

## **Chair's report to AGM, 2009**

I have great pleasure in presenting my report as chair of the RaAM Association at its fourth Annual General Meeting. It hardly seems a minute since we were in Leeds setting up the association back in 2006, and yet here we are three years and four meetings on. I'm very happy to report that the association is healthy and financially stable.

The systems of the association have worked smoothly for most of this year, supporting membership and our intellectual activity. These systems -- our website, members' database, subscriptions, events organising -- only run this well because of the immense amount of work that your Executive Committee contribute. We had a full day's meeting in January in the UK, which involved several people travelling at the most miserable time of the year. Aside from that effort, the officers in particular to spend many hours of their time working for RaAM, and I would like, your behalf, to thank them for their efforts over this year. Individually and collectively, they enable RaAM to exist.

I will briefly touch on some activities that the EC has engaged in since the last AGM; EC officers will give more detail in their own reports.

- We have been refining the guidelines that we offer to members who would like to organise conferences, specialist seminars or workshops. Guidelines try to offer support to organisers, while fulfilling the association's responsibility to maintain quality and minimise financial risks.
- We are reviewing the two prizes that we set up last year so that they will run even more effectively at next year's conference in Amsterdam.
- The students' website has been set up to encourage dialogue.
- We are adding details of funded research projects to support members in their own applications to funding bodies.
- The newsletter has become a regular feature of the RaAM year.
- We are thinking forwards to 2010 when many of the posts on the committee will be vacated and elections will bring new people to running the association.
  - Writing 'job specs' and guidelines for officers so that our experience is available to the next generation.
  - Preparing the motions that you will be asked to vote on later in the meeting that ensure the committee falls within UK regulations for charitable organisations, and to stagger elections by varying slightly the terms of office.

Lynne Cameron