

Survey Respondents At-A-Glance

2016 Membership Survey, Report #1

Introduction

From April 27 – May 25, 2016, members of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) were invited to participate in an online survey regarding their personal demographic information, career trajectories, current professional situation and association membership. Invitations were sent via email to 9218 current AAA members, of whom 1988 (21.57%) successfully participated in the survey.

This report provides a general demographic outline of the survey participants. It is the first of many anticipated reports to come out of this survey. Future avenues of inquiry include more in-depth profiling of particular constituencies (students, non-tenure track faculty, anthropologists outside of academia), as well as collaborative work with non-AAA staff using an anonymized version of the data set. Survey responses also serve as an empirical basis for answering questions that members or others may have about the discipline and profession of anthropology, so readers of this report are encouraged to contact us with specific questions or suggestions. You can reach us at 703-528-1902 or via email at academic@americananthro.org.

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June 13, 2016

Key Observations

- About 62.8% of respondents are women, with the gender imbalance most pronounced among younger anthropologists: women include 68.2% of respondents age 20-49 (and over 70% of respondents in their 20s and 30s), but only 55.5% of respondents age 50 and older.
- The core constituency of AAA seems to be in academia, including tenure-line faculty (34.1% of respondents) and PhD students (16.1%), of whom a majority (252 out of 320, or 78.8%) plan to seek employment in higher education.
- At the same time, there are significant subgroups of members who hold less centrally academic positions: anthropologists working outside of academia (13.2%), non-tenure track faculty (9.9%), retired members (9.1%) and non-faculty in higher education (7.8%).
- While only 13.2% of respondents currently work for a primary employer that is not an institution of higher education, a majority (55.9%) identify as applied, practicing or professional anthropologists. This suggests that a conception of the field as being divided into separate “academic” and “practicing / applied” camps is oversimplified. Further research is called for into what it means to anthropologists to self-identify in this way.

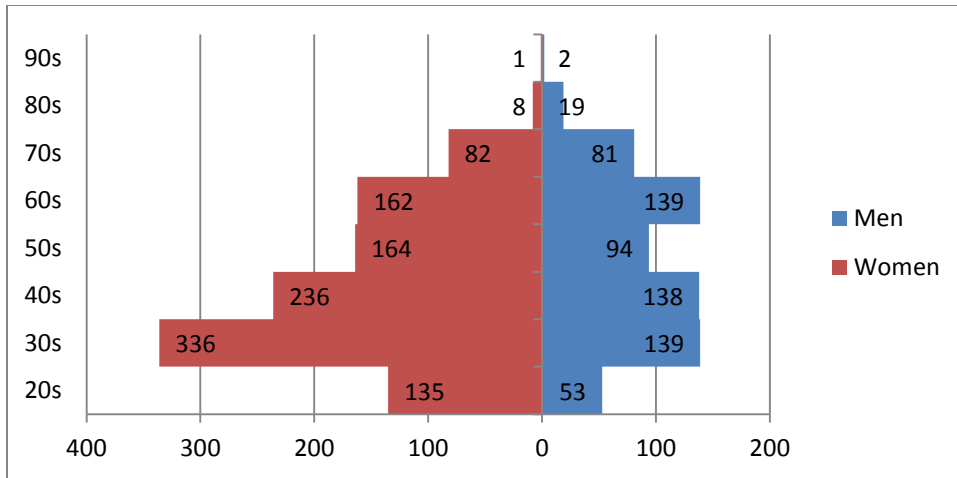


Figure 1: Age and gender. This chart reflects the 1789 respondents who specified a year of birth and selected one of the binary gender categories; an additional 43 respondents selected “Prefer not to answer” or “Other” in response to the question about gender.

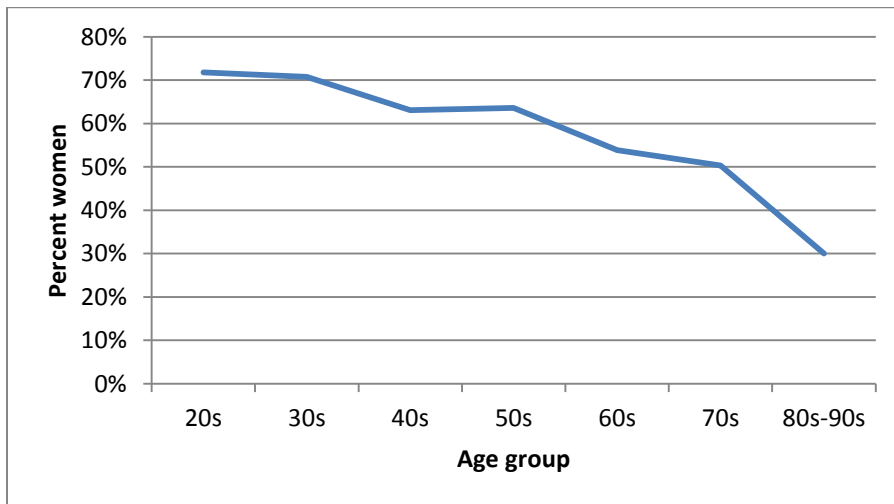


Figure 2: Gender balance across age groups.

