



## ANSA 2018 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Over this past year, the ANSA Executive has worked hard to increase our relevancy to our membership base by increasing our social media presence, revamping the newsletter, and reinstating and expanding the ANSA photography competition. To support these areas of focus, we have been working with an alternative arrangement of roles that acknowledges the importance of community engagement to our core mission.

In this report, I provide an overview of each key area of activity that the ANSA Executive has worked on since being elected in December 2017.

### 1. Membership

At the time of writing this report, membership numbers are as follows:

	November 2017	November 2018	Change
<b>ANSA Members</b>	340	425	+85
<b>Facebook 'Likes'</b>	854	948	+94
<b>Twitter Followers</b>	231	295	+64
<b>Newsletter</b>	323	633	+310

As detailed in the table above, we have seen a significant increase in both membership and social media engagement in response to the Executive's focus on increasing ANSA's social media presence. As noted in last year's report, ANSA continues to receive membership applications from undergraduate students who are seeking collegial support in their anthropological studies. We reiterate the previous Executive's wishes that there may be some contingency for updating the ANSA constitution and regulations to be more inclusive of undergraduate membership.

### 2. ANSA Membership Survey

One of the first activities that ANSA undertook in 2018 was a membership survey to assess what our members found most valuable among ANSA's activities, and what ANSA could do to improve the student or early career researcher experience.

The survey had limited participation, but for those who responded we found:

- Most people engage with us via Facebook, and would like to continue to do so.
- Email newsletters were the second most valued communication platform.
- Respondents most wished to receive information about opportunities such as jobs and scholarships, conferences and panels, upcoming events, and awards and prizes.
- Our members also wanted to see ANSA continuing to undertake our core activities – including pre-conference workshops, social events, and conference panels.

We used these responses to plan our programme of work for the year, with a special focus upon delivering valuable content through our social media and newsletter platforms.

### 3. Newsletter

Early in 2018, we moved to MailChimp to handle the monthly ANSA newsletter. In the process, we updated the format of the ANSA newsletter from a traditional PDF email attachment to a HTML-enhanced email supported by MailChimp's social media tracking capabilities. The advantage of this format is that it allows us to seamlessly integrate photos and text, and tracks both 'clicks' and 'opens' with which we can assess the level of engagement.

We have also been leveraging our university representatives to incorporate a greater number of events, jobs, and scholarships, which has been well-received by our subscribers. As at November 2018, we have 633 subscribers to the new format email newsletter – an increase of 310 – with a number of full-time academic staff finding our newsletter valuable. We sent out 12 editions this year, including both the monthly updates and special event newsletters.

### 4. Social Media Engagement

In parallel with the updates to the newsletter, the ANSA Executive has been focusing upon increasing our presence on the social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter. Social media is an important platform for ANSA to generate a collegial atmosphere for anthropology students through regular updates that encourage cross-institutional networking.

Between January and November 2018, we published 172 individual Facebook posts – or more than one every two days. We established cross-promotions with the journal *Oceania* and anthropology podcast *The Familiar Strange*, as well as supported great anthropology student initiatives such as EthnoForum, and *Navigating the Field*, a series of online modules to help students prepare for fieldwork.

### 5. Anthropology Day

To support the first annual Anthropology Day on 13 September 2018, ANSA sent out a special issue of the newsletter that collated Anthropology Day events and announced the winners of the ANSA Visual and Creative Ethnography competition and the ANSA Travel Grants (see below).

### 6. ANSA Visual and Creative Ethnography Competition

This year, the ANSA Executive reinstated the annual photographic competition and expanded it to include both moving and still visual formats, fitting with the visual emphasis in this year's AAS Conference. Entrants were asked to reflect on the potentiality of creative and visual practice in the production of anthropological knowledge. We received 16 entries across four categories:

- Film and multimedia: <5 mins
- Film and multimedia: <30 mins
- Film: full-feature length
- Photography, photo-essays, and visual art

Two winners were awarded in two categories: Alex Pavlotski for his piece 'Visualising Parkour: London' in photography and visual art, and Sarah Pini for her film 'ABISSO' in films under five minutes. Two categories went unawarded. As the first year that has incorporated moving imagery, there were some significant learnings that can feed into next year's competition regarding the diversity of entries we received.

The ANSA Executive would like to extend their thanks to the expert judges who graciously volunteered their time and expertise: Melinda Hinkson, Jennifer Deger, and Lisa Stefanoff (Film

and multimedia: <30 mins). We would also like to thank the AAS Executive for their funding of the prizes for the competition.

