American Anthropological Association

Committee Annual Report

Committee on World Anthropologies

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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.

During 2013, the CWA actively worked toward advancing global dialogues among anthropological communities. We highlight the following initiatives to foster the internationalization of AAA and promote transnational communication:

1) World Anthropology section at the American Anthropologist

Co-chairs Bela Feldman-Bianco and Carla Guerrón Montero elaborated with the help of the CWA members a proposal submitted to Michael Chibnik for the creation of a World Anthropology Section in American Anthropology. The proposal was approved and the section will include thematic reviews and discussions about the theoretical and practical challenges encountered by anthropologists worldwide as well as offer review essays about influential anthropologists whose works have been published in languages other than English. Jim Weil (United States) was named Associate Editor of the section and the editorial board members include Dominic Boyer (United States), Bela Feldman-Bianco (Brazil), Goh Beng Lan (Malaysia, Singapore), Francis Nyamnjoh (South Africa), Miguel Vale de Almeida (Portugal) and Shinji Yamashita (Japan). A first introduction to the section appeared in the AA December issue. The first full section will appear in March 2014 and will include contributions by Ulf Hannerz, Veena Das and Shalini Randeria, and Gustavo Lins Ribeiro.

2) Organization and sponsorship of transnational events at the AAA Annual Meetings in Chicago

a) Theoretical Explorations on Race and Racism in Comparative Perspective

CWA co-chair Bela Feldman-Bianco and CWA Pamela Calla organized an international panel entitled “Race and Racism in Comparative Perspective”, with participants from Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico and the United States. Divided in two sessions (the first a presidential and, the second, an ABA/CWA invited session), this panel called for a broader theorization of race and racism to bring together the ongoing anthropological debates which tend to center either on the diasporic descendents of African slaves, indigenous populations or immigrants and other displaced people. By assembling case studies highlighting how the global, national, regional and local have been assembled on the ground through networks of unequal social relations, the panel organizers sought a comparative basis with which to grasp the new and old forms of race, racism and inequality produced by contemporary global capitalism and the fundamental logics that support them. Underlying these efforts are central questions related to the interplay between culture and power, nationalisms, the restructuring of global capitalism and resurgent imperialist projects, which benefit from global multidisciplinary critical dialogues.

The panel was well attended and there are plans of publication of the papers either as a thematic dossier or as an edited book.

b) Stimulation of discussions about the meanings of the terms “applied,” “public,” “engaged” and “action” (among others) as they are experienced by different traditions throughout the world:

Giving prominence to practicing, applied, and public anthropologies is also an essential objective of CWA. CWA co-chair Carla Guerrón Montero and CWA member Laurie Krieger organized the international Invited Roundtable, “The Practice of Anthropologies Worldwide: Moving Beyond ‘Applied’ and ‘Academic’ Models.” The roundtable was co-sponsored by the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA). The roundtable conveyed anthropologists from Australia, Guatemala, Kenya, and the United States to the AAA meetings to discuss the implications of the diverse global ways to look at the practice of anthropology and the complexities of the connections between academic and practicing anthropology. The aim was to motivate a global dialogue about some of the models used for the practice of anthropology in an effort to rethink the academic practice/divide, share traditions, and foster a more unified world discipline with an interdisciplinary public in mind. Guerrón Montero and Krieger have submitted a proposal for a special issue of Annals of...
c) Sponsorship of the WCAA presidential session “Making Sense of Contemporary Capitalism: Theoretical and Ethnographic Reflections from the Multiple Vantage Points of World Anthropologies”

This presidential roundtable explored the rise of a new global order from the standpoint of the so-called PICGS countries of Europe, and from the perspective of the BRICS countries. Fundamentally, the session addressed the following pressing questions for today’s political economy: Are forms of work and large-scale labor flows shifting with these changes? What are the ecological consequences of this new order? What is happening in the realms of war and revolution? Anthropologists from Afghanistan, Brazil, Poland, South Africa, Spain, and the United States responded to these and other questions.

d) Co-chairs Bela Feldman-Bianco and Carla Guerrón Montero, together with President Elect Monica Heller and CWA member Leslie Aiello attended a WCAA meeting held during the AAA meetings. At that session, the CWA co-chairs proposed to the WCAA council the possibility of a partnership regarding the collection of world anthropologies bibliographies and syllabus. The proposal was accepted and will be carried out by the CWA Subcommittee on Teaching and Research in 2014.

