

Charity registration number: 1170382

British Association for American Studies

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

British Association for American Studies

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British Association for American Studies

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Dr G M Lennon
	Dr R L Farebrother
	Dr M A McLay
	Dr R J A Dini
	Dr L Witham
	Dr A M Fearnley
	Dr E Deyienne
	E A Hall
	Dr C M Armstrong
	Dr S J Thelen
	C Dossett
	Dr E Brady
	Dr C Lloyd
	Dr K Ballantyne
	Dr H Emmett
Charity Registration Number	1170382
Principal Office	Department of Humanities University of Roehampton Roehampton Lane London SW15 5PU
Independent Examiner	The Moffatts Partnership LLP Suite 1.1, Jackson House Sibson Road Sale M33 7RR

British Association for American Studies

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The British Association of American Studies constitution was adopted on 2nd April 1990. In May 1991 the Association was registered with the Charities Commission (registration number: 1002816). In November 2016 the Association changed its legal status, registering as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (registration number: 1170382).

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

At each annual election three ordinary members are elected to hold office for three years. Each year, around the Annual General Meeting, the three committee members who have completed their term of office vacate their places and may offer themselves for re-election. No person may serve continuously as an elected member of the Committee for more than seven years. Candidates for election as members of the Committee must be able to complete the projected term without breaching this seven year total. Having reached the term limit, a year must elapse before a candidate may stand again for membership of the Committee. The Editor/s of the *Journal of American Studies*, if not already a member of the committee, will be a member, *ex officio*.

Organisational structure

The business of the Association is carried out by an Executive committee (trustees). This Committee consists of three officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) together with nine members and one postgraduate student representative and one early career representative, who are nominated, seconded and elected around the Annual General meeting of the Association.

Membership

Membership of the Association also includes a membership subscription to the European Association of American Studies. A representative is elected by the Association at the Annual General Meeting to serve on the European Association for American Studies committee for five years. This representative is also a member of the British Association for American Studies Committee.

The Association has standing orders which specify the composition and conduct of a series of sub-committees with specific areas of responsibility. These are: Publications, Development and Education, Awards and Conference sub-committees.

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Relationships with related parties

BAAS Publications Limited

A trading subsidiary of the charity.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The purpose of the CIO shall be the advancement of education through the promotion of American studies for the public benefit by all or any of the following means:

- the encouragement of research, teaching, education and publication, particularly in the UK;
- the holding of American studies conferences;
- the collection and preservation of documents and artefacts relating to the United States in the UK;
- the support of access to archives and information about the United States;
- the broadening of knowledge about the United States within the UK;
- the pursuit of any other activities promoting American studies as the trustees may decide.

The trustees have complied with the duty in S17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Holding conferences (an annual conference and numerous smaller conferences at venues around the UK on specialised US research or issues); promoting the work of the Journal of American Studies; book publication; supporting access to and preservation of US-related research materials in the UK; support for British students and scholars to travel in the United States; promoting American Studies activities via a website and newsletter and administering a large number of awards that promote the study of the US in the UK. In furtherance of these objectives the trustees ensured that:

- BAAS maintains a website available to both its membership and the public. The BAAS website provides unrestricted links to other key electronic resources for the advancement of education in the area of American studies.
- BAAS membership is open to anyone with a general interest, as well as a commitment to research, in the area of American studies. Subsidised rates are available for postgraduates, unwaged and retired subscribers.
- BAAS offers a series of grants and awards each year (see Achievements and Performance below). Requests for grants for conference support are made to the Conference and Awards sub-committees and considered at sub-committee and executive meetings on the basis of their relevance to the Association's objectives. The various awards are competitive and judged by Committee members and members of the subject community in the UK.
- BAAS is committed to incorporating equality and diversity into all aspects of its work.

Public benefit

The activities undertaken to further public benefit are mentioned above in objects and aims.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

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Achievements and performance

Activities of note in 2023

2023 marked a difficult year for American Studies in the UK. American Studies undergraduate programmes were cut or closed at several universities, including at the University of East Anglia and the University of Hull. BAAS worked closely with the Arts and Humanities Alliance and UKCASA where these issues were also being discussed in relation to the Arts and Humanities more broadly, and wrote to relevant Vice Chancellors in support of American Studies as a significant field of study. We recognise that it is incumbent on BAAS to think about how we can keep American Studies alive in our research, our teaching, and our public engagement in spite of these closures. Begun in 2022, BAAS continues to facilitate an online space using our Zoom license where those in leading roles in the UK American Studies community can discuss issues of common concern and what BAAS can do to support them, as well as sharing practice and pooling resources.

