**Society for Linguistic Anthropology**

JAMES STANLAW AND RICHARD SENGHAS, CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

This month we present excerpts from an interview with Mary Bucholtz and Elizabeth Keating, the new editors of the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology. More of this interview can be found in the Knowledge Exchange section of this issue, and the complete text can be found under Anthropology News at http://jllilt russe.edu.sso.

Jim Stanlaw (JS): I'm going to start by asking what do you see [in the future] for the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology?

Elizabeth Keating (EK): First of all, we definitely want to continue the wonderful tradition that's been established through the previous editors of the journal. And we have a very diverse and interesting and exciting field of scholars working on language and culture. This is not necessarily the traditional response; we're trying to contextualize what the work is doing with regard to what each of the commentators have done in their own field of expertise.

JS: Do you mean something like what Current Anthropology does?

EK: We wanted to do something different than that. More like a dialogue among scholars, responding to a broad theme or a broad idea that has been a focus of linguistic anthropology and that interests many people. We thought we would present different people's research on a particular theme because oftentimes in a journal issue you get very different articles on different subjects, and different methodologies, and we wanted to try to bring some articles together that have some resonance with each other, and also would be in some sort of dialogue with each other. But the idea is more to present, I guess, a broader sense of an issue. . . . Well, maybe the thing to do would be to give you some examples. We were thinking of doing things with visual anthropology and how that relates to work in linguistic anthropiology, because, of course, there are other semiotic systems besides language that are very important. Another idea was to do something on youth culture.

MB: We are also interested in making sure we have representation from all areas of the readership. We are also talking of developing topics in cognitive anthropology, for example. So we want to make sure that we are addressing everyone at some point. So some of these things will probably take shape as we go, and as we encounter new work that is being done.

JS: Sure, it sounds like you are trying to really broaden the field . . . [to] include things like visual semiotics, and different kinds of populations.

EK: That would be a good way to say it. And also some issues like ethics are important.

MB: Yes, we have been talking about framing that in terms of a dialogue where people are each offering their own perspective rather than talking from a research-article perspective—thinking in terms of the theories, methods and politics they confront when they do their work.

JS: Well, do you have any pieces of advice for people who would be interested in contributing to the journal?

EK: I would just encourage people to submit their manuscripts, and to bear in mind that we are trying to bring together a group of people working on language and culture.

MB: I would like to see people thinking that "JLA is the first place I am going to send this article." We really do want to be as inclusive as we can be. And we will read anything that has something to say about language and culture; we will certainly give it our fullest attention.

Please send your comments, contributions, news and announcements to Richard Senghas (richard.senghas@sonoma.edu) or Jim Stanlaw (stanlaw@ilstu.edu).

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**Society for Medical Anthropology**

ANN MILES AND FRED BLOOM, CO-CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Hospital Work

By Elisa Sobo (Children's Hospital, San Diego)

Two years back, I wrote about my experiences as an anthropologist in a medical school. I am now even further from the anthropological epicenter: although still university-affiliated, I work for a hospital.

The fact that a hospital post was open to an anthropologist has to do with the attention that terms such as "culture" and "ethnography" now receive in biomedicine. This is good news, but we should not be deceived: there still is no real understanding about what these terms mean, or what anthropologists do, who specialize in qualitative research, actually do.

So what do I do? My research directly affects hospital operations and thus child health outcomes. Sometimes I am called to help departments improve performance. My own interests drive other projects. But all my work must be justified to top management as adding to the bottom line.

Let me give you three examples. My research on how MDs decide if a parent is a "good" parent is allowable because my findings can be used to help MDs avoid expensive "social" admissions (non-medical admissions made when parents or