3) An experimental Virtual Seminar on Language and Anthropological Knowledge/ La langue et le savoir anthropologique/Língua e conhecimento antropológico

One of missions of CWA is to promote joint intellectual activities in collaboration with other national and supranational associations regarding the organization of panels, virtual seminars and publications on relevant themes. Although this was not an initiative spearheaded by the CWA, we would like to mention the virtual seminar La langue et le savoir anthropologique/Language and anthropological knowledge/Língua e conhecimento antropológico. This webinar was organized by four associations: AAA (represented by president elect Monica Heller), ABA (represented by Bela Feldman-Bianco, ABA’s past president and presently CWA’s co-chair, EASA (represented by Susana Narotsky, EASA’s past president and CWA’s incoming member) and Marie Nathalie Leblanc (CASCA). The main goal was to explore the epistemological and political dimensions of the central role played by language in the ethnographic encounter and, as a corollary, in the ways in which knowledge is constructed, circulated and evaluated in its different expressions and traditions. In accordance with the commitments to greater inclusiveness and equality expressed by international organizations such as the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA), the webinar was planned as an experiment in multilingual interactions among anthropologists of different parts of the world.

The seminar lasted a month. Short texts presented by Alexandra Jaffe (AAA), Bruna Franchetto (ABA), Christine Jourdan (CASCA), and Penelope Harvey (EASA) were made available on October 2, 2013. Each discussant—Salikoko Mufwene (AAA), Omar Ribeiro Thomaz (ABA), Petra Rethmann (CASCA), and Benoît de L’Éstoile (EASA)—wrote comments on one of the papers, all displayed on the platform just before a live two-hour webinar discussion on October 15, with the eight participants. Trilingual scholars Miguel Vale de Almeida (EASA) and Deidre Meintel (CASCA) acted respectively as chair and moderator, serving as links with members interacting with the papers and event. The following week, association members were asked to participate in an online written discussion.

The virtual seminar generated worldwide attention: 361 people from 42 countries registered for the October 15 live event. Of these, 127 people representing 24 countries participated either partially or in its entirety. Of those joining the live event, 38% were from North America, (77% of whom were from the US and 23% from Canada); 35% were from 13 European countries, the majority of whom were from the United Kingdom (22%), Spain (16%) and the Netherlands (13%); and 26% were from four Latin American countries, predominantly Brazil (85%). One attendee each represented Australia, India, Israel, Japan and the Philippines.

This pilot webinar and the participants’ suggestions for improvement were a most valuable learning experience. It indicated the need to investigate other technology platforms, dedicate more time to the preparation and management of these activities, and identify better ways to promote greater audience involvement and multilingualism, including the recognition of the limitations of the latter. This webinar is still accessible at www.wcaanet.org/events/webinar/index.shtml

4) CWA columns at the Anthropological Newsletter

Five CWA columns were published in AN printed issues, three of them by international scholars, respectively by: Michal Bushowki (Chair, WCAA) Against Hierarchies of Anthropologies: World Council of
We further highlight the additional contribution of each CWA sub-committee as follows:

**Publications Sub-Committee**: Niko Besnier (Chair), Dominic Boyer, Bela Feldman-Bianco.

Besides the World Anthropology Section project and the publication of the CWA columns at the AN, it is worth mentioning that in March 2013, Bela Feldman-Bianco and Niko Besnier sent out email messages to all AAA journal editors to urge them to consider publishing abstracts of papers in language other than English. A few editors responded positively, most did not respond.

**Collaborations Sub-Committee**: Carla Guerrón Montero (Chair), Lara Krieger and Pamela Calla

Laurie Krieger and Carla Guerrón Montero worked on advancing the gray literature project, as part the open access project. They contacted John Van Willigen, eminent applied anthropologist who donated the grey literature he had collected University of Kentucky Library Special Collections section. This literature includes approximately 1,500 documents. Van Willingen collected this literature and some of his students abstracted portions of it; he gave permission to digitalize the material and offered to be available and work Laurie Krieger to develop criteria to select the documents that should be digitalized. The request to CWA was for funds to support a graduate student who would work on digitalization for one or two semesters. After consultation with the AAA Executive Director, Krieger and Guerrón Montero decided to contact NAPA to request that this project be supported and housed with NAPA rather than with CWA. They submitted a request to the NAPA Governing Board and discussed the project at the AAA meetings in Chicago.

