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Letter from the President

The AAA meetings in Denver are fast approaching and, along with a number of other features, this edition

of the newsletter provides a preview of SMA events at the AAA meetings; highlights the roundtable event “Black Bodies Matter: Medical Anthropology Special Interest Groups Present Challenging Issues” (a collaborative endeavor of SMA SIG chairs); and introduces the four SMA members who will be joining the executive board during the Denver meetings. This is also my last newsletter entry before I step down as President. As I’m recovering from a broken wrist and two subsequent surgeries, I’ll keep it short.

In Denver, the SMA Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday. This is earlier in the week than it has been scheduled in recent years. Program changes at the AAA level have left us with fewer attractive scheduling options for section-related activities. The benefit of holding the Business Meeting on Thursday is that we can start at 6:30 p.m. while the evening is still young, leaving time for a reception afterwards. At the close of the formal portion of the meeting, it will be my honor to hand over the gavel to Elisa (E.J.) Sobo, the incoming SMA President. Elisa’s first official task will be to call the meeting to a close so the reception and cash bar can begin. We hope that the earlier starting time will make it possible for many SMA members to stay after we wrap up the business portion, to socialize and celebrate the accomplishments of our award winners. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

This is the second issue of *Second Opinion* edited by Liz Lewis and I hope, like me, everyone is enjoying the new, more dynamic, format. For example, if you are curious about SMA-sponsored sessions and activities at the Denver meetings, you can simply click on the appropriate link in the AAA Annual Meeting Preview feature written by our SMA program co-chair Athena McLean and presto! In our new “Book Announcements” section, I also very much appreciated being able to visit publishers’ websites to learn more about the books listed with a simple click.

The SMA’s new mentorship initiative for student members will also debut at the meetings in Denver. The “coffee mentoring” initiative brings together students and professional members for one-on-one conversations in an informal atmosphere. The SMA Board members (Robbie Baer, Doug Henry, and Jonathan Stillo) orchestrating this initiative report that they were able to find matches with similar interests among our professional members for the 28 students signing up. On behalf of the board, I extend a big thanks to everyone, student and professional members alike, who volunteered to participate in this inaugural effort.

The search for the new editor of *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (MAQ) is underway. As previously announced to the membership, the four-year term of our current editor, Clarence (Lance) Gravlee, ends on December 31, 2016. The search committee, under the leadership of committee chair Janelle Taylor, will be meeting with individuals who have expressed interest in this position during the Denver meetings. The search committee remains open to hearing from others who’d like to know more about what this position entails. Janelle Taylor can be contacted via email at jstaylor@uw.edu.

I also want to encourage SMA members to enroll in the re-envisioned SMA Global Directory and to spread the news about the re-launching of the SMA’s Global Directory to others, including medical anthropologists and affiliated professionals who are not members of SMA. The original Global Directory was created in 2007 after the SMA membership indicated that they were interested in a means by which they could seek out colleagues or search for individuals with specific specializations, areas of research, and other contact/demographic information. In addition, the Global Directory can potentially serve to help scholars, policy makers, and implementers to make use of the knowledge produced by medical anthropologists. While the overall objectives of the Global Directory remain the same, the original Global Directory had to be retired due to ongoing technical difficulties and other problems. None of the older individual entries were transferred to the new and improved Global Directory, which opened for public registration and consultation in 2015. Please visit the [Global Directory](#) on the SMA website to check your status and register if you are not yet a member.

Safe travels to all those attending the 2015 AAA meetings!

Linda Garro

Conference Corner

SMA at the AAA: Annual Meeting Preview

Athena McLean (Central Michigan University)

SMA members can look forward to a very promising program this year. There will be 71 sessions composed of 58 organized panels, and 13 sessions arranged from volunteered abstracts. Nine SMA posters will be presented at a poster session on Friday from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and a popular all-day workshop on publishing will launch the SMA program on Wednesday.

The 71 sessions will include eight roundtables and seven invited sessions. Choosing invited sessions was particularly challenging this year given the excellence of so many offerings. In trying to extend our invitations, we sought out co-sponsors for as many sessions as possible. SMA receives eight credits, two credits for each invited session but we can extend our invited offerings if we share those credits with other sections. Athena, the committee chair, forwarded the abstracts of more than a dozen of our most enticing sessions to other section chairs to review for possible co-sponsorship and made our selections on that basis.

