



**Minutes of EAAS Board Meeting, Thessaloniki 5 April 2019**

**Present and representing member associations:**

**Nathalie Caron AFEA  
Carmen Birkle/Udo Hebel DGfA  
Teresa Botelho APEAA  
Eduard Vlad RAAS  
Jenny Woodley BAAS  
Tanfer Emin Tunc ASAT  
Tibor Glant HAAS  
Aleksandra Izgarjan AASSEE  
Madeleine Danova BASA  
Mikko Saikku NAAS  
Zuzanna Ladyga PAAS (EAAS Vice President)  
Donatella Izzo/ Elizabetta Vezzosi AISNA  
Philip McGowan IAAS (EAAS President)  
Cristina Alsina Rísquez AEDEAN/SAAS  
Michal Peprnik CSAA  
Silvia Schaltermandl AAAS  
Tatiani Rapatzikou (EAAS Sec.-Gen.) HELAAS  
Cecile Heim SANAS  
Adina Ciugureanu (EAAS Treasurer)  
Larisa Mikhaylova RSAS**

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

**Jérôme Jamin BLASA  
Yuri V. Stulov BELAAS  
Frank Mehring NASA**

### Opening Address – Welcome – Overview

- a. Formal welcome from Vice Rector from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Tatiani Rapatzikou (HELAAS, local host). They thank all EAAS members for traveling to Thessaloniki for the board meeting and the EAAS Women’s Network conference.
- b. EAAS President – Philip McGowan (PM) thanks them both for hosting the board meeting and TR for the organization of the EAAS Women’s Network conference in collaboration with the Network members. He extends his warm welcome to EAAS board members. He welcomes incoming and thanks outgoing EAAS board members.
- c. PM is asking all board members to introduce themselves. Apologies from Yuri Stulov and Frank Mehring who could not be present at the board meeting. He thanks Isabelle Alfandary, Boris Vejdovsky, Martin Halliwell for their contributions to the EAAS board and welcomes all new members. He highlights the fact that 14 associations are represented by women; the same goes for the 3 female (out of 4) EAAS officers. He also refers to the EAAS commitment to equality and female development. He then comments on the recent cut-backs in different institutions and refers to the need for the creation of new academic positions (adjunct and full time) for new scholars. He welcomes Madeleine Danova who now takes Kostadin Grozev’s place who passed away a few years ago. At this point, he talks about François BRUNET, Professor of American Studies at Université Paris-Diderot and member of the Advisory Board of the *European Journal of American Studies* for nine years who suddenly passed away.
- d. PM adds that due to his various duties he was not able to travel to the AEDEAN conference – he was represented by the EAAS Vice President, Zuzanna Ladyga (ZL) – but he will be participating in the conference organized by CSAA.
- e. PM continues by saying that Brexit has prevented the materialization of a number of academic initiatives. The American Studies program at Keele University has shut down, while in Ireland attention is paid to a reformulation/repackaging of the American Studies programs.
- f. PM comments on EJAS by saying that an agreement has been signed between EJAS and Proquest with emphasis placed on its automatic renewal every 5 years. This will massively contribute to the promotion and wide circulation of the EAAS Journal. PM invites everyone to consider publishing in the journal and the editors welcome proposals for special issues.
- g. PM informs the board that there is still not much progress with regard to the EAAS book series.
- h. He refers to the profit made by the EAAS conference in London (€7.500).
- i. PM asks everyone to approve the minutes of EAAS 2018 Board Meeting. **All agree.**
- j. PM is asking the board for a volunteer as regards vetting the EAAS Postgraduate Travel Grants evaluation process. Larisa Mikhaylova (LM) is happy to participate in this process because she believes this will help her to promote the grants to her own association.

### EAAS Website

- a. PM talks about the new EAAS website and invites everyone to contribute ideas for its development.
- b. Cristina Alsina Rísquez (CAR) finds the site static.
- c. Teresa Botelho (TB) recommends to connect the EAAS website with ESSE
- d. Aleksandra Izgarjan (AI) agrees that ESSE website works better.
- e. Tatiani Rapatzikou (TR) adds that there are structural problems.

- f. ZL believes that we should invest in the website. She is afraid that the membership may be affected. She adds that the company working on the Warsaw website has problems communicating with the EAAS website. This means that the EAAS Joomla design is not responsive any more. So it is mandatory to seek professional help.
- g. Cecile Heim (CH) is asking whether the software needs to be changed.
- h. AI believes that a lot of money has already been spent so EAAS should go back to the company that structured the new website.
- i. PM agrees to get in touch with the company and report back to EAAS.
- j. Adina Ciugureanu (AC) adds that EAAS is still paying Jacques Pothier (€120) for the space the EAAS website occupies. She is asking whether EAAS will continue paying this amount since the website still appears to be under his name. Also she is asking whether her EAAS email address can change because it has been hacked.
- k. PM believes we need a better system but we have to stay with the original one (Joomla) due to the money that has already been invested in it.
- l. TB believes that it would be extremely helpful if the cfp system gets more efficient.
- m. Carmen Birkle (CB) adds that we cannot be renewing the website every year but we do certainly need to update the system.
- n. PM responds by saying that possibly Patricia Lobo cannot help to that extent.

#### **EAAS Networks**

- a. PM comments on the inactivity of the EAAS Poetry Network but he says that it will appear in the EAAS 2020 conference.
- b. CH asks whether there is a network focusing on Indigenous Studies.
- c. PM says that there is a strong interest in that area so he suggests that the particular initiative should move ahead.