BAAS continues to work closely with key stakeholders beyond Higher Education, most notably the US Embassy London and the Eccles Centre at the British Library, to further support the development of American Studies. In 2023 members of the BAAS Executive Committee met with the Director of the Eccles Centre and discussed a range of ideas, including better resource sharing across our respective websites, and ensuring that BAAS initiatives are advertised at Eccles events and vice versa. Most significantly, we agreed to establish an Eccles-BAAS public engagement talks series ("America Now"), to be launched in 2024.

In 2023 BAAS also consulted on a range of sector-wide initiatives related to Area Studies, most notably the Consultation on the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2029, in which we supported the continuation of an Area Studies Area of Assessment and also commented on the proposal's potential impact on equality, diversity, and precarity in the sector. The Chair of BAAS participated as a panel member in the update of the Area Studies Subject Benchmark Statement by the Quality Assurance Agency.

BAAS hosted our annual conference at Keele University in April 2023. This was a hybrid event which drew on some of the good practice we learned from the 2021 Digital Conference. We continued to fund Targeted Research Panels that support, promote and feature the production of research by and about people of colour, LGBTQ+ communities and disability communities. Through Targeted Research Panels, BAAS seeks to provide opportunities to foster and forward research that attends to and includes historically marginalised communities and supports scholars without regularised institutional support.

Following the establishment of our Code of Conduct in 2022, in 2023 BAAS developed a robust reporting procedure, which includes both anonymous and named reporting options both online and in-person at events, and appointed a Code of Conduct Team to handle reports.

In 2023 we took the decision as an Executive Committee (ratified at our AGM) to make one in three of our annual conferences a digital-only conference, in order to further our commitment to environmental sustainability. This will take place in April 2024.

We also continued to support our ongoing commitment to sustainability and inclusivity through the BAAS Awards Programme, and our support for initiatives relating to American Studies research, pedagogy, or career development or the development of networks or other organisations that support American Studies scholars, through the BAAS Development Fund.

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Financial review

For the year ended 31 December 2023 total incoming resources amounted to £114,383 (2022: £210,484).

Total resources expended for the year amounted to £164,178 (2022: £208,456).

The net result for the year was a deficit of £49,795 (2022: surplus £2,028) leaving total retained funds of £306,824 (2022: £356,619) at the end of the year.

All of the retained funds related to unrestricted funds.

Policy on reserves

It is the policy of the charity to maintain general unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately 18 months' unrestricted expenditure. This provides sufficient funds to cover management and administration and support costs. Unrestricted funds are maintained at least at this level throughout the year.

Principal funding sources

The Association's main source of income is membership subscriptions and, via its trading arm (BAAS Publications Ltd), royalty payments from Cambridge University Press for the Journal of American Studies. It also receives donations and some income from advertising in its newsletters, and royalties from Edinburgh University Press for the BAAS paperbacks series, from BRRAM on the sale of American Studies microfilms and digital resources, and from the Publishers Licensing Society.

Plans for future periods

Aims and key objectives for future periods

We will continue to develop our administrative practices and procedures in with our plans to professionalise the administration of the organisation and ensure compliance with relevant legislation. To this end we plan to appoint an Administration Manager to support the Chair and other officers with the smooth running of BAAS, and will ensure that all administrative activities are carried out efficiently and effectively to enable BAAS to fulfil its obligations to its members and carry out its charitable activities.

The "America Now" series, to be co-hosted with the Eccles Centre at the British Library, will be launched at our 2024 Digital Conference in April, on the topic of "The Fallout from Barbenheimer." The second event is planned for June 2024, at the British Library on the topic of Taylor Swift.

BAAS will continue to work to broaden our gender and racial inclusion and ensure that all colleagues feel welcomed and are involved in our events and activities, provide support for postgraduate students and early-career academics, and make our events more accessible to scholars with disabilities or those with caring responsibilities, and so on. To this end in 2024 we intend to add an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead to our Executive Committee as one of our Ordinary Members.

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BAAS will continue to work to ensure our work and our events are environmentally sustainable. To this end, in 2024 we will host our 69th Annual Conference as a digital only conference.

In 2023 BAAS established Teaching Awards to supplement our Awards for research activity and excellence in publications. These will recognise the excellent work done by BAAS members in the HE classroom, and the first awards will be advertised in 2024.

In 2024 BAAS will apply to the US Embassy London to continue to host the BAAS/US Embassy Small Grants Programme, in order to enable BAAS to continue to distribute funding in support of US-linked educational events and activities in the UK.

