

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

was held at 12:30pm on 16 May 2019 in the Salle Académique, Building A1, University of Liège City Centre Campus, Belgium.

The following business was transacted:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM13)
4. Annual Report, Officer Reports and accounts 2018-19
5. Event updates and notifications
6. 2019 Elections
7. RaAM Early Career Prize
8. Any other business

### 1. Welcome

The Secretary, Gill Philip, opened the meeting. There were 41 RaAM members plus 5 board members present.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Conference secretary Lettie Dorst, ordinary member David O'Reilly and newsletter editor Tina Krennmayr were unable to attend.

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM13)

The minutes (available for consultation on the RaAM website) were approved.

### 4. Annual Report, Officer Reports and accounts 2018-19 (Kathleen Ahrens, Chair & Gill Phillip, Secretary)

The chair reports healthy membership numbers and an active community of Facebook followers. RaAM's finances are healthy, but will continue to require monitoring in view of how the British pound sterling fares as a result of Brexit. RaAM public benefit activity this year has included student bursaries, non-student bursaries, prizes, and the Hong Kong conference PhD event.

The secretary noted that this event in Liège is to be the last RaAM specialised seminar, since from now on, RaAM is able to support fully-fledged conferences. The next conference is to be held 18-21 June 2020 in Hamar, Norway, on the theme of "Metaphorical creativity in a Multilingual world". In the autumn RaAM will send out a call for bids for the following two conferences (2021 and 2022). RaAM also endorses metaphor-related events. Members are invited to apply to the EC for such

endorsement, which includes gaining extra publicity for the event on the RaAM website and in the newsletter.

This year there are four EC posts up for renewal. The results of the online voting will be announced at the close of the meeting, but with only one candidate applying for each post, the results are something of a foregone conclusion. Members are warmly invited to consider applying for the posts that will come up for renewal in 2020: while it is true that many EC members re-apply for vacant positions, this happens because too few RaAM members come forward as candidates. In order to ensure that our elections are meaningful, we need there to be some competition.

### **The Treasurer** (Alice Deignan)

As a UK charity, RaAM follows the UK tax year (financial period running from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018-5<sup>th</sup> April 2019). RaAM's only source of income is memberships, although the website now includes a facility for donations: members are invited to consider making small donations in addition to their membership fees.

This financial year RaAM received £5636.66 in income (membership fees) and spent £6154.75 (£2500 in bursaries, website hosting, insurance, expenses reimbursement for EC members, prizes, funding for PhD event at Hong Kong conference). This outlay is higher than in previous years, due to an increase in the number of bursaries offered for the Hong Kong conferences, an additional contribution for the PhD party (normally £200), and a higher claims threshold set for RaAM EC members to offset the much higher travel costs for a non-European conference (the usual £250 allowance was raised to £500, although only £2617.28 of the £4500.00 set aside was actually claimed). RaAM has a total of £5673.27 in its current account plus a further reserve of £7044.19 in a separate savings account.

As of 06 April 2019, RaAM had 167 members. Around 15 people have joined in the run-up to the seminar. IAs of January this year, it is now possible to pay membership fees directly on the RaAM website via PayPal.

There are number of membership benefits, including a reduced subscription to "Metaphor and the Social World", access to up-to-date information and research news via the newsletter, and the opportunity to attend RaAM conferences.

### **The Web Editor** (Gudrun Reijnierse)

The number of visitors to the website is stable for much of the year, with additional activity when Calls for papers are issued (autumn) and in the run-up to the seminar (March-April).

The website is regularly updated. Recent updates include information for the Liège seminar plus RaAM endorsed events. Newsletters no. 22, 23 and 24 have been published and are available for download. Information about the Hong Kong conference has been backed up on the website. For the fourth consecutive year, the 2019 EC Elections were held online via a dedicated, password-protected page on the website. Online elections makes it possible for all members to vote, whether or not they are able to attend Annual general meetings of the Association.

There are some new features on the website:

SSL has been installed to ensure secure browsing;

A new page has been added to the website allowing individuals to check their membership status: <https://www.raam.org.uk/for-members/check-your-membership/> ;

A Paypal plugin has been added to the membership page to facilitate payment of fees (and donations).

Additionally, the EU General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) have been implemented. Memberships that have lapsed by over a year are removed from the RaAM database. Postal addresses of members are no longer required or stored and university affiliation need no longer be

provided. On application/ renewal, members are now asked whether or not they wish to receive communications from RaAM and to supply the following information: title, first and last names, email address, country of residence, membership type.

#### **The Conference Secretary** (Gudrun Reijnierse on behalf of Lettie Dorst)

The first Asian RaAM, held at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, was a great success! The theme of "Metaphor across contexts and domains: from description to application" attracted 165 participants from 37 different countries. There were 4 plenaries, 131 papers, 6 posters, and 5 colloquia in addition to the traditional features of RaAM conferences – the conference dinner, cultural tour, PhD party. RaAM sponsored 8 bursaries for this event.

