



## Executive Council Meeting 2022

8<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Hybrid Meeting

### **Present**

#### **Officers (non-voting):**

**President:** Jacqueline O'Reilly

**President Elect:** Santos Ruesga

**Past President:** Sigrid Quack

**Treasurer:** Nina Bandelj

**Executive Director:** Annelies Fryberger

#### **Voting EC members:**

- Bruno Amable
- Caroline Arnold
- Chiara Benassi
- Dorothee Bohle
- Katherine Chen
- Ying Chen
- Timur Ergen
- Emily Erikson
- Elizabeth Gorman
- Heather Haveman
- Michelle Hsieh
- Sébastien Lechevalier
- Virág Molnár
- Franklin Obeng-Odoom

- Kim Pernel
- Zsuzsanna Vargha
- Natascha van der Zwan

## **Non-EC members**

- Daniel Mügge (Local organizer for the University of Amsterdam)
- Representative of the rector (Dr. Walter Mera Ortiz) of the Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil, Ecuador, for SASE-RISE Ecuador 2023
- Akos Rona-Tas and Alya Gyseva (SER Chief Editors)

## **SASE Staff**

- Jacob Bromberg
- Shaun William Owen

## **MEETING OPENED AT 2PM CET BY Jacqueline O'Reilly**

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Jacqueline O'Reilly opens the meeting by welcoming the members of the Executive Council, Organizers, and SASE Staff, and thanks everyone for their flexibility in making the hybrid meeting work across different time zones.

She continues by emphasizing the mixture of relief and happiness to be presiding over a (mostly) in-person conference after the previous two years of virtual meetings.

### **2. Approval of December 2021 Council Minutes**

**Proposal:** Approve the December 2021 annual meeting minutes.

**Explanation:** Members had received the December 2021 meeting minutes ahead of time via email, and the floor was opened for any questions relating to the contents of these minutes.

**Discussion:** No questions or comments were raised.

**VOTE – MOTION: Motion to approve the 2021 December meeting minutes.**

**MOTION PASSED**

### **3. Executive Director Report**

Annelies Fryberger opens the Executive Director Report by thanking SASE President Jacqueline O'Reilly, the local organizers, and the SASE staff for their work in preparation for the 2022 conference.

This is followed by a discussion regarding fees and fee structures, where it is explained that, despite exploring other options, the organization will continue using the OECD status of a member's country of origin to determine their membership and registration fees. With this, it is also highlighted that SASE will continue to offer a "community-sponsored hardship fee", which was used by 24 individuals for the Amsterdam conference, to encourage participation from countries with limited research budgets, as well as independent scholars.

Fryberger then discussed the possibility of limiting SASE members to participating in three sessions per conference (as either presenter, moderator, discussant, or author/critic).

**Proposal:** A limit to the number of sessions a member can be scheduled in per conference should be put in place.

**Explanation:** It is explained that this motion has been tabled to make scheduling the program of the conference easier.

**Discussion:** General approval from the council, with some members noting that this will have an additional benefit of pushing organizers to ask a wider variety of members to moderate sessions or act as discussants. The exact number of sessions for the limit is discussed, with 3 and 4 being the most common responses, before a flexible guideline of 4 is settled on for the final proposal.

**VOTE: A flexible guideline of four session appearances per conference should be put in place.**

#### **MOTION PASSED**

Fryberger moves on to discuss SASE's cancellation policy and how this can be codified before the next meeting.

**Proposal:** It is proposed that SASE retains an administrative fee for very late cancellations.

**Explanation:** It is noted that while SASE has historically been very flexible with refunds to members dropping out after paying their registration fee, it puts a financial burden on the organization to not cover the associated administrative costs when this happens.

**Discussion:** It is clarified that a 30-day cancellation policy is what the organization considers to be the simplest way of implementing this rule, beyond which \$50 of the registration fee will be held back. Membership fees have historically not been reimbursed, and this will remain so.

