

The Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research
CSEAR Council
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CSEAR COUNCIL
6 March 2015

1. Council Members Present:
<i>In person:</i> John Ferguson, Jan Bebbington, Colin Dey, Massimo Contrafatto, Ian Thomson. <i>via WebEx:</i> Matias Laine, <i>Also present:</i> Lynn Christie
2. Apologies for Absence:
Lorna Stevenson, Robin Roberts, Jesse Dillard, Nola Buhr, Jeffrey Unerman, Charles Cho and Carmen Correa
3. Minutes of Previous Meetings
Everyone was thanked for being at the meeting after it's rearrangement from 4 March to 6 March. The minutes from the January meeting of Council were approved with no amendments.
4. Matters Arising from above minutes (not on main agenda)
There were no matters arising.
5. Website Review
The draft research bulletin pro-forma was accepted without change. It was agreed that it should be circulated to all members, without the need to trial it with Council members first. The aim of this initiative is to increase visibility of research in our community (and wider). The pro-forma will be circulated with the next newsletter, highlighting that it is not compulsory, and the word counts are maximum and not minimum words required. Initial requests will be for publications in 2015. The SEAJ Editorial Board was asked to make a research bulletin submission a requirement of publication in SEAJ, which was agreed. It was re-iterated that this would not replace the articles review section of SEAJ. ACTION
6. Grant Applications: ESRC Centre Grant Update [Standing Item]
This was the main item for discussion at the meeting. Jan and several others met with LSE/CARR in January. A long discussion took place there and here with the following main items noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next application could go in in April 2016 so we have 1 year to decide whether to go ahead with another full application or break it up into smaller packages. • WP1&2 – this is what has formed the conversations with LSE. They will organise a workshop (with us) as part of their current structure. They might come to present on regulation at CSEAR 2015. CSEAR needs a map of stakeholders and who we want relationships with, look at Horizon 20:20 funding • W.P2.1 (Finance) Keen to work in partnership with us especially in the environmental & health outcomes/areas but with John Wilson on research leave, this will be held over for future discussions. • W.P2.2 will go forward – just waiting to hear from those involved. • W.P3.1 – not heard back from Jane Gibbon, Suzanne Grubnic and Stuart Cooper put in an ESRC application but were knocked back. However they are redeveloping it for another submission. They also have a CIMA grant application in preparation. • W.P3.2 the lawyers are still working on this but it is stalled behind other work commitments. Suzanna and Stuart are still interested in this collaboration. This also comes under the LSE umbrella of work. • W.P3.3 this is an ongoing conversation, people have tried but didn't succeed in securing funding, but they may try again later this year. A seminar on economic democracy is being organised at Heriot Watt (Jan and Ian). • W.P3.4 this is still in play but needs more work and thought with others e.g. John Wilson so will be put on hold

for about a year.

- W.P4 Jan keeps checking the ESRC website to see who gets it, once we know do we go knocking on their door letting them know what we can offer them / that we have a role to play in this. Will keep this going forward.
- W.P5.1 depends on the outcome of the rest
- W.P5.2 the Leverhulme application was unsuccessful, but we are looking to submit and ESRC Network Grant application. Some parts of this are still alive and some are being pushed forward by Sam Mansell et al.
- CSEAR Capacity building – need to source and apply for a digitisation grant (**ACTION** – Lynn)

In summary there has been quite a lot of action, but no big success yet, so what do we do now? Jan will push forward the link with LSE, and a working group is needed to take all this on instead of Council. We need to hook up with other organisations (eg EMAN, Future Earth) so we are not seen as just talking to ourselves, we must engage with the outside world.

Jan (plus others) will write a short paper to SEAJ re the bid, which will hopefully prompt people to get in touch. However the downside of this is that ideas could be taken by others and then funded. An alternative to this would be to email CSEAR members with enough information (but not too much to avoid stealing) to stimulate initial interest.

It is also worth considering approaching the European Research Council (ERC) instead of the ESRC, so attendance at workshops related to European funding is a must. St Andrews has a high success rate with ERC and Heriot Watt with KT Partnerships.