#### **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: Cristina Alsina Rísquez and Aleksandra Izgarjan.

#### **EAAS Financial Report**

- a. He also thanks CB for the help she has offered to AC since EAAS is registered in Germany. He believes that the DGfA representative on the EAAS board should be helping EAAS Treasurers when it comes to such administrative issues.
- b. AC is asking CB whether she would like to be the next EAAS Treasurer.
- c. CB says that she is the official representative of DGfA in the EAAS board till next year. Their association has decided that the President should be the one representing the association on the EAAS board.
- d. PM suggests that CB should nominate herself since she is going to be on the board in 2020 as well. He then invites AC to go ahead with the financial report.
- e. AC invites everyone to look at the EAAS Balance Sheet 2018 (I). On the right-hand side the ABN-AMRO Holdings amount to €297,566.07. With the addition of €17,026.42 the total amount comes to €314,592.49. Due to 2018 being a conference year, the amount of €10,000 was transferred from the Amsterdam Trust Fund (ATF) to the main EAAS bank account. However the holdings decreased to €271,565.92 and hence the total amount dropped to €11,617.41. AC points to the membership dues appearing on the left-hand side of the EAAS

Balance Sheet 2018 (I). Due to the board per diems, travel expenses and board dinner a total amount of €4,473.41 was spent. To this amount, the following expenses should be added: €14,000 (EAAS Postgraduate Travel Grants), €2,882.22 (Starky company for EAAS website), €180 (postage for EJAS book review copies), and €67.18 (Translation service for Tax Exemption papers). This adds up to the following negative balance: €-21,903.41. But due to the ABN-AMRO Transfer of €10,286 to the current bank account, the deficit decreases to €-11, 617.41. Then AC invites all board members to look at the EAAS Balance Sheet 2018 (III) which focuses on the expenses of 2019 and 2020. She expects to collect, due to the association membership fees, the amount of €25,500. If the surplus of the €7,500 from the EAAS conference in London is added, this leads to a total of €33,000. However, there are the following expenses: the Thessaloniki board meeting (initially estimated around €5,000 but this is expected to drop to €4,000 including the per diem of board members of €150 per person); the publication of the second EAAS volume from the 2016 Constanta conference (less than €3,000); and the amount to be spent for the EAAS Postgraduate Travel Grants (€14,000). If there is no Rob Kroes book publication in 2019, this will save EAAS another €3,000. This means that at the end of 2019 there will be no deficit. AC moves to the budget plan of 2020. Since this is a conference year, she is expecting around €26,000 to be gathered due to an increase in new membership in all associations. As far as the expenses are concerned, AC is estimating that the amount of €20,000 will go towards the EAAS Postgraduate Travel Grants and the EAAS Conference Grants. There will be no transfer this year from ATF due to the surplus from 2018. No further transfer will be needed. There might be a deficit, but this is estimated to be around €-600.

- f. ZL is asking whether part of the conference expenses can be covered by EAAS.
- g. PM responds that an ATF transfer would help.
- h. AC explains that money was transferred from ATF to the EAAS bank account in 2014, 2016, and 2018. However, in 2018 the ATF assets decreased to the amount of €271,565.92 as explained by the reports sent by Gert Buelens. As a result, 2018 was not a good year for EAAS, but in March 2019 the portfolio's value started picking up again. AC adds that if no further transfers are made, EAAS will be able to balance up. But on the basis of how everything develops, EAAS could decide on a transfer in January 2020.
- i. ZL asks whether she could rely on the €10,000 transfer in 2020 so that certain expenses are covered.
- j. AC adds here that the €6,000 out of the €10,000 that were transferred in 2018 went towards the conference travel grants. In case the cost between EAAS and PAAS is not shared as regards the conference, then more money needs to be transferred.
- k. Eduard Vlad (EV) asks whether Romania received any support from EAAS when its own conference was organized.
- l. AC explains that usually expenses are covered from the conference fee. EAAS steps in only if there is a need.
- m. PM is asking whether the money that would go towards the Rob Kroes book publication can be used instead to cover the extra conference expenses.
- n. AC notes that the surplus from 2018 has already been added to the average, which explains why the overall balance appearing in the EAAS Balance Sheet 2018 (III) is not too low. Also the "defensive risk policy" mentioned in the ATF-2018 Annual Accounts report has very much to do with the lowering of the assets.
- o. ZL explains that almost 500 delegates are expected in Warsaw, which justifies the centrality of the event and the need for its prioritization.

- p. AC adds that the conference in London was the only one to have been financed through EAAS that is the reason why conference fees are implemented. In this case, a surplus was produced which is a risk that EAAS may have to take.
- q. TB suggests that EAAS offers its help and if a surplus is produced the conference organizers would need to return it to EAAS.
- r. AC says that it is important that the number of possible participants and all conference logistics are taken into account for an effective calculation of the cost.
- s. Silvia Schiltermandl (SiS) says that in all Graz conferences everyone pays and then they are reimbursed. But due to the increasing difficulty, it would be good if EAAS reconsidered the financial support it offers for its conferences.
- t. Nathalie Caron (NC) adds that she is concerned knowing that there is no automatic support offered by EAAS towards its biannual conference organizers. Consequently, she understands ZL's concerns. She also believes that participants will find it very difficult to pay the high conference fees.
- u. CAR suggests that EAAS needs to consider lending money to the organizing conference committees.
- v. Jenny Woodley (JW) believes that there is a good reason here for helping the conference organizers.
- w. CB believes that a good budget plan will need to be submitted by the conference organizers. This will be able to give everyone a much better idea about the finances. Now nobody knows anything about the expenses to be incurred in Warsaw.
- x. Madeleine Danova (MD) asks whether the €5,000 amount can be lent to the conference organizers since there is no budget plan from the PAAS conference organizers.
- y. PM believes that EAAS is in a good financial position. It would help if ZL gave the board a better idea about the expenses involved. EAAS seriously needs to consider lending money to future conference organizers since there is the concern that nobody would want to undertake the organization of the EAAS conferences in the future.
- z. AC says that EAAS could possibly lend €5,000 but then it would be difficult to cover both the conference grants and the TG expenses at present value.
- aa. PM believes that EAAS should follow the defensive-risk strategy for the ATF recommended by Gert Buelens. He asks if all board members agree. **Everyone agrees.**
- bb. LM asks whether from now on EAAS could go into a 50/50 partnership with future conference organizers. This could serve as a safety net.
- cc. CB says that this may be tricky.
- dd. PM explains that this was the case with London due to the fact the conference in 2018 was a joint event.

