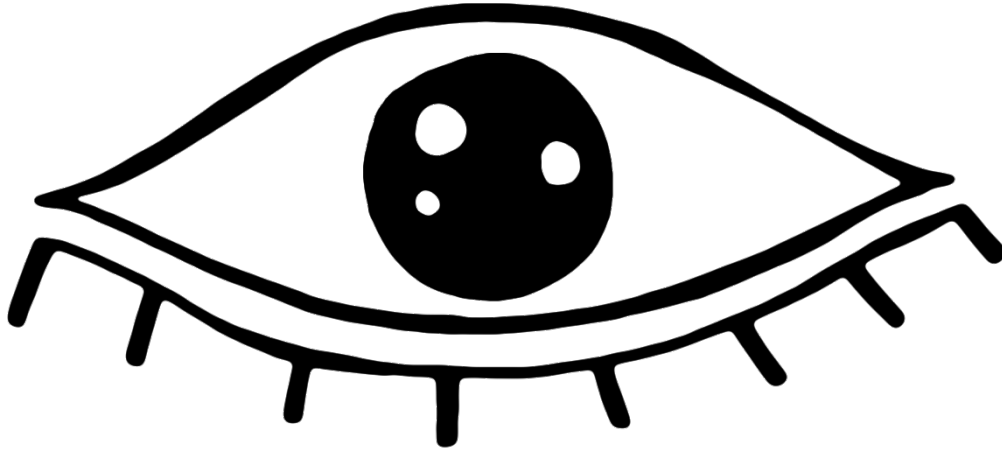


Half Year report A.S.V. Kwakiutl 2020-2021



KWAKIUTL

studievereniging culturele antropologie

Chair	Veronique Bon
Secretary	Iris van Dockum
Treasurer	Marijn Beertje Broek
Social Coordinator	Marijn Groeneveldt
Study Coordinator	Moena Geddi

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1. Introduction

Dear Members,

We have already surpassed half a year! We hope you have enjoyed it as much as we have. With this past half year being very different from any other, COVID-19 has unfortunately had a big role in this past half year. Nonetheless we have tried to make this year as much fun as we could. Naturally we are going to do our stinking best to make the upcoming year even more exciting. Hopefully somewhere later in the year we can actually see each other in real life again but for now we are planning amazing online events.

To make the upcoming year great we will have to evaluate the past year to learn from our mistakes and of course take our best practices into the new year. In this report you will read everything we have done this past half year

Lots of love,

The Board of 2020 - 2021

2. Goals

2.1.1 Internationalization: Connection between our national and international students

Looking back on the integration of our new international members, we feel like we did what we could. At the beginning of the year it was easier; with the introduction week, our First years weekend and the weekly borrels. We happily noticed a lot of international students attending our events and mingling with other members. Another thing we've noticed is a lot of international members joining our committees, which according to us is a great way to mingle and meet others, so we're very glad to see that, too. Furthermore with the large decrease in members joining online events, the integration of international members is not what it would have been in a normal year. However, we feel like we've achieved the most we could and see a lot of international and Dutch first year finding each other and becoming friends.

In the second half year we would love to keep on stimulating this, with offline events if possible of course. We've already noticed what a great addition our international members are and could not imagine Kwakiutl without them anymore.

2.1.2 Safety for our members: What are can we do against sexual harassment?

At the beginning of the year we assigned a trust person within our board; Marijn Beer, who would be a point of contact for our members if they were troubled with anything. To make contact easier, we also made an email address so people could also send an email if they didn't feel comfortable approaching Marijn Beer in person. So far, zero members have taken usage of neither the email address nor approaching us in person. We reckon there was no activity with the trust person because we have yet to build a more intimate connection with our members which is hard to achieve through online events.

We have not yet made a poster about boundaries and consent culture because we have little to no contact with our members in person. We also didn't have an event incorporating consent culture either. We do want to try to make this happen in the next half year, in collaboration with the Study Coordinator; Moena.

Even though most of our events have been online events, we have always taken into account that the (online) space should be safe and easily accessible for everyone who would want to join. All our events were in English and we tried to focus our promotion on every one of our members without excluding anyone. In the upcoming half year we want to hold on to this way of promoting and organizing events. We will also always make an effort to make sure everyone feels safe and feels like they can speak and act freely.

2.1.3 Link between years

As far as the mingling of the different yearlayers, we feel like there is more to achieve on this point. As stated in our initial policy plan, we already expected this to be a bigger challenge than usual because of the lack of offline meeting opportunities. At the beginning of this year, when offline meetings were still possible in some forms, we did see this happening. There was a lot of mingling, and different members from different years, nationalities and ages were all making acquaintance. However, a major part of our committees is filled with first year international students, what we love, but keeps them from mingling with others now the offline meetings are not there anymore.