BAAS/US Embassy Small Grants Programme

During 2023 BAAS was responsible for administering the Small Grants Programme on behalf of the US Embassy in London following the award of a block grant; this programme involves distributing funding in support of US-linked educational events and activities in the UK. The projects awarded funding covered a range of activities that promoted American Studies or enhanced the understanding of the USA in the UK. The grant concluded in December 2023. The majority of the grant spending in 2023 was to support the American Politics Group for a Regional Speaker Series.

Subcommittee Activities

Development and Education Subcommittee

BAAS Development Fund

The fund offers grants for up to a maximum of £2000 for a range of American Studies academic activities that seek to develop American Studies scholarly communities, including (but not limited to):

- The organisation of conferences, meetings and events, including honoraria for speakers
- The establishment of new networks or other organisations
- Workshops, writing retreats, and reading groups
- Schools outreach and activities
- Diversity and inclusion initiatives of established networks or other organisations
- Sustainability initiatives of established networks or other organisations

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In 2023 the Development Fund awarded 14 grants:

- Lydia Davis in Context (£1250)
- Charles Brockden Brown Society Biennial Symposium (£1050)
- Pro and Anti-War Voices (conference and exhibition) (£1500)
- HOTCUS annual conference (£1000)
- The Many Afterlives of Disco conference (£400)
- The 2023 American Politics Group/British Association of American Studies Annual Symposium (£600)
- Radical Print Cultures of the US South conference (£600)
- USSO Book Hour (£1050)
- Reading America, Reading Loneliness Prison Book Groups at HMP Hull & HMP Full Sutton (£1500)
- Elizabeth Bishop in Glasgow: A Symposium (£650)
- Rasanblaj Fanm: Stories of Haitian Womanhood, Past Present and Future (£1990)
- Cultural Connections: Transatlantic Literary Women Series (£650)
- Celebrating Master Juba: A bicentennial anniversary for the birth of the first transatlantic "tap dancer" (£640)
- Historical Roots, Modern Realities: Nationalism Across the Americas (£350)

Teaching American Studies Network

The Teaching American Studies Network, founded in 2020, organises events to support members in developing their teaching. A steering group, led by Lydia Plath, oversees the work of the network.

The following events took place in 2023:

- Reading group on bell hooks's Teaching to Transgress led by Michelle Coghlan (Manchester) and Nick Grant (UEA) (27 January 2023)
- Pedagogy in a Cost of Living Crisis (24 March 2023)
- TASN held two panels at the BAAS conference in Keele in April 2023, one on Lydia Plath and Megan Hunt's edited collection of essays on teaching American Studies in the UK, and the other on managing workloads and expectations in American Studies HE.
- Workshop on AI led by Sarah Thelen (University College Cork) (15 June 2023)
- Reading Group on Kevin Gannon's Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto (19 January 2024)

Upcoming events include a TASN networking session at the BAAS Digital Conference (10-12 April 2024), which will take the form of a workshop organised by Sarah Thelen on AI and Assessment. In future, the TASN seeks to develop an established programme of events each year rather than scheduling them ad hoc.

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Schools Working Group

- The 'Bridging the Resources Gap' project, which has been coordinated by Emily Brady and Emma Hall with support from Keisha Bruce and Katharina Donn, has created mini-lectures, resources packs, alumni profiles, and an advocacy toolkit for teachers and careers advisors that has posted on the BAAS website to boost the profile of American Studies in the UK.
- Andrew Fearnley organised a successful Schools Conference in Manchester on Friday 13 October 2023. 7 schools attended, with 100 individual registrations. The aim is to make the conference an annual event. Paddy Andelic (Northumbria) has kindly agreed to run the BAAS Schools conference at Northumbria in 2024.
- The first issue of O'er the Ramparts, a biannual schools newsletter edited by Adam Burns and Andrew Fearnley, was published in the summer of 2023.
- BAAS has long been committed to ensuring the promotion and success of American Studies at British schools and colleagues. In the past few years, our efforts have expanded to include an annual BAAS schools conference, a bi-annual schools newsletter aimed at secondary educator, and a network of teachers interested in the study of the Americas, and offering tailored (online) activities for them. The BAAS Executive has approved ring-fenced funding (£2000 per annum) for these activities from 2024-25.

Beyond Academia / Independent Scholar / Alternative Academic Network

Katharina Donn has established a BAAS Beyond academia network. The network's first meeting in October 2023 highlighted some shared concerns, including practical issues related to being a non affiliated researcher, and an appreciation that researchers from beyond academia bring unique perspectives that enrich their work as scholars. Upcoming events include an online roundtable for members of the network, and a networking event at the digital conference in April 2024.

