



EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION | AUGUST | 2019



European
Sociological
Association

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REPORTS AUGUST 2019



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE

President: Sue Scott

Vice-Presidents: Lena Näre, Apostolos G. Papadopoulos, Marta Soler

Conference: Sue Scott (co-Chair), Marta Soler (co-Chair), Teresa Carvalho, Teresa Consoli, Laura Horn (as Treasurer), Monica Massari

Communication: Milica Antic Gaber (Chair), Teresa Consoli, Lena Näre

External Affairs: Apostolos G. Papadopoulos (Chair), Airi-Alina Allaste, Teresa Carvalho, Kathrin Komp, Sokratis Koniordos, Sue Scott

Finance: Laura Horn (Chair, Treasurer), Teresa Consoli, Apostolos G. Papadopoulos

National Associations: Sokratis Koniordos (Chair)

Nomination: Elena Danilova (Chair), Nilay Çabuk Kaya, Monica Massari, Sue Scott

Policy: Laura Horn (Chair), Milica Antic Gaber, Kathrin Komp

Post-Graduate: Monica Massari (Chair 2019), Nilay Cabuk Kaya (Chair 2018), Airi-Alina Allaste, Lígia Ferro, Eleni Nina-Pazarzi, Apostolos G. Papadopoulos

Publications: Lena Näre (Chair), Elena Danilova, Lígia Ferro, Monica Massari, Eleni Nina-Pazarzi, Marta Soler

Research Networks: Teresa Carvalho (Chair), Nilay Cabuk Kaya, Elena Danilova, Laura Horn

Director: Dagmar Danko

Administrator: Andreia Batista Dias



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Written by President Sue Scott

Introduction | This has been a hardworking and collegial Executive and I have enjoyed working with its members and with the staff in the Office, even with the inevitable challenges. In my view we have achieved a good deal since August 2017, although much of the hard work has happened behind the scenes and is, like housework, largely invisible. Hopefully unlike housework it won't all have to be repeated at regular intervals but will have made things easier for the next Executive and better for ESA members. Speaking of members, we currently have 2750 fully paid up members, which is around 100 more than two years ago. I would hope that we could reach 3000 by the time of the next conference.

The Conference | As most of you will know the 14th ESA Conference was to be held in Paris. This had been decided by the 2015-17 President and Executive, and an agreement made with Paris 1 – Panthéon Sorbonne. However, for complex reasons to do with the close proximity of dates to the French Sociological Association conference it became clear that this would not be feasible. This meant that in December 2018, I was in the unenviable position of needing to find a venue for a 3000-delegate conference with only 18 months until the event. Dagmar Danko and I explored the logistics – the availability of venues, especially those large enough for plenaries, and also of a LOC – in a number of European cities. In this process I discovered that a Manchester team had wished to bid for 2019 and, in the event of the venue already having been agreed, had decided to put forward a proposal for 2021. They were happy to bring this forward to 2019 and here we are! There were of course pros and cons of having a conference in the UK in the context of BREXIT – on the one hand would people be concerned about travel chaos and not come and on the other should we take the opportunity to hold what could be the last ESA conference in the UK, if in future Brexit makes it seem just too complicated to contemplate. I am very pleased that we took the risk and that so many sociologists (3025) decided that Manchester was the place to be in August 2019.

The conference theme 'Europe and Beyond | Boundaries, Barriers and Belonging' seemed particularly apposite in these troubled times, with the contested issue of migration and the rise of nationalisms. With this conference we have moved further in the direction set by the previous Executive towards the major part of the organisation being undertaken by the ESA office, coordinated by Dagmar Danko. The work of the LOC has still been invaluable, but we have not used a Professional Conference Organiser. This new method has proved very successful and the development enables the ESA to have a more professional staff team who can undertake other work as well as supporting the conference. We did raise the conference fees slightly, which seemed appropriate given that they had not been raised over the last three conferences (2013-2015-2017), but we didn't change them for (PhD) students. We also introduced the Solidarity Fund to support those who might otherwise not be able to attend. One major lesson in the process has been that our conference is now too large for many European Cities – as many Universities do not have sufficient rooms for all the parallel sessions and large Plenary Venues are in short supply and can be very expensive. Our growth does mean that the next Executive will need to consider the best way to decide on conference venues in the future.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Office | I was clear at the outset that a major aspect of my presidency would be to support the development of the staff and the ESA's administrative processes and practices. In the autumn of 2017, we advertised for a full-time administrator and in a very competitive process appointed Andreia Batista Dias, who had previously been employed on a temporary appointment. Andreia's title is 'Executive Administrator' and since her appointment she has availed herself of a number of training opportunities, including in accounts, English and graphic design. We have clarified Dagmar Danko's role and changed her title to 'Director' in line with equivalent positions in similar organisations in Europe. It is my view that the President now works in a 'team of two' with the Director and that this will ensure that the Executive is well informed and that there is continuity and good governance from one Executive to the next. I have made a number of visits to the Paris Office, as well as those necessitated by Executive meetings, in order to work with Dagmar and Andreia in the development of systems, to share ideas and offer support and leadership. They are highly skilled in the different areas necessary and work well together. In my view the ESA is now in a strong administrative position and members should increasingly experience the benefits of this. We have strengthened our relationship with FMSH – the ESA's host institution – and I have had a number of meetings with Michel Wieviorka, the President. One advantage has been the provision of an extra office during the period leading up to the conference during the period when we have a temporary administrative assistant and an intern in the office.

