

CSAS 2011 Organized session abstracts

in alphabetical order by organizer's last name

Adachi, Nobuko (Illinois State University), Cognitive Frameworks, Sociocultural Norms, and Language-in-Use [3-11]

This panel examines the emergent relationships between—and constitutive aspects of—language, culture, and society, explored from the perspectives of both language socialization and language-in-use. Aldana ethnographically investigates the unspoken—and largely lament and unnoticed—sexism of certain key everyday words in English. She finds that in spite of an awareness of potential bias, collage students nonetheless find themselves at a loss to do very much about it in their personal speech. Kimmey explains such apparent contradictions by looking at how one discourse device, teasing, inexorably establishes patterns of thought in childhood that are very hard to extinguish. Adachi and Stanlaw examine more specifics of the relationship between thought patterns and socialization by contrasting certain linguistic and discourse patterns in Japanese and English. Together, these papers show how attention to language structure—as well as language use—provides insight into how cognitive frameworks shape sociocultural norms.

Anaya, Laura (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), “Spirit(s)” in/of Europe [3-17]

This proposed session brings together three papers based on field work in contemporary Europe. Each paper references the theme of national identity by looking at how the nation-state continues to be visited by spirits from its past and the ways in which national identities reflect this encounter. Lauren Anaya examines the role of the Roman Catholic Church in state politics in Italy and explores how the Church is able to wield power disproportionate to its popular support in current debates surrounding rights for heterosexual and same-sex cohabitating couples. She argues that, due to historical contingencies, Italy lacks a functional national identity that enables the Church to assert its social will by taking advantage of the void left by the fragmented nation-state. Angela Glaros looks at dress, and the discourses surrounding dress, on the Greek island of Skyros. She explores how dress conveys aspects of identity that appear to be highly local yet also reveal wider, and at times conflicting, dimensions of identity. Skyrians use dress to perform a sense of Greekness refracted through a sense of Skyrianness. This suggests that Skyrians understand “dressing” as a complex form of cultural production and political commentary. Michele Hanks takes us to northern Europe where she explores how ghost hunters use England’s haunted past as a means of encountering the “real” England. She considers the racial, political, and economic composition of this “real” England. In this context, ghost hunting serves as a form of secular pilgrimage that enables ghost hunters to escape the multicultural, neoliberal England of today.

Anderson, Myrdene (Purdue University), Mindprings: Being, Becoming, and Unbecoming Data [3-12]

Contemporary approaches to research in/of/with/on culture, communication, and cognition acknowledge that qualities, more emphatically than quantities, thrive on all sides of the manifold processes of inquiry. For inquirers, often assumed to initiate the research process, the sutures of

body-mind-environment are major sites of meaning-making and, hence, data, all of it demanding literal and figurative translation. In this symposium we foreground the productivity of such sites as they foreground the individual experience of inquirers, "subjects", and "objects"; their ineffable senses; performativity; and the mutual imprints between experience, experiencer, and experienced. These and other nodes center on the consolidation of collective culture and the construction of individual self as well. The human subjects and objects in these and other types of naturalistic inquiry will inevitably feed more than discrete "data" back into the research process; qualia from both investigator and investigated complement and extend such data. MINDPRINTS: BEING, BECOMING, AND UNBECOMING DATA

Buckner, Margaret (Missouri State University), Public Outreach in Anthropology: Examples from the Midwest [3-14]

Clifford-Napoleone, Amber (University of Central Missouri), Sonic Anthropology: Research in the Anthropology of Music and Sound [1-1]

While anthropologists have long been interested in the study of music and sound, a resurgence of such work is under way. The American Anthropological Association's Music and Sound Interest Group, as well as two issues of *Anthropology News* dedicated to the study of music and sound, are just two examples of the current interest in the study of music and sound as a cultural artifact. The anthropologists on this panel will discuss their own work in the anthropology of music and sound, and demonstrate the new ways in which the study of music and sound can enhance anthropological understanding of culture(s) and identities. Angela C. Glaros will discuss her work on liturgical music and its influence on gender in the Greek Orthodox Church on Skyros. In his paper on Romani identity, Alexander Markovic will explain how musical performance is linked to identity in Vranje, Serbia. Amber R. Clifford-Napoleone's research on queer heavy metal fans will focus on how those fans consume heavy metal as an aspect of their gender identity. Commentary will be offered by William Beeman, Professor and Chair of Anthropology at University of Minnesota.

