To: AAA Executive Committee
From: Fran Rothstein, Cochair, Commission on World Anthropologies (CWA)
Date: January 6, 2009
Re: Annual Report, 2008

CWA Objective:
The CWA was established in June, 2007 to develop means by which U.S. – based anthropology can be broadened to include diverse international voices and perspectives. The commission will work towards improving relations between the AAA and other world anthropological associations, encouraging and supporting the translation of works produced in languages other than English for presentation and publication to English-speaking audiences and taking steps to locate meetings in places that would lower barriers to participation and in other ways expand international attendance at anthropology meetings throughout the world.

Commission Members: Commission members include: Frances Rothstein (co-chair, Montclair State University); Ida Susser (co-chair, Hunter College and Graduate Center, CUNY); Leslie Aiello (Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research); Donald Brenneis (UC Santa Cruz); Faye Harrison (University of Florida and IUAES ); Monica Heller (University of Toronto); Junji Koizumi (Osaka University and Co-Facilitator of the World Council of Anthropological Associations); Gustavo Lins Ribeiro (University of Brasilia and Co-Facilitator of the WCAA); Mwenda Ntarwangi (Calvin College); Shalini Randeria (University of Zurich and of the EASA); Claire Smith (Flinders University and President of the World Archaeological Congress), AAA President Setha Low (ex-officio, Graduate Center, CUNY); AAA President-elect Virginia Dominquez (ex-officio, University of Illinois)
Dinah Winnick (AAA Staff Person)

Activities in 2008

- The CWA met for the first time at the 2007 AAA annual meetings and outlined our priorities: translation and publication; relations between the AAA and other international organizations; participation of world anthropologists in AAA meetings; and participation of AAA members in meetings elsewhere;. During 2008, the members of CWA met face to face at the 2008 AAA meetings and twice, preceding the November meeting, by teleconference. Two subcommittees have formed to work on Translation and Publication (Don Brenneis, Monica Heller, Gustavo Ribeiro, and Virginia Dominguez) and on Relations between the AAA, the IUAES, and the WCAA (Faye Harrison, Junji Koizumi, and Gustavo Ribeiro).

- The Translation and Publication subcommittee met by phone and developed a set of possible initiatives. Among the initiatives they suggested was asking AA to
accept abstracts in languages other than English. At the AAA meeting Don Brenneis met with Tom Boellstorff (American Anthropologist editor-in-chief) who agreed to begin giving accepted authors the option of including one or two non-English abstracts. Although it may take some time until these abstracts begin appearing, they represent one of several early steps in AAA’s efforts to facilitate scholarly dialogue with international communities.

- At the request of the CWA the Board of the Society for Visual Anthropology agreed to accept submissions in both NTSC and PAL for the SVA/AAA Film, Video, and Interactive Media Festival at the AAA’s 108th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. This broadening of acceptable formats increases the possibilities for international filmmakers to participate in the festival.

- The subcommittee on Relations between the AAA, the IUAES, and the WCAA has been exploring how the CWA can work with these international organizations. In an effort to contribute without attempting to dominate it was decided that we would promote the IUAES and WCAA within the AAA. CWA and WCAA member Gustavo Ribeiro organized a workshop on “International Cooperation in Anthropology” for the 2008 IUAES meeting in China; however the conference was cancelled by the Chinese government. That session will take place at the rescheduled IUAES meeting in July, 2009, also in China. Another activity geared to cooperative relations with other international organizations was inviting the WCAA presidents who were at the AAA meetings to the special event “Commission Launch” (see below) at the meetings.

- CWA at the 2008 annual meetings
  “COMMISSION LAUNCH: A SPECIAL EVENT WITH WCAA”
  Chairs: Ida S Susser, Fran Rothstein, Organizer: Mwenda Ntarangwi, Participants: Chandana Mathur, Mwenda Ntarangwi, Frances Rothstein, Gustavo Lins Ribeiro, World Council of Anthropological Associations Special Guests

  Wenner-Gren Reception: Introducing the AAA Commission on World Anthropologies.

- CWA Web Site - Dinah Winnick and Fran Rothstein have developed a web site with information about the Commission and links to anthropological associations, societies and networks throughout the world, CWA columns in the AN and the AAA’s Meeting Calendar of US and international meetings.

- The CWA and international meetings – Several members have attended international meetings including the 10th Biennial Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) in August in Ljubljana, Slovenia and the II Congreso Latinoamericano de Antropología. (ALA) in Costa Rica. Reports from these and other international meetings have appeared in the CWA AN column.
CWA column in the AN - A regular column with articles on global anthropologies, the CWA’s efforts, and announcements of international meetings and events.

Plans for 2009 Many of the activities described above will continue in 2010. New activities being planned are:

- AAA 2009 - “Anthropology’s Post-National Spaces” is being organized by Monica Heller with the tentative participation of anthropologists from India, Colombia, Israel, and North America and Europe.

- AAA 2009 Interlocutor Session – preliminary plans are being made for an interlocutor session with an anthropologist perhaps from Africa.

- AAA 2009 – Organize a workshop to bring together journal editors and multilingual editors from international publications

- Look into holding AAA and/or more section meetings outside the US

- Increase participation of international anthropologists in AAA Annual meetings perhaps inviting presenters to give plenary speeches in languages other than English or in English if they prefer. This would require bilingual support such as simultaneous translation and translation or synthesis translation via Powerpoint but multilingual AAA members could be used as resources.

- Explore additional possibilities for multilingual publication including offering translation into English from other languages; asking authors to submit English translations; publish articles in other languages

- Encourage participation of US anthropologists in meetings elsewhere by CWA members organizing and encouraging others to organize panels at these meetings.