Finances | Most of the issues will be covered in the Treasurer's report, but just a few comments here. First to thank Laura Horn for stepping in and taking on the role of Treasurer so ably when Kathrin Komp was on sick leave and had to resign as treasurer – also many thanks to Kathrin for the work she undertook up to that point. We had a difficult start with regard to finances as our bookkeeper sadly died in October 2017 and it took some time to establish a regular replacement. We now have an excellent bookkeeper and in addition and importantly, Andreia Batista Dias has undertaken training and has done a great deal of work, alongside the Treasurer and the Bookkeeper, to complete the ESA accounts for 2017 and 2018 in a most satisfactory manner. This new process means that the new Executive will be able to demonstrate the financial health of the ESA and therefore will be in a strong position to apply for subventions to support the Association's activities, both within France and from the EU. I have every confidence that we will be successful in the future in this regard. The Association relies heavily on the conference income and the membership fees to ensure that its financial needs are covered for the two-year period between conferences. However, very large conferences are expensive to run, and we don't want to have to raise membership and conference fees more often than absolutely necessary, so we must diversify our income streams. We are unlikely to derive much income from our Publications, at least in the near future, in the context of Open Access, so other sources such as subventions and new activities need to be explored.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Publications and Open Access | During 2018 I noted that the ESA's contract with Taylor and Francis (for the publication of *European Societies* and the *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*) had an end date of December 2020 with the requirement to give one year's notice of any change. This meant that the 2017-19 Executive had to consider the ESA's publishing strategy within its period of office. This situation was followed, in September 2018, by the publication of PlanS from Science Europe which, coupled with the commitment already made, by the previous Executive, to publish an ESA Open Access journal, meant that actions were needed. The Executive agreed that in the changing context we wanted to undertake a tender process rather than simply renew our contract with Taylor and Francis. We established a Working Group to support both the tender process and Open Access developments, and appointed two consultants, on a freelance basis, one with expertise in drawing up tender documents and the other in contractual matters. The detail is in the Publications Committee report, but I am discussing it here as it has taken up a good deal of my time. We felt strongly that the ESA needed a publishing partner who shared our values and we are confident that we have found this in Bristol University Press, a not for profit academic publisher where there is no risk of takeover. We are currently in negotiations with Taylor and Francis about the transfer and expect that BUP will take over the publication of ES and EJCS from January 2021. Meanwhile we are working with them to develop this new Open Access Journal to be entitled 'Open Sociology' and with the intention to launch it on a new platform with low APCs for ESA members. We are exploring the possibility of working with National Associations and others, across Europe, to see how we can facilitate wider publication on the 'Open Sociology' platform. I am delighted with the way in which the new *European Sociologist* has developed during my Presidency and many thanks should go to Dagmar Danko for her very able editing, but I also have played a part in its development, from exploring themes to proof reading. I am sure that it will now go from strength to strength and provide an increasingly important platform for sociological discussion and information sharing across Europe.

Web and Social Media Developments | We have continued to develop the website and member database. Indeed, the conference website and *The European Sociologist* are entirely new additions to the ESA's online portfolio. In this context Dagmar has met regularly with our IT partner Sinnoptics and we have agreed the various developments and improvements, including for example the election tool. The website is working well, although as with all websites it is a work in progress. In addition the ESA now has a Twitter account which is in regular use.

Statutes and By Laws | This Executive has continued the work of its predecessors and added more clarification as well, but as this is a separate item I will say no more than that it has taken up a good deal of time, especially of Laura Horn's time in her role as Chair of the Policy Committee, so special thanks are due to her.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

External Activities | I have represented the ESA on the Board of the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH) and attended meetings and conferences on this context, including a specialist round table on Open Access with representation from Science Europe in February 2019. I have contributed to the development and content of a number of papers – putting forward, for example, the case for more flexibility in the research themes with regard to social science and for a more equal distribution of funding. EASSH, while still a relatively new organisation, has already had some success in this regard. I have developed some expertise in OA/PlanS matters, including in the context of being the OA lead for the UK Academy of Social Sciences, and given a number of presentations on this including at a Westminster Forum Meeting in London, in May 2019 where I was invited as ESA President. I spoke on a Plenary Panel at the joint RN26 and RN27 midterms held in collaboration with the Italian Sociological Association conference, in Catania in October 2018. This joint meeting was a success and is to be recommended as a model for other RN mid-terms. I was invited as ESA President to give the inaugural lecture at the Institute of Social Science in Lisbon in November 2018. I have given lectures at the ESA PhD Summer Schools in 2018 and 2019 and a talk at the National Associations Conference in 2018. Sadly, I have had to decline some invitations due to diary clashes.

Governance | There have been discussions in past ESA Executives about ways of mitigating the problems which can arise, in the governance of any organisation, where the President and often many Executive members change every two years, but finding a solution is especially difficult in the context of this two-year cycle. This Executive has agreed to establish an Advisory Board, made up of the previous President, Vice Presidents and Committee Chairs (unless any of them are continuing on the new Executive) to be in the background to offer advice and clarification to the new President and Executive, as necessary. We hope that if this development is successful that it will be permanently established. As mentioned under Publications, we established a Working Group to support the tendering and transition process for the ESA's current Journals and to develop expertise in relation to Open Access in the context of PlanS, including advising on a new OA Journal. This Working Group is made up of: The President (Myself); the Chair of Publications (Lena Näre); Vice Presidents - Marta Soler and Apostolos Papadopoulos; the ESA Director (Dagmar Danko) and an external OA expert and ESA member (Professor John Holmwood). It was our intention from the outset that this group would continue to exist (assuming that the new Executive agrees) until the transfer of the Journals is complete, the new OA Journal launched, and a sustainable OA strategy developed. It is expected that the new Chair of Publications will join the Working Group. To be clear: these moves are not about this Executive keeping control but ensuring that valuable experience is not lost, and that the next Executive has the capacity to develop new areas of benefit to our members. I would recommend to the next Executive that it consider a Governance Review to ensure that the Association continues to be financially and legally secure, operates with appropriate responsibility both as an employer and a membership services organisation. I feel that we have moved a long way towards meeting the goals of good governance and that now is the time for a forward-looking review to set the ESA on the strongest course for the next decade.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Conclusion | I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Executive and especially the Vice Presidents Marta Soler, Lena Näre and Apostolos Papadopoulos, and also, and especially, Dagmar Danko and Andreia Batista Dias, the ESA staff for all of their hard work and support during my presidency.