**Teaching and Research Sub-Committee**: Ulf Hannerz (Chair), Didier Fassin, and Nandini Sundar

In 2013, the most important endeavor was a bibliographic effort to collect references to the world-wide practice of anthropology, in all countries and regions, historically and in the present period. This has been organized by Ulf Hannerz, with the considerable help of Nandini Sundar. This is intended as an open-ended collaborative effort, where colleagues and students can continue to add items to achieve the widest possible coverage of writings on anthropologies everywhere. We hope that it can be a useful resource for individual scholars, and not least for teachers of courses and seminars on world and regional anthropologies, and on the history of the discipline.

**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.
Given the importance of open access for world anthropologies, the Committee sought to change the title of the Publications Sub-Committee to Publications and Open Access Sub-Committee. In order to emphasize the increasing relevance of transnational relations to the AAA process of internationalization, the collaborations sub-committee has been renamed as Transnational Relations and Collaborations Sub-Committee. Since Didier Fassin, Ulf Hannerz, Laurie Krieger, and Nandine Sundar concluded their mandates and four new members were elected/ or nominated to the CWA (Florence Babb, Ritu Khanduri, Susanna Narotzky, and Carolyn Rouse), there was a rotation of chairs. In order to stimulate a more equitable divisions of labor among members and sub-committee, the co-chairs suggested that each sub-committee develop their plans for 2014 as detailed below:

Publications and Open Access Sub-Committee: Carolyn Rouse (Chair), Dominic Boyer, Ritu Khanduri.

a) Create a list of reputable and non-reputable open access journals for anthropologists.

  o Vet journals by enlisting subject matter experts to:
    ▪ Read one article from an open access journal.
    ▪ Study the journal submission and evaluation process of that journal.
    ▪ Determine how the journal is funded.
    ▪ Write a one-paragraph report on findings and submit it to the Publications and Open Access Sub-Committee.

  o Create a CWA website that includes a “publishing” section that provides citation tools for scholars. Include links to AnthroSource as well as other reputable journals.

b) Locate new anthropological journals on different continents that are doing great work and that might want to develop a more substantial association with the AAA. Possible collaborations:

  o Develop transnational referee process
  o Help with funding for the translation of one of their award winning articles
  o Put these articles on AnthroSource

c) Contact editors of AAA journals and ask them to include the following note in their instructions for referees:

  o “An author(s) should show that they are aware of relevant articles written by non-American and non-European scholars. If the author(s) have not included works written by non-Western scholars then the referee should encourage the author(s) to try to engage the relevant work of at least one expert who lives outside the United States or Europe. In comments to the author(s), please encourage them to visit the Committee on World Anthropologies website. Under ‘publishing’ the author(s) will find a list of reputable journals and anthropological organizations from around the world.”

Teaching and Research Sub-Committee: Florence Babb (Chair), Pamela Calla, Carla Guerrón Montero. The CWA Subcommittee on Teaching and Research is currently composed of Florence Babb (U Florida), Carla Guerrón Montero (U Delaware), and Pamela Calla (NYU). During the November 2013 AAA, we met to discuss our plans for the coming year. This proposal is the result of that conversation and the email correspondence that followed. In general, we plan to continue and to expand the activities carried out by the subcommittee in recent years. The main commitments we wish to set out are the following:

a) We will continue to develop the World Anthropologies bibliography project that was undertaken by Ulf Hannerz in the past year. In particular, we will seek to include more material from Latin America and the Caribbean (something our three committee members are well equipped to do, by reaching out to our networks) and we will include more non-English sources. This should serve as an important tool for anthropologists to expand their range of knowledge and to facilitate teaching students from a vantage point informed by world anthropologies.

b) We will send a letter to the WCAA inviting their members to provide syllabi on topics relevant to developing world anthropologies. The letter will be addressed to Dr. Michal Buchowski, Chair of the WCAA, asking that he post the invitation to the WCAA membership. We will be asking WCAA members to share syllabi for courses that may focus on world anthropologies broadly, or on approaches to anthropological topics that engage scholarship emerging from various parts of the world. Our main objective is to learn how our colleagues across the globe are providing students with learning experiences that get at “other
knowledges” produced by anthropologists rather than drawing only on perspectives from only their own national positioning—or from the Euro-American tradition. Syllabi might emphasize theoretical, conceptual, or ethnographic contributions at either the undergraduate or graduate level. We recognize that anthropology develops as an established discipline institutionally at different rates in different countries; thus, what is produced in-country in some regions (particularly in the global South) might be very important for entering into deeper dialogues with other knowledges. We expect that this project of gathering syllabi will be a valuable resource for all in WCAA, including of course AAA.

