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Letter from the President

Early spring greetings to you all! I have lots of society news to share but before launching into it let me take just a moment to thank the members of our board - all volunteers, mind you - for the sometimes herculean efforts they make on our behalf. Even over the holidays, our board members were hard at work on initiatives regarding membership, special interest groups, policy-relevant reviews, mentorship, and the search for a new editor for our journal, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (MAQ), among other things. I'll talk more about some of these initiatives in a minute but first let me add another round of thanks: this one goes to members at large who, over the last few weeks, have volunteered to serve on various committees. I, for one, am truly grateful.

The benefits of your service are not just that our society runs. There is something else that happens too: service is vitalizing.

The benefits of your service are not just that our society runs. There is something else that happens too: service is vitalizing. SMA has been around for a long time now, having been formally organized into an AAA section in the early 1970s. I joined in 1990, at which time SMA had the vitality (as did I) of a young adult. Some might say that it is inevitable that SMA would now, having reached its mid-40s, slip into the doldrums but in my view a heightened service ethos can help us stave off the despair that can accompany middle age in the U.S. To this end, SMA will be calling on members to get more involved as the year progresses.

SMA board member **Nominations** were overseen this year by **Eileen Moyer**, and elections will take place this spring. The committee^[1] worked very hard to recruit and screen nominees as well as to juggle them into position for the slates necessary this year. You may not know this but the AAA provides guidelines for matching candidates to guard against the possibility that discriminatory biases will affect election results. This and the number of vacancies means that not every nominee can be run. Nonetheless, all deserve great thanks for volunteering.

If board service isn't your cup of tea, you can always volunteer as a **mentor** (I promised I would get back to those initiatives!). Building on the success of last year's pilot coffee mentor program, our **Membership and Mentoring Committee** has been working on an expanded list of mentoring activities for next year's AAA meetings, some of which we hope will be funded through an AAA grant. We'll have more information about that for you in early summer but in the meantime feel free to submit your name to committee chair, **Juan Luque**. Feel free to contact him [here](#) with any inquiries regarding mentoring opportunities at the Minneapolis meetings.^[2]

We've also been trying to increase SMA's ability to respond rapidly to emerging events. To this end, as a complement to our successful SIG or **Special Interest Group** program, we are piloting what we are calling for now a **Temporary Interest Group** (or **TIG**) mechanism. Our experimental or feasibility TIG, devoted to Zika disease, is open for membership. Please see the call below or visit [this page](#) for more information. Our SIG coordinator, **Catie Willging**, will track how things go to determine best practices for this kind of rapid response endeavor. We will be able to report back to you, I hope, by early summer, after Dr. Willging briefs the board on results and board decisions, if any are necessary, have been made.

Another area in which board members have been beavering away is program planning. Thanks to our program chairs **Sean Bruna** and **Juan Luque**, along with the efforts of our membership, we have a stellar line-up of sessions to look forward to at our Joint Conference with the **Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA)** in Vancouver. There is space devoted in this issue to the program chairs' report, so here I'll just highlight that our business (or, as I like to put it, community) meeting and member **reception** takes place Friday, April 1 starting at 5:30 pm, just prior to the awards ceremony, which honors one of our own, **Paul Farmer**. The reception, kindly organized by SfAA, will feature snacks and a cash bar. I look forward to greeting everyone who can attend.

Speaking of meetings, the deadlines for the **2016 AAA Annual Meeting** are coming up fast. This year our program committee chair is Mary Anglin (feel free to contact her with any questions here).^[3] We are

looking forward to a vibrant set of sessions and event but we won't have them without member participation. In addition to traditional sessions we hope to see proposals for public policy forums, roundtables, installations, and so on. Go to the AAA's Annual Meeting [page](#) for more information on how to make the most of the program opportunities open to us this year. And do feel free to use our listserv to organize sessions. The listserv, overseen by **Lily Shapiro** (thank you, Lily!) is a great tool for connecting with others. Calls for participants should be sent to aaa_sma@binhost.com.

Although space does not allow for updates here on every aspect of society business, I should mention several developments related to the future of our publishing program before closing this letter. As you may know, at the end of this year, *Medical Anthropology Quarterly's* present editor, **Lance Gravlee**, ends his four-year term. Dr. Gravlee has worked very hard to maintain our journal's high standing, and to introduce several new features that bring us squarely into the internet age, such as online book reviews and a repository for pre-print versions of published papers. The search for a new editor was overseen by **Janelle Taylor**.^[4] A recommendation went to the board in January but paperwork is still in process with the AAA, so stay tuned.

SMA's **Future of Publishing (FoP) Committee**, chaired by **Linda Garro**, has also been working hard.^[5] As you may recall, the AAA's contract with Wiley, the present publisher of the AAA's collective journal portfolio, ends soon; a new contract is being sought. Back in 2014, AAA stressed the need for action to address the imperiled sustainability of the publishing program given increasing costs and decreasing revenues, and sections with journals were asked to prepare five-year sustainability plans. Subsequently, the SMA Board asked our FoP committee to explore the possibility of establishing a publishing partnership with a university press while remaining part of **AnthroSource**. Discussions with AAA and a university press continued through the end of 2015, but AAA determined that the arrangement under consideration was not compatible with the overall publishing program. Thus, the only viable option for the SMA was to remain a full participant in AAA's collective publishing agreement. I am very grateful to the committee for all the work put in on this issue. I thank the board as well, and you, our members, for your patience as this process worked itself out.

With all that behind us, we may feel tempted to rest. But let's not rest too long: the deadline for AAA annual meeting paper and session proposals is just around the corner, on April 15th. And after that, it's elections. Then comes paper prize season (a topic I'll save for my next letter!).

Happy Spring,

Elisa (EJ) Sobo

[1] Nominations Committee members were: Lenore Manderson, Athena McLean, Eugene Raikhel, and Lesley Sharp (Chair: Eileen Moyer).

[2] Membership and Mentoring Committee members are: Zakea Boeger, Lesley Weaver, and Catie Willging (Chair: Juan Luque).

