems. NC asks EAAS for a statement about the protection of academic freedom.
- b. PM asks NC to provide more information about the kind of statement that is needed.
- c. NC says that a general statement would do.
- d. PM says that a general statement will be drafted and sent to the board members for approval.
- e. TB believes that university autonomy should be highlighted in the statement.
- f. PM says that the statement should respond to what the government is promoting.
- g. NC believes that it is American Studies that is targeted.
- h. CB says that attention should be paid to the implications that may be triggered by the words that will go into the statement.
- i. PM believes that everyone supports academic freedom in France.
- j. CH says that both AFEA and BELAAS should be mentioned in the statement.
- k. PM believes that deep down the problem is the same even though the circumstances are different.
- l. ZL says that similar issues are experienced in Poland and Russia.
- m. TG believes that AFEA should be supported. He sees no problems in Hungary with American Studies.
- n. NC adds that any discussion about Islam in France is difficult. She is proposing that the statement she has already posted should be considered. She believes that any statement that expresses a concern about academic freedom would be appropriate.
- o. CH suggests that the statement should start with something general and then become more specific. She believes that EAAS should work with the association representative as we don't want to make things more difficult for the particular association.
- p. PM asks whether he should send a letter to the French Minister or to the EEU.
- q. NC says that such an action would be greatly appreciated.
- r. PM agrees to send the drafted statement to NC and then share it with the members of the EAAS board.
- s. FM says that in December 2021 the association will be organizing an onsite conference on the Environment and American Studies which is close to the Madrid conference theme.
- t. CB says that in their association certain events were organized in between conferences, in so-called Townhalls, on issues that concern the members so that communication with everyone is ensured.
- u. YS informs the board about the problems BELAAS has been facing the last eight months with regard to its legal status. Also interest in American Studies has decreased even

though YS's university used to be a forerunner in American Studies. There are very few applications for the BELAAS conference. Many people have left the university. As a result, running BELAAS has become difficult. YS's university contract has also been terminated. PM asks YS if there is anything that EAAS can do to help. CB asks whether the BELAAS conference is going ahead and whether any of the EAAS officers could say a few words. YS doesn't know if the conference will go ahead. Also he thinks that the EAAS involvement will create problems.

- v. As for the ASA, PM reports that active contacts with the ASA have been intermittent and the ongoing pandemic has limited even these. It is hoped that we can revive transatlantic connections again once the pandemic has ended.

Report from the Auditors

- a. NC and CH have spotted a couple of adding errors in CB's financial reports.
- b. They have asked CB to modify sums.
- c. The revised report is checked again and accepted by both auditors after the board meeting.

Final remarks

- a. PM thanks everyone.
- b. NC thanks the board members for their support. She appreciates the preceding discussion.
- c. ZL thanks everyone for their participation in the online conference.
- d. PM thanks YS for all his contributions all these years. He will be missed. PM hopes to see him again soon.

Associations' activities

a. AFEA

Due to the sanitary crisis, the 52nd AFEA annual conference had to be postponed to May 25-28, 2021. The conference was on "Post-America" and was held virtually at the University of Lille 3. AFEA is working on a code of ethics aimed at eliminating discrimination and violence in academia. The code will be discussed and submitted to a vote during the May General Assembly meeting. In the fall of 2020, together with other professional organizations, AFEA participated in the massive protest against the new multi-annual research programming law (LPPR, which later became LPR) proposed by the French government. AFEA considered that the law provided insufficient funding for public research, undermined academic freedom by promoting project-based research, and accelerated precariousness in academia. The law was finally adopted in December 2020. In November 2020 and then February 2021, AFEA contributed to the mobilization against comments on "islamo-gauchism."

b. DGfA

The 2020 annual conference of the GAAS had to be canceled and postponed by one year, due to the Corona pandemic. Similarly, the terms of office of both the officers as well as the advisory board members were extended by one year, in accordance with the special legal regulations during the pandemic. The business meetings of the advisory board took place online in July 2020 and January 2021. During the reporting period, the association has (temporarily) opted out of embassy funding and introduced a new dues structure. In February 2021, the historians of the GAAS held their annual conference on "Labor History" as an online event hosted by the University of Mainz. Most significantly,

