



SfAA Newsletter

A Publication of the Society for Applied Anthropology

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President's Message



By Sherylyn Briller

The SfAA 2019 meeting in Portland was great! Hats off to Michael Paolisso and the Program Committee for planning a meeting featuring diverse and important work by applied and practicing social scientists. From Local Day on, we saw what many talented and determined people are doing to “make a difference” in their communities.

I was intrigued to learn more about how anthropologists and colleagues are influencing policy and public opinion, training a next generation, transforming institutions,

decolonizing anthropology (and other areas) – and working hard on solving problems. I am very hopeful about what we can achieve going forward. People are motivated to work on issues about which they care deeply for many different reasons. They may be optimistic, they may be angry, they may be fighting for social justice – all can be compelling reasons. At this time, it is highly important to find out more about what our members want from our professional organization and how they see us all together fulfilling our mission.

In my role as the SfAA President, I will work hard to help guide our organization as we turn 80 next year and look towards turning 100 - only twenty years from now. SfAA has an impressive history of doing, supporting and promoting applied social sciences. We are a well-known and well-respected professional association. I believe our next chapter can be very exciting and impactful; we should get ready for it now. I am happy to announce that the SfAA Board is launching a strategic visioning process to prepare for our next phase. This process will enable us to assess our environment, consider our current strengths and weaknesses, and help us to proceed with dynamic

By embarking on strategic planning, we will be able to better understand how our organization should consider a changing landscape. This shift includes key transitions in anthropology, professional organizations, and in the world. The SfAA Board discussed focusing on three main areas first. They are:

- Key Areas
- Focus
- A Sustainable SfAA

Financial Health and Membership
People and Leadership Development
Building organizational capacity and professional opportunities
Maximizing Anthropological Impact
Making a Difference in the World

We are excited to get started and do an initial inventory of where we are at and think about priority setting. By engaging in the strategic planning process, we will be ready to make new strategies, goals and objectives for what the SfAA would like to achieve in the future. We want to offer the most benefit to our members – whatever their current career and life stage. As someone who came up through the SfAA, this goal is both personally and professionally important to me. I know many others in the organization feel the same way. We are very excited to engage fully and deeply in this conversation with our current – and hopefully our future members!

In that spirit, I would now like to share a few things that happened at the SfAA student party and later on.

The student party was a well-attended and animated gathering! We ate copiously from what some have said was the best buffet of the conference. While the atmosphere was fun and lighthearted, some students (and others) candidly mentioned how important it was to them that this food was available. More than one person in the room that night told me it took all of their money to get to Portland and they would have been hungry if the SfAA had not ensured that food was plentiful at these events. I heard that message loud and clear – that even at our meeting, people are concerned about food insecurity. I guarantee you that I will not forget that message during my time as SfAA president and afterwards. I want to pause here and thank again our Society's generous donors, who especially make sure that student participation and travel is consistently supported as a priority.

Before I close, I would like to share (with permission!) a bit of an email I received from Mary Vickers of Rollins College in Florida. She is an undergraduate studying International Relations and Spanish. I met her hanging out with her advisor at the SfAA Student Party. Here's what Mary wrote to me right after the conference:

"I just wanted to reach out to say how nice it was to meet you at SfAA...As I mentioned, this was my first conference ever, and it was an amazing experience. I plan to be, as you said, an SfAA member for life! ...

Being able to present at this very student-friendly conference has bolstered my confidence in my decision to pursue applied anthro... See you in Albuquerque!

I think Mary's words speak for themselves and I will take them to heart as we think about SfAA's future. And to close, as Mary says, I hope that we will "See you in Albuquerque". We have a great Program Chair Lois Stanford and we know the Committee is already working hard to make a memorable 80th annual meeting in New Mexico. The program theme and location could not be more timely: "Cultural Citizenship and Diversity in Complex Societies". The meeting will be held from March 17-21, 2020. We look forward to seeing and working with you in the coming year!

2019 Annual Meeting in Portland



By Michael Paolisso, 2019 Program Chair

A very heartfelt thanks to the SfAA members and non-members who made our 79th annual meeting in Portland a success. Many of you

shared your very positive and helpful feedback during the meeting, for which I am very appreciative. We had over 1,158 paper abstracts, 304 sessions, 138 posters, 15 workshops and seven videos, covering a diverse range of topics. Hallway conversations after sessions were lively and throughout attendees networked and shared ideas, which is what I think our annual meetings support so well: a professional but informal environment where people share their ideas, experiences and contacts.

Our annual meetings are exemplary in promoting a collegial environment, where distinctions of academic versus practitioner, student versus professor and novice versus experienced disappear. Our positive and high energy at the meeting was helped by strong attendance: it was the third largest SfAA meeting with a total registration of 1,972, of which 822 were students and another 598 were non-members (who we hope will become members). Also, the tours sold out and Portland's weather was mainly sunny and spring like, allowing participants to explore Portland and sample the diverse and tasty food truck cuisine and gourmet donuts.

I have always been a strong supporter of the SfAA's effort to engage with local and regional issues and groups during our annual meeting. Local Day, Tuesday, set the tone for the rest of the conference. Before the conference, I was worried about the possibility of low attendance on local day, fearing

that most of our members might arrive in the evening and that our local outreach efforts had not connected with those who would be best served by the day's program. Fortunately, the opposite occurred.

We had excellent attendance on local day from members and local social scientists and practitioners. Each session included interesting and important presentations and discussions. Local day allowed us, within the space of a short corridor or a flight of stairs, to learn how issues we focus on are experienced and addressed in Portland and Cascadia. In contrast to the rest of conference, where we primarily attend sessions relevant to our own work, local day allows us to explore and learn about a diversity of topics. In Portland, local day sessions focused on, for example, technology companies and cities, tribal sovereignty and governance, smart cities, gentrification, homelessness, fracking, disaster preparation, and the cultural characteristics unique to Portland.

I cannot encourage members enough to attend future local days at our annual meetings. This grounding of our work in the place where we meet enriches our experience of the rest of the conference, creates new contacts and highlights challenges and opportunities. It is the responsibility of our Society to support local organizations and colleagues to tell us about their work and challenges, and

as members we must be witnesses and offer our perspectives and expertise.

I have been attending SfAA annual meetings for more than 20 years. I accepted the responsibility of program chair for the Portland meeting because I wanted us to reflect on and discuss how we adapt our applied social science work to these challenging, turbulent and fast-changing times. I could not be more pleased with what I heard. Participants in sessions and posters consistently pushed themselves and others to critique and evaluate how anthropology and the applied social sciences can shed needed light on contemporary and historical cultural, socio-economic, health, and environmental issues that today have great urgency. The capability, commitment and passion of our members bring to their applied work was visibly on display in Portland. I for one came away refreshed and strengthened in my commitment to make my work relevant in these turbulent times. I hope others can draw upon our collective thinking and action in Portland to help sustain their own work and engagement.

Portland would never have been the success it was without the work and support of the SfAA Topical Interest Groups (TIGs), the Program Committee and the SfAA staff. I benefited greatly from the scheduling that TIGs did for their member sessions, and from their general feedback and guidance. The Program

Committee helped organize sessions and provided invaluable and timely guidance at key decision-making times during the development of the program. I cannot thank Neil Hann, Trish Colvin, Melissa Cope and Don Stull of the SfAA office enough for all that they quietly and effectively do to make sure our annual meetings happen and work. Each meeting is a huge, multi-year task, and each year and city are different. For every problem or challenge that arose for the Portland meeting, they had experienced answers and the expertise to address. They are consummate professionals, and a joy to work with. We all owe them our deepest thanks and gratitude for their hard work and care of our Society.

