FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Deborah Thomas Appointed Editor-in-Chief of American Anthropologist

Dr. Deborah Thomas (U Penn) has been selected to serve as editor-in-chief of the American Anthropological Association’s (AAA) flagship journal, American Anthropologist (AA) effective July 1, 2016. The AAA Executive Board was moved to make this appointment early to help facilitate the dynamic ideas that won her this distinction.

“I envision American Anthropologist as a platform from which anthropologists are able to enter a broader academic conversation,” said Thomas. “It is my hope that during my time as editor-in-chief, AA continues to foster dialogue and debate across the subfields while supporting the association’s commitment to enhancing diversity in relation to forms of scholarly production and underrepresented groups.”

Thomas’s vision for the journal also includes the development of a robust and multi-faceted online presence that cultivates broad awareness of the important work done by scholars in the association.

Thomas is professor of Anthropology and Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and core faculty in the Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. She has authored and co-edited a number of books including Exceptional Violence: Embodied Citizenship in Transnational Jamaica (2011, Duke). Thomas also co-directed and co-produced the documentary film, Bad Friday: Rastafari After Coral Gardens, which chronicles violence in Jamaica through the eyes of its most iconic community.

Thomas is familiar with the AA editorial process, having served as a member of the editorial board and as co-editor of the Visual Anthropology Section. Thomas also edited the journal Transforming Anthropology from 2007-2010.

Published quarterly, American Anthropologist reaches more than 9,500 members and tens of thousands of researchers through more than 4,000 site licenses. American Anthropologist advances the AAA’s mission by publishing articles that add to, integrate, synthesize and interpret anthropological knowledge; commentaries and essays on issues of importance to the discipline; and reviews of books, films, sound recordings, exhibits and websites.

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The American Anthropological Association, dedicated to advancing human understanding and addressing the world’s most pressing problems since its
founding in 1902, is the world's largest professional anthropology organization.