CALL FOR ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS: Anthropology Matters -Fighting essentialist ideas about poverty, race, and intelligence in the Trump Era.

AAA Roundtable Organizers:

Robin G. Nelson, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Santa Clara University

Jada Benn Torres, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Vanderbilt University

 **DEADLINE for SUBMISSION: April 7, 2017.**

A central theme within anthropology is concerned with understanding the nature, scope, and meaning of human difference. Given our emphasis on qualitative, quantitative, and holistic approaches to the study of humankind, anthropologists are equipped to comment on the contexts that shape human experience. While great strides have been made in re-conceptualizing notions of human diversity beyond biology, essentialist ideas regarding the nature of poverty, race, and intelligence remain problematic.  Furthermore, in a political climate where “alternative facts” are argued on equal footing as empirically based actualities, it is critical that professional anthropologists engage with the public regarding the accurate and meaningful aspects of human variability. Rather than acquiesce to re-emerging falsehoods of human difference, anthropologists must remain at the forefront as public intellectuals that positively influence students, policy-makers, and work towards truthful disseminations of anthropological knowledge.

We seek an explicitly intra-disciplinary roundtable to discuss the challenges of (1)researching, (2) teaching, and (3) otherwise disseminating anthropological perspectives on human biological and cultural variation, in the period leading up to and after the US 2016 presidential election. Panelists should be prepared to share insights on a variety of topics including, race, sex, gender, and class.  This roundtable is envisioned as a space for anthropologists spanning biological, cultural, linguistic, and archeological subfields to discuss reemerging ideas of human difference in the contemporary United States and offer ideas about how to combat it.

For consideration on the roundtable, please submit an abstract of up to 200 words in response to the roundtable topic. In your submission please remember to include your name, affiliation, and membership within AAA. Submissions should be made by April 7 to Jada Benn Torres < j.benntor@vanderbilt> or Robin Nelson <rnelson@scu.edu> .   We will adhere to this deadline in order to meet the AAA mandated deadline for roundtable submission on April 14. If accepted into the roundtable, all participants must be registered members of the the AAA prior to the April 14 deadline.  We encourage anthropologists of all ilk’s to strengthen our professional organization through attendance and participation.