For Portland, that's a wrap! See you all in Albuquerque next year!

Rockin': The Sol Tax Award



By Jeanne Simonelli, Chair

Do you have a mentor that never seems to stop applying social science? Is there someone who seems to work quietly in the background, but yet seems to be everywhere? Now is the time to sit down and write a letter

nominating your best and favorite teacher, advisor, supervisor for the Sol Tax Distinguished Service Award. Just as Sol Tax was way ahead of his time when he worked with students and communities over sixty years ago, there is someone you know who works, speaks and writes in exceptional ways.

Nominees should be those who have made long-term and exceptional contributions in several of the following areas in the applied social sciences: 1) leadership in organizational structure, activities and policy development; 2) central roles in communication with other disciplines or subdisciplines; 3) editing and publishing; 4) development of curricula in applied anthropology; 5) formulation of ethical standards of practice; and 6) other innovative activities which promote the goals of the Society for Applied Anthropology, the field of applied anthropology, and the public at large.

Each nomination should include:

- a detailed letter of nomination outlining the distinguished service accomplishments of the candidate
- one additional letter of support
- a curriculum vitae that includes specific details regarding the nominee's service to the SfAA

Nominations are valid for five years from the date of submission. The selection committee consists of five members appointed by the President and Executive Board of SfAA. Please

email nominations and supporting material to: Email: info@sfaa.net
Society for Applied Anthropology
Attn: Chair Sol Tax Award

Get someone you know ready to rock!

<https://www.sfaa.net/about/prizes/distinguished-awards/sol-tax-award/>

Report on the Hackenberg Prize

Winners & Session

The prestigious Robert A. and Beverly H. Hackenberg Prize is awarded at Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) annual meetings. It is given to SfAA members whose collaborative work with community partners significantly impacts the lives of a community in the geographical area of the annual meeting. This year the Hackenberg Prize Committee selected the extraordinary work of SfAA member Jeremy Spoon, associate professor of anthropology at Portland State University and senior fellow at The Mountain Institute, and partner Richard Arnold of the Pahrump Paiute Tribe, with their collaborators. Spoon, Arnold, and their collaborators demonstrated applied anthropology at its best. Their presentations, enthusiastically received by a standing-room only audience, would have delighted the master community-collaborator, Robert A. Hackenberg, were he still among us. Fortunately, his co-Malinowski award winner, Beverly H. Hackenberg, was present. She congratulated each of

the presenters.

What did Jeremy and Richard, with their collaborators, accomplish to win this Prize?

Imagine, if you will, conceiving of a way to integrate indigenous knowledge about plants and ecosystems to revegetate land now atop low-level radioactive waste (Nevada National Security Site; formerly the Nevada Test Site). Imagine the federal government blending indigenous knowledge with western science about how to revegetate the land. To the people whose ancestors lived in these areas for thousands of years, the land ached and needed healing from people who recognized their responsibilities to the land and animals and water and plants. This project operationalized recommendations from Nuwuvi (Southern Paiute), Newe (Western Shoshone), and Nuwu (Owens Valley Paiute) Nations—16 tribes in total. These tribes function through a consensus approach, putting aside any historical discord to achieve mutually agreed upon outcomes.

Spoon and Arnold also invited collaborators to the eighth annual Gathering For Our Mountains intergenerational knowledge exchange and harvest event in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area and Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Nevada. More than 150 participants came to the event from Nuwuvi, U.S. Forest

Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and National Park Service. They also co-facilitated collaborative ethnographic research and design for four new visitors' centers in southern Nevada where tribal representatives were part of all facets of research, from creating the research design and recruiting participants to conducting all interviews and reviewing reports, architectural and interpretive designs.

The Hackenberg Prize was presented at the SfAA meeting March 20, 2019, during a session entitled "Revitalizing Numic Homelands: Blending Culture and Collaboration in the Great Basin and Upper Mojave Deserts." The presenters included an astonishing array of U.S. agency leaders, tribal representatives, Portland State University students who work with Dr. Spoon, and the Desert Research Institute. The comradery and trust evident among this group were, perhaps, the most memorable aspect of this year's Hackenberg Prize session. Humor augmented the science reportage, slide shows, and videos in their well-received program. Presenters besides Spoon, his students, and Mr. Arnold, included Keven DesRoberts and Anan Raymond (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Michael Clifford (Desert Research Institute), Ron Escobar (Chemehuevi Indian Tribe), Danelle Gutierrez (Big Pine Paiute Tribe), Kate Barcalow, Yarrow Geggus, Cerinda Survant, and Sara Temme (Portland State U), along with Brian Lefler and

Kendra Wendel (US Forest Service). The decade-long collaboration, known as the Numic Project, involves revitalizing and sustaining cultural ties between members of the 16 Native tribes of Numic aboriginal lands in Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and California, and federal agencies now responsible for managing those lands. The project achieves its goals "through progressive consultation, co-management, and interpretation."

Dr. Spoon and Mr. Arnold agreed to serve as honorary members of the Hackenberg Prize Committee, assist in selecting a Prize winner for the 2020 SfAA meeting in Albuquerque, N.M., and guide the winner(s) in preparing next year's presentation. The Hackenberg Award Committee seeks nominations for the 2020 prize, to be awarded at the Annual Meeting in Albuquerque. Please send nominations, suggestions, or inquiries to Don Stull, Chair, Hackenberg Prize Committee (stull@ku.edu; 785-764-8967):

ABOUT THE HACKENBERG PRIZE: The recipient of the award presents a lecture or organized session describing the project which was the basis of the prize. The Hackenberg Prize recognizes SfAA members and their community partners whose work demonstrates sustained and meaningful collaboration to improve the communities where they live and work, thus embodying the principles and values that guided the Hackenbergs' work. The prize is

accompanied by a cash award to be used to advance the collaborative effort. Selection criteria include community participation in a project or activity related to a significant practical problem or issue. The project receiving the award is preferably interdisciplinary and located in the general geographic area in which the annual meeting is held. The project should be sustainable, contain a model that might be replicable when tailored to a problem and its local conditions elsewhere, and have an evaluation component.

7 Takeaways from the Kearney Memorial Lecture



From Yolanda T. Moses

While the AAA Race Project reveals the social and cultural underpinnings of structural racism and the power dynamics that operate to maintain our highly racialized and stratified social system, more research and analysis is needed in the following areas:

1. The intersectionality of race, class, gender, religion, sexuality and other non-binary categories;
2. The relationships between race and immigration
3. The links among race, policing and the other aspects of the state
4. The causal links between white nationalism with its constitutive components of white fragility, fear and resentment and hate crimes
5. The dichotomy between structural racism on the one hand and the white embrace of the false promises of color blind institutions on the other
6. The potential impacts of a generational difference that may be emerging between older, largely white Baby Boomers and Gen X'ers, who hold most of the powerful positions and have substantial wealth, and younger more multi-racial Millennials and Gen Y'er who do not yet have much access to economic resources and power.
7. The race, class and gender inequalities that impact educational, housing, and health outcomes of white working-class people as well as people of color

Podcast of the Kearney Memorial Lecture

Interview with Yolanda T. Moses

Call for Malinowski Nominations

The Society for Applied Anthropology considers each year nominations for the Malinowski Award. This Award is presented to a senior social scientist in recognition of a career dedicated to understanding and serving the needs of the world's societies. The deadline for receipt of nominations is December 15.

