2011 Victor Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing

SHA announces the 21st annual juried competition for the Victor Turner Prize in Ethnographic Writing. The late Victor Turner devoted his career to seeking language that would reopen anthropology to the human subject, and the prize will be given in recognition of an innovative book that furthers this project. Eligible genres include ethnographic monographs, narratives, historical accounts, biographies, memoirs, dramas, or single-authored collections of essays, short stories or poems. A $500 first-place, $300 second place and $200 third-place prizes for books published between April 2009 and April 2011 will be awarded at the AAA Annual Meeting in Montréal in November 2011.

Books may be entered by authors, book editors or colleagues. No formal letter of nomination is needed. Books published in 2009 or 2010 and entered in last year's competition may be resubmitted this year with the appropriate entry fee.

To enter, send one copy of the book directly to each of the following three people: Victor Turner Prize, c/o Tracey Heatherington, Cornell University, Society for the Humanities, AD White House, 27 East Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14853-1101; Victor Turner Prize, c/o Misty Bastian, Department of Anthropology, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003; Victor Turner Prize, c/o Regna Darnell, Department of Anthropology, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, N6A 5C2 Canada.

Send a cover letter and submission fee with a check made out to the Society for Humanistic Anthropology addressed to Victor Turner Prize, c/o James M Taggart (jim.taggart@fandm.edu), Department of Anthropology, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003. The fee is $25 for current SHA members and $75 for nonmembers. Publishers should check with the author first to discover whether she or he is a current SHA member.

The cover letter accompanying the fee must include: (a) the book title and the publisher; (b) the author's contact information including the mailing address, all telephone numbers and email address; (c) the author's biographical sketch (1–2 paragraphs) including the highest degree awarded, in which discipline, and from which institution; (d) current affiliation (university or otherwise). Entrants may also include an optional short statement about intellectual training and orientation, and the circumstances surrounding the research and writing of the book. Biographical information will be used for presenting the winners and publicizing the results of the competition and will not be used for judging the quality of the entries.

The absolute deadline for submitting the required materials is May 1, 2011.

2011 Ethnographic Fiction Competition

The Society for Humanistic Anthropology announces our annual fiction competition to encourage anthropologists to use alternative literary genres to explore anthropological concerns associated with the four fields of anthropology. Stories should not exceed 20 typed, double-spaced pages. There is a limit of one story for each submission.

Three hard (printed) copies per entry should be submitted to SHA Ethnographic Fiction Prize, c/o Jessica Marie Falcone, 204 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506, by August 1, 2011. There is no entry free for this competition.

Winning entries and honorable mentions will be recognized at the AAA Annual Meeting in Montréal in November 2011. The winning story will be published in the SHA's journal *Anthropology and Humanism*. The winner(s) will receive a certificate and award of $100.

Contact either of us at Dept of Anthropology, McGraw Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; 607/255-6773; fax 607/255-3747. Email Fred at fwg2@twcny. rr.com, or Vilma at vs23@cornell.edu.

Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology

Annelou Ypeij, Contributing Editor

JLACA: An Editorial Update

By Andrew Canessa (U Essex)

The *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (JLACA)* had a very good year in 2010. We received more submissions in the second half of the year than in all of 2006—and that was considered to be a very good year then. The underlying trend is definitely an increase in submissions and 2010 was, as far as one can tell, the best year in the history of the journal.

In June 2010 we went over to an online submissions system which many of you will now be familiar with. This has had a major impact on the running of the journal as it has streamlined the editorial process enormously and made tracking articles and reviews so much easier. It has also dramatically improved our turnaround time. Now there is *no* article which takes longer than three months from submission to first decision which includes a minimum of three reviews. Most articles that are sent out to review get a first decision in under eight weeks.

Because of the increasing submissions and the reorganisation of the journal content we are also publishing more articles than ever before. In 2010 we published twice as many peer reviewed academic articles than we did in 2006. There is clearly growing pressure on our pages and in 2011 we are going through a design change which will increase the number of words per page by laying the pages out differently and ever so slightly decreasing the font size. This will allow us to publish more articles without changing our page budget. For those of you who are familiar with the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* (also published by Wiley Blackwell) the new page layout will be very similar.

In 2012 we will also be going to three issues a year. I have long been working towards this as it will allow me to do more things with the journal and am very grateful to SLACA for supporting the extra cost of this. It will become possible to dedicate single issues to a theme which I have been hitherto reluctant to do for several reasons, one of which is that it means that other authors have to wait a very long time for their accepted articles to appear. Three issues a year will mean greater flexibility, better thematic planning and a faster publication rate.