In the end, we were able to offer seven invited panels, six of which were co-sponsored:

1. Un-Familiar Subjects: A Panel in Honor of Byron J. Good And Mary-Jo Delvecchio Good: Part I (with Society for Psychological Anthropology, abstract for Part II is available [here](#))
2. Plasticity: Encountering Biosocial Models Of Creation, Adaptation and Destruction, from Genomics to Epigenetics (with Society for Anthropological Sciences)
3. The Making and Unmaking of Global Health: Particularity, Practice and Politics In Comparative Perspective
4. Reproducing the Environment (with Anthropology and Environment Section)
5. Disability, Defamiliarization, and "the New Normal" (with American Ethnological Society)
6. Microsociality I: Thinking With Germs (with Society for Anthropological Sciences, abstract for Part II is available [here](#))
7. Public Health Contending With Public Sentiments: Collaborative Responses to the Real Risks of "Crisis" and Alarmist Representations (with General Anthropology Division)

A number of other sessions, however, really stood out for us. Critical Global Health and The Criminalized Corpse struck the committee as especially original. Freezing the Future: Familiar and Strange Territories of Techno-Reproduction Organizers and "Black Bodies Matter": Medical Anthropology Special Interest Groups Present Challenging Issues are two roundtables that also should not be missed. Health in the Time of "Belt Tightening": An Anthropology of Austerity in Europe and Africa is particularly timely given continuing developments in Greece. The abstracts in Biomedical Bodies and the Enactment of Rights in Globalization also promise unique perspectives.

Keeping with this year's "Familiar Strange" theme, The Strange Familiars of Biomedicine and Defamiliarizing "Choice" in Health Care will critically examine much that is taken for granted in health care. In addition, there will be two panels and two roundtables on mental health, several on global health, care, and environment and toxicity, innovative sessions on reproduction, and a double session called Moral Laboratories (the description for Part II of that session is available [here](#)). Sessions on drug use and marijuana are of particular relevance for meetings in Colorado, where it is now legal. On Wednesday, Jaida K. Samudra (Professional Editing for Scholars) will be offering her popular all-day workshop, That Almost Finished Journal Article.

AAA made significant scheduling changes last year and subsequently revised the scheduling again for this year's conference, so it is worth checking times for events you want to attend. The scholarly program begins on Wednesday, running from noon until 5:45. Scholarly morning sessions run from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Thursday through Sunday, and afternoon sessions are from 1:45 to 5:45 Thursday through Saturday. The special interest group (SIG) business meeting times have been largely restored to the 12:15-1:30 p.m. slot, but some (including the Council on Anthropology and Reproduction and the Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Study Group) are now scheduled for Friday evening from 7:45 to 9:00 p.m. The SMA Executive Board meetings, which are closed to anyone who is not a Board member, will be held on Thursday (for continuing and outgoing members) and Friday (for continuing and incoming members) from 12:15 until 3:15. Mark your calendar for the SMA Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony on Thursday evening from 6:15 to 8:30, followed by a Reception until 11:30 p.m.

The SMA's full preliminary program can be found [here](#).

Athena wishes to state that it was a privilege to chair the Program Committee for SMA again this year.

Fortunately, AAA was able to accommodate the many fine sessions we reviewed. Other committee members included co-chair [Lesley Sharp](#) (Barnard College) and [Adrianne Remmert](#) (Central Michigan University, B.A.), who for the second year offered countless diligent hours of much appreciated work.

SIG Spotlight

Black Bodies Matter:

A Special Interest Group Roundtable in Denver

[Margaret Souza](#) (Empire State College)

The Chairs of the Special Interests Groups (SIGs) for the Society for Medical Anthropology meet each year at the AAA Annual Meeting. In Washington, DC last year, they decided to put together a roundtable event for the 2015 conference. Their intention was to provide exposure to the wider SMA of their existence. However, they also wanted an opportunity to collaborate and to illustrate how each SIG provides a window into a current issue that is relevant to all of the members of the SMA community.

One topic that drew attention in 2014 has continued to be timely: the SIG leadership believed that each of the groups could make a contribution to the ongoing discourse related to Black Lives Matter. Thus at the Annual Meeting in Denver, there will be a special roundtable discussion sponsored by and with participation from each of the SMA's SIGs. Each group has selected a member with particular expertise in this area who will present a brief introduction to their framework regarding the issue. Participants will then be welcomed into the discussion.

The roundtable, "Black Bodies Matter: Medical Anthropology Special Interest Groups Present Challenging Issues," is scheduled for Thursday, November 19 from 4:00 to 5:45 p.m. We invite you to attend and look forward to hearing your contributions to this important topic. A detailed description of the roundtable can be found [here](#).

Welcome New SMA Board Members!

The SMA is thrilled to welcome four new members to our Board! Our newest Board Officer, Alexander Rödlach was elected to the position of Treasurer, and Mary Anglin, Erin P. Finley, and Eileen Moyer are beginning terms as At-Large Members.

