



**EAAS HYBRID BOARD MEETING**

**April 5th, 2022**

**Madrid**

**Present and representing member associations:**

**Karsten Fitz DGfA**

**Carmen Birkle EAAS Treasurer**

**Anthony Castet/ Mathieu Duplay AFEA**

**Jorge Bastos da Silva APEAA**

**Jenny Woodley BAAS**

**Tanfer Emin Tunc ASAT**

**Tibor Glant HAAS**

**Aleksandra Izgarjan AASSEE**

**Alf Tomas Tønnessen NAAS**

**Zuzanna Ladyga (EAAS Vice President)**

**Izabella Kimak PAAS**

**Andrea Carosso AISNA**

**Philip McGowan IAAS (EAAS President)**

**Silvia Martínez-Falquina AEDEAN/SAAS**

**Michal Peprnik CSAA**

**Ingrid Gessner AAAS**

**Tatiani Rapatzikou (EAAS Sec.-Gen.)**

**Theodora Tsimpouki HELAAS**

**Cecile Heim SANAS**

**Larisa Mikhaylova RSAS**

**Frank Mehring NASA**

**Yuri V. Stulov BELAAS**

**Adina Ciugureanu RAAS**

**Apologies for absence from the following member associations:**

**Madeleine Danova BASA**

## Opening Address – Welcome – President Business

- a. EAAS President – Philip McGowan (PM) welcomes all the online and onsite members of the EAAS board.
- b. PM says that his chair’s business has been sent to all board members. Also he confirms that the EAAS Sec. General – Tatiani Rapatzikou (TR) – has circulated the EAAS 2021 minutes and asks for everyone’s approval. **OUTCOME: EVERYONE AGREES.**
- c. PM welcomes the new members who have joined the EAAS board: Anthony Castet (AnC) who replaces Nathalie Caron as the AFEA representative ; Izabella Kimak (IK) who replaces Zuzanna Ladyga (ZL) as the PAAS representative; Jorge Bastos da Silva (JBS) who replaces Teresa Botelho as the APEAA representative; Karsten Fitz (KF) who replaces Carmen Birkle (CB) as the DGfA representative; and Adina Ciugureanu (AC) who replaces Eduard Vlad as the RAAS representative.
- d. PM informs everyone that this is the last EAAS board meeting in which he participates as an IAAS representative. On the basis of the EAAS Articles, every national association representative can be on the EAAS board for two consecutive terms only.
- e. PM then goes on with the Chair’s Business. He talks about TR’s and the EAAS Vice President’s ZL’s contribution. He also refers to the loss of the following former Board members: Marietta Messmer in May 2021 from NASA; Orm Harald Øverland in December 2021 from NAAS; Denis Donoghue in April 2021 from IAAS.
- f. PM refers to the winner of The Rob Kroes Book Award which has been awarded to Giulia Crisanti for her manuscript “Europeans Are Lovin’ it? Coca Cola, McDonald’s, and the Responses to American Global Business in Italy and France, 1886-2015.” He thanks the Award Committee team, Tanfer Emin Tunc (TET) and Frank Mehring (FM) along with Marek Paryż.
- g. PM goes on to thank Marek Paryż, the editor of the European Perspectives on the United States: The European Association for American Studies Series as part of Brill Publications, for overseeing the publication of the first book in the series titled *Up in Arms: Gun Imaginaries in Texas* edited by Benita Heiskanen, Albion Butters and Pekka Kolehmainen.
- h. PM also thanks Theodora Tsimpouki from HELAAS for her contribution as an EJAS Book Reviews Editor and Kornelia Boczkowska for taking over that role.
- i. PM then talks about the EAAS website and the online meeting the EAAS Officers had with the website team on 24 May 2021 in order to discuss ways that would improve the EAAS online presence. It was at that meeting that Patricia Lobo announced her decision to step down from her webmaster role; also, one of the interns that she had recruited, Melissa Baird, stood down as she needed to focus on completing her doctorate. The only person that had been left from the previous website team in order to administer the EAAS website had been Vassilis Delioglani (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece). PM believes that the thorny issue of the EAAS website can be resolved if this duty is administered by the EAAS Sec. General.

- j. CB says that Jacques Pothier has been hosting the EAAS website platform in France and exclusively in French. He will not be able to keep on taking care of the platform. For this reason, he has made a number of suggestions so that the hosting platform is in English. This means that the current platform that is used needs to be replaced. For this transition to be ensured, a distribution of tasks is necessary. The EAAS Sec. Gen will need to supervise while the EAAS Treasurer helps while moving to the new hosting platform.
- k. PM says that a distribution of tasks is necessary since people on the EAAS board circulate and change.
- l. PM thanks everyone who responded to the proposal to confer full Board membership to the Ukrainian Association for American Studies (UAAS). This is something that he will mention during the EAAS General Meeting to be held during the EAAS Madrid conference on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He also remarks that Larisa Mikhaylova (LM) and Yuri Stulov (YS) were the first ones to vote in support of the UAAS inclusion in EAAS. He adds that EAAS will be offering a donation to the Red Cross via the EAAS conference in support of Ukraine.

#### **EAAS Financial Report/ Amsterdam Trust Fund/ EAAS Membership**

- a. CB confirms the EAAS donation to the Red Cross for Ukraine which has been decided to go via the EAAS conference. The amount to be donated is €4.000. An extra amount of €300 will be added to the previous sum. This was initially destined to go to the speakers of the EAAS Women's Network conference in 2021. However, the speakers did not accept the amount and suggested that it should be invested in a different cause. As for the national association dues [see **EAAS Balance Sheet 2021 (III)**], they appear as an estimate because payments are still in progress. There has been no news from the Bulgarian Association for American Studies. As a result, no payment has come through. Dues have also been waived for BELAAS. A decision should also be taken for the dues of AASSEE. On the basis of the German revenue, EAAS is exempt from taxes. This is a process that needs to be taken care of every three years. As for the EAAS Amsterdam Trust fund, it has been doing well. Even though the money has moved to a different bank, EAAS has for 2021 a surplus of €30.016,25. This amount can either improve or be affected by current affairs. As for the membership dues amounting to **€27.004,72** [see **EAAS Balance Sheet 2021 (I)**], it all looks good. However, the AFEA fee for 2020, which was paid now, would need to be deducted from the membership dues amount. As regards the amount that needs to be invested, it stays as it is. Also the expenses are not significant. As far as the travel grants are concerned, they could not be paid due to the covid-19 travel restrictions. The expenses cover: Ina Batzke's honorarium, the certified translations needed for the EAAS tax exception, the honoraria for the speakers of the EAAS Warsaw Conference (€500 each), The Rob Kroes Book Award (€500 per prize winner that amounts to a total of €1.000), the fee for the hosting platform for the EAAS website which also includes the renewal of the EAAS membership fee (€500). All the expenses are expected to rise when EAAS returns to its onsite board meetings. As noted in the EAAS Balance

- Sheet 2021 (II), the difference in income and expenses is +€61.070,62. The EAAS Balance Sheet (III) features the budget plan for 2022 and 2023. The amounts appearing there are all estimates depending on how circumstances change. Also the due payments from all national associations may vary as this is a fluctuating process. Also the expenses are expected to increase in 2023 with the onsite board meeting, the EAAS website platform, and any postage expenses.
- b. Cecile Heim (CH) asks whether the earnings in 2022 and 2023 will bring EAAS back to its pre-Covid amounts.
  - c. CB explains that the difference in income and expenses (+€23.912,75) in the EAAS Balance Sheet 2021 (III) brings EAAS back to what it had before.
  - d. PM adds that EAAS with the new book series has no incurring expenses. Also EAAS will start receiving royalties even though the amount will be small but this will be added to its overall amount.
  - e. PM invites AC and Andrea Carosso (AnCar) to act as the two auditors. **OUTCOME: THEY BOTH AGREE.**
  - f. PM thanks the two board members and asks them to report by the end of the EAAS board meeting. He also thanks CB for her report.

