



2019 Annual Report
Professor Dame Sue Black DBE FRSE FRCP FRAI
President, Royal Anthropological Institute

This report is written amidst what must be one of the most extra-ordinary years in the Institute's history, to an AGM that will be for the first time ever be held remotely. Around us during the first half of March, cultural and educational institutions began to close their doors. Then, on Monday March 16th 2020 we too closed down for the duration of the threat posed by the Covid19 virus. Charlotte Street, Warren Street, all the normally so busy areas with restaurants and bars emptied, and many establishments boarded their frontages. The streets became almost entirely deserted. The lockdown means that we have been able to hold no face-to-face events since that date. We were also forced to cancel the large conference Anthropology and Geography conference which we had so painstakingly been planning with our co-organisers: the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), the British Museum, and SOAS. We do not know yet when we will be able to resume normal operations.

As one would expect the institute's fellows and staff have risen cheerfully and actively to the challenge. All our staff are well, and have continued with their normal duties working from home. None have become seriously ill. After the first weeks went by, we began to experiment with virtual seminars, which have been going well, including a series on anthropological approaches to Covid19. And, with the encouragement of our co-organisers, we resurrected the Anthropology and Geography conference, this time as an entirely virtual event. This will take place 14th-18th September, using a platform called Shindig. Approximately 75% of the original delegates have transferred their papers to the new system, and we are looking forward enormously to its taking place.

What we don't know yet are consequences of the present crisis. It goes without saying that this will depend greatly as to how long it lasts. I can say, however, that as a result of prudent planning we are confident that we can surmount its immediate impact. We work with many different partners: universities, other charities, foundations and individuals. There will be a longer-term impact on all of them, and in turn on us. We can only watch carefully, and be as prepared as we can. Very approximately, we hope that we can hold face-to-face events again in the New Year, and that we can gradually go back to our premises before then.

Turning now to happier things, I am delighted to report to the Fellows that our petition to the Privy Council to be awarded a Royal Charter was successful. This is a compliment not only to my immediate predecessors, but to the generations of committed anthropologists who, as each decade goes by, have placed the Institute on successively sounder footing. It also represents for the first time official recognition of anthropology as a discipline which contributes toward the common good. The celebration that we had planned will inevitably have to take place at a later date. We have however recently started a new committee, for policy and practice. This committee, already flourishing, will examine in detail the ways that we can help bring about a closer relationship between anthropology and policy in a creative way.

I should clarify that the Charter does not officially come into force until it is sealed which, as the relevant offices have not yet reopened, has not yet taken place. As soon as there is news on this point, I will naturally inform you.

2019, the year upon which this report is based, seems a long way away now. It was, though, full of event for Institute. A highlight was the film festival, which again was held at the Watershed, Bristol. We continued with our experiment of working together with different university partners, and once again this was a great success. The RAI Film Prize was won by *Of Love and Law* (Dir. Hikaru Toda), and we were additionally very pleased to be able to give the life-time achievement award to Kim Longinotto, who held the audience spell-bound as she took us through her many fine productions. The further winners may be seen on the dedicated web-site, where the programme may also still be seen (<https://raifilm.org.uk/>). Our extra-ordinarily fruitful partnership with the University of Southern California goes from strength to strength, and we look forward to welcoming colleagues from USC next spring at Bristol, when we hope very much that such events will again be possible.

This year's Huxley lecture was delivered by Professor Chris Hann (Max Planck Institute, Halle) at the British Museum, on the subject of *Economy and Ethics in the Cosmic Process*, for which he returned to Huxley's original ideas and others of the late nineteenth century, illustrating the lecture throughout with the historical ethnography of a state farm and its aftermath in Hungary. It was a fascinating tour de force that will long remain in the mind. Also in the autumn, we were very privileged to be able to hold an event at the British Library, the RAI Blacking Lecture, *Archiving World Music Cultures and the Impacts of Listening* by Janet Topp Fargion. This is part of our wider initiative to increase gradually the music and sound, as well as dance, aspect of our activities. We hope to be able to do more of this in future. One-day seminars too have become a feature of our work, and we were pleased to be able to hold a day in memory of Professor Michael Banton, our former President, to mark his long and distinguished career.

