



16th Annual General Meeting

Held at 14:00 (Vilnius) on Friday 25th June 2021 via Zoom conference link (in lieu of face-to-face meeting) hosted by Vilnius University, Lithuania.

The following business was transacted:

AGENDA

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM15)**
4. **Annual Report, Officer Reports and accounts 2020-21**
[Note: EC officers reported on aspects of the Annual Report for 2020-21, updating where relevant for the period April-June 2021. The Annual Report, as presented in the AGM slides, will be made available online to all members.]
 - a. The Chair
 - b. The Secretary
 - c. The Treasurer
 - d. The Web Editor
 - e. The Conference Secretary (and RaAM 2022 LOC member)
 - f. The Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer
 - g. The Newsletter Editor
5. **Elections**
 - a. 2021 - Announcement of elected Newsletter Editor (2021-2023)
 - b. 2022 - All positions except Newsletter Editor become available.
6. **RaAM Early Career Prize**
7. **Any other business**

EC members are generally referred to by their initials.

1. **Welcome** (Kathleen Ahrens, Chair)

The Chair, KA, opened the meeting, quorum had been reached (see number of attendees below).

KA explained that the meeting is being recorded for the sole purposes of facilitating note-taking.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Present

From the Executive Committee: Kathleen Ahrens (chair); David O'Reilly (secretary); Zsófia Demjén (treasurer); Allison Creed (conference secretary); Britta Brugman (web editor); Gudrun Reijnierse (newsletter editor); Justyna Wawrzyniuk (postgraduate development and liaison officer), Marianna Bolognesi (ordinary member).

From the membership: 67 members (all attendees at RaAM conferences are members)

Apologies

Lorena Bort-Mir (ordinary member) was unable to attend.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM15)

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

4. Annual Report, Officer Reports and accounts 2020-21

All EC officers (except ordinary members) provided reports:

4a. Chair's report (Kathleen Ahrens, Chair)

KA explained the purpose of the AGM and reported on the following:

- Income from membership is used towards public benefit–student bursaries, non-student bursaries, and prizes.
- The EC also provide the newsletter, website, discounts, regular conferences, community
- Elections will be discussed under item 5, KA encouraged RaAM members to stand for positions in elections.
- The RaAM Research Grant Initiative (for 2021-22).
 - A total of £4000 funds are available, applicants can apply for up to £2000 for a project.
 - Announcement in September/the fall and applicants will have until the end of 2021 to apply.
- RaAM members are encouraged to apply.

4b. Secretary's report (David O'Reilly, Secretary)

DO'R reported on the code of conduct, noting that the information described here is available in the Spring 2021 RaAM newsletter and was provided in an email sent to all RaAM members on 17th May 2021:

- In the communications mentioned above, the EC explained what the code of conduct is, why it is needed, and steps taken so far, the process for approving the final wording, what the agreed code of conduct is, and where it can be found.
- DO'R highlighted three aspects:
 - 1) members were thanked for providing comments and suggestions over the past 12 months, the welcoming spirit of RaAM came across in this period of consultation;
 - 2) the EC have undertaken an extensive consultation with RaAM members, including:
 - discussion (verbal and chat) in the AGM 2020;
 - emails sent from members to the EC;
 - an anonymous survey (Dec 2020-Jan 2021) seeking further comments and suggestions;
 - DO'R had a telephone consultation with the Charity Commission, asking questions that members had raised;
 - EC discussion in and outside of EC meetings.
 - 3) All comments have shaped the code of conduct (available on the RaAM website), which outlines considerations for LOCs, members generally, and the EC. As ever, members are encouraged to contact the RaAM EC by email with any enquiries.

DO'R also noted the other work undertaken by the Secretary including submission of the annual return, annual report, and other administrative duties.

DO'R thanked the EC, in particular KA, ZD, BB, and GP (Gill Philip) for their help with the Secretary handover that took place after the last AGM.

4c. Treasurer's report (Zsófia Demjén, Treasurer)

ZD reported that RaAM's funds have been growing due to the reduced costs for the EC and for bursaries (although the same amount of money was made available, the online nature of the conference has meant fewer applications for bursaries).

A detailed summary of 2020-21 income, payments, and balance (difference between income and payments) was provided on the slides.

The online conferences in 2020 and 2021 have meant that a large number of people joined RaAM for one year, which has been positive in terms of helping RaAM continue to work towards its mission to bring metaphor research and its application to a wider range of audiences.

Most expenses are related to simple running costs (e.g., the website domain), otherwise expenses are for bursaries and prizes.

