

## Society for Gay and Lesbian Anthropologists

ELIZABETH STASSINOS, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

### SuperDeb

This contributing editor would just like to take a minute out to thank Deb Amory (SUNY Purchase) former contributing editor and recently discovered llama for her witty ways, ferocious yet subtle intellect, her soothing (Dollar Bill Bradley-like) demeanor in running this column in the face of endless corporate mergers and pointless wars. Not to mention those complimentary lessons in Jedi mind-control when trying to put the column together while teaching and doing other bizarre parlor games in northern climes. Lucky are they who stumble upon your classes, master! Prosper!

### LavLang. VIII

Solga is happy to announce Lavender Languages VIII (that's Lavender Languages vs Godzilla!), Sep 22-24, 2000, American U, Washington DC 20016. Bill says, "The conference provides opportunities (well, you know) to explore lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer language and linguistics, broadly defined. We are eager to receive 150 word proposals for individual presentations or for panels.

Birch Moonwomon and Jay Lemke will be coordinating the Fri day-long text-analysis workshop. They will be circulating their own announcement and further details.

We're hoping to have submissions for a special panel on the language of Will & Grace. (and Jack, and Karen . . .) And there's wide range of sessions already in the works. Conference website, [www.american.edu/LavenderLanguages](http://www.american.edu/LavenderLanguages).

We also have a splendid poster announcing conference events which we can send electronically (if you 'receive' in Adobe Acrobat) or by s-mail if you send us a good s-mail address.

### Recruiting

Sandy says: Consider yourself invited to do some recruiting for SOLGA. At last count we only need a mere 42 new members to throw us over the legitimate top of the AAA requirements for a section. So go out there and symbolically reproduce for goodness sakes!

Please send any articles or plans for fieldwork in lgbt studies to our column: [estassinos@annamaria.edu](mailto:estassinos@annamaria.edu).

## Society for Linguistic Anthropology

RICHARD J SENGHAS AND CYNDI DUNN,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

I (RJS) open my first column echoing last month's thanks to our out-going column editor, Jim Wilce. We greatly appreciate your service and enthusiasm, Jim!

### Conferences and Calls for Papers

Mar is traditionally a month when anthropologists scramble to submit sessions and paper proposals for the next AAA annual meeting. There is still time to submit proposals for volunteered sessions and presentations, including papers, posters, film screenings and special sessions. Deadline: Apr 1, 2000. See the Jan 2000 AN for forms, or [www.aaanet.org](http://www.aaanet.org).

For those who like Paris in the springtime, register for the 3rd annual Evolution of Language Conference, Apr 3-6, 2000. For details, see [www.infres.enst.fr/conf/evolang](http://www.infres.enst.fr/conf/evolang).

Date Change For IGALA 1: The date of the First International Gender and Language Association Conference has been changed. The new date is May 5-7, 2000, at Stanford U. Current details can be found at [www-linguistics.stanford.edu/Conferences/igala](http://www-linguistics.stanford.edu/Conferences/igala).

*Unity & Difference* journal invites 6-8 page papers, poems and visual art on "intersubjectivity" as a liberating response to the effects of global capitalism. Postmark by Apr 15 to U&D, PO Box 241809, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

### Anthropolitical Linguistics Revisited

Last spring, Cyndi Dunn reported on a 1998 session of the annual meetings that focussed on the possible role of linguistic anthropologists in public language policy debates. The issue drew enough interest from the SLA membership that a proposal to pursue the matter was passed at the SLA 1998 business meeting. A committee was duly formed, and Ana Celia Zentella reported on the issue at the 1999 business meeting. Since then, I (RJS) have been approached by several section members who have expressed strong interest in continuing discussions on this topic. Clearly, the issues involved are complex, and must address both the ideological issues themselves and our own organizational limitations as a section operating within the AAA. We invite members to submit comments and opinions for inclusion in this column. Anyone willing to organize or participate in a session on this topic at the November meeting should contact me, preferably by email at my Sonoma State address (see Useful Addresses, below).

### Invitation to Join LINGANTH

Those interested in linguistic anthropology are invited to join the LINGANTH list, an electronic forum for discussing issues relevant to our field. The LINGANTH list is an informal one and is open to anyone, regardless of affiliation.

LINGANTH was founded by Leila Monaghan, SLA member and former editor of this very column, as a way for linguistic anthropologists to connect with others of our ilk. From a group able to fit around one large table for dinner, the list has grown and now boasts over 300 members from 24 countries. Many lively and successful AAA sessions involving linguistic issues began as impromptu conversations on this list. Topics range from Whorf, to language policy issues, to advice on what is the best A/V gear for linguistic fieldwork and what to do (or not do) with it.

Anyone interested should send an email message to the LINGANTH list administrator at [owner-linganth@ats.rochester.edu](mailto:owner-linganth@ats.rochester.edu). (See the end of this column each month.)