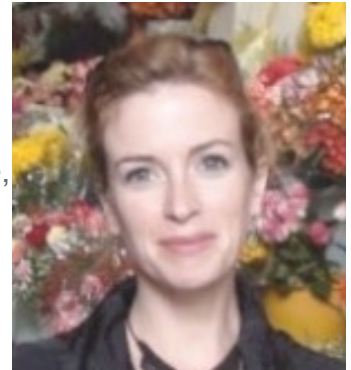
[Alexander Rödlach](#) was born in Innsbruck, Austria and received his Baccalaureatus Theologiae from the Pontificia Università Urbaniana in Rome, Italy, and a Magister der Theologie from the Theologische Hochschule St. Gabriel, Mödling, Austria. He completed his graduate work in anthropology at the University of Florida. He is currently an associate professor in anthropology and psychiatry at Creighton University in Omaha and co-director of the graduate program in Medical Anthropology. His current research explores the impact of Faith Community Nursing programs on the health and wellbeing of participants. He is also part of a research project that explores the health of diverse refugee populations living in Omaha. He is the author of *Witches, Westerners and HIV: AIDS and Cultures of Blame in Africa*.



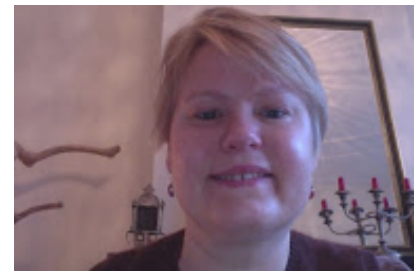
Mary Anglin is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky, where she recently completed a term as department chair. Through long-term ethnographic research based in urban Northern California, she has examined breast cancer as a public health problem and a social crisis, with attention to the role of social activism in challenging biomedical views of “risk” as well as approaches to treatment. Her recent work explores differences of ethnicity, race, nationality, and social class among women diagnosed with breast cancer, and the implications of such differences for quality of life and survival. Future plans include a return to ethnographic work on issues of environmental contamination in Appalachia, with attention to their impact on communities and human health. The theme that unites these various projects is an abiding interest in health inequities and social justice and the potential uses of a critically applied anthropology.



Erin P. Finley, PhD MPH is an assistant professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Medicine (Division of Hospital Medicine) at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and a Research Investigator at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System. She is a medical anthropologist and health services researcher with expertise in posttraumatic stress disorder, access to care, and the implementation of evidence-based practices in inpatient and outpatient settings. Dr. Finley was awarded the 2012 Margaret Mead Award by the American Anthropological Association and Society for Applied Anthropology for her book, *Fields of Combat: Understanding PTSD among Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan* (Cornell).



Eileen Moyer is a professor of anthropology at the University of Amsterdam’s Institute for Social Science Research. She has published 22 peer-reviewed articles, co-edited three special issues in highly esteemed medical anthropology journals, supervised seven PhD researchers, and she is a co-editor of *Medicine Anthropology Theory*. In 2015, she was awarded a prestigious ERC consolidator grant for 2 million euro to research the relationship between global health gender equality initiatives and



transformations in urban African masculinities over the last quarter century. Previously, she worked as the research manager and coordinator of the “Anthropology of AIDS in the 21st-Century” research group, based at the University of Amsterdam. In 2009, she received a four-year grant to direct a research team to investigate the social institutions and socialities that have arisen in eastern Africa in conjunction with the expansion of HIV treatment. Her research interests include urbanizing Africa, youth cultures, medical anthropology, HIV/AIDS, global health, masculinities, sexuality, anthropology of space, and popular culture.

Detailed information about the SMA's Executive Board members and staff can be found [here](#).

Anthropology on the Ground

addicted.pregnant.poor

A Photo Essay

Kelly Ray Knight (University of California San Francisco)

My new book, *addicted.pregnant.poor*. (Duke University Press, 2015), is an ethnography addressing the biomedical, social, public health, policy, and ethical dimensions of ongoing illicit drug use during pregnancy. A result of four years of fieldwork in daily-rent hotels—privately owned buildings in which the exploitation of women’s sex work and ongoing poor health was normative—the book follows 19 women who had 23 pregnancies.

Every state in the United States has a surveillance system in place to identify prenatal substance use

exposure. Seventeen states consider substance abuse during pregnancy to be child abuse. Three consider it grounds for civil commitment or incarceration.

