

# 2020 EADH Chair and Executive Committee Report to the Annual General Meeting

2020 has been one of the most difficult years for the academic and scientific community we can remember for decades. The spread of the pandemic due to Covid-9 has determined the cancellation of almost all the national and international in-person meetings and conferences, determining a substantial reduction of the activity of our Organization, and of the rest of the associations in the ADHO context.

EADH during this year has managed to keep alive most of its institutional activities, with only one noticeable exception, our second biennial conference, which should have happened last September. In this report, the Chair and the Executive refer to our membership about these activities.

## Institutional activity

The Exec has organized two meetings this year, one in person on Tuesday, January 14 in Milan, hosted by Università Cattolica, in the context of the events of the AIUCD2020 conference.

The second was held online on September 22. Both meetings have been very productive. For the future the Exec has decided to adopt a more flexible schema for the meetings, reducing the need of in-person meetings as much as possible, to limit the financial and ecological impact of our institutional activity.

EADH in 2020 renewed its membership to the **European Alliance for the Social Sciences and the Humanities** (EASSH), and had an active role in supporting its advocacy initiatives, especially regarding the 2021-2027 EU budget for research. EADH representative in EASSH Claire Clivaz has ended her term as Coopted Exec member in August 2020. The exec has appointed Merisa Martinez as the new representative.

## Pan European DH meeting and the future of European DH space

The EADH Executive, on the proposal of the Chair, has organized a meeting to discuss the future of the European area DH organizations, also in consideration of the new organizational structure of ADHO, where representatives of all the European DH organizations have been invited.

The meeting took place in Milan on January 13 and attendance was the following: Fabio Ciotti (EADH Chair), Elisabeth Burr (EADH President), Barbara Bordalejo (EADH Secretary), Francesca Tomasi (AIUCD), Martin Grandjean (Humanistica), Maurizio Toscano (AHDH), Mikko Tolonen (DHN), Inna Kizhner (IK), Maxim Rumyantsev, Marine (Russian Association), Silvie Cíncova (CzADH). Via Skype: Christof Schöch (DHD), Anna-Maria Sichani (Greek Digital Humanities Research Network), Gábor Palko (Hungarian DH, representing his university), Marijn Koolen (DH Benelux).

As you may know, at the DH2019 conference in Utrecht, ADHO finally adopted the long-debated new governance model. In the new model, the governance structure is bipartite with a Constituent Organization Board (COB) and an Executive Board (EB). The COB is comprised of one representative from each of the COs, whose role is to establish the vision, strategy, and policy for ADHO. The COB is led by a President and President-Elect, who are selected from the members of the COB. For 2019-2020, Matthew Gold and Elisabeth Burr have been appointed to one-year terms as President and President-Elect. The Executive Board (EB) is appointed by the COB. Its role is to enact the decisions made by the COB. The EB consists of a Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The COB appointed the EB at its first meeting in Utrecht. Leif Isaksen and Glen Worthey have been appointed to two-year terms as Chair and Chair-Elect, respectively.

These changes come following years of discussion about how to restructure ADHO to allow it to grow and most effectively serve the needs of COs around the world. One of the most relevant consequences of this new structure is that it will be easier for DH associations with a formal statute to become COs and be represented in the COB. This will have direct consequences on the organizational architecture that we have set up in Europe during the last 5 years. EADH decided to facilitate and support the participation of the various national or regional organizations established in these years at a global level, giving them the possibility to become either Associate Organizations (AOs, that required a financial contribution but gave full membership) or Partner Associations (a looser form of engagement). These kinds of partnerships do not confer the right to be formally represented at the ADHO level as organizations though. Under the new ADHO governance model, some of the former AOs have already expressed their will to become full COs as soon as the COB makes public the procedure required to do that. These Associations will not need anymore the mediation of EADH to guarantee to their members the practical advantages offered by ADHO membership.

