



Minutes of EAAS Virtual Board Meeting (via ZOOM), 9 May 2020

Present and representing member associations:

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

Apologies for absence from the following member associations:

Jérôme Jamin BLASA

Opening Address – Welcome – President Business

- a. EAAS President – Philip McGowan (PM) welcomes everyone to the virtual board meeting. He welcomes incoming (Andrea Carosso AISNA; Alf Tomas Tønnessen NAAS; Theodora Tsimpouki HELAAS) and thanks outgoing (Donatella Izzo/ Elizabetta Vezzosi AISNA; Mikko Saikku NAAS) EAAS board members. He also thanks Hans Bak, Gert Buelens and Carmen Birkle (CB) for all the arrangements concerning EAAS finances. Special thanks go to Adina Ciugureanu (AC) for having served as the EAAS Officer for eight (8) years.
- b. PM asks everyone to approve the minutes of EAAS 2019 Board Meeting. **All agree.**
- c. PM informs everyone about the developments with the EAAS publication series with Brill and asks EAAS Sec. General (Tatiani Rapatzikou, TR) about the announcement concerning the Rob Kroes Award and its evaluation committee.
- d. Frank Mehring (FM) suggests that both members from Brill and the EAAS board could participate in the evaluation committee.
- e. TR says that EAAS should be involved while CB believes that Brill cannot be involved in the evaluation because it is profit-driven. She also suggests that Tanfer Emin Tunc (TET) should be on the evaluation board.
- f. TET agrees. She has been part of the Rob Kroes evaluation committee before, but she is willing to do it again.
- g. PM offers to help the committee if extra help is needed, and he names the other two members of the evaluation committee: FM and Marek Paryż.
- h. Nathalie Caron (NC) is asking about the EAAS web interns and whether there has been an arrangement about their payment.
- i. PM says that a small stipend can certainly be considered although it is the professional experience gained that matters here.
- j. Tibor Glant (TG) suggests that possibly the conference fee could be waived for the interns.
- k. AC adds here that EAAS cannot pay the interns due to its non-profit status, but it can cover travel expenses or waive their fee but certainly it cannot offer them any other form of payment.
- l. PM is asking the board for a volunteer as regards vetting the EAAS Postgraduate Travel Grants evaluation process. NC agrees to participate in the process.

EAAS 2020 Conference – Other EAAS Events

- a. Zuzanna Ladyga (ZL) informs everyone about the postponement of the EAAS conference due to the covid notifications Warsaw University has issued. The whole event will be transferred to 2021. Everyone who has paid the early bird fees got their money back. As for the travel grants, they were also postponed for 2021. All keynote speakers have been contacted in order to confirm their participation in 2021.
- b. PM thanks ZL for all her work and asks the board members about the impact such a postponement is going to have on all other events plus the Women’s Network symposium.
- c. ZL is asking whether the Women’s Network event can be paired up with the EAAS conference in 2021.
- d. TG says that the symposium can shift to Hungary in 2022 together with the EAAS board meeting.
- e. Cristina Alsina Risque (CrAR) says that her colleagues in Madrid would like to stick to 2022 for the EAAS conference because this also coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Open University which will allow them to have access to funding resources. In addition, further funding may be available due to the publication anniversary of T.S. Eliot’s *Waste Land*. The

reason for holding on to 2022 for the EAAS conference has to do with all the other events that have been scheduled by the Spanish Association for American Studies.

- f. TG says that they are open for the organization of the symposium in Debrecen, and he is asking whether August 2021 could be considered as an alternative date.
- g. PM says that it is important to hold on to 2024 due to the 70th EAAS anniversary. He also understands Madrid's arguments about 2022. He is reluctant for EAAS having another conference organized in 2021 due to the traveling involved. He proposes 2023 as an alternative solution.
- h. TET says that the Women's Network does not want to break up the sequence of their symposia so they are thinking of organizing a separate event in 2021 and then plan their next one in 2023. She is going to confirm with the steering committee and see whether the theme of their event could complement the EAAS conference theme.
- i. Aleksandra Izgarian (AI) believes that this is a good arrangement helping those who could not be in Warsaw in 2020.
- j. Cecile Heim (CH) thanks ZL and the conference committee for their efforts and asks whether a new call will be issued.
- k. ZL informs everyone that a new call will be issued in August. For the time being, they are waiting to see whether there will be any more withdrawals.
- l. PM confirms that EAAS 2021 is going to take place in Poland together with an enhanced Women's Network event, then EAAS 2022 will be held in Madrid, Women's Network Symposium 2023 will take place in Debrecen, and EAAS 2024 will be organized in Germany.
- m. CB believes that Munich will be the one to host the event but she is still waiting to receive final confirmations.
- n. PM adds that it would be good if the 2025 Women's Network Symposium moved North.
- o. Alf Tomas Tønnessen (AT) says that he is going to check with NAAS and let the board know.

EAAS Financial Report

- a. PM invites AC to go ahead with the EAAS financial report and thanks her for all her work.
- b. AC starts by thanking everyone and saying that it has been an honor to serve on the EAAS board for many years starting as a Romanian representative for eight (8) years, out of which four (4) years as the EAAS Treasurer and then solely as the EAAS Treasurer for another four (4) years. As a Treasurer, she has tried to do her best despite the challenges. Due to the problems with ABN-AMRO, another Bank had to be chosen for the EAAS bank accounts. For this reason PM had to travel to Germany for all the arrangements while CB is now the new Stewart. She invites everyone to look at the assets in the Balance Sheet 2019. The amount featuring in 2018 (€272, 565.92) together with the money in the account has led to the sum of €302,975.09. In the presentation of the EAAS finances in Thessaloniki in 2019, the portfolio was low but now with the transfers the amount has gone up to €290,260.39. As for the amount of €1,471.07 in ABN-AMRO, it will be transferred to the new account. The bank account in Romania has €38.984,52 so the total amount will rise to €330,715.98. This means that there has been an increase in 2019 compared to the negative balance in 2018. The expenses in 2019 covered the following areas: EAAS Board dinner, travel grants, one Peter Lang publication, postage of book review copies, President travel expenses, VP travel expenses for ASA participation, BAAS representative travel expenses for his participation in the 1st HELAAS Young Scholar Symposium. The total amount for the 2019 expenses comes up to €25,784.30. As for income in 2019, the EBAAS surplus (€7,627.74) and the member association fees (€26,160) should be considered. As regards the finances for 2020-2021, the following amounts have been saved: the expenses for the EAAS 2020 conference