I wish the next President and the new Executive well in their endeavours to ensure that the ESA continues to support both sociology and sociologists across Europe.

Professor Sue Scott President 2017-2019
August 23, 2019



OFFICE REPORT

Written by ESA Director Dagmar Danko

Staff | In the 2017-2019 term, the ESA Office was completely repositioned. The previous Administrator, who had been with the ESA for over 10 years, left in November 2017. Andreia Batista Dias, then temporary ESA Secretary, was appointed Executive Administrator in April 2018. Along with then-Coordinator, now Director Dagmar Danko, this effectively raised the ESA office work force to two full-time staff members. In the context of the organisation of the 14th ESA conference, Giovanni Verduci was hired as part-time Assistant for the period March-September 2019. Overall during the 2017-2019 term, the ESA had three conference interns, for short periods of time.

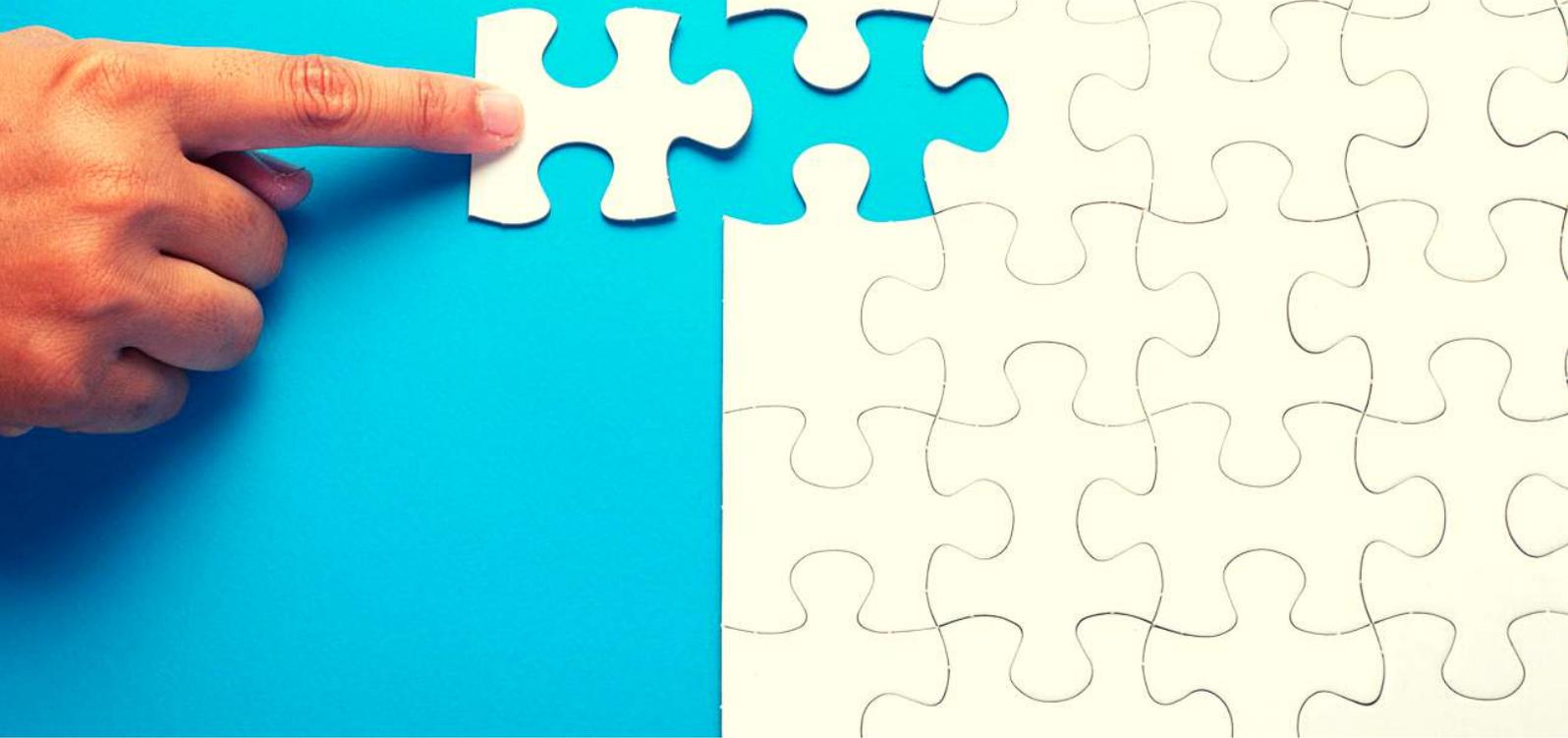
Conference | The ESA office has taken over more tasks: Whereas for the Athens conference, for the first time the Participant Management (registrations and payments) was transferred to the ESA office, for the Manchester conference it was the conference website, the Outline Programme book, and the budget preparation and controlling. The latter entailed a (new) participation in negotiating and finalising all contracts (venues, logistics, etc.). The Manchester conference is the first ESA conference where no Private Conference Organiser (PCO) was involved.

