



Minutes of EAAS Board Meeting, London 3 April 2018

Present and representing member associations:

**Isabelle Alfandary AFEA
Carmen Birkle/Udo Hebel DGfA
Teresa Botelho APEAA
Eduard Vlad RAAS
Martin Halliwell BAAS
Tibor Glant HAAS
Madeleine Danova BASA
Mikko Saikku NAAS
Zuzanna Ladyga PAAS
Elisabetta Vezzosi/Donatella Izzo AISNA
Philip McGowan (EAAS President) IAAS
Frank Mehring NASA
Cristina Alsina Rísquez AEDEAN/SAAS
Michal Peprnik CSAA
Ralph Poole AAAS
Tatiani Rapatzikou (EAAS Sec.-Gen.) HELAAS
Boris Vejdovsky SANAS
Yuri V. Stulov BELAAS
Adina Ciugureanu EAAS Treasurer
Pawel Frelík EAAS Vice President
Hans Bak Amsterdam Trust Fund Steward**

Apologies for absence from the following member associations:

**Aleksandra Izgarjan AASSEE
Tanfer Emin Tunc ASAT
Jérôme Jamin BLASA
Larisa Mikhaylova RSAS**

1. Opening address - Welcome

- a. Formal welcome from Martin Halliwell (BAAS) and EBAAS conference organizer. He thanks all EAAS members for traveling to London for the board meeting and conference.
- b. EAAS President – Philip McGowan (PM): he specially thanks MH for hosting and organizing the EAAS board meeting and being in charge of the EBAAS conference; he extends his warm welcome to EAAS board members; he welcomes incoming and thanks outgoing EAAS board members.
- c. PM and all board members thank Ben Offiler and Michelle Green for stepping in after Jacques Pothier’s (JP) retirement from the webmaster position. Everyone thanks Patricia Lobo and decides to waive her fee for any future EAAS conference. **[Action: President asks everyone to vote. Everyone agrees].**
- d. PM says that the website is up and EAAS has already put forward €10,000 for this expense. However, the website is still being modified. Patricia should be notified about any changes. PM believes that with an improved website EAAS can attract more attention for future events and develop its postgraduate student community. The young constituency of EAAS plus the EAAS young scholars need to be supported and boosted. Certainly 1/3 of the EAAS funding goes to young researchers but these are only individual grants. It’s necessary that everyone is networked. The website needs to be used so that connections are strengthened. For this reason, it’d be good if an established member of the board should represent the EAAS postgraduate community.
- e. PM adds that EAAS has been referring to Hans-Jürgen Grabbe (HJG) for a number of things. He believes that a far more transparent system needs to be developed.
- f. Pawel Frelik (PF) informs everyone that he has been working on a file where all important deadlines will be noted.
- g. PM also thanks Carmen Birkle (CB) for her help with the German Authorities with regard to the EAAS finances.
- h. PM thinks that due to the EAAS finances it’d have helped if the EAAS Treasurer had been German. Since an EAAS Officer’s position cannot be nullified, PM suggests that the German representative on the EAAS board should offer assistance to the EAAS treasurer.
- i. PM refers to the application of the Georgian Association for American Studies in order to become an EAAS member. As regards the members noted in the information submitted, they should come at least from four universities. As for the application to EAAS, it should be have been done in writing. **[Action: Certain criteria need to be set.]**
- j. PM refers to the EAAS Networks and in particular to the EAAS Women’s Network which has been doing well. Its next symposium will take place next year in Thessaloniki.
- k. PM also refers to the ASN President, who has reported about the 2017 winner whose name will be announced during the EBAAS reception. PM says that there is a need for two more networks to be created one for poetry and one for LGTBQ studies.
- l. PM refers to the Rob Kroes Book Award and its promotion through the EAAS website. He believes that this should be combined with the new EAAS book series with Palgrave. This means that EAAS would need to send a 6-month notice to Verlag as regards the termination of the collaboration.
- m. PM talks about this year’s EAAS conference which is combined with the BAAS conference. “Protest” has been one of the main themes of the conference staying away from any political agendas. PM notes that all members are encouraged to express their opinion. As a result, PM has already sent a few letters to EU about the situation in Poland and Turkey, which has triggered a number of responses. PM believes that we should all promote freedom of speech.

- n. PM talks about the needs postgraduate students have, since they don't get many chances or career options.
- o. PM warmly thanks Ralph Poole (RP), PF, and Martin Halliwell (MH) for all their contribution since they won't join the EAAS board in 2019 as their association representatives. The President also expresses his gratitude to Hans Bak who is stepping down from the EAAS Amsterdam Trust Fund (ATF) position which is now passing to Gert Buelens.
- p. PM invites everyone to a minute's silence to remember Konstantin Grozev and Maurice Gonnaud.
- q. PM asks if everyone approves the Lausanne EAAS board minutes. **[Action: Everyone approves].**

2. EBAAS Conference 4-7 April 2018 in London

- a. PM asks MH to talk to everyone about the conference
- b. MH says that the conference was conceived in 2013 when he was President of BAAS. He thanks Philip Davies, who commenced the conversation. He also thanks King College's representative who later had to stop being part of the conference due to her maternity leave. This has been a very complex conference to organize. MH says that the initial idea was to have two days at King's but eventually the conference shifted to Franklin Building due to its Southbank location. Also King's rates aren't commercial. As for the British Library, it will hold the reception and UCL will host the plenaries. The Senate House is closed due to the student occupation so the banquet will move to the British Library also due to the big numbers. The King's Gallery has been chosen for this purpose. One of the Keynote speakers pulled out and then Maria Giulia Fabi was selected who will talk about African American Fiction. MH says that the conference committee received 146 panel proposals and 240 individual abstracts which imposed certain number limitations. They decided for a total of 450 papers, which meant that they had to reject around 110 papers while create 130 panels. He thinks that this is the reason why some colleagues couldn't be accepted. He is happy to accept any questions even though he had no executive position in the paper selection committee. In addition, there were certain technological constraints which explains why the King's website and app were used.
- c. PM mentions that no official EAAS AGM has been scheduled in the conference program. The only AGM that appears is about BAAS. For this reason he will address everyone during the reception. Also he invites all the members of the board to join the President's lunch. He is thinking of inviting a few other representatives to join, for example the SAAS President and ASA member Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello.

3. Financial Report

- a. AC invites everyone to go to the pdf file for 2017 and take a look at the left-hand side column where the income of €10,505.18 appears. This has been calculated by subtracting the amounts that appear on the right-hand side (for this reason see Assets 2017). All expenses have been itemized in the column appearing on the left-hand side. The amount of €15,200 has gone towards travel grants. This amount includes the remaining €1200 from the previous year. Therefore the money was transferred to 2017 to allow the grantee to use it. **[Action: The period for EAAS money transfers needs to be set. It has been agreed that all grantees request their grants by January of the year the grants have been announced.]**
- b. AC says that the EAAS second website expense (€2,674) has been arranged to be settled immediately after the board meeting.

