



# AIDS and Anthropology Bulletin



NEWSLETTER OF THE AIDS AND  
ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

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## Letter from the Chair

### Editor:

Nancy Romero-Daza

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Two years ago I visited several sites where Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is carrying out intervention projects in Lesotho. One of these was an irrigation and conservation agriculture project aimed at improving nutrition, livelihood security, and community capacity in a remote area of this mountainous country. I was curious to see how this project was faring because CRS is using models based on indigenous institutions to bring it to the community. This approach seemed very anthropological and I was excited to see if laymen could be effective at community capacity building through indigenous institutions. In effect, I wanted to know if anthropological approaches were finding their way into the broader development community.

The project I toured is the Lesotho Irrigation Project (LIP). Through a man-powered mechanical pump participants transfer water from a stream to a cistern, where it is then available for spot irrigation when the stream runs dry, as it inevitably does. The conservation agriculture techniques used on LIP were yielding great bounty and participants enjoyed surpluses that they could sell. Indeed, this group had a rather hefty bank account by local standards and was deliberating what to do with it.

CRS's selection methods seemed to do everything right. They went through the local chief, who announced the project at a village meeting and urged people to participate. The model used was to get participation through matsema (singular, letsema), which are communal work parties in which help is not all achieved at once but through reciprocities over time. This enabled participants to come up with work schedules that ensured that everyone would have time to tend to matters at home and not be completely committed to the project. All Great ideas.

A quick survey of the project revealed that there were many villagers who were not participating but who would like to be. In the selection phase CRS had worked from the basic assumption that a village constituted a community. Of course communities are venues for exclusion as much as they are for inclusion, and by executing selection based on the assumption that the chief represented all of his constituency they likely excluded a large number of people who align with other political or religious factions or some other community of identity, affiliation, and action. An understanding of Lesotho's very divisive history should have thrown up a red flag to look out for strong factions

within villages. With this recognition, a bit of ethnographic assessment might have identified major factions as well as cooperative nuclei with the village that could have been tapped into to improve prospects for more even experiencing of benefits.

Many anthropologists know how to do this stuff; yet very many development programs proceed using selection criteria informed by under-theorized conceptions of community, and under monitoring and evaluation standards that are inadequate or completely lacking. There are many, many other examples of different areas where we know how to get it right, or close to right, but don't get the recognition that would bring our voices into setting standards and priorities for programming decisions and project implementation. We need to get our expertise, methods, and perspectives out there. Not to promote anthropology, but to save lives and to ensure more humanitarian approaches to caregiving.

In the months to come we will launch our new web page. This has been long in coming but I'm sure, once you see it, you will agree that it was

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**AARG Officers:**

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Delia Easton (2007-2009)

## Letter from the Chair

*(Continued from page 1)*

worth the wait and the effort on the part of Susan Pietrzyk and Colleen Muldowney. This is going to be a very attractive, professional and useful portal for showcasing what we do and for disseminating resources and expertise unique to anthropology. Susan has an update about the web page in this issue and will be giving a demonstration at our business meeting in New Orleans.

A next goal for us is to reinvigorate the AARG Bulletin and use this as another venue for demonstrating the value of anthropological approaches to HIV prevention and mitigation of hardships associated with AIDS. We plan to have themed issues guest-edited by members. This can't happen without your help, however, and I urge you to contact the AARG Bulletin editor, Nancy Romero-Daza, with ideas or to propose themes you would like to guest-edit.

The next step will be to aggressively pursue new members. Our membership officer, Charlotte Nobel, is very competent and very energetic. Once we have our resources in order we can begin to identify potential members through their publications, reports, and presentations and encourage them to join. Expanding our membership base is important if we are to keep AARG vital and solvent. Equally important, we need to bring in new blood to lead AARG forward.

Thank you for being a part of AARG. Please help us move forward into the future and do the very important work of advocating for humane and culturally nuanced approaches to HIV and AIDS.



