Submitted By:

Linda C. Garro - lgarro@anthro.ucla.edu

Board Members:

2014 Society for Medical Anthropology
Board Member Roster
(through end of the 2014 SMA Business and Awards Meeting)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFICERS</th>
<th>Board Member Name</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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</table>
| President | Linda C. Garro (2013-2015, followed by a year as Past President) | • SMA President 2013-2015  
• Future of Publishing Committee (chair) | lgarro@anthro.ucla.edu |
| Past-President | Douglas A. Feldman (2013-2014) | • SMA Past-President 2013-2014  
• Career Achievement Award (chair) | dfeldman@brockport.edu |
| Secretary | Janelle S. Taylor (2013-2016) | • Minutes  
• Polgar Prize Committee (chair)  
• Future of Publishing Committee (member) | jstaylor@uw.edu |
| Treasurer | Doug Henry (2012-2015) | • Budget  
• Travel Reimbursements  
• Student Travel Awards (chair)  
• Future of Publishing Committee (member)  
• Membership Committee (member) | dhenry@unt.edu |

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

| Roberta Baer (2012-2015) | • Membership Committee (chair)  
• Research Committee (chair)  
• Future of Publishing Committee (member) | baer@usf.edu |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position and Responsibilities</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Mara Buchbinder** (2011-2014) | • Communications Committee (co-chair)  
• SIG Liaison                                                      | mara.buchbinder@gmail.com       |
| **Alexander Edmonds** (2011-2014) | • Program Committee (co-chair)                                                               | A.B.Edmonds@uva.nl             |
| **Athena McLean** (2013-2016)   | • Program Committee (co-chair)                                                               | mclea1ah@cmich.edu             |
| **Juliet McMullin** (2010-2014)  | • Nominations Committee (chair)  
• Paper Prize Organizing Chair                                       | julietm@ucr.edu                |
| **Mark Nichter** (2013-2014)     | • Policy Committee (chair)                                                                   | Nichtermark@gmail.com          |
| **James Pfeiffer** (2013-2016)    | • Global Directory (chair)  
• Policy Committee (member)  
• Nominations Committee (member)                                   | jamespf@u.washington.edu       |
| **Sarah Willen** (2012-2015)      | • Basker Award (chair)  
• Communications Committee (co-chair)  
• Nominations Committee (member)                                   | sarah.willen@uconn.edu         |
| **Student Representative**       | • Medical Anthropology Student Association (MASA)  
(chair)  
• MASA Mentorship Award (chair)  
• Communications Committee (member)                               |                               |
| **Jonathan Stillo** (2013-2016)   |                                                                                               | jstillo@gmail.com              |
| **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**            |                                                                                               |                               |
| **MAQ Editor**                  |                                                                                               |                               |
| **Clarence (Lance) Gravlee** (2012-2017) | • MAQ Editor                                                                                   | cgravlee@ufl.edu               |
Note: Mark Padilla, whose term on the board was to end during the 2014 AAA meetings in Washington, D.C., resigned his position as a member-at-large on the SMA board following the 2013 AAA meeting in Chicago. Following the process in the SMA by-laws, the Nominations Committee recommended a replacement candidate to the SMA Board. The nomination of Mark Nichter, who graciously agreed to join the board for the remaining year of Padilla’s term, was unanimously approved by the Nominations Committee and SMA board.

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.

Number of Members: 1129 (September 2014)

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.

In the 2013 report, mention was made of the spike in our membership associated with the conference in Tarragona, Spain, followed by a downward trend. Since then, our
membership continued to decline. To provide some sense of the change, here are calculations comparing two months in 2013 with the same two months in 2014:

\[1347 - 1112 = 235 \text{ [Aug 13 – Aug 14 - 17-18% decrement]}\]
\[1367 - 1129 = 238 \text{ [Sept 13 – Sept 14 – 17-18% decrement]}\]

In 2014, there was a period of five months for which no information about section membership is available. In September, 2014, AAA Executive Director Ed Liebow wrote to sections to report that membership counts starting with August 2014 were both lower but more accurate due to efforts by the AAA to clean up the database. For example, we were told before the “clean up” there was a tendency for sustaining members to be counted twice (once as sustaining, once as professional).

