**Association of Adaptation Studies**
Registered Charity
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AGM

*Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic*

**20/09/2019**

Trustees present alongside Association members: Kamilla Elliott (co-chair), Julie Grossman (co-chair), Thomas Leitch, Kyle Meikle, Monika Pietrzak-Franger, Eckart Voigts

Apologies from Trustees: Doug Lanier, Barton Palmer

1. To approve the minutes of the 2018 AGM

Thomas Leitch moved to approve the minutes of the 2018 AGM and the minutes were approved.

1. To be voted on: Changes to the number of AAS Trustees (Julie Grossman)

Julie explained that due to a desire to diversify the membership and guarantee a quorum from our highly international body at future meetings—and, as Kamilla noted, due to an outsize interest in taking on administrative roles—the co-chairs asked the Association to expand the number of Trustees from eight to nine and possibly to ten down the line. Kamilla hoped this move would allow the Association to incorporate adaptation scholars of the present and future.

Members unanimously voted to move from eight to nine Trustees.

1. Results of the 2019 Trustees Election (Kamilla Elliott and Julie Grossman)

Kamilla Elliott and Julie Grossman reported the results of the 2019 Trustees Election:

* Anna Blackwell (Treasurer)
* Kamilla Elliott (Co-chair)
* Joyce Goggin
* Julie Grossman (Co-chair)
* Thomas Leitch
* Kyle Meikle (Secretary)
* Monika Pietrzak-Franger
* Jeremy Strong
* Eckart Voigts
1. Chairs’ report

Julie and Kamilla thanked the outgoing Trustees (Douglas Lanier, Barton Palmer), former chairs and co-chairs (Imelda Whelehan and Deborah Cartmell), and former co-chairs (Judith Buchanan and Jamie Sherry).

Julie reported on the membership, noting that one of last year’s aims was to better track the Association’s makeup. The Association includes 123 active members. Thanks to Miroslav Kotásek and Petr Bubeníček’s efforts, 100% of membership fees were collected. Going forward, Julie will keep a running tally in order to track membership (ACTION ITEM).

Kamilla reiterated benefits of membership, including the newsletter, and asked for ideas for other benefits. The October newsletter will largely be based on the conference and feature Trustees, but, going forward, the Association seeks other contributors. Membership benefits also include a 20% discount on Palgrave’s Studies in Adaptation and Visual Culture series.

Kamilla announced the travel bursary winners from the EU (Terence Sawyers and Rakesh Sengupta) and US (Naghmeh Rezaie).

Julie Grossman gave an update on efforts to establish an Adaptation Discussion Forum at MLA. In fall of 2018, Doug Lanier successfully initiated a petition to add an MLA forum on adaptation before working on a formal proposal, including a plan for recruitment and a description of adaptation studies as a field. Tom, Doug, Allen Redmon and Julie would/will serve on the executive committee, with hopes of merging the interests of MLA and AAS. Doug et al. expect to hear formally from the MLA Executive Committee in November. If successful, Tom expected that MLA would include at least one sessions starting at the Association’s 2021 conference in Washington, DC.

1. Treasurer’s report (postponed)

This report was postponed due to Deborah Cartmell’s absence. It will be posted online at a later date.

1. To be voted on: Changes to the post of Treasurer (Kamilla Elliott)

This vote was not needed due to Anna Blackwell’s election as Trustee.

1. For feedback: membership requirements for conference participation (Julie Grossman)

Because of the 100% participation rate, this discussion was shelved.

1. Links between AAS and LFA (Julie Grossman and Tom Leitch)

Tom introduced two items, the first that Allen Redmon recently announced that LFA would be meeting in New Orleans in fall 2020, and in York, PA, in fall 2021, leaving open a possibility for a joint conference in 2022. Tom mentioned that if members thought they might be interested in a joint conference in 2022, ‘I will supply all the enthusiasm you might lack’. Secondly, Tom mentioned that if folks couldn’t wait until 2022, there is a small band of AAS members who have sought to join up with NEMLA (the North Atlantic Modern Language Association) conference, much as AAS has sponsored numerous tracks at SAMLA (the South Atlantic Modern Language Assocation conference). Ashley Polasek mentioned that eight folks have coordinated panels already, with proposals for those panels due at the end of the month. Ashley was tasked with sending the CFP link to Julie to send out to all members (ACTION ITEM).

Kamilla reminded members to forward any other CFPs/announcements to her, Julie, or Kyle.

1. AAS Asia (Kamilla Elliott and John Williams)

Kamilla and John Williams are beginning more formal talks about hosting an AAS conference or symposium in Asia in the future. John, a filmmaker, is based at Tokyo’s Sofia University, where he has many colleagues working on adaptation studies; he himself has also published a book on European literature translated to Japanese film. He is running a symposium on Kafka adaptations.

Kamilla asked for a show of hands for interest in a conference in Tokyo and noted an overwhelming response for the proposal.

1. Future AAS conferences (Kamilla Elliott)

The next AAS conference will take place 1-2 October, 2020 at the University of Burgundy in Dijon, France. Shannon Wells-Lassagne, who is organizing the conference, mentioned that its CFP was included in this year’s information pack and will be published everywhere soon; the deadline for proposals is 1 February. The University of Burgundy is 1.5 hours from Paris and close to Switzerland, with a direct train from CDG airport to Dijon once a day.

Kamilla mentioned that proposals for the 2021 conference included Edinburgh, Scotland, where it would run from 10-11 June. Since the annual conference is traditionally held the last week in September, Kamilla asked for comments. Christina Wilkins mentioned that her university does not allow conferences during term time, but that term time ends in April. Ashley Polasek voiced support for not holding the conference during the (typically) fifth week of teaching for US professors. Tom suggested that this discussion opened the question of when the 2022 conference would or should take place. Kamilla asked if members had any opinions on hotel- versus university-held conferences (with the cost of hotels as possibly advantageous). Patrick Cattrysse argued that the positioning of the city mattered more; Christina suggested that it made no difference, as she would have to pay her own way, either way; Terence Sawyers said that he enjoyed the opportunity to visit different university campuses; Martina Pfeiler wondered if student rates would make a difference; and Ashley made the point that if part of AAS’s current mission is to welcome new members, then the help of students on a university campus involves them in the Association.

1. Any other business

The floor was opened for any other business.

The co-chairs asked for suggestions on how to link with other organizations with shared interests.

Casie Hermansson asked whether AAS might want to join Film.org (a UNESCO organization?), of which she said the MLA, Children’s Lit, and Comparative Lit associations were already members. (Note that Film.org seems to direct to the Greater Philadelphia Film Office.)

Bethany Wood suggested the Association for Theater in Higher Education (ATHE), which is made up of focus groups. The co-chairs asked Bethany to follow up with them and/or Kyle (ACTION ITEM).

The question of how to address the Association’s racial diversity arose. Suggestions included:

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

Bethany suggested advertising with the Black Theatre Association (part of ATHE) and/or Asian and Latinx groups within ATHE.

The co-chairs agreed to look into establishing a junior keynote at AAS (ACTION ITEM) and scheduling a panel on adaptation and diversity at the next conference (ACTION ITEM).

The open session concluded with deep thanks to Petr and Miroslav for their hard work on the conference.

1. Date of Next Meeting: October 2, 2020, University of Burgundy