

PSA Anarchist Studies Network Annual Report 2008  
[www.anarchist-studies-network.org.uk](http://www.anarchist-studies-network.org.uk)

19/01/09

Prepared by:  
Dr Alex Prichard (Convenor)  
ESML, University of Bath  
Claverton Down  
Bath, BA2 7AY

Convenor/Secretary: Alex Prichard, University of Bath  
Convenor: Ruth Kinna, Loughborough University  
Membership secretary: Eloise Harding, University of Nottingham  
Treasurer: Dave Berry, Loughborough University

### **Aims of the Specialist Group**

The PSA Anarchist Studies Network was set up in 2005 to coordinate, promote and support the study of anarchism both in the UK and overseas. At our first steering meeting in March 2006, it was decided that the ASN would use its budget mainly to support the building of a face-to-face community of like-minded researchers and academics. To this end, PSA support has been instrumental in supporting travel costs for members to attend the various events held by the group over the past three years. PSA funding has also been used for the building and upkeep of the group's website, but has not been used for any other purpose.

### **Membership**

At present subscribers to the group's email list constitute the group's membership and this stands at 151, almost a 50% increase on January 2008. A partial list of our membership is available on the website. We do not at present charge a membership fee, nor do we have comprehensive membership lists. We are currently considering whether to revise this (see below).

### **Administration**

The core of the administration of the group's activities is undertaken by Alex Prichard. Eloise Harding is our membership secretary. All decisions regarding the direction of the group are discussed via the email list, which makes the group fully participatory. There are no established democratic procedures for decision making, consensus being the preferred option. Surveys were used on an *ad hoc* basis in the first year of the group's existence, but over time the consensus method has proved more conducive to the smooth running of the group. All minutes, reports, ideas, funding requests etc., are put to the general membership for comment and discussion via the email list. Participation in the decision making is voluntary, and generally the group runs itself quite smoothly. Email traffic on the list is relatively high, with an average of about 30 messages per month. We have a dedicated website for the group and occasional technical support is provided by Dimytri Kleiner and the cooperative at [www.telekomunisten.net](http://www.telekomunisten.net). We also have a dedicated wiki site through which the group's membership can develop and contribute to the public website. Additions in the past three months have included substantial reading lists on all sorts of topics, and a publications page detailing some of the articles and books published by ASN members. All minutes, annual reports, conference reports and funding/financial reports are posted to the public website.

## Activities in 2008

The entire ASN budget for 2008, and all our administrative efforts, went into organising the first ASN conference at Loughborough University. The conference attracted over 140 delegates and was run over two days. Over 70 papers were presented in six parallel workshop/panel sessions across seven panel streams. A full conference report and individual panel stream reports can be found here:

[www.anarchist-studies-network.org.uk/1st Anarchist Studies Network Conference%2C Sept 2008](http://www.anarchist-studies-network.org.uk/1st_Anarchist_Studies_Network_Conference%2C_Sept_2008)

The conference was the first of its kind in the UK and was a huge success.

To run this conference the ASN was awarded £1750 from the PSA and a grant of £3500 from the Centre for the Study of International Governance at Loughborough University. PSA funding contributed to financing travel bursaries (£2870.33).

A large proportion of the conference proceedings will be published as edited volumes. The religious anarchism panels secured a contract with Cambridge Scholars Press under the editorship of Alex Christoyannopoulos, while the Anarchism and Moral Philosophy panel stream secured a contract with Palgrave for an edited volume under the co-editorship of Benjamin Franks and Matt Wilson. It is hoped that the panel stream on Proudhon's thought will also secure a publishing contract, though searches for suitable publishers are on-going.

The religious anarchism panel stream decided to set up an email list through the ASN and now have some dedicated webspace on the ASN site. The group is called ASIRA or Academics and Students Interested in Religious Anarchism. <http://www.anarchist-studies-network.org.uk/ASIRA>

Over the past twelve months a number of ASN members have been awarded their doctorates. Alex Prichard was awarded his from Loughborough University for his thesis on the international political theory of Pierre-Joseph Proudhon; Alex Christoyannopoulos was awarded his for his work on nineteenth and twentieth century religious anarchism, from the University of Kent.

Ruth Kinna (Loughborough) has taken over the editorship of *Anarchist Studies* from Sharif Gemie (Glamorgan) and the department of Politics, IR and European Studies at Loughborough University has been able to offer its fourth consecutive PhD studentship in anarchist studies in as many years. Plans are being developed to establish a formal centre for anarchist studies at Loughborough University in 2009.

A partial but growing list of publications by members of the ASN can be found on our website: <http://www.anarchist-studies-network.org.uk/Publications>

## Proposed Membership Fee for 2010

In 2009 we will discuss options to establish a membership fee for the ASN. The idea is to make it recommended but voluntary and graded according to income. Lawrence and Wishart, the publishers of *Anarchist Studies*, have agreed to offer discounted annual subscription rates to student and low-income members of the ASN. The purpose of the subscription fee is to raise a source of income that can be used to fund projects the PSA would be unlikely to consider. These activities will not jeopardise the ASN's status within the PSA as a specialist group, nor will it conflict with the PSA's charitable status. However, there is a feeling amongst the membership that an autonomous pot of income would be a positive thing. This plan is currently being discussed, and while L&W have agreed to their part, the ASN has yet to agree on the precise details of the membership plan. We envisage a final decision at our annual meeting, though meeting, date and location are to be confirmed.