

**President's Report
May 2017, Donna Patrick**

1. CASCA/IUAES Conference/InterCongress

This year (2016-2017) has been an exceptional one, especially with respect to planning and preparation of our annual conferences. This has included not only the extraordinary logistical co-ordination and organization of our 2017 joint International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) conference at the University of Ottawa, but also planning for other unique conference collaborations, including CASCA-CUBA for 2018, proposed future meetings with the AAA, and our ongoing relationship with the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences / Fédération des sciences humaines (see Section 10 for discussion about these future conferences).

The joint CASCA/IUAES Conference/InterCongress has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. Working with a large, international organization (IUAES), the LOC at the University of Ottawa, and an independent conference event organization and administration service (NomadIT) posed particular conditions and constraints, some of which were negotiated through a MOU (by previous CASCA executives) and some through many e-mail conversations and negotiations that circulated across the globe. The time needed to devote to these conversations could not have been predicted, but the additional workload speaks to the need for caution and for foresight to set up good communication channels. Overall, the advantages of this kind of collaboration are immense, given the increased exposure of CASCA globally, the intellectual encounters with anthropologists from around the world, that many CASCA attendees would not normally have the opportunity to engage with. The benefits are felt in the social and intellectual richness of the conference overall.

Unlike usual CASCA conference this conference will host some 800 registrants, meeting over 5 days (May 2-7). It has also been a welcome opportunity to increase our membership base, since all participants became members of **both** associations (which were factored into the overall conference price). (See President's Report Powerpoint presentation for the membership numbers).

I am grateful to many people who put many hours above and beyond the normal expectations of service—generating ideas, reading and writing e-mails, talking on the phone and dedicating themselves to the work of Canadian Anthropology. This includes our CASCA manager, Karli Whitmore, with her highly-valued, professional expertise and warm-hearted contributions to our organization. It also includes all of the members of the CASCA executive, but especially those who put in additional hours of work to make this conference a success, notably: our treasurer Clint Westman, who worked tirelessly on the budget logistics and transferring of funds; Past-President Michel Bouchard, who was involved in the Scientific Committee and negotiations with IUAES and the LOC; our webmaster Nathalie Bouchard, who consistently and professionally posted information as it came in, and our Secretary Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, who not only devoted time to the LOC, but helped organize the Women's Network reception and other local events to fulfill the expectations of an excellent CASCA conference.

My gratitude also goes out the LOC at the University of Ottawa, led by Scott Simon, and with the help of Julie Laplante (Scientific Committee and Round Tables), Ari Gandsman (Events and Catering), Nicolas Rasiulis (Volunteer coordinator), Larisa Kurtovic (Posters), Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, and everyone else who devoted time, energy and ideas to make this conference work. It was an unusual conference for the CASCA President, since I was also a member of the LOC and devoted my attention to help make things happen. This team was successful in winning both a Wenner Gren Grant (to bring in scholars from the Global South) and the SSHRC Connections Grant. The LOC also garnered support from the U of O and went out of their way to manage the logistics of such a large, international conference. They also managed to work with CASCA in organizing our usual Round Tables and Poster sessions (with Poster awards), that are not usual events for IUAES conferences. This conference truly could not have gone forward without the selfless devotion of many people functioning in different roles to make CASCA/IUAES 2017 a success.

2. CASCA Executive/Comité de direction

There are five outgoing members at this time, making it a transition year for CASCA. I offer my sincere thanks to Michel Bouchard (past-president/ président sortant); Pauline McKenzie Aucoin (secretary/secrétaire); Éric Gagnon Poulin (member-at-large/membre); Clint Westman (treasurer/trésorier); and Nathalie Boucher (communications officer/responsable des communications). It was a pleasure working with all of you.

We now welcome new members to the Executive, including Pamela Downe (president-elect/présidente élue); Udo Krautwurst (treasurer/trésorier); Charles Menzies (secretary/secrétaire); Van Troi Tran (member-at-large/membre); and we welcome back Éric Gagnon Poulin in his new role as communications officer (responsable des communications).

Continuing in their posts this year are: Martha Radice (president/présidente); Eric Henry (member-at-large/membre), and our CASCA manager, Karli Whitmore. CASCA could not function without the work and dedication of everyone on our executive and management team. This year we held four executive meetings: the post-conference meeting in May 2016; an Autumn Video Conference meeting; Winter Video Conference meeting, and the all-day pre-conference meeting in May 2017. The work of individual executive members is invaluable on selection committees for awards; support for national and international initiatives; planning and discussion around future conferences; and matters related to finances, communications and our CASCA journal, *Anthropologica*. The members-at-large are also to be thanked for their excellent work on producing the bi-annual on-line newsletter *Culture*.

