American Anthropological Association  
Committee Annual Report  
Committee on Practicing Applied and Special Interest Anthropology

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Question 1  
Please report on the activities your group undertook during the year. Indicate how these activities correspond to the group’s charge (objectives and responsibilities, provided above). If there has been any shortfall in accomplishing those objectives, please explain.

This section is organized by committee responsibilities. Activities that address the committee’s charge are detailed after each of our 6 responsibilities. Some activities are mentioned in more than one place, as they meet several of our charges.

Responsibility #1: Foster the scholarship of practitioners, applied anthropologists and anthropologist in the public sector and strengthen the dialogue between theory and practice.

1. CoPAPIA continued to edit the “Anthropology Works” column for both print and online versions of the Anthropology Newsletter. Mary O’dell Butler and Barbara Ryklo-Bauer served as editors, and several CoPAPIA members wrote articles. 2013 publications included:

• March 2013, “New Resource for Tenure, Promotion and Program Reviews” (Linda A. Bennett and Keri Brondo) [Note: This wasn’t an “Anthropology Works” column but it did report on CoPAPIA work]

• March 2013, “What Comes Next for Practice? Insights from the 2012 CoPAPIA Section Summit” (Mary Odell Butler)

• June 2013, “From Crisis to Crises: The Spark Behind One Practitioner” (Susanna M. Hoffman)

• July 2013, “Science and the Practice of Anthropology” (Mary Odell Butler)

• September 2013, “Five Years Out: CoPAPIA Report” (Keri Brondo and Courtney Dowdall)

• October 2013, “CoPAPIA Seeks Participants in Practitioner-Academic Relations Study” (Bill McKinney and Sanne Roijmans)

• November 2013, “Applied and Practicing Anthropology at the AAA Meeting: What’s In It For You” (Mary Odell Butler)

• December 2013, “All About Applied Training and Careers: NAPA’s News Online FAQs” (Elizabeth K. Briody)

2. CoPAPIA members also published columns in the SfAA News, promoting the work of the committee and scholarship of practicing and applied anthropology. These columns were:

• November 2013, “Practitioner-Academia Relations Study” (Bill McKinney and Sanne Roijmans)

• May 2013, “Promoting Applied and Practicing Anthropology: CoPAPIA Five Years Out” (Barbara Rylko-Bauer)

Emerging from an earlier initiative on evaluating practicing, applied, and public interest anthropology in tenure and promotion decisions, CoPAPIA worked with AAA Sections and COPAA programs to solicit recommendations of individuals with the expertise and knowledge to evaluate the accomplishments and contributions of practicing, applied, and public interest anthropological scholarship, and of the academic programs in applied, practicing, and publically engaged departments. Forty individuals are listed. We did our first major update to the website in Fall 2013. The website will be updated biannually. Keri Brondo and Linda Bennett serve as coordinators of panel.

4. CoPAPIA Chair, Keri Brondo, and former Chair Linda Bennett (2007-2009) **published “Career Subjectivities in American Anthropology: Gender, Practice, and Resistance” in American Anthropologist** (114(4): 598-610, 2012). We neglected to include it in the 2012 report and it was one of the first peer-reviewed pieces to include data from AAA studies on the status of practicing anthropologists, including results from CoPAPIA’s 2009 MA Survey.

**Responsibility #2**: Establish liaisons with appropriate Sections to help serve the interests of practicing anthropologists, applied anthropologist, and anthropologist in the public sector. Diffuse information about practicing, applied anthropologists, and anthropology in the public sector at AAA meetings, in AAA publications, on the AAA website, in Section newsletters, and other media.

1. The **Section Summit** aims to bring together academic anthropologists, practitioners and students to generate insights across AAA on the future of practice, to exchange information, share experiences, and provide anthropology students with mentoring and resources to connect to the job market for anthropologists and archaeologists. It is a strategy of our committee to work through section leadership to address AAA-wide issues that affect practicing and applied anthropologists, and has proven to be an effective strategy over the years.

We held the 6th Annual Section Summit at the AAA Meetings in Chicago. The topic was “What’s New in Applied Careers?” The event was organized by Cheryl Rodriguez and attended by a range of section leaders, practicing anthropologists who shared their career stories, and students interested in practicing careers. The event will be featured in a March 2014 “Anthropology Works” AN Column.

Further, a **Section Summit webpage** was developed to summarize past Summit topics and related resources. Content was prepared by Keri Brondo.