#### **Conference Reports: EAAS 2021 / EAAS 2022 / EAAS 2024**

- a. PM invites Cristina Garrigós Gonzalez (CGG) to report about the EAAS conference.
- b. CGG welcomes everyone participating in the conference both onsite and online. She refers to the challenges she has encountered due to a major strike and the pandemic making conference onsite participation uncertain. Everyone in the conference organizing team wished for a face to face event but eventually they decided to go for a hybrid event. Thankfully UNED could support this format as it has all the necessary equipment. In the conference, there are 335 presentations. There are speakers from a total of 90 countries (26 are European, 4 in the Americas). As for the conference theme, it originated from the T.S. Eliot Centenary, but it has aimed to cover diverse research interests. The overall conference organization has been environment friendly: not many posters are used and most of the material that has been given to participants is recyclable. All information is available on the conference website and constant updates are provided.
- c. CB expresses her gratitude to UNED for all the support it has offered as regards the EAAS donation as well as the organization of the hybrid conference.
- d. TR thanks CGG and Silvia Martínez-Falquina (SMF) for effectively responding to all the conference needs.
- e. PM also thanks CGG for her help with the conference hybrid format. He then goes on to welcome Heike Paul (HP) from the Munich Conference Team together with Meike Zwingenberger (Amerikahaus Director) who will offer insights into the EAAS 2024 conference.
- f. HP announces the conference theme: “The American Immigrant Narrative Revisited.” The conference will be held between April 2-7, 2024, at the Amerikahaus in Munich. As regards the theme, the organizers believe that the

immigrant legislations have prohibited/limited ethnic communities' immigration to the US. So, in current US history, one finds many inclusions and exclusions with the history of immigration having fed into discrimination and segregation. It is the existing ambivalent legislation that also calls for the conference's intersectional approach. Also, immigration has been part of the US imaginary with environmental, transcultural and territorial implications. As a result, a nuanced reading is necessary. The EAAS conference in 2024 aims at engaging scholarly work from various disciplines and immigration narratives. Potential keynote speakers are: Lisa Lowe (Yale U), Karen Hansen (Brandeis U), Viet Nguyen (U of Southern California), Jared A. Goldstein (Roger Williams U), and writer C. Pam Zhang (latest published title: *How Much of these Hills is Gold* in 2020). Potential speaker from Europe: Paul Apostolidis (London School of Economics); and speaker from Germany: Carmen Birkle. As for possible themes for paper and panel proposal, these are: Immigration experience in film and literature; Anti-immigration; Histories of American immigration; Black mobility; Immigration, migration and ecology; Diasporic diseases.

- g. PM asks CB whether she agrees to be one of the keynote speakers.
- h. CB says that she was not asked but she accepts the invitation.
- i. PM believes that due to the EAAS 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary the conference is going to attract a broad range of papers.
- j. HP confirms that the conference organization is going to be a joint effort between many institutions. As for the Amerikahaus, it has recently been refurbished. Also it has been part of transatlantic educational programs.
- k. PM asks whether any member of the EAAS board has any questions.
- l. Meike Zwingenberger adds that further collaborations will be sought. There is the Munich Documentation Center and other famous museums nearby. The Amerikahaus does not have many spaces. So the lecture halls of other institutions will need to be used. Also the EAAS 2024 conference is going to be a hybrid event following the example and ecological imprint of the EAAS 2022 conference. As for housing, this is indeed a problem because Munich is an expensive destination. But an effort will be made for good prices to be secured.
- m. Ingrid Gessner (IG) thanks everyone for the exciting topic. She asks whether indigeneity could be added to the theme.
- n. HP confirmed that this is going to be part of all the themes to be explored.
- o. CH asks whether the anniversary of the indigenous law could be listed.
- p. Frank Mehring (FM) adds that the EAAS 2024 conference will attract many papers from The Netherlands. Also he suggests that climate change migration should be added to the topics list. He believes that this is relevant to the conference theme.
- q. HP agrees that this is really important. Actually she feels that in nationalist discourses immigrants are stigmatized in the context of the environmental imprint.
- r. AnCar thanks HP. He adds that he looks forward to the EAAS Munich conference.
- s. PM talks now about the 2023 International Women's Network symposium. He invites IG to share any information about it with the members of the EAAS board.

- t. IG informs everyone about the WiN Journal publication with articles from the Network's last year's conference. She also refers to the two new members who have joined the Network's steering committee: Christen "ChrisAnn" Bryson and Marie Dücker. She thanks Tibor Glant (TG) for all the help he has offered for the 2023 Network symposium to be held in Debrecen. The theme is going to focus on reproductive rights and justice. As for the EAAS 2022 conference in Madrid, the Network participates with the organization of a roundtable discussion (Forum).
- u. PM thanks IG for the information and considers the theme chosen to be timely. He then turns to TG for any additional information.
- v. TG asks whether there is a firm date so that the EAAS board, which will be held in Debrecen, is combined with the Network symposium. He is also in favor of a hybrid format but he will follow whatever the Network decides.
- w. PM suggests that the dates to be selected should not coincide with the Catholic and Orthodox Easter.
- x. IG says that the date has not been decided yet.
- y. TG suggests the date of March 31<sup>st</sup>-April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. **OUTCOME: EVERYONE AGREES.**
- z. IK asks for information about the day arrangement of the EAAS board and the Network symposium.
- aa. PM says that Friday will be held for the EAAS board meeting and Saturday and Sunday can be used for the symposium.
- bb. IG and IK express their concerns as regards traveling to Debrecen.
- cc. PM suggests that the board evening meal could be held on 29/3, the board and the Network reception on 30/3, and the actual symposium on 31/3.
- dd. LM says that it would be good if the symposium lasted two or three days as more people would be willing to participate. She believes that the symposium should extend to one more day so that more research topics are explored.
- ee. IG says that possibly the symposium could extend to April 2, 2023, noon. She adds that all depends on the local organizers.
- ff. TG confirms his willingness to accommodate such an event.
- gg. LM believes that the Saturday and the Sunday are the most suitable days for the symposium. She believes that an event taking place in the week would make it difficult for those interested in traveling to the symposium destination.
- hh. PM invites everyone to vote. **OUTCOME: 16 ARE IN FAVOR OF THE THURSDAY-SATURDAY NOON PLAN; 1 IS IN FAVOR OF THE FRIDAY TO THE WEEKEND PLAN.**
- ii. PM asks TG if he has any thoughts.
- jj. TG thinks that all will move smoothly and possibly a cultural visit in Debrecen could be arranged for the symposium participants. He is also in favor of the Thursday-Saturday noon plan.
- kk. PM asks TG whether any reactions should be anticipated.
- ll. TG puts everyone's mind at ease.
- mm. PM asks for the future EAAS board meetings and conferences.
- nn. AnCar informs the board about his efforts to find out whether the EAAS 2026 conference could be hosted in Torino or in Bologna or in Venice. Venice is an

- expensive and inconvenient destination. Even though there are agencies in Venice that undertake the organization of conferences, this is still very costly. As a result, the candidacy of Venice should be withdrawn. Bologna is conveniently situated. However, a topic cannot be suggested unless the venues to be used are secured and the budget put together. Also sponsors need to be located. The organizing team there can certainly put a good conference together as well as reach out to local organizations for sponsorships.
- oo. PM says that when the 2018 and 2020 EAAS conferences were put together EAAS was able to offer 50% of the support needed. Also, a certain amount from the Assets could be used in case of a financial emergency.
  - pp. AnCar is confident that local organizers can step in. Also Bologna envisions a €140 fee including meals.
  - qq. PM says that the international keynote speakers could be supported by EAAS.
  - rr. AnCar says that he will work with the Bologna team and then liaise with the EAAS board. He will have more information to share about the conference topic in 2023.
  - ss. PM is very much in favor of the EAAS 2026 conference to be held in Bologna. He asks if all the members of the board agree. **OUTCOME: EVERYONE AGREES.**
  - tt. PM says that there is a full schedule for the EAAS conferences till 2026, but if there are any thoughts for 2027 and 2028 he would welcome any suggestions.
  - uu. Aleksandra Izgarjan (AI) says that the University of Novi Sad could organize the 2027 EAAS board meeting and the EAAS Women's Network Symposium.
  - vv. TR says that the geographic distribution of the EAAS events should be taken into consideration.
  - ww. PM agrees and also supports AI's proposal. He also invites JBS and Michal Peprnik (MP) to consider the organization of the 2028 EAAS conference. Also he adds that he should get in touch with the Bulgarian Association for American Studies. He also expresses his hope that in one of the future EAAS boards the Ukrainian Association for American Studies is one of the participating members. He ends by thanking everyone.