**VOTE: SASE shall retain \$50 of the registration fee in the event of a member cancelling conference participation within 30 days of the conference start date.**

#### **MOTION PASSED**

Fryberger continues by informing the Executive Council that the organization will be switching from its previous submissions management provider 'Confex' to 'Oxford Abstracts'. It is anticipated that this will make the submissions process easier for both staff and members, and that the new system will be more customisable. It is that SASE Staff will also move registration and membership

payments to the Oxford Abstracts site, something that was previously not possible with Confex, thereby removing this functionality from the SASE website.

The Executive Director closes her report by discussing locations for future conferences and how SASE will, going forward, request bids from certain locations, potentially with a new focus on smaller cities where SASE would be the biggest conference. This was met with very positive feedback.

#### **4. Treasurer's report: fiscal year 2021**

SASE Treasurer Nina Bandelj opened her presentation by restating that SASE entered 2021 in a financially precarious situation and that the 2020 virtual conference resulted in a net loss of nearly \$70,000 for the organization. She then explained that the success of the 2021 conference, as well as the specific measures taken by SASE President Sigrid Quack and the SASE Executive Director, had a positive impact on steadying the ship and bolstering SASE's finances.

#### **5. Local Organizer Report**

Local organizer Daniel Mügge is invited to share his thoughts on the SASE conference, opening with how he is very pleased to have the conference at the University of Amsterdam and that he is happy, thanks to the satellite location at the Hotel CASA, that it was able to accommodate as many members as possible.

He notes that despite this, he was initially disappointed to hear that the agreed upon capacity for the conference (originally around 800 members) had been exceeded, as he had feared this would dilute the conference experience for members, although he notes that the solution found by SASE (operating a second site at a nearby hotel) was a good compromise. Executive Director Annelies Fryberger expands on this by wondering if the increased logistical problems of operating two sites was a necessary evil for the ultimate health of the organization, expressing her thoughts that ultimately allowing as many members as possible to participate was in SASE's best long-term interest – particularly after two consecutive virtual conferences.

#### **6. Ad-hoc Organizational Review Committee report**

Committee chair Zsuzsanna Varga discusses the business model of SASE, and how the organization relies on income from conference participation (membership and registration), with relatively high overhead. She goes on to explain how the committee looked at similar organisations, such as EGOS, CES, and SSHA, for inspiration and comparative data points.

It is explained that the committee had initially looked at decoupling membership and conferences fees, but that this approach was abandoned, for a number of reasons. Among them, it is explained that institutions are unlikely to pay just for membership fees. It is also noted that due to the international nature of the annual SASE conference, members cannot reliably predict that they will be able to travel to the conference every year, which adds a level of unpredictability.

It is proposed that one idea for stabilizing membership could be to increase the involvement of networks, with running increased events throughout the year for networks put forward as an idea from the Council.

It is highlighted that one issue regarding decoupling membership and conference participation would be the demographics of SASE members, as only 1/3 have a steady job.

A further structural change was evoked, with the idea of giving more organizational responsibility to local organizers, in exchange for a higher split of the revenue. This could take some pressure off of SASE, both logistically and financially.

SASE President Jacqueline O'Reilly summarizes the main points of the discussion by stating that decoupling could be interesting for the organization, but it is clear that a well-organized, appealing conference is the main draw for the organization. She goes on to discuss how SASE could go to the network organizers to see if any would like support in strengthening their network outside of conference time. Finally, she notes that the decision to split the revenue with local organizers in exchange for more responsibility in organizing the conference is a big change for the organization and would also need to be researched and discussed further before action can be taken. SASE Executive Director Annelies Fryberger stated that this could be an option that could be discussed when a concrete scenario is available, for instance when the conference is in Limerick in 2024.

No motions are tabled.

## **7. SASE RISE V – Regional conference 2021**

Julimar da Silva Bichara opens by discussing the 5th SASE RISE conference, which was virtual due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He explains that around 200 papers were presented to more than 370 participants across the conference. Julimar notes that the conference was a success and takes the time to thank the SASE Staff and Council members for their support in making it so.

## **8. SASE RISE VI - Regional conference 2023**

Julimar da Silva Bichara explains that the 6<sup>th</sup> SASE RISE event will be held in Ecuador and introduces the local organizer, the representative of the rectorat from the Catholic University of Santiago de Guayaquil.