- c. AC adds that an amount of €359.29 was spent in order to cover the expenses procured for the translation of certain EAAS financial documents in view of obtaining tax exemption. HJG sent the bill in October 2017 which seemed to be a bit costly.
- d. AC says that even though she had the experience of the tax exemption process back in 2014, this year everything was far more complex due to the two transfers of €10,000 each that had taken place in 2014 and 2016 respectively. As a result, during the exemption process in 2017 there were certain questions – Why has there been a second transfer? Could it be an income? Should taxation be imposed? – for which professional advice needed to be sought as regards the way these amounts need to appear in the books for the avoidance of any complications.
- e. AC was also asked, through CB, to provide the balance sheets of 2014 and 2016. AC thanks CB for all her help.
- f. AC explains that the amount of €150 was paid to Theodora Tsimpouki for all the postage expenses for sending the EJAS book review copies for the year 2016.
- g. AC points out that the amount of €848.58 has been spent towards covering the bank transaction expenses (€10 per transaction) for the payment of the per diems for each one of the EAAS board members.
- h. AC invites everyone to look at the income and expenses of 2016. She explains that the year a conference is organized more money is spent. The amount of €9,002.64 had gone towards the expenses of the Hague conference and the Rob Kroes Book Award in 2016. Due to the large amount of money spent, EAAS appears to be in deficit. In terms of interest, 2016 was not a very good year either.
- i. AC asks now everyone to look at the budget plan for 2018 which is again a conference year. She explains that a transfer of €10,000 will soon appear in the EAAS bank account. The budget was initially calculated for €25,500 income, but when the fees of all national associations were paid this amount went up. As for the EAAS board member expenses for the board meeting in London, they are expected to be less than the amount paid in Lausanne. AC also refers to the money to be spent for the publication (if this goes ahead) of the second volume of the papers that were presented in the 2016 EAAS conference. She mentions that the expenses of the first volume were covered by the Romanian Association for American Studies (RAAS). For the second volume the expense very much depends on the publisher who will undertake the publication (Palgrave book series or Verlag) on the basis of what the board decides.
- j. Concerning the website expense, AC says that there is an amount of €2,674 to go towards Patricia Lobo's work and an amount to be paid, as noted by JP, due to the use of a French email platform. AC will discuss this with the French representative since the platform that holds all the EAAS email addresses can be operable only by a French citizen. So a different solution needs to be sought.
- k. AC also refers to a few miscellaneous expenses. The grand total comes up to €33,874 which will hopefully leave EAAS in 2018 with a surplus of €1,626.
- l. AC continues with the calculations for 2019, but she says that some of the amounts mentioned will be adjusted closer to the time.
- m. As regards the Amsterdam Trust Fund (ATF), CB proposes that it should not be presented as an income but as revenue so that EAAS avoids having any problems with the tax authorities.
- n. AC thanks CB but she believes that if she crosses out this amount from where it appears right now this will create a minus.
- o. CB proposes that the amount listed should be presented as an estimate, but definitely not as income.
- p. PF proposes the introduction of another category.

- q. AC believes that she should stick to the three categories: income, revenue, expenses.
- r. CB believes that the ATF transfer should not be listed under income but it should appear as an ABN-AMRO holdings estimate.
- s. AC agrees to examine how to insert this piece of information in the sheet. As for the interest of the holdings, it appears on the first page of the 2017 income and expenses sheet but again the same applies for what is defined as income in 2018 as well.
- t. PF believes that we should note the interest on the holdings and not just the holdings.
- u. AC says that she has followed the model HJG proposed which explains the reason why she has written everything the way she did while she has placed the information about increase/decrease in the assets.
- v. Hans Bak (HB) adds that what is tax exempt in the Netherlands should also be ok with the German authorities.
- w. PM says that everything should be clear from now on.

4. Election of Auditors

- a. At this point PM 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 and Michal Peprnik.

5. Amsterdam Trust Fund

- a. HB thanks all board members and announces that this is his final meeting. He'd also like to highlight a few things. He says that EAAS would need to follow a defensive financial strategy. He also talks about the bank costs being only 0,5% while he refers to the increment of €11,585.73. He adds that for 2018 the amount of €10,000 has already been transferred. This amount could be spent for travel grants if the board decides to do so since EAAS has now been registered as a money-generating institution with the German authorities. This has been settled with HJG's help.
- b. HB notes that he has served as an EAAS steward with ATF for fourteen years. Since the bank is in Amsterdam, he believes that Gert Buelens (GB) could be the ideal one for this position.
- c. PM thanks HB for his service to EAAS.
- d. HB adds that the new steward does not have to be a full EAAS board member. His role will be to act as a liaison between ATF and the German authorities. He also thinks that since PM's and AC's names have also been added to ATF all can now move smoothly. He adds that EAAS only needs to decide about the amount of money to be transferred which shouldn't exceed the amount of €10,000.
- e. AC adds that the amount of €10,000 can be used for the conference years. She believes that the amount should decrease slightly in the off-conference years. However, for the effective management of the transfers, EAAS needs to sell from its assets. That's the reason why EAAS should stick to the amount of €10,000.
- f. PM agrees that GB transfers €15,000 instead due to all the taxes.
- g. AC then refers to the due list. She says that the British, French, Greek, and Romanian associations have done very well.
- h. Teresa Botelho (TB) adds that the figures appearing in the due list are not accurate since the enrolment of her association has been affected by their conferences.

6. EAAS Travel grants

- i. PF talks about the travel grants – 32 in total – that have been given for the conference. He says that €300 have been going towards each grant. All grant holders will collect the money at the conference. It is important to make sure that they definitely attend and can personally collect the grant. He adds that EAAS needs to add an extra €1,000 since the expenses for the conference travel grants have been shared between BAAS and EAAS.
- j. PM says that EAAS and BAAS have agreed to share the expense 50/50.
- k. AC says that EAAS agreed to pay only €6,000.
- l. PF says that it was 50/50 when the conference was held in Romania but in London BAAS has paid €4,000 and EAAS needs to pay €6,000. He believes that associations need to be promoting these grants since EAAS has hoped to have more applicants. Actually everyone who applied got the grant.
- m. PF talks about the research travel grants for U.S. and Europe with emphasis placed on archival research. The maximum amount given per grant is €2,000. The total amount to be spent is €14,000 while there are 14 applicants: 3 from BAAS, 1 from AISNA, 1 from HAAS, 1 from AFEA, 2 from HELAAS, 3 from PAAS, 1 from DGfA, 1 from SAAS, and 1 from CSAA. He adds that all officers have looked at all applications and results will be announced in mid-April.
- n. AC adds that all grant holders need to claim the money by January 2019.
- o. PM confirms that everyone has seven (7) months in order to claim the money. He also asks for one board member to vet the applications.
- p. Yuri Stulov (YS) agrees.

