

CASCA President's report 2017-2018

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1. Executive Committee

One of the best things about being CASCA President has been working with such a stalwart yet innovative and altogether wonderful Executive Committee. This year we held four executive meetings: the post-conference meeting in May 2017; a Video Conference meeting in September 2017; a Video Conference meeting in January 2018, and the all-day pre-conference meeting in May 2018.

Two members of the Executive Committee finish their terms this year. I want to express my sincere thanks to Donna Patrick (Carleton University), my predecessor and guiding light in the presidential role. She provided great leadership and a wealth of institutional knowledge, since she came to serve a second time on the Executive Committee, having already been CASCA Secretary some 15 years ago. Eric Henry (Saint Mary's University) has been a fantastic Anglophone Member at Large for the past two years, and has taken the lead to help set up and liaise with the Book Award Committee and the Labour Committee. Thank you, Eric.

The continuing members of the Executive are Udo Krautwurst (University of Prince Edward Island), Treasurer, Charles Menzies (University of British Columbia), Secretary, Van Troi Tran (Université Laval), Francophone Member at Large, and Éric Gagnon Poulin (Université Laval), Communications Officer. I will take up the post of Past President, while Pamela Downe (University of Saskatchewan) steps into the

President's shoes. I am delighted that our new President Elect will be Sabrina Doyon (Université Laval) and that Marieka Sax (UNBC) will join us as Anglophone Member at Large.

Each member of the Executive Committee does certain predetermined tasks that keep CASCA going, such as maintaining communication with the membership and beyond, serving on selection committees for awards and planning future conferences. The Members-at-Large do stellar work producing the bi-annual on-line newsletter *Culture* and the Communications Officer keeps the website up to date. That said, every one of us has also taken on extra work to set up new initiatives or respond to new calls for action. Thank you all for your work this year and I look forward to working with you on the Executive Committee for the year to come.

2. CASCA-Cuba: *Contrapunteo* conference, Santiago de Cuba

I think you will all agree that this has been a remarkable conference. It has taken an extraordinary amount of work to create. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier has been the driving force behind it. She found a Cuban co-convenor, Yamile Haber Guerra, and assembled scientific and organizing committees in Canada and Cuba. Thank you to everybody who has been involved with those, especially colleagues at the University of Victoria who gave Alex much practical support. Alex worked tirelessly with our partner organizations for the conference: Universidad de Oriente, Casa Dranguet, the Society for Applied Anthropology and the Center for Imaginative Ethnography. She found and liaised with a travel agency, Club Aventure Sherbrooke, whose staff worked on the complex travel plans we all needed to make. She also maintained close communication with the Treasurer and me at all times. This conference is an incredibly impressive achievement, given the many logistical and organizational challenges that turned up along the way - or could have turned up! Thank you, Alex and everyone who has worked hard to make it happen.

Another person without whom this conference could not have happened is Karli Whitmore, our General Manager. Karli accomplishes an incredible amount of complex logistical work and communication with skill, clarity, rigour, and good grace, and I think not enough members realize just how very important her work and expertise are to the smooth running of our association.

In light of our mixed experiences holding past CASCA conferences jointly with other organizations, the Executive Committee was careful to keep primary control of and responsibility for the conference with CASCA, while also meeting the needs of the SfAA, the CIE, and our Cuban colleagues. I think this has been one key to its success.

CASCA has met outside Canada only once before, in Merida, Mexico, in 2005 – an event that soon became the stuff of conference legends! I am sure that CASCA-Cuba will be just as memorable, thanks to the contrapuntal contributions of 540 anthropologists from 30 countries and the harmonious support systems that have been created for the conference.

3. Next conference: CASCA-AAA, Vancouver, November 16-20, 2019

Our next conference is going to be held jointly with the American Anthropological Association, eighteen months from now in November 2019, and we have begun work to organize this. Yes, we are sleeping with the elephant again, but this time, we have a Memorandum of Understanding! Among other things (such as financial assurances to CASCA), the MoU specifies a joint executive program committee (EPC). Pam Downe and I are the CASCA co-co-chairs of that committee. Our division of labour is roughly that Pam will focus on the intellectual and public aspects while I take care of the technical details to ensure that CASCA's practical needs can be met within the AAA infrastructure. Joining us from CASCA on the EPC are Charles Menzies, Natacha Gagné (U Laval) and Virginia Caputo (Carleton) – a pan-Canadian team. Thanks to all for joining in. The CASCA EPC members will work with the AAA EPC members to plan the major events of the conference and will also serve as the scientific committee reviewing abstract and panel submissions made to CASCA.