due to its postponement; the Rob Kroes prize publication amount (€3,000.00) due to the agreement with Brill, the early career Travel Grants (€14,000) which will move to the following year. The expenses that will need to be covered are: book review postage and bank transfers with the money needing to be wired from Romania to the account to be opened by the new EAAS Treasurer. In addition, not all associations were able to pay their annual fees due to the current situation. For 2021, we should consider the following activities: the board meeting and the conference travel grants. There has already been a calculation with regard to the bank fees to be charged but it all depends on the new bank account. AC adds that the future financial situation cannot be predicted but the board can certainly rely on the EAAS dues which serve as an annual income for EAAS.

- c. CB refers to the ABN AMRO amount saying that it is difficult to be transferred due to the bank investment activities. She adds that Gert Buelens is in touch with the bank so that the amount can be transferred in the future. She believes that EAAS needs to be very careful with its savings. The bank has reassured her that the account figures will soon go up again.
- d. PM adds that indeed the ABN-AMRO amount is tied with an investment portfolio so withdrawing it at the current stage will cost money. He believes that the AFT strategy should be followed. He believes that the next academic year will continue being difficult but then things will start changing.
- e. NC refers to the AFEA dues due to the debt they need to settle and their current difficulty preventing them to go ahead with their payment. Kerry Jane Wallart (KJW) joins the conversation and confirms what NC says about the AFEA dues. She adds that they have been struggling to make ends meet. Students constitute the majority of their membership and due to a fee increase many members have left the association.
- f. TET adds that ASAT charges everyone the same dues. When members retire and become honorary members, there is no charge. But there is a problem with the Euro exchange rate. As a result 2/3 of their dues go to EAAS. Also graduate students pay the same amount but this does create a problem with their finances.
- g. PM says that IAAS pays half the amount of what it receives to EAAS. He had recommended in 2016 that the EAAS fee per member is reduced to €3 for the postgraduate members. Otherwise, he believes there will be problems created in the future.
- h. ZL talks about her different roles as a PAAS representative, EAAS VP and EAAS conference organizer in relation to the decisions she needs to follow each time. She states that PAAS faces financial problems due to the changes that have occurred in the Polish law. As a result, part of the PAAS budget has gone towards Polish tax. As a result, PAAS is seeking relief from the EAAS 2021 fee. She would like to know whether there are other associations facing similar problems.
- i. AC adds that BLASA dissolved due to member reduction, not due to fee or tax problems.
- j. AI says that there is a problem with the umbrella association (AASSEE) due to the different currencies between the members plus the extra money that needs to be paid for the transfer of the payable amount to AC. She adds that AASSEE has also lost members due the cancellation of their events.
- k. NC adds that AFEA is paying travel grants to European students in order to encourage their participation in their events. She is asking whether they could pay €3 instead of €6 per person to EAAS for their graduate student members. This is because graduate students constitute one (1) quarter of their member body.

- l. Silvia Schultermandl (SiS) adds that in AAAS most of the graduate students become members of the association after they have participated in a conference. Then they usually discontinue their membership.
- m. CB says that in DGfA everyone pays on the basis of their income. The fee has been raised for those with a higher income. When members retire they are not exempt but they pay regular fees. The association also has very few honorary members. PhD students constitute 1/3 of the association membership. A decision for a lower EAAS fee will benefit DGfA due to its large member body but this will not be good for EAAS. She proposes that information is collected from all associations so that the impact of the EAAS fee is examined and then all board members could vote.
- n. TR says that HELAAS has kept the same fee for many years which is €20 for full members and €15 for student members. The dues that the association pays to EAAS is calculated on the basis of the dues that have been collected for the particular year. For members who have not settled their fee to HELAAS no EAAS fee is paid.
- o. PM says that more breathing space should be given to all associations or reduce the overall rate for everyone or reduce the postgraduate student fee to €3.
- p. CH suggests that payment could be calculated on the basis of percentages and not membership.
- q. AC believes that the auditing process will not allow it because it is the membership fees that it is asking for.
- r. CB says that she is going to find out about it and inform everyone.
- s. ZL says that she does not believe in percentages.
- t. CH says that this could be a temporary solution.
- u. Larisa Mikhaylova (LM) adds that RSAS has separate pools and different categories of members. This is what helps the association gather the dues for EAAS.
- v. Theodora Tsimpouki (ThT) suggests that the privileges of a membership to EAAS and to the national associations should become more appealing so that potential members know what they gain. Also she believes that if all associations pay the same fee to EAAS things will become more transparent.
- w. AI says that in her association they have already cut the fees for postgraduate students and they have asked them not to pay fees for conference participation. Usually students pay fees only when it comes to conferences and then they withdraw. She finds CH's suggestion favorable.
- x. PM believes that a solution needs to be found.
- y. NC would favor a fee reduction for all members from €6 to €5. She suggests that this should be applied for three years and then the board could reassess the situation. Also she believes that the per diem expense should be reconsidered because most people are refunded by their universities.
- z. PM says that the publication costs and the amount spent for board meetings have been reduced. There needs to be a ceiling.
- aa. SiS says that if the fee is reduced to €5 then her association will lose €4,000 but this may help all national associations as an emergency solution.
- bb. ZL is asking whether everyone could vote about the lowering of the EAAS fee.
- cc. ThT says that she would not like to be misunderstood. She suggests that the amount paid for the EAAS fee could be reduced, and this is what she meant by her reference to transparency. She is asking whether the solution proposed is going to help the associations with a problem.

