

Raising a Voice

The world appears shaken in a way not witnessed in recent history. Nations across the globe have turned towards right wing politics or extremisms of all kind. Everything got more complicated in November, 2016. All liberal thinkers, believers in democracy and freedom loving persons across the world were stunned by the turn of events. At the AAA meeting in Minneapolis, the President of the AAA, Alisse Waterston, made her impassioned speech, reaffirming the support of anthropology and of anthropologists, for diversity, inclusiveness and tolerance. Today, more than at any other time, there is need for like-minded people such as the anthropological fraternity to stand together in solidarity and empathy with the marginal, the displaced and the persecuted.

The extraordinary situation created by the political upheaval in the Middle East and also other parts of the world that has displaced thousands of innocent people, families fleeing death and persecution in their home countries only to face hatred and discrimination in the places they are seeking refuge, has foregrounded the relevance of a discipline like anthropology. As anthropologists, we are trained to cultivate empathy and nurture universal humanism, appreciate diversity and embrace differences, and when required raise a voice against the divisive and oppressive forces across the world.

The IUAES as a collective expressed its solidarity with the stand taken by [the Polish anthropologists for speaking against the xenophobic and racist sentiments](#) of right wing politicians with respect to the influx of refugees into their country. The President of IUAES Faye V Harrison, drafted [her letter of support to the Polish Ethnological Society on behalf of the IUAES executive](#) expressing support for the Polish Society's position as articulated in its ["Anti-Discrimination Manifesto"](#).

In continuation of the IUAES commitment to raise its voice against all forms of human rights violation and discriminatory practices, the members of the IUAES executive have expressed concern over the human rights violation taking place in Cameroon. Historically Cameroon is divided into the dominant French speakers and the minority English speakers. There are reports of atrocities being committed on the minority English speaking people and in January 2017, there was widespread concern over the cutting off of internet services to the English speaking parts of the country. The concern was triggered by communication from a colleague who sent a video containing disturbing evidence of atrocities to a global network of academics. The President, Faye Harrison has sent an excellently crafted [letter to the UN and also to the President of Cameroon](#).



The following statement was written by Prof. Michał Buchowski, on behalf of the Polish Ethnological Society. It was published in Quarterly Newsletter of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (Number VI, February 2017).

Polish Anthropologists against Discrimination

IUAES The international union of ANTHROPOLOGICAL and ETHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES iuaes.org Faye V. Harrison President fharrison@iuhk.edu

November 21, 2016

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE POLISH ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Executive Committee of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) expresses its strongest support for the Polish Ethnological Society's position, as articulated in its "Anti-Discrimination Manifesto of Polish Anthropologists and Ethnologists."

Our colleagues in Poland are understandably alarmed by the xenophobic and racist responses of growing sectors of Polish society to the recent influx of refugees. Increasingly fleeing as families rather than as individuals, this tragically displaced population is seeking sanctuary from life-threatening dangers that have disrupted the everyday life of their natal communities, undermining their livelihoods and their lives as citizens. The heavy inflow of people who are culturally and linguistically different residents may have caused many Poles, based on their perceptions of the crisis, to anticipate potentially negative and destabilizing effects of migration and the expanded multiculturalism that tends to result.

Anthropologists and ethnologists in Poland are particularly well qualified to address the difficult challenges and tragic contradictions arising from the situation currently unfolding in Polish society. With the collective knowledge they possess as an intellectual community, our colleagues also have the capacity to raise the level of public awareness on matters of ethnic, linguistic, religious, and gendered diversity, as they relate to Poland today.

We are confident that the objectives of the Special Meeting of Polish Anthropologists and Ethnologists (November 23, 2016), organized around the theme of "Anthropology against Discrimination," will be achieved. We express our deep-felt solidarity and strongly commend our colleagues in Poland for their courageous endeavors.

There is also debate and discussion concerning a call for boycott of all international symposiums and conferences in USA following the banning of all persons from Muslim countries in the name of perceived threat to the internal security of USA. In effect the ban is extended to all Muslims including those from so-called friendly countries like India. The president of AAA Alisse Waterston, a vehement opponent of such policies, maintained that we should rather follow a policy of “Be present, not absent”. There has been mixed responses with some academics supporting the ban and others pondering over which course of action to take.

In February, Secretary-General Junji Koizumi forwarded [a call on the US Government by ICSU to rescind the Executive Order, “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States”](#).

Gains

There have been major achievements in the months following the voting to decide the future road for collaboration between the IUAES and WCAA. The results of [the historic vote held in July-September 2016](#) gave clear indication that a majority of the members who voted were in favour of some kind of alliance between IUAES and WCAA and out of these there was a majority vote in favour of [the MoU, “A Bicameral Organisation with IUAES and WCAA chambers”](#). This MoU has been adopted and [a steering committee](#) consisting of members from both organisations is now working on the modalities. By discussion and consensus the proposed name for the new organization is the World Anthropological Union or WAU for short.

