Committee on Minority Issues in Anthropology 2011 Annual Report

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1) Please list your Committee, Commission or Task Force Objectives and Responsibilities as stated in your group’s charge:

Objectives
Please see http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/minority/index.cfm

Responsibilities

2) Please list your Group’s goals, activities and accomplishments/products for the designated Period in relation to the AAA’s long range plan:

Goal 1:
Sponsor or co-sponsor scientific sessions at the annual meetings.

Activity:
Dr. Gutierrez led CMIA programming efforts for the Montreal meetings, working closely with Program Editors from multiple Sections and interest groups.

Accomplishment/Product:
In Montreal, CMIA co-sponsored with the Council on Anthropology & Education an ethnographic session on racial implications of testing in schools. We co-sponsored with the Association for Queer Anthropology (solga) a session on gender, sexuality and justice in a neoliberal era. In addition, CMIA itself sponsored a panel on the intersection of anthropology of disability and disability in the profession of anthropology. Both US and Canadian scholars will present with a renowned Australian anthropologist serving as discussant. This last panel was an express effort to address on-going challenges documented by CMIA in our 2007 annual report in support of the Disability Research Interest Group's repeated attempts to improve access at our Annual Meetings.

Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:
Development of our scientific sessions has greatly improved with the coordination of submission dates across the Association. Nonetheless, there continue to be challenges while Sections determine their "invited status" selections. CMIA is committed to finding a balance between collaborating with other groups to increase the number of panels that reflect CMIA priorities (specifically increasing anthropological understanding of "minoritizing processes") and sponsoring panels that address specific CMIA interests in underrepresented populations and in promoting the work of scholars from under-represented populations themselves.

Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:
7.1. To provide the broadest possible access to the Annual Meeting to all member constituencies, and to increase participation in the Meeting by students and professionals in community colleges, undergraduate and graduate students in general, anthropologists with Master's degrees (whether or not in doctoral programs), anthropologists employed outside of
academia, and anthropologists normally living and working outside the United States.

**Goal 2:**
Increase visibility of minority scholars among students from under-represented populations

**Activity:**
Sponsor and support the AAA Graduate Student Fair

**Accomplishment/Product:**
For the second year, CMIA sponsored an exhibit table during the GSF, staffed on a rotating basis by pairs of committee members and staff. This activity saw significantly increased participation by CMIA members, who provided ad hoc counseling and in-person referrals to students.

**Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:**
As last year, the Executive Board and Section leadership were invited to stop by the exhibit table. Unfortunately, it seems difficult for Association leadership to find time during the GSF to stop by. CMIA would like to see more direct involvement by the leadership, especially scholars of color, to take on this event as a priority, to promulgate this outreach among their colleagues, home departments and work with us to recruit students to the discipline.

**Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:**
5. The AAA will foster inclusion in the discipline of persons from socially underrepresented categories; advocate improved understanding of diversity, sameness, and difference in society; and promote the equitable treatment of all anthropologists. 5.1. The AAA will increase the impact and presence of anthropologists by supporting and fostering programs that bring underrepresented sectors of the wider population into the Association and discipline. It will also commit itself to creating and promoting awareness of the issues facing these groups both in the United States and elsewhere. 5.2. The AAA will promote a broader understanding of socioeconomic, racial, cultural, gender and sexual diversity in anthropological practice, research, training, and outreach. It commits itself to a broad sense of social inclusion in its own hiring practices, intellectual work, conference programs, and publishing program. It understands diversity to include socially constructed categories of class, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, language, nationality, national origin, citizenship, caste, descent group, and religion.

**Goal 3:**
Advance careers of rising scholars of color

**Activity:**
Minority Dissertation Fellowship: Solicited, reviewed and ranked 29 applications from multiple sub-fields across anthropology.

**Accomplishment/Product:**
Recommended fellowship be awarded to Shankari Patel, a doctoral candidate at UC Riverside, for her work on women's status and authority in the religious institutions of Postclassic Mayan Yucatan society. Honorable Mention was made to Natalie Newton, PhD candidate at UC Irvine for her work on the effects of the human rights movement on local lesbian community
organizing in Saigon, Vietnam.

**Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:**
While CMIA is pleased the doctoral fellowship endowment has been established, we would like to see greater support for rising students. Consequently, we are developing an initiative to create a fellowship award for under-represented students at the community college level. We would still like to see increased applications beyond socio-cultural students, but CMIA thinks it is important to note that race/ethnic issues cross-cut doctoral research in the sub-fields. In coming years, CMIA will make additional efforts to increase the applicant pool by directly entreat Section leadership to invite their members to support students from their subfields in submission.

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**Goal 4:**
Promote CMIA activities across AAA channels by partnering with key Association Sections and through AAA media.

**Activity:**
The CMIA Chair has sought to increase the visibility of the activities of the Committee in our professional circles.

**Accomplishment/Product:**
As a committee, CMIA members are systematically contributing to the dialogue on professional and research ethics in the AAA Blog as the principles are released for Association deliberation. Dr. Lee was invited to represent CMIA perspectives at the Section roundtable hosted by the Code of Ethics Reform task force (Committee on Ethics) at the 2010 meetings. This led to an invitation for Dr. Lee to participate in an AAA Committee on Ethics panel at the 2011 meeting to discuss practical implications of ethics reform. Dr. Lee served as a discussant in a double-panel on the impact of healthcare reform initiatives in the US and globally. The Chair acknowledges these opportunities arise directly out of CMIA participation in these important scholarly debates.

