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Newsletter of the Society for Medical Anthropology
February 2018 / Vol. 6, Issue 1

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From the SMA President

Dear SMA members,

I'm pleased to write for the first time in *Second Opinion* as President of the Society for Medical Anthropology. First, I'd like to share with you some new business that we discussed at our board meeting last December. We voted to create the Hazel Weidman Award for Exemplary Service, which will be presented every other year starting in 2019, named after the driving force behind the creation of the predecessors of *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* and the SMA. We also voted to organize the third SMA conference in 2019, this time in a Latin American country. Our purpose is to acknowledge and engage the intellectual production coming from that region, particularly in three areas: 1) critical epidemiology, social medicine, and critical medical anthropology, 2) indigenous movements and intercultural care in health, and 3) sexual and reproductive health and rights. However, the conference would not be bounded to any particular region; instead, it would have a focus on entangled and shared histories and on the work of displacements and decentering. In the months to come, we'll work to identify local partner institutions, location, and dates. At the board meeting, we also voted to create an [undergraduate travel award](#) to attend the annual meetings and to establish a code of ethics to reaffirm our commitment to support a professional environment free of any form of harassment.



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Please watch the AAA ballot for the list of nominees. We are also organizing, for the 2018 AAA annual meeting, special events and another mentoring event jointly with the Society for Psychological Anthropology, as we have successfully done in the past. As we at the SMA organize panels, roundtable discussions, volunteered papers, and posters before the [April 16 at 2 pm EST deadline](#), I encourage that we all abide by accessibility and inclusion [criteria](#) as we move towards adopting formal accessibility guidelines. Finally, at the SMA board, either directly or through the SIGs, we welcome ideas to strengthen our policy front with a plan that supports the mission of the SMA as we engage with the world.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Society for Applied Anthropology annual meeting in Philadelphia, where the SMA will be well represented with [41 sessions](#).

Best wishes,

Arachu Castro, Ph.D., MPH

Samuel Z. Stone Chair of Public Health in Latin America

Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

Congratulations to 2017 SMA Award Recipients!

By Award Committee

Each year, the SMA hosts a Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony at the AAA Annual Meetings to honor the winners of SMA and SIG prizes. Below is a list of this past year's awardees.

The **New Millennium Book Award** is given biannually in odd years to a scholar within medical anthropology for a solo-authored (or co-authored) book published since the beginning of the new millennium. This year's recipients include **Charles L. Briggs** and **Clara Mantini-Briggs** for *Tell Me Why My Children Died: Rabies, Indigenous Knowledge, and Community Justice* (Duke 2016) and **Harris Solomon** for *Metabolic Living: Food, Fat, and the Absorption of Illness in India* (Duke 2016).



Tell Me Why My Children Died is a magisterial work of anthropology that is conceptually rich and morally profound. Responding to the desperate plea of the Warao of a Venezuelan rainforest to identify a mysterious disease that killed many of their children, Briggs and Mantini-Briggs have written a masterful ethnography that integrates compassionate engagement and practical intervention with sophisticated theoretical analyses, encompassing multiple perspectives from medical and linguistic anthropology and communication studies. Demonstrating how to combine epidemiological findings with ethnographic details in their effort to solve the mystery, employing rich narratives and beautiful photographs that immediately invite readers into the intimate lives of the people, Briggs and Mantini-Briggs have shown a way in which anthropologists can combat racism and willful ignorance about the suffering of others. They do so analytically and by offering an ethnographic account that is at once poetic and political.

Solomon's *Metabolic Living* is an innovative and theoretically sophisticated work of a very contemporary anthropology that investigates the rise of obesity in India. Through his insightful, sometimes playful and luscious writing on people cooking, eating, and worrying about their health, Solomon has dismantled the rigid boundary between what does and doesn't count as medical, while capturing what is happening at the forefront of globalization—i.e., fear of polluted food and the standardization of food production, stress and tensions of urbanization, and worries over a rapid increase in diabetes. Using the productive tropes of “absorption” and “permeability,” Solomon offers a

stunning analysis of an obesity epidemic and the paradox of the “thin-fat” Indian. Investigating the distinctions between the insides and outsides of bodies and the very concrete and material ways in which distinct spaces, scales and domains are engaged with each other, Solomon succeeds in demonstrating how people experience metabolism as a problem of absorbing their surrounding environment, and emphasizing that these cannot be analytically separate.

The **Eileen Basker Memorial Prize** is awarded for a significant contribution to excellence in research on gender and health by scholars from any discipline or nation, for a specific book, article, film, or exceptional PhD thesis produced within the preceding three years. This year's recipient is **Robert Wyrod** for *AIDS and Masculinity in the African City: Privilege, Inequality, and Modern Manhood* (California 2016). The committee members were impressed with Wyrod's deep understanding of shifting notions of masculinity, his work displaying an impressive knowledge not only of the here-and-now, but of historical, and shifting, notions of manhood in Uganda, a nation celebrated for its early and comprehensive approach to HIV/AIDS transmission. Wyrod embeds his arguments in a subtle analysis of the history of medical and public health interventions, crediting this as an underlying factor that informs Ugandans' willingness to speak more openly about the disease than is true in many other parts of the world.

The **George Foster Practicing Medical Anthropology Award** recognizes those who have made significant contributions to applying theory and

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Science, Technology, and International Affairs at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Mendenhall demonstrates an impressive record of broad engagement across anthropology, medicine, and public health. She has worked in the US, India, South Africa, and Kenya on issues related to syndemic suffering and diabetes, as well as more recent work on global mental health. She has an impressive publication record, and her writing is both accessible and targets policy makers and other key audiences involved in global health. Her ability to speak across disciplines is evidenced by her editorship of a Special Series for *The Lancet* dedicated to the topic of syndemics, an effort that brings anthropological theory to public health as a framework for clinical interventions, epidemiological studies, and public health policy.