During the meeting, the representatives of the European Associations have debated the possible future scenarios for the European DH community. EADH has identified two possible organizational infrastructures:

1) keep the current framework: the DH Associations that will opt to jump directly to the ADHO level, maintain also the status of EADH AOs, although of a special kind (eg. their members will not be counted as members of EADH, and the financial relations with ADHO will not pass through EADH). Other European organizations that do not need or want to have a formal relationship with ADHO can however opt for the role of EADH partner organizations and join a European space of cooperation. In this case, we need only some minor adjustments to the current organizational structure;

2) establish a new coordination entity at the European level, which we may call for example the European DH forum, where EADH, its former AOs, its current AOs - and possibly any other DH association in the European and Mediterranean geopolitical space that is interested in building a common space - will be represented.

The debate has been very lively, and all participants have agreed that European associations share first and foremost a common cultural space, and then a common institutional space and that there is the need to keep alive and even extend this network, whose usefulness has been shown also by the good work done so far in the AOs forum (the semi-formal body that EADH set up for its AOs and POs). In general, a preference for a solution similar to proposal 1) has emerged, but the meeting participants have also expressed the need for further analysis and reflection.

## **Membership report**

EADH's total legal membership (including joint members) by the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 is 880. There is a little decrease in the total number of EADH members (-3%) and of EADH members + joint members (-2%). EADH direct members have decreased (-32%), while joint members have slightly increased (+6%). As for AOs, the number of members and the trends vary considerably.

Over the last months, we implemented the following changes:

- a dedicated option has been added for those who are already EADH members (including of course AOs members) to purchase the journal without having to pay again their membership fee; this option appears at the end of the DSH subscription page;

- the low-income country reduced fee was “membership only”. Two new options have been added: “membership + print for low-income countries” and “membership + online for low-income countries”; the conditions are the same as for senior citizens and students;
- “developing countries” has been replaced by “low-income countries” on the DSH subscription page;
- the following countries have been added to the list of those entitled to the low income reduced fee: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine.

## Communication Report

EADH Facebook group went from 1851 members (28 Feb 2020) to 2714 (20 Sept 2020). EADH's Twitter account has 7212 followers. We have been growing by about 70 followers each past month.

Future activity:

- Modernize website
- Start a newsletter, frequency: twice per year content: present new and old Exec members, announce EADH conference, subscription and election reminder, announce general assembly, report on the Exec activities, report on the President activities, report on the Chair activities

## 2020 EADH Exec members election

### Elections Committee 2020

- Anna-Maria Sichani (Chair)
- Barbara Bordalejo
- Mikko Tolonen

### Election process

Vacancies: 4

Election Schedule

April 9: Call for Nominations

June 15: Close of nominations

June 16: Send materials to OUP

July 5: Elections Open

August 3: Elections Close

Number of eligible candidates: 6

Number of ineligible candidates: 0

- Marieke van Erp
- Stuart James
- Torsten Roeder
- Joris J. van Zundert
- Stuart Dunn
- Nicola Barbuti

6 have not previously served on the committee

1 is understood to be ECR from his candidate statement

1 is female

Associated countries: the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy

Total electorate: 860 EADH members

### **Election results**

Total ballots cast: 241 (28,02%)

Candidates elected

- Marieke van Erp
- Torsten Roeder
- Joris J. van Zundert
- Nicola Barbuti

4 have not previously served on the committee

1 is female

Associated countries: The Netherlands, Germany, Italy

### **Comments**

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and other parties' (OUP) internal delays, we had to delay both the nomination and the election phases. Such flexibility in dates has been not only reasonable but also possible because the AGM has been postponed. Quick reaction from EADH EC in such strange circumstances has been proven crucial and efficient. A general point is that better publicity and a longer duration of the nomination phase could result in better chances to achieve more nominations.