2. The “**Anthropology Works**” column is a venue for disseminating information.

3. Committee member, Barbara Ryklo-Bauer prepared and circulated a flyer “Practicing and Applied Anthropologists: Sessions of Interest” that disseminated information on relevant sessions at the 2013 AAA Annual Meetings.


**Responsibility #3**: Help develop recommendations for training practitioner, applied anthropologists, and anthropologists in the public sector.

1. CoPAPIA collaborated with COPAA and NAPA to organize a roundtable on internships and practica at the 2013 AAA Annual Meetings, entitled “**Success in Anthropology: The Place of Internships and Practica.**” Linda Bennett, Keri Brondo, and Tim Wallace organized and facilitated the session. Four distinct university models were featured, and faculty, community partners and past students who participated in internships were present to discuss their experiences. The session included breakout discussions for attendees interested in learning more specifics about the featured internship programs. The outcomes of this roundtable will appear in a 2-part series for AN Online in February 2014.

2. CoPAPIA launched a study to **Understand the Careers of Practicing And Professional Anthropologists as they relate to Academic Institutions.** Committee members Bill McKinney, Mary O’dell Butler and Keri Brondo led the 2013 efforts, with significant assistance from Sanne Roijmans, a MA Candidate at the University of Memphis. The project aims to gain an improved understanding of the range of ways in which practicing and professional anthropologists participate in the academic community, how academic responsibilities figure in their careers, and how practitioners are compensated for their academic commitments. CoPAPIA will draw on the data to make available various models for department-practitioner collaboration and offer recommendations for appropriate compensation. To date, 24 practitioners have been interviewed.

3. A large percentage of the **2013 Section Summit “What’s New in Applied Careers”** was dedicated to discussion of training students for applied positions. A forthcoming AN piece will detail recommendations that emerged in the Summit.

**Responsibility #4**: Collaborate with a range of AAA Sections to encourage and develop sessions to increase the participation of practitioners, practicing and anthropologists in the public sector in AAA meetings.

1. CoPAPIA supported the organization of the **2013 AAA Careers Expo.** Keri Brondo and Crysta Metcalf served on the Careers Expo Steering Committee, and CoPAPIA sponsored the welcoming brunch and closing wine and cheese reception for exhibitors. The Expo continues to grow each year and attendance this year surpassed the 2012 event.

2. **2013 Annual Meeting Events** included the Section Summit and the Roundtable on Internships and Practica (both mentioned
At the AAA Business Meeting, CoPAPIA discussed seeking out opportunities to collaborate with AAA Sections for the 2014 meetings, as we had some unused timeslots at this year’s meetings.

**Responsibility #5:** Determine skills and training needed for practitioner, applied anthropologists, and anthropologists in the public sector and provide feedback to academic programs.

This is redundant with #3. The two should be merged, reducing the Committee’s Charge to include 5 Responsibilities.

**Responsibility #6:** Advise staff and Board in the development of specific benefits that will attract greater numbers of practicing, applied anthropologists and anthropologists in the public sector to join the Association.

CoPAPIA met with Ed Liebow at the Business Meeting to discuss two potential means to recruit more practicing and applied members. (1) Offering employers advertising options for job calls with the first ad free. (2) Creating a new membership category for organizations, with benefits to all employees of the organization. The committee will work on identifying what benefits the AAA could offer for organizational membership that will appeal to practicing and applied anthropologists.

**Question 2**

Please indicate your group’s plans for activities in the coming year. If they represent significant modification or elaboration of the stated objectives and responsibilities, please explain.

CoPAPIA will continue all of the above initiatives into 2014, as well as the following:

1. Identify benefits the AAA could offer for organizational membership that will appeal to practicing and applied anthropologists. The MA Survey, interview transcripts from the current Practitioner Study, and past COGEA (formally COSWA) survey datasets can be scanned for this information.
2. Continue to monitor and evaluate the use and success of its T&P Guidelines and External Review Board.
3. Develop strategies for marketing the organizational membership category.
4. Help identify potential employers who might benefit from listing with the AAA Career Center. Faculty who teach in practicing and applied anthropology programs might be interested in engaging their students in a course assignment in which the students identify employers in their region. As well, GreenBook can be reviewed for research and marketing firms in a given area. Committee members will focus on including MA-appropriate positions.
5. Collaborate with NAPA to solicit nominations for the Solon T. Kimball Award for Public and Applied Anthropology. (Tasked in SIP).
6. Collaborate with the AAA Task Force on Race and Racism to evaluate findings from their recent study on Race & Racism in the workplace, in order to provide feedback to the EB regarding impediments to diversity in specific contexts of practice. (Tasked in SIP).
7. Investigate what has been done thus far to increase the visibility of practicing anthropologists’ contributions to the discipline. Committee members will (a) review past recommendations made to the EB and any efforts that have been made to address these concerns, (b) consider opportunities to suggest practicing and applied anthropologists as contributors to AAA Podcasts, and (c) investigate the status of the Grey Literature Portal and opportunities to promote the site. (Tasked in SIP).