Communication | The new ESA website and members' area, launched in August 2017, were further improved and upgraded with new functions for RN coordinators by the end of 2017. In September 2018, the ESA 2019 conference website, created by the ESA Office and Sinnoptics, was launched as part of the main ESA website. This means that for the first time, anyone interested in the ESA or the conference visits the same site (no external conference website). The new conference website works a template for all future conferences. The web hosting of the ESA website, database and all e-mail accounts has definitely been transferred to a European service provider (before 2017 in the U.S.). An additional mail security service was implemented after cases of (averted) CEO fraud in 2018.

In April 2018, ESA's *The European Sociologist* – published since 1994 first in print and later as PDF – was re-launched in April 2018 on <https://www.europeansociologist.org/>, also created by the ESA Office and Sinnoptics. As editor Dagmar Danko has re-established a pattern of 2 issues per year – the main topics were 'Metrics' (issue 41, April 2018), '1968 – 50 Years on' (November 2018), 'Sociology Beyond Europe' (issue 43, July 2019). All ESA members are welcome to contribute and benefit from the possibility of commenting all articles once they are logged in with their ESA website login data.

In November 2017, the ESA office started the @esa_sociology Twitter account. Since then and until mid-August 2019, about 700 Tweets were released and 2500+ Followers gained. While the limit of how much time and work the ESA office can invest in ESA's only social media presence has been reached, the Twitter account has now successfully turned into an important medium of communication for the association.

Mid-terms and Meetings | In 2017-2019, the ESA office has assisted all 36 out of 37 Research Networks organising RN midterm conferences. The ESA office has hosted the PhD Summer School 2018 in Paris (27-29 June), the National Associations meeting (24 October 2018) and the Executive Committee meetings in October 2017 and September 2018, also preparing the ExeC meetings in Manchester in May 2018 and March 2019 as well as all Meetings and Assemblies happening during the ESA 2019 conference.



OFFICE REPORT

Publications | Since autumn 2018, the ESA office has been overseeing the administration of the tender process for the publication of the ESA journals. Dagmar Danko was a panel member for the interviews held in March 2019 in Manchester.

ESA Elections | For the first time, this year's ESA Elections (for the President and Executive Committee 2019-2021) are not run on an external, third-party platform, but take place on the ESA website, in the ESA members' area, through a new, custom-made election tool, created once again by the ESA office and Sinnoptics. As with the conference website, it will be possible to use it for all future elections.

Finances and Budgets | In 2017-2018, the ESA was forced to change its bookkeeping & accountancy firm three times. By the time of the ESA 2019 conference, eventually it was possible to re-establish a functioning working rhythm and to put the bookkeeping in order. The division of labour has changed, with the ESA office having taken over all of the ESA's accounts management once Andreia Batista Dias undertook a number of training courses. One of the main projects for the 2019-2021 term is to start establishing budget plans together with the Treasurer which will enable the association to apply for subventions.



CONFERENCE REPORT

Written by Sue Scott (Co-Chair), Marta Soler-Gallart (Co-Chair), Dagmar Danko

4 venues (Business School and Geoffrey Manton at Manchester Metropolitan University, University Place at the University of Manchester, The Bridgewater Hall; 75 rooms/lecture theatres)

Sessions and Tracks

- 3 | Plenaries on 3 evenings with 6 Plenary Speakers (3 male/female)
- 14 | Semi-Plenaries on 3 mornings with 33 Semi-Plenary Speakers (13 male, 20 female; 10 SPs organised by RNs after selection process among 22 proposals)
- 11 | Midday specials on 2 days (mostly organised by the ESA Executive Committee)
- 2537 | Presentations, all tracks
- 710 | Sessions, all tracks, chaired by 483 session chairs
- 2476 | Regular RN/RS/JS presentations
- 635 | Regular RN/RS/JS sessions
- 37 | Research Networks
- 16 | Research Streams (after selection process among 33 proposals – new record)
- 24 | Joint Sessions (out of 33 proposed in the Call for Papers)

Participants

- 4617 | user accounts in ConfTool 2019
- 3714 | submitting authors (1 abstract per user), peer-reviewed by 435 reviewers | 3352 accepted papers (rejection rate: 10%)
- 3135 | registered conference participants | 104 cancellations = 3031 attending delegates
- 3rd biggest ESA Conference** in history after Prague 2015 and Athens 2017 | Prague: 3459 registrations, 115 cancellations; Athens: 3581, 116 cancellations
- Early Bird:** 80% | Standard: 20% | Early Bird Prague 2015: 74% | Early Bird Athens 2017: 78%
- ESA Members:** 75% | Non-ESA Members: 25% | ESA Members Prague 2015: 48% | ESA Members Athens 2017: 66.4%
- Regular Participants:** 70% | (PhD) Students: 30% | Students Prague 2015: 31% | Students Athens 2017: 29%
- Band 1 countries:** 92% | Band 2 countries: 8% | Band 2 countries Prague 2015: 11% | Band 2 countries Athens 2017: 15.6% | note that the list of Band 2 countries changes every year
- In total **62 different countries** represented in Manchester | Number of countries Prague 2015: 72 | number of countries Athens 2017: 77
- Top 10 countries:** United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, France, Belgium/Netherlands/Portugal/Denmark | (hosting country as always on top; as was to be expected, more Nordic countries in the Top 10 compared to Prague 2015 and Athens 2017)
- Other countries**, in order of participants numbers: Norway, Russia, Turkey, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Israel, Romania, USA, Greece, Lithuania, Ireland, Slovenia, Japan, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Australia, Slovakia, Taiwan, Serbia, Brazil, Latvia, India, Luxemburg, China, Hong Kong, Iceland, Cyprus, Chile, South Korea, Mexico, Philippines, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iraq, Malta, Nepal, Ukraine, South Africa, Singapore, Qatar, Pakistan, Nigeria, New Zealand, Iran, Lebanon, Montenegro, Faroe Islands.



