

EC Meeting Minutes – March 2021

Call to order

A meeting of the MSA Executive Committee was held online on **March 19, 2021**

Attendees: **Jeffrey Olick, Stef Craps, Alicia Salomone, Joanna Wawrzyniak, Tea Sindbæk, Aline Sierp, Anna Menyhért** (as WG/RG/NN representative).

Missing: **Jenny Wüstenberg, Hanna Teichler, Paco Ferrándiz**

Minute taker: **Lorena Ortiz Cabrero**

Agenda Item

1. [Working Conditions in the Humanities](#)
2. [Warsaw 2021](#)
3. [Elections Update](#)
4. [\(Associated\) Memory Centres](#)
5. [Website](#)
6. [dMSA](#)
7. [Mentorship/Early-Career Scholars](#)
8. [Memory Studies Journal](#)
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Decisions

1. Working Conditions in the Humanities

- Anna Menyhért presents a WG/RG/NN initiative to address the precarious working conditions in the Humanities.

- Global trend of worsening conditions, due to lack of funding and an interconnected devaluation of the field. Requirements are becoming stricter, and the value of humanities research is being undermined.
- **WG/RG/NN Suggestion:** the MSA to set up a task force, including members from the EC but also volunteer members, to address and target EU policymakers in the demand for better conditions, and to raise awareness across scholarly circles.
- **EC suggestion:** to issue a statement on ‘working and publishing in Humanities’, and on how the MSA rejects a merely quantitative approach to Memory Studies that undervalues books for the sake of publishing (DOI) articles.
 - It is more suitable for the size and manpower of the MSA at the moment, and it is complementary to additional measures such as helping find a stronger leading partner for the initiative.

2. Warsaw 2021

- Ongoing developments in terms of funding, sponsorship and logistical organisation through the Dryfta platform.
- [Registration of participants](#) ends April 15; draft programme is thus being constantly updated.
- Registration for conference attendants (listeners) will open after that.

3. Elections

- Update:
 - Participation has been steady.
 - New members will be reminded [to vote](#) until Sunday March 28.

4. (Associated) Memory Centres

- The [associated memory research centres](#) will soon be contacted, to gain greater insight into their activities and re-ignite the MSA’s connection with them.
- MSA members will also be asked to contribute to the list with their suggestions through the quarterly newsletter.
- Warsaw Conference will have a devoted meeting for memory centres to come together and exchange ideas and news.

5. Website

- The new project *Contested Histories Onsite* now has [its own page](#), but it will also feature on the top bar soon.
- Greater visibility for National Networks on the website: new NN India (INMS) and MSA Canada.

- Buying DOIs for WG/RG/NN publications: not a necessary feature for most groups → It will be possible on specific basis, but the interested groups will have to shoulder the process and pay for the costs.
- Website Committee is closely working with the WG/RG/NNs, and with the Memory & Arts WG in particular, to develop sub-pages for each group. These ‘mini-sites’ will give them greater flexibility and control over their information. Updates due in April.

6. dMSA

- Website archive is needed asap. → Web designer is working on it, and the Youtube channel will follow.
 - Accepted protocol for new live streams: dMSA events will stay publicly available for one month. After the one-month mark, the Youtube live stream will be clipped down to 15 minutes, and the full recording will be available for MSA members on the MSA website.
- Schedule for April, May and June is confirmed. Further suggestions are always welcome at dmsa@memorystudiesassociation.org.

7. Mentorship/Early-Career Scholars

- The early career dMSA March panel was a great success, both in terms of content and of attendance. A panel of similar nature will be hosted during the Warsaw Conference, also as part of the Mentorship programme.
- The Mentorship Committee is considering an online “Introduction to Memory Studies” course or lecture series geared towards PhD students and ECR. More details to follow.
- The MSAForward Committee will be offered the possibility of a joint online memory studies reading group. More details to follow.

8. Memory Studies Journal

- *Memory Studies* has gone completely digital, and thus the MSA special issue will also be fully online.
 - From this edition on, the MSA picks up a great part of the editing burden.

9. Administrative Assistants

- One of the current two assistants has to step back for personal reasons, and a replacement is needed as soon as possible.
- Decision: interim position to be filled in until after Warsaw 2021.