Jan will draft something to go out via email to the membership. The working group will come from this and then we will meet en masse at RHUL in August 2015.

There will be another meeting with LSE in the autumn. All this will hopefully lead to another grant application in Spring 2016.

ACTIONS

7. Outstanding Items Relating to the By-Laws [Standing Item]

7.1 Draft CSEAR Council Evaluation Form (Nola)

It was agreed to take out the co-directors from the Council assessment, with the co-directors and the Research Fellow/Administrator being evaluated in a way as yet to be determined by Council. Everyone agreed to try/trial the evaluation and to do it by the end of July so that the outcomes could be taking to the AGM in August. After the first iteration this year the evaluation process can itself be reviewed.

ACTIONS

8. CSEAR UK 2015 update [standing Item]

Calls for papers for the ESC and Main conference are almost ready for circulation and will be sent out as soon as they are complete. All other operational aspects of the conference being held at Royal Holloway are progressing, with online registration expected to be up and running by the end of March.

The videos from the 2014 conference are not yet available on the website. Colin, John, Ian and Matias agreed to sample them, with a view to possibly editing them, and then will make the decision as to what form they should take once uploaded to the website. Lynn to give dropbox access to videos to those involved.

ACTIONS

9. SEAJ Update [Standing Item]

The process to find John Ferguson's replacement as Joint Editor will begin soon as his term is complete at the end of December. The process used last time will also be used this time.

The Editorial Board have almost completed the process of identifying a smaller executive board and a wider editorial board. Letters will be going out soon to those involved.

<p>The ABS list has been published and SEAJ has been ranked at 1 as expected.</p> <p>There is a steady stream of papers coming in to the Journal looks ok for the next year.</p> <p>ACTIONS</p>
<p>10. Mentoring [Standing Item]</p> <p>Nothing new to report/discuss</p>
<p>11. Vision/Mission/Values Statement [Standing Item]:</p> <p>Nothing new to report/discuss</p>
<p>12. Teaching Case Study Update [Standing Item]</p> <p>Lynn to keep on promoting this and sending out reminders.</p> <p>ACTION</p>
<p>13. AOB</p> <p>13.1 Partner Institution request from the Business Management Department of Gediz University, Turkey This is a new university established in 2008, privately funded, but are applying for funding to build capacity, hence the vague request to us asking us to act as PI on their application(s). CSEAR is not in a position to act as PI so have to decline their request, but we could guarantee 3 places at the CSEAR 2016 conference if they take out 5 memberships. At present we have no Turkish members. It was agreed that we could have them for a 2-3 day visit before the 2016 conference, but it would be at their expense. ACTION: Jan agreed to write to them, explaining our decision.</p> <p>13.2 Gothenburg Business School (Ian Thomson) Ian recently visited Gothenburg BS who hosted 25 academics at an inspiration day. It was a positive meeting and we should get more memberships coming our way via them, in addition to the 8 memberships that they have taken out for the next 3 years. This may also lead to possible individual visitors to CSEAR. It is hoped that some of these new members will be joining us for the 2015 Conference at RHUL, and if there is a small cohort of them then we can do an informal lunch and introduce them to Matias (in particular) and the rest of the Council.</p> <p>13.3 Italian CSEAR Network Massimo updated the Council with news that they will be running a yearly workshop under CSEAR Italy, with guest speakers, this year it is Lee Parker.</p> <p>13.4 CSEAR Visitors It was agreed that all prospective CSEAR visitors would be discussed by Council before the School of Management, at the University of St Andrews is approached to host them. Any visitors should be noted in the Annual Report. [ACTION]</p> <p>13.5 Number of Council meetings per year and Council priorities for next 2 years Council members were asked to let Lynn know the optimum number of Council meetings per year that they think should be held. Currently it is 6, and this was decided upon when the council first convened as there was a lot of work to get through. The time has now come to review this. Additionally members were asked to submit ideas/views as to what they see as priorities for the Council for the next 2 years to form an action plan/wish list.</p> <p>ACTIONS</p>
<p>14. Date of next meeting: 5 May 2015</p> <p>Council noted the date of the next meeting.</p>