Increased accuracy in the member database, however, likely does not account for all of the observed decline. Student memberships and international memberships showed the largest declines after the “clean up” when compared to the last set of figures provided prior to the clean up. This was most pronounced for international memberships. There were 215 international members in September of 2013 compared to 76 in September 2014. It is likely that many international members who joined around the time of the Tarragona conference have since allowed their memberships to lapse.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).

Financial Balance: 168,275.00

Publication Sponsored budgets.

For Medical Anthropology Quarterly (MAQ), the 2014 budget projected $8,635.00 to cover the difference of expenses exceeding revenue. At the time of the 2014 annual AAA meeting, the year-to-date expenditure after revenue amounted to $5,475.00. Additional expenses for 2014 are expected.

Even though the final tally for 2014 will be higher than $5,475.00, since becoming MAQ editor in January 2013, Clarence (Lance) Gravlee has reduced editorial office expenses significantly (when compared to 2011 and 2012, years under the previous editors). The 2014 report entitled “Society for Medical Anthropology: Response to the AAA Committee on the Future of Print and Electronic Publishing’s (CFPEP)
Request for a Five-Year Sustainability Plan (2016-2020)” provides further details about these savings.

The 2014 amount for the academic editorial office will also be significantly lower than in 2013, when the final expenditures for Medical Anthropology Quarterly totaled $42,409.00 (out of a projected $65,888.00). The high production costs were due to maintaining two academic editorial offices (and two managing editors) during a transition period to the new editor. Still, expenses were lower than projected for 2013 due to cost-saving measures taken by the incoming editor.

**List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.**

In the final accounting for 2013, our financial balance was at $129,970.00 (down $23,286.00 from the close of 2012), largely accounted for by the costs of the MAQ editorial transition.

The amount of $168,275.00 listed above is not an accurate reflection of our assets given additional expenditures to be included in the 2014 budget. Still, we do not anticipate drawing on reserves for 2014 as revenue should be sufficient to cover expenditures, even with the decline in membership revenue.

The SMA did not budget for partial travel subsidies for members-at-large to attend the spring 2014 SMA executive board meeting. Arrangements were made for members to attend virtually or through phone connection. This resulted in significant budgetary savings.

In October, 2014, the board voted to provide $1,800.00 to support travel for a medical anthropologist-practitioner active in the recent Ebola epidemic to attend a AAA session added at a late date to the scholarly program in Washington, D.C. The “emergency” session on Ebola was entitled “Averting Chronically Acute Crises: Bringing Anthropology to and from the Global Ebola Response.” The session was co-sponsored by NAPA, SMA, the University of North Texas, and the AAA Executive Program Committee.

Within the financial records kept by the SMA, the SMA Treasurer maintains “sub-accounts” that are available for the use of SMA’s Special Interest Groups. The accounting for these encumbrances occurs at the SMA level, rather than at the AAA level. At the 2014 SMA board meeting, the board approved the “SMA Special Interest Group (SIG) Funding Statement and Guidelines.” At the close of 2014, approximately $4,500.00 of the funds in our financial balance were set aside for the use of the SIGs (encumbered), reducing the amount available for use by SMA.
Sessions:

List the titles of your Section's AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated.

Session Type: Special Events
Session: Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) Special Interest Groups Chairs Meeting

Session Type: Special Events
Session: Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) Business Meeting, Awards Ceremony, and Presidential Address

Session Type: Special Events
Session: Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) Reception and Cash Bar

Session Type: Special Events
Session: Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) Board Meeting

Session Type: Invited Session, Co-Sponsored with Society for the Anthropology of North America
Session: Covered? Risk, Citizenship, and Politics in the Wake of Obamacare, Part 1

Session Type: Invited Session, Co-Sponsored with Society for Humanistic Anthropology
Session: Who Is the Subject of Illness?: Part 1 of a Discussion of Affliction by Veena Das

Session Type: Invited Session, Co-Sponsored with Anthropology of Environment Society
Session: Assembling the Biosocial: Embodied Environments, Health and Modes of Interdisciplinarity in the Life Sciences and Anthropology

Session Type: Invited Session
Session: Bi-Disciplinary Identities: Medical Anthropology-Public Health Hybrid and the Importance of Cross-Disciplinary Understandings