The representative delivers a presentation highlighting the benefits of the proposed venue (The Catholic University of Santiago de Guayaquil) and the host country.

## 9. SER Report

Socio-Economic Review (SER) co-editor-in-chief Akos Rona-Tas opens by stating that he and fellow co-editor-in-chief Alya Guseva took over the role in January 2022 and that most of the figures that he will mention refer to the previous year under editor-in-chief Gregory Jackson.

He follows this by stating that the time taken for desk rejects has lowered from an average of 40 days to 14 days, the process to review a paper has lowered from 122 days to 93 days, and the acceptance rate of the journal is around 10-12%.

Rona-Tas goes on to explain the changes that have taken place since he and Guseva became editors-in-chief, opening with the appointment of new student interns who have been helping in a variety of areas. It is highlighted that two projects in particular have benefitted from the interns, and that is the creation of an archive in preparation for the anniversary of the journal and the creation of SER café – an author-meets-critics space for authors of notable SER articles.

It is clarified that these initiatives are to help improve the afterlife of an article, and that SER is also exploring podcasting as a medium for this, with two 10-minute podcast episodes with SASE authors already available.

The use of unpaid interns is questioned by some of the Council. It is explained that the interns are not replacing work that would otherwise be paid for, and that the interns are receiving college credit for this work. It is suggested that for this to be widely understood the word 'intern' should be avoided in the future and replaced with something that better reflects the nature of the role.

Akos moves on to discuss some personnel changes, with Sébastien Lechevalier and Eleni Tsingou introduced as new members of the editorial board, before revealing SER's new impact factor of 4.05, a drop from the previous impact factor of 4.5.

It is noted that there are two possible explanations for this decrease:

1. A focus on making the journal accessible for younger scholars and scholars from outside of Europe and North America, which is highlighted as being good for the long-term impact factor of the journal but not for the short term.

2. It is theorised that the two-year window by which impact factor is measured is not sufficient to capture the impact of an article through citations in socioeconomics due to the long lead time between inspiration and publication. This was previously worked around by 'pre-publishing' articles, however the methodology for calculating the impact factor has since changed to no longer allow this method.

## 10. Prolongation of Annelies Fryberger's contract as Executive Director

Former SASE president Sigrid Quack explains that the temporary contract of Executive Director Annelies Fryberger will be coming to an end on August 9<sup>th</sup> 2022. German labor law dictates that the next contract offered should be permanent, but she also stresses that this is also in the best interest of the organization to give the Executive Director a long-term perspective. She takes a moment to sing the praises of Annelies Fryberger.

**Proposal:** Offer a permanent contract to Annelies Fryberger, with the removal of the probation clause from her temporary contract and the addition of a stipend for conference travel.

**Explanation:** It is the feeling of the Executive Council, as expressed by Sigrid Quack, that Annelies Fryberger has done an excellent job, thereby meriting a new contract. It is explained that Annelies has passed her probation period, necessitating the removal of this clause, and that a €3,000 conference travel allowance would be to allow her to visit other conferences as a learning experience for her role in SASE.

**Discussion:** Overwhelming support is expressed for the work Annelies is doing.

**VOTE:** Offer a permanent (part-time at 50%) contract to Annelies Fryberger, with the removal of the probation clause from her temporary contract and the addition of a €3,000 per year stipend for conference travel.

**MOTION PASSED**

## 11. Network Oversight Committee

Caroline Arnold opens this section by explaining that in the 2017-2018 period, four new networks were formed. She adds that, since 2018, three networks have been proposed, but none of these were accepted.

She reflects on this by hypothetically posing the question "what are the selection criteria for a new network?", before explaining that a mini-conference had to be



run successfully for three consecutive years before it was eligible to become a network.

It is also explained that the Network Organizers Forum was set up in response to the formation of the four newest networks, with a member sitting on the executive council, as Network Organizers had not felt that they had been consulted enough during the network approval process.

SASE President Jacqueline O'Reilly expands on this, by stating that the relationship between networks and mini-conferences can be fraught due to the cross over of subjects and the perceived threat of losing members/papers.