#### **EAAS Women's Network**

- a. Tanfer Emin Tunc (TET) says that the number of speakers has increased making this event a fully-fledged conference. She also refers to the journal of the network that focuses on the publication of the papers from each biennial conference event. A special journal issue will be put together for the 2019 conference. In case more papers are selected, the network will consider the publication of a book volume.
- b. AI proposes the publication of a thematic edition in the form of an e-book.
- c. SiS suggests that Palgrave Pivot series could serve as a publication outlet.
- d. TET says that the network will decide how to proceed on the basis of the papers to be submitted.

- e. AI believes that more publication opportunities should be made available.
- f. Tibor Glant (TG) suggests that the Hungarian Journal could also host a few papers from the EAAS Women's Network symposium.
- g. AI says that all publications should fall under the EAAS Women's Network.
- h. TET believes that the network will be able to assess the situation as soon as papers are received. There is always a reduction in numbers.
- i. TR proposes that information about the journal editions of all national associations should be posted on the EAAS website.

#### **EAAS Postgraduate Travel Grants**

- a. ZL says that not all reports from last year applicants have been submitted. As for 2019, there was a total of nine (9) applications.
- b. AC and LM ask whether they could see the applications.
- c. ZL says that all applicants are interested in archival research and the total amount requested has gone beyond €14,000.
- d. AC says that attention needs to be paid to the strong applications as well as to the budget in order to estimate how much money will be needed from EAAS.
- e. NC is querying about the membership of the evaluation committee.
- f. AC confirms that it consists of the four (4) EAAS Officers plus LM as a volunteer board member. She adds that all applicants will receive the grant but all applications need to be evaluated.
- g. SiS is asking whether all board members should vote for the equal division of the EAAS amount among all applicants in case all applications are strong enough. **Everyone votes and everyone agrees.**
- h. PM says that usually dates about the grants are released in January, then the Officers report to the Board, and the board decides how to move depending on how strong the applications are.
- i. AC recommends that grants need to be claimed by January and spent by April of the following year.

#### **EAAS Warsaw Conference**

- a. ZL informs everyone about the conference theme, that is "2020 Vision: Citizenship, Space, Renewal," and the conference dates, 1-3 May, 2020. She adds that the theme was decided on the basis of attracting scholars from diverse disciplines such as literature, history, politics. As regards travel logistics, she mentions that there are two airports. The Warsaw Chopin airport is the one recommended. University Campus and Central Library, where a number of the conference events will be hosted, are really close to one another. The Central Library will also be used for the conference banquet. The conference panels will be hosted in the Philology building. As for the one of the keynote speakers (Professor Tomasz Basiuk), he will be talking during the last day of the conference. Professor Michelle Burnham will be talking on the first day. University of Warsaw is going to cover the accommodation and flight expenses of the keynote speakers. As regards accommodation, there is a variety of options available in Warsaw for the conference delegates. Regarding funding, Fulbright will be able to fund a panel focusing on digital journalism. As far as the conference cfp is concerned, the conference organizers have reached out to a web company which will design the conference website in order to be accessible by tablets and mobile phones. The website is expected to

be ready in May 2019. Also, the company is asking if a logo for the Warsaw conference needs to be created.

- b. AC is asking whether a different logo from the one EAAS is using needs to be designed since this is an EAAS conference.
- c. CB and CAR agree with the use of the EAAS logo.
- d. EV believes that we should be promoting and not diluting the central position of EAAS if we also take into account the competition with ESSE. On these grounds, the EAAS logo should be the main one used.
- e. JW proposes the design of a logo that could be combined with the EAAS one.
- f. SiS says that an additional logo could emphasize the location where the conference is taking place.
- g. ZL believes that an additional logo would enable the promotion of the conference since this is a conference organized by a location-specific institution.
- h. PM adds that the EBAAS logo did not work very well. He believes that the EAAS 2020 conference organizers will come up with a functional logo.
- i. ZL informs everyone about the circulation of the conference cfp.
- j. NC recommends a few changes in the phrasing of certain points in the cfp.
- k. TB says that in recent years, the local organizers have been trusted to develop their own cfp and that the Board has not sought to intervene.
- l. ZL gives a cost breakdown: €1,500 for the Website; €6,000 for the TGs; \$500/speaker for the Honoraria which unfortunately cannot be paid through the Polish University Speaker. She is asking whether this cost can be covered by EAAS.
- m. AC considers that €1,500 for the website is too much and proposes €1,200. Everyone agrees with the latter amount.
- n. NC is questioning the payment of honoraria.
- o. SiS says that this ensures the attraction of top-notch speakers.
- p. PM believes that honoraria are part of the arrangement.
- q. ZL shares with everyone her concern about fees. With an initial calculation the money gathered will not be enough.
- r. AC suggests the amount of €100 Euros plus early and late bird registration.
- s. TR is asking about student fees.
- t. LM is asking about member and non-member fees.
- u. CH is asking about the deadline for abstract submission.
- v. ZL says that they will keep it open seven (7) months in order to enable ASA members to submit proposals as well.
- w. PM suggests the following rates: €100 members; €150 non-members; €50 per day/daily registration; €60 member students; €100 student non-members. He suggests that all prices can go up after the early bird registration.
- x. ZL says that €7,000 will come from the University of Warsaw.
- y. AI is asking whether the EAAS website could connect with the Warsaw conference website.
- z. ZL says that this depends on the future use of the website. In this case, EAAS could cover the cost.
- aa. AC says that EAAS will cover the cost for the website €1,200 plus €1,000 for two speakers' honoraria.
- bb. CH is asking whether the conference will be looking into offering professional training to young scholars.

- cc. PM says that he has talked with Martin Halliwell about it and agrees that this should be something to be built into the conference.

