

reached a decision on the future of the *SOLGAN*. One underlying current that seemed to thread its way through many section meetings and discussions was change: the way we communicate, how we access content and how we provide content. The *SOLGAN* is no exception, and after a careful deliberation, we have realized that it is time to make a change. Please see the detailed report below from Bill Leap.

Benedict and Payne Prize Winners

SOLGA proudly announced this year's prize winners at the business meeting. The Benedict Prize goes to Tanya Erzen at Ohio State University for "Straight to Jesus: Sexual and Christian Conversions in the Ex-Gay Movement." The Payne prize saw both a winning essay and an honorable mention, pointing to both the quality of the scholarship as well as the increased amount of LGBTQ work. This year's winner is Lucinda Ramberg of Cornell University for "Medicalizing the Sacred Body: Subaltern Religiosity and Postcolonial Reform in South India." Honorable mention goes to Natasha Sandraya Wilson for "A Queer Situation: Poverty, Prisons and Performances of Infidelity and Instability in the New Orleans Lesbian Anthem." Our congratulations go to these authors for their effort.

Membership

SOLGA currently has about 237 members: we can increase this number. One of the member "bennies" is a sense of community, something strongly reinforced in conversations with others at the business meeting. The AAA meeting and SOLGA's part in it provide an important venue for us to come together, but many emerging scholars are not fully aware of this opportunity, despite their awareness of the possibilities of LGBTQ scholarship. This can change; you can help. Find ways to connect with emerging LGBTQ scholars. Tell them about SOLGA and encourage them to join. They may know about the AAA, but think of *your* first annual meeting. Did you know? Were you out?

Looking Ahead

The theme for next year's AAA meeting is "Difference, (In)equality & Justice," providing many choice opportunities for SOLGA members. Consider building a panel or presenting a paper. Look for calls for participation over the next few months. It is easy to lose track of time—don't get caught with your pants down on this one.

SOLGAN Retirement Initiates Changes

By William Leap (*American U*)

For years, the *SOLGAN* (SOLGA's newsletter) has been a primary source for news, information exchange, and dish related to LGBTQ anthropologists and to LGBTQ-related anthropology. With the listserv, email and web technologies, printed newsletters are now obsolete. Following a careful deliberation, it is the recommendation of those attending the roundtable during this year's AAA meetings in San José that the *SOLGAN* cease publication.

In its place, we are planning several projects in 2006–07 that will improve communication and outreach to SOLGA members. We are looking for volunteers—that means YOU—to help with these activities. Will you help plan "mentoring activities" for undergraduate and graduate students during the annual meetings or create a "syllabus project"? We will enhance the information and services provided through the SOLGA website (perhaps redesigning to include *blog* or *wiki* functions, or a list of members and their research interests). Everyone is encouraged to submit material for the column in *AN*. We also welcome commentary on the SOLGA listserv. SOLGA will work too with AAA staff in 2006–07 to determine ways in which our section can retain a presence in AnthroSource, given the retirement of the *SOLGAN*.

In the light of all these plans, participants at the 2006 SOLGA business meeting have recommended a change in the bylaws: that the current board position *SOLGAN* editor (rendered obsolete with the retirement of the newsletter) be replaced with a new board position, communications editor. With help from our members, the communications editor's duties will be to oversee SOLGA's communication and outreach projects. An email ballot to vote on the proposed change in the bylaws will be coming to SOLGA members shortly.

For more information about these projects, or to join in the work of one of them, please contact Bill Leap at wlm@american.edu, who continues to serve in the *SOLGAN* editor position until the change in bylaws is decided.

Join us. *SOLGA* wants you! Visit www.solga.org—news, mentors, listserv and more. Please send any comments, suggestions, ideas for new columns or just say "hi" to David Houston at dlrh+an@uvm.edu.

Society for Linguistic Anthropology

MARK ALLEN PETERSON AND JAMES STANLAW,
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

SLA Thriving—and Aims to Continue

The value of being an SLA member—and ways to increase that value—dominated discussions at the board meeting Friday, Nov 20, 2006.

By objective measures, the SLA is doing well. Membership has remained relatively steady, the budget shows a modest surplus and the journal remains strong. Even this column remains the most visited of section news features in the *AN*'s online edition.

But with an eye toward the future, the executive board called for suggestions on keeping membership levels robust.

"The problem is AnthroSource," SLA president Joel Kuipers said, referring to the new AAA web resource. "By making all journals available to every member for the price of a single member-

ship, AnthroSource has reduced incentives for members to pay for multiple memberships."

The most obvious way to prevent this from becoming a problem for SLA—as it already has for some other AAA affiliates—is to provide member-only benefits beyond the journal.

