

15th Annual General Meeting

held at 12.30 (CET+2) on Saturday 20th June 2020 via Zoom conference link hosted by the Faculty of Education at Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN), Norway

The following business was transacted:

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM14)**
- 4. Annual Report, Officer Reports and accounts 2019-20**
- 5. Event updates and notifications**
- 6. 2020 Elections**
- 7. RaAM Early Career Prize**
- 8. RaAM Policy on Harassment for discussion and approval**
- 9. Any other business**

1. Welcome

The Chair, Kathleen Ahrens, opened the meeting once quorum (26) had been reached.

2. Apologies for absence

Present

From the Executive Committee: Kathleen Ahrens (chair); Gill Philip (secretary); Zsófia Demjén (treasurer); Allison Creed (conference secretary); Britta Brugman (web editor); Gudrun Reijnierse (newsletter editor); Marianna Bolognesi, David O'Reilly (ordinary members)

From the membership: 77 members (all attendees at RaAM conferences are members)

Apologies

Jekaterina Sumanova (Postgraduate development and liaison officer) was unable to attend.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM14)

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

4. Annual Report, Officer Reports and accounts 2019-20 (Kathleen Ahrens, Chair & Gill Philip, Secretary)

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Chair expresses her appreciation to the LOC and the EC for the work that went into organizing the first *virtual* RaAM conference, and the LOC of the forthcoming 2021 conference.

Gill Philip Secretary is thanked for her 2 year duties; she is standing down. David O'Reilly, outgoing EC Ordinary member has been co-opted to complete her 4-year term.

This year there are three EC posts up for renewal: Postgraduate development and liaison officer and two Ordinary members. The results of the online voting will be announced at the close of the meeting, but with only one candidate competing for each post, the results – as last year – are something of a foregone conclusion. RaAM members are encouraged to consider applying for the posts that will come up for renewal in 2021.

RaAM public benefit activity this year has included student bursaries, non-student bursaries, prizes, and the Liege seminar PhD event. Up to 100 bursaries were made available for RaAM 2020 *virtual*; around a third of these were allocated.

The chair reports healthy membership numbers and an active community of Facebook followers. RaAM's finances are healthy, and have seen a welcome surge in the run-up to this conference.

In the spring RaAM published the call for bids to host the 15th RaAM conference in 2022 but, with universities around the world closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, academics had little opportunity to put bids together and none were forthcoming. This call will be renewed with a revised deadline of 30th November 2020. 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.

The Treasurer (Zsófia Demjén)

As a UK charity, RaAM follows the UK tax year (financial period running from 6th April 2019 - 5th April 2020). RaAM's only source of income is memberships, although the website includes a facility for donations: one donation has been gratefully received this year. On 4th April 2020 the Association had £6184.72 in its current account (an increase of £1251.45 compared to the same period last year) plus an additional reserve of £7048.03 in a savings account. The sum has increased since the start of the tax year 2020-21 due to many new members joining up for RaAM2020 *virtual*.

This financial year RaAM received £3648.92 in income (membership fees) and spent £2397.47 (including obligatory website hosting and insurance, plus £1200 in bursaries and prizes, £500 expenses reimbursement for EC members [Liège seminar], and £150 funding for PhD event at Liège seminar). For the Norway conference, we have assigned 27 bursaries for people wishing to attend the virtual conference who are designated by the United Nations (UN) as members of **Upper-middle-income, Lower-middle income, and Low-income economies**. These bursaries consist of the conference fee (290 NOK or 175 NOK for students) and a 9-month free membership of RaAM. No EC expenses have been incurred for the RaAM2020 *virtual* Norway conference, due to all proceedings (including the EC meeting and the AGM) being held online due to Covid-19. RaAM normally allows up to £250 in expenses incurred by EC members attending the in-person EC meetings and AGM.