#### **EAAS Conference 2022 and 2024**

- a. PM is inviting CAR to present on EAAS Conference 2022.
- b. CAR says that for the time being the conference organizers are looking for buildings in the city that can be used for free. As for the conference theme, the topic proposed is “Wasteland.” It is a topic that can draw on many disciplines. As for the date, the team in Madrid is thinking of proposing 4-6 April, 2022. Weekdays are preferred due to the cost.
- c. PM is then asking CB about the EAAS conference in 2024 in Germany.
- d. CB says that there is still no definite answer as to the city which will undertake the organization. She is expecting to hear from Heidelberg. Berlin is the city to be contacted next. Munich has already been asked but it cannot undertake the organization of the conference.
- e. PM stresses the importance of Germany to undertake the organization of the particular conference due to the EAAS 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### **Next EAAS board meetings**

- a. PM is asking the board for future locations as regards the forthcoming EAAS board meetings.
- b. TG confirms that Debrecen can host both the board meeting and the EAAS Women’s Network conference in 2021.
- c. PM says that Belfast could be an alternative destination but he is concerned of any implications due to Brexit.
- d. TR says that attention needs to be paid to the geographical allocation of the board meetings.
- e. PM asks if everyone agrees for the 2021 board meeting to be hosted in Debrecen. **Everyone agrees.** Then he is asking about 2023.
- f. CB says that possibly her university could host the next EAAS Women’s Network conference.
- g. TET says that Ankara could also be a possibility.
- h. MD suggests Bulgaria as another destination that could undertake the organization of the EAAS Women’s Network conference if other plans do not work.

#### **New Member Associations**

- a. PM informs the board about the incomplete application that was submitted by the Georgian Association.
- b. TR suggested that an application form should be uploaded online plus a list of criteria should be suggested.
- c. PM agrees that certain instructions should appear online. **[Action: application form and criteria to appear on the EAAS website].**
- d. AI informs the board about the rift that has been caused by former FYROM association due to its naming with its members being divided. As a result, the association has been split. AI has contacted individual members to enter other associations. As for the Bosnian association, it works well and has been open to welcome individual members who work in American Studies. Slovenia has also been contacted but there are no members there who work in American Studies. No courses are taught in American Literature but only in EFL teaching.



- e. TG adds that he has heard that there is indeed interest.
- f. AI says that whenever she has contacted them there has been no interest because there are not enough people.
- g. PM reads Article 3§5 (“Only scholars from countries where no associations with constituent or affiliate membership to the EAAS exist may secure an affiliate membership on an individual basis. Applications are to be directed to the Secretary General. Acceptance is subject to a two-thirds Board majority”). He adds that Slovenia needs to connect with AI’s association but again from what AI says there has been no interest.
- h. PM informs the board about the situation with BLASA. He reads Article 6 concerning the termination of memberships (§1. Membership shall be dissolved by way of voluntary withdrawal or exclusion from the association; §2. Notice of voluntary withdrawal must be communicated to the Officers by the 3rd working day of the second half-year at the latest. This shall be effective as of 31<sup>st</sup> December of the corresponding year; §3. Exclusion occurs on the resolution of the Board. The approval of at least two-thirds of Board members is required. The resolution shall be issued to the party concerned in writing and shall stipulate the grounds for exclusion. The member shall be heard prior to a resolution being passed; §4. A member may especially be excluded if it fails to pay the annual fee within three months of a reminder being issued by the Treasurer; §5. On loss of membership, all rights acquired in the association, and particularly the right to participate as a voting member of the Board or as an Officer shall also be lost). He adds that Jérôme Jamin has been contacted but there has been no response. It is important, however, that a BLASA representative is present at the board meetings. There is no action from BLASA, no conferences, no events, no interest.
- i. AC informs the board that BLASA paid its fee to EAAS for 2018 and 2019.
- j. PM says that he has talked to Frank Mehring, while GB suggests the Benelux solution.
- k. AC believes that the money for the fees does not come centrally from BLASA but from an individual.
- l. ZL suggests that BLASA should be contacted via post and notified about a deadline. She believes that email cannot work in this case.
- m. AI thinks that possibly the solution of an umbrella association may be futile. They can possibly join another association.
- n. Mikko Saikku (MS) says that this is what they do with members from Iceland. They invite them to join the existing association.
- o. AI adds here that when it comes to umbrella associations there is the need for separate websites and bank accounts. So if there is no interest in sustaining an umbrella association, the whole effort is futile.
- p. TET is asking whether there is a loophole in the articles. Also she believes that the current representative should be given the opportunity to defend their case.
- q. CAR is asking whether BLASA can be asked to confirm its inactivity so that its withdrawal from EAAS does not trigger any further legal action. Also she believes that they should be notified about any possible solutions so that EAAS does not have to terminate BLASA membership.
- r. Donatella Izzo (DI) suggests that EAAS should keep BLASA in suspension until the association decides what to do in case there are any legal repercussions.
- s. PM says that EAAS can exclude BLASA only if the board votes for it but he believes that a notice should be given to them.

- t. TB asks whether we have information about the 30 members whose dues have been paid.
- u. SiS is asking whether Jérôme Jamin could send the board information in a letter confirming the member registrations.
- v. CB suggests that we should give BLASA a bit more time. If there is no news till the 2020 board, then EAAS could take action.
- w. CH agrees with the decision of sending a letter as an expression of concern.
- x. AI believes that plenty of opportunities have already been given to BLASA for the last three years.
- y. PM believes that the situation needs to be resolved which means that all member associations need to vote.
- z. TB says that no action can be taken since BLASA has paid its membership fee to EAAS.
- aa. JW adds that on the basis of the Articles EAAS can still go ahead and suspend BLASA.
- bb. PM says that by 2020, which is an election year, the issue needs to have been resolved.  
**[Action: Need to communicate with BLASA before next board meeting.] Asks if everyone agrees. All agree.**

#### **EAAS Volume Publication**

- a. TR informs the members of the board about the forthcoming publication of the second volume from the EAAS 2016 Conference in Constanta which she has co-edited with Ludmila Martanovschi. The volume will be published by Peter Lang in the beginning of 2020 and the title is: *Ethnicity and Gender Debates: Cross-Readings of American Literature and Culture in the New Millennium*.