- dd. NC answers that such a solution is going to definitely help her association. KJW joins in the conversation and adds that the solution proposed makes sense and she would favor the reduction to €5. She believes that it is important each member to be treated equally.
- ee. CrAR believes that the lowering of the fee will be beneficial for all associations. This will give the time to the EAAS board to work out solutions and get organized.
- ff. PM confirms the steps to be followed: voting for the lowering of the fee from €6 to €5, then gathering data from all associations, and discussing the fee issue in the following board meeting.
- gg. AC asks whether the new fee will apply to 2021.
- hh. PM asks everyone to vote. **ALL EIGHTEEN (18) BOARD MEMBERS AGREE.**

Election of Auditors

- a. At this point AC asks for the appointment of two Auditors for a final check and confirmation of the EAAS finances. The two board members selected are: Carmen Birkle (CB) and Yuri V. Stulov (YS).

Postgraduate Communities

- a. PM suggests that a questionnaire should be created so that the needs of the postgraduate students are recorded.
- b. ZL is asking NC to help her with the questionnaire.
- c. TR suggests that the young scholars in every association could be energized and be involved in this process.
- d. CH agrees to get involved being a young scholar herself.
- e. PM says that he needs to look into the EAAS Postgraduate Network.
- f. CB says that Martin Halliwell (MH) was voted to promote the postgraduate student interests.
- g. PM mentions that MH participated in the 1st HELAAS Young Scholar symposium but there has been no further communication since then.

EAAS Conferences and Finances

- a. AC asks whether there are any questions concerning the budget.
- b. CrAR would like to confirm with regard to the EAAS conference in 2022 whether EAAS is giving money to help the organizers get started with the responsibility to return the amount given when money starts coming in.
- c. AC says that this was tried with BAAS and despite her initial reluctance all ended up well. However, she clarifies that this was not the deal with Warsaw. But the EAAS Board can decide how to move ahead.
- d. CrAR says that it would be important for the 2022 conference organizers to have some money to get started.
- e. AC says that it is up to the EAAS Board to decide.
- f. PM says that it is a big commitment for any association to undertake the organization of the EAAS conferences.
- g. CB asks whether more money is needed for the Warsaw conference.
- h. ZL explains that there has been an agreement with EAAS with regard to the conference website, as it is also going to be used by Madrid, and the keynote speakers. But it depends

on each university whether it will agree to fund any of the conference expenses. Also the banquet is covered by EAAS.

- i. CB believes that the keynote expenses should be covered by EAAS but the banquet is not something everyone attends due to its cost. She does not think that EAAS should be paying for the banquet.
- j. AC explains that EAAS paid half the expense of the EBAAS reception and the honoraria of the keynote speakers.
- k. CrAR believes that it makes sense for EAAS to pay towards the keynote speaker expenses. She thinks that it is possible that the Madrid conference committee will reach out to the EAAS Board with ideas about the keynote speakers and will decide on the funding.
- l. PM says that information about the EAAS 2022 Conference should be presented at the next board meeting.
- m. LM suggests that some money should be put aside so that conference organizers can be helped with the first expenses.
- n. CB suggests that needs should be reviewed annually. EAAS should not pay for any expenses in advance. She believes that all should be decided on the basis of what the needs are.
- o. PM says that EAAS needs to be flexible with needs changing from country to country.

EAAS Travel Grants

- a. ZL informs the EAAS board that seven (7) applications have been submitted but the Officers will wait till the Fall for the reviewing of all applications and the announcement of instructions with regard to the time constraints within which all journeys can be materialized.

Report on BLASA

- a. PM reminds everyone of the long discussion during the EAAS board meeting in 2019 about BLASA. He informs the board about the attempts to contact the BLASA board via post and email but there was no response.
- b. AC confirms that no fee was paid.
- c. PM says that there is no other option. He adds that there is no fee plus an empty seat in the board.
- d. CH thinks that maybe the termination of the BLASA membership will energize them to take action.
- e. AC says that BLASA had only five (5) members who have now joined other associations.
- f. PM ask everyone to vote about removing BLASA officially from being a constituent EAAS member. **Sixteen (16) board members vote YES.**

Report on EJAS

- a. PM says that *EJAS* is doing well moving to four (4) issues per year. He informs everyone about the issue with Ina Batzke (IB) who has been doing a lot of work for the journal for years. He suggests that a bursary would be a good idea.
- b. ThT says that she has been working with IB who is conscientious and has been doing so much more than simply uploading information. She adds that IB is reliable and professional, and she fully agrees with what PM proposes.
- c. NC asks whether a salary should be considered.
- d. PM says that EAAS cannot pay a salary because it is a non-profit association. But IB can be getting paid for every issue.

