



## **European Association for South Asian Studies**

### **Newsletter Winter 2011**

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#### **1. New Web-site**

Over the past three months the EASAS web-site has been up-graded by Julia Velkova, and members can see the new version at [www.easas.org](http://www.easas.org). We are grateful to those who have allowed us to use their photographs to liven up the look of the pages, and to Julia for the creation of a new logo for the Association. In addition to providing information about EASAS and what it can offer (which will be extended over the next few months as and when possible), there are some useful links, for example to some European centres for South Asian Studies. This is just a start, and if you have other suggestions for links, please do send them to us, using the 'contact' button on the web-site. Up-dating may take time, however, because we have to rely on colleagues doing this in their spare time.

#### **2. Update on Lisbon Conference**

The Lisbon conference will take place from 25-28 July 2012, and the closing date for panel proposals was 15<sup>th</sup> April 2011. More than 120 panel proposals have been received and the daunting task of selecting 40 to 45 panels will be handled by the steering committee in early May. Preparations for the conference and associated social activities are continuing, and we look forward to making the 2012 conference the best yet. Updates will be available on the conference web-site, <http://ecsas2012.iscte.pt/>

### 3. Update on Agreement with SAMAJ (<http://samaj.revues.org/index.html>)



## South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal

There will be one thematic EASAS-SAMAJ issue per year, starting in 2012. Panel conveners at the Lisbon conference will be encouraged to submit their panel for consideration as a special themed 'EASAS' issue of SAMAJ. The EASAS Council will discuss and prepare a short-list of proposals (three to five) which are then sent to the SAMAJ Board. SAMAJ will take the final decision on which proposal will be accepted.

### 4. General news items from the Council Meeting of 1 April 2011

- a. The Council unanimously and gratefully approved proposals that the 2014 conference be held in Zürich, under the leadership of Professor Ulrike Müller-Böker, and that the 2016 conference be held in Warsaw, under the leadership of Professor Danuta Stasik.
- b. We briefly discussed the problems for colleagues working in south Asian studies when review panels exclude the area studies journals from the list of 'approved' or recognised journals. This may have serious consequences for promotion or even retention of positions.
- c. The Council was in favour of providing moral and practical support for any efforts to establish national associations for South Asian Studies. Since our financial resources are very limited, this might take the form of mailing members in countries with information, attending conferences or in other ways publicising the efforts of local groups who wanted to move to a more formal association, as long as it met with the terms and conditions of EASAS.
- d. The Council approved continuing financial support to the European PhD workshop series, meeting in Paris in September 2011. These workshops are based around modern history, politics, sociology, social anthropology and human geography. If groups of institutions or graduate students wish to arrange similar workshops in different cognate areas, involving several European countries, they are encouraged to approach the President with their ideas.