Call for Participation: RAISING OUR VOICES 2020, a Fall Event Series

AAA is now accepting proposals for our online Fall event series, RAISING OUR VOICES, which will include a combination of live-streamed events with interactive participation along with prerecorded content for on-demand (asynchronous) viewing. The deadline for submitting proposals is 3pm EDT, August 25, 2020.

RAISING OUR VOICES is an opportunity to bring our anthropological expertise to bear on this historic moment. We stand at the convergence of a global pandemic, the ascendance of authoritarianism, and a looming climate catastrophe, all of which have cast a spotlight on longstanding and deep-seated structural inequalities that call out for our collective knowledge, thought, and praxis to help chart pathways forward towards a more just and sustainable world.

The pandemic has also pressed us to experiment on a scale that is unprecedented for the AAA, and we invite you to join in this spirit of experimentation and community. Virtual events can expand both the form and content of intellectual exchange, enabling creativity and bringing to the table diverse constituencies, and we urge you to use technological affordances to generate vibrant spaces of dialogue and debate. There is no specific theme for the RAISING OUR VOICES series. Rather, we are counting on our community to raise its collective voices on issues of research, scholarship, and practice that matter in the world today.

AAA will host two types of events:

1. **Live-Streamed events**, presented over a 10-day period from Thursday, November 5th to Saturday, November 14th, 2020. These events will have the opportunity for live Q&A and will be recorded and available for viewing and discussion afterwards.

2. **View-on-Demand events**, which will be pre-recorded and posted to the RAISING OUR VOICES website for viewing, with any linked live/interactive discussion events scheduled outside of live-streamed content times.
Live-Streamed Events

- All these events will be recorded, captioned in real time and accompanied by ASL interpretation, which require that participants prepare lists of specialized terms prior to their event.
- Participants must agree to be recorded, and to have their recordings posted online through the end of December 2020.
- All these events will be limited to 60 minutes, including Q&A.
- Participants will be asked to support collective access by maintaining accessible practices that will be outlined in detail on the AAA website.
- Submitters who have prepared material in support of their live-streamed events are encouraged to upload this material to the Open Anthropology Research Repository.
- Submitters wishing to submit live-stream content will make their submission to the portal and select which Section is most closely aligned with their work. Section Program Chairs will receive all submissions, rate them, and curate their program from submitted work. Section Program Chairs can choose to curate up to 1/4 of their allotted live streamed hours from invited, creative content of their own choosing (rather than submissions).

Live Streamed Submission Types

Interview

- A host/moderator interviews one or more persons about a topic, engaging in a lively discussion, followed by a question and answer session for live viewers, facilitated by the platform’s chat feature. This event should be conversational in nature and should not include a recitation of papers.

Conversations or Debates

- Participants engage in a traditional-style debate led by a moderator, followed by a brief question and answer session for live viewers, facilitated by the platform’s chat feature.

Roundtable/ “Town Hall”

- Similar to the interview/conversation style event, this Roundtable/Town Hall can involve up to eight participants, with a focus on a single or multiple topics, referencing multiple bodies of research and practice. We envision half presentation/ half robust conversation and audience engagement, facilitated by the platform’s chat feature. Presenters may have slides, but the tone of this event should be conversational in nature and should not include a recitation of papers.

View-on-Demand Events
These events will be pre-recorded and posted to the *Raising Our Voices* website for viewing, with live / interactive “TalkBack” sessions scheduled outside the live-streamed content times. Proposers wishing to submit View-on-Demand content will make their submission to the portal and select the Section they would like to review their work. Section Program Chairs will review these submissions to make sure they meet an appropriate professional standard. Submissions will also be expected to fulfill audio and visual accessibility requirements, which will be outlined in detail on the AAA website.

**View-On-Demand Submission Types**

**Podcast (Up to 45 minutes)**

- This audio-only formatted submission is a pre-recorded discussion on a topic of the proposer’s choosing. Up to 4 participants may be included in any one podcast submission. Podcasts should be conversational in nature and are not limited by any specific content requirements. This submission type is eligible for a “TalkBack” session.*

**Virtual Poster (Up to 10 minutes)**

- Virtual poster submissions will include a single PDF version of the body of research, with a voice recording attached (10 minutes maximum) (or a link to a YouTube video) describing the work. This submission type is eligible for a 30-minute “TalkBack” session.* Poster presenters are encouraged to upload their posters to the Open Anthropology Research Repository for wider circulation.

**Three-Minute Thesis Competition**

- Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the National Institute of Social Sciences, we are able to offer prizes for a juried competition in which graduate students who have completed (or expect to complete) their Master’s thesis or doctoral dissertation in the 2020-21 academic year will be given a chance to summarize their project in three minutes. The presentation must be understandable for a general audience, as jurors will be journalists expecting an appropriate angle for a feature news story. This submission type will have the ability to upload slides with voice recording attached, or a YouTube video for which a link is provided. Submitters are encouraged to upload their presentations to the Open Anthropology Research Repository for wider circulation.