A nomination should include a detailed letter, a curriculum vitae, letters of support, and sample publications. A more detailed description of the Award and the nomination process is included on the SfAA web site at: <https://www.sfaa.net/about/prizes/distinguished-awards/malinowski-award/>

The Malinowski Award was initiated by the Society in 1973. Since that time, it has been presented to distinguished social scientists including Gunnar Myrdal, Sir Raymond Firth, Margaret Clark, and Conrad Arensberg.

The nominee should be of senior status, and widely recognized for efforts to understand and serve the needs of the world through the use of the social sciences.

Please contact the SfAA Office if you have any questions or wish additional information by calling (405) 843-5113, or emailing at: info@sfaa.net

P.K. New Research Competition

The Society sponsors an annual student research paper competition in the name of a former President, Peter K. New. The Competition is open to any person who was registered as a student at the graduate or undergraduate level in a college or university during the calendar year, 2019. An eligible student is one who does not have a previously earned doctoral degree.

An eligible manuscript should report on research that in large measure has not been previously published. The Competition will be limited to manuscripts that have a single author; multiple-authored papers will not be eligible. The paper should be double-spaced and must be less than 45 pages in length. Electronic submissions are preferable.

The first place winner of the Competition will receive a cash prize of \$3,000 as well as \$350 to partially offset the cost of transportation and 2 nights lodging at the annual meeting of the Society. In addition, the winner receives an engraved Baccarat crystal trophy. Cash prizes of \$1,500 to second place and \$750 to third place will also be given as well as a \$350 travel stipend and 2 nights lodging at the meeting.

The research and the manuscript should use the social/behavioral sciences to address in an applied fashion an issue or question in the domain (broadly construed) of health care or human services. All submissions must be received in the Office of the Society by November 30, 2019. The winners will be recognized and the papers presented at the annual meeting of the Society in Albuquerque, March 17-21, 2020.

For more information and online submission www.sfaa.net/about/prizes/student-awards/peter-new/.

Extraction & Environment TIG

From Frack's Folly to Fine Food: In Portland & Beyond

By Jeanne Simonelli

"I try to leave every conference thinking about what I'll organize next year while the excitement and interests of others are still fresh in my mind," says ExtrACTION's Anna Willow. She's right. We had some truly fine sessions this year, beginning on Portland Day with the Folly of Frack (see below), and ending with a wine and cheese reception. The organized sessions, including Shirley Fiske and Kerri Bondo's Environmental Justice in Turbulent Times and Anna Willows three part Anthropology OF/AS/AND Activism included great presentations and even greater open discussion. Also exceptional were the sessions created from volunteered

papers. Gretchen Hermann chaired "Law, Policy and Regulation" where the presentations stimulated intriguing and thoughtful discussion from both participants and the audience. Since all of the sessions were in the same room, attendees reported that the topics flowed on from the first to last session each day. One repeating issue was that there is a lot of overlap in what the various TIGS cover, and its hard to make a decision about what to attend. In a conference with 5 days and 2000 attendees, this is not unusual. At a joint session organized by Elisabeth Moolenaar, members of ExtrACTION and Risk and Disaster compared notes. Among the sessions we'd like to see for next year is one jointly sponsored by the two groups.

We'll be meeting in Albuquerque next spring. As the belly of the western extraction beast, New Mexico presents topics that link land, water, Native American, economic and other issues. We encourage you to organize sessions around these topics, or just submit volunteered papers and select ExtrACTION for review. Because the TIGs assist the program chair in organizing and scheduling sessions, you can be sure that your paper will be placed with like submissions. We are excited about New Mexico Day, which is usually the first day of the meetings, and already anticipate a "Toxic Tour" that examines issues of uranium mining on Pueblo lands.

The annual meetings are not the only way that TIG members communicate. We have a list serve that broadcasts news as it happens, among other roles. If you would like to be added, please email Jeanne Simonelli at simonejm@wfu.edu and we'll be sure it gets done. At our business meeting we discussed whether our TIG would benefit from some type of social media engagement and, if so, what type (Facebook page, Twitter, other). We also talked about finding ways to bring new people to our TIG and about the possibility of sponsoring a workshop at next year's meeting. Please get in touch if you have ideas or would like to help!

Anthropology of Higher Education TIG

By Lauren Herckis & Brian Foster, Co-Chairs

This year's annual meeting in Portland saw more than 100 papers associated with Higher Ed TIG sessions, making this a fourth successful SfAA meeting. Two clusters of affiliated sessions, one on credentialing and one on academic leadership, were broadly successful. A capstone session drew engaged discussion and constructive commentary, TIG leadership welcomed new collaborators, and as a community we have continued to build momentum on engagement, outreach, collaboration, and publications.

TIG priorities and leadership were revisited at a productive Board meeting in Portland. Lauren Herckis continues as Co-Chair and is joined by Brian Foster as Co-Chair and Karla Davis-Salazar as Co-Chair Designate. Jim McDonald has been appointed Chair of the Advisory Board, which welcomes several new members this year. Over the past year a new Communications team, headed by Meta Gorup, has drafted a strategy that will be put into effect after discussions at this year's Board meeting and Capstone session. A knowledge management team, headed by Nathan Woods, has made great strides towards curating the TIG's growing institutional memory and making some prospective plans for data management moving forward. A significant TIG priority will be collaboration with other Society for Applied Anthropology TIGs, to support development of sessions—and discourse!—on topics of interest to multiple TIGs, such as disability and access in higher education. We are excited to leverage the TIGs to bring disparate expertise to bear on mutually relevant subjects at the 2020 meeting and beyond.

Higher Ed TIG-affiliated sessions in Portland covered topics ranging from diversity and inclusion to leadership and from pedagogy to the faculty experience. The first “mini-cluster” considered a very broad look at credentialing, certification, and licensing, ranging from lawyers to auto mechanics—credentialing in the

“professions” being a critical role of all sectors of higher education. The second mini-cluster addressed continuity in academic leadership and the dynamics of individuals passing into and out of administrative roles. Both clusters generated extensive discussion that culminated in a roundtable session affiliated with each cluster. The papers affiliated with these clusters, and the ensuing discussions, have strong possibilities for future publication in book or special of a journal contexts. The TIG is strongly supporting efforts towards publication.

Publication and dissemination is a high priority for the TIG, which is in the process of publishing a second edited volume with Information Age Publishing, Inc. The title, [Paths to the Future of Higher Education](#), indicates clearly that the book's focus on the future, which nicely complements our previous edited volume on the origins of the present state of higher education. This new book has a strong emphasis on active learning and the complex environmental and structural forces both for and against this powerful movement. Several other significant publications are underway: one a special issue of a journal and the other a cluster of papers in a journal. Jennifer Wies has agreed to continue as Vice Chair for Publications, facilitating the search for publication venues, bringing together groups of authors, and encouraging publication in many different forms—

e.g., individual articles, individual sessions as clusters of papers in a journal, books, and more.

The TIG Board meeting and Capstone session were both opportunities for extremely engaging and thoughtful discussions. The 2020 meeting in Albuquerque was an important topic of conversation, with positive focus on three intersecting, complementary themes. First, the many ways that different higher education sectors (e.g., research universities, regional schools, community colleges, public and private, etc.) engage—e.g., competing with one another for students, competing in the political arena, and failing to come together to tell a compelling story about higher education broadly. Second, the intricacies of relationships between faculty and administration—e.g., lack of trust, different perspectives on disciplines and professions). And third, interacting strongly with one and two, how do we navigate the conflicting demands that our many constituencies place on us (e.g., donors, faculty, students and parents, regents, legislators, accrediting bodies, employers, disciplinary organizations, k-12 schools, and much more).

