

Warsaw Members Meeting Minutes

8th July 2021

Watch the full recording of the Members Meeting [here](#). If you are interested in a specific section of the discussion, please follow the links below.

1. Welcome & Summary of MSA Organisation

- Background of the Association & Organigram: [here](#)
- Ethics & Finance Committee (elections coming soon): [here](#)
- WG/RG/NNs: [here](#)
 - Question via chat: What is the allocation of money for WG/RG/NNs?
 - Answer: groups can apply for financial aid to help in the organisation of their own activities. Read more about it [here](#) or inquire at info@memorystudiesassociation.org.
- Interns (Applications welcome): [here](#)
- Finances Overview: [here](#)
- MSA Publications: [here](#)
- Website (and translations) & Social Media: [here](#)
- Mentorship Programme & Professional Development: [here](#)
- dMSA: [here](#)
 - Question via chat: Is there a timeline for applications?
 - Answer: as the new EC is currently taking office, the portfolio of dMSA is still being reorganised and updated. More information will follow as soon as the EC has had time to review applications and come up with a plan.
- Contested Histories Onsite project: [here](#)
- Future conferences (Seoul, Korea, July 3-8, 2022, “Solidarity” & Newcastle, UK, July 3-7, 2023): [here](#)
 - Explanation about the plan: [here](#). The model for the location of the conferences is to alternate between “slightly larger meetings and slightly smaller meetings”, and to “keep the conference moving around” so that everybody manages to

come at some point depending on their capabilities (and, of course, on the logistical capabilities of potential organisers).

- Ways to get involved in the MSA & Challenges: [here](#)

2. Questions & Proposals

- **Proposal** (Carolina Aguilera): Diversify the Association (both in terms of language and non-Eurocentric perspectives) by diversifying the Advisory Board.
- **Proposal** (Tebessüm Yilmaz): Design an “accessible” version of the website that would not scare away people who do not feel comfortable in English (e.g. translate main homepage, allow language change on homepage, etc.).
 - Also in terms of disability inclusivity work.
- **Question/Proposal for future conferences:** Is it possible to have live captions?
 - **Proposal:** Reconsider the time allotment for conference presentations, so that panellists can speak slower and be more inclusive of hard-of-hearing or non-native attendees.
- **Proposal** (Tebessüm Yilmaz; Utitofon Inyang): Create a group/task force to discuss difficulties of e.g. workload, pressure, also from different gendered perspectives. Objective: *doing memory differently* (following the conference panel on this topic).
- **Question** (Barbara Ronchetti): Is it possible to advertise through the MSA networks publications (also reports, etc.) or achievements from WG/RG/NNs or members?
 - Related **Question** (Jessica Ortner): Is it possible to advertise a call for partners for an international project?
 - **Answer** (Jenny Wüstenberg): Everybody is welcome to send interesting information and proposals to info@memorystudiesassociation.org for the [News section](#) (all languages). There is also an ongoing project to launch individual WG/RG/NN pages where they can control the information they provide. And the MSA can also engage with posts on Twitter and the FB group (where everybody can post).
- **Proposal** (Barbara Ronchetti): Create an archive where members can explain what they are working on, across linguistic divides and disciplinary expertise, to facilitate exchange.
- **Question** (Utitofon Inyang): Is there a forum where members can reach out to other members to collaborate? Particularly in terms of reaching across linguistic divides.
 - **Support/Proposal** (Sarah Gensburger): Indicate in the Directory which language we speak and if we are willing to be contacted.
 - **Comment** in the chat: Existing problem in the profiles: they cannot be edited/added info at the moment.