Session Type: Invited Session, Co-Sponsored with Society for Cultural Anthropology
Session: Iterations of the Genome: Public Health, Ethical Dilemmas and Power in the Post-Genomic Era
**Session Type:** Invited Session, Co-Sponsored with AAA Executive Program Committee, NAPA and University of North Texas

**Session:** Averting Chronically Acute Crises: Bringing Anthropology to and from the Global Ebola Response

**Session Type:** Invited Session, Co-Sponsored with American Ethnological Society

**Session:** "Care"ful Consideration: Examining Notions of Care within and toward Ethnography

**Session Type:** Invited Session, Co-Sponsored with Society for Linguistic Anthropology

**Session:** Why Can't Linguistic and Medical Anthropologists Just Get Along?

**Awards**

*List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.*

**Award:** Eileen Basker Memorial Prize  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Sarah Pinto  
**Affiliation:** Tufts University  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Daughters of Parvati: Women and Madness in Contemporary India

**Award:** Steven Polgar Prize  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Jean Hunleth  
**Affiliation:** Washington University in St. Louis  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Children's Roles in Tuberculosis Treatment Regimes: Constructing Childhood and Kinship in Urban Zambia

**Award:** SMA Career Achievement Award  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Susan Scrimshaw  
**Affiliation:** The Sage Colleges  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** N/A

**Award:** MASA Graduate Student Mentorship Award  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Juliet McMullin  
**Affiliation:** University of California Riverside  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** N/A
Awards and Grants:

**Award:** Charles Hughes Graduate Student Paper Prize  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Guy Shalev  
**Affiliation:** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Doctors with Borders: Palestinian Physicians? Testimonies in Israel/Palestine

**Award:** Student Travel Award  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Anna Ruddock  
**Affiliation:** Kings College London  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Producing Medical Citizenship at the AIIMS (India)

**Award:** Student Travel Award  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Danya Glabau  
**Affiliation:** Cornell University  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** The Moral Life of Epinephrine

**Award:** Student Travel Award  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Jocelyn Kilmer  
**Affiliation:** Syracuse University  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Reluctant Villagers: Young Urban Doctors in Rural North India

**Award:** Student Travel Award  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Lily Shapiro  
**Affiliation:** University of Washington  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Visiting Surgeons, Indian Roads, and Medicalizing Risk

**Award:** Student Travel Award  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Zakea Boeger  
**Affiliation:** University of Hawai‘i Mānoa  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** The Promiscuity Vaccine: Biomedical Hegemony in Human HPV Vaccines and Education

**Award:** AARG Moher Downing Distinguished Service Award  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Brooke G. Schoepf
Affiliation: Harvard University
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: N/A

Award: ADTSG Annual Graduate Student Paper Prize
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Hayley Murray
Affiliation: University of Amsterdam
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Risk Practices amongst Recreational Drug Users at Music Festivals in Amsterdam

Award: CAR Graduate Student Paper Award
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Gareth Thomas
Affiliation: Cardiff University
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Douglas, Dirt, and Down Syndrome: Classifying a Complex Condition in UK Antenatal Care

Award: CAR Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Lydia Zacher Dixon
Affiliation: University of California Irvine
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Obstetrics in a Time of Violence: Mexican Midwives Critique Routine Hospital Practices

Award: CAGH Rudolf Virchow Undergraduate Student Paper
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Savanah Harshbarger
Affiliation: Brown University
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: For the Right Reasons: The Ethics of Medical Voluntourism and Perspectives of 'Global Health Trip' Student Participants

Award: CAGH Rudolf Virchow Graduate Student Paper
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Kimberly Sue
Affiliation: Harvard University
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Pills, Prisons, and Pharmaceutical Logics: Addiction Treatment and Drug Use in American Prisons and Jails

Award: CAGH Rudolf Virchow Professional Paper
Date: 12/06/2014
Recipient: Stacy Leigh Pigg
Affiliation: Simon Fraser University
Project/Paper/Accomplishment: On Sitting and Doing: Ethnography as Action in
Global Health

**Award:** CAGH Rudolf Virchow Professional Honorable Mention  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Brian McKenna  
**Affiliation:** University of Michigan, Dearborn  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Paulo Freire's Blunt Challenge to Anthropology: Create a Pedagogy of the Oppressed for Your Times