#### **EAAS Young Scholar Activities**

- a. TR informs the board about Martin Halliwell's (MH) visit to Athens as an EAAS representative in the context of the EAAS initiative concerning young scholars. MH participated in the first day of the symposium organized by the HELAAS young scholars between 7-8 Dec., 2018, with the title "Exploring Trends and New Directions in American Studies." MH offered advice and guidance as regards young scholar development. TR thanked EAAS and MH for their support.
- b. AC is asking whether EAAS should consider organizing summer programs just for Ph.D. candidates with emphasis placed on advice for their scholarly and professional development.
- c. PM says that this is something to be taken into consideration as part of the Warsaw conference.
- d. ZL adds that she is already involved with the organization of such events where international speakers advise young scholars on how to write and get published. She is asking whether such events would be made more visible.
- e. AC says that she did not know about the existence of such programs.
- f. TB says that she had been involved with an ESSE symposium with a strong component in American Studies. She is asking whether EAAS would consider embedding such efforts within the EAAS conferences.
- g. AI believes that more regional work is needed instead of each association hosting separate events.
- h. TG informs the board that they are planning the organization of such a symposium in 2020 which will be advertised to everyone.

- i. NC adds that every year her institution organizes a symposium with funding offered to European Ph.D. students. She will let all board members know more about it.
- j. ZL expresses the concern that Ph.D. students may not want to be separated when it comes to big conferences.
- k. CH believes that young scholars should be encouraged to participate in all big conference by just adding a young scholar lunch or workshop.
- l. AI is inquiring about the EAAS graduate network.
- m. CB says that their association holds regular young scholar meetings where the most experienced pass their knowledge to the young members.
- n. PM and TR support the need for the development of more synergies between all national associations.

#### **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: Annual Meeting** in 2018 in Berlin on “American Counter/Publics” (May 24-27, 2018) Annual Meeting in 2019 in Hamburg on “U.S. American Culture as Popular Culture” (June 13-15, 2019). **Special Conferences:** 30th Annual Conference of the Postgraduate Forum (PGF) of the German Association for American Studies: “Challenges of the Post-Truth Era in American Studies”; December 5-7, 2019, University of Passau Organizers: Alexandra Hauke, Bettina Huber, and Thomas Stelzl (Passau); International Conference and Annual Meeting of the Political Science Section of the German Association for American Studies: “The Corrosion of the Liberal Democratic Order? Transatlantic Perspectives in Perilous Times”; November 7-8, 2019, Heidelberg Center for American Studies Organizers: Florian Böller; Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Heidelberg University, Markus B. Siewert; Bavarian School for Public Policy / TUM School of Governance; Annual Conference of the Historians in the German Association of American Studies: “Remembering and Forgetting in American History” Franken-Akademie Schloß Schney, Lichtenfels, February 8-10, 2019, Organizers: Michael Hochgeschwender ([michael.hochgeschwender@lrz.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:michael.hochgeschwender@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)) and Andreas Etges ([etges@lmu.de](mailto:etges@lmu.de)), University of Munich; “New Sincerity – Self-Expression in North American Culture – International Conference”; Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, January 25-26, 2019, Organizers: Prof. Dr. Caroline Rosenthal([caroline.rosenthal@uni-jena.de](mailto:caroline.rosenthal@uni-jena.de)) and Felix Haase ([felix.haase@uni-jena.de](mailto:felix.haase@uni-jena.de)); “The Return of the Aesthetic in American Studies – International Conference”; Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, November 29 – December 1, 2018; “Transformation of Democracy – Mobilisation, Representation and Responsiveness” Annual Conference of political scientists in the German Association for American Studies, University of Passau, November 15-17, 2018 Organizers: Michael T. Oswald (Passau), Winand Gellner (Passau), David Sirakov (Kaiserslautern); “Playing the Field: Video Games and American Studies,” Conference at the Amerikahaus Munich, April 26-29, 2018, Organizer: Sascha Pöhlmann, [poehlmann@lmu.de](mailto:poehlmann@lmu.de); “Heroism and the Heroic in U.S. History,” 40th Annual Conference of the Historians in the DGFA/GAAS

Akademie für Politische Bildung, February 9-11, 2018, Organization: Michael Butter (Universität Tübingen) and Simon Wendt (Universität Frankfurt). **Publications:** The journal of the GAAS Amerikastudien / American Studies changed general editors in the fall of 2019: New General Editors are Carmen Birkle (Marburg) and Birgit Däwes (Flensburg). New Associate Editors are Dr. Cedric Essi (Osnabrück), Dr. Johanna Heil (Marburg), Dr. Kathleen Look (Flensburg/Hamburg), Dr. Connor Pitetti (Bochum), Johannes Schmid (Hamburg/Flensburg). It was also turned into an open-access journal with the first issue of 2019: 64.1 (2019).

- 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:** following the EAAS2016 conference, the association edited and published the volume *National and Transnational Challenges to the American Imaginary*, (eds. Adina Ciugureanu, Eduard Vlad, Nicoleta Stanca, Peter Lang, 2018); organized the biennial RAAS-Fulbright Conference in October 2018 and edited the thematic volume *Ideology, Identity, and the US: Crossroads, Freeways, Collisions*, comprising articles based on the best presentations. The volume was to be published in 2019 by Peter Lang. Since many members of the Associations are Ph.D. supervisors the RAAS has organized student workshops, an autumn school for doctoral students in September 2018, and an academic Think-Tank in Bucharest. This was a joint event with the Fulbright Commission and the US Embassy with a view to promoting the status of American Studies in the university curriculum and improving the legislation concerning the job market for American Studies graduates in Romania.
- f. **BAAS:** April 2018 was the joint conference with EAAS, EBAAS in London. This year’s annual conference is at the end of April 2019, at University of Sussex. One of the initiatives introduced this year are Targeted Research Panels, through which BAAS seeks to provide opportunities to foster and forward research that attends to and includes historically marginalised communities and scholars without regularised institutional support. The postgraduate conference was held at Northumbria University (Newcastle) in November 2018. Next year’s annual conference to be hosted by University of