Dave Turkon with his son Evan



We are looking for new members.  
Please spread the word about AARG  
through your school and professional  
networks

## Letter from the Editor

With the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association rapidly approaching, we wanted to put together our second issue of the year to highlight the wonderful work of the AARG and of its individual members. There are a lot of exciting news to share with our members. First, Paul Farmer, of Partners in Health, will be presented with the 2010 AARG Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his tireless efforts to improve the health and well being of individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. The presentation of the award will take place on Thursday, November 18th, from 12:15 to 1:30 PM in room 825, at the Sheraton hotel (See announcement by Doug Goldsmith on page 4). In addition, this year the AAAs will offer a wonderful venue for those interested in HIV/AIDS issues. Susan Pietrzyk has gone through the meeting program and has identified 67 papers that relate to HIV/AIDS. Twenty nine of these papers will be presented as part of five panels exclusively focused on the pandemic (See description of panels

on pages 7 and 8 ). This should be as a useful guide for our members who are looking to hear the latest HIV/AIDS– related anthropological work conducted in all corners of the world. Notice that several of our members will be presenting their research or serving as discussants in these sessions.

We are very excited to announce that our webpage is being redesigned to make it more aesthetically appealing and more user-friendly (See details on pages 9 and 10). We encourage our members to explore the webpage and contribute their comments and suggestions.

Following our goal of highlighting the work of junior members of the AARG alongside that of more seasoned researchers, this issue includes a short column by Kartavya J. Vyas, a recent BS/BA graduate from UCSD, who addresses issues of stigma and the role of religion as they may affect HIV prevention interventions in India. We invite student members to send

us a brief description of their research along with a photograph. This is a great opportunity to add visibility to your work. We are also pleased to include an announcement for the 2011 Paper Prize Awards that support the research of our professional, undergraduate, and graduate members. Finally, I want to echo David Turkon's call for suggestions about potential themes around which the AARG bulletin can be designed and for volunteers to guest-edit future issues. Please contact me with your suggestions or comments at [daza@usf.edu](mailto:daza@usf.edu)

Nancy Romero-Daza



## The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group

### Mission

The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG), an interest group of the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA), is a network of scholars interested in anthropological research on HIV infection and AIDS. The mission of the AARG is to support anthropological research in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

To this end, AARG

- 1) works to use anthropological research in the fight against HIV and AIDS, 2) advocates for AIDS research within anthropology, 3) promotes AIDS research by anthropologists within the broader AIDS research community, 4) and provides a forum for anthropologists working on AIDS to meet and communicate about their work.

## Distinguished Service Award

Doug Goldsmith

Paul Farmer, one of the founders of Partners in Health, will receive the 2010 AARG Distinguished Service Award at the Business Meeting of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group during the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association in New Orleans. The business meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18th, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Salon 825, on the Eighth Floor of the Sheraton meetings hotel.

This years' Distinguished Service Award committee, of Doug Goldsmith (chair), Doug Feldman, and Pat Whelehan, edited the text of the award plaque from the nominating statement by Arachu Castro. Doug Feldman will be presenting the plaque to Paul Farmer, and entrusting it to Paul's colleague Philippe Bourgois, who will bring it to Paul (who cannot attend the meetings, no doubt busy with combating cholera in Haiti among other calamities in our syndemic century). Those assembled will certainly be happy to hear remarks from Philippe Bourgois, and any words he conveys from Paul. Everyone at AARG is very happy and excited that Paul is receiving this well deserved award.

The plaque reads as follows:

### AIDS and Anthropology Research Group

Paul E. Farmer, M.D., Ph.D.

2010 Distinguished Service Award

Focusing the gaze of both Anthropology and Medicine on populations living in poverty around the world, Paul Farmer has inspired colleagues, students, and global health communities to bring medical and social responses to those affected by HIV/AIDS.



Paul Farmer with a child recovering in the pediatric ward at Rwinkwavu Hospital. (Eric Neudel / Globe Photo)

*"AIDS, an infectious disease that disproportionately affects those living in poverty, has attracted much of Farmer's effort since even before he started medical school and a doctorate in anthropology, both at Harvard. He's been successful at bringing many of his colleagues and students into the study of AIDS and, particularly, at harnessing a multiplicity of resources (scholarly, medical, political, financial)...[for] those affected by AIDS. Farmer's magnificent anthropological research on AIDS can only be paralleled by his own contribution to AIDS as a medical doctor."*

Arachu Castro

The previous recipients of the AARG Distinguished Service Award are:

**Doug Feldman** 2008 "In recognition of his steadfast contributions to a cultural understanding of HIV/AIDS. Committed to addressing HIV/AIDS from the earliest years of the pandemic, he has not shied away from controversial issues within anthropology and beyond."