The **WHR Rivers Undergraduate Paper Prize** is awarded in odd numbered years to an outstanding paper by an undergraduate in medical anthropology. This year's recipient is **A. Taylor Silverman**, a 2017 graduate of the Department of Anthropology, Brown University for her paper, "Timing Illness: Physician and Patient Perspectives on Movement Disorder Trajectories." The paper was written while Ms. Silverman was an undergraduate and is an excerpt from her Senior Honors Thesis. In this paper, which is based on three months of ethnographic research in a medical center in a mid-sized New England city, Silverman weaves rich narrative data from patients and physicians into a complex theoretical exploration of understandings of time and experiences of illness among patients with movement disorders and the physicians who treat them.

The **Steven Polgar Professional Paper Prize** is awarded to a medical anthropologist for the best paper published in the SMA's flagship journal *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (MAQ) during the most recent complete volume year (2016). This year's recipient is **Rima Praspaliauskiene** for "Enveloped Lives: Practicing Health and Care in Lithuania" [MAQ 30(4): 582-598]. This article's analysis of informal monetary exchanges in Lithuania is both interesting and impressive, offering an important contribution to the growing anthropological work on care. The article, which takes the envelope and its monetary contents as an ethnographic object, goes beyond the conventional framing of informal monetary exchanges as either gift or bribe to illustrate how such envelopes are situated within relations of care in Lithuania's post socialist health care system, where such care relations are complex, uncertain and ambivalent.



The **MASA (Medical Anthropology Students Association) Mentorship Award** recognizes excellence in graduate student mentorship and is aimed at senior or mid-career scholars who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to teaching and mentorship throughout their careers, particularly those who have taken the time to successfully guide their MA and PhD students through fieldwork and the thesis or dissertation writing process. This year's recipient for the MASA Mentorship Award is **Kimberly Theidon** (Fletcher School at Tufts University). Dr. Theidon gave an impassioned impromptu [speech](#) on sexual harassment in the academy. She called on us to voice our dissent to an academic culture that silences both victims as well as their advocates and continues to uphold those who wield their power in abusive ways.

The **SMA Dissertation Award** is intended to recognize a recent dissertation that is exemplary for its scope and excellence, originality, persuasiveness, and writing quality, with special consideration given to those whose dissertation research required exceptional courage. This year's recipient is **Gabriela Sheets** for "The Developmental Ecology of the Infant Gut Microbiome." The committee members were impressed with Sheets' highly innovative approach for examining a contemporary issue in a manner unique to medical anthropology, resulting in a dissertation that – despite having been completed in an extremely dangerous field site – makes a significant contribution not only to our field but to science and global health more broadly.

Student Travel Awards to AAA Meetings

This year's travel awards were given to five students, which enabled them to present the following papers at the AAA meeting in Washington, D.C.:

- **Alen Agaronov** (Harvard University): "Cultural Nutritional Epidemiology: A Practice of Research Caregiving in the Age of Orthorexia"
- **Hatice Erten** (Yale University): "Fetal and Neoliberal: Politics of Pregnancy in Pronatalist Turkey"
- **Stephen McIsaac** (UC Berkeley): "When Attachments Fail"
- **Laura Meek** (UC Davis): "'Kuzoea' as Controlled Exposure: Becoming-With Antibiotics in Food and Beer Production in Tanzania"
- **Katherine Warren** (Harvard University): "Overdose, Homicide, and Baltimore City: The Making of the 'US Heroin Capital'"



SMA student travel award recipients at the 2017 SMA Business Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Various SMA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) also grant a range of awards. This year's prizes were as follows:

AIDS and Anthropology Research Group Clark Taylor Professional Paper Prize:

- Adia Benton (Northwestern University)
- Nora Kenworthy (University of Washington Bothell)

AIDS and Anthropology Research Group Clark Undergraduate Paper Prize: Joel van de Sande

Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Graduate Paper Prize: Allison Schlosser (Case Western Reserve University)

Council on Anthropology and Reproduction Graduate Paper Prize: Adom Heron

Critical Anthropology for Global Health Rudolf Virchow Award:

- Undergraduate Category: Peter Xander
- Graduate Category: Laura Meek (UC Davis)
- Professional Category: Megan Carney (University of Arizona)

Disability Research Interest Group Travel Awards:

- Elizabeth Lewis (University of Texas at Austin, Texas Center for Disability Studies)
- Clara Devlieger (University of Cambridge)

Dying and Bereavement Special Interest Group:

- Graduate Paper Prize: Laura Meek
- Undergraduate Prize: Vincent Belloch

Science and Medicine in South Asia Graduate Paper Prize: Venera R. Khalikova (University of Pittsburgh)

Science, Technology, and Medicine Special Interest Group Graduate Paper Award: Elena Sobrino

Again, congratulations to all of the awardees of 2017!

SMA-SPA Box Lunch Mentoring Receives High Praise

By Juan Luque (FAMU), Tawni Tidwell (Emory U), SMA Membership Committee

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was spurred by the AAA's call for grant applications for mentoring activities and was a follow-up to our successful "Speed Mentoring" event at the AAA meetings in 2016 in Minneapolis. The event was made possible by a generous mentoring event grant from the AAA and was also cosponsored by SMA and SPA. The SMA/SPA event planning committee coordinated the advertising of the event through listservs, websites, and social media to preregister mentors and mentees for the event. A total of 20 mentors and 20 mentees preregistered for the event and were matched by interests.