I have begun negotiating the practicalities of our involvement with Ed Liebow, AAA's Executive Director and various AAA staff members as well as Karli Whitmore and our Treasurer. CASCA members will be paying CASCA membership and conference registration fee through our regular system, and will submit abstracts, panels, events, etc. through the AAA portal. CASCA will be one of the 'sections' to which participants can submit their abstracts and sessions for review, in French or English. We are thinking carefully about how we can ensure bilingualism as well as recognize local Indigenous languages.

We are also looking for about six colleagues in the Vancouver area or BC to constitute a local organizing committee to organize activities relating to local issues either within the conference program or off site - for instance, panels on local issues, distinctive tours, art exhibits, etc. If you are interested, please [contact me](#).

The President-Elect, Pam Downe, will be going to the AAA HQ in June to shadow the planning work and meet the AAA Co-chair and staff. Pam and I are also planning to hold a special event to discuss the Vancouver conference at the AAA 2018 in San Jose. Please join us if you will be there.

4. AGM 2019 and Executive Committee terms of office

Holding the conference in November throws off our usual schedule of AGMs and terms of office. AGMs must legally take place not more than 15 months apart. All our Executive Committee members' terms of office are specified in years. The Executive Committee is therefore working on a way to meet our legal requirements and change our slate of officers at the appropriate time, while also ensuring that each President gets to preside over one conference. This is likely to involve a form of online AGM where members can log on to receive the various annual reports. Please look out for further communications on this matter throughout the year.

5. *Anthropologica*

This has been a year of changes at *Anthropologica*. Dr. Jasmin Habib completed her three-year term as Editor-in-Chief and Editor of English manuscripts, roles that she has occupied since May 2015, and decided not to renew her contract in order to focus her considerable energies elsewhere. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Dr. Habib, under whose leadership *Anthropologica* has gone from strength to strength. The outcome of our search for a new Editor-in-Chief was very positive: we were delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Sonja Luehrmann as *Anthropologica*'s new Editor-in-Chief and Editor of English Manuscripts for a three-year term starting May 1. Dr. Luehrmann is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Simon Fraser University. This will give us a west-coast based editorial team, as Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier at the University of Victoria will begin serving as Editor of French manuscripts from August 1, 2018 (once she has recovered from convening this year's CASCA conference in Cuba!). She will take over the role from Dr. Alicia Sliwinski (Wilfrid Laurier University). Sincere thanks to Alicia for her work in this capacity since 2013. We greatly appreciate the dedication of all *Anthropologica* editors, past and present, to bringing the best of anthropological research in English and French to publication.

From July 2018 *Anthropologica* will also have a new English book review editor, Dr. Daniel Tubb, University of New Brunswick. He is taking over from Dr. Margaret MacDonald (York University), who has served in the role since 2014. Thank you, Maggie! Last but not least, Dr. Karine Gagné, an assistant professor at the University of Guelph, continues as French Book Review Editor. Dr. Luehrmann is in the process of confirming the members of the Editorial Board for the year to come; we extend our thanks to all colleagues who have served or continue to serve in this important capacity.

Antonia Pop and staff at the University of Toronto Press (UTP) continue to offer good support for the journal, particularly in terms of promotion and marketing. The *Anthropologica* report provides more detail on the supports from particular staff. While there have been some hiccups with the Scholar One article submission and review system, these seem to have been ironed out and under-staffing issues seem to have been resolved with the appointment of a new Editorial Coordinator at UTP.

6. Changes in SSHRC's Aid to Scholarly Journals

As the *Anthropologica* report also notes, other changes are on the horizon for *Anthropologica* with respect to funding. For many years, the journal has been successful in obtaining funding from SSHRC's Aid to Scholarly Journals (ASJ) program. This year, SSHRC announced proposed changes to ASJ that would make continued funding contingent on journals moving to full Open Access within 12 months of receiving a grant. The repercussions for journals are serious: it would mean losing revenues from subscriptions and royalties (which we receive through licencing agreements when people download articles). At present, we derive approximately 40% of our journal revenues from licensing agreements, 40% from SSHRC, and 20% from subscriptions. The proposed changes would in effect be asking us which 40% funding stream to lose (and possibly lose subscriptions, too). Yet the actual costs of producing a high-quality scholarly journal do not change if it moves to open access. Copy-editing, layout, design,

translation, promotion and marketing and web hosting costs still remain, even if we were to eliminate the paper version to save printing and mailing costs.

Both the CASCA Executive Committee and the *Anthropologica* Editor-in-Chief joined the voices of scholarly journal editors and publishers from across the country, including the Canadian Association for Learned Journals, in raising concerns about the proposed changes. You can read the Executive Committee's response on our website on the '[Position Statements](#)' page. SSHRC responded with a second set of proposed changes which were not substantially different, and did not address journals' concerns in a satisfactory way. CALJ has responded back. At the moment, the ASJ program is still suspended and we are still waiting to see what changes will be made to the program, which was supposed to be relaunched this year.