### **Co-opted Exec members**

The Executive Committee during the September meeting has decided to appoint Doctor Simona Stoyanova as a co-opted Exec member. Doc. Stoyanova has also been elected Deputy Treasurer. In this role, she will join EADH's current Treasurer Doct. Charlotte Tupman, whose term has been extended by one year, and will then succeed in the role of Treasurer.

### **Thanks to outgoing members and congratulations to new members**

The Chair, the President, and the members of the Executive Committee express their sincere gratitude to the outgoing members.

Claire Clivaz has been serving the global DH community since the DH2014 conference in Lausanne where she was Co-Chair of the Local Organizing Comm., and she spent the last years in our Exec Committee both as elected and appointed member, giving an enormous contribution to the activities of EADH.

Inna Kizhner was previously appointed member and then elected, and her role in fostering our relationships with the Russian DH community has been invaluable.

Elena Spadini was one of the first early-career scholars members of the EADH Exec and she has proven an outstanding commitment taking on her shoulder a lot of hard and time-consuming tasks.

Corina Moldovan was one of the first elected members coming from South-Eastern Europe, and she has done tremendous work to expand the presence of DH studies in her country, leveraging the support of EADH.

The Chair, the President, and the members of the Executive Committee express their warmest congratulations to the newly elected and appointed members.

## EADH conference

EADH Executive committee, after the evaluation of the proposals received for the call for hosts, assigned the organization of the second EADH conference (EADH2020) to Siberian Federal University, Krasnoyarsk, Russia. In May 2020 the Exec had to decide to cancel the EADH2020 conference, which was scheduled for 22-25 September, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The decision was taken in consultation with the Local Organizers and the Program Committee.

The Executive committee is deeply grateful to the Program Committee members, to its Chair Prof. Elisabeth Burr, to the Local Organizers, and to all the colleagues that sent their proposals. Their efforts and commitment will not get lost. We decided officially that the second international conference of EADH will be organized in 2021 again by the Siberian University. Additionally, as a consequence of the postponement of the DH2021 edition in Japan to 2022, the Exec has decided that the third EADH conference will be organized in 2022. The call for hosts will be issued by the end of December 2020.

## EADH Small grants

### Small Grants Committee 2020:

- Elena Spadini (Chair January 2020 - September 2020)
- Rada Varga (Chair September 2020 -)
- Anna-Maria Sichani
- Merisa Martinez

### Calendar :

Call out: 1 June

Call deadline: 30 September, subsequently extended to 4 October

Decisions communicated to participants and publicly announced: 15 November

**Amount awarded:** max. 1000 euro

**Number of grants:** 7 (initially 5 grants were announced, the budget was supplemented as a result of the large number of applications)

### Awardees:

- Oksana Maistat, *Open Database "Soviet Film Exhibition during the New Economic Policy"*
- Emily Ohman, *Coding for Digital Humanities: An online interactive Python course specifically for humanities students*
- Dr. Annamária-Izabella Pázsint, *Romans 1 by 1. Augusta Traiana et territorium*

- Dr. Gamze Saygi, *A digital exploration of spatial movements in Amsterdam at Premodern Times*
- Dr. Kathryn Simpson, *Ruled Margins: Annie R. Taylor's Journeys to Tibet*
- Tamara Shogaolu, *Echoes of Silence*
- Ilia Uchitel, *Soviet Yiddish Press Digitization start-up project*

**Comments:**

We received 32 applications, covering a wide range of topics with a variety of intended outcomes, such as tools, databases, and networking events. After the call closed and all of the applications were received, we created a spreadsheet and split up the applications for review among the members of the EADH Executive Committee. The success rate was 21,87%. The proposals that were funded had scores of: 47.5 pts, 47 pts, 45 pts, 45 pts, 44.5 points, 44 pts, and 44 pts, respectively, from a maximum of 50 pts.

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Elisabeth Burr, President EADH

Fabio Ciotti, Chair EADH Executive Committee

The EADH Executive Committee