RaAM currently has 236 members, around 130 of whom have joined or renewed in the run-up to the conference. Membership fees have not increased since 2017. Two ordinary members have chased renewals, with some success. There are number of membership benefits, including a reduced subscription to "Metaphor and the Social World" (35 euros for online-only annual subscription),

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discount on books published in the MILCC series (John Benjamins) – see <https://www.raam.org.uk/for-members/discounts/>. Members can access to up-to-date information and research news via the newsletter, and have the opportunity to attend RaAM conferences. Since February 2019 membership payments can be made via Paypal or bank transfer. For the most part PayPal has worked well, although sometimes members have problems with the ‘Pay Now’ PayPal link: this is always resolved by clearing the web-browser cache, or paying through a ‘private’ browser window. The secretary invites suggestions from members for alternative payment methods in use by similar organizations, which the EC can evaluate. One attendee suggests Western Union.

The Web Editor (Britta Brugman)

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 conference (May-June).

The website is regularly updated. Recent updates include information for the RaAM2020 *virtual* conference plus RaAM endorsed events. Newsletters no. 25 and 26 have been published and are available for download. Information about the Leiden seminar has been backed up on the website. For the fifth consecutive year, the 2020 EC Elections were held online, with an updated and more efficient 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:

- The website structure has been improved
- Pages under the Membership header are now more clearly linked to each other;
- A header “Newsletters” has been added;
- All web pages have been carefully checked for clarity and accuracy;
- Personal web pages have been added for the EC members, including short bios;
- Information about the RaAM 2020 *virtual* conference has been continuously updated;
- Newsletters no. 25 and 26 have been published;
- A simpler voting system has been created for the 2020 EC Elections.

Members comment on how much simpler membership renewal has become.

The Conference Secretary (Allison Creed)

The Liège seminar in May 2019 – RaAM’s 7th and last-ever specialised seminar – attracted 72 participants from 24 countries. The EC thank the LOC (Julien Perrez, Min Reuchamps, Francois Randour, Paline Heyvaert, for their work. 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 was to be held at the Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences in Hamar, Norway, but due to travel restrictions and country-specific rules on quarantining and social distancing arising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided in March to transport the conference online and to maintain the planned dates (18-21 June) rather than postponing until next year. The conference, built around the theme of “Metaphorical creativity in a Multilingual world”, is the largest RaAM conference to date. It attracted a total of 271 (online) delegates from 44 countries around the globe and featured four keynote addresses, three plenary sessions, three pre-conference workshops, 110 talks in 3 parallel sessions, 20 virtual posters, 16 WIP reports – all scheduled within 09:00-22:00 programme allowing participants from around the world to present in a slot conducive to their time-zone.

The Keynote addresses were: Jeannette Littlemore, *Variation in the creative use of metaphor and metonym*; Tony Veale, *The Show Must Go On: Combining Metaphors, Similes, Blends and Image Schemas for Embodied Story-telling with Robots*; Marianna Bolognesi, *Creative, cutting edge, and bleeding edge metaphors*; Daniel Casasanto, *Mental metaphors*.

The pre-conference workshops were: Alison Creed, *Crafting your career with MIPVU!*; Lorena Bort-Mir, *Identifying metaphorical elements in films with FILMIP – The Filmic Metaphor Identification Procedure*; Kimberly Page-McClymont, *Reading between the lines: Levels of figurative language in texts and their impact*.

The plenary panel sessions were: *Meet the editors*; *Zooming in on empirical methods in metaphor research*; *#ReframeCovid at RaAM 2020Virtual*

The LOC organized “virtual coffee breaks” and “meet the experts” slots in small break-out rooms within the Zoom platform. This made it possible – particularly for younger researchers and new RaAM members – to speak to established academics in a friendly environment. The coffee break meet-up format had participants randomly allocated to small rooms (4 people), meaning that all delegates were able to meet new people, discuss their research and make new contacts.

The transposition to an online conference entailed an enormous amount of additional organizational work: the RaAM EC would like to express its profound gratitude to the LOC (Susan Nacey, Guri Bordal Steien, Anne Bergliot Oyehaug, Anne Golden) and to the Conference secretary for making this event possible.

