

**Minutes of the EASA Media Anthropology Network's 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 26 August 2010, Maynooth, Ireland.**

Taken by Rachel Singh

**AGENDA**

1. Convenor post open
2. EASA Media Anthropology Network Mailing list
3. EASA Media Anthropology Network E-seminars
4. Panel session /Workshop in the works
5. EASA funding
6. Media anthropology and digital anthropology
7. Benefits of network membership
8. Volunteer opportunities
9. Introduction of new website
10. Conversation from the floor
11. Planning for next EASA 2012
12. Brief introductions/ Members areas of interest
13. Network summer school
14. Online conversations encouraged
15. Ideas for network visibility
16. Proposal for collaborative research project for the network
17. Suggested virtual meet up/talk series
18. Membership list discussion
19. Closing comments

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**1.1** John Postill gave brief overview of his post (network coordinator) and noted that it is open for anyone who would like to take over. Also raised the point of reconsidering the rules of network coordinator.

**2.1** Discussion of network's mailing list, considered "the heart of the network" – a place to post updates, job postings, publications, run e-seminars (cf. 3.1), etc.

**3.1** Discussion of the networks e-seminars. Three or four times a year a working paper is posted online and discussed for two weeks via the mailing list. A transcript of the seminar is then posted to the network's website. To date there have been about 35 sessions. These act as a history of conversations that have been going on in the subfield since 2004.

**4.1** Discussion of panel meetings /next workshop. Currently a panel /workshop is being planned. Location TBD.

**5.1** Noted that EASA is offering funds to the networks. Network can apply for up to 4.000 Euros to support young scholars on low income to travel to a venue related to a network (seminar or symposium).

There are 13 active networks and funding is limited to 16.000 Euros for all of them (cf. <http://www.easaonline.org/networks/funding.htm>). This prompted discussion of creating informal support for network members in terms of accommodation, etc.

**6.1** Discussion of the media anthropology panel that was held at the conference. A follow up conversation to this is planned which will combine questions and themes from the media and digital anthropology panels. Mark Peterson may act as discussant – both leaders of panels will touch briefly on points then open for discussion to the list. Warning to be conscious of not flooding the system as there are 800 members on the list. Date to be confirmed.

**7.1** Discussion of benefits of joining the network. For example, getting published. There is a book coming out of the Bristol media anthropology network panel on theorizing media and practice (Bräuchler & Postill).

**8.1** Encouragement of members to become more active. Surviving on small group of volunteers – always grateful for help and in need of further volunteers. Network relies entirely on people's support, so small ways of helping out might include helping conversations along by posting comments to the new website, participating in e-seminars, transcribing e-seminar, etc.

**9.1** Introduction of new website (<http://www.media-anthropology.net>). Was mentioned its use is quite static – still trying to figure out what to do with it. Currently moving data from old site to new site.

**9.2** The new site needs about 100 hours of work, and a call was put out for people who can volunteer to help with this. Contact John Postill if you can help: [jpostill@usa.net](mailto:jpostill@usa.net)

**9.3** It was noted that ideas/suggestions for the new website are welcome. Some ideas for the website were discussed including creation of a collaborative map, Flickr project, occasional book reviews posted through the mailing list and then have the author respond to that review, etc. Entirely open to new ideas that will get the network using the website, mailing list, and instigating face-to-face meetings more intensively.

**10.1** Conversation opened up to the floor by John Postill. Asked for ideas of how people would like to contribute to network.

**10.2** It was suggested by one member to add a volunteer section on the new website outlining what needs to be done.

**10.3** One member suggested the creation of a project that showcases people's interpretation of what is digital anthropology and media anthropology and to make clear definitions of these. John Postill noted that it has been decided not to define these, but rather to leave them open for interpretation and avoid getting bogged down by definitions /with aims to avoid boundary issues. Another member pointed out that this is also important so as not to lose the group of non-anthropologists that are part of the list. Further to this, it was noted that the networks archives of working papers and transcripts (posted on the website) are a rich resource of showcases and debates around definitions of what these terms may or may not constitute.

