

## **AAA Committee on Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology (CoPAPIA)**

### **Annual Report for 2010:**

CoPAPIA was very active throughout 2010 and particularly at the AAA annual meetings. CoPAPIA meets monthly by phone (with a brief recess during July), and produces meeting notes after every meeting. The meetings and notes are important for committee continuity and productivity. CoPAPIA held a face-to-face meeting at the AAA meeting in New Orleans and introduced new members, including a new student member. CoPAPIA appreciates President Dominguez's offer to use her suite as a meeting site; and appreciates our staff member Kathleen Terry-Sharp providing a lunch for the noon meeting. The Committee continues to be involved in discussions across AAA committees, departments (Publications, Meetings, Membership and Public Affairs), AAA sections and anthropology departments on ways to integrate, support and involve public, practicing and applied anthropologist in the Association.

### **New Student Member**

Being aware of the diverse membership of anthropology and AAA across specialties and degree levels, CoPAPIA submitted a request to increase its membership by one (1) student – in order to represent and have a student voice on the Committee. The request was approved and President Dominguez appointed Ms. Wendy Bartlo, an entering PhD student at Wayne State University as our student member. She is now successfully integrated in the committee and working on projects to link graduate students to employment opportunities.

### **AN Columns, "Anthropology Works" Elizabeth Briody, Niel Tashima, and Anthony Chavarria, Corresponding Editors**

- January 2010, "When Good People Do Bad Things: Confronting Western Water Culture," 51(1):23 (David Groenfeldt)
- February 2010, "Places for Practitioners in AAA Sections, Part II:" 51(2):13 (Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Bennett, and Tashima)
- March 2010, "CoPAPIA Continues Forward Momentum: Outgoing Chair's Report" 51(3):15-16 (Linda A Bennett).
- April 2010, "Reflexivity and Objectivity in Anthropology and Journalism," 51(4):26 (Gillian Tett)
- May 2010, "Anthropology MA Career Experiences: An Overview of CoPAPIA Survey Findings," 51(5):31 (Terry Redding)
- September 2010, "Visit the NAPA/AAA Employer Expo in New Orleans," 51(6):20 (Cathleen Crain)
- October 2010, "Role of "Anthropological" Emergency Relief," 51(7):29 (Adam Koons)

- November 2010, “In a Bowl: Practicing Anthropology in a Public Realm,” 51(8):30 (Bruce Bernstein)
- December 2010, “Fight for Survival: Cultural Identity in Modern Music,” 51(9):XX (LaDonna Brown)

### **M.A. Alumni Career Survey:**

CoPAPIA (Shirley Fiske, Linda Bennett, and Patricia Ensworth), with support from AAA and Terry Redding of Beta Associates, directed and coordinated a survey in 2009 of alums from MA degree programs across all specialties and subfields of anthropology. AAA supplied staff and \$5,000 to support the project. The survey had a very healthy response rate and the data has been analyzed, providing insight into the educational experiences, careers, and views of anthropology MA graduates. Preliminary results were presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting in both a session and to the Department Chairs and Representatives. A PowerPoint presentation of the preliminary results has been made available to the DSP Department Chairs. During 2010 the draft report was reviewed and revised by the team members, soliciting input from CoPAPIA members and from the survey Advisory Network. Presentations were made by Terry Redding and Shirley Fiske to AAA staff in Arlington, WAPA, and the University of Maryland faculty and students. In addition, some results were posted on the AAA blog, resulting in dialogue back and forth on the MA Survey. The report is now completed and will be available for AAA members on the AAA website. Additional articles, presentations, and annual meeting sessions are forthcoming.

### **Tenure and Promotion Project:**

In collaboration with the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA, with Sunil Khanna as lead), CoPAPIA is developing a statement to address the issue of tenure and promotion guidelines and process as it affects academically-based anthropologists working in the areas of applied, practicing, and public interest anthropology in the tenure and promotion process. Because of wide-spread concern and interest in the tenure process, the 2010 Annual Meeting Section Session addressed this issue, and is described in item 3 below. The Committee intends to develop and submit a statement to the Executive Board in 2011 on tenure and promotion processes for applied anthropologists.

### **AAA 2010 meeting sessions:**

Session Title: Evaluating Applied, Practicing and Public Interest Anthropology: Reflections on Tenure and Promotion Guidelines, Thursday, 11/18 from 1:45-4:00pm.

Organizers: Keri Brondo (University of Memphis), Linda Bennett (U of Memphis), Nathaniel Tashima (LTG Associates, Inc)

Objectives: The objective for this session is to gather participant (panelist and audience) insights to inform a proposed set of AAA guidelines for the evaluation of applied, practicing, and public interest ethnographic products. The organizers asked the participants to respond (in advance) to the following

items: (a) Describe the forms of engaged (applied, practicing, public interest) research that anthropologists within your particular subfield do. (b) Describe the various types of scholarly products that come out of such work. (c) For university –based participants: Share how your university currently recognizes applied/practicing/public interest ethnographic products.

Abstract: In recent years, the number of anthropologists who identify as applied, engaged, practicing or public anthropologists has increased. Concomitantly, we have seen a growing recognition of the significance of their work within our professional associations. Applied, practicing, and public anthropologists often produce reports, media, or other products in addition to traditional peer-reviewed journal and book publications. While the discipline has expanded to acknowledge the scholarly value of such ‘nontraditional’ scholarly products, university tenure and promotion committees do not necessarily recognize and credit this work. This session brings together broad section leadership, members of the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Program (COPAA) Tenure and Promotion Initiative, and non-university based practicing anthropologists to discuss the development of AAA guidelines for the evaluation of applied and practicing anthropology for tenure and promotion decisions. Drawing upon their experience within both the academic and non-academic sectors, participants will share the unique “nontraditional” scholarly products. Information garnered through this interactive discussion will inform the production of a CoPAPIA proposal to the Executive Board on Tenure and Promotion guidelines to evaluate applied, practicing, and public interest ethnographic products. Audience participation will be highly welcomed.