We did not succeed in our plan to use the common room as a meeting point; there were too little people allowed in at the same time, which made the organization of such an event a problem.

Luckily, we do have our student mentors, who we appreciate even more in these times. They really are a point of contact between first years and older years; whether it is for study related questions or just to have a chat.

In the next half year, we really want to focus on improving this connection between older members and our new members. Whether this is by organizing an event in which they meet online, or by organizing an offline event when we're allowed to again which hopefully a lot of members will attend again. We're very happy with the different members meeting already, but there's only more to gain.

2.1.4. COVID-19

At the start of our board year we wanted to organise onsite activities as much as possible while we still could. We had a lot of luck that we could organise borrels and a first year trip in real life. But when measures tightened we feel like we took a bit too long adjusting to online activities. In the upcoming half year we will try to organise online activities catered to activities our members really would want to attend. This coming half year will still be uncertain, but instead of only focussing on the times when we can finally organise on site activities again, we will make an action plan with both on and offline options so we can anticipate sooner. That being said, with spring and summer coming around it will also be easier to organise events outside as the weather will be much more comfortable.

2.2.1 Collaboration between Kwakiutl and other institutions

With Veronique being a part of the FMG board, Iris being a part of the LaSSA and Moena being part of the ANCA we've kept in good contact with all organisations. We organised a congress with the LaSSA which was great and this coming year we are organising the Namgis congress with the help of ANCA and we will be having other events in collaboration with the FMG. We have made good contact with SEC but unfortunately as of this moment we can not organise an open mic event together. Maybe in the upcoming year we can organise an online event together.

2.2.2 Collaboration between students and teachers

This started out very well, we engaged our teachers in all our events, by inviting them and keeping them posted on what we were doing. We appointed one teacher to function as a bridge between Kwakiutl and the teachers, we would always keep him involved so it would be easier to reach other teachers through him. Sadly when classes went online again and the UvA closed, this also diluted, because it is harder to communicate when you never see each other in real life. When there is an event we still reach out to teachers and we hope to still see them at our (online) events the upcoming half year!

3. Goals per function

3.1.1 Chair - Veronique Bon

My main goal as chair was to have a safe and open environment between our board members. We started this year with already being friends but I think this half of the board year has only helped our friendship grow. I've tried to plan for us to see each other at least once a week without doing board stuff to maintain our friendship. When we shifted to online Kwakiutl events we would sometimes do this together but we found that it is not the best for other members to see us together on one screen having fun off camera. I've tried to organise our board meetings in real life so we could really see each other during board activities as well to make us working together feel as organic as possible. I started calling all members on Friday's to have a weekly chat about board life and in the upcoming half year I want to continue this to know exactly how everyone feels so I and everyone else can anticipate best on any possible obstacles.

With restrictions and lockdown it has been very hard for me to show my face to general members and keep close contact. I hope with the post we put out on social media members can still get to know me a little. I have been very active in getting to know all other boards of the FMG so we can keep in close contact to share our tips and tricks with each other.

The open door policy we wanted to create has been difficult due to the fact that from October on general members were not allowed to be in the boardroom. We found out it is too impractical to find a café close by and sit there, but I have been trying to spot members when walking around and offer them coffee as much as I could. It is not much but with little resources the only thing I was still able to do to maintain contact.

FMG

As chair I also have a position in the faculty association of social and behavioral sciences, the Fv-FMG. I have mostly been working on the study active certificate, SAC. This is a certificate study associations can hand out to its members when they have been actively involved in the association. I hope that we can start handing them out this year to give members some kind of gratification for being a member, especially during these corona times when motivation is very hard to find. I also have been working on acquisition for the FMG party and activity. My focus this coming year is to spend more time on acquisition for the FMG and to set up a commission for the next FMG board to have a team working on acquisition.

Hunsel

With all the restrictions and COVID-19 measurements it is hard to organise an event like the Hunsel weekend. With Iris helping me with this event we have decided not to form a committee because it can easily be canceled and we found it to be too much of a hassle to get a whole committee going instead of us working a bit harder for two weeks if we can actually organise it. If so we've learned from our first year trip to make the registration period as smooth as possible. We hope we can go to Hunsel and make this event amazing.