CONFERENCE REPORT

57 | Solidarity Fund participants, after selection process among 92 applicants – newly established |
out of 57: 45 (PhD) students, 12 post-docs/lecturers/professors
out of 57: 47 from Band 1 countries, 10 from Band 2 countries

25 | PhD Summer School participants after selection process among 109 applicants – new record |
13 countries represented: 5 Germany, 4 Italy, 3 UK, 2 France, 2 Poland, 2 Romania, 1 Belgium, 1 Ireland, 1 Portugal, 1
Slovenia, 1 Spain, 1 Switzerland, 1 Turkey

Dates

- 15/11/2018** | Publication of the Call for Papers
- 12/12/2018** | Abstract submission opened in ConfTool
- 01/02 and 15/02/2019** | First/second abstract submission deadline
- 15/03/2019** | Reviews deadline
- 04/04/2019** | Notifications about abstracts sent
- 12/04/2019** | Participant registration opened
- 12/05/2019** | End early bird ticket
- 27/05/2019** | End registration for paper presenters
- 12/08/2019** | End registration
- 20/08/2019** | Opening of the 14th ESA Conference in Manchester, UK

Website & Twitter | For the first time, the conference website is not an external site managed by the Local Organising Committee, but integrated into the general ESA website and created & administered by the ESA office. It is also the ESA Twitter account (@esa_sociology) which was/is used for sharing news around the #esa2019 #conference.



COMMUNICATION REPORT

Written by Milica Antic Gaber (Chair) and Dagmar Danko (ESA Director)

Websites | The new ESA website was launched in August 2017 shortly before the Athens conference. At the end of 2017, all extra functions for RN coordinators became active (access to their own RN sections, sending mails to their RN members...). The new feature 'Opportunities' where ESA members can directly post about job vacancies, call for papers, new books etc. is in good use. In the past 2 years, many functions could be added. The ESA website is constantly updated and improved.

The ESA 2019 website was launched in September 2018. For the first time, the conference website is not an external website but has been created as part of the overall ESA website. From now on, it serves as a template for all future conferences. This allows the use of only one URL (www.europeansociology.org) for all communication about activities related to the ESA, and also enables the development of an overall and recognisable design. All websites have been created by the ESA office and the web/IT company SinnOptics and are updated and administered by the ESA office.

Mails to Members | Since the new website and database are in active use, about 25 messages were sent to all ESA members, covering the most important news and deadlines (always accompanied by messages on Twitter, see below). The average is 1 mail to all ESA members per month.

The European Sociologist | The new TES website was launched in April 2018, together with issue 41 on 'Metrics'. Issue 42 was published in November 2018 on '1968 - 50 Years On'. Issue 43 was published in July 2019 on 'Sociology Beyond Europe'. Issue 44 will be published in November 2019 and will mark TES's 25th Anniversary. As of now, the Author Index covers all 43 issues since 1994. ESA members can log in to the website with their ESA members area identifiers and leave comments to all articles. PhD student ESA members can publish about their research in the category Thesis Spotlights. Regular ESA members can publish about their successes (new positions, fellowships, EU grants etc.) in the category Spotlights on ESA Members.

Social Media | End-November 2017, ESA's Twitter account @esa_sociology was launched with a first Tweet on 29/11/2017. Since then, until 14/08/2019, 694 Tweets were sent by the ESA office and 2528 Followers gained. Tweets covered the following topics and news: RN midterm conferences; CFPs and announcements; ESA journals: new issues; The European Sociologist: new issues with specific articles; Tweets from Executive Committee Meetings; Conference tweets under #esa2019. Since autumn 2018, the ESA office also creates custom-made Twitter banners, especially for the #esa2019 Tweets. All figures (followers, impressions, profile visits etc.) keep going up.

Flyers | For the first time, there were flyers for the ESA 2019 conference, designed in and dispatched by the ESA office. Around 15000 were distributed since 08/2018, especially at the 36 RN midterm conferences (but on request only) as well as at the meetings of the Executive Committee and National Associations Council Meeting. The feedback on them was very good.



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

Written by Apostolos G. Papadopoulos (Chair 2018-2019), Marta Soler (Chair 2017-2018)

ESA is member of two wider associations | EASSH (European Alliance for the Social Sciences and Humanities) and ISA (International Sociological Association). Main activities 2017-2019: attendance to the EASSH 2018 General Assembly in Brussels and participation in numerous Governing Board meetings in physical presence or via skype; contribution to the position papers launched by EASSH for the configuration of FP9; meetings with ISA presidents Margaret Abraham (former) and Sari Hanafi (current), to discuss possible collaborations; changing ESA's representative at EASSH Governing Board - current ESA president Sue Scott is officially EASSH Board member since 12/2017; resignation from ISE board and membership on 05/2018 (limited presence of SSH in the association); attendance to the DG for Research and Innovation event on EU projects involving Social Science and Humanities.