- Liverpool, 16-18 April 2020. Membership numbers are stable. *Journal of American Studies* has new editors.
- g. **ASAT:** The year 2018 marked ASAT's thirtieth anniversary, which we commemorated through a colloquium series held in Ankara. Three talks were held in the spring, and two in the fall. In November 2018, Prof. Yusuf Eradam, one of the original founders of ASAT, delivered a talk entitled "Conspicuously Invisible: American Strategies in Canonized Literature, Film and Popular Culture." In December, Lincoln McCurdy, President of the Turkish Coalition of America, discussed the 2018 US midterm elections and its implications for Turkish-American relations. We published two general issues (#49–50) of the *Journal of American Studies of Turkey* (printed and online/open access): <http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/jast/issues> Themed issues on travel writing, Native American studies, and Amiri Baraka/the Black Arts Movement will be published in the near future. The 39<sup>th</sup> International ASAT Conference will be held at Onsekiz Mart University in Çanakkale (May 15–17, 2019) on the theme of "Monuments, Museums and Murals: Preservation, Commemoration and American Identity." Our conference program can be accessed here: <http://www.asat-jast.org/index.php/2019-asat-conference/conference-program>. 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).
- h. **HAAS:** The association held its 12<sup>th</sup> 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. HAAS 13 will be held in Debrecen May 31-June 1, 2019. We are planning to continue, and even record, some of our discussions. 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. For the first time ever, all three book prizes were awarded to Americanists at the January 2019 HUSSE (cf. ESSE) conference. We are often invited to discuss US culture and US-Hungarian relations by the mainstream and opposition media. Multiple anniversaries are coming up in 2019 (1989, 1944, 1919, etc.) and we plan to celebrate (or commemorate) many of these together with the US Embassy in Budapest. We have somewhere between 60 and 70 members.
- i. **AASSEE:** Members of the association (Association for American Studies in South East Europe) worked on organization of the conference TRANSNATIONALITY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE AND AMERICAN ENGLISH scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> in Belgrade. General assembly of AASSEE and SAAS were also scheduled to happen within the conference. However, due to COVID-19 the conference and the assemblies were cancelled.
- CROATIAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES:** CAAS co-organized, together with

- the Croatian Association for English Studies, a one-day workshop, titled Transformation: Nature and Economy in Modern English and American Culture, which gathered 17 local and international participants ranging from PhDs to established scholars. The event was held at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, on October 24, 2019. An e-publication of peer-reviewed contributions is planned in the wake of the workshop.
- AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA:** On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3, the American Studies Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Student Support Office of the University of Sarajevo organized the International Conference entitled “We Are All the Same: Other and Different”, centered on Disability Studies. The conference, held on December 3, 2019, on the University of Sarajevo's campus, was organized with the support of the Federation BiH Ministry of Education and Science. Members of the Association joined students at the Faculty of Philosophy's English Department to attend lectures given by American Studies Professor Jean Kempf, Université Lumière-Lyon2, France, who conducted a teaching visit at the University of Sarajevo from January 6-12, 2019. Over the year, UAMS members also participated in several conferences in English and American Studies in the country and abroad, including Belgrade, Zagreb, Cetinje, and London.
- MONTENEGRIN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES:** The association organized a series of workshop for second- and third-year students (Faculty of Philology) regarding current cultural and literary issues in the United States. The association published (in cooperation with the Faculty for Montenegrin Language and Literature, Cetinje) a collection of essays under the title *The Politics and Poetics of Women's Writing: Comparative Perspectives* (Women Writers from the USA, Canada, Scotland, Ireland.) eds. Aleksandra Nikcevic-Batricevic (University of Monterengro) and Sanja Runtic (University of Osijek).
- SERBIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ANGLO-AMERICAN STUDIES:** Members of the association organized and participated in the conference BELGRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE STUDIES. Thematic volume following the conference was published. SAAS members participated in the conference CONTACTS AND SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SLOVENIAN AND AMERICAN POETRY which took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia from March 13-14. 2019. They also participated in other conferences in Serbia and abroad.
- j. **BASA: 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 of BASA participated in the **International Conference “Languages, Cultures, Communication”** organized by University of Veliko Tarnovo and dedicated to the 55 anniversary of the Faculty of Philology, 8-9 June, 2018; **Research Project “Transcultural Dialogues: American Studies in Bulgaria at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century”**, financed by the Embassy of the USA in Bulgaria, June 2018- May 2019; Members participated in a number of national and international conferences and events. **2019:** Members of BASA participated in an **Information Day** dedicated to the endangered indigenous languages at Sofia University, April 2019; Members of BASA participated in an **International Colloquium “Language variation”** with a special guest Francisco Adolfo Marcos-Marin, Professor Emeritus of University of Texas, San Antonio, March 2019;

Members of BASA participated in number of national and international conferences and events.

- k. **NAAS:** Membership as of January 1, 2019: 158 (ASANOR 28, DAAS 15, FASA 36, SAAS 79). New president and editor will be elected for two to four-year terms at the general meeting of the association in Bergen in April. Most important association activities by the NAAS and its four national associations (ASANOR, DAAS, FASA, and SAAS) in 2018-2019 included the following events: the 26<sup>th</sup> NAAS biannual conference, "Monuments" in Bergen, April 25-27, 2019; 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:** Between October 23-25, 2019, PAAS held its 31st Annual Conference "The Sound of Silence in American Literature, Culture and Politics" at the University of Opole. The association organized its 11th Annual Award competition for the Best American Studies Master's Thesis Written at a Polish University. The PAAS's journal, *Polish Journal for American Studies (PJAS)*, received a good rating from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education.
- m. **AISNA:** Current membership: 198 paying members (with a significant increase from the 139 of the previous year). Among these, 107 are Ph.D. students or post-graduates who hold temporary contracts. As usual, the AISNA budget is limited but healthy, with its annual income deriving from members' fees and grants from the US mission (which funds conferences, awards, and publications). AISNA has a very active Young Americanists Network, "AISNA Graduates," whose coordinators and members are in touch with other networks of young Americanists in Europe, and who regularly organize workshops and roundtables during AISNA conferences. They have a website, <http://aisna-graduates.online/>, and they are soon going to launch their new online graduate journal, *JamIt! Journal of American Studies in Italy*, whose inaugural issue, devoted to "Nationalism: Hyper and Post," is expected to be online later this year. The association held its annual conference at Centro Studi Americani in Rome on September 27-28, 2018. The conference topic was *Rethinking African American Studies: 150 years after the birth of W.E.B. Du Bois* and within the main conference framework, the Graduate Forum held a Graduate Conference on *Rethinking 1968 and the Global Sixties*. Our next international conference will take place in Ragusa from September 26 to September 28, 2019: the conference topic will be *Gate(d)Ways. Enclosures, Breaches and Mobilities. Across U.S. Boundaries and Beyond*: the call for papers has recently been launched. A volume collecting a selection of essays from the previous AISNA international conference (held in Milan in September 2017 on *The U.S. and the World We Inhabit*) is forthcoming. The 65th edition of another traditional annual initiative of AISNA, the AISNA-Centro Studi Americani seminar, took place from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2018 and coincided with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centro Studi Americani Library. It was devoted to *The US in Europe: Transatlantic Ideas, Institutions,*

