

ANARCHIST STUDIES NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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2010 has been another year of growth for the ASN, which now counts 276 members.

It has also been a very prolific year publication-wise. The publication of proceedings from ASN events continues. Benjamin Franks and Matt Wilson have produced a volume entitled *Anarchism and Moral Philosophy* (Palgrave MacMillan), which developed from the 2008 ASN conference at Loughborough. David Berry and Constance Bantman published *New Perspectives on Anarchism, Labour and Syndicalism: the Individual, the National, the Transnational* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), with contributions from a number of ASN members. Alexander Christoyannopoulos published *Christian Anarchism: A Political Commentary on the Gospel* (Imprint Academic). Alex Pritchard, Dave Berry, Saku Pinta and Ruth Kinna are currently editing a book on Libertarian Socialism for Palgrave, following the ASN-CSSGJ Conference, 'Is Black and Red Dead?'.

ASN members have also published individual articles in a very wide range of journals, including *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, *Journal for the Study of Radicalism*, *European Journal of Ecopsychology*, *Permaculture Magazine*, *Fifth Estate*, *Global Discourse*, *Anarchist Studies*, *The Journal of Contemporary Thought*, *Utopian Studies*, *Modern and Contemporary France*, *The Sociological Imagination*. A collection of six papers was published on the inter-relationship of anarchism and international politics in December's *Millennium*, *Journal of International Studies* - a sign of the continuing interest in anarchism in various disciplines. Jamie Heckert also edited an issue of *Sexualities* in August, which featured seven papers on anarchism.

A major milestone was the launch of the new Contemporary Anarchist Studies book series, published by Continuum Books in association with the ASN, the North American ASN, and AK Books. A number of ASN members are actively involved in the project, including all of the series editors (Laurence Davis, Nathan Jun, Alex Prichard, and Uri Gordon) & many members of the international editorial advisory board (John Clark, Jesse Cohn, Ronald Creagh, Benjamin Franks, Judy Greenway, Ruth Kinna, & Lucien van der Walt). The series is to be published in copyleft or under the Creative Commons share-alike, attribution licence. The first call for proposals, issued last September, states the goals of the series: 'This new book series ... seeks to promote the study of anarchism as a framework for understanding and acting on the most pressing problems of our times. To this end, we invite proposals for original manuscripts that exemplify cutting edge, socially engaged scholarship bridging theory and practice, academic rigour and the insights of contemporary activism. We welcome book proposals on a wide variety of subjects including, but not limited to the following: anarchist history and theory broadly construed; individual anarchist thinkers; anarchist-informed analysis of current issues and institutions; and anarchist or anarchist-inspired movements and practices. Proposals informed by anti-capitalist, feminist, ecological, indigenous, and non-Western or global South anarchist perspectives are particularly welcome. So, too, are projects that promise to illuminate the relationships between the personal and the political aspects of transformative social change, local and global problems, and anarchism and other movements and ideologies. Above all,

we wish to publish books that will help activist scholars and scholar activists think about how to challenge and build real alternatives to existing structures of oppression and injustice.'

The ASN continued to contribute to and support major academic conferences: members had two panels on anarchism at the PSA annual conference in Edinburgh in April and the ASN co-sponsored the Anarchism and International Relations event at Bristol in June. We also supported the Anarchism and Sexuality in Latin America conference in Leeds in February.

Moreover, as anarchism received a lot of (generally negative) publicity in recent months, ASN members have repeatedly been called upon, either individually or as a group, to share their expertise with wider audiences. In this perspective, highlights include TV Interviews by Carl Levy on BBC 2's Newsnight (7 December 2010) concerning the connections between Julian Assange and political anarchism, and on Press TV, Rattansi and Ridley Show, in (17 December 2010), again on the connections between Assange and political anarchism, but also on the wider issue of anarchism and the student demonstrations.

As student protests brought anarchism to the fore, the *Guardian* also requested a contribution on anarchism from ASN members, which was published as 'What Anarchism Really Means' on 18 November 2010 and attracted a lot of readers' comments (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/nov/18/anarchism-direct-action-student-protests?INTCMP=SRCH>). Finally, the ASN has negotiated a discount offer for its members on the peer reviewed journal *Anarchist Studies* beginning in 2010.