Current Members
Monica Schoch-Spana (08-10), co-chair
Susan Greenhalgh (09-11), co-chair
Julian Brash (08-10)
Lenora Bohren (09-11)
Larry Zimmerman (09-11)

Outgoing Members
Andy Bickford (07-09)
Barbara Koenig (07-09)

Incoming Members
Pam Puntenney (10-12)
Elisa Sobo (10-12)

Ex-Officio
Charles Briggs
Virginia Dominguez, AAA President
Leith Mullings, AAA President-Elect

AAA Staff Liaisons
Damon Dozier
Brian Estes

Activities
The mission of the Committee on Public Policy (CoPP) is to enhance participation of AAA entities and members in the area of public policy and magnify the visibility of contributions by anthropologists.

In recent years, the AAA has seen an expansion of policy-related activities within AAA bodies (e.g. the Interest Group for the Anthropology of Public Policy). In order to enhance CoPP’s effectiveness and avoid possible overlap with the objectives and activities of these groups, the Executive Board drafted a new charter statement for the committee following discussions with CoPP. Much of 2009 was spent reorganizing CoPP to meet the new responsibilities listed in the charge. With Barbara Koenig and Andrew Bickford cycling off the committee, Monica Schoch-Spana and Susan Greenhalgh stepped in as co-chairs to help lead these changes.

CoPP continued to organize public policy fora at the 2009 annual meeting of the AAA. The committee sponsored two public policy fora: Hope is not Enough: A Policy Forum Examining President Obama’s LGBT Civil Rights Policy Agenda and Professional Ethics and the Security Sector: A Dialogue with the Larger Anthropological Community. CoPP
also created a Public Policy Guide for the 2009 annual meeting with a list of all policy-related events occurring at the meeting. The guide was disseminated to the membership via the AAA website, blog, and twitter feed: [http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/ppc/2009-AAA-Annual-Meeting-Public-Policy-Events.cfm](http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/ppc/2009-AAA-Annual-Meeting-Public-Policy-Events.cfm)

During 2009, CoPP explored several new activities. Carolyn Sargent approached CoPP seeking guidance on how to advance a health care proposal that was drafted by a task force of the Society for Medical Anthropology. CoPP identified possible obstacles to moving her proposal forward and offered a number of suggestions for next steps. Lenora Bohren started an initiative to survey AAA section leadership and related associations regarding their policy activities, needs, and opportunities for collaboration. Elisa Sobo prepared a draft for the creation of a new public policy award. Lastly, after a brief hiatus in 2009, CoPP has secured a new contributing editor, Pamela Puntenney, for its *Anthropology News* column on public policy.

**Planned Activities for 2010**

CoPP is quite small and must strategize carefully about how to utilize its limited resources. Its plans for the forthcoming year include:

1. Develop columns on public policy for *Anthropology News*.
2. Develop fora for the AAA annual meeting.
3. Finalize details for the public policy award.
4. Continue soliciting feedback and establishing ties with AAA bodies.
5. Explore the creation of an experts database using the planned association management system.

**Recommendations**

CoPP has benefited greatly by having a permanent liaison from the Executive Board, currently Charles Briggs, on its committee. As Dr. Briggs cycles off of the Board this year, we ask that you assign another board member with similar experience in public policy to CoPP.

Although funds are extremely tight this year, and are likely to remain so for the foreseeable future, CoPP would benefit greatly from an expansion of resources. We appreciate the registration waivers the AAA staff has given us in previous years to bring policy experts from outside the AAA to the annual meeting, but our ability to accommodate national—and even regional—policymakers still suffers from a lack of funds and flexibility in scheduling. Establishing a process to accommodate these figures could do much to raise the profile and importance of public policy at the meetings and beyond.

Lastly, we ask the Executive Board to consider the importance of our committee’s work when it discusses and explores fundraising opportunities. CoPP, IGAPP, and other groups engaged in policy require these funds to promote the relevance of anthropology in the public sphere (e.g. through revitalizing the AAA’s Congressional Fellowship.
program, participating in national discussions, etc). Extending our outreach efforts would not only spur anthropological engagement in public policy, but also attract non-academic anthropologists to the AAA.