

AIM PPLE

STUDY ASSOCIATION



2017/18

HALF YEAR REPORT

Allison Hatch
Anna Heredia
Wouter Groot
Ferdinand Zarbl
Stef van Kleef
Rosalie Schwarz

Dear reader,

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through our Association Year.

With this Half Year Report, we look back on the activities our clubs and committees have organized, while taking note of what is yet to come. As noted in our Year Plan, the central focus of the AIM 2017/2018 year is **professionalization**. This has, consequently, led us to several new developments within the association. One of the main aspects falling within this goal was the creation of a Marketing Committee. With this committee, we hoped to streamline our promotional effort amongst the various AIM bodies, while also creating a more structured approach to the external promotion. This has been met with varying success. We are happy with the schedule our Secretary developed, whereby all committee secretaries and club chairs have access to a general calendar that denotes promotion dates/times for all Facebook promotion. The committee has also created promotional videos and after movies for our parties, which we believe went over well with our members. Finally, the committee has been active in photographing not only party, but almost all AIM committee events. This has significantly improved our external reach, because the high-quality photographs taken are now displayed on our website for outside parties to see and have a better understanding of the association. One aspect we hope to improve on in the remainder of the year and the coming years ahead is the development of an overall “AIM image.” This is important, because when developing posters and texts for our events, we find it valuable to have a common thread of design elements that can easily be transixed to all posters and Facebook banners.

Another aspect which falls within professionalization is the redesign of our website. Our General Commissioner worked fastidiously on this project, so big ups to her! We are actively updating the website via biweekly AIM updates and images from our events. The redesign was partnered with a new design for our webshop and AIM update mails—projects led by our Secretary. Within professionalization we have also seen new developments for AIM from our Treasurer and External Commissioner. This includes a new accounting system, which is more “professional” for keeping books, and more secured partnerships with external organizations and companies as a means of initiating a platform for internships/volunteer opportunities for AIM members.

Our sub-goal of “bursting the PPLE bubble” has led to newfound relationships with other study associations which we hope to cultivate for AIM in the long-term. Our Party Committee organized two smashing borrels with KallioPPE from the VU’s PPE, while our Academic Committee hosted a seminar at CREA with Spectrum from the Beta-gamma / Future Planet Studies department. Much to our happiness, this event was so full that we had to (kindly) turn people down at the door. Furthermore, we had a *lovely* Valentine’s Day party with AUC, and we look forward to a SES/KallioPPE party in the near future. Our Debate Club also hopes to organize an AIM-SES debate this spring.

And finally, we look to our “inclusive image amongst second and third years” goal. We are happy to see that a good amount of second and third years have continued to attend AIM events in high numbers. Furthermore, we believe that our new Lustrum and Merchandise Committees will attract students in the upper years. Two third years have also proposed—in similar fashion to Freshmen Weekend—a Third Year Weekend to celebrate the final days PPLE third years share together!

Despite many exciting moments we have shared together these past few months, we are looking forward to the trips, events, and new committees planned for the rest of the year ahead.

Cheers, and thanks for sticking with us!!

Our committees

Here is a look at what our committees have been up to and their forthcoming plans!

Academic Committee

Our Academic Committee has thus far organized two seminars, the first one being a panel discussion on Integration, and for the second event, a film followed by a panel discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The second event, which was co-hosted by Spectrum, had excellent promotional materials, which we believe contributed to the successful turnout of members. In the coming half year, this committee intends to host three more academic seminars, one of which is on the topic of human trafficking and falls under the auspices of Amnesty International Studentgroup Amsterdam (AISA). The other two events' topics are to be determined. Furthermore, a member from Room for Discussion offered to provide trainings on "interview know hows" for our committee; we hope this training structure will extend to future years.

Party Committee

The Party Committee has been spicing up PPLE student life all year long. So far, we have seen an "Around the World"-themed opening party, a luxurious Winter Formal, and a Valentine's Day dance. The borrels this year, we must say, have also been quite AIMazing. The Party Committee has organized quite a few special borrels for AIM members which turned into parties in themselves to the point that many bars have asked us to come back and host more borrels in their respective venues; so props to you wonderful drinking members! These borrels have included a drinking games borrel, the infamous Halloween borrel, an après-ski borrel, and a special borrel with KallioPPE. We are looking forward to a beer or two in the second half of this year with our beer pong borrel, an ABBA-themed borrel, a karaoke borrel, and a borrel with SES and KallioPPE. And of course, the party never stops; get ready for a new spring party with SES and KallioPPE and the boat cruise!