JLACA counts on the fabulous contribution of the reviews editor, John Collins, who ensures a regular supply of provocative reviews of not only the major books that come out in the field, but also of those works only published in Latin America which have a harder time reaching an English-language academic audience.

It is very likely that the coming years will see some major changes in journal publication as libraries become increasingly reluctant to take print subscriptions and there is a greater move to online only journals. *JLACA* is in a good position to meet these changes as it is a growing journal with ever-increasing submissions and an expanding readership, particularly in Europe and Latin America. This is reflected also in its submissions and publications which enjoy a very healthy number of contributions from outside North America.

JLACA articles are widely—and increasingly—cited and as editor it is very exciting to be part of a journal that is in itself exciting as its reputation grows for publishing cutting-edge articles in the field and acting as a vanguard for the redefinition of Latin American and Caribbean anthropology, a redefinition which pushes both the geographic boundaries of the field as well as thematic ones.

Andrew Canessa is editor of the Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, *SLACA's peer-reviewed journal. For submission guidelines see www. wiley.com/bw/journal.asp?ref=1935-4932. Please send any comments, suggestions and ideas, including photos for future columns, to Annelou Ypeij at j.l.ypeij@cedla. nl or to CEDLA (Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation), Keizersgracht 395-397, 1016 EK Amsterdam, Netherlands*

Society for Linguistic Anthropology

James Stanlaw and Mark Peterson, Contributing Editors

Dude! Like, WTF?

By James Stanlaw

Last year David Crystal released a new book with the intriguing title *Txting: The gr8 db8* (or *Texting: The Great Debate*, transliterated into normal orthography). This, of course, is "Leet- (or elite) speak" (as discussed here in October 2005), a form of shorthand internet communication where single letters can replace words, numbers or single letters can replace syllables, and acronyms abound. As probably even the most Luddite among us know, these come from SMS ("short message service") language used in Twitter, text messaging, email and instant messaging, where economy of character and keystroke is paramount. These limitations result from technical protocols established in the 1980s to optimize telephone transmissions, allowing for limited amounts of 8-bit Latin alphabet characters, or some 16-bit characters in East Asian languages or those that use a Cyrillic alphabet. Thus, Shakespeare's famous soliloquy in Hamlet might come out as "*2b or nt 2b dats d?*" A February 9 Associated Press article by Jocelyn Noveck warned that texting-acronyms are creeping into everyday speech. While most English speakers

know—or can figure out—that in an email message *OMG* means "oh, my God," *LOL* is "laughing out loud," and *IMHO* means "in my humble opinion," presumably many of these are now insidiously entering the spoken language. For example, pop singer Usher, along with will.i.am, released the song *OMG* less than a year ago, and it topped the charts in the US, UK, Australia, Ireland and New Zealand.

Noveck asked University of Pittsburgh sociolinguist Scott Kiesling—noted for his insightful study in *American Speech* of how young men can speak volumes through the use of one word, *dude*—for his take on these neologisms from the Twitterverse. He seems to believe that acronyms express something quite different from the words that make them up: "You wouldn't say, 'OMG, that person jumped off a cliff.' But you'd say, 'OMG, do you see those red pants that person is wearing?'"

Right now, probably the most frequently heard spoken acronym is the ubiquitous *WTF*, a clever way of saying the f-word without saying it. Anderson Cooper has said it on CNN, but its most controversial use was by Sarah Palin in her response to the 2011 State of the Union address. President Obama used the phrase "winning the future" several times in his presentation, allowing Palin the chance to take several jabs: "There were a lot of WTF moments in that speech." The next day when asked about Palin's WTF comments White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs feigned mock surprise, and in a stage whisper mouthed, "We should take this off-line … people are watching."

Perhaps because of its euphemistic appeal, there are now numerous web-based acronyms involving the f-word—*gfys* ("go f yourself"), *stfu* ("shut the f up"), and *gtfo* ("get the f off") to name only a few. It is no doubt too early to tell which of these, if any, will enter the spoken lexicon. But we should also remember that while certain acronym terms may always be around—the f-word, after all, seems never to go out of style—even younger people flinch at their overuse. As one new college student told us in class, "If I hear too many OMG's, I think, Dude, like WTF? You sound like you're a freshman in high school."

Call for Nominations

The SLA is seeking nominations for two appointed positions that are expiring at the end of 2011. First, a new Digital Content Editor is needed to continue the groundbreaking work started by Leila Monaghan over the past several years. Duties include overseeing the SLA "web guru" who handles the day-to-day chores of the website, interaction with the SLA Executive Board in establishing website and blog policy, and editing web-enhanced submissions from the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. Second, a contributing editor for the SLA's Section News column here in the *AN* is needed to help Mark Peterson report on news, announcements and items of interest to the membership. Duties include responsibility for a column every other month, and reporting to the SLA Executive Board and Business Meeting on the previous year's activities. Nominations—including self-nominations—can be sent to Chaise LaDousa, chair of the SLA Nominations Committee, at cladousa@hamilton.edu.