**Proposal:** Applicants for a mini conference should list what networks are closest to them. This information will be shared with the network organizers should their applications be accepted, and network organizers can do with this information as they see fit.

**Explanation:**

It is explained that the idea behind this motion is to have a more streamlined conference with less competition for time and space, and adding this step to the mini-conference application process would potentially give the organization the ability to move around papers to create more cohesive sessions and maximise the possibility of useful feedback for papers.

**Discussion:**

The increase in workload for Network Organizers was questioned, and it was admitted that this would be slightly more work for Network Organizers in terms of communication – but would ultimately make organization easier. A concern is raised that making the mini-conference process more bureaucratic would discourage people from trying to run new, and especially more niche, mini-conferences. It is further highlighted by the members of the Council that the motion appears to be one of information sharing rather than gatekeeping, as it allows Network Organizers to have access to information that they would not receive otherwise.

**VOTE: Applicants for a mini-conference should clearly list what networks are closest to them *for information purposes only*. This information will be shared with the networks should their applications be accepted.**

**MOTION PASSED**

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**Proposal:** Mini-conferences should be given the option to apply for a 1- or 3-year tenure.

After a discussion highlighting the administrative complications in the event of an Organizer not delivering in year two or three, the subject of a mini-conference potentially becoming irrelevant or falling out of favor, and the decision making

behind deciding which mini-conferences could receive the three-year status, the motion was dropped without a vote. However, it is decided that for next year the information surrounding the way in which mini-conferences may become networks should be clarified and better communicated.

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**Proposal:** Motion to approve the network application "Climate Change, Environment, and Economy".

**Explanation:** The proposal for this potential network was supplied in advance to Executive Council Members to assess its viability.

**Discussion:** Although questions are raised from the Council regarding the long-term prospects of this network, it is generally agreed that it should go ahead, potentially with a title that is more focused.

**VOTE: Motion to approve the network application "Climate Change, Environment, and Economy", with a suggestion that the name could be changed for the sake of clarity.**

**MOTION PASSED**

## **12. Local organizing committee report for Rio de Janeiro**

Local Organizer Marta dos Reis Castilho delivers a presentation on the next SASE annual meeting in Rio, 2023.

She announced the theme of the conference, proposed by SASE President-Elect Santos Ruesga: "Socio-Economics in a Transitioning World: Breaking Lines and Alternative Paradigms for a New World Order". She explains that the Local Organizers are currently looking for featured speakers, contacting service providers, and submitting funding proposals.

Marta dos Reis Castilho continues to explain the benefits of hosting SASE in Brazil, and how important it is to reach out to the South American SASE community. It is noted that hosting the SASE annual conference in Latin America will have no effect on the SASE-RISE regional conferences.

**Motion:** Conference fees for SASE 2023 would remain the same as SASE 2022, with the difference that lunches will be included in the fees. The conference dinner would be ticketed separately (not included in the conference fee).

**Explanation:** Annelies Fryberger introduces a motion for the conference fees, explaining that they would remain the same as SASE 2022 (noting that this essentially lowers the fees with inflation), and that lunches will be included for all 3 days. The Conference dinner would be a ticketed event (not included in the conference fees).

*This section is also interrupted with a wide round of applause for Annelies Fryberger, as an appreciation for the job she has done and continues to do. This had been planned for after the contract discussion, however the Council had been distracted by the motion at hand.*

**Discussion:** Motion is passed without discussion

**VOTE: Conference fees for SASE 2023 would remain the same as SASE 2022, and lunches will be included. The Conference dinner would be a ticketed event (not included in the conference fees).**

**MOTION PASSED**

## 14. Special projects report

SASE Freelancer Jacob Bromberg opens by explaining how he was tasked with creating a number of live pre-conference events and two podcast episodes. The final output of these special projects totalled seven virtual events, one hybrid virtual event, one cancelled virtual event, and two podcast episodes. The cost of these was a total of 204 hours of labor of the 250 hours that had been allocated, meaning 46 hours of labor remain for further projects in the autumn.

