

WORLD COUNCIL OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS ETHICS TASKFORCE

Report to the WCAA Organising Committee – Meeting 7th November, 2018.

By Rosita Henry (Taskforce Chair)

Taskforce Members:

Chair: Rosita Henry, Australia (since May 2016)

Eufracio Abaya, Philippines

Elisenda Ardevol, Spain (Catalania)

Shao-hua Liu, Taiwan

Nayanika Mookherjee, UK

Soumendra Patnaik, India

Raminder Kaur, UK

Fiona Ross, South Africa

Clara Saraiva, Portugal

Miriam Grossi, Brazil

Report on Activities

(Undertaken since our last report delivered at the *2018 Biennial Meeting of the World Council of Anthropological Associations* on 13 July 2018 in Florianopolis, Brazil)

As noted in our last report, by the end of our term in 2020, the Ethics Taskforce hopes to produce a tangible output by putting a publication together on issues faced by our member associations in the development and/or review of their ethics codes or guidelines (and/or on any issues association members have faced regarding ethics of research, teaching, or professional practice in their own national or international contexts).

With this in mind, the Taskforce submitted a call for papers through the Quarterly newsletter of WCAA (dated 7/10/2018) as follows:

CALL for Paper Proposals (deadline 31 October 2018).

The WCAA Ethics Taskforce is putting together an edited volume of short papers documenting experiences and/or issues associated with the development and implementation of ethics codes and guidelines of the member associations of WCAA. Papers may be written in any language, with abstracts to be provided in English.

Anthropology in the World: The Ethics of Practice

This volume concerns issues related to the development or review of ethics codes and/or guidelines by the member associations of WCAA. The Taskforce invites short papers (max 3000 words) from members of anthropological associations on the history of the development of their associations' ethics codes and guidelines, challenges that members have faced in relation to these codes and guidelines, points of contention or debate, dilemmas that have arisen and resolutions made.

Please submit your proposals (title and 300 word abstract) via email to the Chair of the Ethics Taskforce: Rosita.Henry@jcu.edu.au

Unfortunately, I have received no response to this call out. However, we are not giving up. Clearly we need to pursue other avenues:

One of our members suggested that we put a call in *Anthropology Matters*.

Another suggestion is that we write directly to each of the member association presidents to request that the call be included in their association Newsletters or be referred to the people on their organising committees who are responsible for ethics matters.

- **The taskforce, therefore, requests of the WCAA organising committee a list of email contacts for its member associations.**

In the meantime, taskforce members are planning to directly approach anthropologists in their regions who we know are interested in ethics matters and who may be willing to contribute to what we think will be a valuable collection.

Regarding publication of the collection – it will depend on the abstracts received and whether we can find publisher willing to accept our proposal.

- **We seek advice from the WCAA Organising Committee about the possibility of uploading the collection as an open access document on the WCAA website so that it is readily available for our members to consult. Could it perhaps be considered for a Special Issue of *déjà lu*?**

The Taskforce has received a request from the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS) that URL links to the ethics guidelines of the WCAA members associations be made available on the WCAA website. We are currently in the process of getting a list of available URLs together for submission to the WCAA webpage manager. Not all associations have public links to their codes or guidelines, so in some cases it may be necessary to upload a scan of the current guidelines (with the association's consent, of course).

- **We seek approval from the WCAA OC to have the ethics guidelines of member associations linked to the WCAA website. If such approval is given, who should we contact regarding logistical matters? Who is the current WCAA webpage manager?**

The Taskforce was also approached by the President of the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS) for advice regarding the response of Anthropological Associations to ethical matters raised by the MeToo movement. The AAS executive received a request from #MeTooAnthro in Melbourne, Australia to revise its ethics guidelines. Thus the AAS wanted to know whether the WCAA Ethics Taskforce has any data on the integration of 'MeToo' initiatives into ethics guidelines of other associations throughout the world.

As the taskforce has no information on this, taskforce members are each checking their own association's guidelines to see if they have provisions that cover sexual misconduct, harassment or assault. Having WCAA member association guidelines linked to the WCAA website, or otherwise available on the site, would make it much easier to respond to future such queries.

I thank in advance the WCAA Organising Committee for considering the matters raised in this report and for providing advice on the items highlighted (in bold).

Rosita Henry

Digitally signed by Rosita Henry
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Rosita Henry