### **Elections Nomination Committee – Presentation of Candidacies for the positions of EAAS Vice President and EAAS Sec. General**

- a. The members of the elections nomination committee (ZL, TR, CB) present to the other members of the EAAS board the following two statements by AI for her candidacy concerning the position of the EAAS Vice President and IG for the candidacy for the position of the EAAS Sec. General:
  - *Statement from AI about the position of the EAAS Vice President:* As the vice president of EAAS I would like to be involved in three spheres of EAAS activities. Firstly, the important work that EAAS does in providing various grants for its members. I have already served on the committee for the postgraduate study grants so I am aware of the difference that this kind of financial support can make for the grantees. I would like to help in managing EAAS grant initiatives and facilitate the work of the grant committees. Secondly, I would like to be of service to the networks within EAAS. Founding

the DICE Network with Cécile Heim and seeing it grow, made me realize even more than before the important function the networks have as platforms for interaction of EAAS scholars from different fields. Thirdly, I would like to liaison with the representatives of young scholars in the national associations in order to make them more involved in EAAS activities. I will maintain my role as the president of the Association for American Studies in South East Europe and as an Officer of the Board I hope to boost interest in American studies in this region.

- *Statement from IG about the position of the EAAS Sec.General:* The EAAS has been an intellectual home base for me since the early 2000s; I attended my first EAAS meeting in May 2008 in Oslo. Since then, the association has provided me with much intellectual and collegial sustenance. As an elected steering committee member of the EAAS Women's Network (2014-2021), I have continuously worked to increase the visibility of women's and gender issues by organizing international symposia as well launching the open access journal *WiN* (<http://women.eaas.eu/win-journal/>). As a Professor for English and American Studies at the University College of Education Vorarlberg, Austria, I am proud to instruct future secondary school teachers. My scholarly work is keenly interdisciplinary and reflects my interest in visual culture studies, gender studies, the medical, environmental, and digital humanities, including the nature of representation and issues of history, memory, and identity (national, cultural, self). When Mary Helen Washington ran for ASA President in 1997, she concluded by saying: "What I offer is a vision and a spirit ... the details have to be worked out in community." Although, of course, realizing that I am not running to become President of our Association but its Secretary General, I would like to offer something similar: a sense of purpose and the hospitality to realize it in respectful association with each other. This sense of purpose includes pursuing the paths that have been opened up for us by our predecessors and nurturing more daring next steps, reaching for what we don't know yet and reaching out to those who are invited but who haven't yet arrived. I make only one promise in advance: I'll use my experience to work with President Philip McGowan, the officers, board members and networks of the Association as part of and fostering a congenial community.
- b. ZL, being the current EAAS Vice-President, thanks everyone for the collaboration. She refers to the pre-covid period and the opportunities she had to represent EAAS in person in various events in addition to promoting all the EAAS Travel Grant processes. At the time of the covid-19 outbreak, many grantees had to resign not being able to proceed with the grant. She tried to stay in touch with them as well as help them make the connections they needed. She is grateful for the overall experience. She believes that the new EAAS Vice-President could boost regional presence.
- c. TR, being the current EAAS Sec. General, thanks all the EAAS Officers for their warmth and collaboration. She adds that she was honored to serve on the EAAS board and have the opportunity to work with so many different EAAS national association



representatives. She states that she is eager to help the new EAAS Sec. General adjust to her new role.

- d. PM thanks both ZL and TR. He is very pleased that the EAAS board will have three female officers. He also invites the nomination committee to proceed with the elections.
- e. TR announces the election results: 18 votes for AI (Aleksandra Izgarjian); 18 votes for IG (Ingrid Gessner). **OUTCOME: ALEKSANDRA IZGARJIAN IS THE NEW EAAS VICE PRESIDENT; INGRID GESSNER IS THE NEW EAAS SEC. GENERAL.**

### **EAAS Travel Grants**

- a. ZL informs everyone that the grants had to move from last year to the current year. She would like to know whether she should go ahead and advertise them or wait for the newly-elected EAAS Vice President to do so. In addition, she would like to know whether the grants in 2022 could go to young scholars in Belarus and Ukraine due to the uncertainty that exists there. She is aware of the fact that this is a political statement.
- b. TR says that AFEA has been asking about the announcement of the travel grants call. She adds that the EAAS Officers are thinking of setting up a new kind of a travel grant that will allow access to online material.
- c. CB expresses her hesitation about the political statement. She believes that the call should be announced and ZL could proceed with the announcement. The virtual travel grant should also be considered.
- d. ZL says that she will go ahead and make the announcement.
- e. CH wishes to express her personal opinion and speak not on behalf of her association. She supports ZL's political statement. She suggests that EAAS could possibly release a fund for young scholars in vulnerable situations. She agrees with the suggestion of a virtual grant.
- f. Jenny Woodley (JW) agrees with the digital travel grant. She adds that BAAS (British Association for American Studies) has been supporting teaching assistantships. She wonders whether the grant could be used in such a way as well.
- g. AI believes that the grants should be accessible and not restrictive. From her experience serving on the EAAS travel grant evaluation committee, she believes that the scope of the grants needs to be broadened. She has the experience of sanctions and understands the difficulties. Young scholars should be helped. But what will happen when they return to their own countries? She thinks that possibly something separate should be set up.
- h. ZL sees this as an opportunity to help people get out of their countries.
- i. AI agrees.
- j. AC agrees with CB's suggestion. She is hesitant with regard to ZL's proposal but she is in favor of CH's phrasing. Possibly there is room for a grant for vulnerable young scholars.
- k. SMF says that she agrees but she can only speak as a representative of her association and not from a personal perspective. She feels that there might be complications derived from making the grants explicitly aimed at people affected by a particular

situation and thus, the grants should be detailed carefully. She agrees with the virtual grant.

- l. CH agrees that we need to be careful but we cannot avoid being political. There is no non-political space available.
- m. SMF responds that it is not a question of being or not being political, but of offering support to scholars at risk--including the various reasons why scholars can be at risk at present and in the future--without compromising the main aims of EAAS or making individual associations potentially uncomfortable.
- n. PM refers to the EAAS articles and the following sentence: "The association endorses no political agenda" (Article 2§4). But he believes that EAAS can support scholars at risk broadly without making it specific since EAAS has extra money.
- o. ZL says that vulnerability should be clearly explained.
- p. TG says that there are graduate students from Russia that also face problems.
- q. LM thinks that the online grant could promote institution collaborations that can help people establish research initiatives by sustaining contacts even after the grant ends.
- r. YS understands ZL's proposal. Many young people in his country have lost their jobs. There should be a way for young scholars to conduct research in Europe because it would be impossible for them to travel to the U.S. These people will not be able to obtain visas. Also he thinks that Ph.D. candidates should be supported in order to continue their research in Europe.
- s. AI believes that a grant for people at risk would work well. She understands that Belarus and Ukraine need to be supported but we do need to be careful as we are treading on thin ice. If we openly support Belarus, we need to be careful. A general grant for people at risk or for the LGBTQ+ communities could be supported.
- t. PM says that such a grant should be kept general. He is concerned about how risk can be assessed.
- u. SMF believes that this could be resolved after the submission of applications.
- v. LM believes that a stipend could help researchers or if one cannot physically access the fund physically, this should go to the institution.
- w. CB believes that a committee should be set up and all information should be made visible on the EAAS website so that the target group can see it. Also a fixed amount per year could be put aside. She then refers to LM's suggestion and the need for people to be helped to conduct research in Europe. In addition, she thinks that the research to be conducted should be in American Studies. She adds that we should be careful and justify what we do.
- x. AC agrees with CB. She says that grants should be given only to individuals. The grant is only €2.000 and lasts for two weeks. Also, the researcher would need to go back to their country. We cannot help somebody cross borders.
- y. JBS agrees with the discussion and the grant for scholars at risk. He believes that we should not be narrow but broad. As a person he has his own concerns but as a President he discussed this issue with his association, and he feels that we should not be overtly political.
- z. PM reads again Article 2§4: "The objectives of the European Association for American Studies are exclusively directed at the propagation and extension of knowledge about

the United States of America. The association endorses no political agenda and is not liable for the opinions of its members. It encourages an exchange of ideas and endeavors to assure fair representation of diverse opinions and intellectual activities.” He believes that a grant could be put together with broad parameters. On the basis of what the article says and along the lines of the parameters, the amount of money to be offered should be considered. As for the committee to take this over, it should be a 3-member one.