- the GAAS has newly and very successfully (in terms of number of participants and substance of discussions) introduced the format of the digital townhall meeting: Issues of anti-discrimination/the representation of diversity and the situation of early career scholars on the postgraduate and postdoc levels within the GAAS as well as the reform of the association's bylaws were discussed on three different occasions.
- c. APEAA**
Due to the pandemic, the annual conference scheduled to take place in April 2020 at the University of Aveiro was canceled. It will take place in May 2021, online.
- d. BAAS**
The association held a successful online annual conference in April 2021. Over 300 delegates registered for the conference. BAAS hired a conference manager to run the event and this helped with the smooth organisation and running of the event. An online postgraduate conference was held in December 2020. Next year's conference will be hosted by Hull (April 2022). BAAS finances are stable, as are membership levels. The following networks have held events during the last year: BIPOC Network, Green Network, and Women in American Studies Network. The Awards subcommittee have done and are continuing to do great work in making sure the awards scheme fits with BAAS's purpose and mission statement. Recent initiatives include an Undergraduate Essay Prize for Scholars of Colour; and Research Assistance Awards which include not only financial assistance for research trips but also for hiring research assistants. This is in line with BAAS's commitment towards lowering its carbon emissions, and with its commitment to fostering greater inclusivity. BAAS continues to develop programmes designed to foster links with teachers and to engage recruitment of students to the sector.
- e. ASAT**
Despite the global pandemic, the American Studies Association of Turkey (ASAT) remained as active as ever, switching to an online platform for our colloquium series. We hosted three talks between April 2020 and April 2021: "Women in Turkey and the United States," by Canan Güllü, President of the Women's Federation of Associations of Turkey; "Virus and Transformation in American Cinema," by Dr. Sotirios Bampatzimopoulos, from the Department of American Culture and Literature at Ankara University; and a discussion of the documentary *67°49'32" North* with filmmaker Ece Soydam. The 40th International ASAT Conference on "Movement and Mobility" was held online on June 28-29, 2021. Our conference program can be accessed here: <http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/previous-conferences/2021-asat-conference/2021-conference-program>. The year 2020 also marked the 25th anniversary of the *Journal of American Studies of Turkey* (JAST). We published two issues between April 2020 and April 2021: #53 was a general issue; #54 focused on Native Americans and was guest edited by former EAAS Vice President, Prof. Meldan Tanrısal. An open-access archive of JAST can be found here: <http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/jast/issues>. As always, we welcome your suggestions, participation and collaboration—especially with our journal and international conference—and invite you to visit our website for more information: www.asat-jast.org
- f. HAAS**
As of March 2020 Hungary has been in partial or complete lockdown no active HAAS work seems possible.

g. AASSEE

American Studies Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina The association did not organize any activities due to the measures related to COVID-19 pandemic in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatian Association for American Studies. The 9th annual American Studies workshop on the topic of "Tracing Populism in the U.S. and Comparative Perspective", organized by the Croatian Association for American Studies and the University of Zadar, was held in Zadar on September 22, 2021. The hybrid symposium gathered fourteen presenters from Croatia and abroad. Selected presentations will be published in the *Anafora* literary journal. Working Papers in American Studies, vol. 5, thematizing the COVID-19 pandemic in the Anglo-American context will be published soon. The peer-reviewed, open-access publication collected an array of papers from the 2020 CAAS symposium in Zagreb; **The Montenegrin Association for American Studies** organized two events: a. literary contest for the best short story inspired by the literary works of American women writers belonging to different generations, under the title *Border*. More than thirty authors sent their stories to this contest; b. a conference under the title *Closed Spaces* took place on March 11, 2022, in the American Corner in Podgorica. Ten participants (from ex-Yugoslav countries) presented their papers, and the collection of papers presented at the conference will be published by the end of this year. The conference was organized in cooperation with the American Corner in Podgorica; **Serbian Association for Anglo-American Studies**: The year 2021 was dedicated to examination of the ties between American and Serbian literature. English and Serbian Departments together with the members of the Serbian Association for Anglo-American Studies organized the conference under the title *Literary and Cultural Interconnections between Serbian and Anglophone Literatures* which took place in Belgrade in October, 2021. The focus of the presentations was on the connections between American and Serbian literary ties during the 20th and 21st century.

