

EC Meeting Minutes – June 2021

Call to order

A meeting of the MSA Executive Committee was held online on **June 14, 2021**

Attendees: **Jeffrey Olick, Jenny Wüstenberg, Aline Sierp, Paco Ferrándiz, Hanna Teichler, Stef Craps, Joanna Wawrzyniak, Tea Sindbæk, Alicia Salomone, Jelena Đureinović, Catherine Gilbert, Sang-Hyun Kim, Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska, Sarah Gensburger**

Assistants: **Angus Foster, Lorena Ortiz Cabrero**

Agenda Item

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Decisions

1. Introductions & Thank You

Special thank you from the presidents to both the outgoing EC members, for all their hard work and efforts, and to the incoming EC and President-Elect for their enthusiasm and willingness to step up to the responsibilities of the association.

2. Organisational Structure

Leadership

Leadership has traditionally been shared across the three co-presidents.

- The new system maintains the spirit of this collaboration whilst adding a temporal dimension. Every year, a group of Past-President, President and President-Elect will collaborate.
 - Transition time: Aline, Jenny and Jeff will remain Presidents until July 2022, with Sarah as President-Elect. Afterwards, they become immediate Past-Presidents and Sarah becomes President. New elections will need to be held for a new President-Elect.

Portfolios

Traditionally each EC member takes a 'portfolio' or focus of responsibilities:

1. **Website Committee:** ongoing re-design of the website, particularly regarding the spaces for the WG/RG/NNs.
2. **Memory Centres:** ongoing contact with [associated research centres](#) to establish links and receive updated information from them.
3. **MSA Forward:** in coordination with the Warsaw team, there is a [workshop](#) before the conference.
4. **dMSA:** digital event series, that aims to provide 8-10 sessions per year on diverse topics and formats. There is already a preliminary line-up for September and October, although more concrete details are needed. The [website](#) is on the process of being revamped to contain an archive of all these dMSA recordings.
5. **MSA First Book Award:** [award](#) hosted every two years to commemorate the best first memory studies monographs. It is co-sponsored with SAGE, but the MSA is the main force behind it.
6. **Mentorship & Career Development Programme:** revamped recently but temporarily put on hold, in the case of [Mentorship](#), and taking place through some dMSA sessions, in the case of Career Development. There is a kick-off session during Warsaw.
7. **Conference Committee:** devoted to each annual conference. This committee ensures the transfer of knowledge from one edition to another.

8. **WG/RG/NNs:** liaison with the existing working and regional groups and the national networks. They have their own space on the website, which will soon become independent ‘mini-sites’, and they have specific panels and meetings during the annual conference.
 9. **Contested Histories Onsite:** [partner project](#), together with EuroClio, under the umbrella of the European Commission’s *Citizens4Europe* programme. First public session is taking place on July 1st, within the context of the Warsaw conference.
- ❖ **Assistants:** administrative and logistical aid. Control of the info@memorystudiesassociation.org and groups@memorystudiesassociation.org inboxes, as well as of the website and the social media networks. Liaison with the Interns and with the *Contested Histories Onsite* project.
 - ❖ **Co-presidents** traditionally cooperate in all these portfolios, and they also lead other initiatives such as the MSA-Berghahn book series, the special issues of SAGE’s *Memory Studies*, and the financial book-keeping.
 - ❖ Proposal for a **Scholarship Programme**, to help early-career scholars who have been particularly affected by the Covid-19 crisis or politico-financial situations.

Formal Committees

The formal Committees are laid out in the [by-laws](#):

- **Nominations & Regulations Committee:** very active and involved in the recent EC & Presidential elections.
- **Ethics Committee:** helpful when re-vamping and improving the by-laws, or with additional tasks such as deciding fee waivers for the conference.
- **Finance & Audit Committee:** two-people committee that do an audit once a year.
- **Advisory Board:** not a committee per se, but a network of experts and relevant practitioners who put themselves forward to help the MSA when the occasion arises. Once a year (during the conference), there is a devoted meeting to gather their feedback and ideas for the future.

Executive Committee

- Meetings take place once a month, at a moment that works for everyone.
 - Members are asked to prepare their interventions and add them to the agenda for greater efficiency.
 - Minutes are uploaded shortly to the [MSA website](#).

3. Warsaw 2021

- The final programme is still being fixed, and it will be published as soon as possible.
 - [Registration for non-participants](#) (only listeners) is already open.
 - The body of the programme and the keynote speakers are extremely promising.

- The contract was signed and ensures the online availability of the recordings for at least one year after Warsaw, with possibility for renewal.
- Additional manpower for the advertising effort is being sought.
- WG/RG/NNs will have their own ‘business’ meetings before the official start of the conference. This includes a plenary roundtable where all WG/RG/NNs can introduce themselves and their activities.
- There is an Open Members Meeting on July 8th 17.00 CEST, where the introduction of new EC members and President-Elect to the general membership will take place.
- There is also an Advisory Board (AB) meeting.

4. Seoul 2022

- Organisation is already on the way. Dates are set for 3-8 July 2022, and it will be co-hosted by the [Critical Global Studies Institute \(CGSI\), Sogang University](#).
- The Local Committee is so far formed by mostly academic members, who will focus on encouraging Korean and East Asian scholars to participate in the conference and organise special sessions, film programmes, etc.
- An event agency will soon be contracted for the logistical organisation.
 - All consulted event agencies advise to do either online or offline, not ‘hybrid’. → Decision will be taken by December by the latest. The EC will continue to be consulted.
- Sponsors thus far are Sogang University and The National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF).
- Timeline is not fixed yet but informed by the Warsaw’s timelines.
- Official announcement of Seoul 2022 will be included in the Warsaw conference package, but also mentioned in as many business meetings as possible.

5. Newcastle 2023

- Venue is booked, and dates are confirmed for July 3-7th 2023.
 - Venue is being analysed to start planning the size and scope of the conference.
- There has been interest for the Local Committee, including a partnership with Cultures of Memory research group at Newcastle University (NU) and perhaps the NU Centre for Heritage.
- The team has an event agency in mind, to help provide information about the town and logistical facilities.

6. Diversity & Inclusion

- There is an ongoing initiative to diversify the MSA at all levels. There are no concrete ideas but they will come soon.