

REPORT of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY Grignano (Trieste), 11th of March 2012

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EATGA-AEATG General Assembly Report
Grignano (Trieste) 11 March 2012

Presents. Silvia Amati, Bettina Fink, Elisabeth von Strachwitz, Juha-Matti Toivola, Velia Bianchi Ranci, Giovanna Cantarella, Anna Checchi, Maria Silvera, Laszlö Kruppa, Christine Schwankhart-Pérez de Laborda, Christoph Rosenberger, Gerald Wooster, Dorothy Brown, Bruin Wooster, Elio Vera.

1. Apologies and Proxies:

Kurt Husemann, Marlene Spero (proxy Cantarella)

Alessandra Manzoni (proxy Bianchi Ranci)

Apologies: Werner Knauss, Jaak le Roy, Claudine Vacheret, Guy Gimenez, Ivan Urlic, Laura Bercich, sent their apologies and greetings.

Before passing to the next point Bettina Fink proposed that a participant at the Study day, would like to become a member

There was some discussion as to how we should proceed because some members felt there was too much of a delay in accepting new members: the candidate has to send in their CV etc, and then has to wait until the next Assembly to be accepted. It was suggested that the Board may decide to accept the candidate provisionally, and then he/she will be formally accepted at the next AGM when the other members have a vote.

Gerald wanted to know if Kevin Power had asked for membership.

Bettina voiced some concern about how important she felt it was to meet the person face to face before making a decision.

It was decided that the Board accepts an application and offers provisional acceptance to the applicant prior to membership being voted in by those members present at the AGM.

The new member who was present for the Study Day and asked to be accepted is Gertrud Deutsch Dix, a psychoanalyst and psychologist, colleague of Bettina's. She has an interest in introducing psychoanalytic principles into the social context.

She was then warmly welcomed into the Assembly.

2. Approval of the Bilbao AGM report.

The report was approved by all those present.

3. President's Report

To the copy of the report that we all received, the President added that she felt the organization had had a successful year, Bilbao had been interesting but some difficulties had arisen.

EATGA had now been accepted into the IAGP which was quite momentous for us. EATGA also collaborates with Terranova Cecchini Foundation through the work of Alessandra Manzoni and Anna Checchi.

The Palermo Workshop brought new concepts – working with globalization – which stimulated a new way of working which was not always easy.

Silvia Amati said she was happy with the organization and where it is now, but also we must acknowledge the changes around us. The global economic crisis could be changing something in our organization.

4. General Secretary's report

The General Secretary Report which had been sent online was accepted.

5. Treasurer's report

There was a good deal of discussion as to the best way of dispersing the surplus.

There was also the question of additional expenses paid to Ruvolo for the Palermo Workshop. It was agreed that the additional money paid to Ruvolo needs to have a proper written invoice and receipt, and that Elizabeth should purchase 2 deposits of €750 each.

Bettina made the point that it was very important that there were clearly defined invoices for all monies paid by EATGA.

The Draft Budget for 2012 was discussed and Juhi-Matti wanted to know why 500€ from 2011 unpaid membership fees was in the budget for 2012. Elizabeth said that this was the way it has always been done.

The Budget was accepted with one abstention: Bettina Fink explained her abstention was because she said the procedures were not clear enough.

5b) Election of the new member.

Bettina Fink and Christine Schwankhart- Perez de Laborda presented Gertrud Deutsch Dix,. She was elected unanimously and warmly welcomed into EATGA.

6 Juha-Matti wanted to add some points to his report we all had received online. It seemed that there was continuity through our Study Days and Workshops with usually the same people; so in some ways it is the same but it is also different. There are processes and ideas gleaned here in the work, but what is this process? It would seem that we have many levels of looking at the processes and this makes our work interesting.

At the last Scientific meeting in Basel he felt that we were struggling with how to organize ourselves – a suggestion would be to divide into smaller groups and then regroup to give more time for discussion. He feels that we take for granted the concepts of capitalism, because they are deeply rooted inside us, and that we should speak more about them.

Giovanna suggests that we should have a permanent scientific activity.

Silvia observes that it is a special quality of EATGA not to have a place.

The history project continues and when we have more from that we can have a deeper view of how to proceed.

Language – more languages are being spoken and it feels less problematic – perhaps it reflects how things are in Europe but it is still difficult in Eastern Europe.

There was a little discussion about the possibility of holding a meeting in Eastern Europe.

There seems to be more tolerance to difference. In the history of the organization the French and the English saw working in groups from different points of view and this brought about the split.

Giovanna spoke about research and felt that workshops are very demanding in terms of organization, so perhaps it would be convenient to link up with some academic institution to share the burden. The University of Palermo could be a possibility. Ruvolo had spoken with her about this before he left.

She felt it was important to make more research and that Todeschini's paper was very interesting and full of possibilities for us to take it further. It would help the Board to be supported by more permanent research.

This would give us more of a visible identity.

Silvia felt this would be very complicated but also felt that an approach which might be fruitful for us would be to have a list of words which echoed our work and could be explored further, and be a link.

There was a short discussion on the word “transculturality” We agree on something common to us but this can also act as a defence. The Budapest workshop which had been mentioned several times was on belonging, history, transculturality.

Elizabeth said that she thought we should be looking at subjects like intersubjectivity.

7. Reports of transcultural experiences.

Elizabeth talked about some work in Checjin (Poland) where she and other colleagues work with sociologists who then train as psychotherapists. Their work includes the social context.

Silvia mentioned that Ruvolo will be giving his paper on the Palermo workshop to the IAGP conference in Columbia next July. We should send him comments on the paper. Anyone wishing to send these should send a copy to Ruvolo and Giovanna.

8 Future projects and workshops.

Ivan Urlic, although not officially a member of EATGA has proposed a workshop to be held in Split in 2013.

D'Angiò proposed a workshop to be held in Naples in 2014 (11-13 September?).

9. Members proposals.

It was proposed that the next scientific meeting combines Social Dreaming. Bettina has offered to host it in Vienna. It was difficult to find a suitable date when Giovanna and Elio would be both available to run this. The dates proposed finally were 14-16 September 2012

Meeting ended at 1 p.m..