Please send your comments, contributions, news and announcements to SLA contributing editors Jim Stanlaw (stanlaw@ilstu.edu) or Mark Peterson (petersm2@muohio.edu).

Society for Medical Anthropology

Kathleen Ragsdale, Contributing Editor

Writing NIH Proposals about Culture and Health: Understanding New Guidelines

By Roland S Moore (Prevention Research Center/Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation) and Peter Benson (Washington U–St Louis)

Ronald S Moore

In response to the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) major revision of the grant proposal application process that took effect in 2010, the Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Study Group (ADTSG)—an SMA Special Interest Group—convened a workshop at the 2010 AAA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The ADTSG workshop brought anthropologists seeking to secure large-scale funding to conduct applied health research together with senior-level experts familiar with the process of successful anthropological grant writing within the culture of NIH.

Genevieve M Ames

The expert panel included two NIH-based medical anthropologists and two medical anthropologists at research-intensive institutes. Suzanne Heurtin-Roberts is a health scientist administrator (HSA) in the National Cancer Institute's Office of Cancer Survivorship. Moira O'Brien is an HSA in the Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Genevieve M Ames is a senior research scientist at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) in Berkeley and adjunct professor at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health. Roland S Moore (who co-organized the workshop with Peter Benson (Washington U–St Louis), is also a senior research scientist at PIRE. Approximately 25 workshop participants received cutting-edge information on NIH's new guidelines, including a step-by-step overview of how to optimize anthropological research proposals in terms of significance, innovation, investigator expertise, research environment strength and scientific rigor of approach.

Moore opened the workshop with the important question, "Who is your audience?" He addressed the need to write proposals to engage NIH peer reviewers who are likely to be overworked and (because they are drawn from multiple disciplines) unfamiliar with anthropological methods. Therefore, fundable proposals will minimize anthropology-specific jargon, be clearly organized, and have greater readability (eg, make judicious use of subheads and white space). Moore referred workshop participants to NIH's database of funded projects (http://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm), where keyword searches identify NIH-supported anthropological research.

Ames explained the distinct sections of a NIH proposal (eg, Specific Aims, Methods, and the like)

and how all sections must mutually support one another. She noted that traditional anthropological discourse must be dramatically abbreviated and made more precise in order to increase its relevance within NIH, which has a tradition of funding clinical and quantitative research. Building on this concept, Ames asked workshop participants to consider the question, "How will your study change the world?" Careful consideration of this question will help applicants highlight the distinct concepts of significance and innovation critical to obtaining large-scale NIH funding. She also underscored the importance of clearly linking the study methods (including sampling plans and analytical strategies) to the proposal's stated objectives.

Heurtin-Roberts described NIH's complex organization (which is composed of many institutes and centers) and offered insights on how: (1) applicants might identify institutes and centers likely to be interested in a particular line of research; (2) to approach program officers at relevant institutes and centers; and (3) to follow specific funding opportunity announcements (FOAs). She identified the NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide) as a key resource for locating NIH program staff to help guide applicants through the proposal submission process.

O'Brien offered insights into training, career development and research opportunities at the NIH, using her home institute of NIDA as an example. She pointed to FOAs as signals to alert researchers that their ideas have potential resonance within particular NIH institutes and centers. She highlighted the tremendous range of NIH training opportunities for early- and mid-career researchers (including postdoctoral fellowships and mentoring awards) and smaller archival and larger mechanisms to fund anthropological research. Sites that feature these mechanisms include the NIDA website (http://nida.nih.gov), the aforementioned NIH Guide (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide), and a new site (http://oppnet.nih.gov), which features research on social processes underlying health behavior.

The panel suggested that a good starting point for applicants seeking NIH funding is http://bit.ly/auN5Jy, which links to the NIH Center for Scientific Review, including videos such as "NIH Peer Review Revealed." At http://grants.nih.gov/grants/grant_tips.htm, you can find other valuable grantsmanship tools, including new videos highlighting the reorganized application process at NIH.

To submit a contribution, contact SMA Contributing Editor Kathleen Ragsdale (kathleen.ragsdale@ssrc.msstate.edu).

Society for Psychological Anthropology

Jack R Friedman, Contributing Editor

This month's column highlights three exciting posters from the 2010 AAA meeting. The diversity of approaches and topics in these posters reflects interesting trajectories in psychological anthropology.