Table 1: Race / ethnicity. Percentages added exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer.

Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents (N=1901)
American Indian and Alaska Native	53	2.79%	
Hispanic or Latino	119	6.26%	
Black or African American	64	3.37%	
White	1571	82.64%	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	12	0.63%	
Asian	95	5.00%	
Other	146	7.68%	
Total Responses	2060		

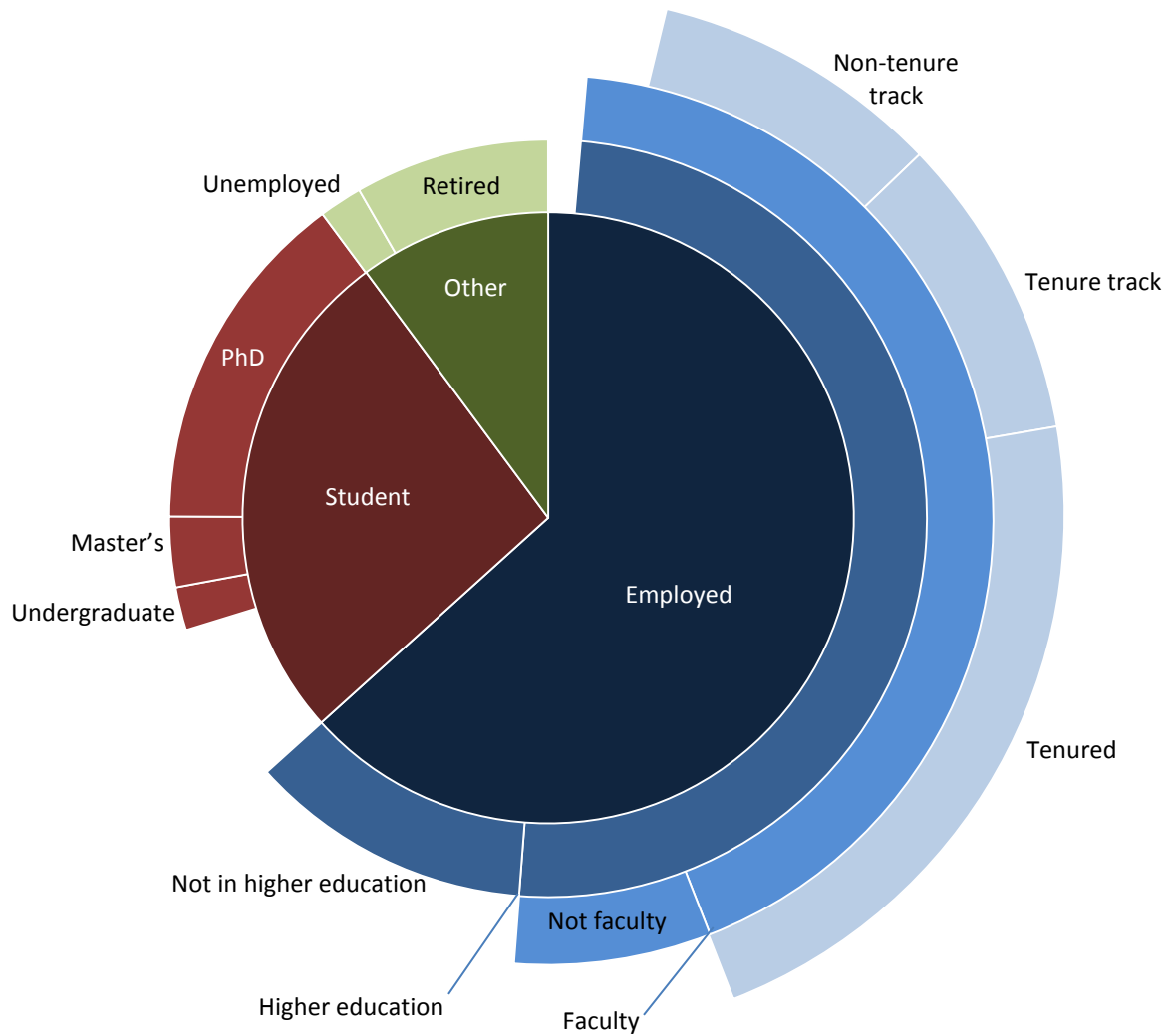


Figure 3: Employment and student status.

Table 2: Employment and student status. Percentages added exceed 100 since students with jobs (other than graduate assistantships) are counted as both “employed” and “student.”