The event co-organizers provided a brief introduction, and then the event began with a [short lecture](#) by Kathy Oths (U Alabama) about mentoring and AAA mentoring initiatives, followed by the one-on-one mentoring discussions. Evaluations collected from 33 participants indicated that the efforts of SMA and SPA to provide mentoring opportunities at the AAA meetings were highly valued.



Participants really liked the mentor-mentee matching based on interests. Mentees also liked the extensive interactions which were helpful for their job application preparations. One mentee commented, "My mentor introduced me to other faculty which in my opinion is key for conferences (beyond just this session)." Several other participants commented that they liked the earlier start time of the event (lunchtime) versus the evening speed networking format from the previous year in Minneapolis.

The co-organizers from SMA (Juan Luque) and SPA (Tawni Tidwell), the SMA Membership Committee, and the SMA and SPA Executive Boards were very appreciative of the event volunteers who included: Carolyn Egesa (MASA liaison and University of Amsterdam), Catie Willging (PIRE), Ellen Kozelka (incoming SPA Student Representative and UCSD), and Saira Mehmood (SMA Digital Communications Manager and Southern Methodist University).

The organizers would also like to thank the following mentors who volunteered their time to make the event a success:

Baer, Roberta ("Robbie") (U South Florida)
 Basile, Melissa (Northwell Health System)
 Buchbinder, Mara (UNC-Chapel Hill)
 Chapin, Bambi (U Maryland Baltimore County)
 Deomampo, Daisy (Fordham University)
 Dressler, William ("Bill") (U Alabama)
 Guarnaccia, Peter (Rutgers U)
 Korbin, Jill (Case Western U)
 Levin, Betty Wolder (CUNY)
 Luhrmann, Tanya (Stanford U)
 Luque, John ("Juan") (FAMU)
 Myers, Neely Lorenzo (Southern Methodist U)
 Oths, Kathryn ("Kathy") (U Alabama)
 Pritzker, Sonya (U Alabama)
 Raikhel, Eugene (U Chicago)
 Roedlach, Alex (Creighton U)
 Seligman, Rebecca (Northwestern U)
 Sobo, Elisa ("EJ") (San Diego State U)
 Weaver, Leslie Jo (U Alabama)
 Willging, Cathleen ("Catie") (PIRE)
 Worthman, Carol (Emory U)



Updates from MASA

By MASA Steering Committee

A busy 2017 culminated with the 116th AAA Annual Meeting. The MASA (Medical Anthropology Students Association) Open Business Meeting was well attended in comparison to previous years. From over forty applications received for the student travel award, five were chosen. The submissions were outstanding and proved a challenging task for the selection committee. The student award recipients included Alen Agaronov (Harvard University), Hatice Erten (Yale University), Stephen McIsaac (University of California, Berkeley), Laura Meek (University of California, Davis), and Katherine Warren (Harvard University).

The call for the MASA mentorship award nominations brought in six excellent submissions. After much deliberation, it was awarded to Dr. Kimberley Theidon from the Fletcher School, Tufts University who is described as a strong advocate and incredible source of support to students.

In addition to the awards, discussions on student engagement with and through MASA were brought up. This will be tabled at future MASA leadership meetings to continue our efforts to grow the MASA membership and provide an avenue for better student engagement with AAA. It was also suggested the [MASA blog](#) be used as a platform to bring students and experts together through an interactive column. While we work on these suggestions, we invite students to subscribe to the blog and read the publications to date for an idea on other platforms for showcasing their work.

Since its creation, the MASA Twitter account ([@MedAnthStudent](#)) has increased its number of followers, and we hope to use it to continue with our efforts at keeping students informed and engaged. There has been more activity on the [MASA Facebook page](#) as well with job postings and discussions on pathways for students. We ask that you please join these forums and stay informed.

We wish everyone a brilliant year ahead and look forward to continued engagement and collaboration.

SMA Welcomes New *Anthropology News* Liaisons

Dori Beeler and Laura Meek are SMA's new *Anthropology News* (AN) liaisons. You can read their bios below. If you have submission ideas for AAA's *Anthropology News* columns, please send an email to Dori and Laura at dbeeler1@jhmi.edu and lameek@ucdavis.edu.

Dori Beeler received her MA in Socio-Cultural and PhD in Medical Anthropology from the University of Durham. As a medical anthropologist, her focus is on the intersections between healing and spirituality; health and wellbeing; and healthcare and commodity. She has done extensive ethnographic fieldwork in Britain, investigating Reiki practice with a focus on the practitioner, the client, and medical professionals. Her 2015 thesis and subsequent monograph, *An Ethnographic Account of Reiki Practice in Britain*, led to a description of the relationship between spirituality and wellbeing within Reiki practice. As a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Notre Dame, Dori engaged in a multi-disciplinary project where she conducted laboratory ethnography. Underlying Dori's work is her interest in an in-depth understanding of the everyday, lived experience of individuals and communities. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health receiving training in

Cancer Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control with a focus on pediatric oncology.