**10.4** It was noted that a Wikipedia page for the term “media anthropology” has been created and members are invited to add to it, revise, etc. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media\\_anthropology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_anthropology)).

**10.5** It was suggested by a member that between the conferences people carry out combined workshops with different subfields to explore where they interface.

**11.1** Brainstorming for possible questions to be addressed at next EASA meeting for media panel/seminars in two years time. These included:

- Intersection of subfields with media anthropology
- Applications of media anthropology

**11.2** Potential themes include:

- Collaboration/Participation
- Generational – age sets and age groups
- Suggestion to link the above – generational and participation
- Democracy/political anthropology of media

**12.1** Suggestion of another round of introductions to get to know one another

**12.2** Areas of interest of different members:

- ICT and aging
- ICT
- Mapping media and films
- Identity and internet issues
- Surveillance
- Transnational anthropology
- Internet development in relation to globalization
- Migration and individual media production
- Internet activism
- Youth movements and media
- Visual studies for multimedia platforms
- Media, ICT, popular culture, Islamic boy band music
- Documentary film
- Mayans in Mexico
- Construction of popular knowledge
- National identity and diasporas
- News production and journalism
- Communication development
- Participatory design

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- Chinese independent video production
- Foreign correspondents and internet development in Lebanon
- Using internet to teach anthropology and open access for teaching and learning anthropology
- Blogging
- Mobile communication in Jamaica
- Youth learning
- Mobile money in the Caribbean
- Mobile phones and development
- Internet practices in eastern Europe
- Participatory communication and museum production
- Ethnographic film
- Media literacy amongst older people in Ireland
- Youth film making projects
- Community media as consultation for digital design
- Visual technology and programming
- Programming as new tool for digital art
- Film making/Mexico
- Representation of audio video culture in post digital times
- Anthropology of work and politics
- Digital anthropology and media anthropology intersection with work and politics
- Visuality of war as an anthropology of reporting
- Emergent group formation in participatory web-based forums (ex. games)
- TV and soap operas shaping everyday lives of older people
- Young people shape the public sphere using social media websites
- Media practices – general, producing, etc.
- Developing methodological tools/ethnographic tools for producing knowledge
- Media and communication studies
- Virtual ethnography on YouTube
- Video in Mexican transnational communities
- Film making and media diversity – intersection of media and anthropology
- Discourses of Islam, secularism and state in Turkey
- Human rights and freedom of expression

**12.3** Noted by John Postill that people can contribute their areas of interest to the new website by creating a profile.

**13.1** The idea of a network summer school was raised by John Postill. Discussion of past summer school in Hamburg in 1999. Interest is there, but need to raise funds.

**14.1** People were encouraged to register for account on the website as well as the new wiki, and to move this discussion online to keep ideas flowing.

**15.1** There was a discussion by the members around gaining visibility for the network by having a special issue on media anthropology in a journal. It was noted that the Social Anthropology journal is seeking papers. There was some discussion of doing a special issue with it.

**16.1** Discussion of large research project as a collaboration of network members. Some talk about where to apply for funding for such a project. Suggested by one member that the network apply as a series of institutions. This discussion was followed by the proposition by another member that instead of large research project, have a virtual research environments funded through knowledge exchange – was mentioned by attendee that on European level you can get funding for this kind of approach. (EU subdivision COST funds networks – one of oldest. Funds research networks for up to four years? Not an easy application process, but worth exploring.) Was also noted by someone else that the European Science Foundation might also have funds for this, and that it might be an easier application process.

**17.1** Some discussion around a Second Life Meet Up or talk series modeled after TED Talks.

**18.1** Discussion about membership list. There is no list of members (people who subscribe to mailing list and are EASA members.) Suggested by members that a list be compiled. This is dependent on volunteers.

**19.1** Closing comments. Thank you to John Postill and the network's volunteers for doing a great job in keeping the network going. A final call was put out for more volunteers.