[3] Program Committee members are: Athena McLean and Catie Willging (Chair: Mary Anglin)

[4] Search Committee members were: Mara Buchbinder, Lance Gravlee, Mark Lubirsjy, Andrea Sankar, Lesley Sharp, and Claire Wendland (Chair: Janelle Taylor)

[5] Future of Publishing Committee members: Tanja Ahlin, Roberta Baer, Sean Bruna, Pamela Erickson, Lance Gravlee, Doug Henry, Tazin Karim, Daniel Lende, Holly Mathews, and Janelle Taylor (Chair: Linda Garro).

Conference Corner

SMA at the SfAA: Vancouver Meeting Preview

[Juan Luque](#) (Medical University of South Carolina) and [Sean Bruna](#) (Western Washington University)

The SfAA Conference in Vancouver from March 29 to April 2 promises to be well attended by SMA members. The SMA received 16 pre-organized panel sessions. In addition to this impressive list of sessions, the SMA received a number of individually submitted abstracts. These abstracts were organized into 22 additional panel sessions, with up to six papers in a session. These additional sessions cover a broad range of topics of interest to medical anthropologists, including refugee and immigrant health, infectious and chronic disease, child health, gerontology, military veteran health, health policy, research methods, mental health, substance use and abuse, and patient care.

As we get closer to the conference, please make sure to check if there are any workshops you would like to attend and pre-register, as many are expected to reach capacity. SMA is also happy to announce a sponsored workshop by Dr. Karen Kroeger and Dr. Thurka Sangaramoorthy, "Rapid Ethnographic Assessment: Adapting Anthropological Tools for Public Health Programs." We are thrilled that Dr. Paul Farmer will be receiving the Malinowski Award and delivering a lecture Friday evening. Prior to the award lecture, make sure to attend the SMA business meeting and reception (kindly sponsored by SfAA) on Friday from 5:30 to 7:20 pm.

Finally, below is a list of the pre-organized panel sessions, so a big thank you is certainly in order to the session organizers. We would also like to thank the staff at SfAA, the SfAA conference co-chairs, and fellow co-chairs of different conference sections for helping us organize all of this excellent scholarship into what promises to be an exciting conference at the intersections!

The SfAA full preliminary program can be found [here](#).

Pre-organized Panel Sessions:

- 1) Dietary and Health Issues Among Refugees (Robbie Baer)
- 2) Ethnographies of Migrant Mental Health in the U.S. (Megan Carney)
- 3) An Injury to One: The Syndemics and Chronicities of Injured Immigrant Workers (Sarah Horton)
- 4) Immigrant Health through a Family Lens: The Intersection of Immigration Status, Policy, and Family Relationships (Nolan Kline)
- 5) From the Community to the Clinic: Cancer Prevention, Treatment, and Survivorship (Juan Luque and Dina Martinez Tyson)
- 6) Community Health Workers & Social, Economic, and Population Health Change (Ken Maes)
- 7) The Value of Applied Anthropology in Gerontology: Imagining Career Paths at the Intersection of Anthropology, Health, and Aging (Iveris Martinez)
- 8) Confronting Obesity: Intersections of Prevention, Intervention and Identity (Chad Morris)
- 9) Global Health Education as Anthropological Opportunity: An Interdisciplinary Roundtable on Theory, Pedagogy, and Practice (Amy Nichols-Belo)
- 10) Embodied Processes of Recovery and Reintegration Among Military Veterans (Nicholas Rattray)
- 11) Policy Interventions at the Level of Care: Caregivers: Navigations of Policy Constraints (Alex Rödlach)
- 12) Health Disparities and Government Policies: Pathways to Poor Health (David Rozen)
- 13) Cultural Models, Resilience, and Health (Jeff Snodgrass and Bill Dressler)
- 14) Dying and Bereavement: Intersections (Margaret Souza)
- 15) Intersections of Biomedicine and Gender in a Global World (Amy Speier)
- 16) Fat Matters: Applied Aspects of Obesity Research (Nicole Taylor)

Anthropology on the Ground

Insularity & Impenetrability: What Happens to Health Funding and Policy When Voters Can't Reach Lawmakers

[Bayla Ostrach](#) (Boston University), [Ashley Houston](#) (Boston University), and [Merrill Singer](#) (University of Connecticut)

In the United States, Congress wields enormous power over health care policy and funding. With health care committees and floor votes on budgets controlling national health spending of nearly three trillion dollars annually ([Department of Health and Human Services 2015](#)), and the U.S. estimated to spend 50% more on health care per capita than any other nation ([Commonwealth Fund 2015](#)), the impact of members

of Congress on our health policy is impossible to overstate. In late 2014 and 2015, the first two authors of this column conducted an outreach experiment to gauge the accessibility and approachability of all 535 members of Congress and their staff representatives, in relation to an important public health issue. We contacted the offices of all Senators and Representatives to advise them of a recent article (by the first and third authors) on the long-term health effects of war on civilians in affected areas -- namely, interactions between malnutrition and infectious disease that result from sanctions, embargoes, and other intentional tactics. We offered to send a full version of the published article, and then tracked responses. Not one member of Congress requested a copy, and the only direct response we received was a request not to be contacted again (for a full description, see the resulting *Anthropology News* column).

What this brief summary belies, however, is how difficult it actually was to attempt to share such public health information with elected officials. To even identify email addresses to which to address our messages proved extremely challenging, taking countless hours of digging through official legislative websites, calls to district and D.C. offices to verify 'official' email address formulas that resulted many times only in bounce-back messages, and ultimately, in two of us systematically writing to each member of Congress through online contact forms on their websites (which preclude uploading attachments), over several months. Still, this did not yield actual communication with those who ostensibly represent average Americans, and who we expect to advocate for our health needs.

The challenges we encountered in contacting elected officials for a simple public health information mission have serious and troubling implications for voters who need to contact their members of Congress about more urgent and personal health issues like difficulty getting V.A. benefits, help with processing Social Security disability claims, appealing Medicaid or Medicare coverage denials, or efforts by those who wish to lobby for state block grants for homecare funding -- to name just a few reasons voters might wish to contact their elected representatives at the federal level.