The Liège seminar – RaAM's last-ever specialised seminar – attracted 72 participants from 24 countries. There were 2 plenaries: Seana Coulson (University of California San Diego), and Cristina Soriano (University of Geneva, Interfaculty Centre for Affective Sciences). In the spirit of RaAM specialized seminars, there were 3 pre-seminar methodological workshops: *Fantastic visual metaphors and where to find them* – Dr. Marianna Bolognesi (Oxford University, Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages), *Measuring the effect of metaphors: the use of experimental surveys* – Dr. Jérémy Dodeigne (University of Namur, Department of Political, Social and Communication Sciences), *The Defaultness Hypothesis: Metaphor, sarcasm and metaphorical sarcasm* – Dr. Rachel Giora (Department of Linguistics, Tel Aviv University).

The social programme included a guided tour of Liège's historical city centre, a traditional-style conference dinner and a PhD social event.

RaAM sponsored the PhD event and 5 bursaries.

The 2020 conference will be held on 18-21 June in Hamar, Norway. The theme of the conferences is "Metaphorical creativity in a Multilingual world". Four plenary speakers have already been confirmed: Marianna Bolognesi, Daniel Casasanto, Jeannette Littlemore, Tony Veale. The call for papers will go out in the early autumn.

#### **The Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer** (Jekaterina Sumanova )

The Liège PhD party "Liège by night" was a great success. PhD students were joined by a number of more senior researchers in some of Liège's historic bars for informal networking and some more serious research- and career-related discussions over traditional beers and péket.

The RaAM Facebook group has been very active over the past year with: information about events; calls for papers; positions advertised; publication announcements; links to video lectures and presentations, discussion etc.

Postgraduate students are invited to propose interviews with established academics for publication in the METAPHOR column of the RaAM newsletter (contact [postgrad\\_liaison@raam.org.uk](mailto:postgrad_liaison@raam.org.uk)).

#### **Newsletter Editor** (Gudrun Reijnierse on behalf of Tina Krennmayr)

The following newsletters were prepared and published on the RaAm website this year:

No. 22: June 2018 (over 500 views recorded)

No. 23: Nov 2018 (over 500 views recorded)

No. 24: May 2019 (over 250 views recorded as of 14 May 2019)

Regular features include the METAPHOR column (junior researchers interviewing established academics), conference and seminar reports, book reviews and research reports.

All those who received a bursary for the Liège seminar are reminded to send a report to the newsletter editor for publication in the newsletter.

## **5. Event updates and notifications**

## RaAM-endorsed events

*Metaphor Festival '19*: University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), 28-31 August 2019,

## RaAM conferences

Gill Philip spoke about the 2020 conference on behalf of Susan Nacey.

Theme: *Metaphorical creativity in a multilingual world*

Location: Inland University of Applied Sciences, Hamar, Norway

Dates: 18-21 June 2020

Format: 4 plenary talks, hands-on pre-conference workshops; full papers; WiPs in *pecha kucha* format; poster presentations. The four plenary speakers have already been confirmed: Marianna Bolognesi, Daniel Casasanto, Jeannette Littlemore, Tony Veale.

The first call for papers is due out in early June. Deadline for abstract submission is 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

Further information:

website <https://eng.inn.no/raam>

Twitter handle @RaAMconf

Hashtag #INN2020metaphor

## Call for bids: 2021 and 2022 conferences

Bids for the 2021 conference were announced in newsletter n.24 (May 2019). A second call will include an additional call for 2022 bids, and will appear in the October 2019 newsletter (n. 25).

## 6. 2019 Elections

The results of the EC elections are as follows.

**Treasurer:** Zsófia Demjén was elected (3-year term, renewable once)

**Conference secretary:** Allison Creed was elected (3-year term, renewable once)

**Newsletter editor:** Gudrun Reijnierse was elected (2-year term, renewable once)

**Web editor:** Britta Brugman was elected (3-year term, renewable once)

The outgoing EC members (Lettie Dorst, Alice Deignan, Tina Krennmayr) were thanked for their long-standing service to RaAM. Gudrun Reijnierse, elected as newsletter editor, was also thanked for her two-term service (6 years) as web editor.

EC posts coming up for re-election in 2020 are:

**Postgraduate liaison and development officer** (2-year term, renewable once provided applicant is still a PhD student at time of election)

**2 ordinary members** (2-year term, renewable once)

RaAM members are urged to consider putting themselves forward for election to these posts.

## 7. RaAM Early Career Prize

The RaAM *Early Career Prize* was awarded to Paula Pérez-Sobrino for her (co-authored) research paper "The role of figurative complexity in the comprehension and appreciation of advertisements" *Applied Linguistics*, 1-36 (2018) doi:10.1093/applin/amy039

The winner was chosen by a jury comprising David O'Reilly (co-ordinator), Marianna Bolognesi, and Min Reuchamps.

The prize of £200 plus free RaAM membership until 31st July 2020 was sponsored by RaAM.

## **7. Any other business**

There was no other business raised for discussion.

By order of the Executive Committee of RaAM

Gill Philip, Secretary

25 May 2019