RaAM has increased its financial position by approximately £7,500 compared with the previous year. RaAM as a charity also holds a savings account, which is not generally used but exists as cover in case of financial difficulty. The amount in the savings account does not generally change, but some interest has been accrued.

Overall membership is similar compared with the same point last year. On June 18th, 2021, RaAM had the following numbers of members (note: most turnover was with 1-year memberships):

- Student/ Retired 3 years: 30
- Student/ Retired 1 year: 76
- Senior 3 years: 77
- Senior 1 year: 82

There are a large number of additional members listed on our databases whose membership has either (recently) expired, or never been paid. These members are not included in the above. The EC (with the help of Ordinary Members) work on contacting these members and removing them from the database (due to GDPR) where needed.

ZD reminded of some further benefits from being a RaAM member:

- Access to RaAM conferences and newsletters.
- Discounted subscription to the John Benjamins journal: *Metaphor and the Social World* edited by Susan Nacey, Dennis Tay, and Aletta G. Dorst.
- Discount on books in the John Benjamin series: *Metaphor in Language, Cognition, and Communication* edited by Christian Burgers.

4d. Web Editor's report (Britta Brugman, Web Editor)

BB reported on:

Changes to the website:

- The website has been continuously updated.
- problems due to plugin updates and related backend issues (e.g., PayPal link) have been solved.

Future plans:

DRAFT minutes to be approved at 17th AGM in 2022.

- Trying to integrate WordPress (website), PayPal (membership payments) and MailChimp (sending bulk emails).

4e. Conference Secretary's report (Allison Creed, Conference Secretary; Justyna Wawrzyniuk, RaAM 2022 LOC member)

AC reported on:

The first ever virtual RaAM, held in 2020 (Hamar, Norway):

- Theme: Metaphorical creativity in a multilingual world.
- Focus on the links between figurative communication and creativity among people with different language backgrounds.
- 4 keynote addresses, 3 plenary sessions, and 3 pre-conference workshops.
- 110 full papers in 3 parallel sessions, 20 posters, 16 works in progress.
- 3 conference prizes + social program including a digital escape room, live Norwegian folk music, and 'Meet the Expert' chats.
- Thank you to the LOC Susan Nacey, Guri Bordal Steien, Anne Bergliot Øyehaug, Anne Golden, and Leon Dekker and the sponsors Faculty of Education at Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences (INN), Centre for Multilingualism in Society across the Lifespan (Multiling). Special thanks to John Benjamins Publishing Company.

The RaAM 2021 conference (Vilnius, Lithuania, held virtually):

- Theme: Metaphor and Space
- Focus on Space as a key parameter of our existence; from the perspective of language, cognition, discourse, medium/modality of expression, and culture.
- 4 keynote addresses and 3 pre-conference workshops
- Most recent figures indicate 126 full papers in 4 parallel sessions, 25 posters
- 3 conference prizes: best poster presentation (sponsored by LOC), Early Career prize (sponsored by RaAM), best PhD presentation (sponsored by John Benjamins) + social program including an online game Around the world, the event Meet the Expert, and social activity for PhD students.
- Thank you to the Faculty of Philology LOC Inesa Šeškauskienė (chair), Liudmila Arcimavičienė, Jurga Cibulskienė, Ieva Stasiūnaitė, Justina urbonaitė, Dovilė Urbonienė, Eglė Žilinskaitė Šinkūnienė and Conference partner Go Vilnius.
- Special thanks to John Benjamins Publishing Company for sponsorship and support.

RaAM endorsed events:

- June 4 2021 - Special Panel 'Power, Persuasion, and Privilege: Metaphor as Mediator', Chaired by Professor Kathleen Ahrens and Dr Allison Creed . Held online as part of the 29th Joint Workshop on Linguistics and Language Processing, hosted by the Research Centre for Professional Communication in the Department of English and co-hosted by the HK PolyU-PKU Research Centre on Chinese Linguistics in the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
- RaAM endorsed events - RaAM endorses independently organised meetings that are concerned with metaphor and metonymy and lists such events on the RaAM website. Your event can be included in the RaAM Newsletter and promoted on the RaAM Facebook page. Endorsement requests should be directed to RaAM's Chair.

AC congratulated the LOC from the University of Białystok (Poland) for being awarded the RaAM conference 2022 and introduced Justyna Wawrzyniuk (JW) as LOC representative. JW presented the following:

- RaAM is returning to Poland after 9 years (a seminar in 2013) for a conference in 2022.