Racialized welfare debates paired with faulty science historically constructed the relationship between addicted pregnancy and the state. Today, a complex configuration of sophisticated scientific research that “indexes adversity” and media-generated moral panic is shaping public perceptions about the individual and social consequences of addicted pregnancy. Looking behind the statistics and national headlines, thousands of U.S. women face the challenges of addiction, pregnancy, and poverty on a day-to-day basis.

To answer the question “What forms of life are possible here?” I engaged with all the social actors who are called upon to produce knowledge about addicted pregnancy, including addicted, pregnant women, an anthropologist, public health epidemiologists, advocates, social policy-makers, treatment professionals, bureaucrats, and scientists. I analyzed what “evidence” matters in addicted pregnancy and what that evidence is made to do, whether it be neonatal toxicology screens, eviction notices, public health statistics, psychiatric diagnoses, children’s photographs, welfare entitlements, or ethnographic narratives.



Figure 1: At the busy entrance to the subway, beautiful photographs of local homeless women were displayed to increase visibility in the neighborhood and combat negative stereotypes of the homeless. Photographs of women: Kari Orvik. Photograph: Kelly Ray Knight

In the 16th and Mission Street neighborhood of San Francisco, public and private space was negotiated in the context of housing scarcity, rapid gentrification and increased policing of both homelessness and the drug-sex economy. Poor women in the neighborhood became “hidden in plain sight” through practices of deliberate, political visibility (Fig. 1, above) which starkly contrasted with the gendered exploitation, illegal evictions, and debilitating debts that were accrued in the private daily rent hotels (Fig. 2, below).



Figure 2: The sign advertising rates for rooms in one of the daily-rent hotels. Someone has altered the sign from: "DAILY RATE \$35.00" to read: "DAILY RAPE \$35.00," graphically demarcating forms of violence, economics and housing in the neighborhood. Photograph: Kelly Ray Knight

Addicted pregnant women were constantly pulled in and out of multiple temporalities. Women's meaning-making as they moved through different temporalities elucidated their everyday social roles as pregnant women and the technocratic adjudication of their mothering potential. The personal, the social, and the biomedical were made temporal, through symbolic practices of recording time as rent paid, drugs taken, children documented in photographs, surveys completed, and time served (Fig 3, below).





Figure 3: Graffiti in a daily-rent hotel room reminding tenants about the accrual of moral and monetary debts. It reads: "GOD hates the sin, but LOVES the sinner." And "Checkout Time! you pay NOW!!!!" Photograph: Kelly Ray Knight

Pregnancy placed demands on women for stability and abstinence, while addiction and poverty pulled them toward drug use in the chaotic and dangerous drug-sex economy of the daily-rent hotels. To access better housing and income stability, women needed to establish disability status for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) welfare entitlements, most frequently through a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder and bipolar disorder.

Despite widely accepted scientific evidence demonstrating the high prevalence of mental illness and substance use disorder comorbidity, mental health disorders had to be documented *in exception* of substance use disorder for SSI eligibility. Thus, a new social actor, the "neurocrat," has been constructed to make the madness of poverty socially legible. For addicted, pregnant women, neurocrats created futures in the "disability economy" (Fig 4, below).



