

Present: Andrew Bartlett (Board), Ian Dennis (Secretary-Treasurer), Chris Fleming (Board), Eric Gans (Board), Peter Goldman (Board), Roman Katsman (Member) Adam Katz (Board), Marina Ludwigs (Board), Stacey Meeker (Board), Matthew Schneider (Board), Matthew Taylor (Member) Richard van Oort (President), Magdalena Złocka-Dąbrowska (Member)

Meeting called to order via Zoom at 17:00, IDT and 7 other time zones. Richard van Oort chaired.

### 1. President's Welcome and Report

Richard welcomed members of the meeting. Noting that his comments would normally be related to the conference at the end of which the Business Meeting is usually held, he substituted instead some news received from various members of the Society.

**Marina Ludwigs** has received a three-year grant to do research on the mutual influence of literature and science (narrativity in science and scientific metaphors in literary narratives).

**Roman Katsman** has published *Elusive Reality: A Hundred Years of Russian-Israeli Literature (1920-2020)*. (In Russian, 2020). The book uses GA. Roman is particularly interested in the rejection of the victimary paradigm in Russian-Israeli literature.

**Ian Dennis** is concluding his sabbatical year and close to finishing a draft of his GA book to be called *Varieties of Aesthetic Experience*. He is happy to say he will not be asked to do an extra year as Chair of his Department, and makes mention of a delightful visit with Matthew and Emi Taylor in Nagoya in January, where he gave a couple of lectures, saw some Japanese birds, and was received very kindly.

**Adam Katz**, under the pseudonym, Dennis Bouvard, has published *Anthropomorphics: An Originary Grammar of the Center* (2020) with Imperium Press. As we have come to expect from Adam, the book is a densely argued meditation on basic premises for GA. It's probably the most highly theoretical book on GA since *The Origin of Language*. The book is downloadable for free from the Press's website.

**Magdalena Złocka-Dąbrowska** has submitted several articles on GA to scientific journals belonging to the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. She's also preparing a book on GA, cognitive anthropology and mythological representations.

**Matthew Taylor** celebrated the birth of a grandson, Kiyofumi, who just turned six months. He and Emi have been doting on him—baby and mom (daughter Sae) have been staying in Nagoya to weather out the coronavirus. Matthew also received a grant from Kinjo Gakuin University's Institute for the Study of Christian Culture (the same organization that partially supported our 2016 Nagoya conference). The theme of the research is "Jane Austen's Christianity." The grant will partially support Matthew's research during his half-year sabbatical starting Fall 2020. The sabbatical will be focussed on Austen (though not just on the theme of the grant). He hopes travel will be sufficiently open by then to spend some of the sabbatical in North America, and he intends to visit many of us there--whether we like it or not!

**Chris Fleming** has published a memoir, *On Drugs* (Giramondo 2019), which has received rave reviews. He also has some fiction coming out (a graphic novel, short stories, a collected edition) and a story called "Lion," about a lion and a philosopher. The story is based Wittgenstein's aphorism, "If a lion could speak, we would not be able to understand him." This story is part of a collection of stories slated for release in November 2021.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

Ian noted that he recently emailed an up-to-date Balance Sheet for the Generative Anthropology Society and Conference to the Board and other attendees. There has been limited financial activity to report due to the conference postponement.

The current GASC balance is just over \$CDN 3000 (\$USD 2200), but some memberships have yet to be renewed.

The meeting agreed that, once again, as current needs seem to be met, there is no call for the moment to revisit our annual dues structure.

## 3. GASC 2020 and 2021 – Roman Katsman

Roman updated the Meeting about the 2020 GASC Conference in Israel, now postponed till 2021 in the same location. Roman noted that Bar-Ilan University will offer the same arrangements and support as they would have done this year and that no promised funding has been lost. The conference website has been updated.

Dates for the 2021 conference were discussed, and Roman provided the following alternatives, in order of his preference: **June 7-9, or 14-16, or May 31-June 2**. It was agreed that we should fairly promptly discuss and decide upon these dates (by email) so that Roman can make firm plans and update the website. Roman noted that there can be no certainty about the health and travel situation next year.

There have been 14 paper submissions accepted from local as well as international participants, but Roman suggested that more might have been submitted had the prospect of cancellation or postponement not been looming. The Meeting agreed that the extra year offered us an opportunity to try to attract more participants, and various ways of doing this were discussed. Marina suggested posting the CFP on various sites, including the French Fabula site. It was also noted that individual appeals were often effective, and everyone was urged to think of possible new participants we could contact and invite.

Chris raised the question of virtual participation, perhaps through a platform like Zoom, and Roman said this was entirely possible. The use of such technology was discussed and it was agreed that it could be good, but that it should not be allowed to reduce in-person participation. Specific participants should be invited when we understood that this was the only way for them to contribute. It was also agreed, however, that the final decision in this respect was for the Chief Organizer.