**Explain any Gaps or Lack of Accomplishment Product:**
CMIA is pleased by the expansion of its membership by charter, and looks forward to deploying its members to strength.
Relevant Objective in Long-Range Plan:
6. The AAA will strengthen internal working relationships among its Sections and Committees and the Association Office by effectively communicating its organizational structure, its Long-Range Plan, and its financial and programmatic activities.

3) Provide any additions or proposed changes to goals, activities, products or outcomes for the designated period:

   Goals:
   Not applicable.

   Proposed Changes:
   Not applicable.

   Activities:
   None

   Proposed Changes:
   None

   Products/Outcomes:
   None

   Proposed Changes:
   None

4) Provide plans for 2012 in relation to existing or new goals/activities and relationship to the Objective in the Committee's or Commission's Charge and Long-Range Plan Objective (if not self-evident). Identify if they represent significant changes or elaborations on existing goals, objective activities, charge etc:

   Committee/Commission Objective 1:
   Increase capacity of CMIA to support mentoring and peer support among anthropologists and
students from under-represented populations.

**LRP Objective 1:**
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**New Goal and or Activity 1:**
Expand use of Minority Anthros listserv, and explore possibility of Facebook presence, which would serve a complementary but distinct purpose.

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**Committee/Commission Objective 2:**
Engage Association members, students and the public more broadly in an inter-active discussion concerning power and social dynamics in the processes of minoritization.

**LRP Objective 2:**
6. The AAA will strengthen internal working relationships among its Sections and Committees and the Association Office by effectively communicating its organizational structure, its Long-Range Plan, and its financial and programmatic activities.

**New Goal and or Activity 2:**
In addition to scientific sessions, CMIA is exploring an appropriate Inno-vent for the San Francisco venue.

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**Committee/Commission Objective 3:**
We are particularly interested in exploring additional support opportunities that might target minority students seeking to pursue careers in applied or practicing anthropology. Corporate support would be particularly appropriate in this regard.

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New Goal and or Activity 3:
The Minority Dissertation Fellowship only addresses the small proportion of 
under-represented students in PhD programs who have advanced to candidacy. The departing 
Chair and CMIA are exploring the development of an appeal for external funding to support 
students who engage in anthropology at the community college level. Alternately, at a lower 
investment of funds, CMIA could offer fieldwork supplements ($500-$1500) to students 
earlier in the research process or MA/MS level students who are seeking to collect or analyze 
preliminary data to 1) complete a masters degree thesis; 2) develop a dissertation prospectus; 
3) publish an early stage finding. These awards would be targeted to speak to the larger 
population of rising anthropologists in non-doctoral programs. Award criteria could specify 
legitimate expenses for fieldwork or research analysis and the awards would be intended as 
supplements to expand capacity or cover otherwise unfunded needs. Recipients would be 
responsible for reporting successful execution, presenting a profiling opportunity for the AAA 
website, blog, and AN. We believe the Fellowship program can demonstrate an excellent track 
record that can be marketed to corporations, foundations, and even federal sources, in support 
of minority representation in the anthropological social science. We are actively seeking to 
partner with the Section Assembly and key Sections to develop a proposal, target 
philanthropies, appeal letters, and supporting documentation. We have approached the RDC 
and AAA staff

5) List financial and other resources in hand to complete the proposed work of the Committee, 
Commission or Task force for the coming year and explain any additional resources . Please 
list separately:

a. Resources in hand or being sought independent of the AAA:
   Per above, we are exploring how to conduct a specific outreach to potential corporate donors 
   that would be responsive to an initiative to increase social science training at the community 
college level, particularly as such students would present increased diversity as well as skills 
in an emerging workforce.

b. Requests for additional resources from the AAA. Specify clearly which specific 
goals/activities etc. require additional resources from each source:
   The RDC has indicated it has other fundraising priorities which precede CMIA aspirations.

6) Have there been or do you propose any changes to the Objective or the Responsibilities of 
your Committee, Commission or Task Force If so, what are they and what is the rationale for 
them:

Current Objective 1:
Not applicable. Committee charge updated by Executive Board in 2011.
Responsibility:
Per above.

Proposed Change:
Per above.

Rational for Change:
Per above.

7) Are there issues you would like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board related to the work of your committee commission or task force?
The activities of the Committee have greatly benefited from the on-going support of AAA leadership, particularly in the person of the Association President and President-elect. CMIA cannot over-emphasize the value of having consistent and visible support for CMIA objectives from the Executive Board, particularly at public events at the annual meeting. The visibility of Association leadership in attending and supporting CMIA programming communicates the centrality of the CMIA mission as a core component of the AAA. While we recognize that the purpose of the expanded Committee (and change to the structure of committee membership) is intended to increase our efficacy, the credibility of the CMIA and CMIA activities can only be enhanced by the on-going visibility of AAA senior leadership in these events.