



Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor (RaAM)

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Annual Report 2010-11

Introduction

The Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor was formed in 2006, after an inaugural meeting at the RaAM6 conference at the University of Leeds. It was registered as a charity the following year. Its key objective is to foster research into metaphor and other figures of speech, thought and communication. To this end, it facilitates a full conference every two years and a specialised seminar in the intervening years. In addition, RaAM offers financial support to researchers without the funding to disseminate and discuss their research, academic support (in the form of online resources and electronic networking and discussion facilities) and social support (a newsletter and Facebook group). In order to carry out the organisational work, there is a small Executive Committee, which meets twice a year. Procedures for bidding to hold specialist seminars and conferences have been established and refined through experience so that an efficient and effective system is now in place which allows sufficient time for forward planning.

Executive Committee (EC)

The current EC was voted in at the 2010 AGM; it is slightly smaller than its predecessor (9 members rather than 11), but it adheres to the requirement for there to be a majority of UK-based members. The current EC comprises

Post	Person	Country
Chair	Alan Cienki	Netherlands
Secretary	Graham Low	UK
Treasurer	Mark Lee	UK
Web Editor	Tony Berber Sardinha	Brazil
Conference Secretary	Alice Deignan	UK
Newsletter Editor	Lettie Dorst	Netherlands
Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer	Ewa Biernacka	UK
Ordinary member (UK)	Jeannette Littlemore	UK
Ordinary member (international)	Irene Mittelberg	Germany

RaAM is acutely conscious of the need to minimise EC expenses and running costs, and thus makes use of meeting locations central to members, and electronic conferencing (Skype) where viable. Moreover, RaAM only funds partial expenses for the EC, so EC members are hereby thanked for the considerable time and effort spent over the year.

No further EC elections took place in 2010 and none are anticipated until June 2012.

Membership

The RaAM membership figure for 2010-11 was 181. At the AGM, 6 May 2011, the figure was 59, but this was because May is the point membership expires and is renewed.

Conferences and seminars

The report and a welcome financial contribution designed to aid PhD students in the future, were received from the 2009 specialised seminar in multimodality and metaphor at the University of Amsterdam.

2010 saw the very successful biennial conference, RaAM8, hosted by the VU University, Amsterdam. RaAM funded 5 bursaries of 400 euros for deserving PhD students to attend the conference, whether RaAM members or not. RaAM also funded the accommodation for pre-conference workshop speakers; although the pre-conference workshops were aimed at PhD students, anyone interested could attend. Thirdly, RaAM funded the £200 Early Career Research Paper prize. The RaAM Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer also organised a social programme for PhD students. The Conference Secretary and members of the EC liaised closely with the Local Organising Committee (LOC).

At the EC meeting at RaAM8, the proposal by Elena Semino and Veronika Koller to host the 2012 RaAM9 conference at the University of Lancaster was accepted. The theme will be “Metaphor in Mind and Society” and the dates 4-7 July. The Conference Secretary has been liaising with the Local Organising Committee.

The Conference Secretary, finally, liaised with the LOC for the 5-7 May 2011 specialised seminar on “Metaphor across Time and Genre” hosted by the University of Castilla La Mancha at Almagro, Spain. This will be reported in the 2011-12 report.

The EC agreed to endorse the seminar “Metaphor in social interaction: Culture, genre and discourse communities”, taking place within the 44th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE) at the University of La Rioja, Spain, 8-11 September 2011.

The EC is currently welcoming proposals to organise the 2013 specialised seminar and the 2014 biennial conference.

Financial summary

As the RaAM bank account is in the UK, figures below are in UK pounds. The RaAM financial year runs 4 April – 5 April.

Income

from 2009 Specialised seminar	2,672
from 2010 RaAM8 conference	4,249
Other (inc membership)	3,648
Income from savings	3
Total income	10,572

Payments

Student bursaries for RaAM8	(937)
Accomm. for pre-conference speakers	(472)
Website hosting	(8)
RaAM insurance	(411)
RaAM Early Career Research P. Prize	(220)
EC running costs	(3,625)
Total payments	(5,673)
Balance	<u>4,899</u>
Cash from 2009-10	8,149
Final position 4/5/2011	<u>13,048</u>

RaAM's financial position at the end of the financial year was thus healthy. RaAM is in a position to pay its own running costs, develop its database facilities, sponsor PhD student bursaries and the Early Career Research Paper prize and to enlarge its funding for research in 2011-12. There is also a small cushion to cover emergencies.

Public benefit activity

It is RaAM policy that the conference bursaries it funds (or co-funds with Local Organising Teams) for PhD students, and the Early Career Research Paper prize are open to non-members of RaAM. It was

also able to contribute 500 euros to the costs of open pre-conference workshops at the RaAM8 conference.

The RaAM8 LOC received 26 applications for bursaries, from 19 different countries. The five winners were: Adina Oana Nicolae, Carl Polley, Julia Williams Camus, Khadidja Merakchi and Samia Kort. As part of the bursary, they each wrote a report about their personal experience of the RaAM8 conference which was published in the subsequent RaAM Newsletter. The Conference presentation prize (funded by John Benjamins and again not restricted to RaAM members) was also won by Carl Polley.

The Early Career Research Paper Prize had 6 applications. The winner was chosen by a jury coordinated by John Barnden and was Karen Sullivan (2009), *The Languages of Art: How Representational and Abstract Painters Conceptualize Their Work in Terms of Language*. *Poetics Today*, 30(3), 517-560.

In the light of the healthy financial position of RaAM, the EC has been discussing the possibility of instituting initial seedcorn funding for small or collaborative research projects. At the 4 May 2011 meeting, it was agreed that a working group should develop a concrete proposal for the scheme; details will be announced in Autumn of 2011.

Website, database and electronic resources

The RaAM website has been developed over the year. However, it has been recognised for a couple of years that the current database system needed to be extended and revised to cope with the increased need to handle membership data and to generate appropriate messages (with attachments) to members. The EC accordingly asked in 2010 for bids to develop the database and at its 4 May 2011 meeting, Philip Smith's proposal was accepted. The new system is intended to be in place and operating before the RaAM9 conference. It should be emphasised that RaAM only holds details of membership status and contact addresses on its members database; it does not hold any bank or confidential personal details on members.

The Facebook group, set up for PhD students, continued to grow in 2010 and had 92 members as at 26 April 2011. A new e-mail listserv, called Metaphor-L, was instituted in 2010 for academic news and discussion by all members was set up in 2010; it will be evaluated in 2011.

Editions of the newsletter were produced in September 2010 after the RaAM8 conference and in February 2011. The newsletter is accessed electronically from the RaAM website, and a text version is also delivered as part of an email to members. The new database development will allow an improvement in delivery options in 2011-12. Members are encouraged to send in contributions.

The RaAM website holds details of research projects by members and suggested readings for those doing doctoral research. Members are encouraged to update these.

RaAM has continued with its policy of archiving websites of conferences and seminars, and the RaAM8 site has now been archived.