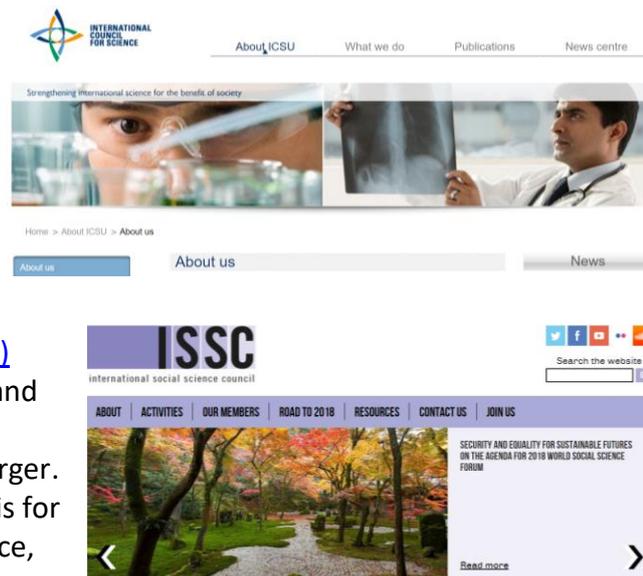
There is good news from other fronts as well. In September, it became known that the ailing Canadian anthropologist of Iranian origin imprisoned in Iran, [Homa Hoodfar](#) was freed, probably in response to worldwide petitions and appeals for her release. The IUAES, as already reported, had also put in [its own appeal](#).

Another news that gave much encouragement to all of us, was the news from Queen’s University Belfast, Northern Ireland, that the single honours degree in Anthropology was not to be dropped. The IUAES had sent [a letter to Prof. Patrick Johnston, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University](#), making a strong plea to save the single honours degree. The senate of the university approved of the launch of a stronger degree in 2018, while the joint honours in anthropology will continue uninterrupted. Both these events have given hope that efforts are not in vain and we should continue to raise our voice for all relevant issues.

Michal Buchowski had expressed gratitude on behalf of the organisers of [the Special Convention of Polish Ethnologists and Anthropologists](#), where the letter from the IUAES along with other letters of support from across the world were displayed on the screen. This important conference was attended by more than 400 anthropologists in spite of the hostile attitude of the Polish state, who were undoubtedly encouraged by the global support that they received.

The IUAES is gaining global footage and forming meaningful relations with many global organizations. For example, the IUAES became a partner of [the International Year of Global Understanding \(YIGU\)](#).

There is news that [the International Council for Science \(ICSU\)](#) and [International Social Science Council \(ISSC\)](#), both of which the IUAES is a member, made an in-principle decision to pursue a merger between the two organizations. The Secretary-General of the IUAES, Junji Koizumi has been invited to be a member of [the Transition Task Force \(TTF\)](#) formed to develop a proposed structure and governance arrangements for the future organization resulting from a possible merger. He has already attended a meeting in Paris for the same. It is hoped that with his presence, the weightage of the social sciences in the merger will be greatly enhanced.



In January 2017, President Faye Harrison received an invitation by the new Board of Directors for 2017-2018 of the Brazilian Anthropological Association (ABA) to attend its inauguration, “Human Rights and Anthropology in Action”. She wrote a gracious letter to the President of ABA, Lia Zanotta Machado, expressing her desire to work with the ABA, closely in the future.

In December 2016, the Czech National Committee of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences asked for corporate membership to the IUAES. This request was supported and approved by all members of the Executive Committee.

Thus the IUAES is forming global ties with other organisations, a process that may be continued in a much bigger way by the newly forming WAU.

Opportunities

The IUAES, through the untiring efforts of the Secretary-General Junji Koizumi and Treasurer Mugsy Spiegel has been apprising its members about various opportunities that may be available to them from across the world.

Ian Lilley sent the information about [the AHRC funded 3 year studentship available for D. Phil studies at Oxford University in Chinese Archeology](#) by a scholar working on the material available in the British Museum. The title of the project is, “Ceramic Traditions of Early Northern China: Painted Pottery on Context”. It was stipulated that the candidate must be a resident of European Union or the United Kingdom.

A message was also circulated through our network about [a summer course in anthropology for students](#) in Amsterdam. The title of the course is “Hands on-Anthropology and Collaborative Story Telling”. It is being organized at the VU, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands from 8-22nd July 2017. The course is organized by Dr. Younes Saramifar.

In February, Mugsy Spiegel circulated a call for funding proposal from ISSC. There is a fund of over thirteen million Euros available for social science led research on “[Transformations to Sustainability](#)”. The proposals are invited by 5th April 2017. The full call for proposals and associated documentation is available on [the NORFACE website](#).

Events



The upcoming IUAES and CASCA organized [Inter-Congress in Ottawa, Canada, Mo\(U\)VEMENT-CASCA/IUAES2017](#) has already been widely advertised by our earlier newsletter and also the e-mail news regularly posted by Junji Koizumi. The early bird registration closed on the 9th of March and rates rose after this date, but [the registration is still open](#).

In January communication was received from Saša Missoni regarding the foundation of [Anthropology and Global Health Section under the International Society for Applied Biological Sciences \(ISABS\) Scientific Committee](#). The inauguration of this section will take place at [the 10th ISABS conference on “Forensic and Anthropologic Genetics and Mayo Clinic Lectures in Individualized Medicine”](#) at the Hotel Dubrovnik Palace in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on 19-24th June 2017.

