Race
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CRRA: at work were the same marginalizing practices and what others have labeled racial microgressions (see Kevin Michael Foster’s 2005 article “Diet of dispersal” in the International Journal of Qualitative Studies of Education, v 18(4):489-505; http://www.edb.utexas.edu/education/assets/files/ci/publications/foster/DietOfDisp.pdf). Among its many findings the CRRA noted the following:

- The association does not regularly collect information about the ethno-racial diversity of its membership.
- Subtle forms of structural racism persist and keep the numbers of minority students in the discipline low.
- Anthropologists of color may not be granted tenure at the same rate as whites and they may face stalled promotions to full professor.

In light of these and other findings, the CRRA recommended the following to the AAA:

- Analyze the current status of racialized anthropologists in the profession, including data on enrollment, degree, faculty trends etc. and disseminate findings.
- Provide support to departments in order to help recruit and retain more students of color.
- Increase fellowship aid to support promising graduate students of color.
- Create a website with links to information and services for racialized anthropologists.

Following this report, members of the CRRA also published “Anthropology as White Public Space” in the November 2011 issue of American Anthropologist as well as an anthology that provides additional analysis of ethno-racial marginalization in the discipline. Race in the Academy: The New Millennium. Additional findings of the Commission on Race and Racism in Anthropology and the American Anthropological Association (Feb 2012. For full anthology see: www.aaanet.org/cmtes/commissions/upload/CRRA_reportFULL.pdf)

Working It Out

Following the publication of the CRRA report, the AAA’s Association Operations Committee (AOC) considered how the AAA could best respond. AAA leadership discussed the CRRA’s findings with members of the commission, the Committee on Minority Issues in Anthropology (CMAA), and with other AAA members. Then-AAA President Virginia Dominguez supported the formation of an AOC subcommittee to begin to address the CRRA’s report and recommendations. This subcommittee discussed how best to understand and frame the discussion about marginalization. Among the questions raised within the subcommittee were: given that 20% of AAA membership reside outside the US, were we to incorporate an international perspective as we defined race and racism? Furthermore, how do we address other forms of discrimination in our work? The subcommittee concluded that as it attended to the issues raised in the CRRA report, the focus needed to remain on addressing ethno-racial marginalization in the discipline in the US.

The subcommittee has organized a roundtable for the 2012 AAA Annual Meeting, with the goal of initiating a major public forum to address the issues raised in the CRRA report. This roundtable, “Who Counts and Who Does the Counting? Measuring Race and Racism in Anthropology,” will be held on Friday, November 16 2012 (for the most up-to-date time and location, see the online program at http://aaa.conlex.com/aaa/2012/webprogram/)

An evening reception will follow the roundtable discussion, where participants may network and share their ideas with others. Attendees will be encouraged to cut across regional and national lines, and to approach the topic from the vantage point of their own lived experiences and the experiences of their interlocutors. Jon Lewis, who recently retired as the AOC’s liaison to the CRRA, will be in attendance to further discuss the next steps for the AAA.

Ana Aparicio is a cultural anthropologist and assistant professor in the department of anthropology and in the Latino studies program at Northwestern University. She is currently a member of the Executive Board of the AAA and President-Elect of the Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists.

Anthropologists
Everywhere

Getting to Know Your Colleagues

Ulf Hannerz
Stockholm U
AAA COMMITTEE ON WORLD ANTHROPOLOGIES

“...The internationalism and transcultural nature of anthropology lie precisely in its plurality of national viewpoints,” wrote Maurice Freedman, leading British anthropologist, in a 1970s overview of the discipline. But that was 40 years ago. Now anthropologists are just about everywhere. Knowing anthropology only as practiced by your compatriots is thus knowing much less than there is to your discipline. The anthropology of anthropology offers windows on the world.

But the voices of anthropology elsewhere are not always easily heard. Language diversity creates obstacles, and even writings in English can be inaccessible. A few recent books from outside the routine publishing circuit deserve the special attention of those interested in the global practice of anthropology.

Anthropology in the East: Founders of Indian Sociology and Anthropology, co-edited by Patricia Uberoi, Nandini Sundar and Satish Deshpande (all at Delhi University), was published in 2007 by Permanent Black. It portrays 12 pioneers in the anthropology of India, covering much of the twentieth century and ending with MN Srinivas – with whom some may mistakenly think that Indian anthropology began. As the book shows, the earlier anthropologists were usually familiar with the work of western scholars in anthropology and related disciplines. Those windows on the world tend to be rather like one-way screens: most Europeans and Americans have not looked in the other direction.

Two other books are even more recent. Decentering and Diversifying Southeast Asian Studies: Perspectives from the Region (2011) is edited by Goh Beng-Lan, anthropologist at the National University of Singapore, and published by ISEAS Publishing, Singapore. It has autobiographical accounts by 11 scholars from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, all in the human sciences, many anthropologists. Goh’s introduction focuses on the debate over “area studies.” While that debate has been most lively in the US, after the Cold War and with the increasing preoccupation with globalization, Goh shows that it should be decen-
If anthropology had a bad reputation in Africa in the immediate postcolonial period, this volume suggests that at least some committed practitioners, expatriates and locals, now come together in a subtle engagement with local, contemporary knowledge forms.

When anthropologists are everywhere, and many of them do “anthropology at home” while others continue to go abroad for research, locals and expatriates often find themselves sharing fields, and needing to find the terms of collegiality. Having a better understanding of each other’s background and working conditions helps, and books like these three have a part in the construction of anthropology as a global enterprise. The views and voices from afar need not always be so distant either. One of the editors, Setha Low (see below), is a member of the AAA Committee on World Anthropologies, the AN column of the AAA Committee on World Anthropologies.

**Presidential Incentive Program for New Undergraduate Members a Success**

**Elaine Lynch**

**AAA Deputy Executive Director**

The Presidential Incentive Program for Undergraduate Students was created by Virginia R. Dominguez during her term as AAA president (2009–11). The program, which was approved by the AAA Executive Board in 2009, began with the creation of a new membership category in 2010 specifically for undergraduate students. This new category includes membership in the National Association of Student Anthropologists (NASA) section.

Virginia Dominguez wanted to further encourage new undergraduate members to broaden their AAA experience by joining additional sections. She explained, “I wanted to make it possible for our newest and (usually) youngest members to explore more of the range of topics and expertise the AAA has within its midst. Undergraduates tend to be the newest to discover anthropology and bring enthusiasm, energy and great curiosity to the profession, so facilitating their entrance into the profession is both smart and joyful.”

To do this, she made a generous donation to AAA to provide a one-time $10 subsidy to the first 500 new undergraduate members who (1) joined by November 30, 2011, and (2) wished to add a second or third section to their membership. Of the 346 new undergraduate members that joined during the incentive program period, 63% took advantage of Dominguez’s generous offer. On average they added two sections when they joined.

Although the financial incentive portion of the program ended November 30, 2011, undergraduate membership continues to provide a cost effective way for undergraduate students of anthropology to connect with their peers across the country and engage with working anthropologists across the broad spectrum of the discipline.