7. EAAS Conference 2020

- a. Zuza Ladyga (ZL) asks whether the EBAAS formula is also going to be used for the EAAS conference in Warsaw. She then comments on the cultural scene of Warsaw. As for the conference venue, it is located in the new part of the city. Warsaw has two airports with direct connection to the city center. The Warsaw University is going to be the main conference host. It is located near the cultural institutions of the city. She confirms that PM has already visited the venue. As for hotels, there are plenty of options near the university campus. The old campus is also going to be used for the conference. The old university library has a big lecture room that can be used for the keynote addresses and plenty of rooms for the parallel sessions. The new university library also has rooms plus it provides easy access to the garden area which will be used for the conference reception and banquet. Due to the shift in the conference dates (30 April-3 May, 2020) all university facilities will be available and all is within walking distance. There are a few other locations to be considered for the conference reception and artistic performances. As for the conference central theme, the conference organizing committee has been thinking of the 1620-2020 anniversary and the themes of citizenship, space, renewal which they believe will attract the attention of historians, political scientists, and literary analysts. As for the keynote speakers, there's going to be one from EAAS, a U.S. and a local speaker. Possibly Professor Tomasz Basiuk will be the Polish keynote speaker. Another speaker who has been considered is Michelle Buntham who is a historian. Also Robyn Wiegman has already agreed to travel to Warsaw for the conference so he could be the third keynote speaker. As for the conference fee, it has not been decided but the university has promised to help with the conference finances.
- b. PM agrees with everything
- c. AC is asking whether the EPAAS formula will be used on the basis of the EBAAS one.
- d. ZL says that it'd be good if PAAS blended with EAAS.

- e. AC is concerned whether this will create any problems with the conference finances.
- f. PM believes that it'd be best to wait for the conference report in 2019 so as to see how finances went.
- g. PF says that PAAS is very small. He believes that a joint conference with EAAS will work better.
- h. AC asks everyone to wait till 2019 when the EAAS financial balance will be reviewed. Then all board members could decide about the financial support that can be offered.
- i. MH expresses a concern since in London the conference organizers had to accept more people in order to break even.
- j. PM believes that the London conference has been really big. He does not believe that all other conferences will be so big.

8. Announcement of candidacies for office (EAAS Vice President and EAAS Secretary General)

- a. PM announces all the candidacies. He says that TR is the only candidate for the Secretary General position, while MH and ZL are the two candidates for the Vice President position.
- b. PM invites everyone to vote for the Secretary General position.
- c. PF and MS announce 17 votes in favor and 1 invalid vote.
- d. PM asks the two candidates for the Vice President position to say a few words.
- e. MH says that he would like to turn his attention to young students entering the university. He is the Head in three departments and he has a lot of international experience due to his involvement with various councils in Europe and ASA as a U.K. representative. He has organized a number of conferences and he had been responsible for the joint postgraduate conference of BAAS and IAAS. He has recently been involved with putting together a brochure about the social impact of research. For this reason, he would be keen on documenting EAAS history plus bringing its research to a wider audience.
- f. ZL has been running lots of workshops for young students which have built up into a compact network. She believes that she could strengthen the communication and dialogue between EAAS board members and associations. She is keen on promoting the organization of an EAAS summer school that would encourage the participation of students from underprivileged areas.
- g. PM invites everyone to vote and announces the results of the elections: 9 votes in favor of MH and 9 votes in favor of ZL.
- h. PM announces that on basis of Article 8§4 he would need to cast an additional vote.
- i. Since this vote is invalid, PM invites everyone to vote again.
- j. PM announces the results: 9 votes in favor of ZL, 8 votes in favor of MH, and 1 invalid vote.
- k. PF as an outgoing EAAS Vice President expresses his special thanks to all the members of the board.

9. EAAS Conference 2022

- a. Cristina Alsina Riquez (CAR) says a few words about the EAAS 2022 conference. She refers to University of Oviedo and University of Madrid that have approached her for the conference. She believes that Madrid has better facilities and spaces that could be used for the conference for free.
- b. CAR asks whether she could consult ZL and MH for all next steps since she'd need to update the conference team in Madrid and also consider the conference presentation that she'd need to prepare for the 2019 board meeting.

10. EAAS Board meetings

- a. PM confirms that the next board meeting is going to take place in Thessaloniki. The dates are: April 4th EAAS board dinner, April 5th EAAS board meeting, April 6th EAAS Women's Network international symposium.
- b. Tibor Glant (TG) proposes Debrechen for the 2021 board meeting.
- c. PM proposes Belfast as a back-up plan for the board meeting of the same year.

11. EJAS

- a. PM reports on the EJAS and the list of forthcoming publications. He believes that the new EAAS website is going to help EJAS. However archiving is an issue that the EAAS website would need to take into consideration if it is to host EJAS.
- b. TR is asking if information of all the association journals is posted on the EAAS website. **[Action: all associations need to forward information to Patricia Lobo for posting online].**

12. Auditors' Report

- a. PM addresses the two auditors.
- b. CB says that AC has given them all additional materials and all is in order. She adds that the two auditors have signed the form.
- c. AC asks auditors to help her with the English terminology needed in preparation for the paperwork to be submitted to the German tax office.

12. EAAS publications

- a. PM asks PF to talk about EAAS publications.
- b. PF has looked into Palgrave New York. EAAS needs to have a formal book proposal as well as propose a group of editors for the series. PF has already approached a number of people. Some of them couldn't commit but there are four (4) people who are now book series editors. Particular emphasis needs to be placed on the European perspective of American Studies. The EAAS proposal needs to be drafted in summer and then sent to Palgrave to be evaluated by external readers. News about the new EAAS book series will be made available by the next EAAS board meeting. There will be no publication costs if EAAS collaborates with Palgrave. Palgrave also has an international distribution and guarantees a paperback edition in two years after initial publication. Up until now EAAS has been publishing post-conference volumes, which now needs to be reconsidered. EAAS should look at these new publications as multi-authored book projects. The Rob Kroes book award publications will also fall under the EAAS-Palgrave collaboration.
- c. PM says that it's necessary for EAAS to send a notice to HJG due to the existing contract.
- d. PF believes that all previous volumes need to be cleared.
- e. AC says that one of the EAAS 2016 book volumes has been published with Peter Lang even though HJG supports that there is a contract with Verlag till 2019. As for the Rob Kroes book award, a new name would need to be decided if these books are also published with Palgrave.
- f. PM suggests that we should wait for the next Rob Kroes book award CFP before any book plans are finalized.
- g. CB is asking whether there are any other plans in case Palgrave does not agree to publish the Rob Kroes book volume.
- h. PF believes that EAAS should come to an agreement with Palgrave when it comes to the evaluation of the Rob Kroes book manuscript.

