
Medical Anthropologists at Work

This month we present the conclusion of Tom Johnson's commentary on the role of anthropologists as faculty members in medical schools. In part 1 of this commentary explored the values of therapeutic activism, positivism and affective, and the epistemological contrasts between biomedicine's drive to explain and anthropology's drive to understand. Anthropology and the World of Physicians (Continued)

Thomas M Johnson
(School of Primary Care, U Alabama—Huntsville)

While treatment decisions ostensibly are attempts to "control" the diseases to be crouched, I have noticed an unconscious tendency toward the "medicalization" of patients' lives in order to control patients themselves (the term "patient management" is common in biomedicine, and portrays this posture). I insist on the term "disease management," but recognize that this still involves a cooperation or joint effort between physicians and patients. When a patient is not well and seriously ill. Illusions of control of patients and their diseases are easier; in primary care and medical institutions, the patient's behavior is frighteningly difficult to predict, making attention to the psychosocial dimensions of patient care a necessity for a medical anthropologist's mail—essential.

I have discovered that work in biomedicine underscores the need to challenge other epistemological assumptions about the world, such as the concept of time, which is viewed differently in medical and anthropological settings. The in the latter, time is one's own, and scholarship that results from working in a relative isolation is expected and valued. Time is something that one can "control," as when a long-distance runner consciously sets an individual pace. In biomedicine, time is both a scarce commodity and a compelling force, in relations to which practitioners see themselves as performing a set of clinical settings one responds almost exclusively to demands from others. There is never enough time to meet all the demands, and one adjusts between the time when demands will be made. Although it seems trivial on the surface, one of the most frustrating aspects of working as an anthropologist is the seemingly never ending ability to enjoy conversations over meals, which invariably are eaten hurriedly for fear that one's better...

Society for Psychological Anthropology

Sara Hartman, Contributing Editor

Society for Psychological Anthropology—SPAA "Gavel" is Passed

This is the time of year when we go as a Society. Some of the more concrete "gavel" is the next group of individuals who will volunteer their time and energy to lead the organization. With the results of the leadership elections now in, we can congratulate our next President-Elect, Naeli Quion, and two new Board members, Rik Sneider and Lisa Samuels. This year also saw the addition of two new Board members, Beth Kemper and Peter Moya, who have agreed to serve as officers of the APA for the next two years. Our new President-Elect and Board members make an excellent executive committee for the Society, and we look forward to working closely with them.

Following the election of new officers, the APA is now composed of 15 members, including the President, the President-elect, the Vice President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Program Chair, the President-elect, and the two new Board members. The new officers are:

President: Lisa Samuels
President-elect: Naeli Quion
Secretary-Treasurer: Beth Kemper
Program Chair: Peter Moya

At the meeting of the APA, held at the University of Chicago, the following business was transacted:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
2. Election of Officers for the Next Two Years
3. Approval of the Budget for the Next Year
4. Review of the Grants Program
5. Discussion of the APA's involvement in the APA's efforts to promote psychology as a science and as a profession

At the conclusion of the meeting, the outgoing President, David K人权, delivered a farewell address to the incoming President, Lisa Samuels. He expressed his gratitude to the incoming President for her dedication and commitment to the APA and wished her well in her new role.

Lisa Samuels also delivered an opening address, welcoming the new officers and expressing her excitement for the future of the APA. She outlined her goals for the next two years and emphasized the importance of collaboration and communication among the officers and members of the APA.

The meeting concluded with a refreshment and networking session, where members had the opportunity to connect with one another and discuss the future of the APA.