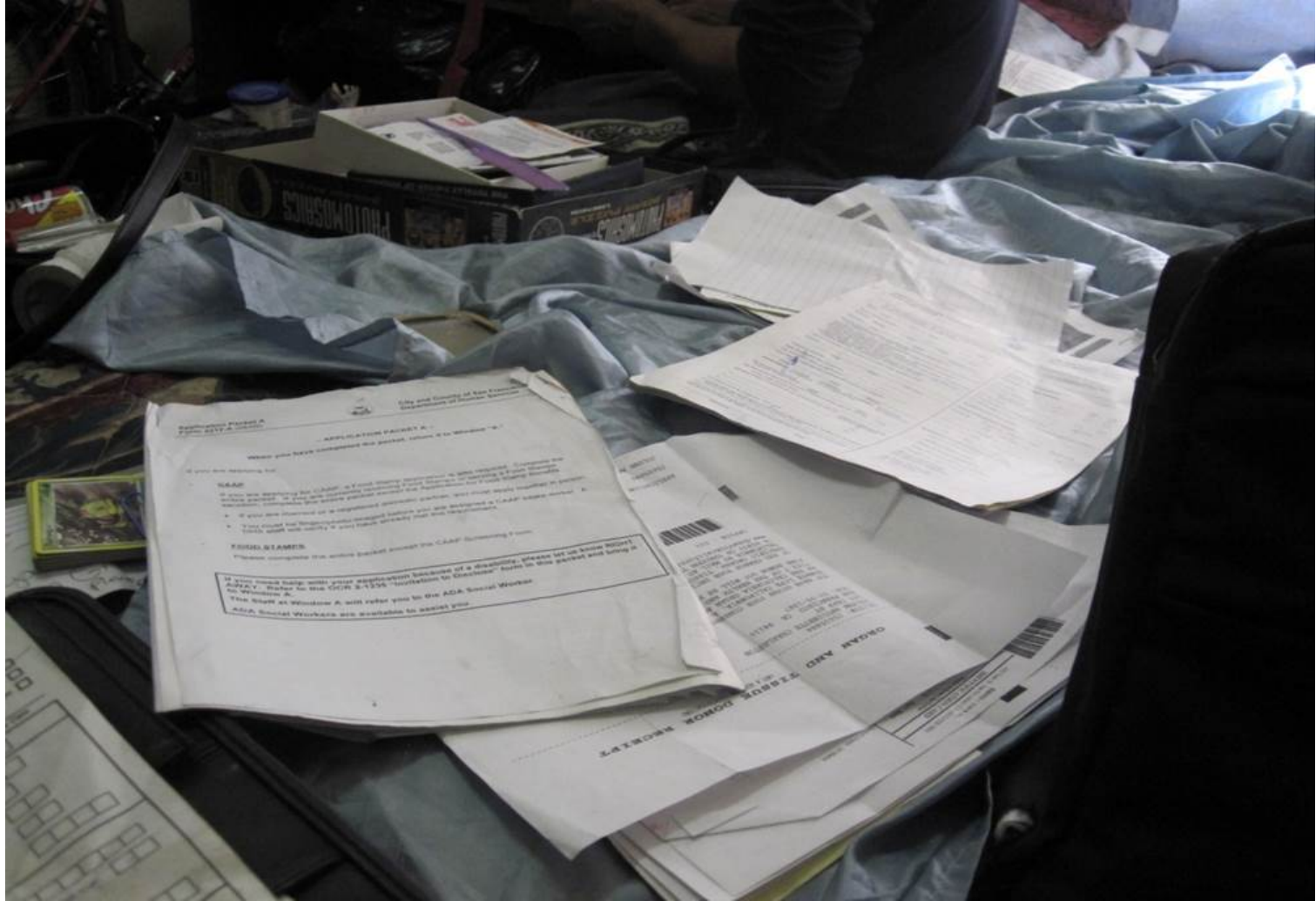


Figure 4: Lexi's neurocratic paperwork spread across the bed of her daily-rent hotel room, as she sought to re-establish her SSI-eligibility during her pregnancy. Photograph: Kelly Ray Knight

addicted.pregnant.poor theorizes a vital politics of viability that reflects the epistemological, experiential, and ethical dimensions of addicted pregnancy. Addicted, pregnant women were seen both as victims of their own poor childhoods and current impoverished living situations and as perpetrators who were not taking responsibility for their drug use and not acting in the best interests of their unborn children (Fig 5, below).

Requirements that women take personal responsibility for themselves and their unborn children conflicted with institutional regulatory mechanisms that did not synch with the temporal constraints of addiction and homelessness. While the national conversation moves toward greater biomedicalization of addiction as a brain disease, the moral pull of good mothering demands sobriety, stability, and forms of care that were not easily accessible to women in the daily-rent hotels.





Figure 5: Poster by the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program reads “Everything comes with nutritional information. Except her.” Daily-rent hotel windows can be seen above the billboard.
Photograph: Kelly Ray Knight

Kelly Ray Knight is an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, History, and Social Medicine at the University of California San Francisco. Her research examines the relationship between addiction and chronic pain, as well as addiction, reproduction, and housing instability in the U.S.

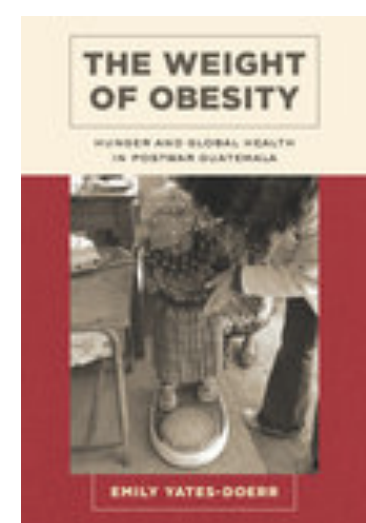
Inside *Anthropology News*

The Weight of the Body: On Obesity and Ontological Violence

Emily Yates-Doerr (University of Amsterdam)

For the SMA column of the upcoming *Anthropology News*, I was invited to profile my book, *The Weight of Obesity: Hunger and Global Health in Postwar Guatemala*, just released by University of California Press. I used this opportunity to write about ontological violence, a theme that runs through my book’s descriptions of how the diagnosis of obesity is lived in the everyday. My AN piece, “On Body Weight and Ontological Violence,” is available [here](#).