Congress members' local district and D.C. offices may ostensibly be reached by phone, but in many cases people could have scanned versions of benefits denial documents they need to submit as part of a request for advocacy, or other documents they hope to show their Congressperson -- in our outreach experiment, simply sending a PDF of an article proved impossible. Applied medical anthropologists, or those to whom we return our findings, may find it equally difficult to engage elected officials in policy change efforts related to health coverage or funding efforts, if simply reaching a Senator or Representative is so difficult in routine matters.

With the damaging effects of neoliberalism on democracy (Collins et al. 2008) and increasing corporatization of the political process in the U.S., signified by the more than \$2.5 billion spent on corporate lobbying (Drutman 2015), Congress has evolved into an insular institution in which, rather than lawmakers being protected from well-funded special interests like the paid lobbyists of multibillion dollar corporations, elected representatives are secluded from the citizenry and, hence, from accountability to voters who put them in power (Ostrach, Houston, & Singer 2015; Schoenbrod 2008). The result is unhealthy health-related laws that are harmful to the broad public interest (Castro & Singer 2004).

While the current presidential election campaign continues to feature politically motivated discussions of building a 1,954-mile wall across the southwest sealing the country off from a workforce it actually needs, a real wall has been built sealing off the elected from the electorate (Schoenbrod 2008), while opening the door to corporate and special interest lobbyists (Brodbeck, Harrigan & Smith 2013). So long as those making funding and policy decisions with our tax dollars and those of our participants can avoid communicating with and being responsive to those whose health is most affected by their decisions, this insularity and impenetrability at the highest levels of the U.S. government should be of grave concern to medical anthropologists.

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Photos from the Field

Cervical Cancer Screening in Peru's Cusco Region

Juan Luque (Medical University of South Carolina)

These pictures were taken in 2014 and 2015 while I was conducting a cancer education study in the Cusco region of Peru, funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute. I worked in partnership with the nonprofit organization CerviCusco. We conducted survey research with patients to explore beliefs about cancer and conducted qualitative research to create educational fotonovelas and radio ads to promote screening outreach campaigns. CerviCusco provides high quality screening, diagnostic, and therapeutic medical services both at a stationary clinic and through outreach to provide women with necessary care.



This photo features a group of student medical volunteers from the Medical College of Georgia and CerviCusco staff at P.S. Chinchaypujio, Direccion Regional de Salud Cusco, Red de Servicios de Salud Cusco Norte. (Photography by Juan Luque, July 2015.)



Several Quechua women sitting on the other side of the street of the same health clinic, possibly waiting for it to open, during the screening outreach campaign day.





A woman signs up for a Pap test during a screening outreach campaign.



Become Involved in a Special Interest Group!

Cathleen Willging (PIRE)

What is a SIG? The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of the SMA are special committees that bring together scholars with shared concerns and professional interests. SIGs address the unique but diverse needs of the SMA membership by providing opportunities for networking and exchanging ideas related to different specialty areas within medical anthropology. Through the SIGs, SMA members foster productive collaborations with one another, sponsoring informational newsletters, award competitions, and moving projects forward.

The SIGs are the backbone of the SMA, enabling members to stay actively engaged and on top of the latest developments in their specialty areas. Members of a SIG are also encouraged to take on volunteer leadership roles to tackle professional matters pertinent to the SIG, the SMA, and the larger field of medical anthropology.

The SMA supports several SIGs including:

- AARG: AIDS and Anthropology Research Group
- ADTSG: Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Study Group
- AMHIG: Anthropology and Mental Health Interest Group
- CAGH: Critical Anthropology for Global Health Study Group
- CAM/IM: Complementary and Alternative Medicine and Integrative Medicine Group
- CAR: Council on Anthropology and Reproduction
- DRIG: Disability Research Interest Group
- DABIG: Dying and Bereavement Interest Group
- MASA: Medical Anthropology Students Association
- STM: Science, Technology, and Medicine Group

Get Involved: Click on a SIG [link](#) on the SMA website to access information and learn how to become involved. You can also attend a SIG business meeting at the AAA annual meeting. Although these might sound intimidating, participation is open to all and is strongly encouraged to maintain a thriving SIG infrastructure. Furthermore, SIGs offer new SMA members an important avenue to connect with people with common interests in particular areas of medical anthropology.

Create a New SIG: The SMA welcomes and encourages the addition of new SIGs that will not duplicate the missions and goals of the existing ones. Establishing a new SIG is straightforward. Typically, it involves developing a proposal that outlines the purpose of the SIG, including its mission, goals, and planned activities, in addition to the anticipated number of members. If you and your colleagues are interested in forming a SIG, please contact the SIG Liaison ([Cathleen Willging](#)) and the SMA President ([Elisa Sobo](#)) for more information.

Transforming Public Space in São Paulo, Brazil

Charles Klein (Portland State University)

Since 2014 I have been studying urban planning, community organizing, and healthy communities in São Paulo. These photos highlight some of the ways in which public space is being transformed and contested throughout the city.



BioUrban, in partnership with local youth, transformed a run-down stairway into a graffiti art walk and hang out zone. In the photo, Guto and I check out a book that presents the Escadão as a successful example of handmade urbanism and micro planning. (Photograph by Fernanda Rúbio. Escadão, Cambuci. Charles Klein & Guto Hipólito.)



The Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra/MTST (Landless Worker's Movement) organized this squatter community in the heart of the city. Note the tagging (pichação), a common form of spatial appropriation in São Paulo. (Photograph by Charles Klein. Ocupação, Centro.)



The city government tests out a new infrastructure for an under-utilized plaza next to the busy Faria Lima Metrô station. (Photograph by Charles Klein. Public Square, Pinheiros.)





Because of its location within a geologically unstable crater in an environmentally protected area, the city government is reluctant to improve Vargem Grande's infrastructure. In the distance is the only green public space for a community of >40,000 residents. (Photograph by Charles Klein. Vargem Grande, Zona Sul.)