Travel Committee

The Travel Committee went off the beaten track and decided to turn their attention from Berlin to Leipzig for this year's hitchhiking weekend. We are looking forward to the two trips they have

planned ahead: a week in Morocco and a weekend in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Rumor has it that those members lucky enough to join in Morocco will learn how to make proper tagine from a local, while the members exploring Scotland will get a taste of the beautiful architecture and natural scenery characterizing these two cities. The Morocco trip sold out within 15 minutes and the Scotland trip within six minutes, which is a new record for AIM!

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee has offered a platform for all AIM members to engage in a welcoming environment with their fellow students. From the cultural food exchange kick-off event to experience exchanges, the committee has enabled PPLEr's to develop a deeper connection with one another by means of sharing personal stories and cultural heritage. Furthermore, the Diversity Committee hosted Mitchell Esajas for a discussion on institutional discrimination, privilege, and diversity. They are hard at work with Amsterdam United, a PPLE student, and PPLE faculty to organize an event on sexual culture in university life. With this event, they hope to initiate discussion amongst students and faculty members on how the UvA can best go about creating policy on sexual harassment, as there is currently no policy framework within the university on this issue.

Marketing Committee

The Marketing Committee developed a fun promotional video for the Opening Party and an after movie for Winter Formal. Furthermore, they helped several committees with poster design and photographing the numerous AIM events. We hope to continue to develop this committee, as we believe the design aspects will be beneficial to AIM in the long-run.

Other committee projects

Our Sports Committee is organizing a PPLE Olympics and dodgeball tournament for the second half of the year. Meanwhile, our Yearbook Committee is underway creating a book for our soon-to-be-graduating third years. The MUN Committee has been quite busy, as well. DamMUN is planned for the coming April, while MUN Society hosted a kick-off debate to bring together like-

minded MUNer's. While we have not sent any AIM/PPLE delegations abroad, we hope to continue expanding our MUN presence on an international scale.

Our clubs

A big part of AIM—and an aspect which makes it unique—is our club structure. Here is an overview on what our clubs have done so far, and what we have to look forward to!

The **Dance** and **Music Clubs** have been keeping things jazzy with frequent meet-ups, where they lead choreography and jam sessions. With Drama Club, they are organizing a PPLE Performance Night for May at CREA.

Dutch Days has led a tour through Troost (brewery) and welcomed Sinterklaas into Amsterdam at the National Maritime Museum. They also took a group of PPLER's on a light festival light walking tour and an ice skating adventure (who knows, maybe next Olympics we will see some of our former classmates upon the ice skating podium! As our dear American NBC commentator mentioned, the Dutch are quite skilled at skating because they ice skate to work on the Amsterdam canals, after all). For the coming half of the year, expect a canal boat cruise and a trip to our Treasurer's lovely hometown of Alkmaar!

The **Photography Club** has led two photo competitions so far on the themes of "home" and "gold." The winners of the competitions will see their photos on display in the PPLE building. The club will continue to host the competitions throughout the remainder of the year and an art interactive exhibition in June.

The **Charity Club**, a new development this year, has taken on some laudable initiatives this year. At the Winter Formal, they partnered with UNICEF to raise 350 euros via raffles of various (enviable) prizes. They are currently working on organizing a clothing drive, where PPLE students can swap their garments and the remaining selection will be donated to Sympany.

It is undebatable that the **Debate Club** has done a spectacular job this year. Bringing together many students on a weekly basis, they constantly engage with new topics and pressing societal issues. Furthermore, they are organizing a debate with SES in the second half of the year.

The **Volleyball Club** has also been meeting on a weekly basis and sustaining active participation. They recently played a match against AUC and got “served.”

PPLE FC has been meeting since the beginning of the year in preparation for their debut this summer at the World Cup (filling in for the Netherlands, of course). Rain or shine, there are always at least a handful of PPLEr’s ready to play some footy.

Running Club meets up casually for weekday runs in Vondelpark. While they are not so much connected to AIM as they are an informal running group, we happily support their activities.

Tennis Club, similarly to Running Club, hosts informal tennis matches amongst their club members.

Mooting Society, **Global Issues**, and **Drama** have not taken off the ground in the way we hoped. However, we hope they can initiate events and activities for AIM members in the remainder of the year.