Our flagship publications the *JRAI* and *AT* continue to grow and flourish: the *JRAI* has been expertly edited by Dr Elizabeth Hallam, whose term of office comes to an end this year, and we will for the first time welcome an editorial team to take on this role. I should like to wish Dr Hannah Knox (UCL), Dr Adam Reed (St Andrews), Dr Chika Watanabe (Manchester) and Dr Tom Yarrow (Durham) every success in their tenure. We have been increasingly experimenting with open access: our third journal *Teaching Anthropology* is now well-established, and we have also produced an increasing number of open access pamphlets, first drawn from our Anthropology and Photography conference, and more recently from our Anthropology, Art and Materiality gathering, and we look forward to more of these appearing in the future.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the staff, fellows, committees and all those associated with the institute for their extraordinary good will and devotion to its well-being. We are surmounting the present challenge with determination, and I have no doubt that we will face the future with similar readiness.

Treasurer's Report

The RAI held a steady financial position in 2019, maintaining an overall surplus at the end of the year.

Our general warnings from previous years must remain. The instability of the financial world situation, and the more specific rise of 'open access' publishing means that the future income of the RAI may be affected. This is already becoming evident in that different models of scholarly journal publishing are being explored globally, and it is regrettably not clear that even modestly priced journals such as ours will be able to come through these changes unscathed. In parallel fashion, changes in technology make it clear that we shall have to work very hard to ensure the viability of our ethnographic film distribution as DVDs become less popular.

The diversification of our investments so as to include property continues. At present, all the properties owned by the RAI are rented out, and provide a steady source of income. Income from Fellowship and membership continues to remain constant. Provided that we can successfully diversify in the coming years, we can continue to be cautiously optimistic about our financial position.

We should note additionally that in early 2020, the Covid19 crisis forced the temporary closure of the institute, and the curtailment of its events programme. However, from the financial point of view, the prudent path that the institute has been pursuing for many years means that we anticipate that provided the Coronavirus crisis runs its course in the time scale that is currently discussed, our budget will be in credit in 2020. The equity holdings of the RAI showed some variation along with the market as a whole, but have since largely recovered. The impact the crisis will have on our activities for 2021 is not yet clear, but we are reviewing the situation closely and continuously.

Dr Fiona Bowie, Honorary Treasurer

Library Donors during 2019 were;

Roy Ellen, Joan Smith, Anna Craven, Ruth Finnegan, David Salter, John Burton, Sylvia Vatuk, Graham Connah, Pat Caplan, Cathrine Degnen, Sara Delamont, Paul Atkinson, Maren White, Robin Torrence, Trevor Marchand, Brian Street (estate)

Fellows of the RAI who are members of the institute's committees may be found on this link <https://www.therai.org.uk/committees>.



**ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020
followed by the 2020 Presidential Address**

The 2020 AGM will take place on Friday 16 October at 3.00 pm on Zoom.
It will be followed by the 2020 Presidential Address

All are welcome. Only RAI Fellows may vote at the AGM. Formal notification of the AGM has also been published in *Anthropology Today* and on the RAI website.

Programme

3.00 pm: AGM
5.30 pm (approximately)
2020 Presidential address by Prof Dame Sue Black

AGM AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 20 September 2019
2. Annual Report of the Council for 2019
3. Appointment of Auditors (Current auditors: Friend-James, Chartered Accountants)
4. Election of Officers and Council for the year 2020-2021 (see overleaf for House List)
5. Announcement of elections of the Huxley Memorial Lecturer and Henry Myers Lecturer for 2021
6. Rivers Memorial Medal for 2020
7. Lucy Mair Marsh Medal for 2020
8. Marsh Award for 2020
9. Public Anthropology Award for 2020
10. President's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020
11. Any other business

HOUSE LIST

(for election of Officers and Council under agenda item 4)

Names proposed by Council (new nominations marked with *)

All nominations are subject to the election of candidates as RAI Fellows for the year(s) in which they hold office. Former Presidents are *ex officio* Vice Presidents and not listed below.