**Ralph Bolton** 2006 In recognition of his outstanding scholarly and personal response to the AIDS crisis from its very beginning and his meritorious contributions in educating colleagues and communities on HIV/AIDS issues

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## From our Members: Kartavya J. Vyas

Kartavya J. Vyas is a recent BA/BS graduate from UCSD.

From its devastating potential to exploit human behavior (sex and intravenous drug use) to its evolutionarily beautiful biology and mechanism of replication, HIV has always induced an ambivalent feeling of fear and fascination in me, providing for me a field of study that incorporates all of my passions: HIV/AIDS medical anthropology. However, having only graduated a few months ago with a B.S. (biological sciences) and B.A. (sociocultural anthropology) from UCSD, my prospects for funding are limited.

Nevertheless, over the past five years working as a clinical research assistant at the UCSD Owen Clinic (an HIV clinic) and at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego (NMCSD) Infectious Disease Clinic, I have conducted several of my own studies — enrolling hundreds of patients, both from the U.S. and India. Nothing has surprised me more than the consistent fear over loss of confidentiality: an unwarranted disclosure that might lead to alienation. But how does the collective decision to stigmatize persons with HIV develop among a people? How does culture, particularly religion, influence self-identity and one's perception of health? These questions flood my mind and drive my studies. As an undergraduate I conducted a cross-sectional survey among 170 healthcare workers in urban and rural Gujarat, India to determine how nosocomial HIV-associated stigma may have influenced the increasing incidence of HIV there. After publishing these data, I wanted to understand how HIV-infected patients in India perceive

religion and how religious institutions may provide preventative interventions. I conducted a cross-sectional survey among 160 HIV-infected patients in urban Gujarat, India to determine levels of religious coping and the role faith-based organizations may have in India. My current project revolves around the impact religious beliefs and practices may have on how HIV-infected patients in San Diego adhere to their medications.

My fascination with medical anthropology is very real. However, from the outlook of a student, the field is quite small (especially the subspecialty of HIV/AIDS). Fortunately, I was able to become a member of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG). With lively discussions of newly published data and political news, I found the site to be valuable to my continuing education and research. Therefore, I urge senior anthropologists to expand their reach farther into the classrooms and engage the future of their fields.



Kartavya Vyas (center), with Bharat Patel (right) and Ratilal Patel (left); after a bike ride through the villages of rural Anaval, Gujarat (India).

## AARG Announcements

The Business Meeting for the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group will be held on Thursday, November 18th, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in Salon 825, on the Eighth Floor of the Sheraton hotel. The agenda includes the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to Paul Farmer, the elections of members for open AARG positions, and a demonstration of the new webpage. We encourage all our current and potential members to attend this very important meeting.

We are looking for ideas about theme-issues for the AARG bulletin and for members who are willing to guest-edit the newsletter. Please send your ideas to the AARG Bulletin Editor, Nancy Romero-Daza at [daza@usf.edu](mailto:daza@usf.edu)

We have recently updated the AIDS related bibliography in our website. This is a great resource for students and professionals alike. Please let us know if you have items that need to be added.



## Panel on "The First 400 Days"

**Douglas A. Feldman**

I organized and chaired a panel session at the Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting in Merida, Mexico looking at the Obama Administration's HIV/AIDS policy ("The First 400 Days: Assessing the Obama Administration's HIV/AIDS Policy"). The well-informed panelists included Stephen L. Eyre (University of California at San Francisco), Ruth Kornfield (Tibet Sector Support Program), Thomas Lyons (Chicago State University), David Turkon (Ithaca College), and Patricia Whelehan (SUNY-Potsdam).

In a nutshell, we concluded that the results have been mixed at best, but that it is too early to reach an assessment of the domestic and international HIV/AIDS policy of the Obama Administration. There have been some clear-cut positive steps: The Global Gag Rule, requiring that organizations promoting or providing abortions be banned from receiving federal funds, was lifted. The requirement that at least one-third of HIV prevention funds provided internationally must be for ineffective abstinence-only programs was modified. In addition, there has been a recognition within the United States that programs need to target young men who have sex with men (MSM) who do not use condoms.