- i. AC believes that it would be good if for the Rob Kroes book publication there was a different editor.
- j. PM thinks that if the Rob Kroes books are published with Palgrave a blind review system will be ensured which will also ensure high quality submissions.
- k. PF adds that in addition to the editors Palgrave will make sure that an advisory board is also in place.
- l. PM here asks whether the second EAAS 2016 post-conference volume will also be published with Peter Lang.
- m. TR says that all depends on funding.
- n. PM asks whether all agree for EAAS to cover the expenses for the second volume. **[Action: Everyone agrees].**

13. Report on the EAAS website

- a. PM asks everyone to update their association information on the EAAS website. He says that all information needs to be forwarded to Patricia Lobo.
- b. PM supports that an LGTB network needs to be created.
- c. PF asks if there is a formal application procedure.
- d. PM says that there is information available about the procedure on the EAAS website.

14. Links with American Studies Association

- a. PM says that he will connect with Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello in order to find out more about the situation with ASA.

15. Presenting the request of the Georgian Association for American Studies to join EAAS

- a. PM is asking the board members about the request of the Georgian Association for American Studies to join EAAS.
- b. PF is uncertain about the faculty names mentioned, especially those coming from the Medical Sciences. He believes that the diversity put forth is not convincing since there is no direct connection with American Studies.
- c. PM is asking everyone to vote.
- d. Donnatella Izzo (DI) is asking whether certain questions could be forwarded to them.
- e. PM suggests that an affiliate membership could be proposed. Also an invitation to their next American Studies conference should be sent to EAAS together with information about their collaborations and member research profiles.

16. Discussion of criteria for the acceptance of new member associations

- a. PM adds that Aleksandra Izgarjan, the president of AASSEE, had informed him and the Secretary General of EAAS before the Board meeting that there are problems in communication with the Association for American studies in FYROM. Namely the association still has only 5 members and these are only from Tetovo. Not all of them are scholars in the field of American studies but rather employees at the American Corner in Tetovo. AASSEE officers have received complaints from colleagues in FYROM, predominantly from Skopje who are Americanists and who want to become members of the Association for American studies in FYROM but that was not made possible to them by the president of this association Dr. Arburim Iseni. AASSEE remains committed to finding a solution to this problem. Other members of AASSEE have excellent cooperation.
- b. PF says that if they split they will lose their EAAS position.

- c. TG is referring to Slovenia and its interest to approach EAAS for membership.
- d. PF remembers that when EAAS was approached by the Southern Eastern countries emphasis was placed on the historical reasons behind the formation of association or joint association.
- e. AC also remembers that EAAS again in Rome insisted on the formation of a group association first before accepting their EAAS membership.

[Action: PM invites EAAS officers to draft certain criteria for countries interested to submit their application for EAAS membership].

17. Closing comments / Final Remarks

- a. PM highlights the need for all associations to encourage the dialogue and collaboration among postgraduate students. He believes that it'd be good if there was an official voice, a representative that would report to the board.
- b. CB is asking whether the new EAAS VP could take on this role.
- c. PM suggests that possibly MH would be interested in taking on this role.
- d. MH agrees.
- e. PM is asking whether everyone on the board agrees.

[Action: Everyone votes and agrees that Martin should take on this role for 4 years. Also everyone agrees that postgraduate actions will be a standing topic in the agenda of every board meeting].

- f. PM asks whether everyone agrees for the EAAS subscription rate to stay as it is (€6).

[Action: Everyone votes unanimously].

18. News from Networks and Member associations

- a. **AFEA:** In May 2017, the AFEA held its 50th annual conference in Strasbourg. The theme for the conference was The Pursuit of Happiness. Gavin Jones, Elise Marienstras and Thomas Sugrue were the keynote speakers. For that special occasion, the AFEA produced a documentary about its history. The film is entitled *At Fifty Ever Alert* and is available on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/220913165>. The AFEA has now a partnership fellowship with the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress.
- b. **DGfA:** 1. Annual meeting in Hannover on "Modernities and Modernization in North America" (May 19-22, 2017); 2. Annual conference from May 24 to 27, 2018, in Berlin: "American Counter/Publics"; 3. The German Research Council awarded the Leibniz Prize, the highest scholarly award in Germany, to our member and former vice president Heike Paul (Erlangen-Nürnberg) in 2018; 4. Strong participation of GAAS members in the American Studies Association Convention in Chicago, November 9-12, 2017, and the EAAS Convention in London; 5. The GAAS awards travel grants to Ph.D. students as part of a program called "Diversity in/and the GAAS." A conference with the same topic was held in cooperation with the Bavarian American Academy in October 2017 in the Amerikahaus Munich; 6. PGF-Conference: "Current Perspectives on Doing American Studies" (Humboldt University Berlin, November 9-11, 2017); 7. Annual conference of the GAAS political scientists on "One Nation Under God: Faith and Value in an Age of Polarization" (PfalzAkademie Lambrecht, November 10-12, 2017); 8. Conference: "Truth or Post-Truth? Reality, Factivity, and Current Perspectives in Pragmatism and Hermeneutics" in Freiburg (January 12-13, 2018); 9. Special conference: the annual conference of the GAAS historians on "Heroism and the Heroic in U.S. History" in Tutzing (February 9-11, 2018); 10. Special conference: "Playing the Field: Video Games and American Studies," at the University of Munich (April 28-29, 2018); 11. Awards: Fulbright American Studies Award 2017-18: jointly awarded by the Fulbright Commission and the GAAS: to Dr. Cedric Essi. Christoph

Daniel Ebeling Fellowship 2017-18: jointly awarded by the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, MA) and the GAAS: to Alexia Schemien Kluge Fellowship 2017-18: jointly awarded by the Library of Congress and the GAAS (no financial support): to Dr. Lukas Etter. United States Ambassador's Grant for Young Researchers in American Studies 2017-18 awarded by the U.S. Embassy in Berlin: to Nicole Poppenhagen.