At present, we are considering three mini-clusters of sessions to address these three themes. Other favored themes include educational technology; protection, precarity, and support in higher education; the complex landscape of institutional

cultures and pasts; and stress, support, and anxiety in challenging times. We invite comments and proposals for organized sessions on these and related themes.

It is important to stress that these themes will not limit other content for sessions and papers: we welcome proposals for individual papers or sessions on all topics related to the anthropology of higher education. We especially welcome proposals building on the unique New Mexican context, including the large Hispanic and American Indian populations, proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border, and the prominent arts presence. The Anthropology of Higher Education TIG is looking forward to exploring community partnerships in Albuquerque ahead of the 2020 meeting, which provides an opportunity to learn from local organizations and to explore the experiential, engaged, and critical pedagogies developed in and for this region.

Human Rights & Social Justice Committee

By Eric Bailey, Chair

As Chair of the Human Rights and Social Justice (HRSJ) Committee, I would like to submit my observations and initial comments from this year's Society for Applied Anthropology (Sfaa) meetings in Portland, Oregon.

As Chair for the past year, I have learned a lot about my new role and the responsibilities that it takes to keep a special committee functioning throughout the year and contributing to the annual Sfaa meetings.

One of the major functions as chair of a Sfaa committee is to organize the set number of papers assigned to your committee (i.e., HRSJ) into different categories so that they all fit into a particular session. Several months ago, I received this list from Sfaa and organized the set of papers into a total of eight sessions all related to the issues of human rights and social justice. Doing this for the first time, I wondered for a few months whether I was successful in completing this major function as chair.

To my pleasant surprise, I believe that the sessions that I was able to attend during the Sfaa meetings fulfilled this objective. As I observed and participated in the designated HRSJ sessions such as Global Health Inequities, Gender Issues and Activism, Political Conflicts with Indigenous Rights, and Homelessness and Systemic Injustices – each had their audiences engaged in the presenters' paper presentation and discussion. That felt good to experience and see for myself.

Another major function of chair of a Sfaa committee is to support student involvement in the Sfaa meetings. During the Sfaa business meeting, it was a joy to see the recipient of our Human Rights Defender Award –

Alessia Gonzalez – receive her award and her reactions. She was truly pleased with the recognition as I hurriedly took her photo with outgoing President Alexander Ervin.

In my effort to start a new tradition for the HRSJ Committee, our members and I decided to establish a new student award called “The HRSJ Innovative Award.” This proposed new student award is designed to recognize STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS that are focused on human rights and social justice issues at the Sfaa meetings. Along with the award comes a \$250 to \$500 check as well.

In order to accomplish this new student award, however, I learned from Sfaa Executive Director and Treasurer -- Neil Hann and Jennifer Weis -- the procedure and steps in getting this award established within Sfaa. I therefore had a special meeting with Neil and Jennifer to talk about it on Thursday. It was an informative, delightful, and fun meeting we had in one of the meeting rooms at the conference.

Basically, what I learned from our meeting was that we need to raise about \$5,000 to get the student award established and sustained for several years. I therefore proposed that our HRSJ committee can start a campaign for the next 2 years to raise the necessary funds to get our new student award – THE HRSJ INNOVATIVE AWARD – established

within Sfaa so that future students can be recognized for their research on human rights and social justice issues.

At the conclusion of the meeting, we all agreed and I informed them that I will start off the campaign by donating \$200. I also asked Neil and Jennifer if we could take a SELFIE together to document the beginning our new student HRSJ INNOVATIVE AWARD!

Check out our Selfie!



The Society for Disability Studies

society for disability studies

By Joanne Woiak & Devva Kasnitz

The Society for Disability Studies (SDS) organized a strand of 7 sessions with 35 presenters. Our Friday afternoon panel, Inclusion on Campus: The Role of Anthropology, was featured as an Sfaa podcast and on [twitter](#). The other SDS sessions were: Structural Vulnerabilities,

Individual and Collective Agency, and the Creation of Care, Parts I & II; Living Well with Disability: Gender, Aging, Care; “Benefits” of Disability and Framing Research; Aging into Dis/ability, Dis/ability into Aging; I’m Not Old! Early Onset Disability Experience.

The Society for Disability Studies is over 400 members strong and growing. SDS promotes the study of disability in social, cultural, and political contexts. Disability Studies recognizes that disability is a key aspect of human experience, and that the study of disability has important implications for culture and society as a whole. SDS publishes the leading multi-disciplinary journal in the field, *Disability Studies Quarterly*. In the past, SDS has held its own annual conference, but more recently, has begun partnering with other allied professional associations, including Sfaa. For the past several years, SDS has partnered with the Multiple Perspectives on Access, Inclusion, and Disability Conference at Ohio State University each April. (This year, 140 SDS members will give papers at Multiple Perspectives.)

Four members of the SDS Board of Directors and 2 SDS past-presidents (one a founding member who is now Executive Director) participated in Sfaa this year. We were delighted at the depth and nuance of the papers presented in our sessions, especially by emerging scholars who are integrating a critical disability studies

lens into cultural and medical anthropology.

The Disability Research Interest Group (DRIG) of the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) also convened a business meeting during the conference; SMA co-sponsors the annual conference with SfAA every other year. A representative for the Disability TIG (Topical Interest Group) of the SfAA also met with other TIGs and the Program Chair for the 2020 conference, Lois Stanford. At both sessions, discussion focused on: building collaboration with other interest groups, advocating for more inclusion of disability studies in anthropology, efforts to improve the accessibility of anthropology conferences, and developing session strands for the SfAA 2020 conference. SDS, in collaboration with the DRIG (SMA) and the TIG (SfAA) will put out a call for a joint strand at the SfAA conference in Albuquerque 2020. The CFP will be posted on the [SDS website](#), along with information about other SDS activities and membership.

For more information about the DRIG, please see: <http://www.medanthro.net/interest-groups/drig/>

For more information and/or interest in joining SDS, please <http://disstudies.org/>
See you in 2020!

Risk & Disaster TIG



By Thomas Hanson & Mei Johnson

The 2019 annual meeting of the SFAA was another success for the Risk and Disaster TIG. We were able to sponsor 21 panels and 115 papers/round table speakers (with none running concurrently), starting with Local Day where there were two R&D sponsored panels engaging disaster preparedness and organizing in Portland, Oregon. Topically sponsored panels included discussions about post-Harvey Houston, writing against vulnerability, critical issues in the Global South, intersections of indigenous cultures with risk/disaster and fossil fuel extraction, cross-cultural collaboration, and preventing disaster risk creation. Several of the panels critically engaged the concepts of risk and vulnerability within anthropological disaster research and practice. Overall the attendance of R&D TIG panels and events was high with standing room only in several panels.

Members are already beginning discussion for next year's panels and plenaries, and we look forward to another engaging and dynamic conference.

The annual business meeting was led by returning co-chair Thomas Hanson and our newest co-chair Mei Johnson. The meeting was a lively and productive discussion covering a range of topics including closing the gap between practitioner and academics, incorporation of more international colleagues, and fruitful future directions of the R&D TIG. We give a giant thank you to the outgoing co-chairs, Jennifer Trivedi and Melissa Sedlacik, for their hard work planning, supporting, and organizing for the R&D TIG over the past two years.