EASSH | During the presidency of the former ESA President (2015-2017), ESA is represented as elected member of the Governing Board of EASSH, which is a position for three years. Sue Scott, who is the current ESA President is the person representing ESA at the EASSH board. Marta Soler is also Governing Board member but as an advisor (she had been previously appointed in 11/2016 by the EASSH president). Therefore, ESA has until this day two members in the EASSH board. Between 10/2017 and 06/2019, there have been eight EASSH Governing Board meetings to discuss strategy, position papers, as well as finances, sustainability and growth of EASSH, which the members of ESA attended. EASSH has been very active in making the social sciences and the humanities visible at the European Commission, especially in the development of the new Framework Programme of Research Horizon Europe. EASSH has also been active in making a position for the SSH in relation to Plan S. President Sue Scott was active in organizing a workshop in Brussels about open access policies for books. Lately EASSH has positioned with LERU and other European organizations in face of possible elimination of current European Partnerships. EASSH participated actively at the Austrian Presidency of the EU Council Conference "Pathways to Impact from SSH Research" where ESA representatives also took part. 2019 was the last year of ESA's period at EASSH Governing Board, together with two other members, CARMEN (Worldwide Medieval Network) and the Irish Humanities Alliance. Three new members have been elected who will start at the Governing Board in the Fall 2019. EASSH is growing every year in membership and in having a stronger and united voice for the social sciences and the humanities in Europe. ESA can channel proposals and input from sociology to broader European institutions. The membership has been renewed (600 Euros per year) for the last two years.

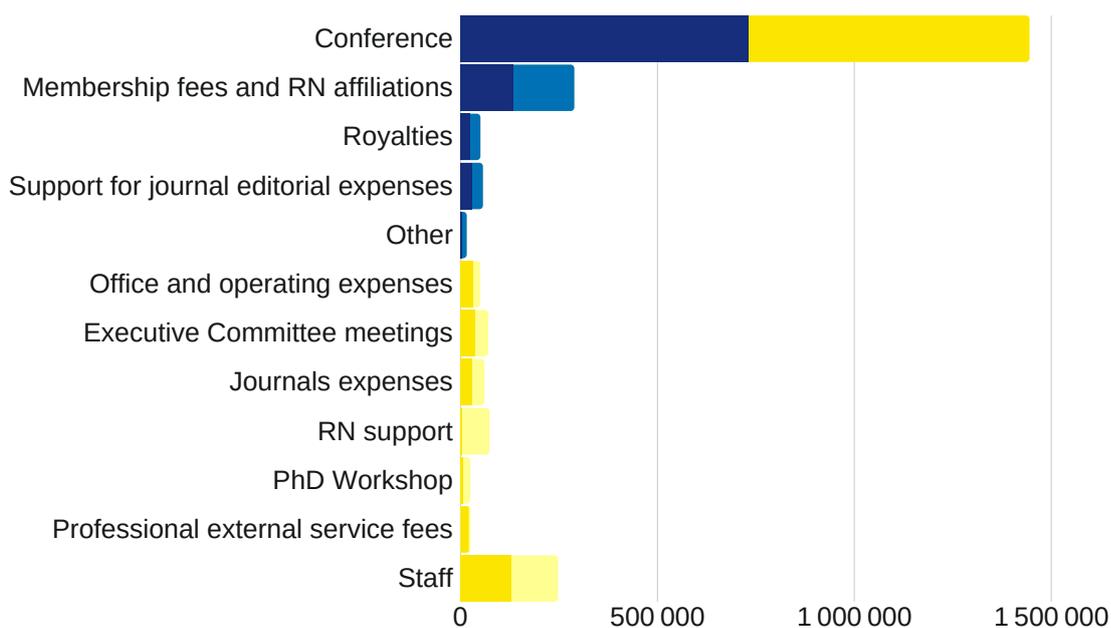
ISA (International Sociological Association) | ESA is affiliated collective member of ISA. Since the previous conferences and more particularly the ESA Conference in Athens there have been meetings with the previous (Margaret Abraham) and current (Sari Hanafi) presidents of ISA. ESA is not represented at the Council of National Associations, but in the future it might be. Marta Soler had a meeting with new ISA president, Sari Hanafi, in July 2018 in Toronto. We discussed possible collaborations like participation in sessions in ISA and ESA conferences, dissemination of ESA activity in ISA bulletin... any other formula would be welcome, there is openness to collaboration. Finally, a member of the ESA Executive Committee attended (28th February 2019) the launching of the "Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities in H2020: Participants, Budget and Disciplines - 4th Monitoring Report on Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) flagged projects funded in 2017" under the Societal Challenges and Industrial Leadership priorities in an event that was organized by DG for Research and Innovation. This event has been particularly informative and offers a guide for future actions of ESA.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Finances Committee: Laura Horn (Treasurer), Sue Scott

This report covers the period of the calendar year January 2017 to December 2018. As the conference budget can only be closed after all incoming and outgoing posts have been accounted for, a final budget for 2019 will be available only in December 2019. ESA employs an accountant for bookkeeping, and staff in the ESA office have received additional training on financial reporting. There are meetings between the ESA Treasurer and the office at least once a year. The ESA financial accounts are now up to date until 1 July 2019. The report below does not fully coincide with the financial report for the year 2017, as the conference balance has been factored in to show the difference the conference makes for the ESA budget that year. It should be noted that the overall difference between incoming and outgoing flows for the Athens conference has not been as high as with previous conferences.