- e. CB says that IB cannot be paid by the hour. EAAS needs to be careful because there are other people working for *EJAS*. EAAS could pay her fee for the EAAS conference covering her travel or accommodation or possibly pay her €800 a year.
- f. PM says that the board could agree to a stipend.
- g. SiS says that she likes the idea and possibly EAAS can agree to pay her a bit more since she has been paying money out of her pocket.
- h. CB adds that IB would have to declare the money in her tax declaration.
- i. PM asks whether this could be called an *EJAS* bursary and EAAS board could agree on a set rate. The money could cover the expenses of a conference fee, travel and accommodation. What needs to be decided is the amount.
- j. LM thinks that IB would not have to declare the particular amount because it is given out of gratitude.
- k. Teresa Botelho (TB) believes that this depends on the tax authorities in each country.
- l. CB suggests that if everything is waived then she will not receive any money.
- m. TG asks about IB's preference.
- n. PM suggests that a flat bursary of €300 should be given plus cover for her expenses.
- o. Jenny Woodley (JW) believes that due to the fact that this is a unique year IB's expenses should be reimbursed plus she should be given the bursary agreed.
- p. SiS asks whether IB can be reimbursed and paid €300 on top.
- q. NC believes that this is fair only if we do it every year.
- r. CB thinks that the web interns should also be considered.
- s. PM believes that this is a different thing. As for IB's work, it is not always the same but varies four times a year, depending on each journal issue.
- t. TE asks whether IB can be given up to €1000 (up to €700 for travel expenses/hotel) plus €300 for the EAAS conferences.
- u. PM asks whether everyone agrees. **ALL AGREE.**

Report on the EAAS website

- a. PM says that the EAAS website needs updating. He adds that certain pages look outdated. So web interns who are tech savvy are going to help.
- b. ZL asks about the amount that needs to be paid for a proper website.
- c. PM confirms that EAAS is not paying Patricia Lobo (PL).
- d. AC says that EAAS is paying for hosting services only.
- e. PM believes that EAAS needs a good website and somebody who can run it in addition to being proactive.
- f. NC agrees that the website is not updated and asks whether she could approach Jacques Pothier in case he would like to do it.
- g. PM says that social media and the website are central so EAAS may need to have an Officer for that role.
- h. AI believes that EAAS needs a professional one because there are technicalities concerning website platforms. Also EAAS may need to consider paying somebody.
- i. PM says that it will be difficult to pay a professional.
- j. ZL cannot understand why the website was not updated after having sent herself so many emails to PL. As for a professional, she believes it will be difficult to recruit and employ one. EAAS needs to look for a versatile solution but not for a professional because they will ask for a high payment.

- k. Andrea Carosso (AnC) adds that Humanists have downplayed the importance of online visibility. He believes that it is important for EAAS to be on the forefront of digital communication and presence but it would need to pay and not rely on a graduate student.
- l. PM says that EAAS kept the JOOMLA platform in order to make the transition easier to the new website. He proposes for EAAS to advertise for web interns but also to look out for somebody who has the technical expertise.
- m. CB is certain that there are people across the association who can do this. An officer could serve for four (4) years and look for interns just for the website. An officer for such a role will highlight the importance of such a service. In this case, we would need to consider changing the Articles.
- n. TET likes the idea of a fifth officer for the website with interns with various online duties.
- o. AI thinks that EAAS has already invested €15,000 and still there is a problem. She suggests that the EAAS board turns to the colleagues in media studies.
- p. ZL believes that till the Articles change there could be a person to work for a year.
- q. CB believes that EAAS needs to act immediately and be clear about its expectations and payment. She suggests that for the following 2-3 weeks EAAS should encourage young people to come forward.
- r. CrAR says that EAAS should not look for a person with a full-time career. EAAS needs somebody young who can also attract other young people.
- s. PM shares Article 13 with everyone and says that EAAS cannot wait till Warsaw to resolve this issue.
- t. TR asks whether one unified call will be issued both for the web interns and the new Officer.
- u. PM thinks that these two should be kept separate.

EAAS Networks

- a. PM talks about the poetry network. It will be launched in Warsaw. He refers to the LGTB network and their request to receive EAAS support.
- b. TET talks about the support of €500 the Women's Network receives from EAAS.
- c. PM says that the same can be done for the LGTB network.
- d. TR talks about the Digital Studies network and its roundtable presentation at the Warsaw conference. Also she refers to the MOU that has been signed due to the network between Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Graz University and Radboud University.

Links with the American Studies Association (ASA)

- a. ZL informs the board about ideological differences between ASA and EAAS, because EAAS is not politically involved in comparison with ASA when it comes to certain world issues. She says that EAAS supports certain causes (women's and LGTB). What is needed in order to be on par with ASA is EAAS to offer its expertise on certain issues (for example climate and technology). At the same time, EAAS 2020 Conference has a broad scope and there have been proposals coming in from ASA members. She believes that for some kind of collaboration to be developed EAAS needs to offer ASA its own angle, and present ASA with its own clear agenda.
- b. PM affirms that EAAS has no political agenda while ASA has a falling membership; there has also been the formation of IASA (International American Studies Association). He adds that EAAS is bigger than ASA and EAAS can collaborate with other associations.
- c. ZL believes that EAAS should keep in touch with ASA.

- d. CB adds that she had a similar experience the year before. Even when she stepped down, ASA was not interested even though diversity is something ASA needs. She believes that EAAS could approach those ASA members who belong to its transnational committee. Also she thinks that EAAS members could be encouraged to become members in the ASA committees.
- e. PM adds that ASA changes President every year. He thinks that because of this the agenda is different and much more US-related. He believes that EAAS can pursue other connections.
- f. LM suggests that there is the PCA (Popular Culture Studies Association). She believes that they seem to be more versatile and akin to collaborations. She adds that this is where a good EAAS website will prove useful.

Auditors' Report

- a. CB and YS, in their capacity as EAAS Board Members and Auditors, confirm that they have found the EAAS accounts and Treasurer reports to be complete and accurate.

EAAS Elections – Online Poll – Announcement of Results for the President and Treasurer Position

- a. ZL, EAAS Vice President, takes over the election. She confirms that the meeting has a quorum. She announces that AC, after two terms, needs to step down, Philip McGowan is standing for re-election, while Carmen Birkle is running for Treasurer. There are no further suggestions for either position. She proceeds with inviting everyone to vote via the ZOOM online poll system.
- b. TR announces the election results. For the President position, Philip McGowan has nineteen (19) 'yes' votes and no abstentions. For the Treasurer position, Carmen Birkle has nineteen (19) 'yes' votes and no abstentions. Philip McGowan is re-elected as president. Carmen Birkle is elected treasurer.

