

Eurozine

Activity report

2020

Introduction

Eurozine is a network of European cultural journals, linking up more than 90 partner journals and associated magazines and institutions from nearly all European countries. Eurozine is also an online magazine which publishes outstanding articles from its partner journals with additional translations into one of the major European languages.

Europe needs a diverse and vibrant public sphere to face the manifold challenges that endanger openness and democratic development of its societies. The landscape of independent cultural journals, in itself highly diverse, plays a key role in this process as cultural journals introduce the best of European intellectual production to public readership and debate.

By providing a Europe-wide overview of current themes and discussions, Eurozine offers a rich source of information for an international readership and facilitates communication and exchange between the journals themselves. By presenting the best articles from its partners, as well as original texts on the most pressing issues of our times, Eurozine opens up a new space for transnational debate.

History

Eurozine emerged from an informal network dating back to 1983. Since that time, editors of European cultural journals have met each year in different European cities to exchange ideas and experiences. In the meantime, well over 100 periodicals from almost every European country have become involved in these meetings.

In 1995, the meeting took place in Vienna. The success of this meeting, in which numerous eastern European magazines participated for the first time, and the rapid development of the Internet encouraged the editors to reinforce the existing loose network with a virtual but more systematic one. Eurozine was established in 1998.

Eurozine is a showcase for the many possibilities that cooperation between print and electronic media creates. In presenting its partners online, Eurozine gives these printed journals the chance to widen their sphere of influence without compromising their independence. At the same time, Eurozine's base in printed journals with a longstanding intellectual tradition distinguishes it from most other web-based projects.

The journals *Mittelweg 36* (Hamburg), *Kritika & Kontext* (Bratislava), *Ord&Bild* (Göteborg), *Revista Crítica de Ciências Sociais* (Coimbra), *Transit – Europäische Revue* (Vienna), and *Wespennest* (Vienna) are Eurozine's founding members.

Today, Eurozine hosts the European Meeting of Cultural Journals each year together with one or more of its partners in different cities in Europe. The meetings have become a flagship event attracting more than a hundred participants – editors, authors, researchers, media experts, cultural managers and interested audiences – with three days of programme including lectures, panels, workshops and a network session.

Publishing in 2020

Designed as an independent cultural platform, Eurozine uses the internet and social media to promote the leading European cultural journals; to intensify communication and exchange between them; and to offer, as a journal of its own, a public space of a new type for open and critical debate on a transnational level.

Translation is the key to creating a European public space that respects diversity. By translating texts into one of the widely-spoken European languages, Eurozine creates the possibility for texts to be understood and valued outside of their original context.

Eurozine published a total of 256 articles and translations in 2020 – this includes 190 individual articles and 66 translations. Of the articles, 106 originated from the network, 32 were original commissions by Eurozine, 35 were collaborations with extra-network partners, while the remaining 17 were editorial content.

In addition, Eurozine published 81 Eurozine reviews or review items, 25 editorials and 10 network news items.

Belarus, postmodern fascism and more

Running up to the Belarusian elections which had been expected to be a heated occasion, Eurozine prepared extensive coverage of the politics and culture in the country which then ended up commanding unusual international attention and dominating Eurozine's publishing as the popular uprising demanded democracy and fair representation. We closely followed the [reoccurring arrests](#) of our Belarusian network partners and authors as well.

See more of our Belarus coverage [here](#).

Focal points

Eurasia in global dialogue

This focal point presents the findings of the project 'Eurasia in Global Dialogue' being carried out at the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna (IWM). It is an extension of the earlier focal point, 'Russia in Global Dialogue' that ran in Eurozine and at the IWM from 2012–2018.

- Total of 101 texts plus translations published between June 2011 and May 2021, by authors including Maria Lipman, Timothy Snyder, Oleg Sentsov, Nikolay Mitrokhin, Lilia Shevtsova
- 7 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

Ukraine in European Dialogue

This focal point, stemming from the project 'Ukraine in European Dialogue' of the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna, discusses the challenges facing the young Ukrainian democracy, its place in Europe, and the lessons it might offer for the future of the European project.

