

Minutes CRG Annual Meeting Basel 28 June 2017

Present:

Shane Doyle, Riina Turtio, Jan-Bart Gewald, Julia Tischler, Dmitri van den Bersselaar, Adam Jones, Odile Goerg, Klaas van Walraven, Baz Lecocq, Jean-Luc Martineau

Agenda:

- 1) Progress in the organisation of the 4th Biennial CRG African History Conference, Pilsen, June 14-16 2018
- 2) Candidacies for the organisation of the 5th Biennial CRG African History Conference 2020
- 3) Candidacies for the positions of convenors of the CRG African History
- 4) Further points

- 1) Progress in the organisation of the 4th Biennial CRG African History Conference, Pilsen, June 14-16 2018

Open point: the organisation of the 4th CRG Biennial is looking for supplementary members of the academic committee. Julia Tischler volunteered and was appointed with great acclaim. The exact dates of the 4th CRG Biennial has been set on 14-16 June 2018. The call for round tables and the nomination of an Exciting Lecturer in African History will follow late July or mid-August.

- 2) Candidacies for the organisation of the 5th Biennial CRG African History Conference 2020

The African Studies Centre Leiden volunteered and their candidacy was accepted with great acclaim. The dates of the 5th CRG African History Biennial will be set later.

- 3) Candidacies for the positions of convenors of the CRG African History.

Having been the convenors of the CRG African History since its inception in 2011, and since its 2nd Biennial Conference in 2014, Baz Lecocq and Klaas van Walraven intend to step down at the closing of the 4th CRG African History Biennial in 2018. Julia Tischler courageously volunteered to join the coordination team as of June 2018. She will replace Klaas van Walraven. As there were no further volunteers Baz Lecocq accepted to stay on until at least summer 2019, when it is hoped a second coordinator will be found (two are needed, see below).

- 4) Further points.

- a) need for a CRG African History

Jean Luc Martineau: do we still need a CRG African History given the recent proliferation of CRG's in AEGIS? Jean-Luc pointed to the rather low attendance of the meeting.

Klaas: Let's hope the recent low turnout is temporary. We were very active and well attended previously.

Baz: pointed out the history and initial strong attendance of the CRG being partly situated in the disgruntlement with historians and historically interested with the lack of proposed historical panels being accepted at ECAS conferences. This led to some success in getting history more visible at ECAS and in AEGIS. But since then complacency set in, which is not justified. The amount of historical panels has dropped again at this ECAS, although it is not clear why. Baz pointed out once more that there has not been any demand for a sponsored panel/round table this year for ECAS, which is a big loss in visibility and in the chance of having more daring and experimental topics and formats being presented at ECAS, without the risk of the proposal being turned down by the ECAS scientific committee.

b) Exciting Lecture on African History at ECAS

Dmitri: could we have the “Exciting Lecture on African History” at the ECAS in one way or another? Dmitri could ask sponsorship from CUP or other publishers to finance the travel costs (BL: the Exciting Lecturer at CRG Biennials has her/his travel costs funded). Note afterwards from Baz: perhaps we can use an AEGIS CRG sponsorship to finance two of such lectures for coming ECAS8 and 9 (see below point c).

Adam: This requires hard negotiation with AEGIS/ECAS, given the many keynotes ECAS has already, but it could be tried.

Baz: Financing all costs is perhaps difficult but it could be tried with a partial sponsorship plus the honour of the large ECAS audience being further reward.

c) News from the AEGIS board relevant to the CRG African History

There are two new CRG's admitted to the AEGIS structure: Africa in the World CRG, and the African Migration, Mobility and Forced Displacement CRG

The AEGIS Competition, a sponsoring system of CRG Activities, has changed in substance. Instead of one grant of €3000,- there will be two grants of €2000,- annually. A CRG that has been awarded is barred from competition for two years.

The AEGIS board has decided that each CRG has to be coordinated by two persons, at least one of which needs to be affiliated to an AEGIS member institution.

AEGIS will allow the CRG-sponsoring of two events per ECAS, instead of one. This means that two activities can be submitted to ECAS without further clearance from the scientific committee needed.

The Brill AEGIS Book series is looking for a new and active editorial board, in which each CRG should have one representative, who will be member of this board for at least two years. Baz volunteered for the two coming years, but any CRG member reading this and who feels inclined to take this editorial position is free to contact me and take over.