h. BASA

Due to the pandemic, no events were organized.

i. NAAS

The American Studies Association of Norway: 2020: 43rd ASANOR Conference. UiT- The Arctic University, Tromsø, September 24-26. Theme: Truths, Facts, Fictions and Falsehood in American Studies. Organizers: Cassandra Falke and Laura Castor. This was a hybrid conference; **The Swedish Association for American Studies**: 1. "Amerikanska rasrelationer och Sverige." Participants: Anna Jonsson Cornell (Uppsala University), Gunlög Fur (Linnaeus University), Karin Henriksson (journalist/author), Ola Larsmo (author), Per Erik Nilsson (Uppsala University), Jonathan Rollins (stand-up comedian), and Jayson Sae-Saue (Southern Methodist University). Moderator: Dag Blanck. Symposium arranged by SINAS together with Uppsala Forum för Demokrati, Fred och Rättvisa, September 30, 2020. 2. "The Most Consequential Election in Our Time? A Panel Discussion on the American Elections 2020." Participants: Lance Bennett, William Haltom, Karin Henriksson, Frida Stranne. Moderator: Dag Blanck. Arranged by SINAS together with Uppsala Forum för Demokrati, Fred och Rättvisa, November 2, 2020. 3. "Conversation: Ron and Pejk talk about Joe. Ron Padgett (Poet, New York City) and Pejk Malinovksi (Poet, Copenhagen) talk about visual artist, memoirist and poet Joe Brainard." Moderator: Daniel Kane. Online event arranged by the English Department, Uppsala University, November 9, 2020. 4. "Experimental: Language Writing, Two Whales, and a Dream of the Future." Participant: Natalia Cecire (University of Sussex). Moderator: Daniel Kane. Lecture arranged by the English Department, Uppsala

University, December 14, 2020. 5. "SINAS Seminars." New seminar series in American Studies arranged by SINAS, began in November 2020. It will feature a seminar every fourth Monday of the month at 15:15–17:00; **The Finnish American Studies Association:** Maple Leaf & Eagles Conference, Dec. 9-11, 2000. Conference theme: North American: Inclusive, Exclusive, and Exceptional. This biennial conference normally takes place in May; **The Danish Association for American Studies:** There have been quite a few activities organized at the Center for American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark. The most important one was the lecture series that was organized leading up to the 2020 elections: https://www.sdu.dk/da/om_sdu/us-election-2020 - There were several prominent speakers (e.g. Kathleen Hall Jamieson and Julian Zelizer) who participated in the event as well as activities organized with emphasis placed on student participation.

j. PAAS

The biennial conference of the European Association for American Studies 20/20 *Vision: Citizenship, Space, Renewal*, originally planned to take place in Warsaw in May 2020, was cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic and then re-scheduled to the following year as an on-line event. Current membership is 110 members. The Association continues to publish two issues of its *Polish Journal for American Studies* a year, a general issue in the spring and a special issue in the fall. In 2020 the special issue on "Digital Humanities in American Studies" was guest-edited by Michał Choiński. For more information visit the journal's website at <https://paas.org.pl/pjas/> The Association holds an annual competition for the best MA thesis in American Studies in Poland. In November 2020 the jury decided to give the award to the study titled *Illness and Mind-Body Dualism in Thomas Ligotti's Short Stories* written by Maja Dziubak at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań under the supervision of Paweł Stachura. On 21 Jan 2021 elections to the new board of the Polish Association for American Studies were held. The board comprises the following members: Ewa Łuczak (President), Paweł Frelík (Vice-President), Ewa Antoszek (Treasurer), Anna Krawczyk-Łaskarzewska (Secretary), Elżbieta Rokosz (Board Member).