- Total of 53 articles published between February 2016 and March 2021, including authors: Richard Sennett, Susanne Heeg, Vera Kovacs, Anita Aigner, Michael Klein, Nataliya Gumenyuk, Mariana Verbovska
- 6 articles published in 2020
- See [this](#) page for a full list

Our [Coronavirus crisis](#) focal point and the dossier [Overdue: the ecology of humans](#) are ongoing, with special focus on disadvantaged and marginalized peoples' experience during the trying circumstances they address. From extreme droughts in Ukraine to international vaccine distribution, our main aim is to provide representation where it's most needed, address the questions of fairness and access, and map new approaches to tackling these upheavals.

Overdue: The ecology of humans

This focal point discusses climate change and the cultural and political factors behind the ecological crisis, as well as potential ways out of it.

- Total of 26 articles published between June 2019 and March 2021 by authors including Achille Mbembe, Peter Salmon, Kate Brown, Clare Taylor, Claus Leggewie, Gergely Simon
- 13 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

The coronavirus crisis

Eurozine investigates the political and cultural factors behind the COVID-19 pandemic and reports from the frontiers. Includes articles analysing effects on minorities and articles on pandemic-linked disinformation.

- Currently a total of 33 articles plus additional translations published including authors: Nataliya Gumenyuk, John Keane, Daniel Trilling, Ulrich Menzel, Arjun Appadurai, Júlia Sonnevend
- 30 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

Fascism for our time

In cooperation with our US-based associate *Public Seminar*, we launched a focal point titled [Fascism for our time](#), with articles looking into the ongoing debate over new authoritarians' relationship with historical fascism, the comparison's uses and disadvantages in addressing democratic deficits, tyrannical tendencies and societies' self defence mechanism.

- Total of 10 articles published in September–October 2020. Authors include Philip Manow, Anton Shekhovtsov, Mischa Gabowitsch, Jan-Werner Müller, Mitchell Abidor, James Miller
- 10 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

Room temperature: Housing in crisis

Focal point discussing the housing crisis in Europe and beyond, in close collaboration with Estonian partner journal *Vikerkaar*.

- Total of 18 articles published between February 2019 and December 2020, including by authors: Richard Sennett, Susanne Heeg, Vera Kovács, Anita Aigner, Michael Klein
- 15 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

Worlds of cultural journals

The focal point seeks to explore relationships within a transnational 'ecosystem' of cultural journals. Most recently the contributions here have sadly had to focus on the passing of some of Eurozine's founding figures.

- Total of 23 articles (plus additional translations) published between September 2008 and February 2021, including by authors: Carl Henrik Fredriksson, Klaus Nellen, Sally Davison, Waldemar Kuligowski, Ann Ighe
- 3 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

The legacy of division

In cooperation with partner journal *Razpotja*, this focal point discusses the legacy of the East-West divide after 1989. This series has resulted in a print volume of an identical title, and its most recent Slovenian iteration - please find details below.

- Total of 45 items (plus additional translations) published between February 2019 and May 2021
- 3 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

Consensus and controversy

Has literature become hostage to politics and ideology? Must it choose between artistic freedom and political engagement? Are there writers today who whisper into the ears of populists or help them win support? The focal point addresses all these questions and many more.

- Total of 14 items (plus additional translations) published between February 2019 and June 2020
- 8 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

Big Tech: the law of power?

The focal point delves into the threats posed by a tech industry in the hands of few private actors and proposes alternative solutions to channel technological development towards the common good.

- Total of 10 articles published between May 2019 and May 2020, including by authors: Miriam Rasch, Daniel Leisegang, Evgeny Morozov
- 7 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

Information: a public good

The focal point understands information's positive quality as a public good. Contributions reflect the idea that abandoning a purely reactive strategy against disinformation will stand democracies in better stead.