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Laura Meek is a PhD candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology at the University of California, Davis. She holds a MA in Women's Studies from George Washington University and a BA in Comparative Human Development from The University of Chicago. Laura's dissertation explores the globalization of pharmaceuticals in East Africa, embodiment and bodily epistemologies, and the ethics of healing. She conducted over two years of ethnographic fieldwork in Tanzania (supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the Wenner-Gren Foundation), examining how pharmaceuticals were used and understood by diversely situated social actors. In her dissertation, Laura frames her interlocutors' engagement with pharmaceuticals as a form of healing—involving the re/creating of right social relationships—and contrasts this with a biomedical emphasis on curing—which locates the efficacy of medicines in their chemical properties, rather than in the contexts and circumstances of their use. The work that emerges from this research lies at the intersection of medical anthropology, postcolonial studies, and feminist science studies, and grapples with how to theoretically render both radical uncertainty and “world making” innovation in Africa today. Additional areas of research interest include counterfeits & other “fakes”; the history of medicine and healing across the Indian Ocean world; methods as theory; bodies, experimentation, and practices of dreaming.



CFP: 2018 Sections Edition of *Anthropology News*

The AAA is soliciting a short piece from each section for the spring edition of *Anthropology News* (see theme below), to be published in both the online and print editions. If you are interested in an opportunity to publish your work in AN, then please take a look at the call for papers below.

If you have an idea for a submission, please send a 150-200 word pitch by **March 5th** to SMA Contributing Co-Editors Dori Beeler (dbeeler1@jhmi.edu) and Laura Meek (lameek@ucdavis.edu). Pitches must be from current SMA members.

Theme: Anthropological Futures

The time has come for the Sections Edition 2018! This year, we aim to curate and highlight perspectives on “anthropological futures” from right across the discipline, and invite sections to contribute a feature article that speaks to this theme from their area of expertise. We encourage you to interpret this theme broadly, for example articles could be written by someone working on an explicitly future-related topic such as smart technology or climate change adaptation or language change, conducting cutting-edge research that will impact anthropological methods used in the future and/or our understandings of humans past and present, or using innovative ways to educate the next generation of anthropologists.

AN feature articles are rooted in anthropological research and written for a broad audience of anthropologists and other readers. Writing should be well-structured and engaging with a strong, clean narrative voice—think scholarly magazine article rather than journal article.

Here are some AN In Focus articles as examples:

- [“Muslim Dandies”](#)
- [“Refugees and Police Violence in Calais”](#)
- [“Caring in Ancient Times”](#)
- [“The Hidden Harm of Surgery”](#)
- [“The Future of Higher Education is Now”](#)

Length: 1,200 words maximum, including title, subtitle teaser, byline, and author biosketch. Use references sparingly. We are also open to graphic or photographic submissions.

Image: Written submissions can be accompanied by one striking image, of large file size and high resolution: about 2175x1441 pixels or 1425x944

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[RSS](#)**Deadlines and Process:**

Monday, March 5: Deadline to send a 150-200 word pitch to SMA Contributing Co-Editors Dori Beeler (dbeeler1@jhmi.edu) and Laura Meek (lameek@ucdavis.edu).

Friday, March 23: Deadline to submit article to AN for editorial review.

AN staff will provide a developmental edit and copyedit, and return the article to the contributing co-editors and author for revision. We might take one or two rounds to finalize a piece.

Friday, May 4: Deadline to submit the final revised article.

SMA Call for Proposals - 2018 Meetings of the AAA

By SMA Program Committee



The Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) welcomes abstracts for individually volunteered papers, posters, sessions, roundtables, and workshops to be considered for inclusion in the SMA program for the 117th Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. This year's meeting will be held in San Jose, CA., November 14-18, 2018 and the topic is "*Change in the Anthropological Imagination: Resistance, Resilience, and Adaptation*." In keeping with the AAA guidelines, *all* session proposals will be reviewed by the SMA program committee for consideration as invited sessions. The SMA encourages prospective organizers of invited sessions to consider co-sponsorship with other AAA sections, and to indicate those potential sections as part of their submission.

Please note the **unified deadline—April 16, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.—for the submission of abstracts** for the AAA meetings. A smaller number of proposals for late-breaking sessions will be accepted between August 13 and September 14, 2018, for review by the AAA Program Committee. The AAA meetings website provides a description of the various kinds of proposals that may be submitted: [Proposal Submission Types](#)

Please contact the SMA program committee with any questions about proposals:

- Mary Anglin (University of Kentucky), chair: manglin@uky.edu
- Nolwazi Mkhwanazi (University of the Witwatersrand): Nolwazi.Mkhwanazi@wits.ac.za
- Eugene Raikhel (University of Chicago): eraikhel@uchicago.edu

Applications to the AAA for Meetings-Related Exemptions and Waivers:

Anthropologists outside the U.S. and Canada and non-anthropologists seeking to attend the 2018 Annual Meetings of the AAA may apply for an Exemption of the AAA Membership Requirement. Meeting Registration Fees would still be required. Deadline for submission of applications is **March 29, 2018:** [Membership Exemption Request](#)

The AAA Program Chair will also provide a limited number of Guest Registration Waivers to anthropologists outside the U.S. and Canada and non-anthropologists seeking to participate in the 2018 Annual Meetings of the AAA. Deadline for submission of applications is **March 29, 2018:** [Program Chair Guest Waiver Form](#)

Undergraduate students may apply to work as volunteers at the AAA meetings and, if accepted, will have their registration fees reimbursed at a later time. Students interested in this opportunity must first register for the meetings, and apply for the volunteer opportunity in **August, 2018:** [Application for Student Volunteers](#)



SIG Chairs at the 2017 SMA Business Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Society for Applied Anthropology 2018 Annual Meeting

The 2018 SfAA annual meeting will take place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this year from April 3-7. This year's theme is "Sustainable Futures," and a number of SMA sponsored sessions will be held at the conference. You can browse the preliminary program [here](#).