News from Member Associations

- a. **AFEA:** In April 2019, the AFEA joined the protest against the French government's decision to increase university fees for foreign students from outside the European Union. On May 21-24, the 51st Annual Meeting, "Disciplines/Indisciplines," was held at the Université de Nantes. Following an act of racism on social media by University de Lorraine students, the May General Assembly approved a motion condemning physical, symbolic, and psychological violence against students and staff at universities. The AFEA president, Monica Michlin, announced that the board would launch a discussion on how to fight against violence and all forms of discrimination, and would start working on an anti-violence code of ethics. The 2019 AFEA/Fulbright Award went to Elodie Grossi for her doctoral dissertation on race and psychiatry. In 2019, AFEA was faced with a budget deficit due to the decrease of some sources of revenue as well as decisions aimed to increase its support of research over the past ten years. As a result, AFEA took a number of measures to balance its budget.
- b. **DGfA:** In the 2019-2020 period, the association organized the following events: "NEW SINCERITY – SELF-EXPRESSION IN NORTH AMERICAN CULTURE – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE" FRIEDRICH-SCHILLER-UNIVERSITÄT JENA, JANUARY 25-26, 2019 with the organization of: Prof. Dr. Caroline Rosenthal (caroline.rosenthal@uni-jena.de) and Felix Haase (felix.haase@uni-jena.de); ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HISTORIANS IN THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN STUDIES: "REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING IN AMERICAN HISTORY" FRANKEN-AKADEMIE SCHLOSS SCHNEY, LICHTENFELS, FEBRUARY 8-10,

2019 with the organization of: Michael Hochgeschwender (michael.hochgeschwender@lrz.uni-muenchen.de) and Andreas Etges (etges@lmu.de), University of Munich; Annual Conference of the GAAS: 66. Hamburg, June 13-15, 2019 U.S.-American Culture as Popular Culture; INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION OF THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES: "THE CORROSION OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC ORDER? TRANSATLANTIC PERSPECTIVES IN PERILOUS TIMES" NOVEMBER 7-8, 2019, HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES with the organization of: Florian Böller; Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Heidelberg University Markus B. Siewert; Bavarian School for Public Policy / TUM School of Governance; 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE POSTGRADUATE FORUM (PGF) OF THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES: "CHALLENGES OF THE POST-TRUTH ERA IN AMERICAN STUDIES" DECEMBER 5-7, 2019, UNIVERSITY OF PASSAU with the organization of: Alexandra Hauke, Bettina Huber, and Thomas Stelzl (Passau); ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HISTORIANS IN THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN STUDIES: "REFORM MOVEMENTS IN US-HISTORY" FEBRUARY 14-16, 2020, GUSTAV-STRESEMANN INSTITUTE, BAD BEVENSEN with the organization of: Charlotte A. Lerg (University of Munich/University of Bochum) and Jana Weiß (University of Münster); A Townhall Meeting (online) on November 27, 2020 on "The Future of American Studies in Germany; A Townhall Meeting (online) on March 5, 2021 on "The Situation of Non-Tenured Scholars."

- c. **APEAA:** The Portuguese Association held its annual meeting at the University of Porto in April 2019 (11-13), coinciding with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of its foundation. Plenary speakers included Alex Houen (Cambridge University), Isabel Fernandes (University of Lisbon) and Sarah Hentges (University of Maine at Augusta). The publication of *Op.Cit*, the Association's academic journal, under the new editor Jorge Bastos da Silva (University of Porto) was published as scheduled. 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. **RAAS:** In 2019, as a result of several meetings and the think tank involving association members, the Fulbright Commission and colleagues from literature and cultural studies departments across Romania the previous year, networking was developed to increase the impact and visibility of American Studies both in the Romanian curriculum and in interaction among scholars in the country and abroad. Membership of RAAS within EAAS is stable, although the pull exerted by ESSE, controlling vaster fields, including American Studies, and attracting a larger membership, is considerable here. 2019 was a preparatory year for the national association's biennial conference, so the exchange of views and topics addressing the conference's theme Eco Consciousness: Imperatives in American Culture, enjoyed a wide circulation among members as potential participants in the event. As it has become a custom, after publishing a thematic volume including important contributions from the 2016 EAAS conference in Constanta, RAAS has also enabled the publication of the *Ideology, Identity, and the US: Crossroads, Freeways, Collisions* volume (Peter Lang, 2019), before the scheduled 2020 national conference. 2020 was a less active year for the association, due to the current pandemic, although local events were organized online in several university centers where RAAS has members. The national biennial conference was postponed for October 2021.
- e. **HAAS:** HAAS held its 13th conference in Debrecen (May 31-June 1, 2019), where we continued to discuss and record the past of American Studies in Hungary. We scheduled the

next conference to be held at Veszprém in 2021. HAAS members participated in various events and conferences commemorating the peace treaties concluding World War I (1919) and full independence from Soviet colonization (1989). In the absence of a HUSSE conference in January 2020, we held the first International Graduate Forum in Debrecen, which was attended not only by foreign students studying in Hungary but also by young scholars from Poland and Germany. Our membership stays around 60, and a recent tax rule makes the administration of member payments more difficult. (Members do pay but they do not provide a billing address, while all receipts must go online within 8 days. We are tracking people down individually. A textbook case of fighting tax evasion gone astray.) Our members continued to organize non-HAAS sponsored conferences on Hungary and the Americas and urban studies, and also attend conferences in the field. As of March 2020 Hungary has been in partial or complete lockdown no active HAAS work seems possible.