Panelists:

Madelaine Adelman

Alec Barker

Sherylyn Briller

Mary O. Butler

Raymond Codrington

Bill Doelle

Sunil Khanna

Roberta Baer

Tony Paredes

Vilma Santiago-Irizarry

Susan Buck Sutton

John Trainor

Alaka Wali

**Innovent-Plenary Session with Dr. Gillian Tett, U.S. Managing Editor of the *Financial Times*.** CoPAPIA submitted an “Innovent” at the New Orleans meetings – a special plenary event during the noon hour—in order to bring the “outside” in to anthropology and utilize the strengths of public figure and anthropologist Dr. Gillian Tett. Dr. Tett is an award-winning journalist, author of a best-seller (*Fool’s Gold*), and an anthropologist who has provided provocative insights into the world of global finances and her ability to penetrate it with an anthropological perspective. The AAA Program Committee accepted our proposal (we are grateful for the opportunity), and Committee members Patricia Ensworth and Shirley Fiske organized the session, with Mary O Butler, then-NAPA President, as co-Chair of the session. The session was one of two chosen by Jason Watkins, AAA Director of Meetings for a pilot project to “extend the life of the AAA Annual Meeting”. Mr. Watkins had the session recorded

and made available on the AAA website. The event was co-sponsored with NAPA and was well-attended with many questions.

### **Extending the Reach of Anthropology: Linking Graduate Students and Departments to the Job Market**

As part of CoPAPIA's mandate to extend the reach of anthropology, the Committee has undertaken an informal survey of selected departmental programs that are considered applied anthropology programs. In consultation with COPAA at the SfAA annual meetings, the committee instigated the survey in March 2010. Interviews have been wrapped up with more than 10 departments—10 faculty and 10 students from each department. Team members Elizabeth Briody, Keri Brondo, Shirley Fiske and Wendy Bartlo have started seeing consistent themes. The Committee agreed that the next steps would be to do a content analysis of the interviews to inform a PPT (to be reviewed by the persons interviewed and CoPAPIA), an AN article and potentially a session in Montreal. In addition, a "Best Practices" report could be given to the Department Chairs breakfast.

As a spin-off, CoPAPIA (Elizabeth Briody) has proposed a session with Riall Nolan at SfAA in Seattle 2011, which the Committee endorsed, that would focus on "obstacles and opportunities" to bringing practice in to applied departments. The SfAA session would extend the project interviews to 20 new interviews and tap into new areas to help students.

#### **Abstract: BRINGING PRACTICE INTO YOUR DEPARTMENT: OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

An increasingly important component of anthropology's future lies in practice. Efforts to develop practice options within existing anthropology programs, however, often encounter obstacles at a variety of levels. This panel, supported by CoPAPIA, brings together practice-oriented anthropologists to discuss the sources of resistance they faced in developing a practice option within existing programs, and strategies they employed to overcome these difficulties. A moderated discussion with the audience will follow to develop additional ideas for promoting practice successfully within departments. This panel will be of interest to anyone seeking to enhance their program's scope or initiate a practice focus.

#### **Employer Expo:**

Under NAPA's sponsorship and leadership, the committee participated in planning and co-sponsored a welcoming brunch for the fourth annual Employer Expo. CoPAPIA, the Department of Practicing and Applied Anthropology and COPAA co-sponsored a wine and cheese reception at the conclusion of the Employer Expo. These events are "bookends" around the invitation and participation of employers outside of academia and are important to making the event worth their time to come to the annual meeting. The Expo this year was the most successful yet, in terms of numbers of employers interested in talking to anthropologists and was well-attended by students, faculty, and practicing anthropologists.

### **Reaching out to Other AAA Committees:**

At the urging of President Dominguez for Committees to work together and to decrease their siloisation, CoPAPIA sent an e-mail to Committee chairs, describing our mandate and goals, and offering to work together on issues that cut across AAA broadly. We received a number of positive responses from the Finance Committee (Liebow), the Resource Development Committee (Lamphere), CMIA (Craddock Lee), and Ethics (Johnston and Plemmons), leading to a very positive working relationship with these committees over and above what existed already (e.g. Ethics Committee). Two immediate opportunities presented themselves, aided by the increased effort for cooperation:

(a) A joint committee has been formed between the RDC and CoPAPIA to investigate the feasibility of a grey literature “portal” for practicing and applied anthropologists. Members: Louise Lamphere, TJ Ferguson, Robert Hahn, and staff person is Oona Schmidt.

(b) Under CoPAPIA lead, CMIA (Craddock Lee and Shirley Fiske) drafted a joint letter of concern from the two Committees regarding the decision by Howard University to close their undergraduate program in anthropology. The letter was coordinated with Howard University anthropology department and with the AAA leadership so as not to duplicate efforts.

### **Joint Committee on “Grey Literature Portal”**

A CoPAPIA initiative for 2011 is to develop the concept of a “portal” for grey literature and for literature not available to members who do not have access to university libraries. The Committee is lead by Robert Hahn (RDC), with additional members as noted above.

### **Committee members 2010:**

Shirley Fiske, Chair  
Elizabeth Briody  
Keri Brondo  
Antonio Chavarria  
Patricia Ensworth  
T. J. Ferguson  
Neil Tashima  
Virginia Dominguez, ex-officio  
Kathleen Terry-Sharp, AAA Staff Liaison  
Jona Pounds, AAA Staff Support

### **Incoming Members 2011**

Mary O. Butler  
Wendy Bartlo, student member  
Alisse Waterston