Total Outgoing 2017 = 986,018 Balance 2017 = -68,887

Total Outgoing 2018 = 296,572 Balance 2018 = -88,748





POST-GRADUATE REPORT

Written by Monica Massari (Chair 2018-2019) and Nilay Çabuk Kaya (Chair 2017-2018)

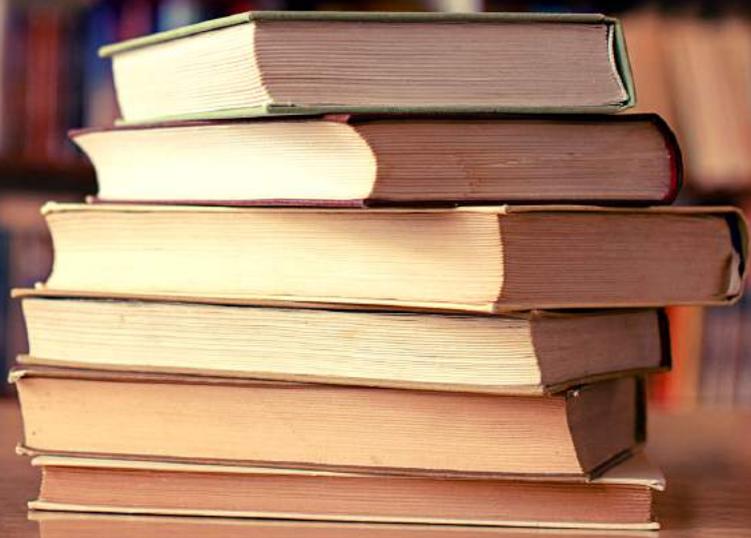
In 2017-2019 the Post-Graduate Committee organized two Summer Schools: the first was held in Paris on 28-29 June 2018 (Director: Nilay Cabuk Kaya) and the second was held in Manchester on 18-19 August 2019 (Director: Monica Massari).

The focus of the 2018 PhD Summer School's call was "Reinventing sociology in uncertain times: sociological research and writing in the 21st century", for which 75 PhD students applied. Via a review process conducted by the ESA Executive PhD committee, 25 of the applications were selected.

The content of this Summer School was mainly organised around the preparation of papers for publication. The main purpose of the Paris Summer School was to work with draft papers discussed by peer-discussants, so that it was mostly group work for two days. This was complemented by two lectures and a media session. A lecture on "Publishing and Career Planning" was given by ESA President Sue Scott and the lecture "In Simple Words About Your Complicated Research" by Katrin Tiidenberg who also conducted a media session on "Public facing scholarship and media literacy" which was aimed at improving the skills of these career young scholars to engage in public discussions and communication via media platforms.

The focus of the 2019 PhD Summer School's call was the same as of the ESA 14th Conference, i.e. "Europe and Beyond: Boundaries, Barriers and Belongings", for which a record number of 109 PhD students applied (+ 45% in comparison with 2018). At the end of the selection process made by the ESA Executive PhD committee, 25 students were admitted to the Summer School. The Manchester Summer School also focused on the preparation of papers for publication, adopting the same method successfully launched during the past edition of the School: draft papers presented by PhD students and discussed by peer-discussants, further comments received from the professors chairing the various sessions and acting as discussant in each panel and general discussion at the end. The School was complemented by lectures given by ESA Executive Committee member Lena Näre on "Getting Published in Sociology: Author's Perspective", ESA President Sue Scott on "Becoming and Being a Sociologist: the Challenges in an Academic Career" and by the Editors of the European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology and European Societies – Ricca Edmondson and Michalis Lianos – on "How to Publish a (Good) Sociological Article: Targeting Quality and Luck".

The possibility to be involved in an extremely participatory and stimulating experience allowed PhD students involved to benefit from insightful comments and constructive suggestions aimed at improving their theoretical framework and ongoing field research. In addition, both Summer Schools held in 2017-2019 also contributed to socialisation, networking and membership of the participants.



PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Written by Lena Näre (Chair)

In 2017-2019 the Publications Committee, with the help of the ESA Director, worked on putting our publishing contract with Taylor & Francis (T&F), (which ends in December 2020) through a tender process. The ESA commissioned two consultants, Anji Clarke and Jayne Whiffin, who are specialists in publishing contracts, copyright and licensing matters to help ESA to prepare the documents for the Request for Proposals as well as assisting in the tender process. The request for proposals to publish our journals *European Societies* and *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* was prepared and sent out in autumn 2018. The tender was selective, on the advice of the consultants, with the request being sent only to a relatively small number of appropriate publishers, rather than a time-consuming and complicated open tender. Six well known and established publishers, from the UK and elsewhere in Europe, were selected. The ESA received proposals from Taylor & Francis (T&F), Cambridge University Press and Bristol University Press (BUP). Representatives of the publishers were interviewed in March, 2019. After reviewing the proposals and the interview, Publications Committee and the ESA Executive Committee decided to accept the proposal by Bristol University Press as the best offer for our journals and we are currently moving towards ending our relationship with T&F and contracting with BUP.

In spring 2019 a call for new editors for *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* was sent out. We received 30 applications for the editorial positions for EJCPS and with the help from the current Editors-in-chief, seven people were shortlisted for the position of editor. After interviewing the seven candidates, we appointed Paul Blokker (Università di Bologna, Italy), Veikko Eranti (University of Tampere, Finland) and Ulrike M. Vieten (Queen's University Belfast, Ireland). In response to PlanS the Publications Committee is planning a new ESA Open Access journal (OA) to be published by Bristol University Press. The journal will be a general sociology journal published fully open access with discounted APCs for ESA members. We expect this journal to be established on a new OA platform and to provide a very flexible publishing environment for European Sociology in the future. We anticipate a launch in early 2021.

ESA Executive and the Publications Committee decided to appoint a Working Group to provide continuity and advice with regard to publications and Open Access to the new Executive Committee with on-going publication matters such as the tender process and the establishment of the new journal.

Regarding the ESA book series, 23 books have been published so far, the latest in 2017 entitled *Wage Distribution Fairness in Post-Socialist Countries. Situation and Socialization* by Zsófia, Ignác. The Publishing Committee decided to put book publishing on hold for now as no new titles are in the pipeline and in the context of our move from T&F.