- Total of 23 articles published between May 2019 and August 2020
- 17 articles published in 2020
- See [this page](#) for a full list

Topicals and tangents

An exceptionally well received new genre in our publishing is one that re-promotes and re-conceptualizes archive articles in light on current discourses: *Topical* articles are thematic reading lists which give a new interpretation to outstanding pieces from the vast Eurozine archive. Their sibling category, *Tangents* have just been launched, offering editors and authors a chance at freer association as they roam throughout the Eurozine archive, reflecting on reads they have found important and significant. 2 topical articles and one tangent was published in 2020.

Podcast

Eurozine launched its podcast series promoting the journals of the network and their content. After the first six episodes however, the progress of *Gagarin, the Eurozine podcast* has been slowed down by the permanent strain on the editorial team. Thus, following a series of well-performing episodes and longer than usual breaks, the audio series is to be reanimated from May 2021 with interviews introducing Eurozine editors and authors. 10 podcast episodes were published in 2020.

The most read articles on Eurozine in 2020

Pandemic rape in India by Atreyee Sen, contributed by our Austrian partner journal *L'Homme*: <https://www.eurozine.com/pandemic-rape-in-india/>

The anatomy of Zoom fatigue by Geert Lovink, a Eurozine original: <https://www.eurozine.com/the-anatomy-of-zoom-fatigue/>

Liberté, égalité, sexualité by the late Gaby Zipfel, one of Eurozine's founders, contributed by our Hamburg-based partner journal *Mittelweg 36*: <https://www.eurozine.com/liberte-egalite-sexualite/>

Why we need a decolonial ecology: an interview with Malcom Ferdinand via the French journal *Revue Projet* and in a non-network collaboration with the Green European Journal: <https://www.eurozine.com/why-we-need-a-decolonial-ecology/>

Resurrecting the soil by Kate Brown from our Estonian partner *Vikerkaar*: <https://www.eurozine.com/resurrecting-the-soil>

Refugees in the pandemic: our original miniseries on migrants and asylum seekers coping with lockdowns and health threats: <https://www.eurozine.com/tag/refugees-and-covid-19/>

Watch your mouth: the 31st European Meeting of Cultural Journals, first edition

14 November 2020, Budapest & online

We postponed a good portion of our upcoming conference to safer times due to the COVID-crisis – the current plan is to have it on 2 July 2021. Nevertheless, we decided to broadcast some of the originally planned public programme, in cooperation with the Centre for Media, Data and Society of the Democracy Centre of Central European University (CEU CMDS), the Media and Communication Studies Department of ELTE University (ELTE Média) and the independent Hungarian content producer Partizán.

This first part of the conference took place on 14 November 2020.

The focus of the programme was media repression and the political pressure independent outlets face in Central and Eastern Europe, also acknowledging the pandemic's effect and recent major losses in the hosting country, Hungary's media landscape.

The programme consisted of two pre-recorded panels and live Q&A sessions, populated by the Eurozine network's editors and colleagues in a video conference platform, but also broadcast to the general audience on both Eurozine's and Partizán's online surfaces, generating over 27,000 views on Youtube (12k+) and Facebook (15,8k+), bringing Eurozine and our network editors to a much wider than usual audience.

On the first panel, journalism students from Hungary talked about their expectations, hopes and fears in a profession which is under extraordinary strain in their home country. In the second discussion, Hungarian, Slovakian and Slovenian journalists, scholars and artists discussed how they cope with the pressure they face, what they base their publishing decisions on when faced with adversity.

The full programme can be viewed online, please find it here, along more details on upcoming programme as well [here](#).

Confronting disinformation, disintegration and the erosion of democracy: the role of cultural journals

28 January 2020, Brussels, hosted by the European Foundation Centre and Eurozine

In the blissful last moments before the pandemic hit Europe, Eurozine's team members, board members and network editors met in Brussels to talk with representatives of funding bodies, public and private. The discussion centred on the role of cultural journals in a rapidly changing cultural and political environment, among the turmoil of digitization and rapid monopolization in media markets. A day full of conversations concentrated on the repositioning of cultural publishing in a reshaping industry, and in the expansive ecosystem of public service.