- aa. CB thinks that an annual amount should be fixed so that she knows how much money to be withdrawn. If a new account is set up, this will generate further expenses.
- bb. PM proposes the amount of €20.000.
- cc. AC suggests that we start with €10.000 and then add more money.
- dd. CB agrees with the €10.000 amount and then EAAS can examine whether this amount can be extended. She believes that all the details should be fixed first.
- ee. PM suggests that a rolling and not annual system should be in place.
- ff. ZL proposes the amount of €15.000.
- gg. PM asks if everyone agrees with the amount proposed. **OUTCOME: EVERYONE AGREES.**
- hh. PM suggests that the EAAS Vice President and the EAAS Treasurer should be the two members of this committee. One more person should be added.
- ii. YS believes that due to the pandemic the money is available now. So he suggests that extra care should be taken of the amount put forward.
- jj. CH believes that all the criteria plus the deadline for applications should be fixed first and then EAAS board confirms the amount.
- kk. LM asks whether this is going to be a separate fund.
- ll. CB says that the scholars at risk fund will be separate from the regular travel grants.
- mm. JBS says that inflation should be considered.
- nn. PM agrees that the EAAS funds have increased due to limited travel. But he thinks that a committee for the “At Risk Fund” should be put together and examine how things evolve. He thinks that the third member could come from the EAAS board.
- oo. IG recommends IK.
- pp. PM recommends AnCar. He adds that the committee could have four members: AnCar, IK, AI, CB.
- qq. PM then asks about the travel grants.
- rr. CB says that the call could be issued. Applicants can get a maximum of €2.000.
- ss. ZL agrees to send out the call after having discussed it with AI.
- tt. TR asks about the virtual grant.
- uu. CB says that this can be considered after the “At Risk Fund” has been discussed.
- vv. AI suggests that the virtual parameter could be added to both grants: the regular one and the “At Risk” one.

### **Report on the EAAS Website**

- a. PM talks about the EAAS website. He says that he will discuss all the details with the newly-elected EAAS Sec. General.
- b. AI asks for information about the people who support the website.

- c. PM asks whether Vassilis Delioglani is still willing to help.
- d. TR confirms that Vassilis Delioglani can help but it is the website architecture that is problematic.
- e. IG expresses her willingness to collaborate with the interns, but she is worried about the support available.
- f. Mathieu Duplay (MD; replacing Anthony Castet from AFEA) agrees that a permanent member should be there to help. He agrees that the EAAS website should be more functional but time and training are required.
- g. PM believes that a sustainable solution should be sought.
- h. CB says that the website should not be redesigned. She adds that the whole idea of the interns was to update the information on the website on the basis of the guidelines received by the EAAS Officers. Vassilis Delioglani was able to post information any time he was asked. As for IG, she could oversee the website.
- i. PM says that the website uses JOOMLA as its operating system which requires some kind of expertise for one to use. EAAS has stayed with this system in order to balance the cost.
- j. AI is concerned with the fact that the EAAS board returns to the issue of the website every year. She admits that she had problems finding the information she was looking for.
- k. AC suggests that a board member could be trained in order to post information online.
- l. IG says that she discussed with Jacques Pothier about the EAAS Women's Network website because it connects with the EAAS website. She is confident that she can train people when it comes to certain skills but she is not certain whether EAAS is willing to pay some money to whoever is posting information online so that their effort is acknowledged. For example, Ina Batzke helps with the uploading of information on the EJAS Journal. She asks whether the interns' effort could be acknowledged and paid.
- m. ZL says that EAAS needs to be attractive online. The website needs to be redesigned. She believes that money needs to be invested in the website. EAAS cannot save money when there are areas where money is needed. A good platform boosts effective communication and speaks well with existing platforms and does not lose members.
- n. CB says that EAAS does not lose members. She believes that the redesigning of the website will take a lot of work and not much will be changed.
- o. SMF says that the website should be more frequently updated, for a website does not fulfill its function unless it is alive. After designing the website, one person we can regularly send updates to is needed for its sustenance.
- p. PM says that he would like to go back to the interns' issue that IG brought up. He agrees that young interns should be acknowledged and the website should be made visible to the postgraduate community.
- q. MD believes that websites are about image. We need to make changes and make the association visible. Regular updates are a must. You cannot design something once. It needs to be kept up-to-date and it needs to be visible to the people who are destined to use the website.

- r. PM asks whether CB together with IG could investigate moving away from JOOMLA and decide on the new platform to be used for hosting the EAAS website.
- s. IG is worried whether one more year will be lost.
- t. SMF says that we should find the system we want to use and then keep up with the updates. Wordpress is an easy system.
- u. PM asks everyone to vote whether to stay with JOOMLA and pay interns or move to a new hosting platform. **OUTCOME: EVERYONE VOTES FOR THE USE OF A NEW HOSTING PLATFORM.**
- v. AnCar believes that we can find platforms which are easy to use.
- w. SMF says that CCG paid € 2.572 for the conference website.
- x. PM says that the last time EAAS went for a cheap solution things did not work.
- y. AnCar asks whether the EAAS website would need to be designed from scratch.
- z. PM turns to IG.
- aa. IG says that JOOMLA and Wordpress work differently from the hosting platform. Security is the key. She believes that we may need to have a committee to decide about how to proceed.
- bb. PM says that we need to be agile in our decision making.
- cc. CB suggests that the committee should consider the options available and then decide in another meeting to take place either online or via email.
- dd. PM says that the website should be sustainable even when the current Officers move away from the board. He asks whether an Officer position should be created. This would mean that the Articles need to change. For this to move ahead, the 2/3 from the EAAS board members need to agree. But then he asks whether the board should think of a fifth Officer. He suggests that the EAAS board should wait for IG's and CB's thoughts and then the EAAS board should decide to move forward. He proposes that everyone waits till June and then a decision should be made whether a fifth Officer is needed.

#### **New EAAS Board Member**

- a. PM confirms the ratification of the inclusion of the UAAS (Ukrainian Association for American Studies) to EAAS as a new member.
- b. PM suggests that the details of the association representative be added to the EAAS website.
- c. YS suggests that both philologists and historians can be part of the association.
- d. PM says that the fees of the association will be waived.

#### **Application for the formation of new EAAS Network**

- a. PM refers to the new network application submitted by Stefan Rabitsch under the title of "West of the Rest."
- b. TR says, as proven by the support letter submitted, that certain connections will emerge between Europe and the US as well as between EAAS and ASA.
- c. FM finds that the particular network proposal is well put together. He also thinks that the EAAS website should open to such networks as this will increase the EAAS visibility.

- d. PM thinks that the network theme also corresponds to the 2024 conference.
- e. LM believes that the word “Frontiers” may be a good name for the new network and it could be possibly added to it.
- f. AI asks IG and CB how the network websites can be made visible via the EAAS website. She believes that the new network and all networks need to become visible.
- g. PM asks if everyone agrees about the new network. **OUTCOME: EVERYONE AGREES.**

#### **EAAS Subscription Fee**

- a. PM asks the EAAS board members about the subscription fee.
- b. CB says that the EAAS board decided to lower the fee to €5 for the previous and current year. She suggests that EAAS should stay with the €5 amount. It is only SANAS that paid €6 for the last and current year. She asks CH to inform her association. **OUTCOME: EVERYONE IS IN FAVOR OF KEEPING THE FEE TO €5.**
- c. AI says that the Bosnian Association is trying to help the Croatian Association but she believes that the Croatian Association will be able to settle its fee.

