

CSEAR Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday March 4th
13:00-15:00 UK Time

Topic: 1st Meeting of 2021

Location of Meeting: Via Zoom (Brought to us by Charles with appreciation)

In Attendance: Ericka Costa, Charles Cho, Shona Russell, Ian Thomson, Eija Vinnari, Matias, Helen Tregidga, Colin Dey, Michelle Rodrigue, Giovanna Michelin, Robin Roberts, Gunnar Rimmel, John Ferguson, Massimo Contrafatto, Lori Leigh Davis

Apologies for Absence: Stephanie Perkiss

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Approved with one amendment to include the attendance of Michelle.
2. **Online Tribute to Rob Gray** – was very well attended with over 100 people noted online. Quotes, stories and music were shared. The event was recorded for people who could not attend and is available on Facebook and the Cloud. The 'Message & Memory' book along with the hard copy for SEAJ special issue for Rob will be sent to Sue as soon as the university buildings are open. The special issue has also been very well received with high download and sharing noted. The Convenor shared appreciation to the editors for creating a special contribution to Rob considering the short time frames. AAAJ – recognised Rob and his work was a pleasant way to reflect on the work already contributed to SEAJ.

Other Tributes We Might Want to Include:

- Placing the material on the new website is recommended. In particular, properly recognizing Rob in the creation of CSEAR on the front page.
 - Prizes for ESC Best Paper will be discussed by the ESC committee and is believed to be accomplished before the next ESC online. Titles of awards could include 'Most Thought Provoking.'
3. **Tribute to Jeffrey Unerman** - It is noted that Jan Bebbington would like to plan a tribute for Jan and Ian will be in contact to discuss the opportunities further. SEAJ has reached out to the community and further discussions to further tribute, reviews of the thematic review topic such as NGOs and accountability, or an editorial could be coordinated by the end of the year. The book co-authored by Matias, Helen and Jeffrey has been dedicated to Jeffrey and is expected to be available in July. A book launch may be an option to commensurate Jeffrey's life. Further ideas are recommended.

Other Tributes We Might Want to Include:

- Prize for ESC for Unerman for 'Practice Implication' to capture a different emphasis and spirit of CSEAR's research intentions.
- Practitioner's Forum could be implemented as part of the CSEAR UK Congress – such as the 'Jeffrey Unerman Lecture.'
- CSEAR Hall of Fame
- CSEAR award for scholars in our community for engagement with practice.
- Italy CSEAR will also highlight Jeffrey's accomplishments in the conference event with a focus on engagement and theorising engagement.

Note: There will be a clear distinction between the awards for Rob (for emerging scholars) and for Jeffrey (for practical engagement). For the ESC, the money contribution could go towards travel and or accommodation to future events.

4. **CSEAR Sponsorship** – CIMA will be contacted to request the contribution to the ESC for 2021. It is understood CIMA does want to help, despite current restraints.
5. **Council Elections/IA Elections** – The elections are related to the membership. As for IAs, there are 13 in place. It is recommended to postpone the Executive Council elections until the end of the year.
6. **Building Research Capacity** – Royal Society for Edinburgh to fund a networking event. Shona submitted the application for the RSE COP 26 International Climate Change Network grant due on March 3rd, 2021. Letters of endorsement from CIMA and other CSEAR community members were also added to the application. Within 24hours Charles was successful in attaining positive feedback from the AIs for the application. This demonstrates the strong and supportive engagement of all current IAs and shows CSEAR continues as an active network. The result of our strategy meeting will also build research capacity and the efforts towards the research grant submitted on March 3rd.
7. **Partnerships** – No further comments to make. No new requests documented.
8. **Name Change of the Centre** – One view is to keep the name ‘accounting’ to maintain our history and identity in accounting. The other view, to change to ‘accountability’ would potentially open more doors in management and other disciplines. This is important in the maintenance of our branding and communications to other fields. The timing of the name change must be considered carefully. Our strap line does include: ‘Accountability, Transparency and Sustainability’
9. **Membership**
 - a) Discussion for calendar year and ‘rolling’ membership. Broad agreement to a rolling on 12month basis: December 1st – November 31st to readjust for a 12month basis. This system would require further work and reminders. Recommendation to confirm the new rolling year-year format will be suitable/encouraged by Routledge before official offering of new membership to the CSEAR community.
 - b) Membership packages. 2,3 and 5-year memberships should be ready for the new website. Could provide an option that offers a membership without the access to SEAJ.

To Do: John, Helen and Michelle to review the details in the Routledge contract and the finances to and from Routledge.

10. **SEAJ** – We now have a social media strategy. Kylie Kingston, and emerging scholar from Kingston University has been appointed. Twitter feed SEAJ, Journal strategy Ideas for commentaries are encouraged for the journal. To be further integrated into existing CSEAR online platforms. The CSEAR twitter feed is automated to produce more content. The exposure opportunities is extraordinary. It is recommended to retweet recent articles dedicated to Rob Gray.

To appoint the replacement editor (as Helen to step down at the end of her 2yr time) by the end of 2021 to join Michelle Rodrigue. A call for nominations will be announced (likely in June) with an aim to finalize by the time of the CSEAR UK Congress.

11. **Annual Report** – Any further comments or changes to be sent to Lori Leigh by the middle of March.
12. **Webpage** – The new branding options are great Thank you to everyone for your comments. We will continue to work with the website developers. Questions to consider: a) what do members get with their membership and b) should there be a separate section login page for members only.
13. **CSEAR Online Events** – Is proving to be a good way to build the community keep the network connected. The ESC will be online in 2021. The model will be slightly different to a 3 half day schedule to accommodate participants from around the world. The CSEAR conferences will continue to require attendees should be paid CSEAR members. The other CSEAR events that started last month, including webinars and reading groups, continues to grow. There is also a reading group offered in French starting this month. The webinars attendance is solid (20-60 people). The first PhD Webinar with Jan had 51 attendees. Facebook views are also promising. Encourage Council members to continue involvement.

The way the universities are reshaping due to financial strains will shape the way the conferences going forward. We will need to review the CSEAR finances in this regard because our yearly incomes rely heavily on the in-person conference fees. It is likely the model for generating the incomes will be based on both in-person and online formats (hybrid).

14. **Ways to Increase Research Capacity** – How do we leverage or networks and resources. There is an opportunity to create more research ‘streams’ within CSEAR such as capturing carbon or work in human rights.

To-Do: Place this discussion as part of the next Council Meeting minutes.

Final Comments:

Please send any news, calls for papers, new books and member bio along with pictures to Lori Leigh for later ‘Member Memos’ and for the Spring newsletter 2021.

Next Executive CSEAR Council meeting: To be determined for Summer 2021