But we still have a long way to go: The President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), now part of the larger U.S. Global Health Initiative, still requires nations and organizations that receive funding to sign a statement condemning sex work, even in countries where sex work is legal. While it does not ban programs for sex workers, it certainly dissuades new programs targeting sex workers from occurring. At least half of all PEPFAR funds must be spent on limiting pre-marital and extra-marital relationships, often alienating sexually active men and women. PEPFAR funds hardly any programs that target and assist MSM, even though their rates of HIV are significantly higher than others, even in generalized epidemics where the overall HIV rates are very high.

PEPFAR funds have been flat-lined, so that increased allocations based upon need will not be accommodated. Al

ready, waiting lists for antiretroviral treatment have sprung up in PEPFAR-funded countries. It is likely that this problem will only continue to rapidly grow. Also, the Obama Administration spent the first half of 2009 waiting to finally hire a new AIDS Coordinator, and the last half of 2009 developing new guidelines, rather than actually instituting policy changes. Furthermore, we are still heavily funding less experienced faith-based organizations, which are more likely to stigmatize the very people that they are trying to help.

The panelists clarified what the Obama Administration needs to do in the next few years to be successful. While there is no question that the current administration's HIV/AIDS policy is a vast improvement over the Bush Administration, there is still a long way to go. We are closely watching to see what happens during the coming months and years.



## HIV/AIDS Sessions at the AAAs

### Susan Pietrzyk

AARG has identified sixty-seven papers on HIV/AIDS; this includes twenty-nine papers where the entire panel focuses on HIV/AIDS and thirty-eight individual papers. Among the five panels, three are sponsored by the Society for Medical Anthropology, one by the Association of Africanist Anthropology, and one by the American Ethnological Society. Sponsorship of the thirty-eight individual papers is spread across eighteen different sections. More specifically, HIV/AIDS is importantly represented in panels sponsored by sections topically focused on: cultural anthropology; the practice of anthropology; religion; ethnology; linguistics; food/nutrition; children/childhood; feminist anthropology; queer anthropology; urban anthropology; medical anthropology; student anthropologists; and gender equity in anthropology as well as sections regionally focused on: East Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; Africa; and North America. The depth and breadth of where HIV/AIDS-related papers fall within the AAA sponsorship system represents well both the realities of HIV/AIDS and the necessary diversity of interests among anthropologists involved in HIV/AIDS research and interventions. Beyond the sixty-seven papers included in the list that follows, there are hundreds of papers that might not focus on HIV/AIDS directly; however, the subject matter is contextually relevant. Following is a listing of the five HIV/AIDS specific panels. For a complete listing of papers, please see PDF file attached to this newsletter.

#### Thursday November 18 (8:00 AM – 9:45 AM)

**DEVELOPMENT POLITICS AND THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC IN AFRICA, STUDIO 9, SECOND FLOOR, MARRIOTT. SPONSORED BY SMA. CHAIRED BY RACHEL CHAPMAN (UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON)**

8:00 "Doing the Best We Can": Patients' and Health Care Providers' Experiences in a Malawian Rural ART Clinic (Anat Rosenthal, Harvard Medical School)

8:15 Testing Knowledge: Legitimacy, Healing, and Medicine in South Africa (Susan Levine, University of Cape Town)

8:30 School Fees and Beans: Social and Economic Coping Strategies among HIV Positive Women in Uganda (Margaret Winchester, Case Western Reserve University)

8:45 "A House in Virginia": Community Health Workers and the Social Life of HIV/AIDS Diagnoses in South Africa (Christopher Colvin, University of Cape Town and Alison Swartz, University of Cape Town)

9:00 Rumors 'From Above': Ambiguity and the Discourse of Development (Micah Boyer)

9:15 Ills of Modernity? Discourses on AIDS and Toxicity in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa (Tamara Luthy)

9:30 Preventing Maternal to Child Transmission of HIV by Following Loss to Follow-Up from the Clinic to the Community (Rachel Chapman, University of Washington)

#### Thursday November 18 (10:15 AM – 12:00 PM)

**THE BIOPOLITICS OF HIV/AIDS AND TREATMENT/REGIMENS, BALCONY J, FOURTH FLOOR, MARRIOTT. SPONSORED BY SMA. CHAIRED BY KATHLEEN RAGSDALE (MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY, SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER)**