For more information on the meeting, see the announcement: [EFC and Eurozine Meeting – Confronting disinformation, disintegration and the erosion of democracy: The role of cultural journals – EFC](#)

Or find the reflections of Ann Ighe, editor of the Swedish literary journal *Ord&Bild*: <https://www.eurozine.com/we-dont-do-information/>

Additional network activities and events

Translations

To facilitate syndication across borders, Eurozine introduced the Eurozine Translations Pool which is available to partner journals and associates and co-finances translations to be published in the journals. In 2020, Eurozine has co-financed translations with a total amount of 4.500 EUR.

Webinars

Let's talk crisis! COVID-19's impact on cultural journals

The coronavirus pandemic has severely hit cultural sectors, including cultural journals. On Tuesday, 31 March 2020 (14:00-15:30 CET), Eurozine held an online workshop to discuss the pandemic's impact on publishing, share experiences, and strategize for the future.

Full webinar report can be read [here](#).

COVID-19's impact on cultural journals, part II: How to save print!

Eurozine held a second workshop on the impacts of COVID-19 on Monday, 18 May 2020 at 11:00-12:30 (CET) to share best practices and experiences on how to maintain print publishing in times of hampered production and the disrupted distribution of paper journals.

What role can digital methods play in saving print? How can lost income from print sales be recouped? How can print journals be revived after the pandemic?

The workshop was moderated by Eurozine's editor Sarah Waring and started with a round of three short presentations by editors from Eurozine's partner journals who shared their journals' experiences, including with hybrid (print and online) models for publishing and sales.

Funding Opportunities Outlook

Eurozine continued to inform cultural journals about upcoming funding opportunities on the international level. The opportunities are published on the website and disseminated to the network via the internal monthly Partner Newsletter. This way Eurozine informs partners within the network and cultural journals and journalists outside of the network.

⇒ [Eurozine Funding Opportunities Outlook](#)

This activity has been introduced as part of an ongoing project funded by the European Union (Creative Europe).

Visibility

The audience of the Eurozine online magazine (eurozine.com) has increased compared to 2019, as the following website traffic data illustrates. The same holds true for social media and public reach. Push notifications were introduced in 2020 and help increase visibility and traffic after Instagram and YouTube accounts were added to the portfolio of Eurozine's social media accounts in 2017 and we introduced a Medium handle in 2019.

Eurozine's reach via social media has continued to increase in 2020, both in terms of audiences and engagement. In December 2020, over 19.000 users were following Eurozine's Facebook page (2019: 18.600), 9.600 were following the twitter account (2019: 6.500).

Newsletters

The bi-weekly **Eurozine Newsletter** presents articles and translations published in Eurozine alongside news from the network which promote the activities of partner journals. In the reporting period, a total of 26 newsletters were sent out, promoting over 200 articles, translations and network news items.

The **Eurozine Review** consists of original, concise reviews presenting current issues of network partner journals, thus providing a Europe-wide overview of current topics and texts. Reviews of individual issues are being published separately on the website and social media, alongside custom made visuals of the journals' hard copies.

At the end of 2020, the Eurozine Newsletter and the Eurozine Review were reaching an audience of over 12,500 subscribers.

Additionally, the internal Eurozine Partner Newsletter informs the network about Eurozine's activities such as meetings, calls for collaboration in Focal Points, and internal developments in the organisation.

Network

During 2020, Eurozine has continued its cautious but consistent expansion by welcoming three new partners and a new associate.

New partner journals

[Baggrund](#) is a Dutch online journal specializing in long-form articles and occasional print publications, in the field of social sciences and critical reflection.

[De Nederlandsde Boekendigs \(The Dutch Review of Books\)](#) is a young and dynamically expanding print review, whose addition helps mend a gap in the Eurozine network that has long lacked a Dutch partner.