Paul Durrenberger (Pennsylvania State University), Charleston 5 (film and discussion) [2-14]

This special session centers on the showing of a film on the Charleston 5 made by a group of Penn State anthropology undergraduates. Erem and Durrenberger will then lead a discussion on how we brought the methods of journalism and anthropology together in our research to write the book, *On the Global Waterfront*. We discuss the importance of involving students in such work to make them familiar with methods, issues, findings, fieldwork, modes of presentation and the broader ethical and political values of an empirically based anthropology for audiences within and beyond the academy. We will discuss why we think a relevant anthropology is important and ways we have engaged students and non-academics in these processes.

Kehoe, Alice (University of Wisconsin Milwaukee), The Cat's Out of the Bag, and Clawing: Forum on Recognizing Science in Anthropology [2-9]

Peter Peregrine, speaking for the Society for Anthropological Sciences, told AAA it must not omit "science" from its Mission Statement; that the substitute "public understanding of humankind" guts the discipline. Is there indeed a deep rift between scientifically oriented

anthropologists and a supposed majority in AAA who favor interpretive approaches and activism? This session opens up discussion on this vital issue for our discipline.

Larson, Jonathan (University of Iowa), Conflict and Belonging: Discourses, Ideologies, and Performances [2-3]

Anthropologists have long questioned perceived unities in notions of “culture,” “the nation,” an ethnic “diaspora,” “generation,” “childhood,” “the public sphere,” or “civil society.” Underlying schisms and tensions in these social imaginaries inform the everyday life of the marginalized, the dominant, the dissenting, and the upwardly mobile, at times even erupting in civil war. This panel explores the kinds of tensions that form and pull at larger-scale forms of belonging. The imaginaries in this panel’s papers are often defined by ideologies of “mainstream,” “civil,” “middle-class,” and religious values. They are grounded and formed by senses of place, institutions of the state, and alternative discourses. Rather than focus on how they are enacted through any one kind of practice or belief, the panel brings together their embodiments, performativity, material and discursive articulations, as well as symbolism. This broader consideration of conflict and belonging encourages us not to privilege any one line of inquiry, but to situate possible vectors within an appreciation for the subtle forms that conflict can take.

Naidu, Prash (University of Chicago), Authorized Languages, Publics, and Cultural Politics [1-3]

As students of linguistic anthropology, we are interested in how publics engage with authorized speech as it manifests itself through standard languages, print matter, “free” radio, and political action. We examine the following issues: activism in support of “free” radio in Barcelona; Crimean Tatar language standardization in Ukraine; ideologies of standard language in East Timor; and the mediation of identity in Polish-American communities through language shift; the performance of a specific kind of American-Muslim identity through the study and teaching of classical Arabic in Jordan. Scholars have long argued that the imagination of national publics is informed by notions of standard languages and unified modes of collective representation. We contribute to this discussion by examining how particular histories of domination and subordination are tropically deployed as a base for political alignment, and the ways in which images of these historical assemblages are ideologically and affectively mediated. Our papers collectively address the ways in which strategies to resist or encourage/accommodate language shift are oriented to national projects, and vice versa. We also discuss the politics of participation as they are represented and discursively enacted. Finally, we examine how the interdiscursivity immanent in these contemporaneous modes of representation complicates the very notion of linguistic representation.

Sarah Ono and Samantha Solimeo (Iowa City VA Medical Center), Team-Centered Anthropology in the VA [1-2]

Currently there are approximately twenty-five self-identified anthropologists working in the national Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). Of those, five are at the Iowa City VA Medical Center, where we are actively working to develop a Qualitative Core of scholars who are versed in qualitative methods, mixed method study design, and informed by a background in ethnography and medical anthropology. This session demonstrates the growth of anthropology in the VA. This collection of papers discusses ways anthropology can contribute to the improvement of VA health care and identifies various sites for anthropologists to inform VA

policy and research agendas. The papers individually take a look at both the logistics of doing anthropology using a team-based approach and findings related to specific studies conducted through the Iowa City VA Medical Center. Collectively the panelists reflect on how working in the VA poses intellectual challenges and rewards, such as grappling with how ethnography produces a rich understanding of local context, while asking in turn how this understanding can contribute to improvements in a national healthcare system.