k. AISNA

Current membership is slightly up from last year, with approximately 230 members as of April 30, 2021, approx 110 of which are graduate students or early career post-graduates. AISNA's budget is healthy, with annual income from members' fees and grants from the US Mission to Italy (which sponsors conferences, awards, and publications). AISNA went online with a full overhaul of its website in 2019 (<https://www.aisna.net/>); AISNA held its yearly members' meeting on Sept 24, 2020 remotely. The Lombardo and Gulli prizes for best MA theses were awarded. AISNA's yearly graduate seminar, usually held in Rome, had to be cancelled because of the Covid pandemic. A number of other events, large and small, planned for 2020 had also to be canceled for the same reason, including the Fulbright itinerant lectures series that AISNA had organized at various Italian universities. Likewise, the prestigious OASIS (Orientale American Studies International School) initiative, due to be held in Procida, May 24-29, 2020 (http://www.unior.it/index2.php?content_id=6738&content_id_start=1) had to be postponed; RSA Journal (<https://www.aisna.net/journal/>), the journal of AISNA, published its 31th issue in 2020, entitled "American Apocalypse(s): Nuclear Imaginaries and the Reinvention of Modern America". JamIt! Journal of American Studies in Italy (<http://aisna-graduates.online/jam-it/>), a product of AISNA's very active and international Young Americanists' Network, AISNA Graduates, (

[graduates.online/](#)), published its 3rd issue, on "Environmental Hazards and Migrations"; AISNA is now actively planning its biennial conference, scheduled for September 2021 in L'Aquila, under the title "Crossing Territories. Recognition across Time, Space and Textuality in the US and Beyond"; In the academic year 2020-21, the USA Embassy's "American Studies Initiative", promoted by AISNA in recent years, ensured the funding of 5 adjunct professorships in US literature and history at various universities in Italy, where full time faculty in American Studies includes, as of April 2021, 9 tenured full professors, 21 associate professors, and 22 assistant professors (mostly tenured or tenure-track) in American literature and 9 full professors, 9 associate professors, and 5 assistant professors in American history.

i. IAAS

Newsletter: We've started a newsletter to be issues each month/two months relaying details of events and news to IAAS members. A reminder that news items might include: publications, contracts, jobs, awards and grants, upcoming events and keynotes, recent successful vivas, etc.; **IAAS 50th Anniversary events:** The anniversary sub-committee met recently, and we are finalising events for the rest of 2020. Most, if not all, of these are likely to take place online, given restrictions on gatherings that are set to continue into the Autumn. I'm aware that people will soon get 'online event fatigue', so we developed a programme that will keep people's interest and engagement, and offered a variety of activities and events across career levels and disciplines. If restrictions are fully lifted, and only if it is considered safe and wise to do so, will we switch to holding events in situ. A rolling special IJAS special issue discussing the 50th anniversary and American Studies across Ireland began to appear at ijas.iaas.ie ;**Congratulations:** This has been a newsletter item, but I wanted to extend the committee's congratulations to Caroline, Sarah, and Tim, for being awarded an NUI ECR grant to hold the Frederick Douglass event in Cork in February 2021. This exciting and important event was originally to be part of the 50th anniversary smorgasbord of delights, partly sponsored by the IAAS.. Everything else was put on hold due to the pandemic.