- **Support/Proposal** (Ann Rigney): Compilation of a “year’s work in Memory Studies with delegates from different countries writing a short report every year on what has been published”.
 - **Comment** (Jie-Hyun Lim): The Network of Global Historians do this too but every 5 years.
 - **Comment** (Ann Rigney): There are two different issues at hand here: 1) multilingualism, 2) sense of taking stock of how far we’ve come, what new developments are, etc. They need and can be brought together.
 - **Support/Proposal** (Gruia Badescu): As a reaction to Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska’s suggestion of cross-language online meetings: “team at PoSoCoMeS did this in their conference – having book talks for books published in other languages”. Example: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR1IaEtL8p8>
 - **Support/Proposal**: Tebessüm Yilmaz would be interested in bridging the association into the Turkish environment.
 - **Support/Proposal**: Glossary in different languages. Some WG/RG/NNs would be interested in helping out here.
- **Proposal** (Luz Maceira): Reinforce the position of the MSA regarding political challenges (e.g. censorship in Turkey, police brutality in Colombia and Brazil):
 - **Answer** (Jenny Wüstenberg & Sarah Gensburger): “Don’t hesitate to reach out and message us if there is something that you see and to which you think the MSA should react”.
 - **Support/Comment** (Jie-Hyun Lim & Marije Hristova): “Network of concerned historians from Groningen is doing that sort of solidarity work among historians”.
 - **Support/Comment** (Milica Popovic): Example of Global Observatory on Academic Freedom, based at the Central European University, that provides direct help (Scholars at Risk, Threatened Scholars Initiative, etc.). Can provide additional information if anyone needs: popovicm@ceu.edu
- **Question** (Sang-Hyun Kim): Can there be a more elaborate differentiation system for conference fees, based on location and financial possibilities?
 - **Answer** (Hanna Teichler): Traditionally there are two types: early-bird and full fee (plus the non-presenting fee). There are also waivers for low-income attendees. Further differentiation will be looked into.
 - Substantial **support** in the chat.
 - **Comment/Support** (Joanna Wawrzyniak & Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska): There are also other interfering factors (e.g. nowadays Covid-related factors) that need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- **Proposal** (Utitofon Inyang): Create a Graduate Students association, to help them network and reach across disciplines and resources.
 - **Answer** (Jenny Wüstenberg): There is no such a programme per se, but there are initiatives such as MSA Forward, which suffer from a lack of continuity. Establishing a more stable and continuous programme would be very interesting – everyone is welcome and warmly encouraged to reach out with your ideas and suggestions.
 - **Support/Comment** (Jeff Olick): In the past he has organised a Graduate Seminar in Memory Studies through the University of Virginia. It will happen again in Autumn 2021 – further information in due time.
 - Substantial **support** in the chat.
 - Further **proposals** to also create a Post-Doc group.
- **Proposal** (Mischa Gabowitsch): Reach out to foundations that specialise in different areas of the world for funding. Different scholars across the globe may know of institutions and foundations that would be interested in supporting the MSA if they get waivers for early-career scholars from their region, so we could establish partnerships and perhaps everyone could contribute with their knowledge/contacts of these associations.
- **Question:** Is it possible to have a form on the website for interested partners around the world?
 - **Answer:** This is partially what the [Memory Centres Directory](#) is for.
- **Proposal/Petition:** Maintain the hybrid aspects of the MSA activities (if not always in the main conference, in the monthly/smaller events, making them more frequent), also to account for the financial differences across the globe.
- **Question** (Philippe Denis): Did the choice of Warsaw for this conference consider the political circumstances of Poland? Perhaps a boycott would be more appropriate.
 - **Answer** (Joanna Wawrzyniak): Boycott would not have helped the academic community in Poland; if anything, it would harm them by reducing their possibilities of reaching out and making the issues known. It is definitely a discussion worth having periodically.
- **Question** (Noga): How to deal with very uneven attendance in some sessions in the conference? Big names get disproportionate attention, particularly when pooled into one session.
 - **Answer** (Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska): Programme was created thematically, depending on the submissions. Names of the panellists were not a factor (whereas the theme and the geographical location were). Uneven attendance is an unavoidable consequence, also in regular in-person conferences.

- **Question** (Utitofon Inyang): How long will the Warsaw sessions be available?
 - **Answer** (Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska): They will be available for at least one year on the same conference platform, probably longer.
 - **Answer** (Jenny Wüstenberg): The keynotes and special sessions are also available on Youtube and will remain open to the public.