Prussing, Erica (University of Iowa), Investigating social inequality: Examples from medical anthropology [2-11]

Experiences of health and healing provide a forum for examining social inequalities that is not only morally compelling, but also offers rich grounds for connecting medical anthropology with broader theoretical and topical concerns in contemporary sociocultural anthropology. Papers in this panel illustrate how anthropologists are investigating the workings of power from a variety of perspectives as they examine how health needs are experienced, defined, and addressed. Their work emphasizes how both liberating and repressive dimensions of power become visible through ethnographic inquiries into the production and circulation of health claims, knowledge and technologies. Examples include considerations of the ethical implications of the production and circulation of health knowledge, as encountered by Institutional Review Board chairs as well as by ethnographers conducting fieldwork in clinical settings; examining how men's health is situated within politics of class and nation alongside gender; understanding the impact of state policies and public discourse on the appeal and accessibility of biomedical technologies such as contraception and reproductive health vaccines; examining how social stigma shapes access to resources for people living with HIV/AIDS in resource-poor contexts; interrogating how international drug donation programs can deploy the power of science to reproduce geopolitical inequalities; and investigating how indigenous peoples are increasingly engaging medico-scientific discourses and practices like epidemiology in their broader political efforts to decolonize federally-funded health services. Presenters describe research conducted in geographic regions including the U.S., Mexico, Costa Rica, Zimbabwe, and Native North America, as well as through global/multi-sited approaches.

Hofman, Nila Ginger (DePaul University, Chicago), From the Yucatán to Chicago-land to Ireland: Race Gender, and Other Sociocultural Issues Surrounding Labor Experiences in Our Deepening Economic Crisis [3-7]

This session examines the sociocultural issues surrounding the working lives of men and women in societies experiencing neo-liberal restructuring and other economic changes resulting from downsizing labor markets. We discuss how individuals cope with the deepening economic crisis through the lens of race, gender and social class. Two of our papers document the working lives of middle-class women living in the Yucatán peninsula, including their experiences as participants in the labor market and unpaid household labor. Offering a gender analysis, these papers focus on women's labor experiences in light of social and economic factors on the local level e.g. downsizing and grave gender inequalities in the workplace. Research for these papers was conducted during a recent study abroad trip in Mérida, Mexico. Three of our papers discuss the sociocultural issues surrounding wage theft among working-class African American workers. Broadly defined, wage theft is the illegal non-payment or underpayment of workers, including pay below the minimum wage, partial or non-payment of overtime hours and

misclassification of worker's labor status. These papers are based on a course-based research project conducted by anthropology seniors in Chicago.

Rickey, Audrey (Indiana University), Professional Development Panel on Publishing Manuscripts and Articles [1-11]

This panel seeks to give practical advice on how to submit manuscripts, articles, and chapters for publication. Presentations about publishing guidelines and strategies will be given by the editor of a cultural anthropology journal, a well-published archaeologist, and the acquiring editor of a university press.

Rickey, Audrey (Indiana University), Professional Development Panel on the Job Application Process [3-5]

This panel seeks to give practical advice to anthropologists about how to apply for positions within and outside academia. Panelists will discuss guidelines for interviewing and negotiating a position at a university and how to prepare a job talk. The panel will also include specific information about applying to a liberal arts college and how to adjust resumes and maximize work experience in order to transition from the academic to the business sectors.

Trabert, Sarah (University of Iowa), Producing and Consuming Culture: A Look at Midwestern Foodways in the Past and Present [1-4]

Anthropologists have utilized foodways research to study a myriad of topics ranging from identity formation, community organization, gender, acculturation, to prehistoric tool creation and use. Even though the necessity of food for survival is a universal among people everywhere, the means by which people produce and consume that food is very different and quite complex. The purpose of this session is to present current research on foodways in the Midwest and will include examples of how foodways are studied archaeologically and ethnographically. Topics include evidence of plant processing on chipped stone tools, how historic residents of Iowa City, IA processed and disposed of cattle, the experiences of packing plant workers, how farmer's markets in Michigan can be studied by students, and the symbolism of groom's cakes. This multidisciplinary session seeks to highlight the various ways that food is being studied in the Midwest and will show a small part of the vast range of questions that can be answered by studying food production and consumption.

Ulin, Robert (Rochester Institute of Technology), Celebrating 90 Years of Central States [3-5]

This session will be a discussion of the past and present of Central States on the part of the current and past presidents. The session will not only address the past and future of Central States but also how this past and future relates to the discipline of anthropology more generally.

Jon Wagner (Knox College) and Jan Lundeen (Carl Sandburg College), The Roots of Humanity: Innovative Approaches to the Evolution of Hominin Cognition and Behavior [2-13]

This session provides a forum for the discussion of innovative hypotheses concerning transitions and continuities in the evolution of human cognition and behavior, promoting integrative four-field and interdisciplinary investigations of a subject that has traditionally been close to the heart of anthropology.