3.1.2 Secretary - Iris van Dockum

As a secretary, I wanted to make sure that there is a smooth and clear communication between our board, other associations and sources. I think for the last couple of months that worked out pretty well by keeping up with our email and keeping our socials up-to-date. My goal was to be active on our social media platforms. We spiced our socials a bit up with some colorful templates to attract attention. The communication about the promotion is something I want to work on in the next few months because it can be a struggle sometimes. I especially want to use our website more because I might have focussed too much on our social media platforms instead of using our website as the main source. For promotion and updates we created a new actual tab on our website and created a kwaktual on whatsapp to reach our members without social media. Together with Beer I made sure our memberbase is completely up to date with conscribo because we saw some differences in the two programmes.

Besides my job as a secretary my focus was on our new international member's. I'm happy I had the opportunity to help some internationals for their application. Unfortunately I couldn't really organize a lot of events to assure assimilation but I think with our events we showed both dutch and internationals members are more than welcome. It was great to see how these both sides mixed. Unfortunately I couldn't meet a lot of members face to face due to the corona measurements. Either way I hope everyone feels welcome and wants to meet up in real life when we get the chance.

Besides being a board member of kwakiutl I had the honor to be a general member of the LaSSa with Merijn Olij. Together with the other anthropology associations we hosted our first very successful event; the positivity congress. It's nice to keep in contact with other associations during these difficult times to get inspired and hype each other up. For the next few months I hope Merijn and I can be a valuable addition to the LaSSA.

My focus points for the upcoming months are good communication with my fellow board members, especially on our promotion. I want to use our website as the main source for information and promotion for events because I think it is inclusive and shows professionalism. Besides this I hope we as a board can host some events which make our association and the contact between our members stronger.

3.1.3. Treasurer: Marijn Beer

After making the budget for the year my function as treasurer really started. Learning to work with excel and conscribo was fairly easy and I really enjoy putting in the numbers. The first other budget I had to make was for the first year weekend. Because not that many people signed up I had to use subsidy money as well to pay for things the other money wasn't enough for. After reflecting on the budget and actuals I realized I made a mistake in calculations and we ended up losing more money than I initially thought. But because we haven't had that many expenses yet this year we won't get in any trouble for losing this money, but it was a stupid mistake on my part.

Other than the first year weekend, we haven't made that many expenses: only one for both the study and social coordinator and some invoices and office supplies we bought. So making the half-year budget actually wasn't that much work as we didn't spend that much money. I did take more time to make sure any administration that wasn't in order now is and I feel this will benefit the association in the long run.

When the automatic collection for the member contribution rolled around, we lost a lot of members due to cancellations of memberships that weren't handled in previous years, new cancellations I had to do because important information was missing from our accounting program.

I started this year with the acquisition committee and we are with four people total. The members are motivated and we already made a lot of progress in setting up this new committee and its outlines. We took some time to dissect what Anthropology is and how we can sell it to other companies and organisations, we made pamphlets, worked on how to best send a formal email and we made a SWOT. We are now making the first steps in contacting different companies, while trying to find out which companies would be of any interest to Anthropology. We also made a survey we now want to distribute to alumni to paint a picture for ourselves where they end up as Anthropologists and also to give our members a better idea of this.

3.1.4 Coordinator of Travels: shared function

We started in oktober with a plan to travel to Slovenia for ten days in May. We made a lot of progress fast because we could cheat looking at the information we gained last year. Everyone was really excited but we also kept in mind that the travel might not go through. And that's exactly what we decided last week. Due to stricter COVID-19 measures and us not wanting to be dissappointed last second, we decided to cancel the trip to Slovenia and instead will work on a trip within The Netherlands. We have yet to start with this.

3.1.5 Coordinator of Social Activities: Marijn Groeneveldt

What a half year it's been.. Even though our plans were big, sadly not everything turned out to be possible. In this reflection on my policy plan of the beginning of this year I will reflect on the plans I made and the things that turned out to be possible to organize.

In the beginning of this year I wanted to make the inclusion of our new international members as best as possible. This year is the first year our study is international and therefore I felt like the stimulation of inclusion of our new members was an important focus point. At the very beginning of this year, this was relatively 'easy' to manage. In the introduction week we organized a crazy 88 during which I still hear people met a lot of their friends now. At the borrels, too, I feel like a lot of members met and made new friends. Even though I am very happy this way many people felt more included and met others, I do have to say that looking back I think the borrels should have been a bit more strict concerning the COVID-19 measurements. We did organize the borrels according to the measurements at the time, and in consultation with café Czaar, but I do think in reality it turned out to be harder to keep the actual distance needed than expected. For the next half year I am planning on organizing the weekly borrel again if the measurements allow it. Other than the first half year, though, I will put more effort and thought into providing what is needed to actually keep the distance at the borrels, too.

