

# EC Meeting Minutes – October 2021

## Call to order

A meeting of the MSA Executive Committee was held online on **October 29, 2021**

Attendees: **Jeffrey Olick, Jenny Wüstenberg, Joanna Wawrzyniak, Catherine Gilbert, Sang-Hyun Kim, Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska, Hanna Teichler**

Assistants: **Angus Foster**

## Agenda

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Call to order

Agenda

Decisions

1. Slack channel update
2. Seoul conference update
3. Newcastle conference update
4. Update website committee
5. Diversity and inclusion
6. Best book badges
7. Plans for dMSA
8. MSA fellowship project
9. Working/regional groups
10. Languages
11. Any other business

Next meeting:

## Decisions

## 1. Slack channel update

- Some still without access, Jeff will resend invites to those affected.

## 2. Seoul conference update

- CfP has been sent out to a number of mailing lists, mainly relating to Asian scholars.
- MSA will take care of sending out to more memory-studies orientated lists.
- Submission portal in development. Submission system can then be checked.
- Keynote and plenary sessions: airfares and accommodation need further discussion.
- Topics are more or less confirmed for the panels.
- More funding sources are being sought out.
- Is field trip restricted to 50 people (Seoul tour)? Not a hard number. Need to double check. Will be held after the conference.
- Registration system
- MSA will set up online registration system - who is responsible and when will it be set up?
- Submission mid-January, acceptance in March
- Registration system thus needs to be ready by March.
- Registration fee still to be determined, but probably cheaper than originally assumed as lunch will no longer be provided.
- Allow people to attend without MSA membership? In the past we have had day-passes.
- Reduced fees to be decided by ethics committee

## 3. Newcastle conference update

- Everything is booked. Space for 20 parallel sessions. Local organising committee has first official meeting next week.
- Lots of interest about the conference.
- More info to come at next meeting.

## 4. Update website committee

- Website committee continues to meet with the working groups. It is still working on determining what should be in front of the paywall or not.
- Need to consider possible different membership schemes depending on geographical location.

## 5. Diversity and inclusion

- Updated version of Ruramisai's essay is forthcoming and will be published on the website. Once published, MSA will open comments from members.

## 6. Best book badges

- Have been designed. Need to make sure prior winners/shortlisted authors are notified and have been sent the badge.
- Agreed that the badges should have the same colour schemes every year (at least for the existing badges).

## 7. Plans for dMSA

- dMSA inbox has been very busy, and will possibly need additional members working on it. Could an independent dMSA organising committee be the solution?

## 8. MSA fellowship project

1. A fellowship offer for early career and mid-career scholars whose job is at peril because of political or economic situation
2. Once a year MSA issues a call for application and selects one scholar for funding
3. MSA signs agreements with host institutions (universities/memory research centers) around the world who are ready to host such a fellowship and provide matching funds and organizational help
4. The host institution delegates a senior or mid-career scholar who serves as a liaison person for an MSA fellow; the two scholars are expected to co-write an article or co-produce a different kind of an output (such as a grant application) that might strengthened the position of an MSA fellow in academia
5. The host institution is expected to provide working space and take care of organizational arrangements (e.g. health insurance, visa arrangements, housing, depending on circumstances) –all their in kind & cash matching fund are expected to be at least of the amount provided by the MSA
6. The length of fellowship might vary but it should not be shorter than two months
7. MSA provides a funding of up to 4000 euro total, annually
  - Need to make the most of human resources we have at the association.
  - Biggest issue will be organisation.
  - Preferably a PhD if we only have one fellowship, could have a non-PhD if two fellowships.
  - Similar programme in Warsaw. A lot of work for formal things (e.g visas); university needs to provide documentation for visas - depending on the bureaucratic requirements of the countries involved. Responsibility of the host institutions
  - Need to make sure it is grounded well in terms of announcements/title of the position to entice host institutes.
  - Could feature results of the fellowship at the next conference.
  - Should emphasise that the fellow is working with an established scholar/hosting institute (the “tandem”).

## 9. Working/regional groups

- Memories of Antiquity WG proposal – group has been informed that it is approved.

## 10. Languages

- The MSA would like to know more about the languages of its members and is working on developing ways to gather that information. Currently suggestions are:
- Ask people who have profiles on website to add information about what languages they speak
- Might be difficult to get people to fill in this information/MSA page might not be possible to change.
- We could also 1) run a survey or 2) We could ask when when people set up their profiles for future conferences
- One of the dMSA events could be a book club to discuss non-EL books.
- Book review section to the website for English/non-English books
- Book award could be first book published in English.
- Does this produce a disadvantage for first-time scholars competing against more seasoned scholars?
- Further discussion about the most equitable way to include non-English books in the award(s) is required.
- Book award also has other issues in terms of outreach beyond just language. Relies on people submitting - many books are therefore not considered even if they are eligible.
- Award is for members awarded by members.

## 11. Any other business

- Need to organise the AB meeting.
- Another Member's meeting should be organised for January between conferences.

## Next meeting:

In November, Hanna to organise the Doodle. To keep on agenda for next time:

- Conference 2024
- Internships
- Institutional memberships
- Centre liaison