10:15 HIV-Positive MSM in Hungary: Why So Few? (Douglas Feldman, the College at Brockport / State University of New York)

10:30 Bodies at Risk: Determining Health and Responsibility in Ukrainian Harm Reduction and HIV-Prevention Programs (Jennifer Carroll, University of Washington)

10:45 The Anthropology of AIDS Treatment in India: Culture Meets Its Match? (Sonya Bearden, Cornell University)

11:00 Incorporating Rapid HIV Testing into Substance Abuse Treatment Centers in the Mississippi Delta: Engaging Treatment Staff through Participatory Action Research (PAR) (Kathleen Ragsdale, Mississippi State University, Social Science Research Center; Angela Robertson, Social Science Research Center; and Connie Baird-Thomas, Social Science Research Center)

11:15 "I Don't Have to Let You Shit on Me No More:" HIV Positive African American Women and the Disruption of Stigma under the Treatment Modernization Act (Alyson O'Daniel, University of Kentucky)

## HIV/AIDS Sessions at the AAAs

11:30 When Education ("Awareness Building") Is Not Enough: The Importance of Understanding Culture in HIV Prevention in Nepal (David Beine, SIL International)

*Friday November 19 (10:15 AM – 12:00 PM)*

**CLINICAL TRIALS AND GLOBAL PHARMACEUTICAL GOVERNANCE.** BALCONY J, FOURTH FLOOR, MARRIOTT . SPONSORED BY SMA. CHAIRED BY VINAY KAMAT (UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA)

10:30 Heroes, the "In-The-Know," and the Responsible Underrepresented Citizen: Marketing and Meaning Making in Multi-Site HIV Vaccine Trials in North America and the Caribbean (Chelsea Voytek, Temple University)

10:45 Beyond Community Participation and Toward Transforming Power Relationships and Knowledge Circulation in Transnational Clinical Trials: A New Role for Medical Anthropology (Kimberly Kelly)

11:00 Gelling Medical Knowledge in a Microbicide Clinical Trial: Innovative Pharmaceuticals, Experience, and Perceptions of Efficacy (Eirik Saethre, University of Hawaii-Manoa and Jonathan Stadler, Witwatersrand University)

11:15 "The Flow Makes All the Difference": Power, Information & the Nashville Communities as Partners in Clinical Trials Project (Elizabeth Williams, Vanderbilt University)

11:30 'Pharmaceutical Subjectification at Its Limits' – Providing and Living With Antiretroviral Medicines in Urban Tanzania (Dominik Mattes, Free University Berlin)

11:45 Fast, Cheap and out of Control? The Hype and Reality of the Outsourcing of Global Clinical Trials to India (Vinay Kamat, University of British Columbia)

*Saturday November 20 (8:00 AM – 9:45 AM)*

**POLICY CIRCULATION AND HEALTHCARE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: CONTEXTUALIZING DISEASE INTERVENTION, IMPACTS, AND TREATMENT. SA-**

**LON 828, SHERATON. SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR AFRICANIST ANTHROPOLOGY . ORGANIZED AND CHAIRED BY JOEL REED (MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY) .**

8:00 PEPFAR: Winning Hearts, Minds, and Bodies (Marita Eibl, Michigan State University)

8:15 Disruption and "Disability": The Reinterpretation of Health Policy among People Living With HIV/AIDS in Grahamstown, South Africa (Chaunetta Jones, Rutgers University)

8:30 The Dis/Integration of Day Hospitals: Impacts of the Health Systems Strengthening Policy in Northern Mozambique (Joel Reed, Michigan State University)

8:45 Between Policy and Practice: Care for Vulnerable Children in South Africa (Lindsey Reynolds, Johns Hopkins University)

9:00 Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Programs In Malawi: Medication Movement From Global Policy to Local Reality (Kristan Elwell)

9:15 Discussant (Douglas Feldman, the College at Brockport / State University of New York)

*Saturday November 20 (4:00 PM – 5:45 PM)*

**GENDERED MOBILITY, INTIMATE CONSUMPTION, AND HIV IN POSTCOLONIAL MELANESIA.** SALON 825, SHERATON SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY . ORGANIZED AND CHAIRED BY GILBERT HERDT