The [Irish Pages](#) are our first partner from Northern Ireland, the island's leading literary journal.

A new associate

[VoxEurop](#) publishes original articles and syndicated content and their translations online in multiple languages.

New collaborations

[CAIRN](#) is a network of French academic and cultural journals with whom we share a number of mutual partner journals. In our collaboration we coordinate, co-commission and share reviews and translations from these partners, and contribute to each other's thematic dossiers, focal points and reading lists.

[The Institute of Network Cultures](#), based in Amsterdam, is a recurring contributor with whom we have made our long-running partnership official. Besides the articles and editorial input they have contributed to Eurozine, their then colleague, philosopher Miriam Rasch joined the Eurozine Board of Editors in 2019 and has been serving there since.

Partner journals

2000, A2, Akadeemia, Arche, Atlas, Baggrund, Belgrade Journal of Media and Communications, Beton International, Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik, Cogito, Critique&Humanism, Culture&Démocratie, Czas Kultury, De Nederlandse Boekendigs (The Dutch Review of Books), Derive, Dialogi, Dilema Veche, Dziejaslou, Esprit, Fronesis, Genero, Glänta, Host, Il Mulino, Index on Censorship, Intellectum, Irish Pages, K24, Kritika&Kontext, Krytyka, Krytyka Polityczna, Kultura Liberalna, Kulturos Barai, La Revue Nouvelle, LaPunkt, Le Monde Diplomatique OSLO, L'Espill, Letras Libres, Leviathan, L'Homme, Merkur, Mittelweg 36, Multitudes, Mute, Neprikosnovennij Zapas (NZ), New Eastern Europe, New Humanist, New Literary Observer (NLO), Nova Istra, Nuroi Voima, Ny Tid (FI), Ny Tid (NO), Ord & Bild, Osteuropa, Partisan, Passage,

Poeteka, Polar, Prostory, Positionen, Razpotja, Res Publica Nova, Reset, Revista Crítica, Revolver Revue, Revue Projet, Rigas Laiks, Roots, RozRazil, Samtiden, Sarajevo Notebook, Sens Public, Sodobnost, Soundings, Spilne, Springerin, Symbol, Syn og Segn, Transit, Vagant, Varlik, Vikerkaar, Wespennest

Associates

Arbeitskreis Kulturwissenschaftliche Zeitschriftenforschung, Booksa, Dublin Review of Books, Einstein Forum, Fondazione Di Vagno, Free Speech Debate, Historein, ICORN, Internazionale, Kulturpunkt.hr, NAQD, Public Seminar, openDemocracy, VoxEurop

