



European Association for South Asian Studies

www.easas.eu

EASAS Newsletter May 2021

Due to the pandemic and uncertainties regarding developments this Newsletter has been delayed.

1. 26th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) in Vienna, Austria, 26 – 29 July 2021

The organizers of the 26th ECSAS decided at the end of April to hold the conference as an online event with the possibility to take part in a few selected hybrid panels at the Vienna conference site. This is the text of the 4th circular on the 26th ECSAS:

ECSAS2021: 4th CIRCULAR

Dear Conveners and Presenters,

thank you for your reply to our last circular and the announcement of your preferred participation (online or in person) in the upcoming ECSAS conference. Based on your feedback, we decided that the 26th ECSAS conference in Vienna will be hosted as an online event from 26 -29 July 2021, with the possibility to take part in a few selected hybrid panels and join the conference on site. A list of the respective panels will soon be announced on the website.

In light of continuing travel restrictions, we consider the virtual format the best solution for all conveners and participants to gather and access the event from their countries without constraints and concerns about health issues. But we also want to accommodate the wish of some colleagues to meet in person, and therefore we plan to provide safe conference space, as far as possible under current conditions.

The conference will be mainly organised via Zoom, using the secure licenses of Vienna University and providing also opportunities for informal virtual meetings, including casual breaks and joint side events for entertainment. We will send detailed access instructions and further advice on technical and practical requirements in due course to secure a smooth e-event.

##Online participation

An online event of this size involves a great deal of organizational and technical effort, we therefore also have to charge registration fee:

- Regular: € 70 after June 30: € 90
- Student: € 35 after June 30: € 45

Registration for online participation will be open from mid-May onwards.

On-site participation

There is still some uncertainty about the regulatory requirements for on-site scientific events in summer, but we are optimistic that a safe gathering will be possible by taking all necessary precautions (this is likely to include testing, wearing of FFP2 masks, keeping a distance).

Due to the current situation, there will be no social events, except one open-air reception, but we will provide lunch and coffee breaks.

Registration fee:

- Regular: € 160 after June 30: € 190
- Student: € 110 after June 30: € 135

Registration for on-site participation will be open from mid-May onwards.

We regret that this year we cannot provide bursaries for young researchers, but we encourage everybody to take the advantage of joining the conference online

We also regret that we cannot finance cancellation and re-booking fees, in case an on-site participation will not be possible due to Covid-19-pandemic restrictions. Please make sure to book your travel accordingly.

Panel Organisation

In the next few days we will review the panels on our website and remove the abstracts of those colleagues who unfortunately had to cancel their participation. Please contact us if there are any other necessary changes. All panel conveners are requested to submit the proposed programme of their panels - i.e., the proposed sequence of papers - **before 30 May 2021** by e-mail to ecsas2020@univie.ac.at, with a clear indication of the time zones of all participants. We will take this into consideration when finalizing the programme in the course of June

Please keep in mind that the 26th ECSAS requires EASAS membership.

We are looking forward to this special and challenging new format of our biannual meeting and we wish you all the best in the meantime: stay safe and healthy!

The Conveners and Organising Committee

The 4th circular can be found also under: <https://ecsas2021.univie.ac.at/ecsas2021-4th-circular/>

2. Elections of Executive Board and Advisory Committee

EASAS so far held its General Meetings bi-annually in the context of the European Conferences on South Asian Studies. Accordingly, the next General Meeting was planned to be held at the

end of July 2020. The postponement of the Vienna ECSAS from 2020 to 2021 meant that the General Meeting had to be postponed as well.

The next *General Meeting* (GM) is now scheduled to take place on 27 July 2021 during the 26th ECSAS. Whether it will be held as a hybrid event or completely online has still to be decided and will be directly communicated via email to all members by the Bonn EASAS office at the end of June 2021. This will contain all necessary information about registration for the GM, required for technical and organizational reasons.

The *election of the new Executive Board and the Advisory Committee* (which together form the Full Council) will be held completely online. Procedure will be as follows: Beginning of June: Call for nominations to be sent to all members; end of June preparation of Ballot papers. The Voting platform will open on 26 July and will be kept open for 24 hours.

3. 27th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) in Torino, Italy, in July 2023

Following the postponement of the 26th ECSAS the 27th ECSAS has also been postponed to maintain the usual two-year interval between conferences. The 27th ECSAS is now scheduled for July 2023. As earlier decided, it will be held in Torino, Italy, and organized by the Institute for Asian Studies (ISA), the Department of Humanities, the Department of Culture, Politics and Societies, the Department of Law, and the Department of Foreign Languages of the University of Torino. The convener of the 27th ECSAS is Alessandra Consolaro.

4. Council Meetings

Full meetings of the Council of EASAS were held on 10 December 2020 and 9 April 2021 by video conferencing.

5. SAMAJ-EASAS special issues 2020 and 2021

Due to the postponement of the 26th ECSAS, SAMAJ also had no special issue in collaboration with EASAS in 2020.

The special call for papers for a special EASAS-SAMAJ issue on “*South Asia and the Coronavirus outbreak*”, launched in July 2020, did not receive satisfactory response from EASAS members.

6. Invitation to join the EASAS-SAMAJ editorial team as SAMAJ-EASAS series editor

The editorial team in charge of special EASAS-SAMAJ issues currently has three members from the side of EASAS: Peter Birkelund Andersen, Alessandra Consolaro and Sanjukta Dasgupta. It is desirable to have one more EASAS representative, to ensure continuity and to spread the workload, and also to allow a turnover. The Council of EASAS herewith invites all

members to consider joining the editorial team. Please consult:
<https://journals.openedition.org/samaj/3668>

Suggestions for nominations of members for the editorial team should be sent to the Executive Board by 13 July 2021.

The EASAS Board and Council wish all of you that you may stay safe and well during these difficult times,

on behalf of the Council,

Danuta Stasik, President

Martin Fuchs, Vice-President

Peter B. Andersen, Treasurer