#### **Links with American Studies Association**

- a. PM believes that all networks can help towards the development of connections with ASA. He refers to Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello who participates in the EAAS conferences but not as an ASA representative.
- b. ZL says that the ASA agenda is different for the EAAS one. ASA is mostly job driven while EAAS is mostly academic driven. Also it is difficult to stay in touch with ASA. In addition, ASA is not clearly a national association.
- c. IG believes that the connection with ASA should be kept. She adds that Elizabeth Duclos-Orsello has been very active and is very willing to participate in EAAS initiatives. She is happy to start again the conversation between EAAS and ASA.
- d. PM notes that there are personal collegiate links between EAAS and ASA but not institutional ones.
- e. CB agrees that individuals may be interested or disinterested in such a connection, but EAAS should definitely pursue an institutionalized form of connection. She asks whether the ASA President could participate with a greeting at the opening of the EAAS conferences. She thinks that EAAS should look not for individual but institutional visibility.
- f. PM thinks that a ZOOM connection with ASA could help. He fully supports all the ideas.

#### **EAAS Postgraduate Communities Reporting on connections/collaborations between the postgraduate communities of the EAAS constituent member associations**

- a. PM asks about the EAAS postgraduate representation and refers to the support that had been offered to HELAAS for its first young scholar symposium.
- b. TR confirms this and adds that further European connections need to be established.

- c. PM believes that the EAAS website will help towards this direction.
- d. AI says that this is something that she would like to work on.

### **Auditors' Report**

- a. AnCar and AC agree that all is correct and all is in place as regards the EAAS finances.
- b. PM asks if all agree. **OUTCOME: ALL EAAS BOARD MEMBERS AGREE.**

### **Final Remarks**

- a. YS says that American Studies in Belarus have been minimized. No elections have taken place. People do not come to conferences. He appreciates PM's support with his keynote talk. It is important that people in Belarus see that they are not alone. YS asks for collegiate solidarity.
- b. PM hopes that Belarus and Russia will continue being part of EAAS.
- c. LM is not certain whether she will be able to participate in the EAAS conferences.
- d. PM asks YS to let EAAS know in case he decides to step down.

### **News from EAAS Networks**

- a. PM asks for news from the associations and networks.
- b. FM informs everyone about the EAAS Digital Studies Network and its proposal to DeGruyter with regard to the publication of a critical edition about Digital Humanities in Europe. He says that together with Stefan Brandt and TR a call for papers has been put together which will be sent to all EAAS board members as well.
- c. CH shares the news below about the EAAS DICE Network:  
 The EAAS-sponsored DICE Network (Decolonial, Indigenous, and Critical Ethnic studies Network) has been successfully founded in May 2021 and now counts more than 150 members. The EAAS 2022 conference, "Wastelands," in Madrid will be the first public event of the DICE Network where it will also hold its first General Assembly on Friday, 8 April 2022, at 3:30pm. The Articles of the Network will be voted at this first Assembly. The Mission Statement of the DICE Network runs as follows: The DICE Network (Decolonial, Indigenous, and Critical Ethnic Studies Network of the European Association of American Studies [EAAS]) is committed to creating discussions amongst, and connecting, scholars working in these disciplines. Inherent to the network's approach is an inclusive participation of our members in the direction of our network and a focus on Indigenous, Black, Latinx, non-whitestream, anti- and decolonial scholarship. We thus hope to create an institutional platform which facilitates deliberations and exchanges on research in decolonial, Indigenous, and critical ethnic studies being done in Europe, on methodological queries and considerations on working in these fields in a European context and/or as Europeans, as well as on increasing connections with our colleagues in North America who work in related fields. We further aim to promote ethnic diversity, but also diversity in terms of gender, sexuality, religion and spirituality, ability and neurodiversity, race, or age. The running of this

network intends to reflect these various dimensions of diversity. We thus welcome anyone who works or is interested in: Decolonial and anti-colonial studies; Indigenous studies; Critical Ethnic and anti-racist studies; Black, African-American and / or Africana studies; Latinx studies; Asian-American and/or Asian-European studies; Migration studies; Settler-colonial studies; Intersectional studies; Everyone who works and/ or is interested in related fields. All suggestions on the network's functioning, focus, topics, or activities are welcome. Thank you for your interest! Aleksandra Izgarjan, Timpothy Petete, and Cécile Heim currently chair on the DICE Network board. The DICE Network's email address is [dicenetworkeas@gmail.com](mailto:dicenetworkeas@gmail.com) and our website is <https://dicenetworkeas.wordpress.com/>.

### News from EAAS Member Associations

- a. **AFEA:** General Assembly, 52<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting -- May 2021: Mathieu Duplay, Vice President for Research, was elected AFEA President; AFEA achieved its budgetary goals by restoring its financial stability; In line with EAAS Policy on harassment, a code of ethics was approved, and an ethics committee was created. Six members were elected in October 2021. AFEA/SAES Research Award: Antoine Traisnel, [\*Capture: American Pursuits and the Making of a New Animal Condition\*](#), University of Minnesota Press ; Daniel Foliard, [\*Combattre, punir, photographier Empires coloniaux, 1890-1914\*](#), La Découverte ; Elsa Devienne pour [\*La ruée vers le sable : Une histoire environnementale du littoral de Los Angeles au XXe siècle\*](#), Editions de la Sorbonne. The 53<sup>rd</sup> AFEA annual conference will take place in Bordeaux (Bordeaux Montaigne University) from May 31 to June 3, 2022. The overarching theme is: "[Legitimacy, Authority and Canons](#)": The tension between the authority of inherited power and discourse on the one hand and the legitimate quest for independence on the other pervades every aspect of US history and culture. Whether in the nation's claim to political, cultural, intellectual, literary, or artistic independence from Europe or in its insistence upon the unique nature of its territory, the United States has maintained a vexed relationship with authority—understood in the present context as "*auctoritas*." [...]
- b. **DGfA:** The 2020 annual conference of the GAAS had to be canceled and postponed by one year, due to the Corona pandemic. Similarly, the terms of office of both the officers as well as the advisory board members were extended by one year, in accordance with the special legal regulations during the pandemic. The business meetings of the advisory board took place online in July 2020 and January 2021. During the reporting period, the association has (temporarily) opted out of embassy funding and introduced a new dues structure. In February 2021, the historians of the GAAS held their annual conference on "Labor History" as an online event hosted by the University of Mainz. Most significantly, the GAAS has newly and very successfully (in terms of number of participants and substance of discussions) introduced the format of the digital town hall meeting: Issues of anti-discrimination/the representation of diversity and the situation of early career



- scholars on the postgraduate and postdoc levels within the GAAS as well as the reform of the association's bylaws were discussed on three different occasions.
- c. **APEAA:** The association organized its 42nd Meeting between March 31-April 2, 2022 at the Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal; it published the journal *Op. Cit.: A Journal of Anglo-American Studies*, 2nd Series, No. 10-11: 2021-2022.
  - d. **BAAS:** The BAAS annual conference is due to take place in April 2022, hosted by the University of Hull. The conference has been organized primarily as an in-person event over three days, with some online/ hybrid elements. A successful postgraduate symposium was held online in December 2021. The Journal of American Studies is in the process of recruiting new editors, as the tenure of the current editors comes to an end. A new Chair of BAAS will also be elected later this year. A full portfolio of awards is running again this year and, following on from the success of last year, will be celebrated during their own special online event in early summer. Sub-committees and representatives continue to work on a range of initiatives and plans, including, Sustainability and Green BAAS with a focus on how the discipline confronts the climate crisis; Equality and Diversity; Postgraduate and Early Career Researchers; Women in American Studies Network. Membership and finances are stable.
  - e. **ASAT:** The American Studies Association of Turkey (ASAT) hosted two virtual talks between April 2021 and April 2022: "Dreaming of Lubberland: Idleness and Industry in the British Atlantic World," by Dr. Daniel Johnson (Department of American Culture and Literature, Bilkent University) and "The New 'Firebell in the Night': Global Migration and US Culture," by Dr. Janice Lee Jayes (Fulbright Scholar in Residence, Bilkent University). We also hosted a virtual workshop on the future of American Studies in Turkey, as well as a virtual panel to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. The 41<sup>st</sup> International ASAT Conference on "Trans\* America" will be held at Hacettepe University on November 16-18, 2022. Our CFP can be accessed here: <http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/2022-asat-conference/2022-conference-cfp>. Moreover, we published two issues of the *Journal of American Studies of Turkey* (JAST) during this period: issue #55 showcased the work of early career American Studies scholars in Turkey and beyond, and issue #56 focused on Asian American Studies. An open-access archive of JAST can be found here: <http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/jast/issues>. As always, we welcome your suggestions, participation and collaboration—especially with our journal and international conference—and invite you to visit our website for more information: [www.asat-jast.org](http://www.asat-jast.org)
  - f. **HAAS:** Between April 2021 and April 2022 HAAS members participated in various conferences, including the biennial HUSSE held online in Budapest. We are finding it difficult to start up after the Covid lockdown and are hoping to hold our next HAAS conference in the fall of 2023, where we will elect new leadership for our association.
  - g. **AASSEE: American Studies Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina:** The association did not organize any activities due to the measures related to COVID-19 pandemic in Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Croatian Association for American**

