

Raising a Voice for Anthropology

The world entered 2016 under distressing conditions of war and refugee crises as hundreds of thousands of refugees are desperately fleeing war zones besieged by the ISIS and other troubled areas. Even as we are preparing for the Inter-Congress in Dubrovnik, our colleagues in Europe are distressed by the immense human tragedy knocking at the doors of their countries. We share with them the extreme anguish they feel as citizens and as anthropologists devoted to the cause of a humane world.

The IUAES has not been keeping quiet, and at times there have been ethical dilemmas. But our stand has been always to keep to the side of those values that anthropology as a discipline has propagated. In December 2015, the Executive Committee unanimously decided to support the democratic freedom of members of the AAA to vote whether or not to boycott Israeli academic institutions in protest against the US government's continued support of Israel in its oppression of Palestine. Both the IUAES and WCAA executive bodies were interested in maintenance of democratic freedom within all institutions (including AAA) and their right to take decisions with majority support of their own members.

The IUAES in January 2016, received a distress letter from Australian academics, worried about the proposed debilitating staff cuts to the Australian National University's (ANU) College of Asia and the Pacific. They feared this would affect the potential output of this esteemed institution, which has in the past made immense contributions to the study of the Asia Pacific region. The members of the School of Culture, History and Language (CHL) were in particular singled out for a one-third staff cut. The IUAES Executive Committee sent a letter, signed by the President, the Secretary-General, and the Senior Vice-President, to Prof. Brian Schmidt, Vice Chancellor, ANU and Prof. Veronica Taylor, Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, to voice their concerns about this proposal. A letter was received from the Dean, Prof. Taylor, giving positive feedback about intentions to maintain the strength of CHL, describing it as one of the world's leading centers for the study of Asia and the Pacific.

Via the WCAA network, a plea of help was received from Antonio Carlos de Souza Lima, the President of the ABA (Brazilian Association of Anthropology) that their journal *Vibrant* was in a crisis due to budget cuts by the Brazilian Research Council. The IUAES Executive Committee sent a letter, duly signed by the Secretary-General and the President, to Prof. Hernan Chaimovic Guralnik, the President of Brazil's CNPq (National Research Council) to make a plea for the restoration of funding to *Vibrant*, especially since ABA is going to host the World Congress of IUAES in Brazil in 2018.

In response to the most disturbing news about Turkey, where there has been an escalation of violence in the Kurdish-populated region in the Southeast of the country, the IUAES sent a letter to President Erdogan of Turkey, with a copy to Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. This was in support of the 1,128 Turkish academics from 89 universities who signed a petition on behalf of Academics for Peace to curb this persecution. It was pointed out that by signing this petition, the academics of Turkey were endorsing the human rights defined

and codified by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Turkey is a signatory.

Thus, given the backdrop of human rights violations and war-like zones opening up in many parts of the world, along with global discrimination against the social sciences as funding is cut and support withdrawn from institutions, the IUAES has, under its present leadership, been continuously involved in raising its voice.

The problems such as in Turkey and in the Middle-East, with their repercussions on Europe and the rest of the world, continue, but as academics and as an institution that seeks to protect humane concerns about the world, the IUAES is making all efforts to be involved and to be heard.

In January 2016, Thomas Reuter, Senior Vice-President, also raised concerns about a reported dam break resulting in a major mining disaster in Brazil, drawing our attention to what is now a recurring situation across the world, where huge multinational global companies refuse to take humanistic action by hiding behind cleverly charted legal procedures. President Faye Harrison was of the opinion that the IUAES should issue a statement in support of ABA that is condemning the disaster. Andrea Zhouri from ABA reported that, apart from writing a letter, they are also proposing a panel on the environment and mining at the upcoming ABA meeting to be held in August 2016 in Northeast Brazil. IUAES members have been requested to participate if they can.

The IUAES thus continues to raise its voice on behalf of the global community of anthropologists and will do so in the coming times. It strives to make its presence felt in all situations of crises and violation of human rights.