**Award:** Graduate Student Paper Prize in CAM/IM  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Emery Eaves  
**Affiliation:** University of Arizona  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** Modes of Hoping: Understanding Hope and Expectation in the Context of a Clinical Trial of Complementary and Alternative Medicine for Chronic Pain

**Award:** STM Graduate Student Paper Prize  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Danya Glabau  
**Affiliation:** Cornell University  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** The Moral Life of Epinephrine

**Award:** STM Graduate Student Paper Prize  
**Date:** 12/06/2014  
**Recipient:** Jennifer J. Carroll  
**Affiliation:** University of Washington  
**Project/Paper/Accomplishment:** For Lack of Wanting: Discourses of Desire in Ukrainian Opiate Substitution Therapy Programs

**Meetings**

Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?

In October, 2014, SMA Treasurer, Doug Henry, made a late request (long after the normal window for these requests) through AAA section assembly (SA) for three fee waivers. With the support of AAA, SA approved the request for three fee waivers, which were granted from unused fee waivers allotted to sections.

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?

The fee waivers were requested for three global medical anthropologist-practitioners
involved with the Ebola outbreak. They took part in the “emergency” session on Ebola “Averting Chronically Acute Crises: Bringing Anthropology to and from the Global Ebola Response.” The session was co-sponsored by NAPA, SMA, the University of North Texas, and the AAA Executive Program Committee.

**List spring meeting activities**

In March, 2014, we held a joint meeting with the Society for Applied Anthropology in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Over a quarter of the sessions dealt with health, illness and/or medicine.

To access better communication facilities than were available at the conference hotel, board members attending the joint SMA-SfAA meeting traveled to the University of New Mexico for the spring SMA board meeting. Other board members joined the meeting virtually using Adobe Connect and a conference phone line. Although one board officer attending the SMA-SfAA meeting did not attend the meeting, all other board members were present physically or virtually. Oona Schmid, AAA Director of Publishing, joined the board virtually for a discussion of financial projections for different publishing options. Three non-board members of the SMA Future of Publishing Committee also participated in person or virtually in the board discussions around publishing.

During the SfAA meetings, an open meeting on the future of publishing was held for SMA members attending the Albuquerque meeting. We had a good turnout. In addition to members on the SMA Future of Publishing Committee: (MAQ editor Lance Gravlee, former MAQ editor Pam Erikson, SMA Treasurer Doug Henry, and Executive Board member Robbie Baer, we were fortunate to have the Executive Director of the AAA, Ed Liebow, also in attendance).

**Mentorship:**

**Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.)**

**Undergraduate and/or graduate students.**

The MASA Graduate Student Mentorship Award was given to Juliet McMullin for her excellent mentoring activities in medical anthropology. A number of awards were given, on behalf of the SMA and the SMA-SIGs, to recognize undergraduate and graduate student accomplishments in medical anthropology (see list under Awards section).
Early career scholars.
N/A

Independent scholars.
N/A

Outreach:
Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities.

The “emergency” session on Ebola at the AAA meetings provided a platform for bringing together members of SMA, NAPA, and the AAA Ebola Taskforce for discussions about how to facilitate the discipline’s response to the Ebola outbreak. The participation of three global medical-anthropologist practitioners active on the “frontlines” of the epidemic was critical, and while the session was a keystone event, other informal meetings occurred throughout the Washington, D.C. AAA meeting.

To explore how AAA viewed the issuing of policy statements by SMA, discussions were held between with AAA Executive Director Ed Liebow and Mark Nichter (Chair of the SMA Policy Committee). In addition, Suzanne Heurtin-Roberts, Chair of the AAA Policy Committee, met separately with the SMA Policy Committee Chair and with the SMA President to talk about SMA’s policy initiatives and the potential for working with the AAA Policy Committee when SMA releases a policy statement.

Communications:
Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for.