4:00 "I Knew Those Women Were Second-Hand, but They Looked Fresh and New": Huli Men's Narratives of Labor Migration and Extramarital Sex (Holly Wardlow, University of Toronto)

4:15 Gendered Mobility, Changing Sexual Subjectivities, and HIV Among the Sambia (Gilbert Herdt)



## HIV/AIDS Sessions at the AAAs (Cont.)

4:30 Saida and Sex on the South Coast: Gendered Mobility and HIV in Papua New Guinea (Alison Dundon)

4:45 Understanding Marriage as a Transitional Locus for Gender Roles in Papua New Guinea. (Birgitta Stolpe, University of Chicago)

5:00 I Am an 'MSM'! . . . I Think (Lawrence Hammar)

5:15 Discussant (Jennifer Hirsch, Columbia University)

## Distinguished Service Award (Cont.)

*Continued from page 4*

**Alfredo Gonzalez** 2002 "In recognition of his exceptionally meritorious contributions to the improvement of the health of people infected with or at risk of infection with HIV"

**Raymond Bucko, S.J.** 2002 "In acknowledgement and deep appreciation for excellent service in building the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group as a vital force in the promotion of AIDS research, service, policy formation, and advocacy, the Steering Committee of the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group honors Ray Bucko"

**"Norris Lang** 1998 "Norris Lang exemplifies the AARG criteria for service excellence through his community work and his social work practice. He has extended his anthropological training beyond the realm of academic work to reach out to the community, specifically seeking additional training in order to become a social worker providing direct services to the local community of HIV positive persons. He has undertaken this service as SERVICE, with no professional rewards, within anthropology or the academy, expected."

## Check it out! AARG is developing a new webpage!

**Susan Pietrzyk**

Thanks to the hard work of Ray Bucko, AARG has long had a virtual presence. Ray has been a devoted champion of AARG's listserv as well as of AARG's webpage. These electronic tools have been crucial for keeping AARG members informed and connected, and also central in attracting new AARG members. Over the summer AARG's chair David Turkon launched a project to redesign the AARG webpage. He first enlisted the help of Colleen Muldowney, a sophomore at Ithaca College and an experienced webpage designer. AARG member, Susan Pietrzyk volunteered to develop the aesthetic and content aspects of the new webpage. Pictured on page 10 is a snapshot of the new webpage. Specifically displayed is the main page. Work on the new webpage is still in progress, and all AARG members are encouraged to offer suggestions. To this end, Susan will present the new webpage at AARG's business meeting during the AAAs (Thursday November 18, 12:15 pm, Salon 825, Eighth Floor, Sheraton). This presentation will feature a "live" look at the new webpage, including a navigational demonstration of the tabs and their content. There will be time for questions/comments, please don't be hesitant. Feedback from members will go a long way in ensuring the new webpage is comprehensive, user-friendly, aesthetically appealing, and a meaningful representation of AARG and the diverse array of interests within the membership.

Much of the content in the new webpage is unchanged from the old webpage. For example, the bibliography Ray Bucko and AARG members have worked diligently to maintain is located under the resources tab of the new webpage. Past content such as course syllabi, AARG newsletters, AARG's by-laws, membership guidelines, and a list of AARG officers are all contained within the new webpage. In an effort to continue to give AARG the attention and presence it merits, the new webpage has several redesigned features and newly developed content. For example, AARG's membership officer, Charlotte Noble, is working to integrate an on-line registration sys-

## New AARG Webpage

tem that would link to a membership database. The “About AARG” section includes an essay tracing AARG’s history. This content serves as a poignant and instructive reminder that a group of brave and dedicated individuals founded AARG, and in turn, laid the groundwork for anthropological approaches to understand and address HIV/AIDS as we know them today. The “Why Anthropology” section importantly provides in-depth understandings of what is distinctive about anthropologically-focused work around HIV/AIDS.

One element of this redesign has involved the technical aspects of webpage programming. Thanks to the expertise and hard work of Colleen Muldowney, AARG’s new webpage has many of the latest webpage bells and whistles. Features such as search the site, slide out menus, and collapsible text aid in the user-friendliness of the new webpage. The inclusion of epidemiological data as well as links to news feeds, organizational newsletters, and blogs work to keep webpage readers up to date on HIV/AIDS work across the globe and on top of the latest innovations in research and intervention activities.