- f. **AASSEE:** Members of the association worked on organization of the conference TRANSNATIONALITY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE AND AMERICAN ENGLISH scheduled for April 4th 2020 in Belgrade. General assembly of AASSEE and SAAS were also scheduled to happen within the conference. However, due to COVID-19 the conference and the assemblies were cancelled; **CROATIAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES:** CAAS co-organized, together with the Croatian Association for English Studies, a one-day workshop, titled Transformation: Nature and Economy in Modern English and American Culture, which gathered 17 local and international participants ranging from PhDs to established scholars. The event was held at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, on October 24, 2019. An e-publication of peer-reviewed contributions is planned in the wake of the workshop; **AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA:** On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3, the American Studies Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Student Support Office of the University of Sarajevo organized the International Conference entitled “We Are All the Same: Other and Different”, centered on Disability Studies. The conference, held on December 3, 2019, on the University of Sarajevo's campus, was organized with the support of the Federation BiH Ministry of Education and Science. Members of the Association joined students at the Faculty of Philosophy's English Department to attend lectures given by American Studies Professor Jean Kempf, Université Lumière-Lyon2, France, who conducted a teaching visit at the University of Sarajevo from January 6-12, 2019. Over the year, UAMS members also participated in several conferences in English and American Studies in the country and abroad, including Belgrade, Zagreb, Cetinje, and London; **MONTENEGRIN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES:** The association organized a series of workshop for second- and third-year students (Faculty of Philology) regarding current cultural and literary issues in the United States. The association published (in cooperation with the Faculty for Montenegrin Language and Literature, Cetinje) a collection of essays under the title *The Politics and Poetics of Women's Writing: Comparative Perspectives* (Women Writers from the USA, Canada, Scotland, Ireland.) eds. Aleksandra Nikcevic-Batricevic (University of Monterengro) and Sanja Runtic (University of Osijek); **SERBIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ANGLO-AMERICAN STUDIES:** Members of the association organized and participated in the conference BELGRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE STUDIES. The thematic volume following the conference was published. SAAS members participated in the conference CONTACTS AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SLOVENIAN AND AMERICAN POETRY which took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia from March 13-14, 2019. They also participated in other conferences in Serbia and abroad.

- g. **BASA:** No events were reported for April 2019-April 2020 period.
- h. **HELAAS:** The association organized its 1ST HELAAS YOUNG SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM: "EXPLORING TRENDS AND NEW DIRECTIONS IN AMERICAN STUDIES" December 2018; "Feminism and Technoscience," the 3rd Biennial European Association for American Studies (EAAS) Women's Network Symposium, was held in collaboration with the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS) and the Department of American Literature, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, on April 6, 2019, at the Museum of Byzant Summer School Report 2019; 5th Summer School Exploring Conflict, Sharing a Future in a World in Transition organized by the Department of American Literature, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, in collaboration with the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS) and the Fulbright Foundation in Greece, from June 28 to July 4, 2019. Also, the association published Issue 4 of *Ex-Centric: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Media and Culture* containing Part I under the special theme of and part two with independent submissions.
- i. **PAAS:** The EAAS Conference 2020 which was coorganized by PAAS and The University of Warsaw was cancelled in light of COVID-19 and postponed until 29 April-2 May 2021. All delegates were refunded, and most have returned in 2021 with the same or altered panels and papers. In 2020, PAAS has restructured its finances, fixed tax aeriar issues and is now self-sustained financially. The number of PAAS members is currently 110. In terms of academic activity, PAAS has cooperated in organization of 2 international conferences (apart from EAAS 2020/21) held locally in the Fall and Winter of 2020. Polish Journal of American Studies is issuing its CFPs and volumes on regular basis, maintaining communication within the Polish Americanist community. In January of 2021, PAAS held elections for the new Board. The current Board includes: President: Ewa Łuczak; Vice-President: Paweł Frelik; Treasurer: Ewa Antoszek; Secretary: Anna Krawczyk-Łaskarzewska; Board Member: Elżbieta Rokosz; Rep to EAAS: Zuzanna Ladyga
- j. **AISNA:** Current membership is unchanged from last year, with 200 paying members, 107 of which are PhD students or recent post-graduates. AISNA's budget is healthy, with annual income from members' fees and grants from the US Mission to Italy (which funds conferences, awards, and publications). AISNA went online with a full overhaul of its website in 2019 (<https://www.aisna.net/>). The association held its biannual international conference in Ragusa, September 26-28, 2019, entitled *Gate(d)Ways. Enclosures, Breaches and Mobilities. Across U.S. Boundaries and Beyond* (<http://www.sdslingue.unict.it/it/gate-d-ways>), which hosted 25 panels and over 100 speakers. Daily attendance ranged between 140 and 150 delegates. On November 11-13, 2019, AISNA organized, jointly with the Centro Studi Americani in Rome, the 66th edition of its annual graduate seminar (Seminario di Letteratura Storia e Cultura Americana), entitled *New Frontiers: Identities, Technologies, and Transcultural Spaces* (<http://centrostudiamericani.org/new-frontiers-identities-technologies-and-transcultural-spaces/>), where Fulbright and other international scholars delivered lectures to approximately 25 participants from all over Italy. A major series of itinerant lectures with Fulbright scholars, which AISNA had planned at various Italian universities and major cultural events in Italy for the spring 2020, had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 emergency. 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 30th issue in 2019, entitled *Mobilities and Citizenship: Rethinking Migrations, individual and Collective Civil Rights, and Their Representations*. The proceedings of AISNA's 2017 conference were also published (*The U.S. and the World We Inhabit*, Silvia Guslandi et al., eds., Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019). AISNA's very active and international Young Americanists' Network, "AISNA Graduates," (<http://aisna-graduates.online/>) launched their new online graduate journal, JamIt! Journal of American Studies in Italy (<http://aisna-graduates.online/jam-it/>) in 2019, now in its second issue. In the academic year 2019-20, the USA Embassy's "American Studies Initiative", promoted by AISNA in recent years, ensured the funding of 16 adjunct professorships in US literature and history at 16 universities in Italy, where full time faculty in American Studies includes, as of April 2020, 9 full professors, 20 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 (both north and south America).

