



EASA Anthropology of Security Network

**ASN Newsletter
1/2019**

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[1. ASN Network Conference *Security and Morality: Critical Anthropological Perspectives*](#)

The ASN Conference “*Security and Morality: Critical Anthropological Perspectives*” was held on March 28 – 29, 2019, at the University of Oslo. The conference provided a productive platform to explore security through a focus on morality and to share and exchange on research-projects at



different stages. Participants greatly welcomed the conference topic and opportunity to analyse the security-morality nexus in their respective fields of research on counter-terrorism, humanitarianism, biker-clubs, migration control, policing, ‘community’ cohesion, victim-support programs and more ([see program](#)). The topic also opened a space for reflections about the ethical challenges in doing research in a politically and morally highly charged field.

Geographically, the case studies presented at the conference explored security-morality configurations in different EU countries, as well as in the US, Russia, Mexico, the Middle-East and

in the South Pacific. The conference brought together around thirty colleagues from across the disciplines of anthropology, political science, social work, law and criminology. On the first evening, Katja Franko Aas' keynote lecture addressed the moral economy of migration control. The conference concluded with two book-launches: "*Security Blurs: The Politics of Plural Security Provision*", presented by Tessa Diphoorn and Erella Grassiani and "*How Outlaws Win Friends and Influence People*", by Tereza Kuldova.

A special thanks to all the participants and to Tereza Kuldova for hosting the ASN conference at the University of Oslo.

2. ASN meeting on March 29, 2019

The ASN Network has decided to offer following support to the network members and scholars in the field of anthropology of security:

- **Newsletter:** An ASN newsletter will be distributed through this list, containing, for example upcoming conferences, call for papers, as well as relevant publications.

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We encourage you to share relevant information, either by directly sending it yourself through the network list, or by sending it to anthro-security@protonmail.com in order for us to collect it for dissemination through the newsletter.

- **Homepage / Members-profiles:** you will now be able to register under <https://anthro-security.net/> in order to set up a profile on the homepage. We invite you to indicate your fields of academic research and interest. As a possibility for the future, the idea of having thematic sections introducing particular areas of research was discussed.
- **Blog:** We have discussed the possibility of developing an ASN blog, however, while the idea of a blog was welcomed, we are currently unable to guarantee continuity and quality of blog-posts. However, we are happy to re-post any of your popular texts and share them on the website, Twitter, and Facebook on your behalf. As such, the network can support a blog section on the homepage if there is enough interest to participate in providing content.
- **16th EASA biennial conference, 21-24 July 2020 in Lisbon:** enough time to think and exchange about panels! Feel free to use the network email list to exchange ideas on panel topics and find colleagues interested in proposing a panel together. EASA guarantees one panel to each network, but the ASN network label can be used indefinitely. We strongly encourage everyone to do that to also increase visibility.
- **AAA/CASCA Annual Meeting, 20-24 November 2019 in Vancouver:** All network members participating in Vancouver are encouraged to inform us about their panels, presentations, roundtables, and meetings. We plan to circulate a security-related list of events in Vancouver prior to the meeting.
- The same goes for the **IUAES Inter-Congress 'World Solidarities', 27-31 August 2019 in Poznań** – please inform us about your panels and paper presentations!
- **Conference publication on 'Security and Morality':** (see above)

3. News

Upcoming events

- **3-4th of June 2019 – Utrecht University (NL): [DIGITIZED GLOBAL MOBILITIES – the role of new media and digitalisation in the security approaches of the refugee crisis](#)**
- ‘Anthropologists Struggling with Neo-Nationalism and Authoritarianism: Challenges for Ethnography in Turbulent Times’. Workshop with Nitzan Shoshan (Centro de Estudios Sociológicos, El Colegio de México), 27/28 June 2019 (see <https://www.ikk.uni-muenchen.de/download/call-for-participation.pdf>)

Recent Publications

- [How Outlaws Win Friends and Influence People](#), by Tereza Kuldova
- [Der Alltag der \(Un-\)Sicherheit. Ethnografisch-kulturwissenschaftliche Perspektiven auf die Sicherheitsgesellschaft \(in German\)](#), Berlin: Panama, [edited by Alexandra Schwell and Katharina Eisch-Angus](#)
- [Security Blurs: The Politics of Plural Security Provision](#), by Tessa Diphoorn and Erella Grassiani

Next network meeting

For those who are attending the IUAES Inter-Congress in Poland: We plan to set up a meeting for ASN members and friends, details to follow!