#### **4. Future Conferences – Ian Dennis and Matthew Taylor**

Prospects for future conferences were discussed. Matthew noted that 2023 would now look like a better year for GASC to return to Japan, given several circumstances, including current pandemic-related restrictions. He has not yet established the interest of his 2016 co-organizer Kyoshi. A couple of attractive venues have been proposed for the next conference in Japan.

Ian discussed his own intention to host GASC in Ottawa once more before his retirement in 2 to 3 years. He is, however, unsure he wishes to mount as large and well-funded a conference as he did in 2009. It might be an event more on the model of the 2019 conference in New York City.

It was therefore decided that the tentative schedule upcoming conferences, assuming that travel is possible, would be:

2021	Israel, Roman Katsman
2022	Ottawa, Ian Dennis
2023	Japan, Matthew Taylor

#### **5. Publishing Initiative – Adam Katz and Ian Dennis**

Adam and Ian discussed their recent search for a new publisher of GA books to replace the now defunct Davies Group. Adam described the Sternberg Press, a publisher of academic and “adjacent academic” books, which produces unusual but high-quality material, and suggested it might be an appropriate venue. The Meeting asked various questions about this potential publisher: <https://www.sternberg-press.com/all-products>

At this point no contact has been made with the press, given Adam's belief that we would need to have some books in hand to be credible. It was suggested that at list a preliminary inquiry might not be a bad idea.

It was agreed that this was a promising idea, and that scholars in the GA community should be urged to consider the press for their next book. There was some discussion of who might be close to being able to offer a manuscript.

Adam and Ian will continue to pursue this idea and report back to the Board and members.

## 6. *Anthropoetics* -- Eric Gans and Stacey Meeker

Eric and Stacey described current efforts to include *Anthropoetics* in various scholarly listings, as prompted by Magdalena. The work involved and the advantages and disadvantages were discussed in some detail. Magdalena noted that publishing in listed journals has become a scholarly requirement in many European contexts. Eric and Stacey stressed the need to be strategic in these areas, and to continue to press the case for humanities journals, in order not to be dominated by scientific and social scientific thinking, procedures and standards of measurement.

One upcoming task may be the creation of metadata such as abstracts for previously published *AP* articles. Provision of such abstracts, plus keywords, has recently been made an editorial requirement for *AP*, but most previous articles so far lack these features. The Meeting discussed how far back we might wish to go in this respect, and Stacey said that articles from at least the last two years ought to be given abstracts, but that it might be ideal to go further back.

Stacey will contact authors shortly to inform them of what may need to be done.

Changes and developments to the journal were reported, and it was noted that UCLA had required it to be converted to the Wordpress platform, which has had several consequences.

Editorial policies have also been updated. Stacey urged authors to review these policies at:

<http://anthropoetics.ucla.edu/edpol/>

The issue of *AP*'s editorial screening process and lack of a double-blind peer review system was raised. Stacey indicated that double blind review was not an apparent requirement for journals being listed.

The Meeting was reminded that because there were no conference papers given this year, the journal will not necessarily have articles to publish. Members are urged to consider submitting something.

Finally, Eric made some observations on the steadily developing nature of GA related work and urged optimism about the future of our new way of thinking. Many members of the community are making their own distinctive contributions, and this is reason for hope, as well as a renewed commitment to continue.

## **7. Any Other Business**

The Meeting warmly agreed that it was good to be in touch this way, even if it did not replace the actual conference. Marina suggested that this Zoom format could be used for other kinds of GA meetings and discussions and this suggestion was welcomed. These could be of different sizes and for different purposes and needed only that one of us take the initiative to organize it. This idea was discussed and it was agreed that, in principle, such meetings should be for the benefit of (paid-up) members of the Society, and not necessarily anyone signed up to the GAlist, although organizers were of course welcome to invite whomever they chose. Ian will develop an email list of Society members. Marina will convene the first such meeting to discuss a topic of mutual scholarly interest.

**Post-Meeting Note:** Marina has scheduled a Zoom meeting to discuss Adam's new book on August 17, with the hour to be determined. Please contact Marina for details.

## **8. Adjournment**

Richard adjourned the meeting at about noon EST.

### **Post-Meeting Action Items:**

- Pay GASC membership dues if you haven't done so. ID will send reminders to those not at the meeting;
- Discuss and decide GASC 2021 dates & notify RK; promote conference and invite more paper submissions, individually or by posting or re-posting the CFP; invite specific scholars to participate online, including CF;
- Start the planning process for GASC 2022 & 2023 (ID & MT);
- Tell AK and/or ID if you have book plans that might work for the Sternberg Press in the next couple of years; AK & ID to report back to the Board on progress;
- SM will notify AP authors about the need to produce abstracts or other issues; AP authors should read over revised editorial policies;
- All colleagues are urged to submit articles for AP Fall 2020 & Spring 2021;
- ID will generate a GASC members emailing list and circulate it.