*People*. Other well attended initiatives involving graduate and post-graduate students in 2018 included the annual summer school of CISPEA (Centro Inter-universitario di Storia e Politica Euro-Americana) and the biennial summer school OASIS (Orientale American Studies International School). In 2018, *RSA Journal (Rivista di Studi Americani)*, the journal of AISNA, published its issue #29, devoted to “Post-racial America Exploded: #BlackLivesMatter Between Social Activism, Academic Discourse, and Cultural Representation” and edited by Gianna Fusco and Anna Scacchi, under the direction of the new editor-in-chief, Valerio Massimo De Angelis. The journal is now online, in order to make its published contributions more widely available. Last but not least, the collaboration between AISNA and the USA Embassy’s “American Studies Initiative” bore new fruits in 2017. The US Mission is now funding 10 contracts for adjunct professorships for the academic year 2018-9 (five in literature and five in history—two more than the previous year), in Italian universities where such courses would otherwise have been discontinued due to retirements. The American literature faculty in Italy comprises to date: 10 full professors, one of whom will go into mandatory retirement at the end of the year; only a few years ago there were 22); 19 associate professors (two less than the previous year); 14 tenured assistant professors; 2 tenure-track assistant professors; 2 temporary (5-year contract) assistant professors. As for American history, the field as defined in Italian academia (that is, History of the Americas, including specialists of Latin America and of other North American countries along with USA specialists) has 9 full professors (3 specializing in the US), 9 associate professors (4 US specialists), one tenured assistant professor (a Latin America specialist), and four tenure-track assistant professors (two of whom are historians of the US).

- n. **AEDEAN /SAAS: Conferences:** **AEDEAN** had its 42<sup>nd</sup> conference in Córdoba to which our vice-president did us the honor to attend; more than 245 papers were read and there were 24 candidates to the Catalina Montes award for Ph.D. students; the US Studies panel continues to be one of the most successful. The plenary speakers were Dr. Kristin Davidse – Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium); guest writer Anuradha Roy; Dr. María Jesus Lorenzo Modia (University of La Coruña, Spain); Dr. Carmen Pérez Llantada (University of Zaragoza, Spain); Dr. Peter Boxall (University of Sussex). Next conference will be held in Alicante in November 2019. **SAAS** will hold its 14<sup>th</sup> conference in Salamanca from April 9<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup>. Its topic is: “The Image and the Word: Interactions between American Literature, Media, Visual Arts and Film” and it has been a massive success. There are 28 panels, some of them with double sessions and a total of 165 papers will be read (we come from 80 in the 2015 Conference and 100 in the 2017 conference) with international contributions from Germany, Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, South Korea, Egypt, Scotland, Slovakia, France, Georgia, Greece, India, England, Ireland, Italy, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA. The conference also includes a lively book presentation session and a doctoral seminar. There will be 5 keynote speakers: Dr. Marjorie Perloff (Stanford University); Dr. Gordon Henry (Michigan State University); Dr. Gerald Kennedy (Louisiana State University); Dr. Cristina Garrigós Gonzalez (UNED); Dr. Mário Avelar (Portuguese Open University). **Journals:** *Atlantis* 40.1 was published in June 2018 and 40.2 in December 2018; Issue 40.2 was the last one under the able direction of Dr. Camilo José Conde, to whom we are very grateful as he has positioned the journal very well in the indexes. The person who has taken over from him has been Dr. Mireia Aragay Sastre



(Universitat de Barcelona). We welcome papers for peer review in *Atlantis* which is indexed both in Scopus and Thomson-Reuters. Last year we also published two issues of the newsletter *Nexus* which, after the changes we have introduced over the past two years has now become a site for AEDEAN members to make their research groups known (*Nexus* now includes book reviews, interviews, research and scientific dissemination papers). Both *Atlantis* and *Nexus* are available on the AEDEAN webpage. The e-book for the La Laguna conference was presented in the general meeting in Córdoba in November and it is available through the web page. We are now starting to work on the e-book for the Córdoba conference. The deadline to send manuscripts to *REN Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos*, also recently included in SCOPUS, is open till July 31<sup>st</sup>. **General news: AEDEAN** is organizing, for the first time this month of July a Doctoral Seminar, intended for doctoral students who are writing their theses in English Studies and wish to present their research in workshop-type sessions. The protagonists will be the Ph.D. students themselves, who will share and compare initiatives, problems, solutions and other experiences related to their research. In addition, they will obtain suggestions and feedback from experienced thesis supervisors and other participants. There will also be presentations by experts on general research topics in English studies. The enrolment fee is symbolic and AEDEAN offers a total of €3,000 in travel and accommodation, as well as free registration for participants who meet the following requirements: To be a full member of AEDEAN; Not to enjoy any other scholarship or aid financed with public or private funds; To be at least in the second year the doctoral programme at the time of the Seminar.