- c. **BLASA:** The association activities have been suspended.
- d. **APEAA:** In the year 2018, the Portuguese Association for Anglo-American Studies continued to invest in the inclusion of graduate students which constitute 34 % of the total membership (139). This trend is being followed by national research centers, and a network, Junior Researchers in Anglo-American Studies, is very active in two Universities (Nova Lisbon, and Porto). The Association held its 39th annual meeting at the University of Évora, under the unifying topic "Everything is a Story", with 115 individual papers, including a number of graduate student panels. The keynote speakers for the conference were the writer Éilís Ní Dhuibhne (University College Dublin -UCD), Rui Carvalho Homem (University of Porto), Alessia Cogo (Goldsmiths, University of London), Mário Avelar (Open University of Lisbon) and Sherry R. Truffin (Campbell University, North Carolina. The General Assembly elected the present Board for a second (and final) term, and approved a proposal by SAAS (the Spanish Association for American Studies), under which terms members of both Associations will not be required to affiliate with the other national association in order to participate in each other's conferences in equal terms.
- e. **RAAS:** The association had 72 members in 2017, while there is a slight increase in 2018 with 83 members. 2018 posed some major challenges. One of them was the finalization of the publication of one of the thematic volumes by EAAS members, stimulated by the 2016 EAAS conference in Constanta. The idea was not to collect conference papers, but to find a common framework, a very difficult task. Another one was the organization of the biennial conference of RAAs in October 2018, an event that appears to have gone very well. During the conference, as well as during a previous Constanta Workshop (September 2018) which involved directors of doctoral schools from the Romanian university system, discussions and initiatives were considered for the clarification of the relationship between literary studies and cultural studies, bearing in mind the interdisciplinary status of American Studies, the place of American Studies in the curriculum, the difficulties that graduates of AS experience because of current legislation.
- f. **BAAS:** Annual conference in April 2017 held at Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent. April 2018 joint conference with EAAS, held in London. This was the largest BAAS conference to date. 2017 Postgraduate Conference held at University of Essex. Subscriptions for Journal of American Studies are healthy, as are Association membership figures. Equality and Diversity has been key priority, including membership survey and report reflecting on diversity in American Studies in the U.K.
- g. **ASAT:** Our 38th International Conference was held at Hacettepe University, in Ankara (November 1–3, 2017) on the theme of "Manifestations of Love and Hate in American Culture and Literature." The conference program can be accessed here: <http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/previous-conferences/2017-asat-conference/conference-program>; We hosted a colloquium series at various universities in Ankara on topics such as Turkish-American Relations since World War II, American Popular Culture, and American Politics. One of our

invited speakers was Philip John Davies, Past EAAS President, who spoke on “The Material Culture of US Election Campaigns”; We published five new issues (#46–50) of the *Journal of American Studies of Turkey* (printed and online/open access): <http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/jast/issues> One of them (issue #47) was a themed issue on Richard Nixon.

- h. **HAAS:** HAAS held its 12th biennial conference on May 25-26, 2018 at ELTE, Budapest, to celebrate 25 (plus 1) years of independent American Studies in Hungary. Besides the usual conference proceeding we started an open discussion of the past, present, and future challenges facing our profession. We also agreed to shift the conference to odd years in order to accommodate our election cycle. We are still working on setting up the editorial board for new a HAAS journal to be published exclusively in Hungarian, for better outreach. We now have a new influx of international grad students from India, Africa, and the Middle East, courtesy of a new government initiative to foster such exchanges. We have also transitioned from a three-year to a four-year doctoral system, but ironically, grad students net a scholarship in excess of the salary of entry level faculty. We are watching the political debates in Hungary about academic freedom with a certain degree of alarm.
- i. **AASSEE: American Studies Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina - 2017:** Association members were active in teaching, lecturing, and writing in the field of American Studies locally (their home universities or domestic events) and abroad. For the purposes of illustration, the following are singled out: Members participated in conferences with American Studies topics in the 2nd International Conference on English Language, Literature, Teaching and Translation Studies (CELLTTS) in Sarajevo, held in September 2017. **2018:** National Women's History Month Talks: on the eve of the International Women's Day and to mark National Women's History Month the American Studies Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ASA in BiH) launched a series of presentations in cooperation with and hosted by American Corner Sarajevo; Faruk Bajraktarević, Adna Oković, and Ksenija Kondali took part in a conference organized to mark the National Library Awareness Day. The conference was organized by the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Philosophy's Library with the theme “Feminist Criticism in the Wilderness – 36 Years After Elaine Showalter's Text”. Members published books and articles on various topics in the discipline of American Studies, in English, Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian. The Association's webpage has been continually updated and American Studies-related information disseminated timely. All calls/invitations and activity reports were posted on the official webpage www.uams.ba; **Croatian Association for American Studies - 2017:** Co-organizers, International Conference: A Cultural History of Capitalism: Britain, America, Croatia, Zagreb, 7-8 April 2017. Link: <http://kpk.ffzg.unizg.hr/news/simpozij-a-cultural-history-of-capitalism>. **2018:** 1. Publication of Working Papers in American Studies. Vol. 3: The (Un)usable Pasts in American Studies. Ed. Jelena Šesnić and Sven Cvek. Link: http://www.huams.hr/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/wpas_v3_huams_2018.pdf 2. Co-organizers (with the University of Zadar), 6th Annual CAAS Workshop: Representations of Age and Ageing in American Culture. Scheduled for 15-16 June 2018, Zadar. Link: <http://www.huams.hr/?p=543>; **Montenegrin Association for American Studies** - Organization of two Anglophone conferences, one in September 2017 and the other “Reclaiming /Renaming Histories” in June 2018; Translation of selection of poetry of Allison Hedge Coke and Linda Hogan; Promotions of the publications (monographs, anthologies, and translations) of the Association's members, as well as the organization of literary evenings and workshops in which English students at *the University of Montenegro* were involved. These evenings were organized in cooperation with the American

Corner in Podgorica and they covered the following topics: the American Dream, New York literature, native literature and post-millennial readings, and feminism in the post-millennial era in the example of the texts of contemporary American poets; The members of the Association have actively participated in international academic meetings, *inter alia* in academic meetings organized by the Spanish Association for Anglo-American Studies, the Hellenic Association for American Studies, IDEA Turkey, a member of ESSE), where among other things they promoted the work of the Association, as well as in Erasmus exchanges in Poland, Germany, **Spain, Turkey and Croatia**; **In cooperation with** the colleagues from the English department (University of Ljubljana) we have applied for the funding of the project titled "Contemporary American Literature in Cross-Cultural Contact: Comparison of Slovenia and Montenegro" hopefully to be financed by the Ministry of Science of Slovenia and Ministry of Science of Montenegro. **Four members** of the Montenegrin Association are included in the project; **Serbian Association for American Studies - 2017: Participation ELALT (English Language and Literatures Today) conference at the English Department, University of Novi Sad; Launching of the project of translation of American poets into Serbian. Under the guidance of Dubravka Djuric, members of the SAAS have published translations of the poetry of Marjorie Perloff, Make it New; 2018: Work on the special issue of AM Journal of Art and Media Studies dedicated to American studies; Translation of the selection of poetry of Michael Palmer, Charles Bernstein, Jerome Rothenberg and Bob Perelman; Participation in the thematic issue *Amerika* published by the University of Kragujevac; The members of the Association have taken part in international academic networks, CEEPUS and Erasmus exchanges in Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, and Austria.**