Jacob continues to explain that the aim of these projects was to:

- Increase SASE Membership
- Engage with and provide content for the SASE community
- Engage with and provide content for the wider academic community
- Grow the SASE and SER brands, while strengthening the relationship between these two in the mind of the public.
- Provide quality content for those unable or unwilling to travel to conferences.

For the podcasts it is stated that the two episodes had been downloaded or streamed a total of 32 times, It was highlighted that the podcast episodes had been released recently and had not had much promotion owing to the annual conference promotion at the time. It is also noted that this number had increased from 20 as a result of a recent mailout.

For the live events, it is estimated that around 12 memberships were generated from all of the events, recuperating around a third of the budget. It is noted that the best attended event was the hybrid event run in conjunction with the University of Limerick as part of their Research Week, with 60 total attendees, and this kind of institutional relationship is touted as something that could be explored further.

It is suggested that Network Organizers and Socio-Economic Review Editors are brought into the discussion regarding these projects before the December

Executive Council Meeting to assess whether or not collaborations would be of benefit to all parties

## **15. Report on SASE Social media accounts**

SASE Freelancer Shaun Owen explains that the social media strategy of the organization has shifted over the past two years towards the creation, management, and diffusion of 'evergreen content'. Examples of the new design elements were made available to Executive Council Members ahead of time.

He explains that this is content that can be reused either indefinitely into the future or for several months/years before it becomes out of date to keep the SASE social media accounts active and engaging without having to constantly source new material. It is noted that some cornerstones of this strategy are:

- Suggesting work that can be commissioned at the annual conference, such as interviews with members.
- Re-cutting and framing older video content to make it more social media friendly.
- Cutting and teasing elements from podcasts to entice users to go back and listen to old episodes.
- Analyzing when to promote older articles (either on a content/news basis, or on a schedule) for maximizing exposure.

It is further revealed that posts from SASE social media accounts totalled just under 500,000 impressions in the last year.

## **16. Membership and Diversity Committee**

It is explained that this report will be presented at a future Executive Council Meeting.

## **17. Women and Gender Forum**

Jacqueline O'Reilly explains that membership and participation in the Women and Gender Forum has been stagnating recently, and that because of this the Organization put out a call for new members which was well received and resulted in a number of interested members coming forward. The organization hopes that these new members will inject some new ideas into the Forum during their meeting at the Amsterdam conference.

It is then further explained that a number of the speakers at the SASE Amsterdam conference had been invited by, or after consultation with, the Women and

Gender forum, including: Sharon Dodua Otoo, Chelsea Kwakye, and Ore Ogunbiyi.

## **18. SER Best Paper Prize Committee**

Timur Ergen briefly explains that the SER Best Paper Prize Committee were extremely happy with both the three-paper shortlist and the eventual winner this year. He goes on to explain that no honorary mention was offered this year, just the 'Best Paper' prize which was awarded to Bernhard Reinsberg, Alexander Kentikelenis, and Thomas Stubbs for their paper "Creating Crony Capitalism: Neoliberal Globalization and the Fuelling of Corruption".

## **19. Early Career Workshop Committee**

Jacqueline O'Reilly notes that the Early Career Workshop is taking place at the same time as the Executive Council Meeting, and thanks the committee chair Roberto Pedersini (not present, due to Early Career Workshop duties) for his hard work.

## **20. Nominations Committee**

Jeanne Lazarus explains that Yuri Biondi is on the ballot to take over from Nina Bandelj as the SASE treasurer, and that the committee is awaiting the results of the SASE member elections.

## **20. Alice Amsden Award Committee**

Virag Molnar reveals that the committee received their highest ever number of nominations with a total of 41 books, which was shortlisted to seven before the unanimous winner *China's Gilded Age: The Paradox of Economic Boom and Vast Corruption* by Yuen Yuen Ang was announced.

It is also shared that the committee decided to award two honorable mentions, to Rebecca Elliott for her book *Underwater: Loss, Flood Insurance, and the Moral Economy of Climate Change in the United States* and to Rhacel Salazar Parreñas for her book *Unfree: Migrant Domestic Work in Arab States*.