My second point of attention was my intention to try to organize different kinds of activities for a broader range of members. I do think this is achieved, even with the limited possibilities the measurements provided us with. With, for example, the secret sinterklaas or the walking tours, but on the other hand the pub quiz and anything but cups borrel, I think a broad range of members was reached. With events during the day, and nighttime, aimed at partying or maybe more at just meeting people I hope to believe we provided everyone with something to their interest. For this point I am only positive; as I think that with the future loosening of measurements this will only be easier to organize. One thing that I am sorry to notice is that due to the current circumstances, it is harder for the Party committee to organize events as it is for the Social committee. With the committees we find it easier to come up with online meeting events, than actual party related events. We did organize a bloody mary challenge, and some nice online videos. It is, though, a bit of a wait until the measurements allow us to organize more party related events, as this is very hard to achieve this online. For the next half year I have all my hopes on this becoming easier to do.

Then there was the First Year's weekend. I am very happy we were still able to organize this very important introductory event, although with this event, looking back, I do have the same concerns I have now with the borrels we had. The weekend provided our attending first years with a great opportunity to meet other members, and I really enjoyed seeing this happen, but I do think during this event it was, too, very difficult to actually keep the distance that was necessary. Of course at the time the measurements allowed us to organize the weekend, looking back I think the event was a bit too risky. For the second half year, I would love to organize similar events, but more COVID-proof. Maybe not a weekend, but just one day, and this time with very strict focus on the distancing.

Then, lastly, there was my point concerning the safety of our members. I feel a bit as if this has been made more difficult with this online environment. In person it is easier for us to see someone struggling, for example. The other way around I think it is way easier for our members to approach a board member if they're struggling offline than online. In the past half year, I did get some texts from members asking for advice and tips, though, which made me very happy. I am glad they found their way to someone to ask for advice. For the next half year, I would like to try to use our online social media platform more to approach our members concerning

mental health. At the beginning of this year the times were tough, and I don't feel like they have become more easy. It would be great if we could find a way to make reaching out to each other easier online, like it would be offline. So that is something I would love to acquire next half year.

So, the past half year has been with ups and downs. Where a lot of good intentions and plans had to be swept off the table, I am very proud of the things we did manage to organize and the members we did help to meet others and have fun. I am very happy with my committees and the motivation they provide us with, and our very faithful members who keep showing up at our online events. The expectations of the next half year are looking bright, and so am I. I can't wait to organize events in the coming year where the measurements are bound to get looser and the virus more controlled. I am proud of us doing this together, and happy with the people we met. Onto the next half year!

3.1.6 Coordinator of Study: Moena Geddi

This first half year has certainly challenged me, as a board member, to think outside of the box. It forced me to get creative in organizing events in any way that was still possible. So far event planning has thus been difficult, but I got the hang of things and there are some amazing events coming up! Because everything right now is so different than anybody has ever experienced, I felt it took some time to really get into my role as a coordinator of this many committees. I didn't (and still don't) want to ask too much of my committee members because we're amidst a pandemic and not everybody is feeling great right now. I want to make being in a committee as fun as possible, but this means that I accidentally tried to organize everything by myself. I recently found more balance in keeping my committee fun, but still delegating tasks. Still, I am just as excited about organizing cool and educational events for Kwakiutl as at the start of the year.

Buddy system

The buddy system started out great with many enthusiastic older year students, who wanted to help the first year students to get to know Amsterdam and life as an anthropologist. Sadly due to Covid'19 all classes switched to online. This caused the bridge between the first year students and older years students to be a bit harder to cross, because all social activity was via zoom. The first year students were very happy with the extra attention and practice with academic writing and ICA. This was very fruitful.

Career committee

This year my initial plan was to organize outings to two companies to see how a potential workplace for an anthropologist would look like, sadly this was also not possible. Now I am working on one big career event together with many study associations of the FMG. This will be great because this means there will also be professions that anthropologists themselves haven't thought about.

Film committee

I am really pleased with this committee! We have organized two movie nights so far and it is great for some interaction with the members. The second time we even sent pizzas to peoples houses to get them more engaged, that really worked! We're still on track to organize a film festival, but have decided we will only do it if it can be in real life. If it were to be online, we feel it would not be as successful as it could be and that would not be worth it.

Conference committee

This committee just started working on our conference, we are busy picking out a theme for this year. As of right now we are still aiming to organize it in real life. We have decided we will wait a few more weeks to see if the covid measures will be lightened again and otherwise we will switch our planning to online.

The T.O.P. and lecture committee

We are busy planning our second event right now! The first one, about the American elections, went very well. Of course it is still hard to engage students after a long day of studying, to then come to another online lecture. We are thinking of ways to make it more interactive. We are also planning our first T.O.P. with Pegasus! For the upcoming half year, there are still two T.O.P's and one lecture planned.