Thanks to a sponsorship from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the AAA is pleased to announce Anthropology and Entrepreneurship, an annual symposium series that will begin as part of the “Raising Our Voices” Fall event series. This year the symposium will feature three or four author presentations selected from paper abstracts submitted in response to this Call, along with a commentary/discussant designated by the Steering Committee. Abstracts need to be submitted by August 25, 2020. The Steering Committee will notify authors who have been selected to take part in the symposium by September 15. Selected authors will receive a complimentary Annual Meeting registration and an honorarium to acknowledge their selection. They will be expected to complete a draft paper for exchange among the other Symposium participants by November 1.

AAA is soliciting proposed papers highlighting promising research by anthropologists on entrepreneurship, and we are especially interested in a mix of papers based on research from around the world, not just North America. The Symposium will feature research that has direct practical application in business and entrepreneurship and addresses solutions to pressing environmental, economic and social problems. Among the research areas of particular interest are: (1) entrepreneurial behavior and the social, cultural, and economic institutions that facilitate the emergence and ongoing support of such behavior; (2) innovative approaches to entrepreneurship training and development; (3) partnerships and financial instruments that support new enterprises; and (4) innovative approaches to enterprises that explicitly aim to serve public interests and/or urgent social needs.

Proposed papers must involve systematic observations and engagement or participation – they may not be solely theoretical or conceptual models. They may be drawn from ethnographic research, mixed methods research, and/or case studies, and may consider comparisons across cultural settings around the world. Keeping in mind the problems faced by small enterprises, downsizing businesses, franchise models, and of enterprises across different sectors of the economy, we welcome papers addressing urgent questions like succession in family business, no growth companies, startup culture, innovative approaches to credit and capital formation, informal economy, entrepreneurship and change within large companies.

How to Submit

Please submit your abstract (no more than 500 words), along with your contact information, to entrepreneurship@americananthro.org, NO LATER THAN August 25, 2020. If you have any questions, please direct them to AAA Executive Director, Ed Liebow (eliebow@americananthro.org). Participation in this Symposium will be IN ADDITION TO another role you may have proposed for the “Raising Our Voices 2020” event series.

Steering Committee members include: Timothy de Waal Malefyt (Gabelli School of Business, Fordham University), Kyle Gibson (Center for Entrepreneurship, University of Nebraska), Susan Kresnicka (KR&I), Ken Erickson (Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina), & Inga Treitler (Anthropology Imagination)