RaAM-endorsed events

11-12 October 2019	<i>The Body Politic :Metaphor in Discourse, Past and Present</i> , Otago, New Zealand
28-31 August 2019	<i>Metaphor Festival Amsterdam</i> , Amsterdam, The Netherlands
13-15 May 2019	<i>Researching Metaphor – Cognitive and Other</i> , Genoa, Italy

The Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer (Gudrun Reijnierse on behalf of Jekaterina Sumanova)

The RaAM2020 *virtual* LOC has organised a number of virtual events for all participants, such as virtual meet-ups, live musical performance, possibility to meet experts virtually, etc. PhD students are particularly encouraged to attend.

The RaAM Facebook group continues to be active (804 members), providing members 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). The

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Newsletter featured Spring 2020 interviews with Professor Marianna Bolognesi (University of Bologna) and Justyna Wawrzyński (PhD student, University of Białystok); the Autumn 2020 interview is with Professor Raymond W. Gibbs.

Newsletter Editor (Gudrun Reijnierse)

The following newsletters were prepared this year and are publicly available on the RaAM website.

Members receive an email with a link to the webpage when each new Newsletter is published:

No. 25: November 2019 (364 views recorded)

No. 26: June 2020 (406 views recorded)

No. 27: is due out in the autumn

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 RaAM2020 *virtual* conference – more than 20 individuals – are reminded that they have to send the newsletter editor a *280-character Tweet-style conference report* for inclusion in the next Newsletter. This shorter format has been decided upon for this year's bursary winners due to it being impossible to include over 20 conference reports in the Newsletter. We encourage creative, original, and metaphorical content in these mini-conference reports

5. Event updates and notifications

RaAM conferences

Allison Creed and Inesa Šeškauskienė spoke about the forthcoming 14th RaAM conference (2021).

Theme: *Metaphor and Space*

Location: Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University, Lithuania

Dates: 23-26 June 2021

Format: four plenary speakers; pre-conference workshops; colloquia; papers; posters.

The four plenary speakers have already been confirmed: Jonathan Charteris-Black; Alan Cienki; Michelle Feist; Charles Forceville.

The first call for papers is due out at the beginning of July. Deadlines are set as follows:

Pre-conference workshop proposal submission deadline: 7 September 2020

Colloquium proposal submission deadline: 5 October 2020

Abstract (paper, poster) submission deadline: 2 November 2020

Notification of abstract acceptance: mid-December 2020

Further information: <http://raam14.flf.vu.lt>

15th RaAM conference (2022)

The Call for bids for the 15th RaAM conference (2022) opened in February, just before the COVID-19 outbreak became a pandemic. We decided not to send out reminders, particularly because uncertainty was high and many academics worldwide were working from home and thus not in a position to collaborate on putting together a bid. No bids had been received at bid closure on 1st June so we will re-issue the bid for the 15th RaAM conference shortly (deadline: 30 November 2020).

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Interested parties should consult the RaAM website <https://www.raam.org.uk/conferences/hosting-a-conference/> for general guidelines and should contact the conference secretary conf_secretary@raam.org.uk

Members ask about the possibility of offering future online events. This has already been discussed by the EC, but it was felt that current uncertainties re: COVID-19 pandemic mean that we prefer to wait before firming up commitments to regular online events.

Susan Nacey comments on what organizing the online conference meant. The Norway LOC organized two conferences – the in-person one and then the virtual one. She says that it can be done by one person provided strong technical assistance is available.

Allison Creed notes that having participated in this virtual conference, future bidders are in a better position to evaluate ways of reaching a wider audience.

6. 2020 Elections

65 people voted in the 2020 RaAM EC elections. The results are as follows.

Postgraduate liaison and development officer: Jystina Wawrzyniuk (61 votes)

2 ordinary members: Marianna Bolognesi (renewal) – 51 votes; and Lorena Bort-Mir (new) – 49 votes)

There is one EC post coming up for re-election in 2021:

Newsletter editor: (2-year term, renewable once)

RaAM members are urged to consider putting themselves forward for election to this post.

In 2022, three key EC posts will come up for renewal: Chair, Secretary, Treasurer; plus two ordinary members.

