

15 January 2019

Dear anthropology colleagues

Welcome to the first ASnA President's Newsletter for 2019. I hope you all had a restful break from the stresses of the academy and/or your employment. There's a lot of news to communicate across the southern Africa region, but before we get to that, here's a friendly reminder to renew your **2019 membership fees**. All ASnA memberships include a subscription to the journal *Anthropology Southern Africa*, weekly notices and enable you to register for ASnA's annual conference. Speaking of conferences, after two years outside of South Africa, the 2019 annual conference will be hosted by Nelson Mandela University. Updates will be sent out in the coming month so people can apply for travel grants.



I'm thrilled to announce that our journal *Anthropology Southern Africa* from November 2018 will provide all article abstracts in Portuguese! Our translator is Juliana Braz Dias, Associate Professor in Anthropology at the University of Brasília. She is affiliated with the University of Pretoria, and has done extensive research on African popular culture in South Africa and Cape Verde. Juliana has been a long term member of ASnA (since 2012). Her goal is to help us reach our Mozambiquan and Angolan colleagues and to form closer links with Brazil and Portugal.

### Botswana Buzz

The University of Botswana hosted a very successful annual conference in 2018 – **I can't thank Treasa Galvin and Camden Behrens enough for their tireless effort**. ASnA was able to fund a large number of students, mainly due to partnering with Jo'burg universities who provided buses that transported delegates from Johannesburg to Gaborone. Thanks to Julia Hornberger (HOD at Wits) and Thea de Wet (University of Johannesburg) for their generous contributions that allowed record numbers of student to be involved in the conference. Participants were challenged by the keynote address: *Intellectuals as Contraband: Anthropology in a Time of Borders* delivered by Dr Divine Fuh (CODESRIA). The conference attracted 110 participants working in seven different countries in the region and beyond - Botswana, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Brazil, Germany and The Netherlands. In the queue for tea, I overheard one student speaking to another: *I've heard a paper that makes me excited about my research.*



The third Cecil Manona workshop was designed to stimulate, solicit, and further develop high quality journal submissions from emerging scholars from southern Africa under the mentorship of senior anthropologists. A group of four young scholars received intensive feedback from two reviewers and from among their peer group, and were able to voice their concerns in a Q&A session. A special thanks to Tarminder Kaur (a post doctorate from the University of the Free State) for designing, coordinating and facilitating the Cecil Manona Workshop.

A special thanks to Hemali Joshi for her time, energy and contributions to the ASnA council. Her term on the council came to an end and nominations were sought at the annual conference. Three nominations were made and I'm pleased to report that Grace Molale, an anthropologist from the National University of Lesotho, won the vote. A big thanks to Octavia Sibanda from the FISER, Fort Hare and Sapana Sewpersad from Wits for putting themselves forward. Grace hopes to broaden the international representation of ASnA and its council. She plans to leverage ASnA members to assist her in re-establishing anthropology in Lesotho.

### “Anthropology...how can you get a job doing that?”

I used the opportunity of the ASnA conference to talk to participants working elsewhere in the region.  
**Meet Goabaone Montsho**



*“Disability is not inability. People with disabilities contribute to the diversity of the human species.”*

Goabone works for the Botswana National Museum. He did his undergraduate degree in Anthropology at Vancouver Island University and followed this up with a Master's in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Botswana. In his relatively new employment as a curator, his job is to interpret and document the cultural and historical meaning of artefacts, and to preserve and store them. *“Anthropology has given me a lot of cultural meaning and allowed me to interpret collections. I observe by sight through my other senses and imagination. In most cases where I need to use the visual I use touch and hearing. When there's funding he conducts research on material culture.*

Goabone would welcome any research scholars and students to do their ethnographic or archaeological research with or affiliated to the museum. He can be contacted on email: [goabamon2016@gmail.com](mailto:goabamon2016@gmail.com)

### International News

#### *World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA)*

I represented ASnA at the 6th Biennial Meeting of the World Council of Anthropological Associations which was held at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), in Florianópolis, Brazil, from July 13 to 16, 2018, during the World Congress of IUAES (<http://www.iuaes2018.org/>).