m. AEDEAN/SAAS

CONFERENCES: Because of the Covid pandemic, the **44TH AEDEAN CONFERENCE**, which was to take place in November 2020 at the University of Cantabria, had to be postponed. It will finally be held on November 24-26, 2021. The final decision as to whether it will be an onsite or online conference will be taken in June but both the AEDEAN Executive and the Organising Committee are hoping that it will be possible to meet in person. Confirmed plenary speakers include Neil Campbell, Emeritus Professor of American Studies at the University of Derby (U.K.), who has published widely in American studies, and Celestino Deleyto, Professor of the University of Zaragoza (Spain), and an internationally recognized scholar of Film Studies. Most of the presenters whose submissions had already been accepted have confirmed their participation, so that there are currently 203 accepted papers and 14 accepted round tables. A new Call for Papers has been opened, and the deadline for submissions is May 14. The **2nd AEDEAN DOCTORAL SEMINAR** was to take place in July 2020 in Alicante but the pandemic forced the organizers to postpone this, too. It has been rescheduled for July 1-2, 2021. If the face-to-face format is finally not possible, the organizers will make it either a fully online or a hybrid conference (partly online and partly face-to-face). The **15TH SAAS CONFERENCE** was held online on March 24-26. It was hosted by the University of Deusto, in Bilbao, and the topic was "'Fear Narratives' and their Role/Use in the United States." There were 20 panels, some of them with double sessions and a total of 112

papers were read, with international contributions from Georgia, Ireland, Scotland and the USA. Although the numbers were reduced from the 165 papers that were presented at the 2019 Salamanca conference, which has been the largest so far, the growing tendency in the past few years (we had 80 in the 2015 Conference, and 100 in the 2017 conference) was sustained in spite of the online format. The 4 keynote speakers were Ana M^a Manzanás Calvo (University of Salamanca, Spain), José David Saldivar (University of Stanford, USA), Connie A. Jacobs (San Juan College), and Don Bogen (University of Cincinnati, USA). The conference also included a book presentation session and a doctoral seminar. SAAS will hold its 17th conference in Granada in March/April 2023; **PUBLICATIONS: ATLANTIS 42.1** was published in June 2020 and 42.2 in December 2020, and it includes several articles in the area of US studies. As from issue 42.1 (June 2020), the journal is published online only. In January 2020 it was included in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The webpage has been recently updated and improved and it has gained accessibility on several devices and platforms. Last year we also published two issues of the newsletter **NEXUS**. Both *Atlantis* and *Nexus* are available on the AEDEAN webpage. The **E-BOOK FOR THE 2019 ALICANTE CONFERENCE** is available online, too. The deadline to send manuscripts to **REN REVISTA DE ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS**, whose webpage has also been recently improved, is currently open.

n. **CSAA**

EVENTS in 2021: Biennial Conference of the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies / 23rd International Colloquium of American Studies. Hosted by the Dept. of English and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, in November 4-5, 2021. Theme: Spaces and Narratives of Mental and Social Health. Key-note speaker: Christoph Singer (University of Innsbruck). Information available at: <http://colloquium2021.upol.cz/>; **PUBLICATIONS:** For information see http://csaa.upol.cz/?page_id=247; **ACADEMIC JOURNALS:** 1. *The American and British Studies Annual*. 2. *Brno Studies in English*. 3. *The Hradec Králové Journal of Anglophone Studies*. 4. *The Moravian Journal of Literature and Film*. 5. *Litteraria Pragensia*. 6. *Ostrava Journal of English Philology*. 7. *Prague Journal of English Studies*

o. **AAAS**

The AAAS annual conference “American Studies as Vulnerability Studies?” was organized by an enthusiastic team around AAAS President Silvia Schultermandl, University of Graz. The conference was held online on Zoom from 30-31 October, 2020, with a vibrant audience. At the AAAS conference, the following new board members were elected: President: Michael Fuchs; Vice-President: Joshua Parker; Secretary: Stefan “Steve” Rabitsch; Treasurer: Cornelia Klecker; Board Members: Matthias Klestil; Klaus Rieser; Eva Maria Schörghenhuber; International Delegate: Ingrid Gessner. Membership figures have been relatively constant in recent years. In July 2020, Cornelia Klecker was appointed as an international member to serve on the ASA Committee on Gender and Sexuality Studies (2020-2023). AAAS is proud of its ongoing fruitful partnership with Fulbright Austria, especially since the Program is celebrating 70 years of bilateral commitment to facilitating exchange grants and 70 years of Austrian-American educational and cultural experiences in 2021. The Fulbright Award for the best thesis in American studies is presented annually in cooperation with the AAAS. Last year’s prize winner, Stefanie Pointl, received the award for her MA thesis “This Is My Home—This Wandering”: Exile and Transnational Mobility in Ruth Weiss’s Poetry.” Looking ahead, the 2021 AAAS conference on “Digital Americas” (<https://digital-americas.at>) will be hosted