The ESA Director has been able to negotiate discounts for ESA members, for example a full 25% discount on all of Berghahn's Sociology titles for a year.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS REPORT

Written by Sokratis Koniordos (Chair)

The ESA's National Associations (NAs) Council is an attempt to bring together NAs from across Europe to discuss issues of common concern and possibly act together too. Upon election to the office of the Chair of NAs Council in Athens, in late August 2017, I have been concerned with identifying sociological associations, both members of ESA and not. Further, to trace the responsible person(s) in each NA. These, dependent on an association's own cycle, often change and their contacts details may be unavailable. This search has had a positive outcome, with older contacts re-established, new established and dormant ones reinvigorated, so that today there are more NAs members of the ESA than before. This, however, remains an ongoing issue and the next Chair should keep this in mind. Thus, it is perhaps of interest to note that three new NAs joined the ESA as institutional members. Their membership was approved by the Council and these are the NAs for Israel, Macedonia, and Malta. On the downside, it has not been possible to establish contact with some NA, although there are signs of progress on this front. In 2015 a report on the situation of sociology in European countries was publicized in European Societies. As conditions so often change, and for comparative purposes too, a refresher is due.

With this in mind an attempt has been made since spring 2019 to collect data and other information on the situation of sociology/sociologists in Europe. To this effect a questionnaire has been sent to NAs in spring 2019. The response has been good, although additional participation is necessary to be able to arrive at a fuller picture. It is hoped that those NA that have not sent in their contribution would do so in the near future. The Council NA convened in late October 2018 in Paris. Representatives from 19 out of 24 member NAs participated in the meeting. Each NA representative provided an outline of her/his organisation and some information on the situation of sociology in their country. They also participated in the discussion with the two keynote speakers, namely Michel Wieviorka, President of the Board, Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (FMSH) and Michalis Lianos, editor of European Societies. Also, the prospects of open access journals and possible repercussions (Plan S) were discussed in Paris and this discussion will continue in the forthcoming Manchester meeting of the Council. In fact, the said meeting is also part of the activities of this office, and is to take place in late August 2019. Now, the overall picture as far as the position of sociology in European research programs appears to be deteriorating, with sociology now more excluded than before! A petition has been started by the ESA to sensitize people about it and to press the relevant EU apparatuses. Realistically this is an issue of ongoing concern and it is necessary, I think that the NAs Council continues to discuss it and plan action. Another point of unease, one that I very much hope we address head on as NAs have more leeway, is the observed mismatch between the education sociology students obtain from institutions of higher learning in Europe and the gap in terms of the skills they possess when faced with the situation in the labor market – the so-called education and skills mismatch. A first round of discussion is to take place in the context of the forthcoming Manchester NAs Council meeting. Lastly, I would like to close this brief report by acknowledging with thanks the help received from Dagmar Danko and Andreia Batistas Dias.



NOMINATIONS REPORT

Written by Elena Danilova (Chair)

The Nominations Committee was constituted during the Executive Committee Meeting on 27-28 September 2018 in Paris. All members of this committee were volunteers and not standing for the next term. During this period the Nomination Committee of ESA has had wide consultations and asked for proposals for candidates from ESA Members, from ESA Research Networks and from the National Sociological Associations in Europe. The call for nominations was open at the ESA Website on January 17, 2019, and all the information was sent to the ESA current members and also via the lists of Research Networks and National Associations. During the period of nominations (1st deadline on March 18th, 2019) a first list of proposals was collected. The Chair Elena Danilova has received 1 nomination for Presidency and 18 nominations for the Executive Committee members. The election was opened electronically on August 8, 2019 and running until August 22, 2019. All ESA Members in good standing during this period are allowed to vote for the next ESA President and Executive Committee.



RESEARCH NETWORKS REPORT

Written by Teresa Carvalho (Chair)

ESA has 37 research networks that have been really active and committed to the association. In this term, 36 RNs have been involved in the organisation of scientific events. Almost all have organised mid-term conferences and some of them also PhD workshops. These activities constitute an important contribution to increase knowledge in each specific field, to increase RNs visibility and their number of members, but most of all to the overall growth and development of ESA, qualitatively as well as quantitatively. In this term (2017-2019) RNs could apply for a maximum amount of 2000€ for their events. For the first time, new procedures were used with all RNs using the same ESA template for applications. The ESA RN Committee has analysed all the applications along with the Call for Papers on the events and the detailed budgets. The RN Committee has been reviewing the mid-term funding applications according to criteria set out in the by-laws and RN guidelines. As it was the first time these procedures were used, in almost all cases, the Committee had to ask for clarifications and in some few for revisions. All RNs have also asked for the funding from their membership fees, corresponding to 10€ per member. A formal agreement on midterm conference funding and terms of payment has been signed between ESA and each RNs. A great number of RNs have sent the final report of the organised event, including the details on the final budget. However, the sub-committee is still awaiting for 16 reports. The RNs' reports sent have now been analysed and approved and further details will be available for those who have funding amounts that have not been used for justifiable expenses arising from the organised activities.

Overall, the relationship between the RNs and ESA has become more institutionalised with RNs being asked to keep all the documentation pertaining to the organization of the midterm conference for 10 years (according to French Law). With this more institutionalised relationship it is easier now to keep track of the RNs' activities and also of the funding they have received from ESA. RNs have been consulted for changes in the statutes and the ESA by-laws, which will be discussed and approved by the General Assembly. It is still difficult to find more than one candidate for the RN Council Chair position. In the term that is ending (2017-2019) there was only one candidate.

For the next one (2019-2021) there are two candidates. It is highly relevant that all coordinators and vice-coordinators consider being candidates in the future. The RN Committee had an amazing administrative support from Dagmar Danko, the Director/General Secretary and from Andreia Batista Dias, the Executive Administrator, which is very much appreciated! On behalf of the RN Committee, many thanks to the RN coordinators and board members for their hard work!