- j. **BASA: In 2017:** Continued the work on the project ***Mass Propaganda and the Cinema: Bulgarian and American Newsreels from the Cold War*** with a Final Conference organized at the National Academy for Theatre and Cinema, 10-11th Jan., 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria; Nick Norwood, an award-winning poet and Professor of English at Columbus State University, Georgia, USA and Director of the University's Carson McCullers Centre for Writers and Musicians, together with Professor Madeleine Danova and Assoc. Professor Alexandra Glavanakova organized a **Round Table** dedicated to Carson McCullers's centenary at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski on 25th April 2017 as part of BASA and Alma Mater Centre of Excellence **Transatlantic Seminar**; Organized an International and Interdisciplinary **Academic Conference *Letters*** together with the Bulgarian Society for British Studies, 27-29 April 2017, Varna, Bulgaria. Thirteen of the BASA members participated in two panels of the conference with conference papers. One of the keynote speakers, Nick Norwood, was invited as a special guest by BASA; Organized for a second time an **Interdisciplinary Summer Academy** "Europe and USA: Cultural and Science Diplomacy and Challenges to Knowledge and Academic Research", September 24, 2017- October 1, 2017 Bansko, Bulgaria; Members participated in a number of national and international conferences and events; Professor Kostadin Grozev, Head of BASA, passed away on November, 6, 2017; Board of BASA elected Professor Madeleine Danova as the interim head of BASA, Dec., 2017. **In 2018:** Members of BASA participated in the **International Conference *Traditions and Transitions***, 28-30 Sept., 2018, organized by the Department of English and American Studies at Sofia University. Nine of them took part in the Panel "American Literature across Deep Time" with a special guest Louis Mendy, a professor in American Studies and a Fulbright scholar from the Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal; Members participated in a number of national and international conferences and events.

- k. **NAAS:** As of February 1, 2018, the Nordic Association for American Studies (NAAS) Executive Board consisted of the following members: President: Mikko Saikku, McDonnell Douglas Professor of American Studies, Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki, Finland; Denmark (DAAS): Niels Bjerre-Poulsen, Associate Professor, Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark; Finland (FASA): Rani-Henrik Andersson, University Lecturer of North American Studies, Collegium for Advanced Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland; Norway (ASANOR): Cassandra Falke, Professor of English, Department of Culture and Literature, University of Tromsø, Norway; Sweden (SAAS): Adam Hjorthén, Fellow, John F. Kennedy - Institut, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany; Editor for *American Studies in Scandinavia*: Janne Lahti, Researcher, Department of Philosophy, History, Culture and Art Studies, University of Helsinki, Finland. Most important association activities by the NAAS and its four national associations (ASANOR, DAAS, FASA, and SAAS) included the following events: the annual ASANOR conference, "The Past and Future of Cosmopolitanism" in Kristiansand, October 11-13, 2018; The 17th Biennial Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference on North American Studies, "Ideas, Ideals, and Ideologies" at the University of Helsinki in cooperation with FASA, May 16-18, 2018; and the 10th Biennial Conference of the Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS), "Open Covenants: Pasts and Futures of Global America" in Stockholm, September 28–30, 2018. The University of Southern Denmark (Kolding), in cooperation with DAAS, hosted the ex-President of the United States Barack Obama on 28 September, 2018.
- l. **PAAS:** In 2018 PAAS held its annual conference in Łódź, as well as 8 local conferences on topics from posthumanism to digital studies. With the grant of the US embassy we also launched the fourth edition of graduate workshop in American Studies, entitled *Mobilities*, which featured such specialists in the field of medical studies and disability studies as Lennard Davies and Martin Halliwell. Two lecture series projects were implemented: one "American Encounters" has featured a number of world-class specialists in American studies, while the other "Colloquium Series" has presented Polish students with rising stars in the field. Polish Journal of American Studies and *The Americanist* — our two specialist journals — are being published regularly and seem attractive to both local and international contributors.
- m. **AISNA:** The association held its biennial international conference "The U.S. and the World We Inhabit" at the University of Milan in September 2017. The volume *Harbors, Flows, and Migrations. The USA in/and the World*, collecting a selection of the essays from the previous AISNA international conference ("L'Orientale" University, Naples, 2015) had come out earlier in the year. The Young Americanists network, "AISNA Graduate Forum," launched its website, <http://aisna-graduates.online/>, and its new online graduate journal, *JamIt! Journal of American Studies in Italy*. The official journal of AISNA, *RSA Journal (Rivista di Studi Americani)* published its issue #28, devoted to "Touring Texts: Tourism and Writing in US Culture" (ed. Simone Francescato and Carlo Martinez). After the retirement of *RSA* editor-in-chief Gianfranca Balestra, AISNA appointed Valerio Massimo De Angelis (University of Macerata) as the journal's new editor-in-chief. The collaboration between AISNA and the USA Embassy's "American Studies Initiative" led to the establishment of two new post-doctoral scholarships offered by the Embassy, aimed at supporting two recent Ph.Ds in American Literature and American History in the research needed to revise their dissertations into publishable form. The US Mission also funded 8 new contracts for adjunct professorships for the academic year 2017-8 to support the teaching of US literature and US history at universities where these subjects might otherwise have been discontinued due to retirements.