Several SMA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will hold meetings at the SfAAs:

- The Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Study Group (ADTSG) will hold a business meeting on Thursday, April 5 from 8-9:50 AM in Jefferson.
- The Disability SIG will hold a business meeting on Friday, April 6 from 10-11:50 AM in Washington B.
- The Death & Bereavement SIG will hold a business meeting on Saturday, April 7 from 8-9:50 AM in Franklin.

Past President EJ Sobo's Parting Words: A Focus on Readiness for Rapid Response

[The following short speech was delivered at the end of SMA's 2017 Business Meeting on Friday, December 1, 2017, prior to the biennial gavel passing].

Often at this time in the program, the president makes some kind of speech. But what I really want to do is thank you for your membership in SMA. You are the reason SMA exists. Everything we do is in the service of members – and your input is crucial to each year's planning. To that end: Thank you members!

I would also of course like to thank the board, and the volunteers on all of the board-based committees—whose names are all listed on your agenda sheet. In fact, I'd like to thank every member who has ever served the society, even if informally. The benefits of service are not only that our society *runs*. Service is vitalizing. It strengthens connections and tightens our social fabric. And to ensure that everyone who wants to serve can, I've carried with me these orange folders—each one containing a sign-up sheet. If someone could help me to circulate these as I talk, that would be great. If you have ever wanted to get involved, this is a simple way to set that in motion—as long as we remember to pick up the folders at the end of the meeting!

So I've mentioned service twice already. I've mentioned your service to SMA, and SMA's service to members. SMA also needs to serve society at large. And to emphasize this point, I want to look back, just bit, at my time in the presidential hot seat. I don't want to go through a litany of all that the board has accomplished in the past two years, which believe me is a truckload. But I do want to remind you that, over the past two years, SMA's ability to respond rapidly to publicly important emerging events has grown in three important ways.

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plus the TIG mechanism, we have two institutionalized rapid response platforms ready for members who want to respond to the next health crisis.

We also have a model process for speaking directly to those in power regarding relevant issues of immediate importance. Last January, we penned what I believe is the first official SMA letter to a United States president. It focused on changes to the Affordable Care Act. In February, on National Anthropology Day, after a multi-level review process, the AAA itself delivered the final letter to our 45th president and eight others on capitol hill. I hope that SMA continues speaking through official letters to those in power as well as leveraging other means of communication.

I hope members, too, keep the pressure on. And to that end, we've posted, on our website, a set of resources to make your policy-related and advocacy efforts more effective. Of course, it's not just policymakers who need to hear what we have to say. I encourage you to use the popular press, also, as a medium for your messages. To pick up on this year's annual meeting theme, and wed it to my opening focus on service: the more medical anthropology serves society, the more medical anthropology matters.

In the year to come, let's keep thinking about what we can accomplish together. Let's see if rather than saying "SMA should," we can say "SMA did!" And to help make things happen, let's get on to our community reception, where we can greet old friends and make new ones, and hatch plans for 2018 and beyond.

To that end, in a moment, I am going to pass the gavel to our President Elect, Arachu Castro who, upon receiving the gavel, must engage in her first official act: calling this meeting to a close. Before shuffling off, I want to thank you for your trust in my leadership, and I want to thank the board and our staff members for all their support and especially for the hard work they did and will continue to do, for all of us, to keep the Society for Medical Anthropology on course.



SMA board members and staff at the 2017 AAA annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Book Announcements

Anderson-Fye, Eileen P. and Alexandra Brewis (editors). *Fat Planet: Obesity, Culture, and Symbolic Body Capital* (University of New Mexico Press, 2017)

Becker, Marshall Joseph and Jean MacIntosh Turfa. *The Etruscans and the History of Dentistry: The Golden Smile through the Ages* (Routledge, 2017)

Biehl, João and Peter Locke (editors). *Unfinished: The Anthropology of Becoming* (Duke University Press, 2017)

Boret, Sebastien, Long, Susan Oprett, and Sergei Kan (editors). *Death in the Early Twenty-first Century: Authority, Innovation, and Mortuary Rites* (Palgrave, 2017)

Cheney, Kristen. *Crying for Our Elders: African Orphanhood in the Age of HIV and AIDS* (University of Chicago Press, 2017)