### Eeny Meeny Miny Mo

By Jesse Lee (Southwest Missouri State U)

For a folklore assignment in an anthropology field methods class, I chose to investigate the following children's rhyme: "Eeny meeny miny mo,/Catch a tiger by the toe,/If he hollers make him pay,/Fifty dollars everyday." A survey of a dozen fellow college students showed that the most common version among college age folks is the same that I had learned, with tiger in the second line. I then began asking family members and university faculty, and also sent out a query on the Linganth List. I soon found that another version existed: "Eeny meeny miny mo,/Catch a nigger by his toe,/If he hollers make him pay,/Fifty dollars everyday." Many of the respondents stated they had been told to use other words, such as tiger, spider, piggy, nickel, fellow and monkey, because it was not socially acceptable to say nigger. Finally, I asked a professor who was a child during World War II and she had yet another version: "Eeny meeny miny mo,/catch a Jap by the toe,/if he hollers make him say,/I surrender USA." My search led me to Funk and Wagnall's *Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend* (the source for all the versions, citations and information that follow), which revealed that, though most of the rhyme has gone through many versions related to social issues, the first line is ancient, having originated in Druid times, about the first century BC. One version appears as "Eena, meena, mona, mite,/Basca, lora, hora, bite,/Hugga, bucca, bau,/Eggs, butter, cheese, bread,/Stick, stock, stone dead O-U-T!" In 61 BC, the Roman conqueror Suetonius ordered that the holy Druid groves of the sacred Isle of Mona be cut down to bring an end the bloody rites of Druidism. To get to the island of Mona one had to cross the Menai Strait.

The rhyme eventually traveled to America. Versions dating to the late 18th century in New England have roots in Cornwall, England. This 1780 version was found in Massachusetts: "Eeny meeny mony my,/Huskalony bony stry,/Farewell brown hat,/Kippety we wah wat." A version found in Philadelphia in 1783 reads: "Eeny meeny mony Mike,/Butter lather bony strike,/hair bit frost neck,/Halico walico we wo wah wum wack!" At that time, the word bony was commonly used to scare children into obedience by mothers and nurses. In French Canada, children are still using an Eeny meeny that their parents brought from France long ago: "Meeny meeny miny mo,/Cache ton poing derriere ton dos." It is believed that since cache sounds like catch and dos like toe, English-speaking children in the New England region borrowed the phrase, which explains the second line of later versions, "catch a (nigger) by the toe."

The word "nigger" appeared in the rhyme in the 19th century. In the 1880s in the Midwest, the rhyme went, "Eeny meeny miny mo,/catch a nigger by the toe,/every time the nigger hollers,/make him pay you fifty dollars." In Connecticut in the same period, this version was used: "Eeny meeny miny mum,/catch a nigger by the thumb,/if he hollers send him hum,/eeny meeny miny mum." Slaves were escaping on the Underground Railroad through the northern States to Canada. Inhabitants of northern New England and New York were letting slaves go on their flight north. In Connecticut, some were for sending them back hum. In the Midwest and along the Mason and Dixon line, others were making them pay \$20—\$50 toll. During World War II, the rhyme reflected tensions between the US and Japan, and anti-Japanese sentiments: "Eeny meeny miny mo,/catch a Jap by his toe,/if he hollers make him say,/I surrender USA." Thus, this children's rhyme has undergone several transitions over time, in keeping with historical and social realities. Derogatory meanings were included in the second through fourth lines, only to be changed to the more socially accepted words present in the various forms of the rhyme today. But it is fascinating to think that the first line of this children's rhyme used to select who is "it" possibly came from an "ancient magic rime-charm used in Druid times to choose human victims to be ferried across the Menai Strait to the isle of Mona to meet a horrible fate under the Golden Bough of the sacred mistletoe amid the holy oaks." Note: Sincere thanks to all who responded to my query on this subject.

*Useful Addresses:* Susan Gal, SLA President: Dept of Anth, U Chicago, 1126 E 59th St, Chicago, IL 60637-1539; s-gal@uchicago. Alessandro Duranti, Journal of Linguistic Anthropology editor: Dept of Anth, UCLA, CA 90095-1553; aduranti@ucla.edu. Laura Miller, SLA Program Organizer: Dept of Soc & Anthro, Loyola U, 6525 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626; tel 773/508-3469, fax 773/508-7099, lmille2@luc.edu. Cyndi Dunn, SLA column co-editor: Dept of English, U North Texas, Box 311307, Denton, TX 76203-1307; tel 940/565-3311, cdunn@unt.edu. Richard J Senghas, SLA column co-editor and LINGANTH list administrator: Dept of Anth/Ling, Sonoma State U, 1801 E Cotati Ave, Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609; tel 707/664-2312, fax 664-3920, richard.senghas@sonoma.edu, owner-linganth@ats.rochester.edu (for all LINGANTH list business).