3. Anthropologica

Over this past year, Jasmin Habib has continued to work as both Editor-in-Chief and English-language Editor of the journal and Alicia Sliwinski continued on as Editor of French Manuscripts. Alicia will be joined by Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, with a transition year (2017-18). Alexandrine officially takes on the position of Francophone Editor on August 1st, 2018, after the CASCA-CUBA conference is finished. She will receive a pro-rated 6-month stipend for 2018 and continue in this position until 31st July, 2021.

Margaret MacDonald (English Books Review Editor) and Karine Vanthuyne (French Books Review Editor) also continued in their roles with the journal. As of September, 2016, Karine Gagné became the new French Book Review Editor. Her term will continue for three years (until 1 October, 2019).

The position of EIC and Editor for English manuscripts will come up for renewal in 2018. Jasmin Habib will have held this position from 1 May, 2015 until 30th April, 2018. She is eligible for renewal, after a proper review and at the discretion of the CASCA executive.

The commitment of all of the editors to ensure a high quality journal, featuring the best anthropological research, in both French and English, is greatly appreciated. This year, UTP transitioned from the PRESTO submission platform to SCHOLAR ONE. There have been a number of ongoing issues related to article submissions, copy-editing, and other matters with the UTP. The CASCA treasurer and President have been involved in attempts to resolve the ongoing challenges with the publisher and recognize the patience and work that the Editorial team has put into each issue.

4. International Support and Position Statements

Over the year CASCA supported a number of pressing issues by circulating petitions, writing letters, and supporting WCAA and other Anthropology associations letters and manifestos. The most pressing for us as a Canadian Association was support for Dr. Homa Hoodfar. We immediately sent letters to Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister of Global Affairs, Stéphane Dion, upon hearing of her incarceration in Tehran on June 6, 2016. We worked closely with Concordia University and the support team for Dr. Hoodfar. We circulated petitions and remained in contact with other Anthropology associations and their activities in this regard. (see CASCA website for Position Statements). News of her release September 26, 2016 was a great victory for all involved and the concerted efforts of her support team, working tirelessly to campaign for her release.

CASCA also offered a letter of support to the Associação Brasileira de Antropologia (ABA) and co-signed a letter by the WCAA (World Council of Anthropological Associations). This was in relation to acknowledging the high quality and importance of Brazilian anthropologists (ABA), who were faced with increasing questioning of their status and professional role by their government. As a number of Canadian anthropologists have taught, conducted research, and given invited lectures in Brazil, it was important that CASCA offered this support and endorsement regarding the quality and standards of their practice, particularly in relation to FUNAI (the federal Indian agency).

Other forms of support that CASCA offered this year, by co-signing letters drafted by the WCAA included: (1) support for Queens University Belfast to re-instate their Anthropology Honours Degree program. This campaign was successful and the degree will be re-launched in 2018. (2) support for a manifesto (November 2016) drawn up by the Polish Ethnological Society to condemn discrimination, racism and xenophobia in Poland. And (3) condemnation of the threatened closure by the Hungarian government of Central European University (CEU) in Budapest.

CASCA remains committed to support our international colleagues as particular issues arise and to make position statements, as appropriate, to respect the concerns of our membership.

5. Weaver-Tremblay and Salisbury Awards 2016

Margaret Critchlow is the recipient of the Weaver-Tremblay Award in Canadian Applied Anthropology, 2016. Dr. Critchlow strongly merits this award with her record of anthropology in Vanuatu and her continued work in Seniors co-housing projects in Canada.

Jing Jing Liu receives the Salisbury Award for doctoral research, 2016. Liu is completing her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. As the committee noted, she was “an exceptional candidate among a cohort of seven excellent candidates”.

6. CASCA Fellows

Four new members have been nominated as CASCA Fellows for 2016:

Andrew Lyons

Harriet Lyons

Pauline Gardiner Barber.

Bruce Miller

Thanks to all the members of these Award committees.

7. CASCA Networks

We have a number of active networks that have continued this year. Of note, Grad Student Network was co-ordinated by Nicolas Soucier (York University) but is in need of another moderator to take it on for 2017. The Ad Hoc Living Standards Committee is expected to make a report in 2017.