Inside Anthropology News

Sara Lewis on Mental Health, Early Detection, and the Role of Anthropology

Elizabeth Lewis (University of Texas at Austin)

In the current issue of *Anthropology News* (AN), Sara Lewis examines the convergence of technology, medical anthropology, and emerging private sector initiatives aimed at detection, early intervention, and prevention of mental illness. "Does Early Intervention Promote Recovery?" traces the move of former National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) director Dr. Thomas Insel to Google, where he is the Director of Life Sciences. The piece probes the potentially far-reaching impact of surveillance technologies, diagnostics, and attention (or lack thereof) to the sociocultural facets of mental health. *Second Opinion* sat down with Dr. Lewis to learn more about her work.

Elizabeth Lewis (EL): What drew you to this project?

Sara Lewis (SL): My work focuses on resilience and recovery - the ways that individuals and communities thrive in the face of adversity. I think we need to focus more on the potential ways that resilience - as with

suffering and illness - may be social, and bolstered by structural factors. There's a lot of focus nowadays on resilience, but it tends to take a "grit" perspective like we are seeing sweep across the nation's schools, where youth in low-income, high-crime areas are being coached to "stay strong" and "bounce back." But, bounce back to what? From these individualistic perspectives there is no accountability for structural inequality and other factors that lead to undesirable outcomes in the first place. So this initiative by Google caught my eye insofar as it only recapitulates the notion that recovery is merely a process of identifying those "at risk," rather than working on the distal causes of mental illness. Surveillance technologies identify bodies deemed abnormal. Although Google acts as though it is self-evident why enhanced detection would be a good thing, I think many of us are waiting to hear about exactly what will be done with these data. This new project is great for teaching Foucault to undergraduates!

EL: Do you consider this case study to be indicative of broader pushback to the dominance of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)* in the U.S.? Why or why not?

SL: Possibly. On the one hand, focusing research on epigenetics that may actually reveal in biomedical terms exactly why it is so important to focus on environmental factors like racism, poverty and social isolation, could be very beneficial for those living with mental illness in the United States. Unfortunately, the NIH's move to drop the DSM does something very specific: it severely restricts sociocultural research that does not include some element of fMRI scans or saliva swabs.

EL: What do you see as the key areas of intervention for medical anthropologists in this case study and similar scenarios?

SL: It is an interesting question, because we don't yet know how Dr. Insel (former director of NIMH) will guide Google in their initiative. He has talked about using "fitbit" style sensors that will track mood and anxiety. Insel also argues that treatment online may be just as effective, if not better, than in-person treatment. Medical anthropologists are interested not just in the "facts" of depressed mood and disorganized thought, but in the meaning and ways people interpret what is the matter. Our unique training may help us to demonstrate for example, how using smartphones to collect speech data that would be plugged into an algorithm to detect disorganized speech patterns indicative of psychosis, may only be salient within particular US populations. Even notions of "the real" vary widely in the U.S., so we need to be vocal about this.

EL: You close the piece by calling for medical and psychiatric anthropologists to join these emerging conversations and debates about new technologies of surveillance. How do you envision this?

SL: There is a part of me that wonders how much of recent interest in mental health treatment is connected to gun violence - and not the everyday lived reality in neighborhoods of color in Chicago, Detroit and elsewhere, but in the school shootings where (mostly) white perpetrators are labeled not criminal, but mentally ill. People in need of help. Rob Whitley and colleagues have done really fascinating work that shows that public perception of crime and mental illness has gone up dramatically since the 1950s, despite the reality that a person with a serious mental illness is much more likely to be a victim of a violent crime, than the perpetrator. Medical anthropologists, in my opinion, should continue to work alongside social epidemiologists and others who argue that addressing structural inequality would have the greatest impact in addressing the mental health of the population. We should not be afraid to argue that gun control - not searching for those with mental illness - will reduce gun violence.

Photos from the Field

Bodies and Embodiment at a Boston Mosque

Ashley Houston (Boston University)

My research focuses on embodiment of diaspora among Somalis in Boston. By focusing on embodiment, I have been able to examine complex and fluid Somali body ideals and values expressed through body size, dress, and cultural bodily rites of passage, as well as mental and physical health conditions often explained somatically in the US.