by the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz and is scheduled to take place virtually in the second half of October & on-site on October 30-31, 2021. The conference seeks to take stock of “the digital” within the context of American studies, including digital pedagogy, digital methodologies, digital culture and digital media as objects of critical inquiry, and digital scholarship. JAAAS, the recently launched journal of the association (<https://www.jaaas.eu>), has published two issues: *The Salzburg Seminar and Its Legacies in American Studies* (Volume 1, No. 1) and *Soundscapes, Sonic Cultures, and American Studies* (Volume 1, No. 2). Following an issue centering on the work by early career scholars, the next forthcoming issues will be on *Im/Mobilities* (Vol. 2, No. 2, 2021), *Mediating Mountains* (Vol. 3, No. 1, 2021), and *The American Entrepreneurial Spirit* (Vol. 3, No. 2, 2022).

p. HELAAS

In 2020 the association organized: a. its 2nd HELAAS YOUNG SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM: “Conflict and Negotiation in American Culture(s)” on September 19, 2020. It consisted of four Sessions and two Workshops, twenty young scholars participated. Review of the event can be found at *US Studies Online*: <https://usso.uk/review-helaas-young-scholar-symposium-conflict-and-negotiation-in-american-cultures-online/>; b. the Webinar “Active Learners – Active Citizens in the Networked Age.” October 23, 2020; c. the publication of the special issue, No 4 (2020), of *Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media*, with the theme of “Popular Culture in a New Media Age & Other Essays.” In 2021, the association had, a. its first publication with the prominent open access platform of the National Documentation Center of Digital Publications (EKT) in Greece, with an e-volume entitled “Representation of America” (in Greek) ; b. its 5th Summer School which was organized online under the theme of “The Politics of Social Distancing” on Saturday June 26, 2021 in collaboration with the Department of American Literature and Culture, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and the kind contribution of the Fulbright Foundation in Greece. It consisted of 3 main seminars and was attended by thirty-seven participants connecting with the Summer School platform from Croatia, France, Greece, and the U.K.

q. SANAS

This year was again strongly impacted by the global pandemic as the 2020 biennial SANAS conference was postponed and many workshops were cancelled. Still, SANAS held its general assembly online in the fall of 2020 and voted in a new President and Secretary. Prof. Barbara Straumann from the University of Zürich has taken over from Prof. Philipp Schweighauser as SANAS President and Dr. Roman Bischof-Vegh succeeds Prof. Julia Straub as Secretary. Dr. Ridvan Askin organized a conference titled “Rethinking the North American Long Poem: Matter, Form, Experiment” which took place on 10-13 September 2020 at the University of Basel. The keynote speakers for this event were Nathan Brown (Concordia, CAN), Rachel Blau DuPlessis (Temple, US), and Marjorie Levinson (Michigan, US). In spring 2021, SANAS held its annual Spring Reading Group online. Our guest was Kali Nicole Gross (Rutgers University, CAN): we read excerpts of her new book *A Black Women’s History of the United States*, which she co-authored with Daina Ramey Berry (U of Texas, US), and discussed her book and research with her. These few activities already conclude the SANAS news for these pandemic years.

r. RSAS

The theme of the Russian Society of American Culture Studies December annual conference in 2020 was “**White, Silver and Black Mirrors: ‘Screening’ of American**