Many recommendations centered on creating members-only web-based content to assist teaching and research, including a corpus of syllabi, samples of successfully funded grants, a file of dissertation abstracts, online discussion forums on various topics and consolidated lists of job and funding opportunities.

There was widespread enthusiasm among members for a video and audio archive that faculty could use in their teaching. But many acknowledged that IRB restrictions would dramatically reduce the number of items they could share with colleagues.

As the list of ideas mounted, some members became concerned at the idea of an exclusionary members-only approach. "This kind of sharing of our expertise is what we should be doing as openly as possible," said Jack DuBois.

Kuipers said he'd be willing to try an open-content approach to see if it worked, but he reminded the group that the goal was to retain and recruit members.

He also cautioned that the success of such ventures would depend entirely on the work of volunteers to create and maintain them. The SLA agreed to create a new webmaster position on the executive board to oversee these efforts.

There was general agreement that the SLA should offer another membership benefit: roundtables on such topics as grant writing, research technologies, teaching linguistic anthropology.

The success of the SLA budget is largely due to the fact that income from membership dues is supplemented by royalties from the multiple-authored *Key Terms in Language and Culture* (2001), edited by Alessandro Duranti.

The SLA's primary expense is its journal, edited by Asif Agha, which is suffering the effects of its virtues. As the sixth most frequently accessed journal on AnthroSource, with a turnaround time of 2.5 months, the journal has seen submissions rise by 73 percent. This greater volume, combined with an acceptance rate of 32 percent, has unfortunately created a queue so that papers see print a full year after acceptance.

No SLA student prize was given this year because there were too few submissions and the quality of the submissions was uneven. "It's hard to evaluate papers when they range from five-page papers to term papers to theses," Kuipers said.

But members rejected his suggestion that the prize be changed into an award for best dissertations in linguistic anthropology. Instead, the board was urged to more tightly define the parameters of the prize and work to better publicize it.

The Sapir Prize for the monograph making the most significant contribution to linguistic anthropology went to Richard Bauman and Charles Briggs for their book *Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inequality* (2003). "It began over a beer," said Bauman, "We came up with the idea of thinking about

the intellectual history of what we all do. Fourteen years later, here we are."

Kuipers said the experience of reading and evaluating the 22 books submitted for the prize was tremendous.

"We were really impressed by what our field has become," he said. "There is such energy and vitality in our field it was humbling."

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

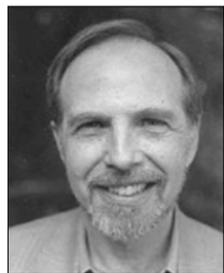
Society for Medical Anthropology

KATHLEEN RAGSDALE AND JANELLE S TAYLOR,
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2006 prize competitions held by the Society for Medical Anthropology and its interest groups!

SMA Awards

The SMA Career Achievement Award was awarded to Arthur Kleinman (Harvard) for his numerous contributions to theory and method in medical anthropology, in particular his pioneering research in cross-cultural studies of healing systems; depression and the experience of chronic illness; the anthropology of social suffering; global pharmaceuticals and international mental health; and social experience and subjectivity.



Arthur Kleinman, winner of the SMA Career Achievement Award.

The George Foster Memorial Award for Excellence in Practicing Medical Anthropology

went to Spero Manson (U Colorado), who was recognized for his extensive substantive and developmental contributions to medical anthropology, as well as being an advocate for the mental health of Indian people not only within anthropology, but also across disciplines and in the policy arena. Manson is director of American Indian and Alaska Native Programs, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

The Graduate Student Mentor Award went to Mac Marshall (U Iowa) in recognition of the exceptional guidance and outstanding support that he has provided as a mentor to graduate students in medical anthropology.

The first New Millennium Book Award for excellence in medical anthropology, intended to honor significant and potentially influential contributions to the field that are also books of exceptional courage and potential impact beyond the academy, went to Adriana Petryna (U Penn) for *Life Exposed: Biological Citizens After Chernobyl* (2002). Honorable mention went to Margaret

Lock (McGill U) for *Twice Dead: Organ Transplants and the Reinvention of Death* (2001).

The Eileen Basker Memorial Prize, for excellence in research on gender and health, was awarded to Michelle Rivkin-Fish (UNC Chapel Hill) for *Women's Health in Post-Soviet Russia: The Politics of Intervention* (2005).

The Steven Polgar Prize for the best paper published in the SMA's journal *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* during the most recent complete volume year has been awarded to Vincanne Adams (UCSF) and co-authors Suellen Miller, Sienna Craig, Nyima, Sonam, Droyoung, Lhakpen, & Michael Varner for "The Challenge of Cross-Cultural Clinical Trials Research: Case Report from the Tibetan Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China" (v 19, no 3, pp 267-89).