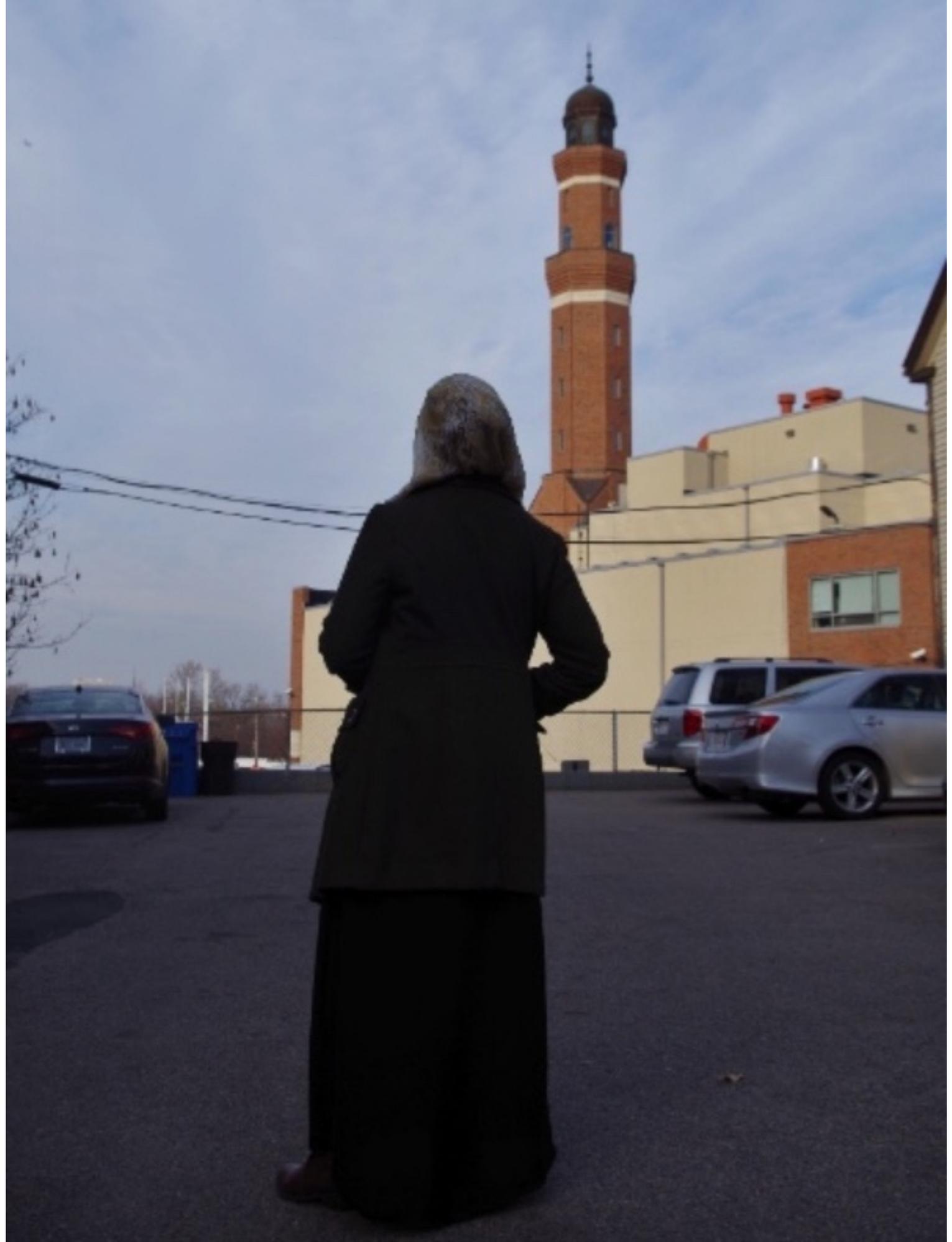
While some body ideals and practices may be shaped by competing ideals in the US, others are reframed

as instrumental to constructing and maintaining Somali culture (often tied to Islam). The physical body becomes an object of perception from other Somali peers and non-Somali Americans, which in turn shape Somalis' concepts of body ideals and practice (i.e. what constitutes "healthy", "attractive" or "unhealthy", "unattractive").

The photos below were taken in and around a Boston mosque and feature mostly Somali women.



Sub beads held by a Somali woman at the mosque.



"Ayan" overlooking the mosque.



Mother and daughter praying during Jumu'ah (Friday prayer).



Woman praying for Eid Al Adha.



Somali woman reading and reciting the Qur'an before Arabic class.

Congratulations 2015 SMA Award Winners!

Each year, the SMA hosts a Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony at the annual meeting to honor the winner of SMA and SIG prizes. Below is a detailed list of last year's winners. Congratulations again!

Steven Polgar Prize

Recipient: Nora Kenworthy (University of Washington)

Article: "A Manufactu(RED) Ethics: Labor, HIV, and the Body in Lesotho's 'Sweat-free' Garment Industry"
Nora Kenworthy is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing and Health Studies at the University of Washington Bothell, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington Seattle. Her research explores the politics of global health governance, and the sociopolitical impacts of HIV initiatives in southern Africa. She is the author of a forthcoming book on the impacts of HIV treatment programs on democratic governance in Lesotho (Vanderbilt University Press). With Kelley Lee and Ross MacKenzie, she is co-editing the volume, *Case Studies in Corporations and Global Health Governance: Impacts, Influence, and Accountability* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016). And with Richard Parker she recently co-edited *HIV Scale-up and the Politics of Global Health* (Routledge, 2014). Nora holds a PhD in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University.

Eileen Basker Memorial Prize

Recipient: Tine Gammeltoft (University of Copenhagen)

Book: *Haunting Images: A Cultural Account of Selective Reproduction in Vietnam*

Tine M. Gammeltoft is Professor of Anthropology at the Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen. She studies global health, gender, and kinship, specializing in sexual and reproductive health, and has conducted research in Vietnam for over two decades. The main focus of her current ethnographic work (carried out in Tanzania and Vietnam) is on the intersections between violence and health within domestic spheres. As a part of this research, she explores how ideas and concepts from psychoanalysis can inspire anthropological practice, helping to bring into analysis silenced, subdued, and repressed aspects of social lives.

Honorable Mention: Sameena Mulla (Marquette University)

Book: *The Violence of Care: Rape Victims, Forensic Nurses, and Sexual Assault Intervention*

Sameena Mulla is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Marquette University. Her research interest is in the intersection of medical and juridical practices, focusing on the formation of expertise in sexual assault intervention, and its impact on the subjectivities of patients and practitioners. Her current project, a collaborative ethnography with Heather Hlavka, builds on her book, *The Violence of Care: Rape Victims, Forensic Nurses, and Sexual Assault Intervention*, following forms of expertise that she traced in clinical spaces into the world of courtroom-based adjudication. She is the author of numerous other articles and book chapters on sexual violence and its reorganization of kinship, law, livelihood, and intimacy.

New Millennium Book Award

Recipient: Cheryl Mattingly (University of Southern California)

Book: *Moral Laboratories: Family Peril and the Struggle for a Good Life*

Cheryl Mattingly, Ph.D., is Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology and the Division of Occupational Science and Therapy, University of Southern California. She also has long-term ties with Aarhus University (Denmark) where she is a frequent visiting professor of anthropology and philosophy. Recently, she was a Dale T. Mortensen Fellow at Aarhus University's Institute of Advanced Studies (2013-2015). She has been the PI and Co-PI on federally funded grants from National Institutes of Health, Maternal and Child Health and the Department of Education. Her primary areas of interest have been narrative, phenomenology, ethics, health disparities, disability and family life. She has received numerous awards for her publications, including the Victor Turner Prize for *Healing Dramas and Clinical Plots* (1998), the Stirling Book Prize (Society for Psychological Anthropology) for *The Paradox of Hope: Journeys Through a Clinical Borderland* (2010), and the Polgar Essay Prize for "In Search of the Good: Narrative Reasoning in Clinical Practice" (1998). Her other books include: *Clinical Reasoning in a Therapeutic Practice* (1994); *Narrative and the Cultural Construction of Illness and Healing* (2000), co-edited with Linda Garro; and *Narrative, Self and Social Practice* (2009), co-edited with Uffe Jensen.