History and Dreams” (Lomonosov Moscow State University, December 2-5). Cinematic and TV representation of many aspects of American culture became for the first time in 45 years the focus of analysis at our multidisciplinary conference. Due to pandemic restrictions, it was held on Zoom, which except for inconvenience brought us some participants from abroad. In six sections and a round table Imprints on the interaction of Image of America and image of Russia there were presented 47 papers of established and beginning researchers from 25 Universities of 15 cities of Russia, Ukraine, USA, Canada, North Macedonia, Benin and Iran. Plus over 50 attendees from Russia, USA, China and Finland also took part in discussions. The sections were as follows: 1. Journalism, 2. American Culture of the 17-19th Centuries, 3. Contemporary Literature and Culture, 4. Ethnic Aspects, 5. Gender Studies, 6. Fantastic in the Arts. Multidisciplinary approach dominated in the work of most sections, which can be demonstrated on the example of the section on Ethnic Aspects. As its coordinator Yulia Ovchinnikova from Lomonosov Moscow State University summed up: “the following ethnicities were covered: African Americans (reports of Udler I.M., Sebryuk A.N., Vorobyev D.N., Schepacheva I.V., Prokofiev A.D.), Native Americans (Ovchinnikova Y.S.), Mexican Americans (Baranova M.I., Prokofiev A.D.), Hindu-Bengali Americans (Shevchenko A.D.), as well as Canadians studies (Kazhberova V.V., Ovchinnikova Y.S.). The reports were dedicated to the following problems: representation of slave narratives, black spirituals and images of Afro-Americans in American cinema; Native American grassroots movement and ethnic musical art in media space; the American Dream and Mexican heritage in literature and cinema; dynamics of ethnic groups settlement in the USA in the late 20th – early 21st centuries and its reflection in American Cinema; interaction of literature, music, cinema and media culture; aspects of continuity and transformation of ethnic images from literature to “screen”; the power of screen image influence on the audience and its social resonance (influence to public moods and social activity). The full program of the XLVII RSACS conference with the text of the papers presented can be seen at <http://rsacs.org/xlvi-international-rsacs-conference-program/>. Among the highlights of the conference were presentations of two invited speakers – documentary filmmaker from Louisiana Maniko Dillon-Barthelemy and Vancouver-based Canadian documentary filmmaker Alberto Galina Mendoza. Besides presenting their view on the role of documentaries in contemporary social activism, they also took part in a session discussing their films Unlikely Sex Offenders – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5u_7xl9hppXY_&feature=youtu.be – and Million Dollar Med\$, <https://www.milliondollarmeds.com/>. The XLVIII RSACS conference theme will be **Overcoming: Paths to Renewal in American Culture**, dates December 1-4, 2021.

s. NASA

The NASR is the student journal of the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA). First published in the Spring of 2020, the Netherlands American Studies Review aims to showcase excellent student work from Dutch universities related to North American history, politics, literature, and society

t. BELAAS

In 2020, the association held its 28th international scientific conference “Home Bound, Home as Found” (Minsk, May 11 – 13, 2020 at Minsk State Linguistics University) online because of the pandemic. It included participants from Belarus, China, Iraq, Russia, Ukraine, and the USA. It discussed the following problems: a. The concept of home in literature and art. b. Looking for home,

space, solid foundation. c. Home as the core for self-identification. d. Family, community, nation; Unfortunately, there were no elections of the BELAAS board as the COVID-19 situation was dramatic at the moment; BELAAS members managed to take part in academic conferences in Russia and Ukraine, published a number of papers in academic journals but there could be little activity as the internal tensions began to rise in the middle of summer. Later a few persons had to leave the country.

u. RAAS

In 2020 the RAAS decided to postpone the biennial conference, titled *Eco-Consciousness: Imperatives in American Culture*, which was due in October 2020 for the following year, hoping that it could be held in person. This was also the reason why the RAAS also decided to postpone the election of the board, also due in 2020, for a year. In 2021, the RAAS-Fulbright Conference *Eco Consciousness: Imperatives in American Culture* was held in October 6-8, counted over 100 participants and was a real success. The call for publication has been issued and, at the moment, we are collecting the papers, reviewing them and decide which will be published in the volume and which in journals. The election of the RAAS board took place in October 2021 for the next 3 years. The RAAS board decided to organize a conference in October 2022, to bridge the gap created by the pandemic. The officers also decided to revamp the RAAS website, to create the possibility for all the RAAS members to advertise their research on American culture.

Tatiani Rapatzikou
EAAS Sec.-General