Green BAAS

Green BAAS, which is led by Elsa Devienne and Rebecca Tillett, was founded in 2019 to respond to increasing concerns about the environment and the United States' relationship to climate change, and to consider and direct the changes that BAAS can make to contribute to collective global climate action. BAAS is holding its 2024 annual conference online as part of its commitment to lowering its carbon emissions. The BAAS executive committee (with approval from the membership in Keele at the 2023 general meeting) has agreed to organise its annual conference online every three years.

The 2023 BAAS conference featured a Green BAAS panel entitled 'New Research in Environmental American Studies'. 'CODE RED for American Studies', the roundtable that Elsa Devienne organised for the BAAS conference in Hull was published in the second 2022 issue of the open access American Studies journal Transatlantica.

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Publications and Knowledge Exchange Sub-Committee

Report from JAS editors-in-chief

The JAS editors-in-chief have reported an uptick in high-quality submissions. Two articles won awards:

- K. Gander, Max Nanny Prize for Best Essay in Word and Image Studies, for "Black and White Landscapes: Topographies of Disorientation in the Works of Carrie Mae Weems and Claudia Rankine," in Volume 54, Special Issue 3, July 2020, pp.517-540.
- Zoey Colley, Hotcus Essay prize for "Erasing Minds: Behavioral Modification, the Prison Rights Movement, and Psychological Experimentation in America's Prisons, 1962-1983,"

Both articles are free to view for a set period of time.

Successes this year also include an increase in citations of JAS articles are going up. According to CUP, it's the top cited Quartile in Interdisciplinary Studies journal.

The Journal faces two main changes:

- Firstly, submissions are stabilising: the average number at the moment is likely to represent the "new normal" for a while, at least until the run-up to the next REF.

Secondly,

- Secondly: the Journal receives a sizeable number of submissions from scholars outside of the West and especially the Middle East wherein the work shows potential but whose style/approach is distinctly at odds with those of the articles that JAS generally publishes (e.g. large literature review, less argumentation, heavy on theoretical background). They are looking to find ways of addressing this disparity to increase the number of pieces they publish from these regions.

One option they're considering is reaching out to any department whose staff has submitted to them to find out more about the institution's approach, the motivations (and incentives) for publishing, etc. Another is to run a workshop similar to the BAAS/JAS ECA one (more on the latter later in this report).

The Journal's future plans include:

- A special issue on the presidential election, which will involve commissioning articles on election topics. They're exploring whether to make this a double issue to allow space for shorter, quick-response, pieces.
- Broaden marketing strategy to include using mailing lists more and hosting publishing panels at more events to recruit more contributors.
- Follow up more directly with the Awards Winners from this year and previous years on developing articles to establish a pipeline.
- Publish JAS articles from the first ECA workshop: one has been submitted and one is in the pipeline.

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• Three board members (Prof Julia Leyda, Prof Nicole King, and Dr Fionnghuala Sweeney) are stepping down. The editors-in-chief are looking for nominations from board members for replacements. These should be scholars who are likely to make full and productive contributions to the screening and peer review processes, and be able to contribute in imaginative ways to discussion of JAS's intellectual direction. The Journal is especially keen to diversifying the make-up of the board by including more people of colour (its representation on this front as of 1 December 2023 was eight members of a total of 26), appointing further board members from mainland Europe (they have 3 continuing members from this geographic area), and board members based in Asia, Africa, and South America - areas from which they currently have no serving members. They are especially interested in experts in twentieth-century Black studies (with expertise in the twenty-first century desirable), Queer Studies/Queer Theory, and Popular Cinema and/or Hollywood, but also welcome suggestions of exceptional candidates outside of these areas. Approval for the final two nominations will be going to the BAAS exec.

Report from JAS associate editors

It's been a very successful year. The virtual events (see 2023.09.29 PKE Report for more details) the editors ran went very well. They have submitted a full report about these to the JAS Board.

A number of initiatives are forthcoming or in press:

- Roundtable: Film (2024)
- Roundtable: French Faulkner Criticism (2024)
- Roundtable: Teaching *The Great Gatsby* (2025) [This will solicit contributions from staff in schools]7
- Roundtable or special section/focus on presidential elections and candidates in American literature to follow the Election '24.
- Roundtable: Women of the Gilded Age (2025)

Recruiting reviewers continues to be a challenge. They are address this by approaching more people, especially at HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities) and they are discussing social media to promote the Reviews section and recruit reviewers. They've managed to secure a reviewer for the first volume of the two-volume collection of Angela Davis's essays, *Abolition: Politics, Practices, Promises*.