**Studies:** The 9th annual American Studies workshop on the topic of "Tracing Populism in the U.S. and Comparative Perspective", organized by the Croatian Association for American Studies and the University of Zadar, was held in Zadar on September 22, 2021. The hybrid symposium gathered fourteen presenters from Croatia and abroad. Selected presentations will be published in the *Anafora* literary journal. Working Papers in American Studies, vol. 5, thematizing the COVID-19 pandemic in the Anglo-American context will be published soon. The peer-reviewed, open-access publication collected an array of papers from the 2020 CAAS symposium in Zagreb; **The Montenegrin Association for American Studies** organized two events: a. literary contest for the best short story inspired by the literary works of American women writers belonging to different generations, under the title *Border*. More than thirty authors sent their stories to this contest, b. a conference under the title *Closed Spaces* took place on March 11, 2022, in the American Corner in Podgorica. Ten participants (from ex-Yugoslav countries) presented their papers, and the collection of papers presented at the conference will be published by the end of this year. The conference was organized in cooperation with the American Corner in Podgorica; **Serbian Association for Anglo-American Studies:** The year 2021 was dedicated to examination of the ties between American and Serbian literature. English and Serbian Departments together with the members of the Serbian Association for Anglo-American Studies organized the conference under the title *Literary and Cultural Interconnections between Serbian and Anglophone Literatures* which took place in Belgrade in October, 2021. The focus of the presentations was on the connections between American and Serbian literary ties during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- h. **BASA:** The pandemic has prevented the association from organizing any events during the 2021-2022 period.
- i. **NAAS: The American Studies Association of Norway, 2020: 43rd ASANOR Conference.** UiT-The Arctic University, Tromsø, September 24-26. Theme: Truths, Facts, Fictions and Falsehood in American Studies. Organizers: Cassandra Falke and Laura Castor. This was a hybrid conference; **The Swedish Association for American Studies:** "Amerikanska rasrelationer och Sverige." Participants: Anna Jonsson Cornell (Uppsala University), Gunlög Fur (Linnaeus University), Karin Henriksson (journalist/author), Ola Larsmo (author), Per Erik Nilsson (Uppsala University), Jonathan Rollins (stand-up comedian), and Jayson Sae-Saue (Southern Methodist University). Moderator: Dag Blanck. Symposium arranged by SINAS together with Uppsala Forum för Demokrati, Fred och Rättvisa, September 30, 2020. "The Most Consequential Election in Our Time? A Panel Discussion on the American Elections 2020." Participants: Lance Bennett, William Haltom, Karin Henriksson, Frida Stranne. Moderator: Dag Blanck. Arranged by SINAS together with Uppsala Forum för Demokrati, Fred och Rättvisa, November 2, 2020. "Conversation: Ron and Pejk talk about Joe. Ron Padgett (Poet, New York City) and Pejk Malinovski (Poet, Copenhagen) talk about visual artist, memoirist and poet Joe Brainard." Moderator: Daniel Kane. Online event arranged by the English

- Department, Uppsala University, November 9, 2020. "Experimental: Language Writing, Two Whales, and a Dream of the Future." Participant: Natalia Cecire (University of Sussex). Moderator: Daniel Kane. Lecture arranged by the English Department, Uppsala University, December 14, 2020. "SINAS Seminars." New seminar series in American Studies arranged by SINAS, began in November 2020. It will feature a seminar every fourth Monday of the month at 15:15–17:00; **The Finnish American Studies Association**: Maple Leaf & Eagles Conference, Dec. 9-11, 2000. Conference theme: North American: Inclusive, Exclusive, and Exceptional. This biennial conference normally takes place in May.
- j. **PAAS**: The biennial conference of the European Association for American Studies *20/20 Vision: Citizenship, Space, Renewal*, originally planned for May 2020 but cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic, was organized by the University of Warsaw on April 30-May 2 2021 as an on-line event. The membership of the Polish Association for American Studies continues at approximately 110 members. The Association publishes two issues of its journal *Polish Journal for American Studies* a year, a general issue in the spring and a special issue in the fall. For more information visit the journal's website at <https://paas.org.pl/pjas/>. The Association continues to hold an annual competition for the best MA thesis in American Studies in Poland. The annual PAAS conference was organized by the University of Rzeszów in December 2021 as an online event due to the prolonging pandemic. The topic of the conference was "Darkness in Paradise: American Declarations, Disillusions and Disasters," with 50 participants from Poland and abroad. The conference was accompanied by workshops organized for PhD students.
- k. **AISNA**: The yearly AISNA Seminar, entitled "Circulating Americas. History, Aesthetics, Politics" was held May 3-5, 2021 at the Centro di Studi Americani in Rome. It included a keynote by Lauri Gries (Univ. of Colorado). The Biennial AISNA Conference was held Sept. 24-27, 2021 at the University of L'Aquila. The conference was titled "Crossing Territories. Recognition across Time, Space and Textuality in the US and Beyond", with keynotes by Kameelah L. Martin (College of Charleston), Cristina Bacchilega (University of Hawai'i), Giorgio Mariani (Sapienza – University of Rome) and Jonathan Bell (University College London). The 2021 Lombardo award and Gullì awards for outstanding MA theses in American Studies went to Giulia Affede, Federico Chiaricati, Monica Dal Checco, Francesco Landolfi. *RSA Journal*, AISNA's official journal, published issue #32 in 2021; *JAm It!*, the journal of AISNA's Graduate Student network, published issues #4 and #5. With sponsorship from the US Mission to Italy, AISNA was able to sponsor the publication of four PhD dissertations in American Studies.
- l. **IAAS**: Sponsored by the Cormac McCarthy Society and supported by the Irish Association for American Studies, the Cormac McCarthy International Conference ran from the 14th-17th June 2022 at Trinity College Dublin. The conference was co-organised by IAAS President Emeritus, Professor Stephen Matterson, and opened with a special IAAS roundtable panel on the topic of Teaching McCarthy in Ireland. Organised and chaired by IAAS Secretary, Sarah McCreedy, the

roundtable involved a discussion with friends and former committee members of the IAAS, Dr Alan Gibbs (University College Cork), Dr Dara Downey (Trinity College Dublin), and Dr Clare Hayes-Brady (University College Dublin); The IAAS Postgraduate Caucus is starting up a regular online "Writing Together" program for postgrads and ECRs. These sessions are a comfortable and supportive environment to chat with other IAAS members and also get some writing done. There is no pressure to talk about your writing nor is the purpose to share and critique your writing, but rather to be productive along with others. Working on research can be a lonely and isolating experience, and we're hoping to build community and counteract some of that isolation. The 90-minute sessions will run regularly and consist of 15 minutes for chatting alternating with 30 minutes for silent writing. They will take place on the IAAS Postgraduate Discord. For more information join our Discord <https://discord.gg/xVDeWswS9p> or email [postgrad@iaas.ie](mailto:postgrad@iaas.ie); Issue 10 of IJAS Online was published in April. The issue was jointly edited by outgoing editor David Coughlan – who, since 2013, has helped to make the journal a flagship for American studies in Ireland – and incoming editors Tim Groenland and Fionnghuala Sweeney. As always, the issue reflects the breadth of American political and cultural change as well as many of the pressing issues under discussion in the field. Topics discussed include race and historical narratives in fiction by N.K Jemisin, William Faulkner, and Herman Melville, thematic overlaps between the novels of Anne Tyler and Sally Rooney, and artistic representations of divorce in the '90s. More information on April's edition can be found [here](#).