c) We will organize and submit a CWA-sponsored panel for the 2014 AAA on the topic of “Decolonial Feminism | World Anthropologies” that will bring together feminist anthropologists working on decolonizing projects, as scholars and activists. The objective will be to explore how decolonial feminism and world anthropologies might work together collaboratively to develop anthropological scholarship and teaching that is at once attuned to differences of gender, race, and sexuality, and that embraces the ethical stance of world anthropologies. We will invite panelists from diverse locations and scholarly vantage points to participate. It is worth noting that anthropological scholarship and teaching attuned to difference should be useful to feminists and non-feminists outside academia as well.

d) As part of our objective of making all our resources available on the CWA website, we have talked about creating short videos in which our CWA colleagues would discuss aspects of their teaching that relate to world anthropologies. We are discussing how to launch such a comparative project this year.

e) An objective for the shorter or longer term is to plan a workshop on teaching world anthropologies.

Transnational Relations and Collaborations Sub-Committee: Leslie Aiello, Bela Feldman-Bianco, Susana Narotsky (Chair).

a) Niko Besnier and Susana Narotzky have proposed two panels on behalf of CWA, one at the JASCA 50th anniversary conference in Chiba, Japan (15–18 May 2014), entitled “Crisis as ongoing reality: Perspectives from different anthropological locations,” the other at the EASA conference in Tallinn, Estonia (31 Jul–3 Aug 2014), entitled "Innovation and Continuity in Times of Uncertainty: Bridging Perspectives on Economic Life.” The panel for IUAES-Jasca has received more submissions that we can accept and we are presently selecting the ones we will be keeping. The panel for EASA has also been accepted and the call for papers is open until 27/02/2014; we have been using e-lists to publicize the panels.

b) Bela Feldman-Bianco will organize, together with Carmen Rial, president of the ABA, an ABA/CWA after event (August 7-8, 2014) to the Brazilian Biennial Anthropological in Natal, Brazil (August 3-6, 2014), on the general theme of Displacements and Mobility: Gender, Race, Class..

c) Susana Narotsky is facilitating the organization of a collaborative panel at the AAA 2014 that would be organized by three national associations (Australian, Canadian, Mexican) around the theme of Indigenous rights / mobilizations. Hopefully the panel will be submitted before February 15th to apply for the status of Executive session.

d) Susana Narotsky will be organizing (or co-organizing, possibly with Leslie Aiello) a Roundtable around the theme of Collaborative Research across countries

e) For the AAA meetings, we will make a call to all the sections of the AAA to propose a panel that would have a World Anthropologies focus highlighting different anthropological traditions in the approach to a theme or subject. We could then select 4 or 5 to be sponsored by the CWA. Bela Feldman-Bianco and Susana Narotsky will be getting in touch with Mary Gray to suggest this and see which would be the better way to organize this. Both of them will be advising the Program Chairs on the international dimension of the meetings.

f) For the AAA meetings we will propose an “author-meets-critic” activity around an anthropologist who has published mostly in non-Anglophone journals. It would be interesting to invite someone from China, Japan, in general South East Asia, non-Anglophone Africa, or Europe, Middle East, etc.

g) Bela Feldman-Bianco is facilitating the planning of an Installation around music/ ethnomusicology/ dance performance. She has the experience of what she did for ABA in 2012. She has been talking to Mary Gray about this. Bela Feldman-Bianco has already approached Magda Pucci, an ethnomusicologist that directs Mawaca (a group of women who perform world music). Magda Pucci will try to put together an international panel. Also suggested to Mary Gray to get in touch with Richard Schechner (NYU).
h) We will try to produce an archive of CWA international workshops and events. Niko Besnier expressed the possibility of videotaping workshops that are taking place at the University of Amsterdam. Carolyn Rouse pointed that it was important that the quality of the videotaping be good. This has to be organized but I will be in Amsterdam during several of these workshops and will try to make it happen. Although these workshops are not properly CWA organized they bring together international participants around a theme and could be co-opted by the CWA.

i) Bela Feldman-Bianco, Susana Narotsky and Monica Heller will be submitting a proposal for the publication of two dossiers at the Anthropological Forum based on the panels organized on the theme of Displacements and Inequalities (ABA/AAA/ASA) at the 2012 AAA meetings and Displacements and Immobility (a WCAA panel organized by Bela Feldman-Bianco for the 2013 IUAES Conference in Manchester.