7. Open Access Working Group

Given this shifting and uncertain landscape of journal funding, it is clear that we must take action sooner rather than later to map the terrain. The CASCA Executive and the *Anthropologica* Editorial Board have therefore jointly struck an Open Access Working Group (OAWG) to investigate the options, risks, and benefits for *Anthropologica* to move to an open access model (or not). (This follows an initial report exploring one open access initiative (Libraria), produced in July 2017 by Tad McIlwraith, Mario Blaser and Sarah Pink of the *Anthropologica* Editorial Board.)

The OAWG is chaired by Tad McIlwraith, and has three other members at present: Udo Krautwurst, Charles Menzies, and Alicia Sliwinski. However, it is a new endeavour and relies on volunteer labour (as do almost all of CASCA's operations); as such, given the many other demands placed on CASCA members in their professional lives, it has not yet got going. Given the task ahead, we will need more brainpower - and, importantly, person-hours - to conduct a proper assessment of the risks, benefits, and opportunities that open access options may bring to *Anthropologica*. We call for members who are passionate about sustaining our excellent journal to join the Open Access Working Group - whatever their views on open access.

8. Digitization of Culture

Finally, some good news relating to open access to journals: I have been exploring an opportunity to digitize and make accessible all the back issues of *Culture*, which was CASCA's journal from 1981 to 1997, at which point it merged with (and retained the name of) *Anthropologica*. CASCA is eligible to apply for funding from the National Heritage Digitization Strategy (whose secretariat is based at Libraries and Archives Canada) to have *Culture* digitized by and hosted in open access, in partnership with the *Erudit* platform. We will be preparing an application for this funding as soon as we get back from Cuba!

9. FHSS and WCAA

CASCA continues to be a paid-up member of two important umbrella organizations the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) and the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA).

As President, I have participated in three teleconferences/webinars with the FHSS, including a federation membership meeting in September (at which I raised the problem of the Canada 150 chairs program, see below). Outgoing Past President Donna Patrick has agreed to represent CASCA at Congress in Regina in June 2018 (thank you, Donna!). Although we don't often participate in Congress, and the participation of member associations in the FHSS's affairs and events seems to be quite uneven, I have come to the conclusion that is very worthwhile for CASCA to maintain a presence and a voice within the FHSS. It can be a useful lobbying channel, acting as an intermediary in federal government issues (e.g. budget lobbying) and it is currently planning a good public relations campaign on the role of humanities and the social sciences in society in general (see <http://www.ideas-idees.ca/issues/role-HSS>). It's also worth maintaining membership for our possible future participation in Congress (as a venue for our own conference).

CASCA plays an active role in the WCAA, whose current secretary is Lorne Holyoak, a former CASCA President. We will be represented at the WCAA meetings in Brazil in July 2018 by Michel Bouchard, another former CASCA President. 176 CASCA members responded to the WCAA's Global Survey of Anthropological Practice, conducted on line up to January 31 2018 - representing 4.6% of all respondents (n = 3836). WCAA have given us the CASCA data and the aggregate data for our further analysis. CASCA has also accepted an invitation to edit *En sus propios terminos*, the multilingual forum of the WCAA (https://www.wcaanet.org/publications/proprios_terminos/articles.html). It is hosted on a rotating basis for six months by different associations in different languages, whose members post brief articles which are open to comments. It was first hosted in Spanish, and the second series has been in Japanese. CASCA will host the French version, starting this month, possibly in conjunction with an anthropological association based in France. Thanks to francophone member-at-large Van Troi Tran for taking this job on in addition to his other roles, including co-editing *Culture*.

10. Position statements

CASCA continues to take a [public stand](#) on issues that affect our discipline, our profession, and our members in Canada and internationally.

As well as raising our concerns about the proposed changes to SSHRC ASJ funding, the Executive Committee has raised our concerns with the federal government regarding its Canada 150 chairs program, which was open only to candidates based outside Canada, a condition that we think is not conducive to supporting the careers of anthropologists trained and working in Canada. You can read our letter on our [position statements](#) webpage; Eric Henry also wrote [an article](#) on the subject in *Culture*. While I received a formulaic written reply from Ted Hewitt (President of SSHRC), I also had a much more interesting phone conversation with him. The key message I want to transmit from that conversation is

that letters, lobbying and position statements do not fall on deaf ears at SSHRC: they are valuable in the negotiation and development of policy with the federal government.

CASCA also issues important messages of solidarity. In February, we extended sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Colten Boushie, following the acquittal of Gerald Stanley for killing Boushie, and reaffirmed our commitment to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's calls to action. This statement was well-received: several CASCA members wrote to express their appreciation. I would suggest that as well as making statements, future Executive Committees should look into what we can actually do in relation to the TRC calls for action.