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- Dressler, William W. *Culture and the Individual: Theory and Method of Cultural Consonance* (Routledge, 2018)
- Heckert, Carina. *Fault Lines of Care: Gender, HIV, and Global Health in Bolivia* (Rutgers University Press, 2018)
- Hunleth, Jean. *Children as Caregivers: The Global Fight against Tuberculosis and HIV in Zambia* (Rutgers University Press, 2017)
- Inhorn, Marcia C. *America's Arab Refugees: Vulnerability and Health on the Margins* (Stanford University Press, 2018)
- Kenworthy, Nora. *Mistreated: The Political Consequences of the Fight Against AIDS in Lesotho* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2017)
- Kiš, Adam D. *The Development Trap: How Thinking Big Fails the Poor* (Routledge, 2018)
- Langdon, Esther Jean. *Cosmopolitics among the Siona: Shamanism, Medicine and Family on the Putumayo River*. (Universidad del Cauca, 2017)
- Lerman, Shir, Ostrach, Bayla, and Merrill Singer (editors). *Foundations of Biosocial Health: Stigma and Illness Interactions* (Lexington Books, 2017)
- Mulligan, Jessica M. and Heide Castañeda (editors). *Unequal Coverage: The Experience of Health Care Reform in the United States* (NYU Press, 2017)
- Olsen, William C. and Carolyn Sargent (editors). *African Medical Pluralism* (Indiana University Press, 2017)
- Ostrach, Bayla. *Health Policy in a Time of Crisis: Abortion, Austerity, and Access* (Routledge, 2017)
- Ostrach, Bayla, Lerman, Shir, and Merrill Singer (editors). *Stigma Syndemics: New Directions in Biosocial Health* (Lexington Books, 2017)
- Pasquarelli, Elisa. *Antropologia dell'Alzheimer - Neurologia e politiche della normalità. (Anthropology of Alzheimer's Disease: Neurology and Politics of Normality)* (ALPES Italia, 2018)
- Plemons, Eric. *The Look of a Woman: Facial Feminization Surgery and the Aims of Trans- Medicine* (Duke University Press, 2017)
- Singer, Merrill and Rebecca Allen. *Social Justice and Medical Practice: Life History of a Physician of Social Medicine* (Routledge, 2017)
- Song, Priscilla. *Biomedical Odysseys: Fetal Cell Experiments from Cyberspace to China* (Princeton University Press, 2017)
- Sufrin, Carolyn. *Jail Care: Finding the Safety Net for Women Behind Bars* (University of California Press, 2017)
- Ullrich, Helen E. *The Women of Totagadde: Broken Silence* (Springer Nature, 2017)
- Wynn, L.L. and Angel M. Foster (editors). *Abortion Pills, Test Tube Babies, and Sex Toys: Emerging Sexual and Reproductive Technologies in the Middle East and North Africa* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2017)
- Yang, Jie. *Mental Health in China: Change, Tradition and Therapeutic Governance* (Polity, 2017)
-

General Announcements

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- [Call for Chapters: "Anthropologies of global maternal and reproductive health: From policy spaces to sites of practice"](#)
- [Deadline extended for submissions to ISE/SBEE 2018 "Belém +30": Feb. 20 for sessions, April 5 for individual papers/posters](#)
- [Teaching Global Health Survey](#)
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CALL FOR CHAPTERS: "Anthropologies of global maternal and reproductive health: From policy spaces to sites of practice"

Co-edited by Lauren J. Wallace, Margaret MacDonald & Katerini Storeng

We are soliciting book chapters for an edited volume under consideration as part of the new Springer Nature book series "Global Maternal and Child Health: Medical, Anthropological, and Public Health Perspectives," edited by David Schwartz (See <http://www.springer.com/series/15852>).

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generally as a field of knowledge and activity. Beyond their power to raise controversial vital concerns around life and death, gender relations and social inequality, a close look at global health interventions around reproduction reveals long standing tensions of practice: magic bullet vs public health systems; private vs public, comprehensive vs selective, centralised medical services vs community based auxiliary health workers, etc. At the same time, received wisdom generated by science and economic policy frames the entire problem, often making it difficult to think outside the box (Adams, 2016; Whiteford & Manderson, 2000). Our goal in this volume is interrogate and disrupt such received wisdom by offering ethnographic insights into the process of policymaking and policy implementation.

Ideally, the book will include chapters that not only examine global health policies as they come into contact with local social, economic, and political realities (Whiteford & Manderson, 2000; Castro & Singer, 2004), but also those that "study up" (Nader, 1972), to understand the dynamics of the policy spaces of global health (Storeng & Behague, 2014; Pfeiffer & Nichter, 2008). We are particularly interested in chapters that examine the ideologies, power relations, development culture and discourses, politics of persuasion and advocacy, and the uses of knowledge and evidence as they are deployed in the formation of maternal and reproductive health policies. Contributors are encouraged to illuminate the processes and politics of policy development, the mechanisms of implementation, and people's encounter with policy within a single frame. Together, the individual case studies in this book aim to demonstrate the value of ethnography and the lens of reproduction for understanding and improving global health policies and their impacts.

Interested authors should send a provisional title, list of authors and their affiliations and a 200-300-word abstract to Lauren Wallace (wallalaj@mcmaster.ca) by March 1, 2018. Full drafts of the chapters (max 7000 words) will be due in August 2018. We welcome contributions from junior scholars and co-authored pieces.

Deadline extended for submissions to ISE/SBEE 2018 "Belém +30": Feb. 20 for sessions, April 5 for individual papers/posters Glenn Shepard

Submit your organized session/workshop proposals to "Belém +30", the XVI Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology by January 31. Individual paper/poster submissions open February 20.

Submissions of proposals for organized sessions, workshops, mini-courses and film festivals will remain open until February 20, 2018. Proposals for individual papers, posters and films will open March 1 and close April 5. A preliminary program will be available April 25. Discounted "early-bird" registration will close April 30. Submissions and more information: <https://www.ise2018belelem.com/englishversion>

The congress will take place August 7-10 in Belém do Pará, Brazil. The event celebrates the 30th anniversary of the First International Congress of Ethnobiology in Belém in 1988, where the historic "Declaration of Belém" affirmed the "intricate link" between indigenous and traditional peoples and biodiversity.

The general conference theme is "Belém +30: The rights of indigenous and traditional peoples and the sustainable uses of biodiversity three decades after the Declaration of Belém." Conference Theme #5 could be of especial interest to members of the Society of Medical Anthropology: "Traditional medicine, medical cosmologies and biodiversity."

PLEASE SHARE!

We look forward to seeing you in Belem.

