



European Association for South Asian Studies

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EASAS Newsletter Summer 2020

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

Considering the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic around the globe and its impact on everyone's mobility and safety, the Organising Committee of the 26th ECSAS in Vienna came to the decision – after consulting with the Full Council of EASAS – that the best way to ensure general participation and success is to postpone the conference for one year, to summer 2021. The new date set for the conference is **26–29 July 2021**.

The aim is to hold the conference by keeping the accepted panels and papers as they are, but this will probably not be possible in all cases. The Organising Committee therefore asks all panel conveners to kindly confirm that they are still willing and able to convene their panels as planned, and all paper presenters to communicate their intention to participate to their respective panel conveners. The panel conveners are then requested to provide the organisers with a short note of confirmation and convey the necessary information in case there will be any changes in the panel by **30 September 2020**. This will make it possible to start working on re-arrangements of the programme as deemed necessary.

Further details: <https://ecsas2021.univie.ac.at/ecsas2021-special-circular/>

The organisers hope to see a broad and lively gathering in summer 2021 in Vienna!

Martin Gaenzle, Birgit Kellner (Conveners)
and the ECSAS2021 Conference Team

2. Elections of Executive Board and Advisory Committee *Postponed*

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 now means that the General Meeting has to be postponed as well.

A core item on the agenda of each General Meeting is the election of the Executive Board and the Advisory Committee (which together form the Full Council). Since EASAS is registered in Bonn, Germany, and subject to German Law, the Executive Board asked a German lawyer for

a formal legal opinion regarding whether the election of the Executive Board and the Advisory Board can be postponed by a whole year until the next General Meeting. In his letter to the Executive Board he states (translated from German): “Your statutes provide in § 7 paragraph 2 that the members of the Full Council are elected for a period of two years and remain in office until a new election. Such a ‘continuation clause’ is generally intended to ensure a certain transitional period, as the term of office of the Executive Board is calculated to the day. How long this transitional period may last is not regulated. Some (Reichert/Wagner, VereinsR, Chapter 2, margin no. 2275) argue that in cases of abuse this continuation clause should not apply. Here, however, I do not see any abuse, but rather a mandatory conduct of the Executive Board.”

The next General Meeting is now scheduled to take place at the end of July 2021 during the 26th ECSAS.

3. 27th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) in Torino, Italy, in July 2022

The 27th ECSAS will take place in the Alp-fringed city of Torino, in the premises of the University of Torino, Italy from 27 July to 30 July 2022. The conference will be hosted 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. There is a long tradition of South Asian Studies in Torino, going back to the year 1852, when Gaspare Gorresio founded the Italian Indology, establishing the first university chair for Sanskrit in Italy. Since then, Torino has been a centre for the study of classical and early modern South Asia, but in the recent decades the interest for the modern and contemporary period has expanded, including research on modern Indian languages and literatures, history, social sciences, and law. The convener of the 27th ECSAS is Alessandra Consolaro.

4. Council Meeting

A meeting of the Full Council of EASAS was held on 30th March by video conferencing.

5. SAMAJ-EASAS special issues 2020 and 2021

SAMAJ/EASAS joint issue number 8, titled “Unique Identification in India: Aadhaar, Biometrics and Technology –Mediated Identities” and edited by Silvia Masiero and S. Shakthi, will be published online at the end of August 2020.

Call for papers on “South Asia and the Coronavirus outbreak”

Due to the postponement of the 26th ECSAS to 2021, no panel will be selected this year. Instead we launch a special call for paper on “*South Asia and the Coronavirus outbreak*”. The Coronavirus Disease Outbreak-2019 (COVID-19) has had a far-range global impact. In South Asia where most countries have applied a strict lockdown, it has affected all ranges of life and communities. This issue welcomes all perspectives on this topic through articles grounded on

an original first-hand empirical research—be it (online) texts or actual fieldwork—that fall under social science or humanities research and that consider the social, economic, cultural and/or political impact of this unprecedented crisis in South Asian societies. Titles and short abstracts (100-150 words maximum, describing the main arguments of the article) are to be sent to chiefed@samaj.eu by 15 September 2020. Once selected the first drafts (6,000 to 8,000 words) are due by the 1st of January 2021 for an online publication in the autumn 2021. For more information on the submission, see [here](#).

Next panel selection July 2021

After the Vienna conference in July 2021 only one panel will be selected for a SAMAJ/EASAS joint issue, as the following ECSAS in Torino is scheduled already for 2022.

6. Call for proposals for EASAS PhD Workshop 2020

EASAS in its Winter 2019 Newsletter published a call for proposals for EASAS PhD Workshops in 2020. Until 15 February we did not receive any applications and in view of the Coronavirus pandemic the call was not repeated.

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