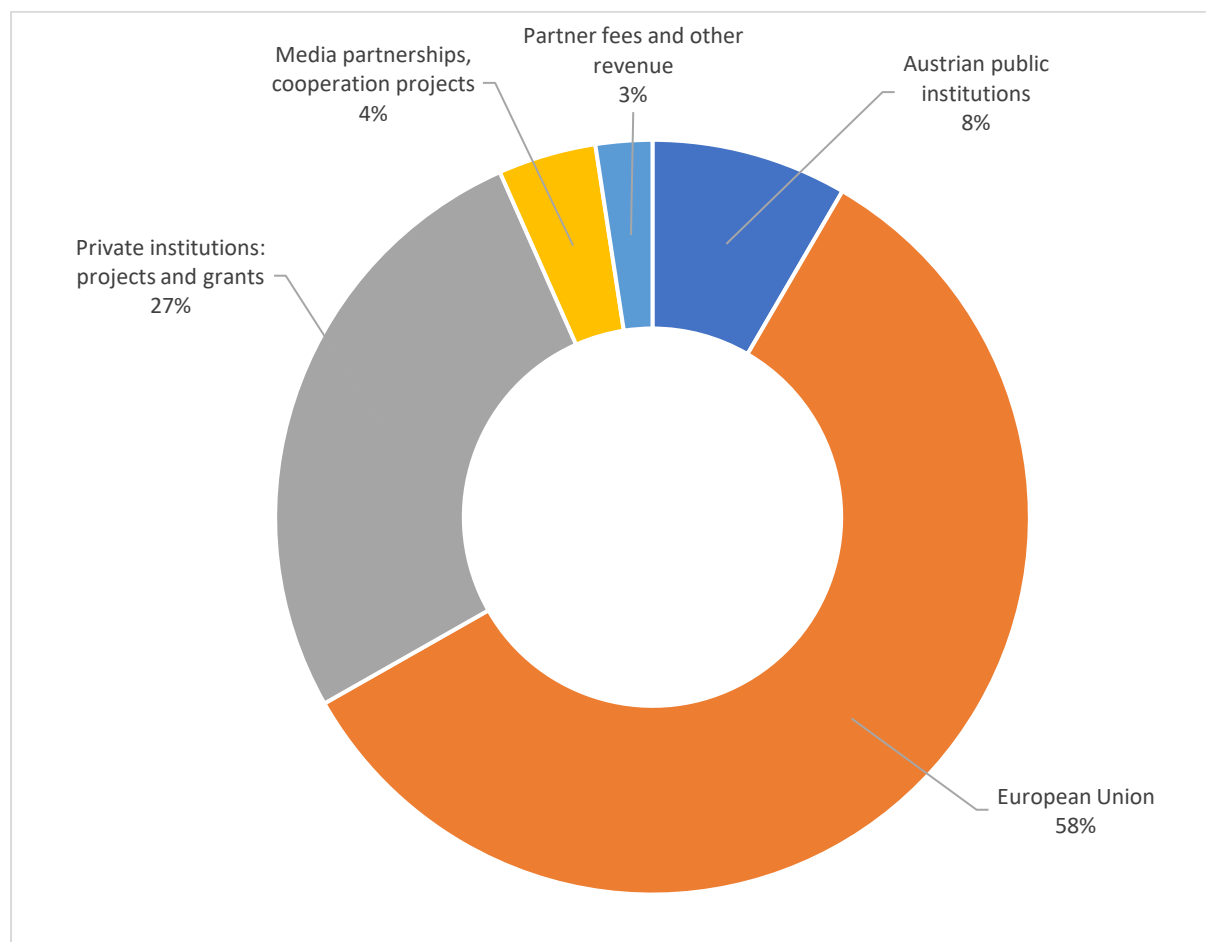


Find the full interactive map [here](#).

Finances

Eurozine had a diverse funding mix in 2020. Since May 2017, Eurozine is being co-financed by the European Union’s “European Networks” strand of Creative Europe with an annual co-financing of 250.000 EUR per year. The second largest share comes from various project grants by private foundations such as the Open Society Foundations and the National Endowment for Democracy. Media cooperations and publishing projects have become an important part of Eurozine’s business model as well. As Eurozine is not-for-profit, all income is used to finance the organisation’s activities in accordance with its statutes.

Eurozine’s total annual budget in 2020 was ca. 450.000 EUR.



Organisation

Eurozine is a not-for-profit institution, with an editorial office based in Vienna. The Editorial Board, composed of the editors of four European cultural journals, and the Advisory Board play an important role in guiding and advising the Eurozine editors.

Staff

At the end of 2020, Eurozine's staff consisted of 7 employees (= 6 FTE), headed by Filip Zieliński and Réka Kinga Papp:

Réka Kinga Papp, editor-in-chief of Eurozine. Réka Kinga Papp joined Eurozine in November 2018, succeeding James Thomson. Réka is a Hungarian journalist and media researcher specialized in sociography, the representation of marginalized social matters and social science infotainment. Before joining Eurozine she had worked with numerous NGOs reporting on their clientele and fields of expertise; wrote political commentary for the weekly HVG and has been running a radio show on human sciences at Klubrádió for almost four years.