They are publishing Mia Blainey's award-winning essay, "Hanging by a Thread: The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Complexities of Memorialising and Mourning Lynching in America" in the 58.1 issue in 2024, under the title "Eyes on the Prize: Spotlight on BIPOC Scholar Achievement." Blainey's piece won the 2023 British American Nineteenth Century Historians' (BrANCH) Harriet Tubman Essay Prize.

New content coming up in the Reviews section also includes a series of short essays responding to the Reparations project and a series of essays on J. Logan.

Report from Critical Insights in American Studies (formerly BAAS Paperbacks)

The series editors, Martin Halliwell and Joe Street, are currently evaluating the proposal for an exciting collection on Teaching American Studies and hope to receive a manuscript on American Poetry later in the 2023-2024 academic year. They are also looking forward to the publication of the Stirrup/Orr collection, *The Canada-US Border*, in February 2024. They've noted that there is more in the pipeline, but they cannot report on it yet.

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Report from USSO

The co-editors, Robyn Shooter and Frances Rowbottom, will be putting out a call in February for a new Events Editor to replace Tom Cryer. They expect interviews to take place in mid-March. I (Rachele) and the PKE Deputy-Chair, Kathryn Gray, will be on the hiring panel.

Second joint BAAS/JAS ECA Academic Article Development Workshop - report and reflections for future iterations

The second iteration of the BAAS/JAS ECA Academic Article Development Workshop (which debuted on 7 September 2023 at the London hub of Royal Holloway) took place on Zoom on 11 January 2024. My co-organisers Dr Emily Brady (former BAAS Early Career Rep) and Dr Christine Okoth (outgoing BAAS Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity Rep) have ideas about how this initiative might evolve once all three of us have left our posts (I stand down in April 2024). I'll first provide a summary of the 11 Jan event and then elaborate on possible directions for the initiative.

The workshop was originally intended to take place at the London hub of Coventry University (as I am a member of staff at Coventry itself). The announcement of planned tube strikes led us to pivot online. The strikes were then called off, but we chose to keep the event online, having already cancelled the catering and informed the participants of the change. This format worked well insofar as all but one of our speakers was having to participate remotely anyway, and the hybrid format in September had been quite tricky to navigate. It was also helpful for the organisers: being spared travel and organising onsite logistics the week before the start of term was a welcome surprise! However, the participants lost out on the opportunity to network (apart from in a separate zoom room we gave them to mingle for the first half hour of the day), share lunch, or go out together afterwards.

There were six attendees from universities in the US, Scotland, and England (namely, University of St Andrew's, University of Leeds, two from Sussex University, and University of York) as well as an independent scholar.

The speakers were Dr Will Norman on the submission to final article pipeline, JAS's vision, and peer review; Dr Cassandra Smith (editor of *Early American Literature*) on working in academic publishing as a woman of colour and unpacking peer review; Dr Darren Dochuk and Mr Sean Reaming (co-editors of *Modern American History*) on how to pitch an academic article; Prof Martin Paul Eve (former director of the Open Library of the Humanities and expert in open access publishing); and Emily, Christine, and I (Rachele) on their experiences of pitching, processing feedback, and planning outputs in relation to bigger projects and departmental priorities as well as reconciling personal priorities and career goals with the ever-shifting goal posts of the current academic landscape. One point of discussion, as with the last workshop, concerned where academic articles fit in the nexus of REF outputs, personal commitment to knowledge (and desire to see one's work in print), and life outside of work. Why publish an article in the first place? In contrast to last time, I gave a presentation that encompassed an account of my career trajectory including my first experiences of peer review, REF, and burnout, and that sought to situate article writing within the broader context of living a meaningful life (and avoiding being exploited). The topics of discussion included how to build networks of "allies," contend with fear of rejection, retain agency in the face of requests to change one's work (and gauge when to push back). The response was positive and I received a couple of direct messages during the Q&A from participants sharing that they were struggling with mental health issues at the moment and that hearing my account of mine was really helpful. This is an example of the benefits of zoom, and (I think) of a less formal set-up, wherein speakers bring in their personal experiences.

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As in September, the participants' many questions, and accounts of their own experiences in HE thus far, made clear to us just how badly initiatives of this kind are needed. Dr Smith's account of the racialised dimension of the first peer review she ever received, and her analysis of the effects of such experiences-the way they accrue- was invaluable. And as in September, what stood out to me (Rachele) was the extent to which the participants had internalised a sense of imposter syndrome that thoroughly occluded any recognition that writing is free labour (in an industry where an increasing number of staff are grossly underpaid if they are employed at all), that journals need submissions in order to function, and that as people accepted onto PhD programmes or awarded PhDs their work might, in fact, have great value. Cassie and I both belaboured these points, noting as well how much (some) journals are now especially keen to publish the work of people from underrepresented backgrounds.