Redesigning AARG’s webpage has also borne out to be a larger intellectual undertaking. The choices being made about layout and content signal both how the organization sees itself as well as what messages the organization intends to convey. AARG’s steering committee and its members increasingly recognize that no two AARG members look alike. We are united by our interests in combating HIV/AIDS and our conviction that anthropological perspectives have much to offer. However, the specificities concerning the focus and expertise of each AARG member vary tremendously. This

variation creates some challenges in striving to represent, in the small space of a webpage, all of the possibilities pertaining to anthropological-oriented HIV/AIDS work. At the same time, this variation is one of AARG’s greatest strengths—our membership is diverse precisely because HIV/AIDS is complexly persistent. In the endeavor to embrace AARG’s productive diversity, please take part in using the undertaking to redesign the webpage and in turn the functions of the new webpage as a means to continue to build momentum and collaboration among members and beyond.



## Awards and Prizes from the AARG Alexander Rödlach

The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group will award three paper prizes in 2011:

- a. The **Clark Taylor Prize** for a paper authored by one or more professionals. Taylor Clark conducted research on sexuality and men who have sex with men. He was one of the first anthropologists to become actively involved in safer sex interventions and engaging anthropology in HIV and AIDS programs.
- b. The **Graduate Student Prize** for a paper authored by one or more graduate students.
- c. The **Undergraduate Student Prize** for a paper authored by one or more undergraduate students.

The recipients of the AARG awards will be selected by the AARG Paper Prize Committee. The awards consist of a \$100 honorarium, a plaque signifying the receipt of the award, and a presentation ceremony at the business meeting of the AARG at the annual meeting of the AAA in November 2011. If we have three paper prizes, then each prize recipient will receive \$50.00 and a plaque.

The submissions should be sent to Alexander Rödlach ([rodlach@creighton.edu](mailto:rodlach@creighton.edu)), the chair of the award committee by October 15, 2011.

The three other members of the committee are Delia Easton, Emily Frank, and Adriana Garriga-Lopez. All four will judge the papers. The committee will consider all nominations and vote by simple majority to determine the recipient of the award. Members of the AARG Steering Committee will be informed of the results of the vote, following which the recipient of the award will be notified of the pending award presentation during the AARG business meeting at the AAA annual meeting.

Papers are evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Potential contributions to the literature/policy/direct impact on HIV/AIDS prevention and/or treatment.
2. Originality of argument and/or data analysis
3. Relevance of cultural, ethnic, gender, and/or sexual orientation issues

4. Justified use of methods (when applicable)
5. Theoretical approach (when applicable)
6. Attention to previous research
7. Presentation--grammar, style, etc.
8. Suitability for submission to peer reviewed journals or other professional publications (including newsletters, monographs, etc.)

If a paper submission is a published paper, this cannot have been published more than one year prior to the submission to AARG. While all papers are judged in terms of the same criteria, judges will exercise reasonable judgment in separately assessing undergraduate student, graduate student, and professional level submissions. In other words, undergraduate student submissions will not be judged against graduate student or professional submissions, and so forth. The goal of these criteria is to support the development of the highest quality submissions at all levels, while fairly judging each level of submission in terms of reasonable standards for years of experience in the field.

Members of the AARG Steering Committee and previous winners of the awards will not be eligible for consideration.

Previous recipients of the AARG paper awards and the titles of the winning papers are:

**Manjari Mahajan** 2009 Clark Taylor Prize. "Governing Through the Non-Governmental: Shifting Terrains of Public Health in India's AIDS Epidemic"

**Hanspeter Reihling** 2009 Graduate Student Prize. "Whose healthy masculinity? Men as new subjects of sexual and reproductive health in South Africa"

**Andrew Irving** 2007 Clark Taylor Prize. "Ethnography, Art, and Death"

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Associate Professor  
Department of Anthropology  
Ithaca College  
Gannett 102  
Ithaca, New York 14850  
[dturkon@ithaca.edu](mailto:dturkon@ithaca.edu)

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

#### Cassandra Workman

Department of Anthropology  
University of South Florida  
4202 E. Fowler, SOC 107  
Tampa, FL 33637  
[workman3@mail.usf.edu](mailto:workman3@mail.usf.edu)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