We also issued a call to action regarding Indigenous Mapuche-Tehuelche rights in Argentina, and specifically the forced disappearance of a non-indigenous activist ally during a wave of repression in the fall. Finally, the Executive Committee has been working on a statement on the oppression of academics in Turkey.

11. Awards

CASCA makes a number of awards to recognize the contributions of its members to our field:

- The **Weaver-Tremblay Award** goes this year to **Dr. Dara Culhane** (Simon Fraser University, nominated by Dr. Denielle Elliott of York University). The committee was especially impressed by the diversity and interdisciplinarity of Dr. Culhane's interventions, the sustained contributions that she has made over the course of her career, her commitment to truly engaged community-based work, and the depth and breadth of support shown in the sixteen letters of support written for her.
- The **Salisbury Award** goes to **Justin Raycraft**, a doctoral candidate at McGill University supervised by Dr. John Galaty.
- We named five colleagues as **CASCA Fellows** this year: Gilles Bibeau, Jean-Guy Goulet, Winnie Lem, Deirdre Meintel, and Gavin Smith.
- Certificates for **Outstanding Graduating Anthropology Student Awards** were given to 16 students graduating at the BA level, 9 at the Master's level, and 8 at the PhD level.

A committee chaired by Joshua Smith has been working on the terms of reference to establish a CASCA book award. We are delighted to say that Richard B. Lee and Marie France Labrecque have accepted that we name the book award in their honour. Please watch your CASCA emails for news of the new **Labrecque-Lee Book Award**, to be announced soon.

12. Networks

CASCA has a number of networks and committees:

- The **Women's Network** is very active and will host a lunch at the conference in Cuba this year.

- Over the past year, the **Canadian Medical Anthropology Network** has welcomed a number of new members, increased its dissemination of relevant news and opportunities, and continued to advocate for expanded national funding for anthropologists and sociologists of medicine, health, and health systems. It is now seeking two new co-chairs to lead the network (contact membership@anthropologica.ca if interested).
- The **Environmental Anthropology Network** has not been very active this year. Its chair, Lorne Holyoak, who is currently living in Europe, is seeking someone based in Canada to co-chair the network with him. Contact ltholyoak@yahoo.ca.
- The **Living Standards Committee** continues its work of radical reflexive dialogical ethnographic engagement with co-produced, contested ethics, this year in the form of a roundtable at the conference called 'Reflexivity in Anthropology: Revisiting, Reviving And Revising', organized by Pamela Downe.
- The **Network for Precarious Anthropologists** has been active mainly by sharing news and views through its [Facebook group](#).
- The **Linguistic Anthropology Network** (contact christine.jourdan@concordia.ca) and the **Practicing and Applied Anthropologists Network** (contact craig.candler@thefirelightgroup.com) had nothing specific to report this year.
- A **Labour Committee** has been constituted following a motion passed at the 2017 conference in Ottawa. Its members are Véronique Béguet (Université d'Ottawa), Eric Henry (Saint Mary's University), Pauline McKenzie Aucoin (Concordia University), Shiva Nourpanah (Dalhousie University), Deirdre Rose (University of Guelph), and Marty Zelenietz (Saint Mary's University). Their first order of business will be to decide on the terms of reference for the committee.

13. Projects

CASCA also continues to support projects that fit within our mandate of educating members of the profession and the public about anthropology.

The CASCA Executive Committee voted to support Open Access Working Group member and outgoing *Anthropologica* French manuscripts editor Alicia Sliwinski's participation in the Hub Anthrophen. This is a workshop organized by Francine Saillant at U Laval to be held in Sept 2018 to improve and further develop [Anthrophen](#), the first online, open-access, French-language contemporary dictionary of anthropology. Several nearby CASCA Executive Committee members will also be attending. This fits with our concerns to maintain strong ties with the French-speaking world of anthropology and to learn more about open access publishing.

The CASCA Executive Committee also voted to support Frédéric Laugrand's application for a second SSHRC Connections grant for *Les Possédés et leurs mondes/A Tribe like no other*, a project led by Frédéric Laugrand (U Laval) to conduct in-depth, high-quality video interviews with prominent anthropologists, including several who are CASCA Founding Fellows, CASCA Fellows, or longstanding CASCA members about their life's works. The SSHRC application was successful. Frédéric has recently

added a [playlist](#) of interviews with Weaver-Tremblay winners to the project's YouTube page, and intends to complete the series by interviewing all the recipients of this award.

**

On this positive note, I hand over the reins to Pam Downe! Thank you to all our members for being part of this excellent professional association.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Radice
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