XVI CONGRESSO DA SOCIEDADE INTERNACIONAL DE ETNOBIOLOGIA
XII SIMPÓSIO BRASILEIRO DE ETNOBIOLOGIA E ETNOECOLOGIA
XVI Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology
XII Brazilian Symposium on Ethnobiology and Ethnoecology

ise2018belelem.com

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Dear Colleagues:

If you teach undergraduate courses in Global Health, please consider participating in our study!

Undergraduate Coursework Study <https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_00nCMnfaincdl9r>

The Subcommittee on Master's and Undergraduate Degrees in Global Health of CUGH, along with collaborating universities, colleges and organizations, has launched a study to further understand the content of undergraduate (bachelor's) Global Health courses. If you teach an undergraduate course (within any department) that focuses on Global Health and/or Global Health content, please consider participating in this study.

The study is open to school/university faculty members worldwide who teach any course that focuses on Global Health at the undergraduate (bachelor's) level.

To participate, go to our survey link <https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_00nCMnfaincdl9r> before March 25, 2018. We thank you for your time and look forward to sharing our results with you.

Sincerely,

Jess Evert, Lis Maring & Maria Modayil, Principle Investigators

Jessica Evert MD, Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF , Executive Director CFHI

Elisabeth Maring PhD, Director of Global Health Engagement, School of Public Health, University of Maryland

Maria Modayil MS, CCC/SLP, President, Graduate Student Senate, Doctoral student, Individual Interdisciplinary Program, Ohio University

and collaborators Katherine Johnson MPH PhD (Elon University), Pamela Runestad PhD (Creighton University), Caryl Waggett PhD (Allegheny College & AAC&U), Kayla Waltman (Allegheny College), Traci Wells PhD (UCLA), Eric Wetzel PhD (Wabash College)

<https://www.cfhi.org/undergraduate-coursework-study>

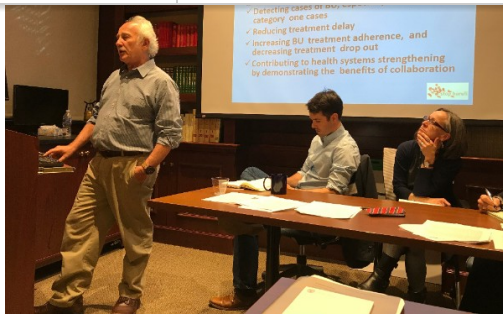
The Death and Bereavement Special Interest Group of SMA is organizing panels for the AAA conference in San Jose. If you have an abstract you would like to send to be accepted at the conference and would like to participate in a panel please email Margaret Souza at Margaret.Souza@esc.edu.

Workshop Brief: Ethnographic Perspectives on Health Systems in Sub Saharan Africa

SMA members contributed to a one-day intensive workshop at Georgetown University on "Ethnographic Perspectives on Health Systems in Sub Saharan Africa," hosted by Emily Mendenhall and Lahra Smith (Georgetown University). The workshop was held on December 1, 2017, while many members were in Washington, D.C. for the AAA annual meeting.

This workshop assembled perspectives from boardrooms to beneficiaries to critically evaluate multiple dimensions of the health system within diverse contexts in Sub-Saharan Africa. The workshop focused on Sub-Saharan Africa in part because such a large portion of donor money is directed to this geographic region. The organizers planned a comparative project to the National Science Foundation that critically investigates the complexities of health systems in Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Africa. The workshop also drew together as many perspectives as possible to advance understandings of health systems in the region and provide a platform for future collaborative work. Participants are listed below.

Presenters delivered papers on the following themes: 1) ethnographically informed cogs in the system from policy formulation to public health practice and service delivery; 2) a dynamic systems level analysis that moves beyond numbers and introduces a collaborative narrative-based evaluation of challenges and opportunities for health and health care; and 3) a robust discussion around the social construction of policy, health systems strengthening, and care-seeking.

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[Top left: Mark Nichter, PhD, Professor, University of Arizona. Top right: Edna Bosire, a PhD student at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Bottom left: Judith Justice, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of California San Francisco. Bottom right: Nora Kenworthy, PhD, an assistant professor at the University of Washington Bothell campus] Photos courtesy of Emily Mendenhall, Georgetown University.

Participants:

Alayne Adams, PhD, Georgetown University, faculty
 Lexi Merrick Boiro, Georgetown University, MA student
 Edna Bosire, MA, University of the Witwatersrand, PhD Student
 Peter Brown, PhD, Emory University, faculty
 Jesse Boardman Bump, PhD, Harvard University, faculty
 Svea Closser, PhD, Middlebury College, faculty
 Julia Dignam, Georgetown University, SFS undergraduate
 Sara Fisher, MPH, Georgetown University, PhD student
 Jennifer Nyawira Githaiga, PhD, University of Cape Town, Post-Doctoral Fellow
 Emmy Kageha Igonya, PhD, University of Amsterdam, Post-Doctoral Fellow
 Arista Jhanjee, Georgetown University, SFS undergraduate
 Judith Justice, PhD, University of California San Francisco (Emeritus)
 Nora Kenworthy, PhD, University of Washington, faculty
 Andrew Kim, Northwestern University, PhD Student
 Adam Koon, PhD, MPH, LSHTM, Abt Associates, Health Policy Specialist
 Kenneth Maes, PhD, Oregon State University, faculty
 Emily Mendenhall, PhD, MPH, Georgetown University, faculty
 Bethania Michael, Georgetown University, SFS undergraduate
 Alemmaya Mulugeta, Georgetown University, visiting researcher
 Mark Nichter, PhD, University of Arizona, faculty
 William Olsen, PhD, Georgetown University, Social Science Bibliographer
 Marit Ostebo, PhD, University of Florida, faculty
 Jennifer Palmer, PhD, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, faculty
 Emma Sacks, PhD, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Associate
 Jon Shaffer, Boston University, PhD student
 Yusra Shawar, PhD, University of Pennsylvania, Post-Doctoral Fellow
 Jeremy Shiffman, PhD, American University, faculty
 Lahra Smith, PhD, Georgetown University, faculty
 Marina Smith, Georgetown University, SFS undergraduate
 Katerini Storeng, PhD, University of Oslo/LSHTM, faculty
 Edom Tesfa, Georgetown University, SFS undergraduate

SMA Member Milestones

Sherylyn Briller Incoming President-Elect of SfAA

By SfAA Office

The board of directors are pleased to [announce](#) Sherylyn Briller as the incoming President-Elect.