Global health workers have pointed to the growing incidence of obesity in Latin America as a problem rooted in structural violence. Indeed, systemic inequalities in access to food and healthcare were obvious in vegetables that were either expensive or grown in toxic soils, soda that was cheaper than clean water, and a public health system that has, for decades, prioritized packaged and processed nutrients over land reform.



But as I moved between global health meetings, clinics, and people's homes I came to see another kind of violence, one that did not so much cause "the problem" of obesity but that was embedded into its solutions. In the cavities of a massively defunded public health system, body weight scales, the Body Mass Index, and calorie charts proliferated. They carried with them the promise that health was a globally stable, definable, measurable entity. Bodies, exercise, food, sleep, dreams, even the breath—if they could be captured in metrics they could be known, and if they could be known they could be controlled. Health, at last, could be achieved.

In the newsletter column I suggest that a problem of obesity is not, or at least not only, that certain (poor, brown, gendered) bodies are more likely to be obese than others; it is, perhaps more fundamentally, that global standards for health privilege some kinds of bodies and some modes of being over others from the outset. In my research, people did not just suffer from obesity. They also suffered from the diagnosis and the treatment approaches that accompanied concern for weight.

While the inclination to measure obesity was strong in the field of global health, my column highlights the innovative treatment strategies that emerged when patients and educators turned their energies away from calculations, treating bodies and health as dynamic and relational. Read the newsletter to learn more about how fatness can be healthy.

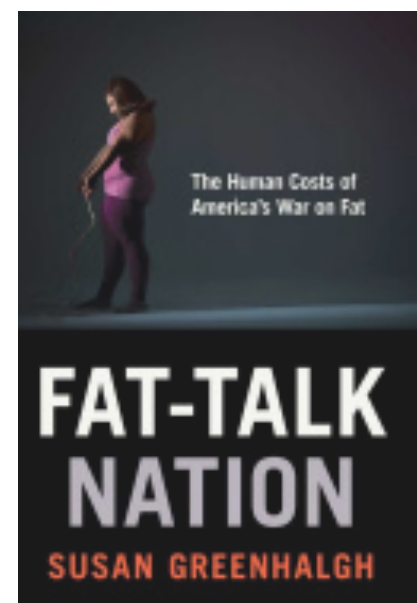
New in *MAQ*

The Human Impact of America's War on Fat: An Interview with Susan Greenhalgh

By Elizabeth Lewis (University of Texas at Austin)

Susan Greenhalgh's new book, *Fat-Talk Nation: The Human Costs of America's War on Fat*, offers a fascinating ethnographic challenge to the dominant narratives on weight in contemporary America. How did heaviness – or fatness – become redefined as a national crisis in need of continuous surveillance? How has the pervasive assumption that fatness is, by definition, unhealthy impacted the body image and emotional well-being of a new generation of Americans? And what does this mean for people who fall outside of the thin ideal?

Prior to Greenhalgh's important study, such questions were largely overlooked by policymakers, researchers, and the public. *Fat-Talk Nation* uses 45 autoethnographies to explore the lived experiences of fat-talk in America today, including "bad BMIs," diets, and eating disorders. Ultimately, Greenhalgh seeks to answer a deceptively complex question: what is the human impact of this war on fat?



Greenhalgh also examines these themes in her upcoming article for *MAQ*, "Disordered Eating/Eating Disorder: Hidden Perils of the Nation's Fight Against Fat," currently available via the journal's Early View feature. In anticipation of this piece, *Second Opinion* was excited to learn more about Greenhalgh's groundbreaking project.

Elizabeth Lewis (EL): How does this article fit in with your new book, *Fat-Talk Nation*?

Susan Greenhalgh (SG): *Fat-Talk Nation* documents the human costs of the war on fat. One of those costs is damage to the bodily and mental health of young people. Subject to overwhelming pressure to lose weight and keep it off, yet lacking effective methods by which to do so, young people take their weight-loss strategies to extremes, in the process often harming their health. The book briefly discusses psychiatric peril, but the article takes it further, mapping out a systematic explanation of how the war on fat is worsening the problem of eating disorders, and challenging anthropologists to view problems of obesity

and eating disorders not at distinct entities but as points along a single continuum.

EL: Why fatness? Why now?