WCAA Attendees

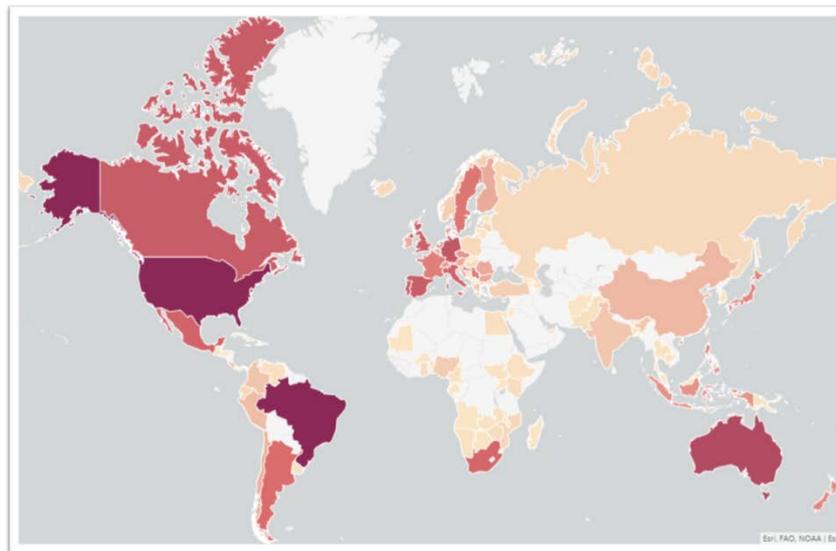
Fellow ASnA members at the IUAES Congress

Results from the first ever global survey of anthropological practice (GSAP) undertaken for the WCAA were presented. The GSAP reported 3,836 valid responses and I'm thrilled to report that ASnA had the highest response globally, with 76.5% (n=101) of our membership responding to the call. I guess my nagging paid off!!!!

The summary results are not surprising: Our membership is split between 65% female and 35% male members. In the small Non-Academic Practitioners poll I ran simultaneously, these numbers are marginally different with twice as many women (67%) to men. There is predominance of younger members, with almost half of respondents in the 21-29 and 30-39 age brackets.

What is concerning is the 49% of members are underemployed and do not have as much work as they would like. In addition 43% felt they were underpaid for their skills and qualifications (23% were uncertain).

I presented summary results at the annual conference in Botswana, however if anyone would like a copy of the powerpoint then please email me. The WCAA hopes to publish these results sometime in the future.



**GSAP: Country of Residence (N=3,836)**

### **World Anthropological Union (WAU)**

In recent years the WCAA and the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Societies (IUAES) came together to form the World Anthropological Union (WAU). I'm delighted that Africa now has a sizeable presence on the various committees: For the WCAA, Isaac Nyamongo (Kenya) was elected Deputy Chair and Peter-Jazzy (PJ) Ezech (Nigeria) to the committee as an ordinary member. I foolishly allowed myself to be nominated as treasurer for both the WCAA and IUAES, which automatically positions me as the Financial Coordinator, with Isaac, on the WAU steering committee.

I used the opportunity to network with Isaac and PJ of the Pan-African Anthropological Association (PAAA) to discuss the possibility of a PAAA/ASnA joint Intercongress in Nairobi in the future. Let's see how this unfolds.

One of the main advantages of the WAU is that our association will pay a single membership fee to WCAA, rather than to both organisations. I do urge everyone to become an individual member of IUAES as their fees are minimal and provide a discounted conference fee for their Inter-Congresses (Poznań, Poland for 2019) and Congresses (India 2023). **Membership** is very reasonable at GBP15 (R270) for students and those earning below R360,000, otherwise GBP40 (R715).

### **ASnAZim - Zimbabwe Chapter of ASnA**

Dr. Ignatius Gutsa, a Senior Lecturer at University of Zimbabwe, is ASnA's country representative for Zimbabwe. His goal is to set up a chapter of ASnA in Zimbabwe to bring Zimbabwean practitioners, students, academic staff and anyone who studies or researches in Zimbabwe together. To increase visibility and awareness of the Zim chapter he has flighted two open **postings** on LinkedIn (a platform for professionals). *“This way I encourage the various professionals who came in contact with these respective postings to post them in different noticeboards so that these could reach anthropologists, including students learning the art of anthropology. As a result, I am happy to say that I have received communication from prospective members with some as far as the United Kingdom expressing their interest to join ASnAZim. Next steps moving forward I hope (with the help of some colleagues) to formally call for nominations to those who are interested in being elected as the members of ASnAZim by early 2019.”*

This is such an exciting initiative and I hope other member countries will follow suit as we build the 'Southern' in Anthropology Southern Africa.

*Send me any news to include in the next newsletter, otherwise all notices go to our secretary Christian Williams.*

*Until next time...*

*Helen*

**Helen Macdonald**

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