Thomas Hanson, who will continue as a co-chair, has continued his doctoral studies over the past year at the University of Colorado Boulder. He has finished his dissertation fieldwork examining wildfire management and climate change in Bolivia and is a visiting scientist in the Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Laboratory at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) examining on hurricane vulnerability communication.

We are happy to welcome Mei Johnson as a new co-chair! Mei is the Delaware Citizen Corps Program Manager at the State of Delaware Emergency Management Agency and is a PhD candidate in Disaster Science and Management at the University of Delaware. Her work and research interests align with one another, focusing on disaster and emergency preparedness of the public, civilian

“zero responder” emergency response training, and community outreach and communication.

R&D TIG members continue to be very active in practice and research of risk and disaster across the globe. Many TIG members continue to serve as members in Culture and Disaster Action Network (CADAN), <http://cultureanddisaster.org/>, a growing network of academics and practitioner working to support disaster professionals address complex issues related to risk reduction and disaster recovery. Recent publications by R&D TIG members cover broad issues related to risk and disaster. These timely publications topically include Building Cultures of Preparedness for FEMA (Browne and Olson, with Hegland, Jones, Maldonado, Marino, Maxwell, Stern, and Walsh), uncertainty and hurricane evacuations (Yang, Davidson, Blanton, Colle, Dresback, Kolar, Nozick, Trivedi, and Wachtendorf), and the social science of environmental cleanups (Maxwell, Kiessling, and Buckley), in addition to other publications.

We are happy to welcome anyone who is interested in risk and disasters to our membership. In addition to our sessions throughout SFAA annual meetings, we have a listserv you can join at <http://bit.ly/JoinRDTIG>, a Twitter account at <https://twitter.com/RiskDisasterTIG>, and a Facebook page at <https://>

www.facebook.com/groups/1481802688698765/. We also maintain a directory of interested members and their specialties at <https://bit.ly/RDTIGDirectory>. The directory is intended to allow members to share their expertise and promote their work to the public or interested groups. If you are interested in being added, please contact Thomas Hanson at Thomas.hanson@colorado.edu.

Immigration Initiative

Strangers in Town

STRANGERS IN TOWN is a 33-minute documentary film that looks at how global migration enriched Garden City, Kansas, transforming this small town into a multicultural mecca on the High Plains. Since 1980, economic migrants and refugees have been drawn to Garden City to work in its beef-packing plants. Rapid growth and a prolonged influx of people from Latin America, Asia, and Africa have created major demands on housing, social services, education, and infrastructure. At the same time, its many new “strangers in town” challenged Garden City’s ability to deal with cultural and racial diversity. The film tells how a conscious decision by the town’s leaders to view these enormous challenges as a blessing rather than a curse set the stage for the evolution of a welcoming community. Told in the voices of those who live there, including Garden City High School students, for whom

the town’s remarkable diversity is all they’ve ever known, STRANGERS IN TOWN gives new meaning to the city’s official motto: “the world grows here.” Produced and directed by Steve Lerner and Reuben Aaronson, the film is an uplifting story about immigration, providing an inspiring view of human possibility in the face of change.

Don Stull, emeritus professor of anthropology at the University of Kansas, has studied and written about Garden City for three decades. He has this to say about the film:

“Strangers in Town provides a powerful antidote to the histrionics that so often drown out reasonable dialogue about immigration in these turbulent times. It offers an engaging glimpse of the positive relations between established residents and new immigrants in this High Plains town, a town that can—and should—serve as an exemplar for old-timers and newcomers alike, as we try to successfully navigate our way forward in the changing landscape that is 21st century America.”

The film can be accessed free of charge for viewing and streaming at <http://strangersintownthefilm.com/>. (If you click on the full screen icon just to the left of “Vimeo” at the lower right side of the video image, it will become full screen.) The film is free for anyone to use in classes or in any other way that would be helpful. We also urge people to send the link to anyone they think might be interested in seeing

it. Blu-ray disks and standard DVD's are available as well (DVD's are \$8, and DVD's are \$10, no charge for shipping). A high resolution copy of the film on a flash drive can be provided for the most effective screenings in large venues. For questions please contact Steve Lerner at: stevelerner@strangersintownthefilm.com

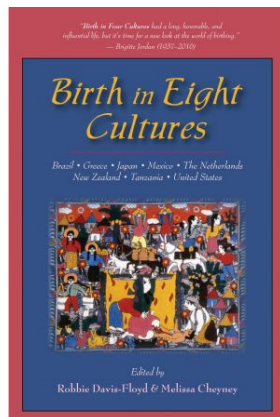
Policy Committee

By Josiah M. Heyman

The Public Policy Committee has focused on providing educational opportunities and materials to SfAA members on policy engagement skills. There are many different areas in which we have expertise and energy. So, instead of focusing on one favorite area, we have encouraged many people to be effective. We offered several workshops and roundtables, which were well received. We created some policy skills education documents that are still available on the committee website. While some of the materials are due for an update they are still good, including the bibliography and syllabi. To access the Public Policy Committee materials, go to:

<https://www.sfaa.net/membership/committees-tigs/public-policy-committee/>

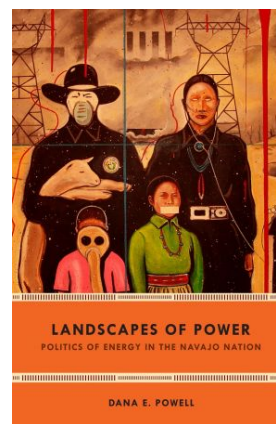
Birth in 8 Cultures



Robbie Davis-Floyd and Melissa Cheyney are delighted to announce the publication their co-edited *Birth in Eight Cultures* (Long Grove IL: Waveland Press, 2019). Following on from Jordan's classic *Birth in Four Cultures*, which Robbie revised and updated in 1993, this collection brings together the work of 15 reproductive anthropologists to address core cultural values and knowledge systems as revealed in contemporary birth practices spanning six continents. Six ethnographic chapters form the heart of the book, three of which are set up as dyads that encompass two countries; each demonstrates the power of anthropology's cross-cultural comparative methods. An additional chapter with ethnographic vignettes gives readers a feel for what fieldwork is really like on the ground. The eminently readable, theoretically rich chapters are enhanced by absorbing stories, photos, quotes, Thought Questions, and film recommendations that nudge the

reader toward eureka flashes of understanding and render the book suitable for undergraduate and graduate audiences alike, as well as for birth practitioners.

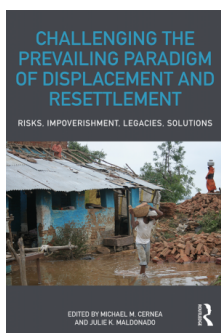
Landscapes of Power



In *Landscapes of Power* Dana E. Powell examines the rise and fall of the controversial Desert Rock Power Plant initiative in New Mexico to trace the political conflicts surrounding native sovereignty and contemporary energy development on Navajo (Diné) Nation land. Powell's historical and ethnographic account shows how the coal-fired power plant project's defeat provided the basis for redefining the legacies of colonialism, mineral extraction, and environmentalism. Examining the labor of activists, artists, politicians, elders, technicians, and others, Powell emphasizes the generative potential of Navajo resistance to articulate a vision of autonomy in the face of twenty-first-century colonial conditions. Ultimately, Powell situates local Navajo struggles over energy technology and infrastructure within

broader sociocultural life, debates over global climate change, and tribal, federal, and global politics of extraction.