Competition entries will be screened throughout the 2018 AAS Conference, as well as displayed in the visual anthropology section of the AAS website.

## **7. AAS/ANSA Travel Grants 2018**

Each year, the AAS funds ANSA to distribute travel grants to assist postgraduate students to attend the annual conference to present their research. ANSA distributes the grants, which are approved by the AAS Executive.

The ANSA Executive would like to thank the AAS for increasing the level of support available this year in recognition of the increased costs involved in travelling to Cairns. Unfortunately, it is important to note that, despite the increased funding, some students withdrew their participation from the conference after they were awarded a travel grant due to financial reasons.

In 2018, ANSA received a total of 23 applications for travel grants across the three categories. The following students were successful in their applications:

### **Robyn Wood Award**

- Sascha Fuller, University of Sydney

### **Remote Area Award**

- Aqua Hastings, University of Newcastle

### **Postgraduate Award**

- Jennifer Smith, University of Southern Queensland
- Meherose Borthwick, University of Sydney
- Paul Chambers, University of Adelaide
- Katherine Giunta, University of Sydney
- Hanna Jagtenberg, University of Adelaide
- Stefanie Puszka, Charles Darwin University
- Simon Theobald, Australian National University
- Viktoria Adler, Swinburne University of Technology

The ANSA Executive would like to reiterate the importance of the AAS/ANSA Travel Grants for students who hope to attend the annual AAS Conference. Many of the winners had no other sources of funding available, and expressed their inability to attend using their own financial means. Without this critical support, many postgraduates would not be able to present their work in this important professional forum. We thank the AAS Executive for their continuing support.

## **8. ANSA Pre-Conference Workshops at AAS 2018**

Most years, ANSA organises pre-conference workshops in areas of particular interest for postgraduate students and early career researchers. This year, we have sessions covering visual anthropology, ethnographic writing, and post-PhD trajectories. There is no cost to attend these workshops, thanks to the generosity of the presenters and the organising team for AAS 2018.

Workshop 1:           After 'Visual Anthropology': Reframing Critical Ethnography Through Multiple Media, with Lisa Stefanoff

- Workshop 2: Ethnographic Writing and the Horizons of Critique, with Lucas Bessire
- Workshop 3: Post-PhD Trajectories Panel, with Cameo Dalley, Amanda Gilbertson, Caroline Schuster, Gretchen Stolte, Catie Gressier, and David Boarder Giles.

The ANSA Executive would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of the presenters for volunteering their time, enthusiasm, and expertise, as well as the conference organisers for their assistance with arranging facilities and catering.

## 9. ANSA Postgraduate Panel at AAS 2018

Each year, ANSA hosts a panel at the AAS conference and invites papers from postgraduate students at various stages of their research. Each session of the panel is attended by an expert discussant, who can provide advice and feedback to the presenters. The aim of this panel is to provide a space where emerging anthropologists can practice their skills in a supportive environment, and to encourage interaction and relationships between students and established anthropologists.

This year's postgraduate panel involves 12 student papers organised into three thematic sessions, with the following expert discussants:

Theme	Discussant
1. Gender	Caroline Schuster
2. Health and Justice	Leslie Butt
3. Place and Belonging	Yasmine Musharbash

We would like to extend our thanks to those who kindly volunteered to serve as discussants.

## 10. The Future of ANSA

As all members of the current ANSA Executive are stepping down in December, ANSA is looking to elect a fresh new committee for 2019. We are looking forward to welcoming them and assisting where necessary. Some key points we encountered over the year include:

- Officially restructuring the ANSA Executive to account for the importance of social media and community engagement in our core mission;
- Building mechanisms for encouraging increased student engagement online; and
- Applying learnings from the 2018 ANSA Visual and Creative Ethnography Competition for future years.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the other the members of the ANSA Executive: Emily Graham, Secretary for Governance & Management, and Alana Brekelmans, Secretary for Community Engagement. We worked hard as a team throughout the year to not only deliver ANSA's core priorities, but expand our activities in ways that we hope improved the student and/or early career research experience for our members. I would also like to thank the University Representatives for their support throughout the year, Joanne Thurman for her assistance with administrative AAS matters, and the AAS Executive for their continued support of student and early career anthropologists.

Stephanie Betz  
ANSA President  
23 November 2018