- Réseau des femmes/Women’s Network (Pauline McKenzie Aucoin/Heather Howard, co-ordinators; Stephanie Hobbis listserve manager)
- Réseau de l’anthropologie médicale/Medical Anthropology (Emma Varley)
- Réseau de l’anthropologie de l’environnement/Environmental Anthropology (Lorne Holyoak)
- Réseau de l’anthropologie linguistique (LingAnthLing)/ Linguistic Anthropology(Christine Jourdan)
- Ad Hoc Living Standards Committee (Janice Graham, Martha Radice)
- Grad Student Network (TBA)

8. CASCA-supported Projects

We welcomed the CASCA Promotional Video that was released in November 2016. Thanks for Francophone member at large, Éric Gagnon Poulin for his excellent work on this (filming at the CASCA Dalhousie Conference, 2016).

CASCA and *Anthropologica* also continue their support of the work of Frédéric Laugrand, and the project, *Les Possédés et leurs mondes*. A number of films are available online. See Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb5YUvJjEpeGBvmFOUasKoA>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/anthropologieetsocietes/>

Twitter :

https://twitter.com/Anthropo_et_soc

9. New Initiatives

We have two major new initiatives in 2016: the CASCA Book Award and the CASCA “Outstanding Graduating Anthropology Student Awards”

1) CASCA Book Award

This award will be given to an outstanding book in anthropology published in 2016 by a member of CASCA who meets one of the following criteria: the subject of the book is ‘Canadian’; the author(s) are connected to a Canadian institution (by degrees earned or employment); and/or the work was funded by a Canadian grant.

The winner will be announced in 2018.

Five Committee Members:

Chair: Joshua Smith

Julie Soleil Archambault

Nathalie Boucher

Daromir Rudnyckyj

Jaro Stacul

CASCA contact: Eric Henry

The call for submissions is expected to go out soon.

2) Outstanding Graduating Anthropology Student Awards (OGSA Awards).

This new initiative is led this year by Martha Radice. A call to all Canadian anthropology departments went out in the spring in order to select one outstanding undergraduate, one Masters and one doctoral student. Each award winner receives a certificate and a letter of congratulations via mail to their department, and their names will be listed on the CASCA website. Karli and Martha report that that the inaugural year has been a great success, with 12 Awards given at the Honours level, 10 at the Master's level, and 7 at the PhD level.

Both of these initiatives offer new awards in order to recognize academic excellence in anthropology. Thanks to all who are working to make these happen.

10. Future Conferences

2018 CASCA-CUBA, Santiago de Cuba

- Co-organized with Universidad de Oriente, Santiago de Cuba
- CASCA co-organizing committee led by:

Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, University of Victoria.

Based on our past success holding CASCA 2005 in Merida, Mexico, we anticipate another exciting international conference next year.

2019 AAA-CASCA, Vancouver

The following year, we continue to tread new ground when we collaborate with the AAA to host a joint conference in November. With a strong MOU (negotiated by Lorne Holyoak and Christine Jourdan and signed in March 2014) we have a number of guarantees (see below), and anticipate an exceptional conference.

Memorandum of Understanding Guarantees:

- joint executive program planning committee /Comité conjoint pour le programme scientifique
- joint LOC / Comité d'organisation local conjoint
- Joint program scheduling / Comité conjoint pour la planification
- AAA to bear registration and logistics costs / AAA assumera les coûts liés à la logistique et à l'inscription.
- CASCA guaranteed minimum of 80% of its average gross revenues from three previous years / CASCA a la garantie de recevoir 80% des revenus perçus pendant les trois années précédentes
- CASCA's registration fee 95% of AAA's / Les frais d'inscription à la CASCA équivaudront à 95% de celle de l'AAA
- To be held in November in Vancouver / Le congrès 2019 aura lieu en Novembre, à Vancouver.
- AAA will assist CASCA in promoting its 2020 meetings / AAA aidera la CASCA à promouvoir son congrès de 2020

2023 Joint meeting AAA/CASCA: Toronto. Future conferences with the AAA are open for negotiation, depending on how the 2019 conference plays out.

2020: CFHSS. CASCA is considering being part of the Congress in 2020, depending on which city is chosen to host it. We maintain our membership in the Federation and are potentially looking at hosting CASCA with the Federation for 2021 and 2022 as well.

11. Conclusion

Thanks to all of the members of the executive and the many other volunteers who keep CASCA functioning well from year to year. A special welcome to the new President, Martha Radice and incoming President Elect, Pam Downe. The future conference collaborations, like the conference this year, offer unique challenges, but also promise to be enriching and engaging experiences.

See you in Cuba next year!