President: Professor Sue Black

Elected Vice Presidents:

Dr Matei Candea
Professor Rob Foley
Professor Joy Hendry

Hon Secretary: Professor Raymond Apthorpe

Hon Librarian: Dr Michael Scott

Hon Treasurer: Dr Fiona Bowie

Ordinary members of Council

Professor John Baily
Professor Paul Basu
Professor Laura Bishop
Professor Janet Carsten
Dr Rupert Cox
Professor John Gowlett
Dr Lucina Hackman
Professor Kate Hill
Dr Louise Humphrey
Professor Susanne Kuechler
Professor James Laidlaw
Dr Rebecca Lynch
Professor Ann MacLarnon*
Dr H el ene Neveu Kringelbach*
Professor Melissa Parker*
Professor Julian Thomas
Dr Christopher Tyler
Dr Shireen Walton*

Article 42(b) of the Articles of Association states:

In addition to the candidates named in the House List, any member (Fellow) may be nominated for election as an Officer or a member of Council provided such member shall not have been disqualified under these presents.

Nominations shall be in writing and signed by at least two members (Fellows) eligible to vote and accompanied by a statement in writing by the nominee expressing his willingness to serve if elected. Nominations must have been lodged with the Secretary not later than three days before the Annual General Meeting.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2019 Total £	2018 Total £
INCOME					
Donations and grants	34,150	-	71,746	105,896	991,662
Investment income	93,082	93	2,411	95,586	69,665
Other income	10,255	-	-	10,255	5,630
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>					
Fellowship and Membership	93,737	-	-	93,737	95,474
Publications	733,938	-	-	733,938	677,356
RAI Collection	105,915	-	-	105,915	110,414
Education Programme	6,765	-	-	6,765	134,428
TOTAL INCOME	1,077,842	93	74,157	1,152,092	2,084,629
EXPENDITURE					
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities:</i>					
Policy and Profile	135,013	-	41,850	176,863	180,331
Fellowship and Membership	64,581	-	-	64,581	67,697
Publications	360,175	-	-	360,175	347,896
RAI Collection	182,437	-	13,880	196,317	145,116
Library	59,137	-	-	59,137	81,635
Education Programme	131,706	-	1,800	133,506	205,960
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	933,049	-	57,530	990,579	1,028,635
Net income for the year	144,793	93	16,627	161,513	1,055,994
Gain / (Loss) on investments	81,283	284	14,240	95,807	(59,076)
Transfers between funds	(34,826)	34,826	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	191,250	35,203	30,867	257,320	996,918
Fund balances at 1 January 2019	881,783	1,810,688	1,208,715	3,901,186	2,904,268
Fund balances at 31 December 2019	1,073,033	1,845,891	1,239,582	4,158,506	3,901,186

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	679,798	681,963
Freehold investment property	1,060,580	1,023,589
Listed investments	1,877,523	433,623
	<u>3,617,901</u>	<u>2,139,175</u>
Current assets		
Debtors	177,980	425,358
Cash at bank and in hand	794,096	1,713,891
	<u>972,076</u>	<u>2,139,249</u>
Creditors-amounts falling due within one year	<u>(431,471)</u>	<u>(377,238)</u>
Net current assets	540,605	1,762,011
	<u>4,158,506</u>	<u>3,901,186</u>
Income funds		
Restricted funds	1,239,582	1,208,715
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	1,845,891	1,810,688
Other charitable funds	1,073,033	881,783
	<u>4,158,506</u>	<u>3,901,186</u>

These summarised accounts are extracted from the full unqualified audited accounts approved by the trustees on 03 July 2020. For further information, the full statutory accounts, which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and the Charity Commission, should be consulted. These can be obtained from RAI offices at 50 Fitzroy Street, London W1T 5BT.

Auditors' statement on the summary accounts to the trustees of the Royal Anthropological Institute

We have examined the summary accounts set out on pages 5 to 6 inclusive.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

These summary accounts presented on pages 5 to 6 are the responsibility of the trustees. It is our responsibility to report our opinion on their consistency with the full accounts, on which we reported on 17 July 2020. Our report on the full accounts of the Institute includes information on the responsibilities of the trustees and the auditors relating to the preparation and the audit of those accounts and on the basis of our unqualified opinion on those accounts.

Basis of opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summary accounts are consistent with the full accounts from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary accounts on pages 5 to 6 are consistent with the full accounts of the Royal Anthropological Institute for the year ended 31 December 2019.

Friend-James Limited
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor,
4th Floor, Park Gate
161-163 Preston Road,
Brighton
BN1 6AF

Dated: 17 July 2020