Category	Count	% (N = 1988)
Employed	1372	69.01%
Academic	1080	54.33%
Faculty	925	46.53%
Non-tenure track	196	9.86%
Tenure track	205	10.31%
Tenured	472	23.74%
Non-faculty	155	7.80%
Non-academic	262	13.18%
Student	575	28.92%
Undergraduate	40	2.01%
Master's	65	3.27%
Ph.D.	320	16.10%
Other	220	11.07%
Unemployed	40	2.01%
Retired	180	9.05%

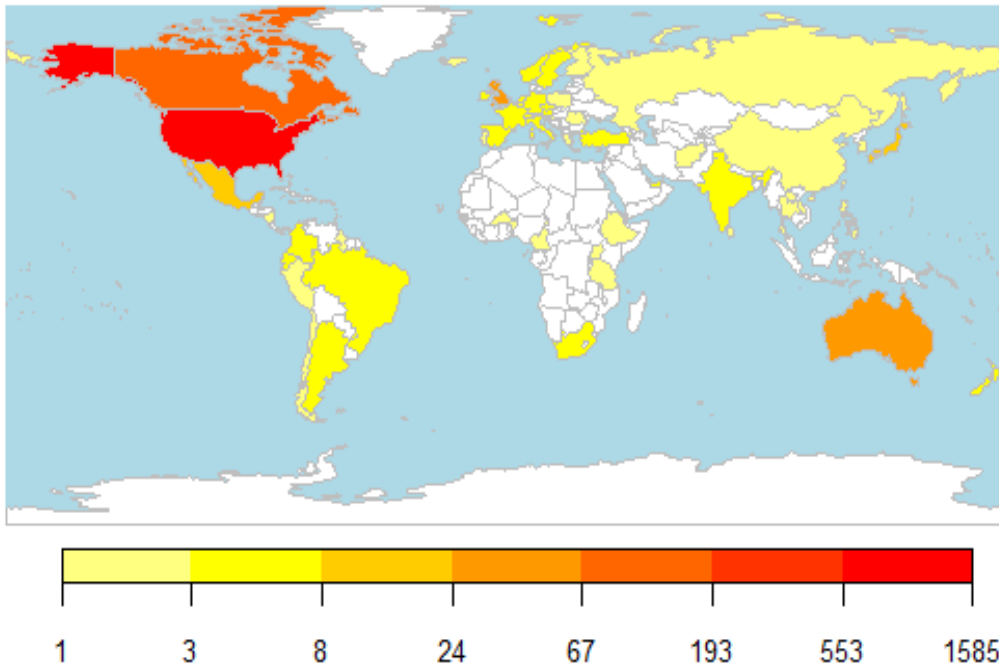


Figure 4: Country of Residence (Logarithmic scale)

Table 3: Country of Residence, most common responses (more than 0.4% of total)

Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents (N=1921)
United States of America	1585	82.51%	<div style="width: 82.51%;"></div>
Canada	86	4.48%	<div style="width: 4.48%;"></div>
United Kingdom	29	1.51%	<div style="width: 1.51%;"></div>
Australia	24	1.25%	<div style="width: 1.25%;"></div>
Mexico	19	0.99%	<div style="width: 0.99%;"></div>
Japan	15	0.78%	<div style="width: 0.78%;"></div>
Germany	8	0.42%	<div style="width: 0.42%;"></div>
Total Responses	1921		<div style="width: 100%; text-align: center;">20% 40% 60% 80% 100%</div>

Table 4: Traditional subfield of anthropology. Percentages added exceed 100 since a participant may select more than one answer for this question.




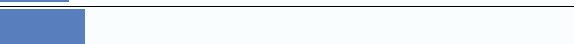
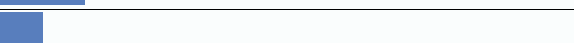

Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents (N=1931)
Cultural or social anthropology	1566	81.10%	
Biological or physical anthropology	155	8.03%	
Linguistic anthropology	236	12.22%	
Archaeology	292	15.12%	
Other / Not an anthropologist	144	7.46%	
Total Responses	2393		

Table 5: “Do you consider yourself an applied / practicing / professional anthropologist?”








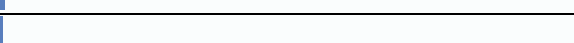
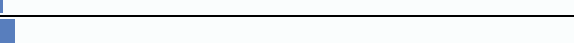
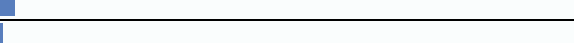
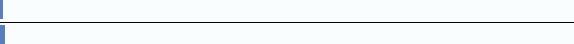


Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents (N=1914)
Yes	1070	55.90%	
No	844	44.10%	
Total Responses	1914		

Table 6: Postsecondary degrees earned

Responses	Count	%	Percentage of total respondents (N=1922)
A.A. or A.S.	80	4.16%	
B.A. or B.S.	1832	95.32%	
M.A., M.S., or M.Ed.	1590	82.73%	
M.L.S.	10	0.52%	
M.B.A.	8	0.42%	
M.P.H.	43	2.24%	
J.D.	4	0.21%	
M.D. or other medical degree	16	0.83%	
Ph.D.	1417	73.73%	
Other	148	7.70%	
Total Responses	2393		