**Question 3**

This question refers to any specific tasks or activities in the current Strategic Implementation Plan. They are briefly reported separately so that they can be reviewed by the appropriate staff. If your unit was not assigned any activities in the current SIP, please skip Part II.

Please briefly report on how you have fulfilled, or plan to fulfill, those specific tasks or activities, whether new or ongoing, that appear in the current Strategic Implementation Plan. Please refer to each one by their item number.

**Objective 5: Diversity**

In the coming year, the committee will collaborate with the AAA Task Force on Race and Racism to evaluate findings from their recent study on Race & Racism in the workplace, in order to provide feedback to the EB regarding impediments to diversity in specific contexts of practice.

**Objective 8: Practicing and Applied Anthropology**

The majority of CoPAPIA’s efforts are centered on increasing the visibility of practicing anthropologists’ contributions to the discipline. In addition to its regular activities, over the next year, CoPAPIA will:

- review past recommendations made to the EB and any efforts that have been made to address these concerns
- consider opportunities to suggest practicing and applied anthropologists as contributors to AAA Podcasts
- investigate the status of the Grey Literature Portal and opportunities to promote the site

In the past, CoPAPIA has not played an active role in soliciting nominations for the Solon T. Kimball Award for Public and Applied Anthropology. In coming years, we will collaborate with NAPA to solicit nominations of non-academic based anthropologists.

**Objective 9: Academic Relations**

Past and ongoing committee efforts seek to support anthropology departments in providing appropriate education and resources for
practicing and applied careers. Examples include (but are not limited to) our “Linking Students to the Job Market Initiative (2010-2012),” the internship roundtable at the 2013 Annual Meetings, the Careers Expo, and annual Section Summits. Additionally, we created EB-endorsed resources to support the evaluation of recognition and reward for practicing, applied, and public interest scholarship through the “T&P Guidelines” document and External Review Board. In 2014, we will:

- Continue to monitor and evaluate the use and success of its T&P Guidelines and External Review Board.
- Report on the Study of Practitioners as they relate to academic departments.

Question 4

Please comment on any issues or recommendations you would like to bring to the special attention of the Executive Board. These might be problems in fulfilling group objectives and responsibilities or in fulfilling tasks listed in the SIP, the need for additional resources, recommended changes to the group charge (objectives, responsibilities, products/outcomes), and recommended changes to the committee structure or membership. Any problems or recommendations listed here will be discussed by the Association Operations Committee and then considered at the EB meeting for possible action.

1. Better Publicity of Tenure and Promotion Guidelines and External Review Board: We recommend better systems be put in place to facilitate the communication of these important resources to Departments and AAA members. One simple addition would be to include an information page in the Guide to Departments. Additionally, these resources should be referenced within the SIP, especially under Objectives 8 and 9.

2. Expand Presence of Local Employers at Annual Meetings. The committee suggests that the Annual Meeting Executive Program Committee make efforts akin to the 2013 Back to School Program to engage local employers to attend the 2014 Annual Meeting and Careers Expo. The Program Committee could work with relevant AAA sections and committees to identify local companies who might benefit from learning more about what anthropologists might offer their places of employment. These employers could be given a complimentary day’s pass to visit the Careers Expo and relevant sessions and activities.

3. Create an Organizational Membership Category. CoPAPIA recommends the creation of this new membership category for organizations, and will support its development by helping to identify which benefits for employees would be most beneficial, as well assist with brainstorming strategies to market this new membership.

4. Revise Committee Responsibilities. Bullets #3 and #5 in the Committee’s Responsibilities are redundant. We recommend collapsing these two. They are:

- Help develop recommendations for training practitioner, applied anthropologists, and anthropologists in the public sector.
- Determine skills and training needed for practitioner, applied anthropologists, and anthropologists in the public sector and provide feedback to academic programs.