Events

After a successful Inter-Congress in Bangkok, IUAES members made their presence felt at the [World Social Science Forum](#), held in Durban, South Africa, 13-16 September, 2015. In attendance were Senior Vice-President Thomas Reuter (also a member of the ISSC executive), President Faye Harrison, Vice-President Subhadra Channa, and Deputy Chair of the Council of Commissions Zhang Jijiao. The past president of the AAA, Leith Mulling, was present as one of the invited plenary speakers. The main theme of the conference was transforming global relations for a just world, and the most recurrent issue was inequality, both within and between nations. In fact, it was the latter theme that held center stage as much of the inequalities, both external and internal, faced by the marginal people of the world were seen to be caused by the unequal distribution of global power.



The anthropological panel at the WSSF, on 'Anthropological Perspectives on Inequality' was chaired by Thomas Reuter and the papers presented were by Faye V Harrison, Subhadra Channa, and a joint paper by Li Yujin and Zhang Jijiao on behalf of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Leith Mulling also attended the session to lend support to the anthropological team. The focus of the session was on drawing out the divergence between cultural difference, that anthropology always advocates, and dominance, a source of concern. While the market-driven global economy is eroding differences to create a consumerist monoculture, the same economy is deepening the divide between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'; thereby furthering conflict and precipitating global environmental crises. This session was thus well-integrated into the main concerns of the summit and drew excellent audience participation.



In addition, participants Thomas Reuter, Faye Harrison and Subhadra Channa were each requested by the organizers to chair a session. While Thomas Reuter chaired the first Plenary session on 'Dynamics of Global Transformation,' in which Leith Mulling was a speaker, Faye Harrison chaired a session on 'Gender, Marginalization and Inequality,' and Subhadra Channa on 'Gender, Politics and Health.'

In December 2015, Deputy Chair of the Council of Commissions, Zhang Jijiao, attended the XXXII General Assembly of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) held in Beijing, China. The participants included all members of CIPSH and representatives of UNESCO (co-host of the meeting). Prof. Zhang presented his paper, 'Cultural Preservation and Urban development on the Silk Roads: Case studies of Anthropology,' during the session 5: Archeology and Anthropology.



Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, Vice President, represented the IUAES at the opening ceremony of the 4th Latin American Congress of Anthropology, held in Mexico city (October 7-10, 2015) organized by the Latin American Association of Anthropology (ALA). He delivered the first keynote of this Congress, entitled 'World Anthropologies: Anthropological Cosmopolitanisms and Cosmopolitics.' In his address to an auditorium full of colleagues from all over Latin America and rest of the world, Gustavo Lins Ribeiro invited all the participants to the 18th World Congress scheduled to be held from July 30th to August 3rd, 2018, in Florianopolis, Brazil.

Upcoming Events

At present the IUAES and also members of the WCAA, which will hold its biennial meeting there, are gearing up for [the Inter-Congress in Dubrovnik](#), scheduled to be held May 4-9, 2016. The theme is 'World Anthropologies and Privatization of Knowledge: Engaging Anthropology in Public.' The Inter-Congress aims to strengthen the interconnectedness between the various aspects of anthropology and project the strength of the subject in its holistic approach to the human situation. It also seeks to steer anthropology away from its western roots and bias towards the creation of a truly global anthropology. It seeks to establish anthropology as a discipline that is committed to addressing some pressing humanistic, environmental and social issues. The Congress, through its scientific debates and pooling of research materials also intends to provide participants with new insights into ways of dealing with problems created by the privatization of knowledge that is now becoming a serious global socio-political threat.



Professors Saša Missoni and Rajko Mursic are the main organizers of this Inter-Congress that everyone is looking forward to. This Congress is also paving the way for a healthy interactive co-operation between the IUAES and the WCAA as there are three panels co-convened by the members of both organizations.

Secretary-General Junji Koizumi is also signing an MoU with the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) for an Inter-Congress (IUAES2017) to be held in Ottawa, Canada. This Inter-Congress is being held to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. It is significantly being held on un-ceded Algonquin territory and aims towards decolonizing anthropology by establishing a significant relationship with indigenous people across the world. The major theme of the congress is 'World of Becoming.'