The question now regards what shape this initiative might take next year. One possibility, which the BAAS Chair and I discussed and in which Dr McGettigan expressed interest at our PKE meeting on 17 January, is to separate this into two initiatives, each to take place one a year, and each with separate if complementary aims. This would both reduce the workload of those contributing and increase reach by appealing to a slightly broader array of ECAs. The first initiative, which we might name "JAS for ECAs," would involve the academic article development component: that is, participants would be coupled with one or two peer reviewers from the JAS editorial board who would read their article drafts and (potentially) also meet with them over zoom to provide oral feedback. Each submission and peer review would also be read by one of the co-editors-in-chief, who would mediate the peer review. We would invite Dr McGettigan to record a presentation akin to the one she gave in September on submitting to JAS, which participants would be encouraged to watch before starting work on their drafts. JAS would have first right of refusal to the finished pieces. Dr McGettigan suggested this could take a kind of coaching format. PKE might be involved in the recruitment process, but then would hand over to JAS.

Separately, we would run a (possibly two-day?) workshop on academic publishing more generally, which would involve the editors we've invited to speak thus far as well as, for example, the series editors of *Critical Insights*, the editors of *USSO* (who are themselves ECAs), and academics with experience of editing edited collections, crossover books, and so on. The aim here would be to give ECAs a sense of the broader publishing landscape and the benefits and drawbacks of different formats as well as a chance to network with each other and the panellists.

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Knowledge Exchange Strategy - report

PKE Deputy Chair Dr Kathryn Gray has been leading on an initiative titled the British Association for American Studies Media Learning Programme. The following is the proposal PKE is putting forward to the EXEC and the Development Fund:

Rationale:

Academics are increasingly being asked, and expected, to communicate their work to a wider public. There are higher expectations to engage through social and traditional media, in person and online. There are also demands to connect with more, and more diverse, audiences too. This means more lectures, talks, presentations, interviews or appearances on podcasts, social media platforms, on radio and on tv. This requires connecting with people of differing ages, backgrounds, beliefs and interests. This programme will enable academics to develop a skillset to match these new demands, exceed the expectations and actually enjoy communicating their work to new audiences.

Aims:

- To enable academics to talk confidently about their work to different audiences
- To support them in developing new skills in sharing their knowledge to a wider audience
- To encourage participants to communicate their work across multiple media platforms

Actions:

- A programme of study sessions looking at the media landscape, and how to navigate your way through it. These sessions will take place over the course of a day and consider -
 - Profiles - communicating yourself and your work
 - Platforms - messaging for traditional and social media
 - Audiences - connecting with the public
- The sessions will enable participants to see the scale of the media landscape, recognise opportunities within it, and develop skills in sharing their work online, on radio and on tv.

Who is this for?

Academics who want to learn more about communicating their work to different audiences and engaging a wider public in their subjects and specialisms. One question to work out is whether to reserve a certain number of places for ECAs and/or academics from underrepresented backgrounds.

What might we create?

- Individual profile pieces for the participants and the BAAS website
- Interviews with participants, which could be used online and on social media
- Resources for future participants and BAAS

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Conferences Sub-Committee

PG BAAS

PG BAAS was held on the 16th of November 2023.

The committee continues to see the value in an alternative space for PGRs to share their work. The PG 2023 conference at the Rothermere American Institute resulted in a highly successful day, with scholars producing innovative and thematically cohesive scholarship.

The workload on the PG Rep involved (Emma Hall) was unreasonable and unsustainable. Emma is exploring alternative ways of generating the conference, such as embracing more of a WIP tone and looping it in with PG Rep responsibilities.

Digital BAAS 2024

Connie Thomas and Aisha Djelid have been recruited as Conference Managers. They have put together a draft schedule which we aim to share publicly within the next few weeks:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1td8xDG3mg9ix0LPu50bswSviAwJKGVSD_IL0Q18EF0k/edit?usp=sharing

Connie and Aisha have decided to host the conference on Discord, due to its increased ease, ability to host multiple events simultaneously, ease of conversation, and comparative sustainability and cost factors. The discord server can be found here, and we encourage members of the BAAS Committee to explore and offer comments: <https://discord.gg/BC3pdcXC>

Green BAAS

Please find attached to this report two documents:

- Digital BAAS 2024 Challenging Business as Usual in Academia. This document will be available on the BAAS website and the Conference Discord server.
- Green BAAS Climate Action Plan. This document represents a potential path forward for BAAS in light of the ongoing climate emergency. We would ask for the Committee to vote on this document during this AGM.