SG: Why fatness? Because fatness is a huge cultural and political preoccupation in American society, and because the way we've framed the obesity problem and its solution is not only not working to reduce obesity in adults or prevent it in children, it is doing real, measurable damage. *Fat-Talk Nation* shows that the war on fat is harming our selves, our psyches, our relationships, our families, and especially our young people. Anthropologists have unique and critically important contributions to make both to uncovering these hidden dynamics and effects and to reframing the issue in ways that promote human flourishing and social justice.

EL: What is your target audience for this project? How would you like to see it used and in what settings?

SG: In writing *Fat-Talk Nation*, I sought to use lively, everyday language in order to reach a general public readership. I targeted the wider public because every one of us has been conscripted into the war on fat and every one of us is impacted by it. I especially want to reach the authorities in young people's lives – the teachers, doctors, coaches, and parents who think that badgering kids about their weight will help them shed pounds – to make them see the kinds of emotional damage they are inadvertently inflicting on the targets. And, of course, I want to reach young people themselves, especially those with extra pounds, to help them see that bio-bullying amounts to fat abuse, and that they have a right to not be abused because of their weight.

EL: This project has garnered significant media attention, including an [NPR feature](#). Can you speak a bit about your recent experience as an anthropologist in the public eye?

SG: The interest from NPR radio stations, bloggers, and print media has been incredibly gratifying. SMA members interested in engaging the public might want to come to a roundtable I've organized at the AAA meetings in Denver. About 10 anthropologists who have recently published ethnographies on the US will reflect on their efforts to use social and other media to engage new communities, bring fresh voices into the public sphere, and fashion novel kinds of projects of social justice. Panelists include Peter Benson, Philippe Bourgois, Hugh Gusterson, Karen Ho, Carrie Lane, Caitrin Lynch, Laurence Ralph, and Shalini Shankar, among others. The roundtable, "[Transforming America, One Ethnography at a Time](#)," is scheduled for Saturday, November 21, from 4:00 to 5:45 pm.

EL: What are your broader aims for this project on fatness, both within medical anthropology and beyond?

SG: My larger goals are to reframe the way we talk about obesity and change how we approach it as a public health issue. *Fat-Talk Nation* urges health professionals to tell the public the truth about the biomyths and partial truths about weight and health that everyone believes but that have little scientific credence. Each of us should listen to our own fat-talk and work with others to create fat-talk-free zones where human value is not attached to body weight. Finally, we need to launch a nationwide campaign against fat-bullying that makes blatant weightism or sizeism just as intolerable as racism, sexism, and homophobia.

*Susan Greenhalgh is the John King and Wilma Cannon Fairbank Professor of Chinese Society at Harvard University, where she is also the Director of the Social Anthropology Program. Her books include *Fat-Talk Nation*, *Cultivating Global Citizens: Population in the Rise of China*, *One Child: Science and Policy in Deng's China*, and *Under the Medical Gaze: Facts and Fictions in Chronic Pain*. More information about *Fat-talk Nation* is available [here](#).*



Scenes from a Workshop on Plant Use and Women's Reproductive Health in Chiapas

Mounia El Kotni (University at Albany - SUNY)

This series of pictures was taken in April 2015, while I was conducting fieldwork in Chiapas. My colleague and the founder of the Women and Midwives Section of the Organization of Indigenous Doctors of Chiapas, Micaela Icó Bautista, has been organizing workshops on women's health for more than 30 years with Tseltal and Tsotsil healers and midwives in communities of Highland Chiapas. As a volunteer for her, I served as the photographer on this occasion while she asked questions and stimulated the conversation in Tsotsil.

This workshop was hosted at a traditional midwife's house, and we were surprised by the number of people who came, especially the men. With about 40 adults, this was a particularly big audience.

Before the beginning, Micaela, the midwife, and her son-in-law went into the *milpa* (cornfield) behind the house to look for some medicinal plants that could be discussed during the workshop.



Micaela and the midwife's son-in-law in the milpa looking for plants for the workshop.

Unlike government or other NGO workshops modeled on a top-down relationship between the facilitator and the audience, Micaela uses popular education tools and acts as a catalyst for the conversations. That way, the participants each share their experience and medical knowledge about a topic. Our original idea for the workshop was to talk about menopause. During the icebreaker, however, other concerns emerged, so we started by addressing these issues.



Micaela giving instructions for the icebreaker. Here, participants are placed within a rope circle and then move together as a group toward the diseases they want to eradicate.

After the workshop, the recipes are left at the midwife's house for everyone to consult. In her office, Micaela goes through the audios and notes taken during the workshops in the different communities, and edits booklets compiling the recipes in order for the community to keep transmitting its knowledge.