- k. **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 will be 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.
- l. **SANAS:** This year's report will, unfortunately, be unusually short since, like for most academic associations, SANAS activities have been postponed or cancelled since March 2020. Before the global pandemic hit us, though, the SANAS community organized a number of conferences and workshops. Prof. Gabriele Rippl co-organized the biennial conference of the Walter Benjamin Society which took place on June 26th-29th, 2019 at the University of Bern. The keynotes were given by Prof. Galili Shahr (University of Tel Aviv), Prof. Juliet Simpson (University of Coventry), Prof. Brigid Doherty (Princeton University), and Prof. Sigrid Weigel (TU Berlin). SANAS continued its series of events with a conference organized by Prof. Agnieszka Soltysik-Monnet and Audrey Loetscher titled "Narratives of (Un)Sustainability." This international conference took place on September 26th-27th, 2019 at the University of Lausanne and its plenary session was given by Prof. Stephanie LeMenager (University of Oregon). Only a few weeks later, a PhD workshop titled "Literary Texts and Legal Epistemologies in North American Indigenous Studies" took place at the University of Fribourg on October 3rd, 2019. This event featured Prof. Jill Doerfler (University of Minnesota-Duluth) as keynote speaker and allowed PhD candidates to present their work. To close the year, the biennial SANAS Symposium, organized by Prof. Deborah

Madsen, was held on November 30th, 2019 at the University of Geneva. The theme of this event was “Changing the Narrative: Water and Aesthetic Activism” and featured Prof. Elizabeth La Pensée (Michigan State University) and Prof. Joy Porter (University of Hull) as keynote speakers. This symposium was combined with our association’s Annual General Meeting during which we, among a few more administrative items, welcomed new members and gave out our annual Research Award. In 2020, the pandemic hit us before we were able to hold our first annual event, the Spring Reading Group, which had to be cancelled alongside following events and meetings in 2020’s first semester.

- m. **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. Dues 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: Journalism; American Culture of the 17-19th Centuries; Contemporary Literature and Culture; Ethnic Aspects; Gender Studies; 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., Sebyruk 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_5u7xI9hppXY&feature=youtu.be) and *Million Dollar Med\$* (<https://www.milliondollarmeds.com>).
- n. **NASA**: In June 2019, NASA organized the annual American Studies student conference at the University of Groningen. NASA established the *NASA Review*, a bi-annual student journal.

(<https://www.netherlands-america.nl/nasa-review/>). The American Studies program at Radboud University launched a new Master program in Transatlantic Studies: History, Culture and Politics. This one-year academic program examines the important political and cultural connections between the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean. In a truly interdisciplinary fashion this program is grounded in American studies as it intersects with cultural and political history, and international relations (<https://www.ru.nl/opleidingen/master/transatlantic-studies/>). The Roosevelt Institute for American Studies (RIAS) published their digital archive *Transatlantic Relations Online* (<https://brill.com/view/package/rias?packages=about>) and started a new project sponsored by the Stichting Praesidium Libertatis at Leiden University on the broader theme “Racial Democracy: Challenges to Civic Democratic Ideals in American History.”

- o. **ASAT:** The year 2018 marked ASAT’s thirtieth anniversary, which we commemorated through a colloquium series held in Ankara that extended into the 2019–2020 academic year. Talks included Dr. Owen Miller’s “The Goodells: Toward a Global History of a Missionary Family,” which was held at Hacettepe University in November 2019 in front of an audience of 300 students and faculty members. The 39th International ASAT Conference was held at Onsekiz Mart University in Çanakkale (May 15–17, 2019) on the theme of “Monuments, Museums and Murals: Preservation, Commemoration and American Identity.” Our conference program can be accessed here: http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/previous-conferences/2019-asat-conference_/2019-conference-program. We published three issues (#51–53) of the *Journal of American Studies of Turkey* (printed and online/open access): <http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/jast/issues> Two of these issues were themed—on Amiri Baraka/the Black Arts Movement and on travel writing—and one was a general issue. Themed issues on museum studies and Native American studies will be published this year. As always, we welcome your suggestions, participation and collaboration, especially with our journal and international conferences, and invite you to visit our website for more information: www.asat-jast.org.
- p. **AEDEAN /SAAS:** Conferences: AEDEAN had its 43rd conference in Alicante (13-15 November 2019); more than 250 papers were read and there were 15 candidates to the Catalina Montes award for PhD students; the US Studies panel continues to be one of the most successful. The plenary speakers were Dr. Laura Alba-Juez (Open University-UNED, Madrid); guest writer Jackie Kay; Dr. John McLeod (University of Leeds, UK); Dr. Alexander Onysko (Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt, Austria); Dr. Juan A. Prieto-Pablos (University of Sevilla). Next conference will be held in Santander in November 2020 if the COVID-19 situation makes it possible. If that were not the case, then we would postpone it to November 2021. **AEDEAN** organized its first Doctoral Seminar in July 2019 in Alcalá de Henares. 30 doctoral students participated and presented their research in workshop-type sessions where they shared and compared initiatives, problems, solutions and other experiences related to their research. They were tutored by experienced thesis supervisors. There were also presentations by experts on general research topics in English studies: Sara Prieto (Universidad de Alicante) – “Academic Writing: No Pain, No Gain?” and Cristina Garrigós (UNED) – “‘Where Are You Going? Where Have You Been?’: Doing Research in English Studies”. The second Doctoral Seminar will take place in July 2020 in Alicante if the COVID-19 situation allows travelling and small meetings by then. **SAAS** held its 14th conference in Salamanca from April 9th to April 11th. The topic was: “The Image and the Word: Interactions between American Literature, Media, Visual Arts and Film” and it was a massive success.