The SMA’s Global Directory was created in 2007 after the SMA membership indicated that they were interested in a means by which they could seek out colleagues or search for individuals with specific specializations, areas of research, and other contact/demographic information. In addition, the Global Directory can potentially serve to help scholars, policy makers, and implementers to make use of the knowledge produced by medical anthropologists. The 2013 Global Directory Committee report detailed the ongoing technical difficulties and other problems that plagued the original version of the Global Directory.
In 2014, following the board approved recommendation from the 2013 Global Directory Committee, the original Global Directory was retired and SMA’s webmaster designed a new version which was tested by SMA board members during 2014. While the overall objectives of the Global Directory remain the same, the new version relies on current technology and offers improved search capacity and an easier-to-use interface.

An email repository or e-archive was established to assist in the transfer of information about SMA board business to future Presidents. Much board-related email correspondence sent from or to the SMA President is sent to the SMA email archive.

SMA’s quarterly newsletter Second Opinion, first circulated in 2013, continued for a second year in a pdf format. Four issues were sent to the membership in 2014 and are also posted on the SMA website. The Second Opinion newsletter editor and the SMA webmaster also assist in preparing, editing, and distributing news to membership using the section's Facebook page, blog, and Twitter account.

E-mail blasts sent out by AAA are used sparingly and only for communications from the SMA President on matters of import to the membership.

The H-MedAnthro networking forum (launched in 2003) initially came into being because SMA realized that the existing H-Net platform and hosting capabilities offered more dynamic possibilities for communications among medical anthropologists than what SMA could achieve on its own. Since its inception, SMA has used H-MedAnthro listserv as an important vehicle for communicating with SMA members. While many (though not all) SMA members join H-MedAnthro, and SMA members serve on the H-MedAnthro Advisory Committee, H-MedAnthro is an independent networking forum with a broad membership. During 2014, H-MedAnthro was undergoing a process of moving to a new platform, H-Net Commons (changing from a listserv format to a newer web-based format). Discussions with the H-MedAnthro Advisory Committee in 2014 led to an invitation from the H-MedAnthro Advisory Committee for official representation from the SMA Board on the H-MedAnthro Advisory Committee. The SMA board voted to accept the invitation and the first SMA H-MedAnthro Liaison was appointed.

Governance:

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.

N/A
Initiatives:

What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

Consideration of the future of publishing for the section’s journal has taken considerable time over the past year. In August 2014, we submitted a report entitled “Society for Medical Anthropology: Response to the AAA Committee on the Future of Print and Electronic Publishing’s (CFPEP) Request for a Five-Year Sustainability Plan (2016-2020). In line with one of the recommendations in that report, in 2015 the SMA plans to explore the feasibility of establishing a publishing partnership with a university press. During the 2014 AAA meetings, an initial meeting was held with a potential publishing partner, the SMA editor, the SMA President, and the AAA Director of Publishing.

Responding to concern about the loss of student members, the Membership Committee will be developing a new mentorship initiative for graduate students for the 2015 AAA meetings.

In recent years, a key resource for SMA Board members has been the SMA Policy and Procedures Manual. The manual was sent to incoming board members as a pdf and/or Word document, and revised on a regular basis. During 2014, it became apparent that much of the material was rather dated (in terms of procedures) and spotty (uneven coverage and an unpredictable mix of old and new). In addition, revising the document posed issues given the clunky formatting and history of different versions of Word that were used. And as the document is kept around the same length this meant that when an updated version was created important information was lost, as older material was jettisoned to make way for newer items. For example, more recent minutes of board meetings replaced older ones, with the older ones apparently not retained. In short, the state of SMA record keeping has long been problematic.

To deal with this problematic state of record keeping, in 2014, using “Dropbox,” I developed an online version of “Policy and Procedures” in a form that also serves as an archive for committee reports, email votes, minutes, etc. SMA board members are provided with links to access the information but are unable to post without sending to someone with the authority to do so. The initial design and organization task will continue into 2015.

The submission of a “policy statement” from one of the SMA SIGs led to the reconsideration and reformulation of existing guidelines, the development of a process for approving policy statements, and discussions with the MAQ editor and editorial board about the possibility of publishing SMA policy statements in the journal. More generally, it became apparent that there was considerable confusion about the scope of
policy initiatives at SMA. The 2014 policy committee sent a questionnaire to the SMA-SIG chairs to better appreciate how they understand the options for policy related efforts. At the 2014 board meeting in Washington DC, the policy committee accepted the task of clarifying SMA policy initiatives and coming up with a description of SMA policy-related efforts for consideration by the board.