Filip Zieliński, managing director since January 2016. From 2013 to 2016, Public Relations and Project Management Officer at the Polish Institute Vienna, a public diplomacy institution. Prior to this, Filip worked as a research associate at the University of Vienna. He holds an MA in Sociology, History and Slavonic Literature from the University of Heidelberg, Germany and a doctorate in History from the University of Vienna, Austria.

Merve Akyel joined Eurozine as art and social media editor in 2019. Merve has a background in art direction and social media management and holds a BA with Honours in Visual Communication Design and an MFA in Fine Arts from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Currently a PhD Candidate in Philosophy of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Simon Garnett, editor. Employee at Eurozine 2005–2012 and from 2016. He holds degrees in English Literature (University of Cambridge, BA Hons.) and Visual Theories (University of East London, MA). In 2012-2016 he was a member of the Research Group 'Privacy: Forms, Functions, Transformations' at the University of Passau, funded by the German Research Council. He also works as a translator from German to English, and as a freelance copy editor for various publishers and organizations.

Simona Jazbinšek, project manager at *Eurozine* since January 2018, after working at the University of Ljubljana in project management and research. Previously worked as an external expert and researcher for WHO, Slovenian public health institutions and research institutes. Holds degrees in ethnology and cultural anthropology (MA) and in economics (MA).

Melina Koumides, communications and event manager joined Eurozine in March 2017. She previously worked as PR and project manager and editor (Radio Afrika TV, Bum Media, IAEA, Vienna). Melina has a BA (Honours) in International Politics & French from Aberystwyth University; she later studied at Sciences Po in Strasbourg and was awarded an MA in Europe Studies by the University of Vienna.

Sarah Waring, editor, joined the team in March 2020. Sarah previously worked with clients such as the European Commission on its social enterprise mapping project and ForAlps on the academic book *Alpine Refugees: Immigration at the core of Europe*. Author of *Farming for the Landless* and its Italian translation.

Editorial Board

Eurozine's Editorial Board comprises four editors of the network, representing it by geography, gender, generation and genre, and serves as an additional interface between the Eurozine office and the network partners.

Members of the Editorial Board in 2020:

- Audun Lindholm, *Vagant*, Berlin and Norway, joined in 2018
- Miriam Rasch, Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam, joined in 2019
- Agnieszka Rosner, *Res Publica Nowa*, Warsaw, joined in 2018
- Seyda Öztürk, *Cogito*, Istanbul, joined in 2019

Eurozine's Board of Trustees in 2020:

- Miljenka Buljević, Kulturtreger and Booksa, Zagreb, joined board in 2019
- Göran Dahlberg, editor at Glänta and publisher, Gothenburg, joined the board in 2018
- Veronika Leiner (chair), Cultural manager and educator, managing director at Eurozine 2009 to 2016, Vienna
- Daniel Leisegang, *Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik*, Berlin, joined board in 2019

Board meetings

The Brussels advocacy meeting was organized in the embrace of two board meetings, the last ones to be held in person ever since.

Preceding the advocacy gathering, on 27 January 2020, was a meeting held with the Board of Trustees, focusing on strategic concerns, especially in administration.

After the event with the EFC, on 29 January 2020 the Board of Editors met at the Bozar in Brussels, with two new board members joining for the first time: Seyda Öztürk, editor of the Turkish philosophy magazine *Cogito*, and Miriam Rasch of the Institute of Network Cultures. The Board of Trustees decided on multiple partner applications (see details below about new partners and associates) and defined an editorial strategy which then carried Eurozine through the strain of the first lockdown and set staff editors on a track to expand visibility for the network and its members, mainly editors of partner journals.

Meetings of Eurozine's staff with the Editorial Board and with the Board of Trustees are usually held in person, each meeting over a course of 1-3 days, in different European cities. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions, all meetings since March 2020 have been held online instead.

Editorial Board Meeting – Online – 24 April 2020

Editorial Board Meeting – Online – 20 July 2020

Board of Trustees Meeting – General assembly of the Eurozine GmbH – 29 July 2020

Joint Meeting of Editorial Board and Board of Trustees – Editorial strategy – 25 September 2020

Contact

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