The Green BAAS committee are also interested in hosting an informal roundtable on the question of having an American Studies career in the context of a climate emergency.

In the interest of more clearly articulating to our community why the shift to an online conference is the result of this priority, Emily Brady and Elsa Devienne will be collaborating to create some graphic resources to be shared online.

Future Conferences

We are hoping to host BAAS 2025 at the University of Hertfordshire, organised by Dr Chris Lloyd.

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Future potential conference sites for 2026 include the University of Warwick or the University of Glasgow. Anyone on the committee interested in hosting in 2026 (or beyond) are encouraged to reach out to the Conferences Sub-Committee

Financial instruments

Objectives and policies

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Cash flow risk

The charity's activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. The charity uses foreign exchange forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts to hedge these exposures.

Interest bearing assets and liabilities are held at fixed rate to ensure certainty of cash flows.

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments.

The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

The credit risk on liquid funds and derivative financial instruments is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies.

The charity has no significant concentration of credit risk, with exposure spread over a large number of counterparties and customers.

Liquidity risk

In order to maintain liquidity to ensure that sufficient funds are available for ongoing operations and future developments, the charity uses a mixture of long-term and short-term debt finance.

Further details regarding liquidity risk can be found in the Statement of accounting policies in the financial statements.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 10 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr M A McLay
Trustee

British Association for American Studies

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

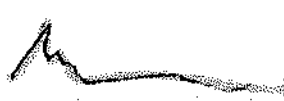
The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 10 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr M A McLay
Trustee

British Association for American Studies

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of British Association for American Studies

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of British Association for American Studies for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of British Association for American Studies you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

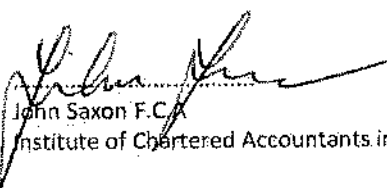
I report in respect of my examination of the British Association for American Studies' accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of British Association for American Studies as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Saxon F.C.A.
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

The Moffatts Partnership LLP
Suite 1.1, Jackson House
Sibson Road
Sale
M33 7RR

10 April 2024

British Association for American Studies

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Charitable activities	2	42,730	42,730	150,812
Investment income	3	71,653	71,653	59,672
Total income		<u>114,383</u>	<u>114,383</u>	<u>210,484</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities		<u>(164,178)</u>	<u>(164,178)</u>	<u>(208,456)</u>
Total expenditure	4	<u>(164,178)</u>	<u>(164,178)</u>	<u>(208,456)</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>(49,795)</u>	<u>(49,795)</u>	<u>2,028</u>
Net movement in funds		(49,795)	(49,795)	2,028
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		<u>356,619</u>	<u>356,619</u>	<u>354,591</u>
Total funds carried forward	16	<u>306,824</u>	<u>306,824</u>	<u>356,619</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2022 is shown in note 16.

British Association for American Studies

(Registration number: 1170382)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	12	100	100
Current assets			
Debtors	13	45,519	27,417
Cash at bank and in hand	14	<u>341,853</u>	<u>395,575</u>
		387,372	422,992
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(80,648)</u>	<u>(66,473)</u>
Net current assets		<u>306,724</u>	<u>356,519</u>
Net assets		<u>306,824</u>	<u>356,619</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>306,824</u>	<u>356,619</u>
Total funds	16	<u>306,824</u>	<u>356,619</u>

The financial statements on pages 18 to 32 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 10 April 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Dr M A McLay
Trustee

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

British Association for American Studies meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Investment income

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees' meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office Equipment	Fully depreciated

Business combinations

Business combinations are accounted for under the purchase method. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by the charity. All intra-group transactions, balances, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation. In accordance with Section 35 of FRS 102, Section 19 of FRS 102 has not been applied in these financial statements in respect of business combinations effected prior to the date of transition.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Foreign exchange

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

The results of overseas operations are translated at the average rates of exchange during the period and their balance sheets at the rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on translation of the opening net assets and results of overseas operations are reported in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity (attributed to non-controlling interests as appropriate).