Honorable Mention: Vincanne Adams (University of California, San Francisco)

Book: *Markets of Sorrow, Labors of Faith: New Orleans in the Wake of Katrina*

Vincanne Adams is Professor and Vice Chair in the Department of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, joint program in Medical Anthropology with UC Berkeley. She is co-editor of the Duke University Press series *Critical Global Health* (with Joao Beihl). Her research and publications cover a wide range of topics on Asian Medicine and the Politics of Knowledge, Global Health and Ethnographic Evidence, Post Disaster Recovery and Market-Driven Governance.

Honorable Mention: Susan Reynolds Whyte *et al* (University of Copenhagen)

Book: *Second Chances: Surviving AIDS in Uganda*

Susan Reynolds Whyte, Professor at the Department of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, carries out research in East Africa on social efforts to secure well-being in the face of poverty, disease, conflict, and rapid change. She uses concepts of pragmatism, uncertainty, and temporality to examine relationships between people, institutions, ideas, and things. Her publications deal with the management of misfortune, changing health care systems, disability and culture, social lives of medicines, legacies of violence, and the response to HIV and other chronic conditions. For two decades she has worked with African colleagues on Enhancement of Research Capacity projects. One result of that collaboration is *Second Chances* (Duke University Press, 2014), which is a "polygraph" by four Danish and four Ugandan scholars. It builds on a series of case studies to examine the everyday concerns of the first generation of AIDS survivors in Uganda.

George Foster Practicing Award

Recipient: Kim Hopper (Columbia University)

For nearly four decades, I've worked in homelessness and mental health advocacy, taught in various schools (universities, psychiatric residency programs, NYS prisons, and a field school of our own

design/making for non-traditional students – activists with psychiatric histories, seeking to master the rudiments of research), and (for 25 years) as a Research Scientist at the state-funded Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, with a heavy investment in NYS public mental health and cross-cultural psychiatry (through WHO- and NSF-affiliated research). It's the sort of motley résumé one might expect from (1) an accidental academic, who found his way back to a university setting after five years of field research and homeless activism, (2) then signed on for work structurally positioned to fuel argument about the nature/conduct of public mental health and, (3) eventually, chose an avowedly hybrid program (Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health) as both training arena and eventual teaching home.

WHR Rivers Undergraduate Student Paper Prize

Recipient: Ann Soliman (University of Michigan)

Paper: “Cultural Barriers Related to Late-Stage Presentation of Breast Cancer in Morocco”

Ann Soliman is a medical student at the University of Michigan Medical School. She received her B.S. from the University of Michigan, where she graduated with a double concentration in Cellular & Molecular Biology and Anthropology. She graduated in 2015 with distinction and highest honors for her senior thesis in anthropology. As an undergraduate, Ann conducted an anthropological study on sociocultural factors related to delay in treatment-seeking among women diagnosed with advanced breast cancer in Marrakech, Morocco. She is presently on the leadership board for the UM Student-Run Free Clinic and is involved with the Curriculum for Health Disparities and the Underserved.

Honorable Mention Recipient: Hanna Amanuel (Harvard University)

Project/Paper/Accomplishment: “*Morir en Camino*: How Women's Narratives can Inform a Rights-Based Approach to Obstetric Health Care in Rural Chiapas”

Hanna is a senior at Harvard studying Social Anthropology and Global Health and Policy. She plans to pursue an MD-PhD in Medical Anthropology and work as an obstetrician-gynecologist and maternal health advocate in the Horn of Africa. Alongside her research on rural maternal health in Mexico, Hanna has conducted public health research on African immigrant community perspectives on female genital cutting (FGC) in Boston, as well as honors thesis research on the anti-FGC campaign in Eritrea.

Student Travel Awards to AAA Meetings

Recipient: Livia Garofalo (Northwestern University)

Paper: “The Brains Behind the Documents: Traumatic Brain Injury as a Diagnostic and Bureaucratic Artifact”

Livia Garofalo is a second year PhD/MPH student in cultural and medical anthropology at Northwestern University. She has a BA and MA in Anthropology from the University of Bologna, Italy, with graduate coursework at the University of Chicago. Her research interests revolve around the experience of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and the formation of subjectivity after trauma. More specifically, she is interested in examining the nexus between the brain, personhood, care, and the discursive construction of the “silent epidemic” of TBI. While her Masters focused on the experience of TBI patients in Chicago, this summer she is planning on conducting exploratory research in Mexico City and Buenos Aires.

Recipient: Alice Larotonda (Brown University)

Paper: “Infant Nutrition and Hygiene in Cabo Verde: The Construction of 'Best' Practices of Infant Care”

Alice Larotonda is a doctoral student at Brown University working on issues surrounding illness experience, care, and medical expertise in infant and child health. Her research explores the local and global discursive construction of best practices of infant care in the Republic of Cabo Verde. She is particularly interested in investigating the interface between medical authority, lay expertise, and everyday care practices like breastfeeding. In previous research, she studied the experiences of children affected by rare diseases in Italy by looking at the alignment and disalignment of medical, parental, and children's perspectives on being chronically ill.

Recipient: Daniella Santoro (Tulane University)

Paper/Project: Roundtable Participant: “Black Bodies Matter”

Daniella Santoro is a PhD Candidate in Medical Anthropology at Tulane University. Her dissertation explores the experiences of rehabilitation amongst individuals with quadriplegia and paraplegia as a result of gun violence in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her ethnographic research attends specifically to how these self-titled “street veterans” organize around wheelchair specific mobility and vie for social visibility and social justice at the intersections of race and disability. Her interests include rehabilitative medicine, racial health disparities, critical race studies, and dance and disability.