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.

Strategic Implementation Plan and CWA Response

See below our responses to the items involving the role and activities of the CWA in the AAA Strategic Plan.

2.1 Committee on Public Policy

2.1.1 The CoPP will work with the Committee on World Anthropologies (CWA) to develop means of soliciting Public Policy award nominations for anthropologists based outside the United States or whose work has had an impact on public policy outside the United States.

We will be most interested in developing means of soliciting Public Policy awards nominations for anthropologists worldwide whose work has impact on public policy outside the United States. We can also request the support of the WCAA in this endeavor.

3.4 Teaching anthropology around the world

3.4.1 The Committee on World Anthropologies will propose to the EB means to supplement the Anthropology Education Task Force report with corresponding information about the teaching of anthropology around the world by May 2014.

We are proposing to the WCAA a joint project to gather information about teaching anthropology around the world and the related issue of open access. The restructured teaching and research committee will be in charge of gathering information and materials on teaching of anthropology around the world. We will have some information ready by the stipulated deadline of May 2014. Following suggestions from our members, we will be looking for a wider range of anthropological histories and authors in the syllabi collected.

5.1 Promote diversity and equity in Association structures and activities

5.1.10 The EB will charge relevant committees (CoE, CoGEA, CoPAPIA, CWA) and sections (AD, AFA, BAS, CMA, SACC, SCA, SLA, SMA) with reporting to the EB by November 2014 on impediments to diversity in specific contexts of practice.

We will wait to hear from the Executive Board on these issues.

7.1 Review of Annual Meetings structure and functioning

7.1.2.6 Explore the possibility of holding joint meetings with other national or regional associations (e.g., CASCA, ABA, EASA).

We are already planning to organize CWA panels at EASA’s, ABA’s and JASCA’s 2014 meetings (as noted in the section on sub-committee plans for 2014). Both ABA and EASA meetings are held biennially around July/August. Eventual plans of holding joint meetings with these associations should be aimed for 2016.

10.1.8 Send (an) AAA representative(s) to conferences of the IUAES and meetings of the World Council of Anthropological Associations on a regular basis.
It is important to plan in advance the organization of CWA panels at the IUAES conferences, preferably in partnership with other national and regional associations. Additionally, we support the initiative of sending AAA (including CWA) representatives to WCAA meetings.

10.2 Support the AAA Committee on World Anthropologies (CWA)

10.2.1 The CWA chairs will propose an annual program of activities to EB that includes, but is not limited to, sponsorship of panels and events at the Annual Meeting, development of joint activities with sister organizations around the world, encouragement of joint research, encouragement of exchange among editors of anthropological journals around the world, establishment of joint training and teaching activities, and consideration and development of means to manage linguistic pluralism. These proposals might include requests for facilitation of international mobility or technological mediation, or participation in WCAA- or IUAES-sponsored activities.

We discussed these recommendations at the CWA business meeting in Chicago and each sub-committee has taken on specific responsibilities to address this aspect of the plan.

10.2.2 The CWA will report to the EB by May 2014 on the feasibility of developing a platform for virtual international activities.

The main organizers of the pilot webinar on Language and Production of Anthropological Knowledge, a joint EASA, ABA, AAA and CASCA project held October 2013, will report on the experience. Based on this information, CWA will evaluate the feasibility of developing a platform for virtual international activities. We believe it is important to engage WCAA in these endeavors.

10.2.3 AAA staff will work with AAA journal editors and publishers to achieve greater access to publications from non-U.S. scholars.

WCAA would be the ideal partner in this project. AAA can contact the national and regional associations affiliated with WCAA to access publications by non-US scholars.

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.

We would like to emphasize the importance of asking the partnership of WCAA and IUAES in the organization and promotion of some of our activities.

We also recommend:

a) Registration waiving for the international scholars we invite to participate in our annual meetings activities.

b) Video-taping CWA international activities at the annual meetings.

c) Stimulating AAA journals to publish multilingual abstracts.

d) Allow the WCAA as well as national/regional associations affiliated to the WCAA to co-organize activities at the Annual Meetings.