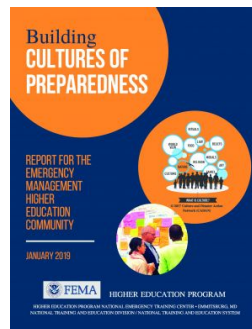
Challenging the Prevailing Paradigm of Displacement & Resettlement



Development-caused forced displacement and involuntary resettlement has increased exponentially in recent years, making it one of the top problems on the international development agenda. In response, 22 anthropologists and other social scientists and resettlement researchers collaborated on a book volume recently released by Routledge - Challenging the Prevailing Paradigm of Displacement and Resettlement: Risks, Impoverishment, Legacies, Solutions (Michael Cernea and Julie Maldonado, eds). This book challenges existing weak policies and dysfunctional practices, and proposes a robust set of solutions to improve the performance of resettlement policies and to tackle injustices and violations. At a time when

governments, development agencies and universities worldwide are urgently seeking solutions, this book will be of interest to development practitioners, students, and researchers of international development, sociology, political science and economics.

FEMA Report Focused on a Culture-Based Approach to Preparedness

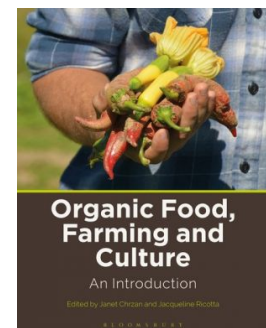


The research-based report, authored by members of the Culture and Disaster Action Network (CADAN) and practitioner and academic colleagues, emerged from FEMA's new Strategic Plan for 2018-2022, "Building a Culture of Preparedness." Preparedness strategies to date have increased first responder and government capabilities, but individual and community progress towards enhanced levels of preparedness has been limited. Authors of the new report suggest that achieving the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan's vision of enhanced preparedness requires a bottom-up approach to close these gaps.

Highlighting the vast diversity of American communities and households, the report demonstrates that a one-size-fits-all strategy is not well-suited to the demands of variable and distinctive environments – a national Culture of Preparedness will have to be built one community at a time. Preparedness is a local matter, requiring solutions tailored to different cultural contexts and embraced by communities. For this reason, achieving the reality of a resilient nation as envisioned in the Strategic Plan requires us to think in the plural, building "Culture(s) of Preparedness."

The report lays out four Guiding Principles for building Cultures of Preparedness followed by practical strategies and examples as well as successful outcomes in real-world settings.

Organic Food, Farming, & Culture



Janet Chrzan is happy to announce the release of her new volume from Bloomsbury Press: Organic Food, Farming and Culture provides readers with real-world case studies and a

\comprehensive introduction to organic farming systems, their social and cultural values, and use of organic products in home and institutional kitchens. Available at www.bloomsbury.com/9781350027848/.

A wide-ranging collection of chapters edited by Janet Chrzan and Jacqueline A. Ricotta explain organic food and organic farming principles; the history of organics; how organic food is grown, distributed, and consumed; the nutritional benefits; and the social and cultural meanings attached to the concept “organic”. A special feature is the inclusion of four case studies – a farmer, a chef, a food studies student and a concerned eater – that explain the concepts presented and bring the production and use of organic foods into real-life focus.

Immigration, Diversity & Student Journeys to Higher Education

Immigration, Diversity and Student Journeys to Higher Education presents an in-depth understanding of how immigrant students at a major public research university balanced keeping their family cultures alive and learning U.S. culture to get to college. A revitalized anthropological understanding of acculturation

provides the theoretical framework for the book. The text builds its analysis using extensive quotes from the 160 immigrant students who participated in the 21 focus groups that form the core of this study. The students' families come from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe and Latin America, and reflect a wide diversity of experiences and insights into how these students successfully pursued higher education. A key theme of the book is the «immigrant bargain,» where students repay their parents' hard work and migration sacrifices by excelling in school. A large majority of the parents made clear that a major motivation for immigrating was so their children could have better educational opportunities; these parents had the original dreams for their children. Immigration, Diversity and Student Journeys to Higher Education examines the similarities and differences across this diverse group of students, ending with a series of recommendations about how to improve acculturation research and how to facilitate immigrant students' journeys to educational success.

Awareness of Risk in Experiential Learning

*By Kellen Gilbert
Southeastern Louisiana University
(kgilbert@selu.edu)*

Students in my upper level anthropology class work on a wildlife conservation project based in

Tanzania from the (relative) comforts of our classroom here in Louisiana. They work and communicate with the staff of the international organization via email, Skype and social media. I wish I could take the students to the Serengeti for a whole other dimension of experiential learning, but when I consider the risks, real and potential—hippopotamuses, no wifi (!) ---- I'm content to stick to my campus class. Identifying and effectively dealing with risks is important in applied anthropology classes or classes that include experiential learning components.

So where to start? I've found asking these four questions help, especially when developing the syllabus: 1) What could go wrong? Try to identify potential risks students may encounter related to the experience. If, for example, my students were doing a project for a local organization at the organization's office in New Orleans, I would need to think about transportation issues that may involve some risk—driving, parking, etc. 2) How likely is something to go wrong? It could be a rare occurrence or a near certainty; 3) What are the consequences if something does go wrong? The impact may range from insignificant to catastrophic; and 4) How can the risk be reduced? This is really about managing risk. The most common way is through sharing information: holding orientation and training sessions, having discussion

with community partners, in essence lots of participant education. Another way is to transfer risk, that is, shift the responsibility of risk, especially financial, to a third party, most often by purchasing or requiring insurance, or to require the students to sign liability waivers. Many colleges and universities have Offices of Risk Management to assist with this.

Much of risk management is common sense. Giving some careful thought to the potential hazards in applied or experiential components of classes beforehand should result in a more positive learning experience.

SfAA Member Honored



Ruth Watson Lubic, CNM, Ed.D, a doctoral graduate of Teachers College, Columbia--1979 was honored by the New York Academy of Medicine in June, 2018 as its First Urban Health Equity Champion.

More information can be gotten from <https://www.tc.columbia.edu/articles/2015/october/the-call-of-the-midwife/>, Kbogard@NYAM.org or NC layman@NYAM.org.

Ruth Watson Lubic, CNM, Ed.D,
 Founder
 The Childbearing Center, Carnegie Hill, NYC, 1975
 The Childbearing Center of Morris Heights, S. Bronx, NYC, 1988
 Developing Families Center, Ward 5, Washington, DC, 2000

The International Childbirth Initiative



The International MotherBaby Childbirth Organization (IMBCO) and the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) have joined forces to develop a single global initiative for providing safe and respectful maternity care, building upon their previous work--the International MotherBaby Childbirth Initiative(IMBCI 2008) and the FIGO Guidelines to Mother-Baby Friendly Birthing Facilities(2015). These have been merged to create the ICI, and the most recent evidence and insights into what constitutes optimal maternal and newborn health care and how to achieve it have been incorporated.

Launched in late 2018, and wordsmithed by our own SfAA Fellow Robbie Davis-Floyd, who served as

Lead Editor for this merger, this initiative is aligned with relevant UN and other (inter)national guidelines and recommendations. The ICI Principles and 12 Steps acknowledge the oneness of the MotherBaby, the importance of family inclusion, and the influences of interactions with health care providers and systems on the wellbeing of the MotherBaby-Family. We believe that implementation of the ICI 12 Steps will lead to better physiological and psychological outcomes and to strong parental/newborn attachment. The ICI has been endorsed by health professional, development, advocacy, and childbirth education organizations and support is growing.

