

# EUROPEAN BEAT STUDIES NETWORK

## 2016 Mission Statement; updated 2017

In 2010 the EBSN was established by Polina Mackay and Oliver Harris as a light touch organisation with a mission to promote high quality scholarly work in an informal, creative and open context, bringing together people interested in the Beats beyond the traditional Anglo-American academic world.

In the past six years it has expanded to include nearly 250 members from across Europe and the world, has organised highly successful annual conferences in five different countries (The Netherlands, Denmark, Morocco, Belgium, England), edited special issues of journals featuring EBSN scholarship, and run a constantly improving website. In keeping with its mission, membership remains entirely free, and conference registration has stayed inexpensive and very good value for money. It complements rather than duplicates or competes with the Beat Studies Association (of America).

In 2015, a Board of five and an Advisory Council of a dozen were established to enhance the leadership provided by the President (Oliver Harris) and Vice-President (Polina Mackay), share responsibilities and widen the participation in running the network. On the Board, the VP serves as EBSN Treasurer; Ben Heal is Webmaster and Membership Officer; Raven See is Webmaster and Conference Administrator and Frida Forsgren has no specific role. In 2017, we welcomed Paul Aliferis and Chad Weidner to the Board. A list of Advisory Council members appears on the EBSN website homepage.

The next steps we are taking, including the publication of this document, are intended to improve the transparency of how the organisation works and to open it up to new ways of ensuring that it continues to develop.

In terms of our procedures, the Board is the equivalent of a “governing body” and the President retains a casting vote. Although the structure is therefore quite hierarchical, the intention is to keep decision-making as simple and streamlined as possible, preventing the EBSN from becoming mired in the kind of bureaucratic processes that dominate university institutions.

Membership of the Board is for a 3-year (renewable) term and is by appointment. The Board receives an annual report of the EBSN’s finances, and is expected to be involved in all major decisions involving the EBSN. Invitation to join the Board is made by the President and Vice-President, in consultation with the Advisory Council, but any member of the EBSN interested in serving on either the Board or the Advisory Council is welcome to put themselves forward.

Each year, the EBSN holds an AGM at its Annual Conference, a meeting that is open to all members. The AGM is chaired by the President, Vice-President, or deputised Board member. The meeting receives informal reports (e.g. on past, present, and future conferences and on major proposed initiatives) and enables members to propose ideas in keeping with the EBSN’s mission statement. It is not the role of the AGM to vote on proposals, although the Board is expected to hear and respond to the views of members.