Sarah Willen, SMA H-MedAnthro Liaison and co-chair of SMA Communications Committee, reported that the process of changing H-MedAnthro from a listserv to a web-based format involved changes that resulted in a dramatic decline in usage. The possibility of establishing a listserv through AAA for SMA members will be explored in 2015.

SMA plans to re-launch the Global Directory on the SMA website in 2014 and encourage medical anthropologists and affiliated professionals to register.

A revision to *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*’s statement of purpose was proposed. According to the SMA by-laws, the SMA Executive Board approves the journal’s “Statement of Purpose.” In this revision, the first, more general part of MAQ’s “Aims and Scope” becomes the “Statement of Purpose.” It is left up to the MAQ editor to decide on the content of the second part, or the “Scope” (which lists the range of topics covered in the journal). The board voted unanimously to approve the “Statement of Purpose” listed below:

*Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (MAQ) is an international journal published by the [Society for Medical Anthropology](https://www.americananthro.org/sections/sma), a section of the [American Anthropological Association](https://www.americananthro.org). The journal publishes research and theory in all areas of medical anthropology. Its goal is to stimulate development of important theory, methods, and debates in medical anthropology and to explore the links between medical anthropology, the broader field of anthropology, and neighboring fields in the humanities, social sciences, and health-related disciplines, including public health and clinical practice. MAQ values the full range of theoretical and empirical approaches in contemporary medical anthropology and seeks to bring researchers from diverse perspectives into conversation with one another. We particularly welcome manuscripts grounded in the holistic and cross-cultural perspective that is distinctive of anthropology in general.

**Ask AAA:**  
Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted.

At the SMA level, future financial projections calculated during the planning process for the future of publishing revealed that sustaining the costs of our academic editorial office for MAQ is a likely to prove challenging in the not too distant future (in
contrast to the present). The sustainability challenges faced by publishing sections is something that requires attention at all levels of AAA governance.

**What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.**

I was personally disappointed at the level of discussion concerning the future of publishing at Section Assembly. I was also shocked when officers from non-publishing sections were told they could leave prior to the publishing discussion during the 2014 section assembly. This reinforces the view that the future of publishing is a problem for publishing sections but not for the AAA as a whole. In my view, this was a deeply problematic action.

**What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.**

Please see preceding two comments.

For the 2014 AAA meetings, there was a radical change, announced late in the planning process, for the times when sections could schedule events relating to section business. These changes were announced after SMA had submitted all information (online, under the parameters operating at the time of submission) about the SMA board meeting, our business meeting and cash bar, the 10 meetings for our special interest groups, our breakfast meeting for special interest group chairs, and the editorial board meeting. It requires significant time to do the programming once, but to do it twice and under the imposed constraints was unacceptable. Program changes of this magnitude need to be announced in advance and should not be a last minute surprise that must be dealt with because of ridiculous new deadlines. One day, the SMA Program Chair sent an email to the SMA board to say that she needed to schedule SMA business events that very day and then proposed holding our business meeting and reception from 8:30 to midnight, followed the next day by a 7:30 am board meeting, followed by another board meeting from 8:30 pm – midnight; schedule changes resulting from time limitations for section activities announced, quite late, by the co-chairs of the AAA’s 2014 Executive Program Committee (AAAAEPC). During the subsequent draining discussions with one of the co-chairs, the message conveyed to me was that section business is much less important than section-wide AAA activities (any section-wide activity), and the scholarly program. The intervention of Section Assembly led to changes that mitigated some of the damage but we were still left with carrying out section business both earlier and later than usual. This significantly impacted the ability of our section to carry out business because members became exhausted from the demands of the scheduling. It also resulted in lower turnouts to our SMA Business Meeting and the reception that followed. The AAA
Executive Board should have taken decisive action at an earlier point while these events were unfolding. In addition, many, many individuals were not allowed to attend the lecture by Latour even though the AAA should have expected a significant turnout given that there were no competing events during this time slot.

**What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.**

I appreciate the help and advice give by staff and I have gained a deeper appreciation of the perspective of AAA through my interactions with staff members.