Humanity at 414 Symposium

CALL FOR PAPERS

As part of the “Raising Our Voices” Fall event series, the American Anthropological Association is calling for papers to be included in the inaugural panel of a symposium on human dimensions of climate change. Following this year’s event, the symposium will be held each year at the AAA Annual Meeting. The number in the symposium series title refers to the 414 parts per million (ppm) for atmospheric CO2 concentrations in 2020. Each year, the number in the symposium’s title will change to reflect the yearly increase of this concentration in the atmosphere. The future of humankind depends on stopping and reversing greenhouse gas emission levels, and enhancing resilience in the face of the effects of climate change.

As the discipline dedicated to understanding the human condition, anthropology offers vital insights into the obstacles and possibilities that make up the existential threat of climate change. We recognize that climate change has social, cultural and political dimensions, ranging in scale from the global to the personal. What ideas and actions can anthropologists offer to meet a climate crisis that is already underway, now intertwined with a global pandemic? Are there stories we can and should tell to invite broader academic and public engagement with climate change?

We are especially, but not exclusively, interested in work that explores research-driven levers for action. We encourage proposals from all of anthropology’s sub disciplines, including from early career scholars. We encourage proposals from both individuals and teams, including multi- and trans-disciplinary groups. This special forum will include work that speaks to the anthropological community as well as work that looks outward to include and address other disciplines, activists, politicians and policy makers, social influencers, and a broader concerned public.

How to Submit

Please send a proposal of no more than 500 words by August 25, 2020 to humanityat414@gmail.com following this outline:

1. A one-paragraph statement of research objectives;
2. A one-paragraph statement of key findings, observations, or argument;
3. A paragraph about research methods (if relevant)

Selection decisions will be announced by September 15, 2020. Presentation drafts of papers are due by November 1st for exchange and feedback among the presenters. A live-streamed symposium will be staged sometime between November 5th and November 14th as part of the AAA’s “Raising Our Voices” Fall event series. The written version should thus take the form of an article manuscript rather than the written guide for an oral presentation. However, for the live-streamed presentation, presenters will be asked to discuss, rather than read, their papers to maximize public appeal.

The manuscripts due on November 1st will be circulated to the press but embargoed from publication until after the live-streamed symposium. The AAA will solicit authors’ interest in publishing their papers as an e-book in the AAA’s monograph series. This does not exclude the possibility of a participant submitting the paper to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.

Presenters (one per paper) will have their registration fees covered by the AAA, and they will receive a modest honorarium. NOTE: Being selected for this symposium does NOT count toward the limitation of one major role in other live-streamed events for the “Raising Our Voices” event series.