



# Association of Adaptation Studies

Registered Charity 1133677

AGM

*University of Amsterdam*

**28 September 2018**

AAS AGM Minutes

Trustees present alongside association members: Judith Buchanan (chair), R. Barton Palmer, Kamilla Elliott, Julie Grossman, Douglas Lanier, Kyle Meikle, Jeremy Strong.

Apologies from trustees: Deborah Cartmell, Jamie Sherry, Imelda Whelehan,.

*Recording: Anna Blackwell and Kyle Meikle*

1. The minutes from last year's AGM were approved.
2. Co-chair Judith Buchanan presented the **CHAIR'S REPORT** on behalf of the co-chairs.

## **Laurence Raw Conference Bursary**

- The chair registered the sad loss to the AAS community of our colleague and friend Laurence Raw and the decision to name an AAS travel bursary in Laurence's name.
- Invited by the chair, Kamilla Elliott reported on the newly instituted Laurence Raw travel bursary and the other AAS travel bursaries and encouraged future applications. Sam Summers and James Fleury were announced as the 2018 recipients of the domestic and international bursaries, respectively, for this year.
- The chair solicited in-person tributes to Laurence Raw for the reception to follow. Christine Geraghty and Tom Leitch each volunteered to take this on on behalf of the community and were thanked for doing so.

### **Essay Prize Winner**

- The 2018 essay prize winner was announced (Madeline Hunter, 'Bric[k]olage: Adaptation as Play in *The Lego Movie* (2014)'); Buchanan encouraged members to encourage applications in the future (deadline 1 April).

### **Trustee business**

- Tom Leitch was announced as the direct replacement for the in-year resignation of a trustee.
- The chair announced that she would, as previously agreed, be stepping down as co-chair once succession plans were confirmed.
- The chair announced that Deborah Cartmell (AAS founder and current treasurer) is looking to step down from her treasurer role once a suitable replacement can be found.
- There will be some movement on the board at the next round of trustee elections.

### **Membership**

- Buchanan stressed that, by longstanding arrangement, membership of the Association is a requirement for participation in the annual conference; she encouraged those delegates who had not yet paid their membership dues to do so. The reminder to renew membership had not been sent out by the membership secretary in this round and the reasons for this omission were being looked into, but the requirement to be a paid-up member of the Association in order to participate in the AAS conference still held and she urged delegates to take action to pay their membership fees in response to the email circulated in order to ensure that the Association could continue to deliver on its aims from which all benefit.

### **3. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The chair reported on behalf of the treasurer that there was a significant drop in membership fees this year over last year. However, the lack of communication surrounding the requirement to renew membership in order to participate in the conference would account for this and this could be simply rectified if all conference delegates were now to take action to join or rejoin the association by responding to the email circulated.

### **4. FUTURE AAS CONFERENCES**

The chair reported that three good potential expressions of interest had been received to host future conferences and announcements on this score would be made shortly. 19/20 September 2019 were the proposed dates for next year's conference, with the venue to be confirmed very shortly.

There was some brief discussion of whether in general terms Thurs/Fri or Fri/Sat suited delegates better for conference dates. Fri/Sat was noted as perhaps easier for those teaching and/or coming from the US, with the caveat that some universities would not open on weekends. These decisions to continue to be determined on a case by case basis, depending on the preferences and capacities of the host institution.

## 5. OBJECTIVES FOR 2018/2019

Locking down conference venues for the next 2 years.

Stabilizing membership levels and membership secretary duties and communications.

Exploring the possibilities of pursuing coincident interests and making common cause with other groups (eg LFA, translation associations, SCMS, MLA).

Actions:

- on Julie Grossman: follow up with LFA
- on Douglas Lanier: follow up with MLA

Increasing diversity of membership. Suggestions included:

- diversifying keynotes;
- offering bursaries for early career or contingent faculty, or offering a 'diversity bursary' (look to SCMS for parallel example of diversity/minority funding opportunities);
- exploring shared activity with translation studies communities, or adopting translation as a possible conference theme;
- looking at demographic analysis of membership list;
- a special issue of *Adaptation* devoted to race and adaptation

## 6. AOB

Tom Leitch announced AAS tracks at NEMLA (Spring 2019, Boston) and invited interested parties to get in touch with him.

## 7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next AGM would, as is customary, be held as part of the next AAS conference. The conference, subject to final confirmation, would be held 19/20 September 2019. Further details to be circulated shortly.