Other exchange differences are recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which they arise except for:

- 1) exchange differences on transactions entered into to hedge certain foreign currency risks (see above);
- 2) exchange differences arising on gains or losses on non-monetary items which are recognised in other comprehensive income; and
- 3) in the case of the consolidated financial statements, exchange differences on monetary items receivable from or payable to a foreign operation for which settlement is neither planned nor likely to occur (therefore forming part of the net investment in the foreign operation), which are recognised in other comprehensive income and reported under equity.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

2 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Awards and Prize Giving	63,231	63,231	132,750
Subscriptions	16,335	16,335	16,157
Other Income	7,104	7,104	1,905
	<u>86,670</u>	<u>86,670</u>	<u>150,812</u>

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	2,612	2,612	297
Other investment income	<u>69,041</u>	<u>69,041</u>	<u>59,375</u>
	<u>71,653</u>	<u>71,653</u>	<u>59,672</u>

4 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Prizes and Awards	56,922	56,922	154,380
Salaries	54,797	54,797	31,122
Conference Costs	8,332	8,332	9,996
Subscriptions	743	743	3,590
Admin costs	8,642	8,642	5,791
Travel costs	25	25	115
Other Costs	1,200	1,200	-
Bank charges and fees	287	287	402
Governance costs	<u>3,030</u>	<u>3,030</u>	<u>3,060</u>
	<u>133,978</u>	<u>133,978</u>	<u>208,456</u>

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

5 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	1,950	1,950	1,800
Other fees paid to examiners	1,080	1,080	1,260
	<u>3,030</u>	<u>3,030</u>	<u>3,060</u>

6 Grant-making

Analysis of grants

	Grants to institutions		Grants to individuals	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Analysis				
Grants - Prizes and Awards	<u>45,000</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>109,380</u>	<u>109,380</u>

Below are details of material grants made to institutions.

Name of institution	Activity	2023 £	2022 £
American Politics Group (APG)	Awards and Prize Giving Funds	<u>-</u>	<u>45,000</u>

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

£Nil of expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year.

Expenses paid on behalf of the charity or expenditure incurred whilst performing duties for the charity by 7 trustees have been reimbursed.

At the balance sheet date the amount due was £Nil (2022: £Nil).

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	<u>54,797</u>	<u>31,122</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Support Staff	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

9 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Examination of the financial statements	<u>1,950</u>	<u>1,800</u>
Other fees to examiners		
All other services	<u>1,080</u>	<u>1,260</u>

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

10 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2023	4,535	4,535
At 31 December 2023	4,535	4,535
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2023	4,535	4,535
At 31 December 2023	4,535	4,535
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	-	-
At 31 December 2022	-	-

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

12 Fixed asset investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Shares in group undertakings and participating interests	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Shares in group undertakings and participating interests		
	Subsidiary undertakings £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 January 2023	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Details of undertakings

Details of the investments in which the charity holds 20% or more of the nominal value of any class of share capital are as follows:

Undertaking	Country of incorporation	Holding	Proportion of voting rights and shares held		Principal activity
			2023	2022	
Subsidiary undertakings					
BAAS Publications Ltd	England	Ordinary Shares	100%	100%	Publication of journals to encourage education and advance study of the United States.

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due from group undertakings	<u>45,519</u>	<u>27,417</u>

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank	321,169	374,891
Short-term deposits	<u>20,684</u>	<u>20,684</u>
	<u>341,853</u>	<u>395,575</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other taxation and social security	14,361	4,151
Other creditors	64,337	60,462
Accruals	<u>1,950</u>	<u>1,860</u>
	<u>80,648</u>	<u>66,473</u>

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	<u>356,619</u>	<u>114,383</u>	<u>(164,178)</u>	<u>306,824</u>

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	<u>354,591</u>	<u>210,484</u>	<u>(208,456)</u>	<u>356,619</u>

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 December 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	100	100
Current assets	387,372	387,372
Current liabilities	(50,448)	(50,448)
Total net assets	<u>337,024</u>	<u>337,024</u>
	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 December 2022 £
Fixed asset investments	100	100
Current assets	422,992	422,992
Current liabilities	(66,473)	(66,473)
Total net assets	<u>356,619</u>	<u>356,619</u>

18 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2023 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 December 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>395,575</u>	<u>(53,720)</u>	<u>341,855</u>
Net debt	<u>395,575</u>	<u>(53,720)</u>	<u>341,855</u>
	At 1 January 2022 £	Financing cash flows £	At 31 December 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>338,412</u>	<u>57,163</u>	<u>395,575</u>
Net debt	<u>338,412</u>	<u>57,163</u>	<u>395,575</u>

British Association for American Studies

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

19 Related party transactions

During the year the charity made the following related party transactions:

BAAS Publications Ltd

(The Charity holds 100% of the called up share capital of this company)

The Charity receives gift aid payments from the company and also pays expenses on its behalf. At the balance sheet date the amount due to/from from BAAS Publications Ltd was £Nil (2022 - £27,417).