



## History of Anthropology Newsletter

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### News From the American Anthropological Association

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## NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

### History of Anthropology at the Meeting

*Andrew and Harriet Lyons, University of Waterloo, andrewpaullyons@gmail.com*

Two sessions were arranged under the group's auspices of the General anthropology Division's History of Anthropology Interest Group.

The annual Stocking Symposium in the History of Anthropology examined aspects of American and Canadian anthropology from the perspectives of social anthropology, museology and physical anthropology. David Dinwoodie, New Mexico, noted the role of missionaries such as those of the Oblate Order of Mary Immaculate in the creolization of cultures in the Northwest. Two papers by Nancy Parezo, Arizona, and Sam Cook, Virginia Tech, discussed the activities of James Mooney as an "advocacy" anthropologist in late nineteenth century Virginia, and as a relativist who rejected evolutionary dogma in favor of cultural contextualization (Cook) and in organizing major exhibits such as the Kiowa Camp Circle (Parezo). Catherine Nichols, Arizona State, examined the techniques and ideologies involved in the accumulation of artefacts as items of cultural capital and as duplicates for exchange, beginning with the early days of the Smithsonian. Treating a different subdiscipline and a much more recent period (1968-1974), Joanna Radin, Penn, discussed the techniques, ideologies and ethical issues involved in the collection and preservation of blood samples from indigenous populations, which might serve as exemplars of genetic similarity and diversity, during the days of the International Biological Program. Co-operation between anthropologists and their subjects was discussed in several papers. Isaiah Wilner, Yale, emphasized the significance of the relationship between Franz Boas and George Hunt as an early model for such collaborations. Sandra Faiman-Silva, Bridgewater State, identified the important roles of gay anthropologists, First Nations anthropologists, and gay First Nations activists in the recent re-creation/elaboration of the category, "Two-Spirit Peoples." In one way or another, it will be noted, the intersections of the personal, the political and the anthropological were examined in many papers at this year's symposium. Such issues were explicit in the discussion by Sergei Kan, Dartmouth, of the naiveté of Morgan's biographer, Bernhard J. Stern, in the face of Stalinism. Two more papers discussed scholars who may justly be regarded as paragons of interdisciplinarity. Frank Salamone, Iona College, saw Zora Neale Hurston as the precursor of today's engaged, reflexive anthropology. Marilyn Merritt, Penn, re-examined the significant insights of Erving Goffman. Lastly, Anne Zeller, Waterloo, traced the rise and fall of paradigms in primatology, and endeavoured to relate them to changing theoretical foci in sociocultural anthropology.

Epistemological shifts in anthropology were also the focus of an Invited Session organized by Robert Ulin, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Andrew Lass, Mt. Holyoke. Lass's papers stressed the significance of Bourbaki Group mathematics as a model for the early structural analysis of Lévi-Strauss. Ulin examined the turn toward hermeneutics in the later work of Evans-Pritchard and the post-1970 Geertz. Michael Herzfeld, Harvard, discussed the sometimes-destructive effects of the persistence of evolutionary survivals in models of social process in the Southern Mediterranean (e.g.

Greece), whether constructed by anthropologists, political analysts or indigenes of those countries. Andrew and Harriet Lyons, Waterloo, examined the “new anthropology” of Needham, Leach, Douglas and Edwin Ardener as a self-conscious attempt to construct a paradigm in the Kuhnian sense, but they also questioned whether or not such paradigms exist in anthropology.

### **New Convenor of the History of Anthropology Group**

David Dinwoodie, University of New Mexico, has taken over the role of Convenor of the History of Anthropology Group, which is an interest group within the General Anthropology Division of the American Anthropological Association. He succeeds Andrew and Harriet Lyons, University of Waterloo, who have been co-convenors since 2006. Dinwoodie will serve a two-year term. He will be assisted by a committee consisting of the following members: Sergei Kan, Dartmouth, Deputy Convenor, and Convenor-Elect (2014, 2015); Ira Bashkow, Virginia; Ann Bunzel Cowan, Independent Scholar; Regna Darnell, University of Western Ontario; Andrew Lyons, University of Waterloo; Harriet Lyons, University of Waterloo; Marilyn Merritt, University of Pennsylvania; and Isaiah Wilner, Yale University, student member). Committee members will serve three-year terms.

### **Plans for History of Anthropology at the San Francisco AAA**

The History of Anthropology Interest Group seeks papers for 2012 AAA Meetings, San Francisco, 2012. The 2012 meeting theme is Borders and Crossings. The deadline for consideration for executive sessions is January 31. The deadline for consideration for invited sessions is March 1. We will assemble sessions as early as possible to submit them for invited standing.

Panel ideas currently include:

#### *1. Crossings from Present to Past: History of Anthropology in Anthropological Practice*

For this panel we are looking for papers that develop a rich sense for the debates driving previous anthropological research in order to broaden perspectives on present day anthropological problems. Exploring relations between present and past in this way would not necessarily conform to Stocking’s historicism vs. presentism dichotomy. Aspiring to the ideal of putting these perspectives into a productive relationship that Regna Darnell identified in her 1977 Annual Review article, such papers could be presentist in taking contemporary debates as a frame of reference, and historicist in exploring the past not for charters for the present, but for conceptual resources for reflecting on the terms of the present. David Dinwoodie, [ddinwood@unm.edu](mailto:ddinwood@unm.edu), is organizing this session.

#### *2. Histories and Legacies of Berkeley Anthropology*

Joanna Radin, [jradin@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jradin@sas.upenn.edu), and Sergei Kan, [sergei.a.kan@dartmouth.edu](mailto:sergei.a.kan@dartmouth.edu), are organizing this session.

#### *3. Stocking Symposium*

May keep this thematically open depending on overall interest.

Please send paper proposals, ideas, and comments to [ddinwood@unm.edu](mailto:ddinwood@unm.edu).