- o. **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. Hosted by Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic and supported by the Embassy of the U.S.A. in Prague. Plenary speakers: Robert Brinkmeyer (University of South Carolina) and Robert T. Tally (Texas State University). Other conferences on American Studies were organized by the English departments in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. **Events in 2019: Biennial Conference of the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies 2019/ 22<sup>nd</sup> International Colloquium of American Studies: SECRETS**, September 12-14, 2019. Hosted by the Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic. **Publications:** See [http://csaa.upol.cz/?page\\_id=247](http://csaa.upol.cz/?page_id=247). **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/>

- p. **AAAS:** 12-13 Oct. 2018 AYA conference “Shifting Dynamics of American Studies,” University of Salzburg, Austria; postgraduate Network AYA continues to grow; for details on representatives and activities, see <https://www.facebook.com/AustriasYoungAmericanists/>; 16-18 Nov. 2018 AAAS conference “American Im/Mobilities”, University of Vienna, Austria; 22 -24 Nov. 2019 AAAS conference, “Mediating Mountains,” University of Innsbruck, Austria; JAAAS (Journal of the Austrian Association for American Studies) several special issues in lined up for publication, see link <https://jaaas.eu/index.php/jaaas> .
- q. **HELAAS:** The association organized, in collaboration with the Fulbright Foundation Greece, its 4<sup>th</sup> Summer School with attention paid to the theme of “Discussing Gender: Confrontations and Challenges” (June 27-July 3, 2018). In its six-day duration, the summer school responded to the following areas: From Gendered American Frontiers to Wild Gender Performances (Kristin J. Jacobson & Constantine Chatzipapathodoridis); Romance Narratives and the New Sexual Revolution: Literature and Publishing in the 21st Century (Catherine M. Roach & Vasilis Harisis); Men in Tights, Girls in Fights: Drawing the Line on Gender in Comics and Graphic Novels (Christina Dokou & Cathy Marazi). In Dec. 2018, the open-access journal of the association with the title *Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media* published its 2<sup>nd</sup> issue: Part I focused on “War in Culture” (guest edited by Joseph Michael Gratale and Serap Kayatekin) and Part II contained independent paper entries. In the same month, the association voted its new board with the following members: Theodora Tsimpouki (President); Tatiani Rapatzikou (Vice President); Christina Dokou (Secretary); Despoina Feleki (Treasurer); Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni (Member). On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the association organized in collaboration with the EAAS Women’s Network the international symposium with the title “Feminism and Technoscience” held at the Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki, Greece. The symposium keynote speaker was Lisa Tuttle, writer of science fiction, fantasy and horror stories/novels. Also the association in collaboration with the Department of American Literature and Culture, School of English at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki hosted the EAAS Board Meeting between April 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- r. **SANAS:** the association had a busy year thanks to various events and publications. The Emerging Scholars’ Team for the Association for Canadian Studies in German-Speaking Countries held their conference titled “Witnessing Resurgence: Self-Determination and Allyship.” The conference focused on Indigenous studies and featured Muscogee author and residential school survivor Vivian Timmins, Prof. Warren Cariou (University of Manitoba), Prof. Deanna Reder (Simon Fraser University), and Prof. em. Hartmut Lutz as keynote speakers. A few months later, SANAS held its biennial conference in Lausanne on 2-3 November 2018. The conference themes was “The Genres of Genre: A Conference on Form, Formats, and Cultural Formations” and featured Prof. Deborah Madsen (Geneva), Prof. Ronald Schleifer (Norman, OK), and Prof. Linda Williams (UCLA) as keynote speakers. This conference inspired an edited volume of *SPELL (Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature)*, which contained revised conference papers as well as new essays on genre and came out in December 2019. It was edited by three SANAS members from the University of Lausanne who were also part of the conference

- organization committee: Cécile Heim, Boris Vejdovsky, and Benjamin Pickford. SANAS opened the new year with its annual Spring Reading Group which took place in Zürich on March 16. Novelist Jennifer Clement was our guest and we discussed her recent *Gun Love*, which was also performed as a play at the Theater Neumarkt in Zürich the same day. This was followed by a series of lectures and Ph.D. workshops featuring Prof. Mishuana Goeman (UCLA) and Prof. David Schmid (SUNY at Buffalo) as speakers. Finally, detail on SANAS members' the activities and publications can be found on the SANAS website ([www.sagw.ch/sanas](http://www.sagw.ch/sanas)) and in our newsletters; all of which testify to the dynamism and enthusiasm for North American studies in Switzerland.
- s. **RSAS:** the major conference that was held at Lomonosov Moscow State University (LMSU) Journalism Department is the following: The 44<sup>th</sup> International conference of Russian Society of American Culture Studies theme was “**America and Europe: Forms of Cultural Interaction**” was held December 5-8, 2018. Full program can be accessed at <http://rsacs.org/category/conferences/previous-years/rsacs-conference-of-2018/>. There were seven sections working and two round table discussions: on Congressional midterm elections and a traditional one *Imprints: Image of America and Image of Russia*, coordinated by Professor Yassen Zassoursky (LMSU). Sections included **Journalism** (Coordinator Ass. Prof. Andrey Ruskin (LMSU)), **American Culture of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries** (Coordinator Prof. Elena Kornilova (LMSU)), **Literature and Culture of the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Centuries** with a round Table on American Drama (Coordinator Dr. Yulia Kleiman (Russian State Institute of Performing Arts, St. Petersburg, Russia)), **Ethnic Components of American Culture** (Coordinator Dr. Oksana Danchevskaya (Moscow State Pedagogical University, Russia)), **Gender Aspects of American Culture** (Coordinators Dr. Nadezhda Shvedova and Dr. Larisa Mikhaylova (RAS Institute of the USA and Canada and LMSU, Russia)), **Fantastic in American Arts** (Coordinator Dr. Larisa Mikhaylova), **Canadian Dimension of American Culture** (Coordinator Ass. Prof. Ronstantine Romanov, LMSU). Over 60 participants from 15 cities of Russia, Belarus, North Macedonia and the USA took part in the discussions of 45 papers and in round table discussions at RSACS conference. It was planned to publish CFP for the next conference on the Lomonosov internet portal for conferences
- t. **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 27<sup>th</sup> 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. BelaAAS 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 Ph.D. 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**