Dr. Sherylyn Briller (PhD, 2000, Case Western Reserve University) is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Purdue University and a Faculty Associate in the Center on Aging and the Life Course. She is an applied cultural/medical anthropologist specializing in aging and life course issues. Briller has a long-standing interest in anthropologists' education and career development; she co-authored a well-known textbook *Designing an Anthropology Career: Professional Development Exercises*. After working as a practitioner, Briller became an applied researcher working on old age support in Mongolia and the United States. Through her interdisciplinary work on aging, disability and human-centered design, she is fostering linkages at Purdue between Liberal Arts, Engineering, Technology, Health Sciences, and a range of community partners. Briller's individual and collaborative scholarship resulted in a four volume book series on dementia care settings, an interdisciplinary book about end-of-life issues, one design monograph, two guest-edited special issues, 10 book chapters, 21 peer-reviewed articles, and a community-engaged medical anthropology museum exhibit. Her work is used by policymakers, academics, healthcare professionals, patients, families, and others. At the broadest level, her anthropological scholarship and practice aim to create a better, more inclusive world that supports people in achieving and maintaining social personhood across the life course and a range of disability and illness experiences. Briller is a Fellow of the Society for Applied Anthropology and the Co-Chair of the Consortium of Applied and Practicing Anthropology Programs (COPAA). She is a former President of the Association for Anthropology & Gerontology Education (AAGE) and has served on the SfAA's Nominations and Elections Committee.



Statement

I am honored to be nominated for the position of SfAA President. From my early start as a practicing anthropologist to my current role guiding the expansion of applied and practicing anthropology at Purdue, I remain keenly interested in how we can use anthropological knowledge and skills to make change in the world. Literally, I get up excited every day to work on this issue – thinking about how we can train the next generation of anthropologists to engage with the human issues about which they care most. I find it deeply gratifying to help shape the national conversation about how we prepare professional anthropological practitioners and future academics as our field expands in these directions.

Anthropological insight and critical thinking are much needed to address global grand challenges. I welcome the opportunity to work with others in SfAA to get more anthropologists to successfully collaborate and communicate with diverse stakeholders. I have extensive experience fostering linkages and joint projects between academics and health practitioners, for example. My leadership style involves a lot of active listening and consensus building. Given the many interests and skills of the SfAA's members, I think a key aspect of this role is managing different priorities and resources. Although these are challenging times to navigate, I am excited about the opportunities we have to advance many diverse forms of anthropological engagement. A strategic initiative I would like to lead is planning for how we will innovatively prepare the next generation of anthropologists. My significant background in anthropological career development coupled with my training as a life course scholar makes me particularly well-suited for thinking about career pathways and how to develop long-lasting, meaningful careers. This work is my passion. I am well-prepared to help ensure that SfAA is a trailblazer in this area. I am very enthusiastic to see how we can work together to prepare, support, and partner with a wide range of applied and practicing anthropologists and interested others – and to see what our organization can become. In short, I am grateful to be nominated and willing to serve as the SfAA President. If elected, I will work very hard to help move our organization forward by example, collaboration, and action.

Dr. Douglas A. Feldman (Professor Emeritus, The College at Brockport, SUNY) chaired the two day conference, "Second World Congress on Medical Sociology and Community Health" held in Atlanta during September 2017. He also gave the opening keynote address on "The Sexual Culture of Gay and Bisexual Men in Hungary: Implications for HIV Risk" at the conference. In addition, he was the session chair for "Engaged Anthropology - Linkage to HIV Care Among Vulnerable Populations in the U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa" at the American Anthropological Association in Washington, DC during December 2017.

Sarah S. Willen (Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut) has been [awarded](#) a \$699,960 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to study how Americans of diverse socioeconomic, professional, and racial/ethnic backgrounds think about equity and deservingness in the health domain.

Willen, together with co-investigators Colleen Walsh, an assistant professor of health sciences at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio, and Abigail Fisher Williamson, an assistant professor of political science and public policy & law at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, received the grant to support a two-phase study they launched last October. The research team includes several other medical anthropologists -- Heide

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The researchers plan to [investigate](#) how Americans think about a question that plays a “pivotal but largely implicit role in American public discourse about society’s obligations to its members” – the question of “who deserves what in the health domain, and why.”

The project will run from October 2017 until October 2019. More information about the project is available on the ARCHES (AmeRicans' Conceptions of Health Equity Study) [website](#).

SMA Members: Do you have milestones (jobs, awards, etc.) you want to share in the next issue of *Second Opinion*? Submit them to SMA Digital Communications Manager, [Saira A. Mehmood](#).

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Have comments, questions, or ideas?
Please contact SMA's Digital Communications Manager,
Saira A. Mehmood at newsletter@medanthro.net.

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