**Talk (Up to 20 minutes)**

- For submitters simply looking to present their work independently, this submission format allows for uploading slides as well as a voice recording, or a YouTube video for which a link is
provided. Up to two co-presenters may be featured in this submission for a singular body of research work. This submission type is eligible for a “TalkBack” session. * Submitters are encouraged to upload their presentations and/or papers to the Open Anthropology Research Repository.

*TalkBack Event

- For eligible View-on-Demand submissions, this event type will be a question and answer period of up to 30 minutes, hosted by the participant(s) of the original session. All TalkBacks will be held at a specific time (e.g., between 10am – 12:00pm daily the week before the live online sessions). The Talk Back will take place at a pre-scheduled time outside of live-streaming content hours during the Raising Our Voices Series. This session gives viewers the chance to interact with the participants of asynchronous content. TalkBack sessions are optional, and submitters should indicate their preference to host one during their submission process.

For more information on session types, please visit the AAA website.

Acceptance Rate and Schedule for Live-Streamed Events
We will only have about 160 time slots over 10 days for the live streamed events, resulting in a much lower acceptance rate than what is usual for our in-person annual meeting. There will be 4 time slots per day, and 4 concurrent live streamed sessions taking place in each time slot.

Event Roles & Limits
Submitters are considered participants and are limited to participate in only one live-streamed session.

The View-on-Demand content will be uploaded to the platform and made available on the first day of Raising Our Voices and will remain through the end of 2020. There will be no limit to how many view-on-demand submissions in which a participant may appear. For more information about role definitions and limits, please visit the AAA website.

How to Submit?
All submissions will be collected on the AAA submission platform which can be accessed through the submission portal. A detailed submission guide, with step by step instructions for how to submit is available on the AAA’s website. Registration for Raising Our Voices and AAA Membership is NOT REQUIRED at the time of submission.

Special Events
There are **Special Events** that typically take place in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Below we outline what will be done with those types of events that are outside of typical programming.

1. **Professional Development Workshops** – Both AAA- and Section-sponsored workshops will be decoupled from ROV live-streamed event timing. Once developed, these workshops will be listed in the online program, but hosted on Zoom outside of the *Raising our Voices* Platform. A separate call for workshops will be hosted with a simple Google form submission in late-August. Section Program Chairs will not review these submissions. They will be reviewed and selected by the Event Series Program Chair, a representative from the Section Assembly Exec Committee and AAA leadership. Workshops will need to fulfill audio and visual accessibility requirements. These expectations, along with specific guidance, will be outlined in detail.

2. **Film and Media Festival** – SVA will curate this event and together with AAA, we will work out a schedule that does not conflict with Live-Streamed events or Section Special events. Section Program Chairs are not responsible for the Film and Media Festival content.

3. **Special Section & Interest Group Events (Board Meetings, Business Meetings)** will take place earlier in the day during the *Raising Our Voices* live-stream period.
   - Section Special Events that would like technical assistance can request that assistance on a Google form we will provide on the AAA site once the Special Events Call for Submissions opens.
   - Section Special Events will use AAA Zoom licenses.
   - Section Special Events will NOT be hosted on the ROV platform – just plain old Zoom meetings – but AAA will present a schedule and accompanying links that is available to all AAA members, regardless of ROV registration status, on the AAA website, behind the member wall.
   - Zoom accessibility guidelines will be provided for special section events to support collective access for disabled participants, participants with disabilities, and participants with access needs. Section Special Event Organizers should review these guidelines closely, disseminate them to all possible participants prior to the event, and remind participants of the expectations during the event.

**Supporting Collective Access**

All *Raising Our Voices* event submitters and participants are requested to join us in supporting collective access (a term by Mia Mingus and Sins Invalid). AAA will provide accessibility guidelines for all event types. Following acceptance, there will also be webinars provided to help participants learn about accessibility standards. Event submitters and participants will also be welcome and encouraged to share their virtual access needs and accommodation requests, whether as presenters or attendees. At this historic moment, we encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to make virtual spaces more accessible and for all of us to learn new skills in supporting increased accessibility in virtual spaces. These are skills that can move with us past the COVID-19 era and outside of our anthropological communities. Join AAA as we move beyond compliance and cultivate accessibility as a cultural norm. For any questions or comments about accessibility for *Raising Our Voices*, please email Nell, AAA’s Accessibility & Meetings Coordinator, at accessibility@americananthro.org.
TIMELINE
Call for Submissions: July 20 – August 25
Review Period: August 28 – September 14
Program Announced: September 23
Registration Opens: September 23

*Raising Our Voices*: November 5 – November 14

REGISTRATION (Opens September 15, 2020)
Registration for *Raising Our Voices* and AAA Membership is **NOT REQUIRED** at the time of submission. Participants selected to participate in the program will be required to pay the registration fee and update their membership status to active before the event.

*Raising Our Voices* participant pricing will be significantly discounted from the regular Annual Meeting registration and placed on a sliding scale, with provisions for group rates and registration fee waivers based on need. For more information on registration, including pricing, please visit the AAA's website.

If you are unable to pay the discounted registration fee, please request a fee waiver by writing to aaameetings@americananthro.org. If you would like to pay more to offset AAA’s expenses and subsidize participation by those who are unable to pay, that option will be available when registration opens in September.