4. Call for (Additional Papers) on ‘Security and Morality’ for a special issue of the *Journal of Extreme Anthropology*

Due to the interest of a number of participants in a joint publication of the conference topic of ***Security and Morality***, we have decided to devote a special issue of the open-access peer-reviewed [Journal of Extreme Anthropology](#) to the topic, with a **planned publication date of April 2020**. We invite additional papers (please refer to the **CFP below**), and submissions in different format: **articles, essays, book reviews, photo essays, and experimental submissions**. Those who did not attend the conference and are interested in submitting a paper should send an **abstract of 250 words** to the editor-in-chief at: tereza.kuldova@iakh.uio.no by **15th of May 2019**. Submission date for the issue and those whose abstracts have been accepted will be: **31st October 2019**. Articles are published Online First, and may thus appear individually prior to the full issue. For more, please refer to the journal website <https://journals.uio.no/index.php/JEA> or get in touch with the editor-in-chief.

Security and Morality: Critical Anthropological Perspectives

Security is omnipresent in today’s politics and media; we are bombarded with images and narratives of proliferating internal and external security threats, conflicts, destabilization of international relations, chaos, and disorder. Many of these striking cultural products of the current politics of fear serve to legitimize new modes of surveillance, expansions of military and other policies in the name of security. ‘Anthropology’s concern with global/local articulations as well as its case-study approach, cross-cultural comparative engagement, and emphasis on the intersections of discourse and practice in specific historicized contexts ... uniquely position anthropology to contribute to a critical study of security’

(Goldstein 2010: 489). But anthropology also has a solid track record in dealing with issues of morality and ethics, especially over the last decade and is thus well suited to critically engage with the intersections of morality and security. Moral discourses are often mobilized to justify new security measures or legitimize increased spending on defense, while themselves predicated upon on implicit moral judgements. And yet, questions of morality have been conspicuously left out as a clear object of analysis in respect to the study of security and securitization by anthropologists, despite the aforementioned strong tradition of ‘anthropology of moralities’ (Mattingly and Throop 2018). The language of morality, as much as real ethical and moral dilemmas, influences and shape the realities on ground, political rhetoric in respect to security, and international legal thinking and relations; even if we may wonder about the degree to which ‘politicians may hijack the language of morality, while ceding very little, if anything, to its substance’ (Fisher 2013). Therefore, it is necessary to think not only critically, but also more systematically about the relation between morality and security. No less so in our own discipline, some of which has been ‘weaponized’ by military and intelligence agencies and adapted to counterinsurgency and asymmetrical warfare, thus raising questions about anthropology’s very own code of ethics (Price 2011). This special issue sets out to investigate (1) the significance of diverse moral legitimizations and constructions of moral authority in security discourses and practices, (2) the lived experiences of morality and ethics related to security (Feldman 2016), (3) different forms of ‘securitization of moral values’ (Østbø 2017), and (4) the ethical problems related to anthropologists’ own involvement in security institutions and to the larger structures of funding of anthropological research for security.

Submissions exploring the following topics are welcome:

- legitimization and justification of extraordinary security measures through moral discourses
- moral legitimacy and the logic of ‘security threats’
- conflicting moralities and ethics in security practices
- moral authority in respect to security
- revolutionary (non-liberal) securitization and morality (Holbraad and Pedersen 2012)
- moral guilt, moral obligation, and security
- discourse of moral responsibility in respect to security
- securitization of national spaces and moral values
- historically informed anthropological perspectives on the politics of in/security and its moral underpinnings
- public morality and security
- public/private security, security industries and moralities
- morality and sources of fear and security
- lived experiences, moral and ethical dilemmas in different security contexts
- weaponizing anthropology and anthropological ‘code of ethics’

The ASN conveners,

Alexandra Schwell, Tereza Kuldova, Monika Weissensteiner