The ICI 12 Steps include: promoting compassion, dignity, and cultural safety in care provision; ensuring cost transparency and access to affordable care; adopting midwifery and family-centered care guidelines; encouraging the support of a continuous companion in labour and birth; appropriate use of non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic pain relief; evidence-based practice, including avoidance of unnecessary routine procedures; measures to enhance wellness and prevent illness; provision of appropriate emergency care with effective, non-hierarchical collaboration and communication among levels of care; ensuring staff safety and protection; and fully implementing the 10 Steps of the revised Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI).

The ICI acknowledges the great variation in resources and access to care around the world. The challenge for the 21st century is to increase access to skilled caregivers and emergency care where these are lacking, while decreasing the overuse of unnecessary medical interventions, increasing understanding of normal birth and breastfeeding, and improving quality of care in all maternity care services in all countries.

The 12 Steps to implementing the MotherBaby-Family Model of Care presented in this Initiative-- which encompasses family-centred, partnership-based, and midwifery philosophies and practices-- provide a clear template for promoting the health and wellbeing of all women and babies during pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, and the post-partum period, setting the gold standard for excellence and superior outcomes in maternity care. All maternity service providers should be educated in this MotherBaby-Family Model of Care and implement the ICI Principles and 12 Steps to achieve optimal maternity care worldwide.

Support and endorsement of this Initiative are therefore sought from all individuals and organizations working to improve the care of mothers and newborns. And we seek facilities and practices willing to implement the ICI Principles and 12 Steps. Please write to the ICI Executive Group:

Andre Lalonde alalonde1801@gmail.com; Debra Pascali Bonaro dpascali@optonline.net; Kathy Herschderfer kathy@herschderfer.nl; and Claudia Hanson claudia.hanson@ki.se for more information about how you and/or your facility, practice, or organization can become involved in this human rights-based quest for creating high-quality care in every maternity care service. And visit our website www.internationalchildbirth.com for more information and to sign on as a supporter!

The University of Bonn on Biodiversity

By Cory W. Whitney & Colleagues

The tropical forests of Myanmar are situated within the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot and support a great diversity of edible and medicinal plant species. Many of these useful plants can be found in local food markets, in the spiritual and medicinal recipes of local monasteries and in household kitchens. Little information is available about the variety of species used, how they are collected and how important they are to local people. This information may be useful for formulation of appropriate and context specific sustainable development policies and interventions in the region.

Researchers from the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Yunnan, China together with SfAA member Dr. Cory Whitney at the University of Bonn in Germany are working to provide ethnobotany and conservation analysis for these species. The work is based on collaborative investigations with many monks, healers, sellers, cooks, ethnic group leaders and other local knowledge holders in Myanmar. The work is carried out in part with funding from Southeast Asia Biodiversity Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences (SEABRI-CAS) and with the support of the Myanmar Forest Research Institute (FRI).

The Lake Victoria Basin is home to over 30 million people. The freshwater biodiversity of the lake and other small lakes within the basin plays a significant role in supporting livelihoods, particularly of people in rural and poor communities. In Sub-Saharan Africa, freshwater species are important for rural communities providing nutritional, medicinal, structural and cultural values. In many cases these communities take action for the conservation of the species that they use. Researchers from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Cambridge, England and the SfAA member Dr. Cory Whitney at the University of Bonn in Germany have teamed up to study the ethnobiology of the region to look for potential synergies and trade offs of traditional

uses of freshwater species and their conservation. The work is based on a recent assessment of biodiversity in the region (Sayer et al. 2018) funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Read the original assessment:
Sayer, C.A., Máiz-Tomé, L. and Darwall, W.R.T. (2018). Freshwater biodiversity in the Lake Victoria Basin:

Guidance for species conservation, site protection, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods. Cambridge, UK and Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xiv +226pp.

Summer Department Leaders' Institute

Department chairs and directors of graduate / undergraduate studies, please mark your calendars for June 11-13, 2019 at Loyola University, Chicago, where AAA will sponsor the Department Leaders Summer Institute, providing an opportunity for department leaders to have face-to-face conversations about the various challenges of department administration, and successful practices for shaping training programs to prepare students for a diverse range of career paths. The agenda is still in the planning stages, but topics to be covered may include connecting students to professions,

equity and inclusion in hires and student admissions, methods training, teaching and learning outcome assessments and curriculum mapping, service learning and public outreach, supporting student research and field experiences, and much more. There is no fee to register for active Department Services Program Partners. The fee for chairs of non-DSP departments is \$100. Join the DSP now for \$99. Registration is available here. For more information, please contact Daniel Ginsberg (dginsberg@americananthro.org).

Strategic Initiatives on Policy & Legislation

By John A. Young, Oregon State University

In the historical interview published in this newsletter, Don Stull and I discussed the age-old question of why anthropologists have so little impact on policy and legislation, even though we think we have much to offer. I regret failing to mention two strategic initiatives designed for taking collective action:

- During my term as Secretary, 1991-94, Barbara Johnston brought to my attention a pending United Nations resolution on human rights and the environment, which I inserted in the Board Meeting agenda. Board members discussed the resolution and sent our endorsement to the UN. Later the

UN importantly passed the resolution.

- In my role as president from 1997-99, I appointed Joe Heyman to chair a standing policy committee charged with evaluating and sending forward in a timely manner requests by SfAA members to endorse pending federal legislation. Board members were to vote on each endorsement by email. With deference to SfAA's nonprofit status, we required research results to back up the endorsements and did not lobby, either to serve the interests of SfAA as an organization, or to secure benefits for its members. Before going ahead with this plan, we sought the advice of a lawyer who found no legal jeopardy. Our first endorsement, sent to the White House and Congressional leaders, was a bill that provided several protections for farm workers. Joe Heyman's own research provided the rationale for recommending passage of the bill. Not long after we had received acknowledgement of our submission, the bill passed the House and Senate, and was signed by President Bill Clinton. Later a second endorsement on another bill was similarly successful.

The ideological climate now prevailing in Washington, D.C. may not be conducive to linking research to policy and legislation, but our earlier efforts show that under certain circumstances the SfAA, acting as a body of professional experts, not

partisans, can be successful in providing a channel for effective action. However, maintaining our organizational integrity does not preclude exerting our individual rights as citizens to use our expertise in the political arena. I have twice in my career done research and writing on issues for receptive political candidates, the most recent in the summer of 2018.

Interview with John A. Young



Chinese Buddhist Philosophy to a Career of Service to the Society

John A. Young has had a distinguished career as an applied anthropologist at Oregon State University where he served as department chair for 18 years. During his service there he was a major factor in the development of the graduate program in applied anthropology. John's application research program involved Fiji, the People's Republic of China and rural Oregon.

His commitment to the Society can be seen in service as annual meeting program chair, secretary, and president and other important roles. His term as president saw effective implementation of a number of important initiatives. The interview was done March 29, 2017, at Santa Fe, New Mexico by Donald Stull and edited by John van Willigen with inputs from John Young and Donald Stull.

STULL: This is an oral history interview with John Young, past president of the Society. John, let me get started at the beginning. So what led you to anthropology in the first place?

YOUNG: I was a philosophy major in college, and I got a master's degree in Asian philosophy at the University of Hawai'i, before I decided to go into anthropology. There was no anthropology offered at Macalester College [where I did my undergraduate studies] back in the early 1960s when I was there, so I didn't really get exposed to it. I didn't like psychology because it was all Freudian, and I didn't like sociology much because I thought it was fairly superficial and uninteresting basically. So the most interesting subject I ran into was philosophy, and I just followed my interest, which ended when I got into anthropology.