#### Nancy Romero-Daza

University of South Florida  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SOC 107  
Tampa, FL 33647  
[daza@usf.edu](mailto:daza@usf.edu)

### MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

#### Charlotte A. Noble

Department of Anthropology  
4202 East Fowler Ave, SOC107  
Tampa, FL 33620-7200  
[cnoble3@mail.usf.edu](mailto:cnoble3@mail.usf.edu)

### ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

#### Raymond Bucko

Creighton University  
2500 California Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68178  
[bucko@creighton.edu](mailto:bucko@creighton.edu)

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Department of Anthropology  
Creighton University

2500 California Plaza

Omaha, NE 68178

[rodslach@creighton.edu](mailto:rodslach@creighton.edu)

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#### AWARD CHAIR

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Department of Anthropology  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
899 Tenth Avenue, Room 435  
New York, NY 10019  
[douglas.steven.goldsmith@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.steven.goldsmith@gmail.com)

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University of Michigan  
Department of Anthropology  
101 West Hall,  
1085 S. University Ave.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1107  
[block@umich.edu](mailto:block@umich.edu)

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**Barrett Brenton** (General Representative)

[BRENTONB@stjohns.edu](mailto:BRENTONB@stjohns.edu)

**Adam Kĩs** (International Professional Representative)

c/o ADRA STP

Caixa Postal 161

São Tomé,

São Tomé e Príncipe

Central Africa

[adamkis@gmail.com](mailto:adamkis@gmail.com)

**Adriana Garriga López** (General Representative)

Department of Anthropology  
Columbia University

Mail Code 5523

1200 Amsterdam Avenue

New York, NY 10027

[amg2009@columbia.edu](mailto:amg2009@columbia.edu)

**John Mazzeo** (General Representative)

Department of Anthropology  
DePaul University  
2343 N Racine Ave  
Chicago, IL 60614  
[jmazzeo@depaul.edu](mailto:jmazzeo@depaul.edu)

**Susan Pietrzyk** (Graduate Student Representative)

Department of Anthropology  
Binghamton University  
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000  
[spietrz1@binghamton.edu](mailto:spietrz1@binghamton.edu)

**Nancy Romero-Daza** (General Representative)

University of South Florida  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SOC 107  
Tampa, FL 33647  
[daza@usf.edu](mailto:daza@usf.edu)

**Fatma Soud** (General Representative)

Senior Behavioral Scientist  
HIV Prevention Research Branch  
CDC - BOTUSA (Botswana/ USA Collaboration)  
Gaborone, Botswana  
[soudf@bw.cdc.gov](mailto:soudf@bw.cdc.gov)

**Morgan Milazzo** (Undergraduate Student Representative)

Department of Anthropology  
Ithaca College  
Gannett 102  
Ithaca, New York 14850  
[mmilazz1@ithaca.edu](mailto:mmilazz1@ithaca.edu)

## **AIDS and Anthropology Research Group 2010 Membership Form**

AARG continues to work hard to enhance its position as an active site for networking and organizing among scholars like you. This includes developing new and expanded opportunities for you to network with colleagues who share your commitment to the use of anthropology in understanding, preventing, and reducing the harm caused by HIV/AIDS.

As an AARG member, your benefits include:

... access to the AARG listserv, which allows you to send and receive email messages about conferences, job announcements, calls for papers, publications, etc.;

... access to the AARG website, which contains valuable information including course syllabi, important links, upcoming conferences, and publications like the AIDS and Anthropology bibliography;

... the quarterly AARG Bulletin, distributed to national and international scholars, including social scientists and medical professionals;

... AND the AARG Membership Directory, including names, institutional affiliations, addresses and research interests for all AARG members, available in both paper and electronic formats.

**Membership is open to all interested persons. Persons do not have to be members of either the American Anthropological Association or the Society for Medical Anthropology to join AARG. Regular membership is \$20, and student membership is \$5 per year (January 1-December 31). Free membership is available to non-U.S. based researchers. Please subscribe electronically at: <http://groups.creighton.edu/aarg/membership.html>, if not please mail this form with your check or money order to the address provided below.**

**Remember, even if you are a non-paying member, we must hear from you once a year to know that you are still active (a note through email for our international members is fine!). If you would still like to continue your membership with AARG, please remember to renew and support AARG by paying your annual dues.**

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