- m. AEDEAN/SAAS: CONFERENCES:** The **44<sup>TH</sup> AEDEAN CONFERENCE** was to take place in November 2020 at the University of Cantabria but it was postponed because of the covid pandemic. It was finally held online on November 24-26, 2021. The number of participants reached a new peak, with almost 300 hundred papers read. The US panel continues to be one of the most successful. There were 14 candidates to the Catalina Montes award for PhD students. The plenary speakers were Neil Campbell (University of Derby, U.K.), Christiane Dalton-Puffer (University of Vienna, Austria), Celestino Deleyto (University of Zaragoza, Spain) and Javier Pérez Guerra (University of Vigo, Spain); The **45<sup>TH</sup> AEDEAN CONFERENCE** will take place in Cáceres in November 16-18, 2022. The call for papers will be sent shortly; The **2<sup>nd</sup> AEDEAN DOCTORAL SEMINAR** was rescheduled for July 1-2, 2021 and held online. There were three parallel sessions with papers on both Literature and Culture, and Linguistics, as well as two plenary sessions (given by Rosario Arias, Universidad de Málaga, and Javier Ruano, Universidad de Salamanca) and a Q&A session. The abstracts for the presentations will be available in the Spring 2022 issue of *Nexus*; The **3<sup>rd</sup> AEDEAN DOCTORAL SEMINAR** will take place at the University of Cantabria on July 7-8, 2022. The call for papers is open until April 3; The **17<sup>th</sup> SAAS CONFERENCE** will be held in Granada in March 28-30, 2023. The conference theme is "A return to (what never was) normal: Discourses of (ab)normalcy in US culture, literature, arts and politics; past, present and future." The call for panels related to the theme is open until April 1<sup>st</sup>,

- and other panels will be considered at a later date, as will individual papers.
- PUBLICATIONS: ATLANTIS 43.1** was published in June 2021 and 43.2 in December 2021, and it includes several articles in the area of US studies. The journal is currently ranked as Q1 in literature and literary theory, and Q2 in cultural studies; Last year we also published two issues of the newsletter **NEXUS**, which includes tributes, research papers and book reviews. Both *Atlantis* and *Nexus* are available on the AEDEAN webpage; The **E-BOOK FOR THE 2021 CANTABRIA CONFERENCE** will be available online soon; The deadline to send manuscripts to **REN REVISTA DE ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS** for volume 26 (December 2022) is currently open.
- n. **CSAA: EVENTS** in 2021: **Biennial Conference of the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies / 23rd International Colloquium of American Studies** (<http://colloquium2021.upol.cz/>) Hosted by the Dept. of English and American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, November 4-5, 2021, under the theme of “Spaces and Narratives of Mental and Social Health” with Christoph Singer (University of Innsbruck) as the keynote speaker. PUBLICATIONS: For information see the following link: [http://csaa.upol.cz/?page\\_id=247](http://csaa.upol.cz/?page_id=247). ACADEMIC JOURNALS: *The American and British Studies Annual*; *Ars Aeterna*; *Brno Studies in English*; *The Hradec Králové Journal of Anglophone Studies*; *The Moravian Journal of Literature and Film*; *Litteraria Pragensia*; *Ostrava Journal of English Philology*; *Prague Journal of English Studies*.
- o. **AAAS:** The AAAS annual conference “Digital Americas” was organized by an enthusiastic team around AAAS President Michael Fuchs and AAAS Secretary Stefan “Steve” Rabitsch. The conference was held online on Zoom with a series of afternoon workshops and evening keynote addresses from 20-29 October 2021. At the members’ meeting, the following new board members were elected: President: Joshua Parker; Vice-President: Matthias Klestil; Secretary: Robert A. Winkler; Treasurer: Cornelia Klecker; Board Members: Alexandra Ganser; Juliann Knaus, Klaus Rieser; International/EAAS Delegate: Ingrid Gessner. Membership figures have been relatively constant in recent years. AAAS continues its fruitful partnership with Fulbright Austria to facilitate exchange grants and Austrian-American educational and cultural events. The Fulbright Award for the best thesis in American studies that is presented annually in cooperation with the AAAS, was given to Markus Schwarz, who received the award for his MA thesis “good kid, m.A.A.d. City: Utopian and Dystopian Discourses in African American Hip-Hop.” Looking ahead, the 2022 AAAS conference on “Narrative, Environment, Social Justice” (<https://aaas.at/salzburg-2022/>) takes place on 21-23 October 2022 at the University of Salzburg. The 49th annual conference seeks to explore the stories we tell about the environment and pressing social issues of the past and present. Proposals for panels or individual presentations are welcome until May 15, 2022. *JAAAS*, the peer-reviewed journal of the association (<https://www.jaaas.eu>), has published one issue in the report period: *Austria’s Young Americanists Showcase* (Volume 2, No. 1). The next issues are *Mediating Mountains* (Vol. 2, No. 2),

- American Im/Mobilities* (Vol. 3, No. 1, 2021), *The American Entrepreneurial Spirit* (Vol. 3, No. 2, 2022), *Vulnerabilities* (Vol. 4, No. 1), and *Digital Americas* (Vol. 4, No. 2).
- p. **HELAAS: The association organized the following events in 2021: 1st HELAAS online publication in Greek**, entitled “Representation of America” (in Greek) was hosted by the prominent open access platform of the National Documentation Center of Digital Publications (EKT) <https://ebooks.epublishing.ekt.gr/index.php/helaasdp/catalog/book/65> ; **Summer School** “The Politics of Social Distancing.” Saturday June 26, 2021. In collaboration with the Department of American Literature and Culture, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and the kind contribution of the Fulbright Foundation in Greece. It consisted of 3 main seminars and was attended by thirty-seven participants connecting with the Summer School platform from Croatia, France, Greece, and the U.K.; **Publication of Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media, No 5 (2021)**. Special Issue: Religion, Mobilities and Belonging in Contemporary Anglophone Literature and Film/TV Series Production. December 2021; **The association went on with the following events in 2022: 3RD YOUNG SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM** "Sharing Critical Testimonies of Wellness in Times of Crisis" February 2022. This online event consisted of two panels, two roundtables one Interview (with representative of Project SHARE—Health and Humanities Acting Together), one Workshop (Smooth Sailing Through a Postgraduate Thesis?) and one Performance (A Take on Sarajevo Phoenix); March 18, 2022: Emily Van Duyne (Associate Professor, Stockton University, US; Fulbright Scholar, School of English AUTH) was the guest speaker of the Women’s Month Online event titled: " ‘They waited like sweethearts’: Domestic Violence and Sylvia Plath.” This event marked the launching of the **Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS) and the Fulbright Foundation in Greece annual online lecture series**; May 15, 2022: online panel discussion with the participation of four speakers (Despina Mouzaki, Emily Van Duyne, A. E. Stallings, and Steven Tagle0 following an exclusive virtual film screening was held of Christine Jeff’s SYLVIA; May 20, 2022: an **international hybrid symposium** under the theme of “Sylvia Plath & Trans-Atlanticism.” The particular event was organized as a collaboration between not only the School of English AUTH and the Fulbright Foundation Greece, but Stockton University US and the Research Dissemination Centre of AUTH as well. <https://www.new.enl.auth.gr/sylviaplath/>; Human Rights in the context of American Studies. **1<sup>st</sup> HELAAS voice-over PowerPoint Teaching Scenario as part of the American Studies Resource Portal (ASRP, <http://www.asrp.gr/>)**; May 28 2022: **Book Presentation** of the Greek translation of the collective volume *The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine* [Οι αρχές και η άσκηση της αφηγηματικής ιατρικής] by Rita Charon et al.
- m. **SANAS**: This year has been slightly more active as some moments allowed for gatherings and/or working around COVID and its many restrictions. This year’s biggest SANAS event was the postponed biennial SANAS conference which ended up taking place on the 5-6 November 2022 online. It was organized by Dr. Jesse