After I graduated, I read a book on physical anthropology by Robert Ardery called African Genesis. And

that was a popular book at the time. That was the first book I'd ever read in anthropology, and I mean, now you could do a whole critique of it, but back then it was kind of inspiring to me. And then I went to graduate school in philosophy, and I met some anthropologists who were in the graduate program at the University of Hawai'i, [they] were my colleagues at the East-West Center. I lived in the East-West Center dorms, and there were some anthropology students there, both from Asia /Pacific and the US, and I came to admire what they did. I was reading more books on China because that was my specialty [which] was Chinese philosophy. And

I read Edgar Snow's book which had just recently come out, and I began to get fascinated by the kind of cultural change and social change that was going on in China. I thought it was somewhat of a huge laboratory, a human experiment. And so I switched my interests from philosophy basically to culture and anthropology. Instead of going on and getting a PhD in philosophy, which a couple of friends of mine did in two years, I took five more years, and I got a PhD in anthropology. I applied to Stanford. I got in there, and went into anthropology, and anthropology has been my passion, ever since. I mean, I never wavered from that. Applied anthropology came a little bit later.

STULL: Well, before we get there, I'm interested, you're from, you

graduated from high school in Waukesha, Wisconsin. And then you got a BA in philosophy, and but you ended up in Taiwan in 1964 translating Chinese Buddhist texts. I mean, that doesn't really seem like a natural progression. And it's fascinating, so can you kind of walk me back as to how you went from Wisconsin, to philosophy and China.

YOUNG: As I said, my specialty was Chinese philosophy and, even more specialized, Chinese Buddhism. So I did a master's thesis on a particular school of Chinese Buddhism. It was, probably historically the most prominent one, called Hua Yan school of Buddhism. I worked with a monk in a monastery to get the text [I was working on] translated. He did the rough translation, and then I went back with my dictionary, and I did a more refined translation of it. I wrote a thesis of commentary on it because it was something that had never been translated into English before. And then did comparative analysis with that school of metaphysics and philosophy and several western philosophies.

STULL: What led you to China? I mean, Chinese philosophy. I mean, it's as good as anything else, but I'm just [curious] how you became interested in China.

YOUNG: Well, I took a course in Asian philosophy, two-semester course my senior year in college. And there was a professor by the name of

David White, who taught that course. We met once a week in a seminar setting, small group. We only had eight or nine students, and no tests, and we wrote a big paper at the end of the term. I mean, I just, I liked it, I was just on a quest for understanding and knowledge. I had a lot of interests as an undergraduate I still do, but I think that course is what inspired me the most. He recommended me to the East-West Center, where they had a new Asian philosophy program there at the University of Hawai'i, a new master's, new PhD. I was in, I think it was probably the first cohort. My professors weren't too happy when I decided to go into anthropology and not finish the PhD. [My philosophy professor] Chung-Ying Cheng is still there at University of Hawai'i. About five or six years ago I met him there, and he said he was going to teach there for sixty years, but he was really glad to see me. I don't think there were any real hard feelings about my leaving.

I think philosophy prepared me for social science in having a basic understanding of knowledge, what kinds of knowledge are there? How do you arrive at knowledge? How do you get there? How do you consider the concept of truth or falsehood, or what's evidence, and what's not evidence and so on? So that carried over into an interest in methods in applied anthropology. I taught the methods course for a long time in our program at Oregon State.

STULL: You went from the East-West Center. Then you went to Stanford in anthropology. Stanford's really not known as an applied anthropology program. What kind of exposure did you get to applied anthropology at that time, or did you?

YOUNG: At that time, the department had just started a program with the medical school to give medical students an MA in anthropology. It wasn't called applied anthropology. And then in exchange for that some of the anthropology students went over to the medical school and took courses over there. I don't know what the courses were because I wasn't interested in [the] medical area at that time. And I think the first exposure I had to applied anthropology was taking a course by Benjamin Paul, who was an applied anthropologist and medical anthropologist. Paul's course helped me understand how culture's change or persist and influenced my thinking.

STULL: --right--

YOUNG: He was also chair of the department. Later I was a department chair for eighteen years at Oregon State--I tried to model myself after Ben Paul because I thought he had the right kind of compassionate approach to students in particular, but also to faculty and others. I mean, he never got in pitched battles with people. He was the mediator, the conciliator, the reconciler, and the guy who would

give his ear and listen carefully, come up with solutions. And I think that has stood me in good stead.

STULL: I, of course, never met him. I read his work and always admired his work but didn't, know him personally. So what kind of discussions were there about applied anthropology? I mean, was it okay to go down that route.

YOUNG: I guess you'd have to say that the main orientation of the Stanford program was elitist, and I think you'd find that today too, although you might find more diversity there. But another faculty member [Roy D'Andrade] there inspired me, he was actually chair of my dissertation committee, and although he left that last year, I had-- Bill [G. William] Skinner take his place. Roy D'Andrade was a methods specialist.

STULL: Oh yes.

YOUNG: Stanford was a leader in cultural semantics with Chuck [Charles O.] Frake, and he was another one on my committee, and so I had Bill Skinner for China, and then I had Roy and Chuck for the methods part of my study on business and interpersonal relations in Hong Kong. I don't think that was the best work I ever did, but it was what got me going. And some people thought it was okay. I was one of Roy D'Andrade's whiz kids in a way. I didn't really think of myself like that,

but when you reflect back on it, I learned how to program computers and do some statistics and some other things from Roy, and I learned a lot of the linguistics from Chuck Frake.

I started teaching at San Diego State. The first summer after I started teaching [there], I worked with Roy D'Andrade, [who was then at] University of California, San Diego. I did interviews to help him with a study he was doing on housewives. He and I were co-authors of a paper published in Canada [which] came out of my dissertation work in Hong Kong, the cognitive aspects of interpersonal relationships. And so early on, I was really impressed by what they call now—positivistic, scientific anthropology. We had a kind of optimism that we could use our methods to uncover some really interesting and exciting things. Then that whole cognitive anthropology movement just sort of died out. I didn't really continue with it much because it wasn't long after that I got interested in applied anthropology. Mainstream anthropology was starting to turn towards a postmodern orientation in their work. I didn't really grasp what that was until quite a few years after it started because I wasn't involved in it. I had never been exposed to it at graduate school.

STULL: Well you studied under some of the real giants then in anthropology, Frake and D'Andrade and Ben Paul, wow.

YOUNG: Yeah, it was exciting, and I had some classmates too, a number of them applied anthropologists--

STULL: Who were your classmates?

YOUNG: Well, Jerry Moles, Ted [Theodore E.] Downing, David Young, I'm thinking of ones who [were] friends of mine, and they've all been involved in applied. Dave was teaching up in Canada. One thing I remember about graduate school is, is the discussions we had among ourselves as graduate students, about what we were learning. I mean, that was as important as anything else that we did.

STULL: Yes, we've all learned from our fellow students as much or more than we learned from our teachers, at least in my case.

YOUNG: My big shift to applied came when Harland Padfield called up Roy D'Andrade one day, and he said, "At Oregon State we're doing a big computer simulations project of agriculture and economy and forestry in the Willamette Valley in Oregon." And he wanted a quantitative kind of person, that D'Andrade could recommend. And so Roy recommended me, and then Harland called me up. San Diego State was just sort of a stopgap for me. I taught there for a couple years. I finished up my dissertation towards the end of the first year and I taught there again.

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