Recipient: Elyse Singer (Washington University)

Paper: "Reproducing Responsibility: Examining Reproductive Citizenship in Mexico City's New Public Abortion Program"

Elyse Ona Singer is a medical anthropologist completing her PhD at Washington University in St. Louis as well as a certificate in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Elyse's research sits at the nexus of gender, health, religion and politics. Her dissertation explores transformations in "reproductive governance" and "reproductive citizenship" in the wake of Mexico City's historic abortion reform passed in 2007. With funding from the National Science Foundation and the Wenner-Gren Foundation she spent eighteen months in Mexico City's new public abortion program to examine how women make decisions about their bodies and their rights in light of new legal and moral regimes of reproduction.

Recipient: Adrienne Strong (Washington University)

Paper: "Tell them We're Like Malnourished Children: Health Facility working conditions, The Struggle for Life, and the Problem of Maternal Death in Rukwa, Tanzania"

Adrienne Strong is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis. Her research focuses on maternal mortality in biomedical health facilities in the Rukwa region of Tanzania. Primarily based at a government regional hospital, Adrienne's research focuses on the ways in which history, political economics, and social environments of institutions come together to influence maternal health. She is also interested in respectful maternity care and health system financing from an ethnographic perspective. Her research has been funded by a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Abroad grant, NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, and a Scholar Award from the P.E.O. Sisterhood.

Medical Anthropology Student Association (MASA) Mentorship Award

Recipient: Janelle Taylor (University of Washington)

Janelle Taylor is professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Washington. Her work examines a variety of questions on the subject of medical technology, education, and practice. She is the author of *The Public Life of the Fetal Sonogram: Technology, Consumption, and the Politics of Reproduction*, co-editor of *Consuming Motherhood*, and has contribute multiple articles to a variety of anthropology journals and edited volumes. She is currently engaged in two projects, one on medical education and another on dementia.

MASA Dissertation Award

Recipient: Alison Heller (Washington University)

Dissertation: *Interrogating the Superlative Sufferer: Experiencing Obstetric Fistula and Treatment Seeking in Niger*

Dr. Alison Heller holds a PhD in cultural anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis and currently works as traveling faculty for SIT/ International Honors Program. Her research interests include global and reproductive health, chronic disease and infertility, sexuality and gender, and development and humanitarianism. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the Fulbright Hays, and the Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dr. Heller's research in Niger investigates experiences of living with the birthing injury, obstetric fistula. Her work informs an emerging body of literature on global representations of gendered suffering in the Global South and complicates understandings of stigma.

Disability Research Interest Group (DRIG) Travel Awards

Recipient: Kylie Boazman (Central European University)

Kylie Boazman is currently a Masters student in Disability Studies at the University at Buffalo. She previously completed her Masters in Sociology and Anthropology at Central European University in Hungary, where her thesis research focused on a popular disability simulation in Budapest and provided the basis for her paper presented at AAA 2015. Her other interests include visual anthropology, museum studies, feminist and queer theories, and disability activism.

Recipient: Michele Friedner (SUNY Stonybrook)

Michele Friedner is an assistant professor in the School of Health Technology and Management at Stony Brook University. She is a medical anthropologist who conducts research with deaf and disabled people in urban India as they attempt to create inhabitable presents and futures. Her book, *Valuing Deaf Worlds in urban India* (2015, Rutgers University) examines how sign language-using deaf young adults become oriented towards ideas and ideals of what they call "deaf development." She is interested in the forms of value that the categories of deafness and disability enable. Currently, she is at work on a new project on the multiple economies embedded in learning to become a sign language interpreter in the United States although she continues to also conduct research in India.

Critical Anthropology of Global Health (CAGH) Rudolf Virchow Graduate Student Paper Award

Recipient: Sarah Raskin (University of Arizona)

Paper: “Dental Disease, Stigmatized Suffering: Everyday Experiences of Underserved Patients”

Sarah Raskin (PhD, University of Arizona 2015) is a Research Associate at LTG Associates, Inc. and adjunct faculty at George Washington University. Funded by NSF and AHRQ, her community-responsive dissertation examines the politics and meanings of oral health and dental care in Central Appalachia, ultimately arguing that efforts to improve dental care access do not merely fail to relieve the suffering of marginalized people but also can produce it. Previously, she earned an MPH in International Health and Development at Emory University and worked in public health in community and federal settings.

Science, Technology, and Medicine (STM) Graduate Student Paper Prize

Recipient: Christy Spackman (Harvey Mudd College)

Paper: “A Disruptive Odor: Smelly Water And The Re-Alignment Of Expert And Lay Knowledge”

Christy Spackman holds a doctorate in Food Studies from New York University. She is the 2015-2017 Hixon-Riggs Early Career Fellow in Science, Technology, and Society at Harvey Mudd College (Claremont, CA). Her research focuses on how technological intervention in the making of taste influences the way people perceive, use, and imagine the healthfulness of foods.

CAGH Rudolf Virchow Professional Paper Award

Recipient: Fouzieyha Towghi (University of California, Berkeley)

Paper: “Normalizing Off-Label Experiments and the Pharmaceuticalization of Homebirths in Pakistan”

CAGH Rudolf Virchow Undergraduate Student Paper Award

Recipient: Naomi Zucker (Princeton University)

Paper: “Visions of Care: Medicalization and Public Patienthood in São Paulo, Brazil”

Graduate Student Paper Prize in the Anthropology of Complementary and Alternative Medicine and Integrative Medicine (CAM/IM)

Recipient: Rosalynn Vega (University of California, Berkeley)

Paper: “Bioconsumer Citizenship and the Danger of Ethnomedical Piracy in the Neoliberal Age”

Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Study Group (ADTSG) Annual Graduate Student Paper Prize

Recipient: Cole Hansen (University of California, Berkeley)

Paper: “Seeking Care in the Carceral Shadow: An Ethnography of Community Reentry”