The winner of this year's Charles Hughes Graduate Student Paper Prize was Elise Andaya (NYU) for her essay entitled "The Gift of Health: Cuban Medical Practice, Socialist Morality and the Post-Soviet Economy." Her advisor for this project was Rayna Rapp (NYU).

This year's WHR Rivers Undergraduate Paper Prize goes to Hayder Al-Mohammad (SOAS/UCL) for "Excremental Encounters: The Case of Basra and the Anthropology of Excrement," written with the guidance of advisors Andrew Irving and Kostas Retsikas. Emily Ng (UCLA) received honorable mention for "Madness after Mao: Generationality and Bipolar Disorder in Urban China."

Critical Anthropology for Global Health Caucus

The 2006 Professional Award: Charles L Briggs, the Alan Dundes Distinguished Professor in Folklore in the Department of Anthropology, (UC Berkeley) for his article, "Critical Perspectives on Health and Communicative Hegemony: Progressive Possibilities, Lethal Connections."

Two graduate student awards were granted. Seth Holmes (UCSF-Berkeley), won recognition for his paper, "Oaxacans Like to Work Bent Over: The Naturalization of Social Suffering Among Berry Farm Workers." His advisor was Philippe Bourgois. Alexa Dietrich (Emory U) was recognized for her paper "Corrosion in the System: The Community Health By-Products of Pharmaceutical Production in Northern Puerto Rico," written under the guidance of Peter Brown and Peggy Barlett.

The 2006 undergraduate student award went to Keerthika Subramanian (Emory U) for her paper, "A Different Kind of Medicine: Women's Experiences with Ophthalmic Diseases in Rural and Urban Tamil Nadu, India." Her advisor was Irene Brown, in sociology and women's studies.

Council on Anthropology and Reproduction

The Council on Anthropology and Reproduction (CAR) is proud to announce the winners of this year's book and paper prize competitions. The award for Edited Collection of Most Enduring Influence was given to Linda Layne (Rensselaer Polytechnic), editor for *Transformative Motherhood: On Giving and Getting in a Consumer Culture*

(1999). The Most Notable Recent Collection Award went to Carrie Douglass, editor for *Barren States: The Population Implosion in Europe* (2005).



This year, two winners will share the Graduate Student Paper Award. They are Heide Castaneda (U Arizona) for "Pregnancy, Race and Citizenship: Undocumented Migrant Women in Berlin, Germany" and Elise Andaya (NYU) for "Reproducing the Revolution: Local Practices and Global Politics in Prenatal Care in Havana, Cuba".

Please send column contributions to Contributing Editor Kathleen Ragsdale (ragsdale@ndri.org).

Society for Psychological Anthropology

BAMBI CHAPIN, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

From the Annual SPA Business Meeting

The SPA held its annual business meeting at the 2006 AAA Annual Meeting in San José this November. The highlights included announcements about changes in officers, plans for the 2007 SPA Biennial Meetings in March, Stirling and Condon Prize winners, and the newly established Lemelson Awards.

The business meeting began with a thank you to outgoing SPA officers: Claudia Strauss (Pitzer C), secretary/treasurer; Douglas Hollan (UCLA), book series editor; and Kathleen Barlow (Central Washington U), newsletter editor. Those taking up these positions were then welcomed: Ashley Maynard (U Hawai'i at Manoa), secretary/treasurer; Alex Hinton (Rutgers), book series editor; and Bambi Chapin (U Maryland, Baltimore County), newsletter editor.

Upcoming SPA Biennial Meetings

Much of the meeting focused on plans for the upcoming SPA Biennial Meetings to be held at the Manhattan Beach Marriott in Los Angeles, California, from March 8-11. The members of the program committee have been hard at work on these plans, including Suzanne Gaskins (Northeastern Illinois U) and Christina von Mayrhauser (Cal State U, Northridge), along with SPA President Tom Weisner (UCLA), President-elect Tanya Luhrmann (U Chicago), Secretary/Treasurer Ashley Maynard (U Hawai'i at Manoa), Board Member Jean Lave (UC Berkeley) and Student Board Member Nicole Falgoust (UCLA).

The theme of the 2007 SPA meetings will be "Psychological Anthropology and the Social Sciences." The program committee will have notified all those who submitted proposals by January 15. Some of the highlights for this year's meetings include:

A series of invited lectures from both SPA members and others who bridge our many connections to psychology, linguistics, mental health, trauma, globalization, religion and other fields closely connected to the interests of SPA members.