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- JW extended a warm invitation to the conference, which will take place 21-24 September 2022 (note: a little later in the calendar than usual).
- Theme: The social impact of metaphor.
- JW presented a few 'taster' details, but noted that she will reveal more about the conference in tomorrow's closing ceremony.
- The social impact of metaphor manifests in several ways - metaphor as an influence on and reflection of today's society; metaphor and social change; metaphor in politics; metaphor in education; metaphor across legal, medical, media, and online discourses; metaphor in translation studies.
- Plenary speakers: Kathleen Ahrens, Christian Burgers, Veronika Koller, Susan Lee Nacey. JW and the LOC thank the agreed plenary speakers.
- Key dates (for both on-campus and online participation):
 - 1 Sept 2021 = call for papers
 - 31 Jan 2022 = pre-conf workshops and panel session proposal deadline
 - 28 Feb 2022 = abstract submission
 - May 2022 = abstract notification
 - June-Aug 2022 = registration
 - 21-24 Sept 2022 = conference
- JW provided details about Bialystok as a city and the region.
- The LOC represents the Faculty of Linguistic Studies (University of Bialystok).
- Finally, information about the social media channels was provided.

AC resumed, and reported on the call for bids for RaAM 2023, deadline 30 November 2021.

The RaAM conference should be:

- Held, typically, between May and July, but there is flexibility in time of year and format (hybrid/virtual/on-campus);
- Organised by a Local Organising Committee led by at least one member of RaAM.
- We welcome and encourage Executive Committee membership too;
- Offer hands-on workshops and training sessions to allow for in-depth discussion and practical or applied work; and,
- Further the aims of the RaAM Association.
- More details on the the RaAM website: <https://www.raam.org.uk/conferences/hosting-a-conference/>

4f. Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer's report (Justyna Wawrzyniuk, Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer)

JW reported on:

The RaAM Facebook group, active over the past year with:

- >900 members at the time of the AGM.
- Info about events; calls for papers; positions advertised; publication announcements; links to video lectures, discussions about metaphors etc.

The METAPHOR Column in RaAM's Newsletter:

- Two interviews with student members.
- One interview with an established academic.

RaAM14 Conference:

- Pre-Conference Pre-parties!

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- Online PhD Event, JW encouraged attendees to post in the chat if they would like this kind of initiative to be run more often.
- Ask the Expert event, JW thanked Justina Urbonaite for helping with this event, which was extremely helpful for young researchers. JW pledged to work on making this event a tradition for RaAM.

JW suggested that RaAM should expand its social media presence, especially on Twitter and encouraged attendees to post an idea for a Twitter handle in the chat (@raam is already taken).

Finally, JW encouraged attendees to engage with RaAM, and contact with enquiries and ideas for the Metaphor COLUMN via postgrad_liaison@raam.org.uk.

4g. Newsletter Editor's report (Gudrun Reijnierse, Newsletter Editor)

GR reported on the previous two newsletters:

- No. 27: Nov 2020 (591 views)
- No. 28: June 2021 (113 views on day of publication alone)

All newsletters are available online. The next newsletter (#29) will be released in fall (northern hemisphere) 2021. GR encouraged:

- RaAM members to send contributions to: newsletter@raam.org.uk.
- Bursary winners to send a conference report - as a 240-character "Tweetable" comment with creative, original, and metaphorical content.

5. Elections (Kathleen Ahrens, Chair)

At this point, KA reminded attendees of the work that the ordinary members do, which is much appreciated.

2021 elections:

- 1 post up was for renewal, Newsletter Editor:
- 3 candidates:
 - Anaïs Augé (Université de Lorraine)
 - Sui He (University College London/University of Edinburgh)
 - María Muelas Gil (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid)
- Election results, Newsletter Editor:
 - WINNER: Sui He has been elected onto the RaAM EC!
- KA noted that, as permitted by our constitution, GR has been co-opted onto the EC for 2021-22 to help with various tasks.

2022 elections:

- Executive Committee positions for 2022:
 - Chair (4 years)
 - Secretary (4 years)
 - Treasurer (3 years) - should have a UK address for banking reasons
 - Conference secretary (3 years)
 - Web Editor (3 years)
 - 2 x Ordinary Members (2 years)
 - Postgraduate Liaison (2 years)
- Members are strongly encouraged to speak to the EC committee about these posts and to consider standing.

6. RaAM Early Career Prize (Marianna Bolognesi, Ordinary Member; Gudrun Reijnierse and Zsófia Demjén, 2021 Prize Co-ordinators)

MB reported that the prize is usually handled by the ordinary members, but since she was involved in authorship for one paper submitted for the 2021 prize, the ordinary members have stepped back this year and the prize has been coordinated by GR and ZD (note: LBM has been on sick leave).