Council for Anthropology and Reproduction (CAR) Graduate Student Paper Award

Recipient: Risa Cromer (City University of New York)

Paper: “Saved: Stem Cell Science, Christian Adoption, and Frozen Embryo Politics in the United States”

Book Announcements

Kierans, Ciara, Kirsten Bell, and Carol Kingdon. Social and Cultural Perspectives on Health, Technology and Medicine: Old Concepts, New Problems (Routledge, 2016)

Manderson, Lenore, Elizabeth Cartwright, and Anita Hardon. The Rutledge Handbook of Medical Anthropology (Taylor and Francis, 2016)

McCullough, Megan and Jessica Hardin. Reconstructing Obesity: The Meaning of Measures and the Measure of Meanings (Berghahn Books, 2015)

Morris, Chad T. and Alexander G. Lacey. The Applied Anthropology of Obesity: Prevention, Intervention, and Identity (Lexington Books, 2015)

Myers, Neely Laurenzo. Recovery's Edge: An Ethnography of Mental Health Care and Moral Agency (Vanderbilt University Press, 2015)

Pivnick, Anitra. Every Thing Counts (Strategic Book Publishing, 2015)

Schwartz, David A. (ed.). Maternal Mortality: Risk Factors, Anthropological Perspectives, Prevalence in Developing Countries and Preventive Strategies for Pregnancy-related Deaths (Nova Science Publishers, 2015)

Singer, Merril. A Companion to Anthropology and Environmental Health (Wiley-Blackwell, 2016)

Speier, Amy. Fertility Holidays: IVF Tourism and the Reproduction of Whiteness (NYU Press, 2016)

Thank You to SMA Mentorship Program Participants!

The SMA would like to extend a warm thanks to all of the scholars who participated in the inaugural mentorship program at the AAA annual meeting in Denver. The program, organized for us by Dr. Roberta Baer, received very positive feedback from both student and faculty participants, and the SMA looks forward to continuing it in the future. The SMA and SMA membership committee extend their gratitude to the following SMA members who volunteered:

Cristiana Bastos, Mara Buchbinder, Lawrence Cohen, Daisy Deomampo, Pamela Erickson, Adriana Garriga-Lopez, Robert Hahn, Rachel Hall-Clifford, Tom Leatherman, Juan Luque, Lenore Manderson, Emily Mendenhall, Seth Messinger, Joanna Mishtal, Chad Morris, Emilia Sanabria, Mary Alice Scott, Amy Speier, Janelle Taylor, Lesley Jo Weaver, Emily Wentzell, and Cathleen Willging.

General Announcements

Zika WorkGroup Forming

SMA has been working on a 'rapid response' mechanism so that we can mobilize quickly in regard to medical anthropological issues of public or grave concern. One way to do this is through pop-up or temporary interest groups (tentatively, TIGs). TIGs are meant to complement our vibrant SIGs (Special Interest Groups) by offering a networking mode with a limited life-span and immediate focus.

We are still working out the mechanism, but in light of the emergent Zika situation we would like to launch an early trial run. A Zika-focused TIG would provide an arena for interested parties to network and organize regarding Zika prevention, health services for affected mothers and infants, abortion-related issues, environmental toxins introduced ostensibly for mosquito eradication, conspiracy theorizing, and so on.

If you would like to be part of the Zika TIG, all you need to do is join! Go to the TIG's [Facebook page](#) to indicate intent. SMA will be watching the group to see how it fares, and if it works well, the board will consider permanently offering the TIG mechanism.

Critical Anthropology of Global Health Announces TAS Statement

The Critical Anthropology of Global Health (CAGH) special interest group is excited to announce a recent online publication. The publication is a Takes-a-stand statement on the contribution of anthropology to e/m-health and telemedicine.

The full statement is available [here](#).

The statement is a working document produced by a group of CAGH members investigating our potential role in this important area of Public and Global Health. It follows an AAA panel we organized in 2013. Our intent is to encourage anthropologists to look into this rapidly evolving field.

At present, the CAGH is in the process of expanding this text into a full article. It invites members to:

- 1) Contribute new ideas and references not yet covered in the statement - which is a work in progress;
- 2) Provide mini-ethnographies (from 2-10 pages) of your own research or observations of e/mhealth that we may post on the CAGH website as examples of research in progress.

Please contact [Tanja Ahlin](#) with any inquiries.

Council on the Anthropology of Reproduction Policy Statement

The Council on the Anthropology of Reproduction (CAR) recently published a [policy statement](#) on reproductive rights, "The Council on the Anthropology of Reproduction (CAR) Opposes Legislation that Creates Barriers to Safe Abortion Care."

AAA Annual Meeting Call for Papers

The submission deadline for the 115th Annual Meeting, to be held in Minneapolis, is approaching rapidly! Proposals for panels, individual papers, and poster sessions are due by April 15. Completely information is available [here](#).

Contributors Wanted

Second Opinion seeks contributors for its upcoming issues. Do you have an idea for an original article, interview, or photo essay? What about a conference write-up? We are particularly interested in coverage of the upcoming SfAA Meeting in Vancouver. Please contact [Elizabeth Lewis](#) with pitches or questions.

Conference Announcements:

[Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting](#)
March 29-April 2, 2016 (Vancouver, BC)

[American Ethnological Society](#)
March 31-April 2 (Washington, DC)

[Gender, Bodies and Technology 4th Biannual Conference](#)
April 20-23, 2016 (Roanoke, VA)

[Canadian Anthropological Society and the Society for the Anthropology of North America](#)
May 11-16 (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

[Society for Cultural Anthropology](#)
May 13-14 (Ithaca, NY)

[European Association of Social Anthropologists Biennial Conference](#)
July 20-23 (Milan, Italy)

Comments, questions, or ideas? Please contact the SMA's Digital Communications Manager, [Elizabeth Lewis](#).

The Society for Medical Anthropology serves the needs of scholars, graduate students, practicing anthropologists, and scholar activists whose work examines the anthropological dimensions of local, national, and global health. Detailed information about the SMA can be found on our [website](#).



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