Micaela talking to the group. In the background, you can see the poster paper displaying recipes to



A woman sharing her experience during the workshop. Children follow their parents, especially their mothers, during daily activities. The fertility rate for indigenous women who are 35 and older is 6.1.

Book Announcements

Adelson, Naomi, Leslie Butt, and Karina Kielmann, eds. *Troubling Natural Categories: Engaging the Medical Anthropology of Margaret Lock* (McGill-Queens University Press, 2013)

Bletzer, Keith V. *Down Country Lanes, Behind Abandoned Houses* (Bentham Science Publications, 2015)

Buchbinder, Mara. *All in Your Head: Making Sense of Pediatric Pain* (University of California Press, 2015)

Bulled, Nicola. *Prescribing HIV Prevention: Bringing Culture into Global Health Communication* (Left Coast Press, 2014)

Carney, Megan. *The Unending Hunger: Tracing Women and Food Insecurity Across Borders* (University of California Press, 2015)

Couture, Ruth and Virginia McGowan. *A Metaphoric Mind: Selected writings of Joseph Couture* (Athabasca University Press, 2013)

Davis, Dona Lee. *Twins Talk: What Twins Tell Us about Person, Self and Society* (Ohio University Press, 2014)



Davis, Dona Lee and Anita Maurstad, eds. *The Meaning of Horses: Biosocial Encounters* (Rutledge, 2015)

Greenhalgh, Susan. *Fat-Talk Nation: The Human Costs of America's War on Fat*

Heinrich, Michael and Anna K. Jaeger, eds. *Ethnopharmacology* (Wiley, 2015)

Hejtmanek, Katie Rose. *Friendship, Love, and Hip Hop: An Ethnography of African American Men in Psychiatric Custody* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015)

Hill, Thomas W. *Native American Drinking: Life Styles, Alcohol Use, Drunken Comportment, Problem Drinking, and the Peyote Religion* (New University Press, 2013)

Hinojosa, Servando. *In this Body: Kaqchikel Maya and the Grounding of Spirit* (University of New Mexico Press, 2015)

Inhorn, Marcia. *Cosmopolitan Conceptions: IVF Sojourns in Global Dubai* (Duke University Press, 2015)

Jenkins, Janis. *Extraordinary Conditions: Culture and Experience in Mental Illness* (University of California Press, 2015)

Jerome, Jessica. *A Right to Health: Medicine Marginality and Health Care Reform in Northeastern Brazil* (University of Texas Press, 2015)

Knight, Kelly Ray. *addicted.pregnant.poor.* (Duke University Press, 2015)

Kohrt, Brandon and Emily Mendenhall, eds. *Global Mental Health: Anthropological Perspectives* (Left Coast Press, 2015)

Labuski, Christine. *It Hurts Down There: The Bodily Imaginaries of Female Genital Pain* (SUNY Press, 2015)

Langdon, Esther Jean and Marina D. Cardoso. *Saúde Indígena: Políticas Comparadas na America Latina* (EDUFSC/IDP, 2015)

Langdon, Esther Jean. *La negociación de lo oculto: chamanismo, medicina y familia entre los Siona del bajo Putumayo* (Universidad de Cauca, 2014)

Luxardo, Natalia and Laura Bengochea, eds. *Cancer y Sociedad. Múltiples Miradas, Enfoques, Recortes* (Biblos Editorial, 2015)

Mathews, Holly, Nancy Burke, and Eirini Kampriani, eds. *Anthropologies of Cancer in Transnational Worlds* (Routledge, 2015)

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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)

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Yates-Doerr, Emily. The Weight of Obesity: Hunger and Global Health in Postwar Guatemala (University of California Press, 2015)

General Announcements

Call for Contributors: AAA Panel Write-ups

Will you be attending the AAA meetings in Denver? Would you like to contribute a short piece about a particular panel that stands out to you? *Second Opinion* seeks short (500-700 words) write-ups of AAA panels on medical anthropology topics for our winter issue. Please contact [Liz Lewis](#) for further information.

Second Opinions Wants Your Photos!

Second Opinion is excited to announce the launch of our new "Photos from the Field" feature, which will include a series of photo essays in each issue. If you are interested in contributing a short photo essay or even just sharing a few pictures from your research, please contact [Liz Lewis](#).

Conference Announcements:

Gender, Bodies and Technology 4th Biannual Conference

April 20-23, 2016 (Roanoke, VA)

Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting

March 29-April 2, 2016 (Vancouver, BC)

Society for Disability Studies

June 8-11, 2016 (Phoenix, AZ)

European Association of Social Anthropologists Biennial Conference

July 20-23 (Milan)

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

and scholar activists whose work examines the anthropological dimensions of local, national, and global health.
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