- n. **IAAS: Overview:** American Studies in Ireland has faced and met a number of challenges over the year since April 2018, but the overall picture of the IAAS is one of sustained development and continuing investment in the next generation of Irish scholars working in American Studies. In terms of challenges, the Irish university sector is seeing a downturn in the numbers of students undertaking postgraduate study, which has put pressure on programmes. Previously popular programmes that are currently not running include the M.Phil in Literatures of the Americas at Trinity College Dublin and the MA in American Literature in University College Dublin. However, at Queen's University, Belfast, the research Centre for the Americas is relaunching; the MA in American Studies and the MA in American Politics and Foreign Policy continue to flourish at the Clinton Institute at UCD; and other available programmes include an MA in Global Irish Studies, which will launch at the University of Limerick in 2020 with a strong Irish-American element, and the MA in Spanish and Latin American Studies at Maynooth University, where the Department of English has also recently employed a new lecturer in American Literature. The lack of specifically American Studies programmes, however, does not mean there is no American Studies work being done at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In the absence of such programmes, the IAAS is on a mission to make its presence and the presence of such work visible in departments across the country. Through events, online activities, a journal, and funding, the Association fosters and supports a community of 70-80 members, including American Studies students and scholars. The following report details such efforts; **Events:** The 2018 IAAS Annual Conference, on the theme of "Foreign Bodies and Native Sons," was held in UCD, 27-28 April, and had 55 delegates, receiving almost twice that number of proposals. The conference was supported by the Fulbright Commission, and the plenary address was delivered by Dr Sue Currell of the University of Sussex. The 2018 IAAS Postgraduate Symposium, on the theme of "This is America? Shaping, Making and Recreating," was held in TCD, 10 November, and had 20 participants. Alongside panel sessions, the symposium also ran advice sessions for ECRs; **IAAS online activities:** The IAAS mailing list now has 509 members. The Association has 3 web interns who manage the Association's Facebook page and Twitter feed and help maintain the website; **IJAS Online journal:** The *Irish Journal of American Studies Online* published Issue 7 2018, a Special Postgraduate issue of 7 articles and 3 reviews, in July. Since then, Issue 8 2018-19 has been published on a rolling basis, with 3 articles and 1 review published to date. The journal is now also archived on JSTOR, together with all volumes (1 to 13/14) of the print-only *Irish Journal of American Studies*; **Funding:** The Association redistributes nearly 50% of its annual income in the form of prizes and bursaries to fund the research work of postgraduates and ECRs, including attendance at EAAS events. Funding over the last year has included: a. WTM Riches Essay Prize (1 award of €100), given this year to Eva Isherwood-Wallace (MA QUB) for "'Seeming Strangeness': Mina Loy's Poetics of Disruption and Julia Kristeva's Semiotic/Symbolic Model", b. Early Career Travel, Research, and Conference Bursary (€300 awarded twice yearly), c. Postgraduate Travel and Research Bursary (€300 awarded twice yearly to PhDs; €100 awarded annually to MAs), d. Postgraduate Conference Bursary (€200 awarded twice yearly), e. IAAS Annual Conference Bursary (2 awards of €100), f. IAAS Postgraduate Symposium Bursary (2 awards of €50), g. BAAS Annual Conference Bursary (1 award of €300), h. BAAS Postgraduate Conference Bursary (1 award of €200). **Total: €2600.** Other awards offered in relevant years: a. EBAAS Conference Bursary (2 awards) and b. Peggy O'Brien Book Prize; **AOB 2018** saw a number of elections to IAAS Executive Committee: **Vice-Chair** Katherine Fama (UCD), **Treasurer** Nerys Young (UU), **EAAS Representative** Philip McGowan (QUB), **Ordinary Committee Members:** Bernice Murphy (TCD) and Caroline Schroeter (UCC).

- o. **NASA:** Amerikanistendag 2017 (2 June, Amsterdam); StudentNASA Baseball Day 2017 (May 7, Leiden); Hans Bak's Farewell (15 December 2017, Nijmegen); Amerikanistendag 2018 (June 1, Middelburg); Symposium on Dutch Protestant Emigration to the US (22 June 2018, 's-Hertogenbosch); The Future of American Studies (14 December 2018, Amsterdam); Rob Kroes Travel Grant Program (2017 and 2018); NASA-BuZa Seminars (Seminars given by NASA members to Dutch diplomats and foreign policy experts).
- p. **AEDEAN/SAAS: Conferences:** AEDEAN (1165 members) had its 41 conference in La Laguna (Tenerife, Canary Islands); 156 papers and 11 round tables were presented; the US Studies panel among the most successful and steadily increasing in the number of participants. The plenary speakers were Dr. Lachlan Mackenzie – Free University of Amsterdam; María Isabel Carrera Suárez - Universidad de Oviedo; Juan Manuel Hernández Campoy - Universidad de Murcia; Leticia Sabsay - Gender Institute of the London School of Economics; and guest writer Rabih Alameddine. There has been a change in the AEDEAN board and we have a new President, Dr. Alberto Lázaro Lafuente (Universidad de Alcalá) AEDEAN is presently working on the organization of the 2018 conference, to be held in Córdoba in November. There have also been changes in the Board. Former Board Member Dr. Rodrigo Andrés (Universitat de Barcelona) is now vice-president. Dr. Eulalia Piñero (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) has occupied his place as a board member. All of the other conferences organized by Spanish Universities can be found on AEDEAN's webpage. **Journals:** *Atlantis* 39.2 was published in December 2017; the second issue of the newsletter *Nexus* was published in November 2017 (*Nexus* now included book reviews, interviews, research and scientific dissemination papers. Both *Atlantis* and *Nexus* are available on the AEDEAN webpage. We are currently working on the first issue of volume 40 of *Atlantis* (date of publication June) and the first issue of the year of *Nexus* (this month). We welcome papers for peer review in *Atlantis* which is indexed both in Scopus and Thomson-Reuters. The e-book for the La Laguna conference will be presented in the general meeting in Córdoba in November and it will be made available through the web page. The deadline to send manuscripts to *REN Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos*, also recently included in SCOPUS, is open till July 31st.
- q. **CSAA: 21st International Colloquium of American Studies** (Biennial Conference of the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies): [Place and Emplacement](#), June 22-24, 2017 Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic. Other conferences on American Studies were organized by the English departments in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic; **Czech and Slovak academic peer-reviewed journals** (listed in international databases): *American and British Studies Annual* (University of Pardubice, Czech Republic), <https://ff.upce.cz/en/fap/deas/journal.html>; *Ars Aeterna* (Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovak Republic), <https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/aa/aa-overview.xml>; *CLEAR: International Journal on Language, Literature and Culture in Education* (SlovakEdu, n. o.), <https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/clear/clear-overview.xml>; *Hradec Králové Journal of Anglophone Studies* (University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic), <http://pdf.uhk.cz/hkjas/index.php>; *Litteraria Pragensia* (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic), <http://litteraria-pragensia.ff.cuni.cz/>; *Moravian Journal of Literature and Film* (Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic), <https://moravianjournal.upol.cz/>; *Ostrava Journal of English Philology* (University of Ostrava, Czech Republic), <https://ff.osu.cz/kaa/ostrava-journal-of-english-philology/>; *Prague Journal of English Studies* (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic), <http://webkajl.pedf.cuni.cz/journal/>