Gill Philip, who has served for the past two years as secretary, informed the EC in January of her intention to stand down after the Norway conference. The EC decided not to put this post up for re-election but instead to co-opt outgoing EC member David O'Reilly to the EC, in accordance with Clause 16 of the *RaAM Constitution* which allows the EC to co-opt members to cover necessary roles. David is a long-term member of the EC, having served as Postgraduate Development and Liaison Officer and two terms as Ordinary member of the EC.

The outgoing EC members (Jekaterina Sumanova, Gill Philip) were thanked for their service to RaAM.

7. RaAM Early Career Prize

In order to eliminate any conflict of interest, an EC trustee being amongst the candidates for this prize, the two EC ordinary members who were originally part of the jury – David O'Reilly (co-ordinator) and Marianna Bolognesi – were replaced by external experts. The jury assessing the criteria for the prize was as a result composed of: Anne Golden, Albert Katz and I-Wen Su. The judges evaluated the submissions by assigning max 5 points to each of 7 categories on a scoring rubric.

The RaAM *Early Career Prize* was awarded to Nina JULICH for her 2019 paper "Why do we understand music as moving? The metaphorical basis of musical motion revisited". In Laura J. Speed,

Carolyn O'Meara, Lila San Roque and Asifa Majid (eds). *Perception Metaphors* Amsterdam: John Benjamins <https://doi.org/10.1075/celcr.19.09jul>

The prize of £200 plus free RaAM membership for one year was sponsored by RaAM.

8. RaAM Policy on Harassment for discussion and approval

At the EC23 meeting in May 2019, the EC Chair, Kathleen Ahrens, raised the issue of harassment at academic conferences and whether RaAM should have an explicit policy within its Constitution to ensure that harassment is avoided.

The EC has continued to work on this issue in the interim, formulating the wording of such a policy which, if approved by RaAM members, will be incorporated as a specific bye-law in the Constitution. The following text is therefore proposed:

RaAM is dedicated to providing a harassment-free environment at RaAM-organized events. Harassment under this policy may include verbal comments, written comments, displayed images, or behaviors such as intimidation, stalking, body policing, unwelcome photography or recording, sustained disruption of talks or other events, inappropriate physical contact, unwelcome sexual attention or advances, and bullying or coercion. Any such behaviour may be brought to the attention of any member of the RaAM Executive Board and may result in expulsion from RaAM membership and/or being barred from participation in future RaAM events.

One attendee thanked the EC for taking this initiative.

A long discussion ensued, with speakers offering their views both orally and in the chat function for the online meeting. The main points raised are as follows:

- One attendee raised the worry that images or academic content of a potentially offensive nature might be censored as a result of adopting such a rule, and asks for the wording to be made less generic to take this important academic consideration into account. Michiel Leezenberg agrees that it is necessary to distinguish between research content that may be offensive or take people out of their comfort zone, and inappropriate or uncollegial behavior.
- One attendee asked whether unwelcome photography refers to filming of people without consent, or to showing unwelcome photography? KA replies that it refers to both.
- One attendee asks how complaints would or could be managed in order to allow complaints to be made and to allow the accusee a chance to respond to the supposed harassment.
- One attendee suggests that there might be a need to set up an anti-harassment committee with clear guidelines etc.
- One attendee asks the EC to provide guidelines/suggestions on the sorts of topics that should be accompanied by trigger warnings, so that presenters might be prompted to think about whether they can/should present their materials and conference participants can opt out of sessions dealing with material that they might find offensive.

After discussion it was decided that the text was not ready for voting. It should instead be reworded in order to make a clear distinction between the content of the academic research being discussed at RaAM events (which may involve potentially sensitive topics, ideally signalled with a 'trigger warning' / 'content warning') and inter-personal behaviour outside that context.

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Members were asked to write to the RaAM secretary secretary@raam.org.uk with any further suggestions so that the EC can reformulate the proposed policy and bring it forward at the next AGM in June 2021

(Action: Secretary)

9. Any other business

There was no further business raised for discussion.

By order of the Executive Committee of RaAM
Gill Philip, Secretary
20th June 2020