A Glimpse of the 1991 APA Meetings

By Richard A Shweder

[The 1991 APA meetings were held at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago on October 11-13. One hundred and sixty-two school members and a variety of special interest workshops on self, emotion, life-span development, human nature, psychopathology, categorization, socialization, and the psychosocial experience. The meetings featured anthropologists of many stripes (medicat, symbol, linguistic, cognitive, psychosocially) as well as several prominent psychologists (including Shinobu Kitayama, Hazel Markus and Richard E Nisbett). A variety of symposia and workshops on self, emotion, life-span development, human nature, psychopathology, categorization, socialization, and the psychosocial experience. The meetings featured anthropologists of many stripes (medicat, symbol, linguistic, cognitive, psychosocially) as well as several prominent psychologists (including Shinobu Kitayama, Hazel Markus and Richard E Nisbett).]
It helps that we have a lively column in the Anthropology Newsletter and can use it to effectively communicate ideas and events, including information about other organizations.

Concerning the Newsletter. There are many thankless tasks in life. Over the past several years Sara Harkness has labored brilliantly and quite altruistically on behalf of the SPA as secretary-treasurer. She has been the brains behind the SPA column in the Newsletter. She will shortly be moving on to other ventures and adventures. I could not have remained sans her. All of us owe her at the very least a tremendous show of gratitude. Let us applaud our colleague Sara Harkness and her distinguished ten-year term as a member of our board. Sara is going to be a tough act to follow. Good luck Vincent! (Vincent, it is my understanding that you are lucky indeed, for Sara Harkness has recently agreed to carry on the noble tradition of the SPA secretary/ treasurer, although the SPA Newsletter column will now have a separate editor.)

One final item for consideration. At the AAA meeting the SPA board will consider a membership option which has been made available as a result of sub-committee discussions at AAA headquarters. The American Anthropologist, that peer-reviewed quarterly of the AAA, is a particular affiliated society, yet at the moment the only affiliated cultural anthropological society to offer it as a benefit of membership. This is the General Anthropology Division (GAD) of the AAA. Some people even believe, incorrectly, that the American Anthropologist is the journal of the General Anthropology Division. We now have the option to offer the American Anthropologist as well as Ethos as a benefit of SPA membership, at an additional membership cost of approximately $24 (an unofficial estimate). The effect of exercising the option would be as follows. For those who might belong to both organizations, or even as a part of our own academic/ professional training as students. For those who might wish to belong to both, or only to the AAA, the American Anthropologist will still constitute a small savings. For those who might wish to belong to both, or even receive only one, there would be no increase in cost. Subscribers have also grown impressively, from 331 in 1982 to a projected 436 for the coming year, or an increase of over 30%. Subscribers have also grown impressively, from 331 in 1982 to a projected 436 for the coming year, or an increase of over 30%. Subscribers have also grown impressively, from 331 in 1982 to a projected 436 for the coming year, or an increase of over 30%.

A Glance Back Over the Last Ten Years—And Forward By Sara Harkness

Late in the year, I have been going through various files to prepare the last of a four-year series of annual reports to the Board of Directors. Noting, as I always do, what happened with SPA memberships and subscriptions over the last year, I was tempted to look even further back at trends since I first joined the SPA Board as an elected member in 1982. I am a unique phenomenon in the SPA, having served on the Board in an unpaid or appointed capacity for ten years straight—an amount of time rivaled only by my own experience by the number of years in which I have served as a chairperson of the SPA's committees. I have been aware of the SPA's growth and development and the important role it has played in the development of psychological anthropology as a profession. One thing I have learned in my years on the board is that the SPA has been a true professional organization, one that values its members and their contributions to the field. This is why I am writing this letter to all of our members, to thank you for your support and dedication to the SPA, and to encourage you to continue to be active in the organization. It is our job to keep the SPA strong and vibrant, and I believe that each of us has a role to play in making that happen.

The post-War period was a time of great optimism. Today, we are living in a world of uncertainty, where the future is uncertain and the consequences of our actions are unpredictable. This is why it is important to support organizations like the SPA, which provide us with a sense of community and belonging. The SPA is an organization that values diversity and inclusivity, and it is committed to supporting the work of all of its members, regardless of their background or perspective. I am proud to be a member of the SPA, and I encourage you to join us in supporting this important organization. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.