- r. **AAAS:** 18-19 May 2017 AYA (Austria's Young Americanists) conference "The Future(s) of American Studies", Amerika-Haus Vienna, Austria; 3-5 Nov. 2017 AAAS conference "Changing Nature of American Studies" at Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg, Austria; 12-13 Oct 2018 AYA conference "Shifting Dynamics of American Studies", University of Salzburg, Austria; 16-18 Nov. 2018 AAAS conference "American Im/Mobilities", University of Vienna, Austria; 2018 first issues of new journal JAAAS (Journal of the Austrian Association for American Studies) to come out.
- s. **HELAAS:** 26 June-1 July 2017, "Exploring Conflict, Sharing a Future in a World in Transition," Summer School Initiative in collaboration with School of English, AUP, and Fulbright Foundation, Greece; 15-17 December 2017, "The Politics of Space and the Humanities", International Conference; 27 June to Tuesday 3 July, 2018, "Discussing Gender: Confrontations and Challenges," Summer School Initiative in collaboration with School of English, AUP, and Fulbright Foundation, Greece; 7-8 December 2018, 1st HELAAS Young Scholar Symposium, "Exploring Trends and New Directions in American Studies" with the support of EAAS; publication of Issue#1 in 2017 (Inaugural Issue) with the title *Ethics and Narrative* and Issue#2 in 2018 with the title *War in Culture & Other Essays* of the online HELAAS journal *Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media*.
- t. **SANAS:** 2017 was a productive year for the Swiss Association of North American Studies (SANAS) as two of our members, Julia Straub and Lukas Erne, co-edited the 35th volume of the *Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature* (SPELL) titled *American Communities: Between the Popular and the Political*. It was based on the 2016 biennial SANAS meeting and featured a variety of papers by our members touching on topics of post-postmodern feminist communities, sustainable community living, the relation between folk songs and communities, or analyzed the notion of community in Emerson or Findley. In addition, Audrey Loetscher, PhD candidate at the University of Lausanne, was selected to receive the 2017 US Embassy Travel Award. She works on American cultures of unsustainability and used this opportunity to do archival work at the Library of Congress, visit the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. and do a Thoreau field trip. However, especially 2018 was an exciting year for SANAS. Firstly, the annual Spring Reading Group, took place in Bern in March 2018. Our guest was Prof. Christopher Looby (UCLA) who shared his expertise in 18th- and 19th-century American literature and queer studies with us. Furthermore, 2018 witnessed an increasingly close collaboration between SANAS and the Canadian Embassy to Switzerland thanks to the 15th conference of the Emerging Scholars' Forum of the Canadian Studies Association in German-Speaking Countries, which took place in summer 2018 and was co-financed by the Canadian embassy. This cooperation was further reinforced in the second half of 2018. Finally, the activities and publications of individual SANAS members can be found on the SANAS website (www.sagw.ch/sanas) and in our newsletters; all of which testify to the dynamism and enthusiasm of the Swiss research community in North American studies.
- u. **RSAS:** In 2017-2018 of Russian Society for American Culture Studies held two annual conferences at Lomonosov Moscow State University, Journalism Department: **December 7-9, 2017 XLV International conference "American Humor and Satire: Functions and Forms"**: The theme attracted attention of a more diverse group of researchers than usual, besides literature and mass media touching more extensively on performing and visual arts, both from the historical perspective and in contemporary diversity. At the plenary Opening session Professors Irwin Weil (Northwestern University) and Pavel Balditsyn (Lomonosov Moscow State University,

Russia – further LMSU) gave their outlines of development in American humor tradition: the first being pursuit of established and true facts and drive for serious social and moral thought and criticism; the second - exuberant fantasy and wild grotesque imagery in tall tales of the frontier and romantic extravaganzas of Washington Irving and Edgar Poe. Mark Twain's works were presented as mastery of both extremes. Growing popularity of satirical programs on American TV (with such anchors as Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert) were approached as the most effective way to say the truth and reject all lies in contemporary society. Sections working at the conference were: Journalism, American Culture of the 17-19th Centuries, Contemporary Literature and Culture, Ethnic Aspects, Gender Studies, Fantastic in the Arts, Canadian perspectives. A traditional Round Table discussion: Imprints – Image of America and Image of Russia and a Round Table dedicated to Henry Thoreau's Bicentennial were held. More than 50 papers of the researchers from 25 Universities of Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine, USA and Poland were discussed during the conference; **December 5-8, 2018, XLIV International conference "America and Europe: Forms of cultural interaction"**: Being the 44-th annual conference, it followed the general pattern of looking at tendencies and impacts of interaction between the cultures of the New and the Old Worlds in the sections devoted to Journalism, American culture of the 17th-19th Centuries, Contemporary culture of the US, Ethnic aspects of American Culture, Gender aspects of American Culture, Fantastic in the Arts and a Round Table Discussion Imprints: Image of America and Image of Russia. It opened with a retrospective look by Professor Yassen Zassoursky, the President of RSACS, at the project to create an American language based on Native American vocabulary attempted by Jonathan Edwards, the renowned Enlightenment period figure in American history, who has been exiled for this effort to England but was harbored by a friendly Indian tribe. Controversial relations between European traditions and experiences in the New World continued throughout the Colonial period and until our days, which was highlighted in roughly 50 papers delivered at the conference by the participants from Russia, Belarus, USA and FYROM.

- v. **BELAAS**: In 2017 BELAAS continued its activities in the usual format. It held two international conferences: XXVIth International academic conference "Intertextuality, Interdisciplinarity and Interculturalism in The Literature and Culture of America and Europe" and the international scientific conference "Topical Problems of Studying and Teaching Literatures in English" (the latter one jointly with the Russian Association of Teachers of British Literature and Moscow Pedagogics State University; In 2018 the 27th International scientific conference "Epochs re-echoing in European and American culture and literature" was held in May bringing together academics, researchers, Ph.D. students, M.A. and undergraduate students from Belarus, U.K., Spain, Italy, China, Poland, Russia, and the USA. However, membership has not increased; The collections of essays and academic papers "American and European Studies: 2016, 2017" and "American and European Studies – 2018" are being published; BELAAS managed to bring to Minsk such outstanding academics, scholars and poets as Prof. Werner Sollors (*Henry B. and Anne M. Cabot Professor of English and of African American Studies at Harvard University, Global Professor of Literature at New York University Abu Dhabi*), Prof. Philip McGowan (*Queens University, Ireland, EAAS president*), Prof. Francis Feeley, Professor emeritus of American Studies (University Grenoble-Alpes), Director of Research (University of Paris-Nanterre), Center for the Advanced Study of American Institutions and Social Movements (The University of California-San Diego), Dr. Tomasz Basiuk (*Institute of the Americas and Europe, University of Warsaw, PAAS president, Poland*), Robert Eckhart (*Fulbright scholar*), Dr. David Pichaske (*Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, Minnesota, USA*), Dr. Lukasz Salski (*University of Lodz, Poland*), Dr.

Mark Tardi (Lodz University, author of three books and numerous other publications) who gave lectures on various aspects of American Studies and US literature, history and sociology, gave consultations to local PhD and M.A. students met with the local community; BelAAS members took part in various events organized by PAAS, RSACS, and Ukrainian colleagues.

Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou
EAAS Sec.-General