- Ramirez and Dr. Sixta Quassdorf both at the University of St. Gallen and the theme of the conference was “Work: The Labors of Language, Culture, and History.” The keynote speakers were Prof. Katja Kanzler whose talk was titled “Affective Labor in 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Popular Culture,” Prof. Jennifer Rhee talking about “The Robotic Imaginary: The Human and the Price of Dehumanized Labor,” and Prof. Michael Denning who spoke about “Laboring Life: Re-founding the Critical Theory of Work.” This conference also engendered the publication of an issue of *SPELL (Swiss Papers of English Language and Linguistics)* titled *Work: The Labors of Language, Culture, and History in North America* and edited by Jesse Ramirez and Sixta Quassdorf. Looking forward, the SANAS Symposium, “The Politics of Emotions,” is scheduled to take place in Zürich on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and the biennial SANAS conference, “Who Tells Your Story?,” should take place in Fribourg on the 18-19 November 2022.
- n. **RSAS:** From December 1 to December 4, 2021 Journalism Department of Lomonosov Moscow State University hosted the 47th International Conference of the Russian Society for the American Culture Studies "**Overcoming: Cultivating Ideals through Overcoming Barriers in American Culture.**" Participants' attention was focused on exploring different ways to overcome barriers in realizing the ideals of democracy, both in the history of the United States and today. In six sections more than 50 papers by both experienced Americanists and newcomers to the field from ten cities in Russia, as well as from Belarus, Republic of Georgia, North Macedonia, and the United States. Besides the speakers, many listeners were also attracted by the traditional round table **Imprints** on the mutual influence of the images of Russia and the United States, dedicated to the memory of Professor Yassen Zassoursky - the founder of the annual conferences of Americanists at Journalism Department since 1975. For the first time, the conference was held without his participation, but as a tribute to his role as an initiator and patron of the study of American culture. The plenary speaker was Nikolay P. Popov, a well-known public opinion researcher who recently published the book "Russia-America: a direct connection" (Moscow, Kniglzdat, 2020. *in Russian*). The story of how, in the 1980s, schoolchildren from the USSR and the USA managed to establish direct contact with each other and jointly demand a search for a way of cooperation with the leadership of their countries, Dr. Popov highlighted as an eyewitness to the whole process. Citizen diplomacy today should regain its essential importance, as evidenced by the appeal to the conference participants by documentary filmmaker Cynthia Lazaroff (Hawaii, USA), head of the NGO Women for Nuclear Disarmament. The theme of the 48<sup>th</sup> RSACS conference is determined as: "**American Family in Flux Reflected in Literature, Art and Media**", dates are November 30 – December 3, 2022. Deadline for applications September 10, 2022.
- o. **NASA: Amerikanistendag 3 June 2022:** We are pleased to announce that the Netherlands American Studies Association will hold its 27th annual Amerikanistendag on Friday, 3 June 2022. The event will be hosted by our colleagues at the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies in the historic city

center of Middelburg. The Amerikanistendag is a student conference and serves as a forum for students and recent graduates at the BA, (Res)MA, and PhD level to present their research to fellow students and scholars of American history and American studies in the Netherlands. The day will also include the award ceremony for the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award 2022, a prestigious prize for the best MA thesis in American history and American studies in the Netherlands; **NASA Conference 20-21 May 2022 A Superpower by Nature: The Environment and American Studies (rescheduled from Dec. 2021 due to C-19)**: How does the environment figure in American Studies – and what does American Studies bring to environmental studies? Since the 1990s we have witnessed a “greening” of the humanities and social sciences resulting in a growing body of scholarship that investigates the complex relationship between culture, politics and the environment. This conference explores the state of the field with regard to environmental (American) studies from interdisciplinary, transnational, urban and rural perspectives. While older forms of ecocriticism often idealized nature and studied “wilderness” in a national framework, more recent research focuses on socio-environmental issues such as eco-apartheid, indigenous knowledge systems, petroleum culture and queer sustainability, not just in North America or Europe but also across the global South. In the Americas, (settler) colonialism had an indelible impact on the hemisphere’s ecosystems and their inhabitants, for instance through monocrop plantation agriculture, cattle ranching, and mining. When the United States became a global player by the end of the nineteenth century, the extractive and exploitative politics behind these business models were exported around the world and merged with other imperial projects, exemplified by the practices of the United Fruit Company in Central America, Monsanto and Union Carbide in India, and Chevron in Angola. We welcome papers that build upon this cross-cutting research to examine the environment in American Studies, both within and outside the United States. Possible topics include (but are not limited to) the intersections between social movements and struggles for environmental justice in the Americas; indigenous environmental movements; the Anthropocene and Plantationocene; the environment and US militarism, war, and empire; literary ecology and environmental literary scholarship; political ecology; blue humanities; and the environment in the arts and popular cultures of the Americas; **May 2021: Passing of Marietta Messmer (1966-2021)**: The Netherlands American Studies Association bids farewell to its 2011-2014 president, Marietta Messmer, who passed away in May 2021. Messmer joined American Studies at the University of Groningen in 2004 and was active in Dutch and international scholarly organizations. She was well-recognized in the profession for her commitment to an Inter-American approach to studying the United States. Messmer co-founded the International Association for InterAmerican Studies in 2009, served on the board of the European American Studies Association (2009-2016), and was vice president of the International American Studies Association from 2019 to 2021. Messmer was also editor-in-chief of the book series Interamericana (Peter Lang Publishing). Messmer’s



- indelible mark on all of these organizations is her commitment to an InterAmerican approach to American studies and her professionalism in serving those with whom she worked; **Amerikanistendag 28 May 2021:** The Amerikanistendag is a student conference and serves as a forum for students and recent graduates at the BA, (Res)MA, and PhD level to present their research to fellow students and scholars of American history and American studies in the Netherlands. The day will also include the award ceremony for the Theodore Roosevelt American History Award 2021, a prestigious prize for the best MA thesis in American history and American studies in the Netherlands; **Spring 2020: Netherlands American Studies Review:** The NASR is the student journal of the Netherlands American Studies Association (NASA). First published in the Spring of 2020, the Netherlands American Studies Review aims to showcase excellent student work from Dutch universities related to North American history, politics, literature, and society.
- q. **BELAAS:** the association managed to hold its 29<sup>th</sup> international scientific conference “Genre and Style Versatility of contemporary American and European Literature and Culture” (Minsk, May 17 – 18, 2021 at Minsk State Linguistics University) which was organized in a mixed format (on- and offline). It included participants from Belarus, China, Russia, Ukraine, and the USA. Prof. Philip McGowan addressed the participants with an insightful paper. Unfortunately, because of the tensions the conference was not well attended, which made it impossible to hold BelaAAS Board elections. Re-registration of BelaAAS as an NGO was for some reason not completed. The process has been going on for over 1.5 years and is not over yet. Yuri Stulov had to continue to act as Board Chair though he lost his position at the university. There is understandable lack of enthusiasm on the part of academics to get actively involved in “things American”. Nevertheless, a few BelaAAS members took part in international conferences in Poland, Russia and Ukraine.
- r. **RAAS:** During the pandemic year 2021-2022, all of the RAAS activities were held online. However the American Studies students and staff benefited from the virtual lecture on *Spatial Literary Studies* held in May 2021 by Robert Tally Jr., the author of the volume with the same title (Routledge, 2020). In October 2021, the RAAS organized the conference *Eco-Consciousness: Imperatives in American Culture* which brought together academics and students who explored topics related to ecology, eco-criticism, environmental studies and their representations in the US culture. A number of articles based on the presentations at the conference are being edited at present for publication in a volume. Also a network for doctoral students in American studies was set up on the day prior to the conference dedicated to PhD research in the field.

**Tatiani Rapatzikou**  
**EAAS Sec.-General**