The Secretary-General had also visited the site for the upcoming congress in Florianópolis in Brazil, on his visit there. The IUAES members are looking forward to this congress.



The Secretary-General with Dr Roselane Neckel, President of Federal University of Santa Catarina, Dr Joana Maria Pedro, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Dr Carmen Silvia Rial, Professor of Anthropology

The Secretary-General with presidents of South American anthropological associations at [XI Reunión de Antropología del MERCOSUR \(RAM XI\)](#), Montevideo, Uruguay in December 2015



Federal University of Santa Catarina, the venue of the 18th World Congress in 2018



Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil, where Federal University of Santa Catarina is located

Chandana Mathur (WCAA Deputy Chair) and Mugsy Spiegel (IUAES Treasurer) are co-convening [a joint WCAA-IUAES panel](#) for a major conference on ‘[Anthropology, Weather and Climate Change](#)’ organized by the Royal Anthropological Institute in late May 2016, at London. Although scheduled in the same month as the Dubrovnik Congress, it is hoped that this will be a successful panel, representing the joint efforts of WCAA and IUAES.

Dr Mathur is also co-convening another [joint WCAA/IUAES panel](#) with Faye Harrison, at [EASA's biennial conference](#) in Milan, Italy, 20-23 July. The panel revolves around the theme, 'Traditions of Anthropology, Prospects for Engagement'; it addresses the question of how subordinated anthropological traditions in different parts of the world have engaged with matters of power and, thereby, sought to change the world.

Gains/Achievements

This year sees some very promising collaborations between WCAA and IUAES and a number of joint panels are being organized at the Dubrovnik Inter-Congress. Information about these panels has been posted by Junji Koizumi on IUAES email news. The two organizations are collaborating on all major issues and bringing the global anthropological community ever closer together.

A great academic achievement was the release of [the 4th edition of the journal *Déjà Lu*](#), in the second week of February 2016. We commend Gordon Mathews and his Hong Kong-based team and Gustavo Lins Ribeiro for their editorial leadership. This excellent collection of 35 articles from around the world has been highly appreciated by all members of the IUAES and WCAA executives along with other members of the two organizations. *Déjà Lu* is available at the address <http://www.wcaanet.org/dejalu/index.shtml>

John Gledhill has successfully edited a collection of papers from the Manchester Congress in 2013 in the form of a book, *World Anthropologies in Practice: Situated Perspectives and Global Knowledge* under the Association of Social Anthropologists Monograph (published by Bloomsbury Academics). Information is available at <http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/world-anthropologies-in-practice-9781474252638/>

Junji Koizumi, our dynamic Secretary-General is keeping the IUAES web page alive by posting relevant information as and when required as well as by sending out a short monthly IUAES email news sheet. On 5th of February, he uploaded some of the important letters mentioned in this newsletter onto the web page <http://www.iuaes.org/statement/index.htm>

The IUAES is also extending its communication networks through Facebook and Twitter and all members are encouraged to join and participate in these domains whose addresses are given below:

<http://www.facebook.com/IUAES-1525250224390454>

https://twitter.com/IUAES_E.C.

A further innovation is that the Executive Committee agreed to release funds for an IUAES Commission Seed-Funding Grant. The call for applications was issued in mid-January and the deadline for submission of applications is March 31, 2016. Details, including the Call for Applications and Application Forms, can be found on [the IUAES Commissions webpage](#) on the IUAES website.

Call for Nominations for IUAES Commission Seed-Funding Grant Selection Committee

The Executive Committee of the IUAES is calling for nominations (and self-nominations) of persons to serve on the Selection Committee for the IUAES Commission Seed-Funding Grant. The Selection Committee comprises three international anthropologists/ethnologists who have no conflicts of interest. Its members should be active past and present IUAES office holders and/or researchers who have contributed to research publications of the IUAES or its commissions.