There were 28 panels, some of them with double sessions and a total of 165 papers were read (we come from 80 in the 2015 Conference and 100 in the 2017 conference) with international contributions from Germany, Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, South Korea, Egypt, Scotland, Slovakia, France, Georgia, Greece, India, England, Ireland, Italy, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA. The conference also included a lively book presentation session and a doctoral seminar. There will be 5 keynote speakers: Dr. Marjorie Perloff (Stanford University); Dr. Gordon Henry (Michigan State University); Dr. Gerald Kennedy (Louisiana State University); Dr. Cristina Garrigós Gonzalez (UNED); Dr. Mário Avelar (Portuguese Open University). SAAS will hold its 15th conference in Bilbao 24-26 March 2021. The call for papers will soon be open and the topic for the conference is “‘Fear Narratives’ and their Role/Use in the United States”. **Journals:** *Atlantis* 41.1 was published in June 2019 and 41.2 in December 2019; the web page has been improved and the journal is working consistently to adapt to the few changes necessary to go up in the percentiles of Scopus and Thomson-Reuters. 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 Córdoba conference will be available online soon. We are now starting to work on the e-book for the Alicante conference. The deadline to send manuscripts to *REN Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos*, also recently included in SCOPUS, is also open.

- q. **CSAA:** CONFERENCES: *22nd International Colloquium of American Studies – SECRETS Biennial Conference of the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies* September 12–14, 2019 which was hosted by the Faculty of Arts and the Department of English and American Studies at Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic. Plenary speakers: Philip McGowan (Queen's University Belfast), President of the European Association for American Studies; Brian Ward (Northumbria University), Chair of the British Association for American Studies; Diane Simmons (City University of New York) Award-winning author, Professor of Creative writing: <http://colloquium2019.upol.cz/>; PUBLICATIONS: See http://csaa.upol.cz/?page_id=247.
- r. **AAAS:** 22-24 Nov. 2019 AAAS conference, “Mediating Mountains,” University of Innsbruck, Austria; 30-31 Oct, 2020 AAAS conference, “American Studies as Vulnerability Studies?” University of Graz, Austria, conference planned, possibly postponed. JAAAS (Journal of the Austrian Association for American Studies) several special issues lined up for publication, see link <https://jaaas.eu/index.php/jaaas>.
- s. **BAAS:** Its 2020 annual conference in Liverpool was cancelled in light of COVID-19. All delegates were refunded and additional expenses are in the process of being reclaimed, where possible. BAAS has established a Hardship Fund for those who have non-refundable expenses, particularly postgraduates or those in precarious employment. Delegates will be given the opportunity for papers/ panels etc to be transferred to the 2021 Conference in Hull. BAAS is organising a series of online research seminars in June 2020, for speakers who would have presented in Liverpool to share their research. Last year’s BAAS annual conference was held at University of Sussex in April 2019. One initiative which was successfully introduced at the conference were the Targeted Research Panels, which provided opportunities to foster research that attends to and includes historically marginalised communities. This produced a number of excellent panels, discussions and networking opportunities. BAAS is establishing and supporting a network to support BAME

academics in American Studies. The BAAS Postgraduate conference was hosted by the British Library in December 2019. Membership figures continue to be stable. Journal of American Studies is publishing an extra edition a year; circulation remains strong.

- t. **BELAAS:** In 2019, the association continued its activities in the usual format. It held XXVIIIth International scientific conference “A journey as search for one’s identity in the wide world”: sharing the experience of the 21st century”. The conference brought together academics, researchers, Ph.D. students, M.A. and undergraduate students from Belarus, U.K., Iran, China, Poland, Russia and the USA. The issues covered dealt with various aspects of US history, literature, language and culture. The collection of essays and academic papers “American and European Studies – 2019” was published. BELAAS managed to bring to Minsk such outstanding academics and scholars as Dr. Douglas Field (Manchester University co-founding editor of the James Baldwin Review, member on the Editorial Committee of Manchester University Press, co-founding director of The Manchester Centre for Correspondence Studies, UK), Natalie Zacek, member of the American Studies Research Group and the Centre for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, member of the Royal Historical Society, the American Historical Association, the British Group in Early American History (Manchester University, UK), Prof. Horst Tonn, author of a number of books on US literature and culture (Tuebingen University, Germany), prof. Dominika Ferens (University of Wrocław, Poland), prof. Cynthia S. Hamilton, Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, member of the Executive Committee of the British Association for American Studies and the Board of the Collegium for African American Research, General Editor for the FORECAAST Series, Liverpool Hope University, UK), prof. Maria Nikola (Moscow Pedagogical State University, Russia). We were privileged to have them give lectures on American Studies and US literature, history and sociology, consult local PhD and M.A. students, meet with the local academic community. BELAAS members took part in various events and conferences organized by BAAS, PAAS, RSACS, and other institutions.
- u. **NAAS:** The biennial NAAS conference was organized in Bergen, April 25-27, 2019. The conference theme was “Monuments.” The Swedish Association for American Studies had three separate events: April 2019: the first issue of the SAAS Newsletter, containing a survey of the “State of the Field” of American Studies in Sweden; October 4–5, 2019: Graduate Student Workshop in American Studies, arranged at Stockholm University. Co-sponsored event by SAAS and the Swedish Institute of North American Studies (SINAS) at Uppsala University; April 2020: second issue of the SAAS Newsletter with “State of the Field” of American Studies in Sweden.

Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou
EAAS Sec.-General