GR reported:

- The RaAM Early Career Research Paper Prize aims to encourage the production and dissemination of high quality research in the field of metaphor, metonymy, and other forms of figurative expression.
- The prize is awarded in conference years, which since RaAM switched to a conference every year has meant annually.
- GR explained the eligibility criteria and where it can be found
- This year, six applications were received:
 - Anaïs Augé -COVID-19 as a framing device for environmental protest: The ECOSYSTEM HEALTH metaphor. Environmental Communication.
 - Ellen Droog, et al. - How journalists and experts metaphorically frame emerging information technologies: The case of cyberinfrastructure for big data. Public Understanding of Science.
 - Jen McConnel - Metaphors for literacy: Making space for layered perspectives about writing. English Journal.
 - David O'Reilly & Emma Marsden. - Eliciting and measuring L2 metaphoric competence: Three decades on from Low (1988). Applied Linguistics.
 - Anna Werkmann Horvat, et al. - Processing of literal and metaphorical meanings in polysemous verbs: An experiment and its methodological implications. Journal of Pragmatics.
 - Yating Yu -Metaphorical representations of “leftover women”: Between traditional patriarchy and modern egalitarianism. Social Semiotics.
- The winner receives £200 + one year's free membership of RaAM + certificate.
- GR, on behalf of the EC thanked the jury: Justina Urbonaite, Ray Gibbs, Jeannette Littlemore.
- Jury members were asked to read all submissions and award up to five points for each criterion (listed on the RaAM website).
- Jury members reported that they enjoyed reading all submissions and were positive about all. They appreciated their timeliness, contribution to theory, and their real-world implications. The jury members were unanimous in designating this year's winner of the prize. They considered the winning submission ambitious in its endeavour to conduct interdisciplinary work, impressed by the rigour of analyses including detailed reporting of instrumentation, protocols, and reliability finding, judging that the paper's findings make a significant contribution to our understanding of metaphoric competence.
- **Winner:** David O'Reilly (co-authored with Emma Marsden.) - Eliciting and measuring L2 metaphoric competence: Three decades on from Low (1988). Applied Linguistics.

KA thanked GR and ZD, and praised them for the steps taken to avoid conflicts of interest and for maintaining private communication channels throughout the process.

7. Any other business

KA thanked the EC and LOC and opened up the meeting to questions and comments from attendees.

One attendee thanked the EC and LOC for their work, congratulated prize winners, and **asked** whether RaAM might develop a policy on what types of conferences RaAM might offer (e.g., every 2

years a digital conference) while noting concerns about sustainability and accessibility and the advantages of various types of conferences and later noting that RaAM might take a stand on the policy here, rather than leaving the decision to LOCs.

- AC responded that she agrees the EC should be thinking in terms of sustainability and equity, she noted that other conferences tend to be pursuing a hybrid model where possible (rather than fully on-campus one year, fully online the next) and would personally like all RaAM conferences to integrate a hybrid model, she favours discussion around the issue.
- KA noted that for the time being the EC are seeking to understand what members want to do in terms of conference planning, and for that reason the requirements have been left open. She also noted the need to remain flexible, indicating the EC could pursue a survey to consult members on the matter. AC highlighted the approach to consulting members on the code of conduct as an example of how this issue might be approached.

Another attendee thanked the EC for their work and **raised a concern** about EC members finishing their term in 2022 suggesting some might consider standing again to help ensure continuity and mitigating organisational memory loss, noting also that although the EC role terms were devised to promote staggered turnover of EC members, eventually many the end of many roles will coincide on the same year.

- KA responded, explaining that the EC has discussed the issue at the recent EC meeting. She noted that while the Chair cannot stand again, she agreed that it is favourable to strive for an appropriate balance between new energy and experienced EC members. She reminded about the option to co-opt up to three members if needed and that the EC are mindful of helping ensure continuity, but encouraged new members (or those who would be new to the EC) to stand.
- AC noted that previous EC members, who have not served for some time, would be welcome to stand again as a way of maintaining collective knowledge.
- GR stressed that the EC members are very willing to help explain to interested candidates what is involved in each of the roles (tasks, time spent etc), RaAM members are strongly encouraged to contact the EC via email.
- KA noted that EC work is enjoyable and EC members are hard working and involved in the mission of RaAM.

Another attendee asked whether the EC have ever co-opted an EC member to help with the handover.

- KA replied that while this has not happened recently, the RaAM constitution permits this if needed (e.g., in 2022).

KA thanked all AGM16 attendees and closed the meeting.

By order of the Executive Committee of RaAM
David O'Reilly, Secretary
22/6/21