## Society for Medical Anthropology

HOLLY PETERS-GOLDEN AND ANN MILES,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

### SMA Business Meeting Report

SMA's Annual Business Meeting was held on Fri, Nov 19, at the Chicago Hilton. Highlights of the meeting included prize presentations, the first of which was the Eileen Basker Memorial Award,

presented Jim Carey, Chair-man of the Basker Award Committee. This year the award, recognizing a book, dissertation, article or set of articles dealing with gender and health, was shared by Rayna Rapp for her book *Testing Women, Testing the Fetus: The Social Impact of Amniocentesis in America* (1999) and Adele E Clarke for *Disciplining Reproduction: Modernity, American Life Sciences and "the Problems of Sex."* (1998). Jonathan Benthall next presented the Wellcome Medal to Allen Young for his book, *The Harmony of Illusions: Inventing Post-traumatic Stress Disorder*. The awarding of prizes concluded with James Trostle, chair of the Prize Committee, who announced that the Hughes Graduate Prize was awarded to Malkeet Gupta, and the W H R Rivers Undergraduate Prize to Sarah Bray. Cheryl Mattingly and Ann Miles each won a Polgar Prize for their submissions to MAQ in 1998. Mac Marshall, MAQ editor, reported that the 3 month turn-around on submissions has been maintained and that plans have been made to clear up the backlog of articles accepted for publication and waiting for space in the journal. Marcia Inhorn introduced new SMA board members Susan Heurtin-Roberts and Jim Kim, and recognized departing members Peter Guarnaccia, Martha Ward and Craig James. Ruthbeth Finerman, SMA Program Chair, discussed this year's program of 25 sessions and encouraged submissions for next year's meeting, including poster sessions. In particular she encouraged "cross fertilization between sub-disciplines" when putting together panels reflecting next year's theme, "The Public Face of Anthropology." Barbara Koenig, SMA treasurer, reported that the SMA is in a "strong financial position," with a membership base reported by Craig James to be up nearly 5%.

Holly Peters-Golden, co-contributing editor of this column, encouraged members to submit of research reports and commentaries, extending a special invitation to graduate students. She noted that the column can provide an excellent forum for young scholars to introduce their work.

William Dressler, incoming SMA President, described an NIH Conference to be held in Jun 2000 intended to educate NIH about the social and cultural dimensions of health. Peter Brown introduced Stacey Pigg as the new editor of MAQ and Geri Ann Galanti announced the re-emergence of the *Western Journal of Medicine*. President Lucille Newman closed the official portion of the meeting with the ceremonial passing of the gavel to incoming President Dressler. The annual business meeting is never truly complete without Bryan Page's annual musical salute. This year, he was joined by Susan Scrimshaw, on kazoo, and the duo concluded the meeting on a festive note.

### CONAA Celebrates 30 Year Anniversary

At the 1999 AAA Annual Meeting in Chicago members of the Council on Nursing and Anthropology (CONAA) celebrated the 30-year anniversary of the organization with a catered reception that celebrated the organization's potential for growth and productivity in the 21st Century and honored the founders and past pres-

idents in attendance. When CONAA was first organized 30 years ago, the founding nurse-anthropologists hoped to establish a group of peers within the SMA who shared their interests in nursing, care and caregiving, and culture. The purpose of CONAA is to offer a forum for members to discuss issues in nursing and anthropology, exchange ideas about culture and client care, and share research and theory that interrelate the fields of nursing and anthropology.

In keeping with this purpose, CONAA sponsored a symposium at the 1999 AAA Annual Meeting, "Across Time and Space: Nurse Anthropologists and Their Work." CONAA members Jody Glittenberg, Nancy Anderson, Maria Luisa Urdaneta, Lydia DeSantis and Geri-Ann Galanti presented papers about their current research in areas as diverse as the Human Genome Project, intergenerational conflict among Haitian immigrants and the perception of risk for adolescents in juvenile detention. Lauren Clark, newly-installed CONAA President, was the discussant for the panel.

CONAA is interested in recruiting new members who share their enthusiasm about issues linking anthropology and nursing. Membership is open to nurses, non-nurses, anthropologists and non-anthropologists, and to anyone who is interested in the ways nursing and anthropology intersect. One example of the nursing-anthropology intersection is the ethical conduct of research in clinical settings. To facilitate a dialogue on this topic the CONAA officers have proposed a session at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting in Mar 2000 where CONAA members and others can engage in a dialogue on this topic. Other topics of interest among CONAA members include class, race, racism, gender, immigration, vulnerable populations, disease-specific cultural understandings of health, risk, healing, and health care access and acceptability. Although CONAA members' research interests vary widely, they share a common interest in educating nurses and other health care providers to understand and incorporate anthropological knowledge and skills into their nursing care.

Besides actively participating in AAA and SfAA meetings, members of CONAA interact through informal gatherings and receptions coinciding with the these meetings, through an email list-serv and a quarterly newsletter. In Jan 2000, the CONAA board will announce a new website for members and potential members to learn more about the organization and news related to nursing and anthropology. Meanwhile, queries about CONAA and information about joining the organization can be sent to Lauren Clark at lauren.clark@uchsc.edu.

### New CDC HIV Publication

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published an important new resource entitled, the "Compendium of HIV Prevention Interventions with Evidence of Effectiveness." This document provides a list of state-of-the-art HIV prevention interventions that have been