The deadline for applications for the Seed-Funding Grants is 31 March 2016, and the Selection Committee will need to have reached decisions by 31 May 2016.

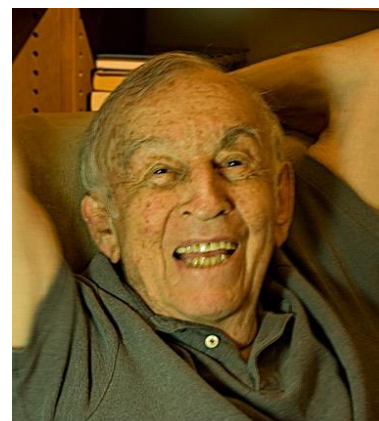
All (self-) nominations should be sent, by 25 March 2016, to the IUAES Secretary-General, Junji Koizumi ([koizumi\[at\]hus.osaka-u.ac.jp](mailto:koizumi[at]hus.osaka-u.ac.jp)).

The Executive Committee will select from among the nominees and post the names of the Selection Committee.

Loss

South Asian scholars of political science, anthropology, history and sociology mourned the loss of two of the most erudite scholars of this region, Lloyd Rudolph and Susanne Hoerber Rudolph, who died within weeks of each other; Susanne on December 28, 2015 and then Rudolph on January 16, 2016. Their book, *Modernity of Tradition* was a must read for students in India and other parts of South Asia. Both were bestowed the third highest civilian award of India. Lloyd Rudolph served the University of Chicago for 34 years, becoming Professor Emeritus in 2002. Susanne Rudolph was the William Benton Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science Emerita at the University of Chicago.

One of the most prominent anthropologists of his generation, Sidney Mintz, (November 16, 1922- December 26, 2015) passed away at the age of 93 last December, in the US. A well-known Caribbeanist, Sidney Mintz was also the founder and a most influential author on the Anthropology of food. He was a student of Julian Steward and a member of the famous Puerto Rico Project. He graduated from the University of Columbia in 1952 and spent several years working at Yale University and at Johns Hopkins University where he helped found its anthropology department in 1975 and became professor emeritus in 1997. His Marxian approach and scholarship are evident in his best known and classic book *Sweetness and Power*. Sid is going to be missed by all of us who were lucky to meet him personally and enjoy his open and warm personality.



© Jackie Mintz

The world of anthropology suffered another loss in the death on 24th January 2016, of Prof. Fredrik Barth, of Norway at the age of 87 years (born 22nd December 1928). Prof. Barth was an honorary member of the IUAES and had a distinguished career beginning from his setting up of an anthropology department in Bergen in 1961, serving there for many years before moving to Oslo as Professor of anthropology and also as head of the city's Museum of Cultural History. He also served at the Emory and Boston universities in the USA. He conducted many fieldworks singly and along with his anthropologist wife Unni Wikan, in Swat, Afghanistan, the Middle East, Bhutan and many other places. His best known works include *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries*, *Cosmologies in the Making* and many other much read works.

News from Commissions

The Commissions are doing a great job under the new leadership of Heather O'Leary, who is diligently documenting the achievements and events to be seen at the ['News from IUAES Commissions' section](#) of the front page and ['Commissions' web page](#) on the IUAES website.

The Commission on the Anthropology of the Middle East announced its annual conference to be held in Krakow, Poland, 7-9 August 2016.

The Commission on Urban Anthropology is advertising its annual conference to be held at the University of Kent, in Canterbury UK June 15-17, 2016.

There will be a very healthy representation of all the Commissions at Dubrovnik as 17 IUAES commissions are organizing 37 panels. The Commission on Enterprise Anthropology has put up the largest number of panels, followed by the Commission on Theoretical Anthropology. The major part of the Congress is thus an outcome of the efforts made by the Commissions. We congratulate the Chairs of the Commissions on their efforts and hard work and strongly encourage all IUAES members to become active members of one or more Commissions.

Subhadra Channa, Editor

The editor acknowledges the input and effort of all members of the Executive Committee, with special thanks to the Secretary-General.