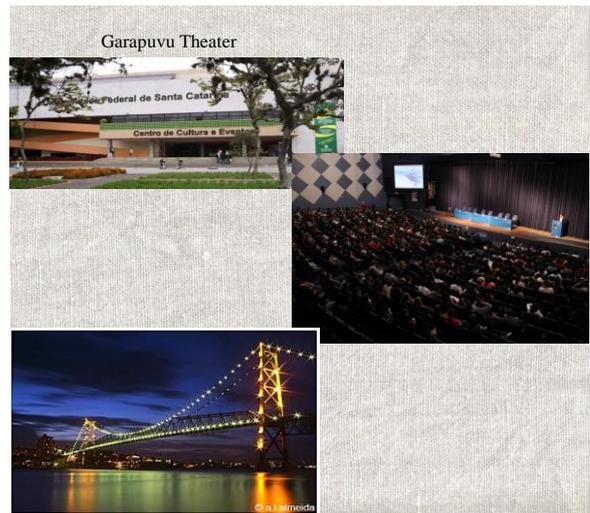
Luiz Oosterbeek, Secretary-General of CIPSH, informed us that along with UNESCO, CIPSH is organizing [the World Humanities Conference in Liège, 6-12th August 2017](#). The IUAES, together with the WCAA, is considering a session for this congress at the behest of Oosterbeek.

The IUAES is going to make its presence felt at [the forthcoming AAA Meeting to be held in Washington DC, 2017](#). Hsain Ilahiane of University of Kentucky, representative of the AAA Committee on World Anthropologies (CWA) and Heather O’Leary, Head of the Council of Commissions of IUAES and representing the WAU, are organizing a Round Table, “Diversity against Divisiveness: Anthropology’s Fight for Global Humanism”. Several IUAES members are taking part in this roundtable.



The dates for the 18th IUAES World Congress to be held in Florianópolis, earlier scheduled to be held from the 30th July to 3rd August 2018, have been changed to 16-20th July 2018. This was necessary due to a change of the academic calendar of the host university and done with the consent of all the executive.

There has been an announcement by the New Materialism: Networking European Scholarship in partnership with UNESCO of a conference on “How Matter Comes to Matter”, at [the 8th Annual Conference on the New Materialisms](#) to be held 7-9th June 2017 at Paris, France.



The IUAES also received a notice of [the 2017 Annual ASnA Conference, “Strengthening the Teaching of Anthropology in Southern Africa”](#) to be held at Chancellor College, University of Malawi, Zomba, Malawi, on 18-20th August 2017.

News from Commissions

The IUAES executive has approved the establishment of the IUAES Commission on the Anthropology of Risk and Disaster. The new Commission is chaired by Susanna M. Hoffman, and the Deputy Chair of the Commission is Virginia Araceli García Acosta.

Marzieh Kaivanara of the Commission on Anthropology of the Middle East sent information about [the annual conference of their Commission from 10-12th August 2017 in Krakaw, Poland](#). The call for panel proposals for this conference is open till 15th of April and abstracts before 15th June 2017.

Information on conferences by other Commissions is available in the “News from IUAES Commissions” section of the IUAES front page.

Loss

Indera Paul Singh (20th February 1928 – 27th September 2016)

Indera Paul Singh was a doyen of Indian anthropology. He died peacefully of old age related symptoms, having done his last field work, just a few years before his death. He was among the earliest trained anthropologists in India, having had training from Frankfurt, Germany besides having a Masters and Ph.D from Delhi University. He was the Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Delhi University from 1968-1979 and then from 1980-1984. He built a successful department that had links with many international universities and had invited scholars from all across the world to interact with the faculty and students of the department. He had worked with Oscar Lewis in creating a village ethnography of North India and had pursued variety of research interests. He left behind a large corpus of published works and many colleagues and students who remember him as a generous mentor and father figure.

Patrick Alister McAllister (5th May 1948 – 21st September 2016)

Pat McAllister, a leading South African anthropologist, died on 21st September 2016 at age 68 of mesothelioma. Pat came of age in the late 1960s and early-to-mid 1970s, learning his anthropology from Monica Wilson. Working in the context of the cauldron of apartheid politics Pat sought to apply the discipline's insights and its ethnographic approach to expose the iniquities of apartheid, especially as experienced by Black southern Africans. At the time of his passing, Pat was Professor of Anthropology at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. His research then, in collaboration with Zhifang Song, involved detailed micro-level ethnographic work on Vietnam-based Buddhist rituals and social practices. Those who knew Pat personally remember him as a man of great warmth and generosity, of integrity and collegiality, one widely loved by friends, colleagues and students. A quiet person with an impish sense of humour, he always had a smile, regardless of the circumstances. He is remembered also as the author and editor of seven books and of numerous internationally highly regarded journal articles.

Subhadra Channa, Editor

The editor acknowledges all members of the Executive, who as always make significant contribution to the newsletter and specifically the Secretary-General Junji Koizumi who is responsible for the final formatting, adding slides as well as releasing the newsletter.