S E C T I O N  N E W S

At these meetings we also address the challenge of creating a new name for SOLGA, an issue I take up below. Finally, we have information from Frank Proschan and Deborah Elliston on the highlighted and SOLGA-sponsored panels we can look forward to attending. As you read, don't forget to celebrate our stunning membership drive (over 100 new members!) by signing up for the Solga-L listserv and at the website, using either www.usc.edu/isl/archives/oneigla/solga or www.oneinstitute.org.

Letter from Sandy

Sandy Faiman-SiIva (Bridgewater State C)

SOLGA is in a time of transition. We achieved our goal of 250 members but we now need to deliver on our commitments to:
1) lobby for SOLGA interests in the AAA;
2) produce a SOLGAN publication; and
3) increase the visibility of SOLGA in the AAA.

SOLGA members Bill Leap and Ellen Lewin worked on the Commission on Lesbian and Gay Issues in Anthropology (COLGIA) report for many years. SOLGA has asked the AAA to take COLGIA findings to the community by: a) publishing COLGIA findings in Anthropology News; b) notifying affiliated Anthropology Departments of AAA non-discrimination policies; and c) insuring that the AAA ethics mandate includes LGBT issues. We are pursuing these matters.

Our SOLGA website editor, Todd White (PhD Cand, USC), is working on a web version of the SOLGAN. He will post the 1999 SOLGA Annual Meeting Minutes, pieces on going-on research, book reviews, other website connections and any other material you're willing to send him. Send material by email to Todd at: cw@usc.edu. Let's get creative!

If you're not linked to the SOLGA website, check it out. We are at www.usc.edu/isl/archives/oneigla/solga. SOLGA promised to debate our name. Who are we? Does our name represent who we are? Are you embraced by or excluded from our name? Join us in this discussion here and on the Web and at the November AAA in San Francisco. It should be interesting. I look forward to seeing you in November.

Peace, Sandy

AAA Meeting (or: "Don’t Wear Red")

By Frank Proschan and Deborah Elliston

SOLGA’s intellectual festivities at the AAA meeting include one double-length Invited Session and three regular sessions (two singles and a double), all of which interrogate difference and power in relation to LGBTQ identities, practices and communities. An abstract for Frank’s Invited Session, "Contested Publics and Queered Places" follows, along with details on presenters and paper titles for the three SOLGA-sponsored regular sessions. They’re all scheduled at different times, so it’s easy to catch them all.

Contested Publics & Queered Places: Intersections of Race, Class and Gender in “Sexualized” Space

(Organizer: Douglas Drozdow-St. Christian, U Western Ontario, Saturday, 1:45-5:30 pm (double-session). Social space is both fragmented and produced by such structured figurations of difference as class, race, gender and increasingly by sexuality. The papers in this session interrogate, in particular, the nested productions of race, class, gender and sexuality as these articulate with the formation of emergent and established urban spaces, from gay dance clubs in the “economic wasteland” of DC’s Navy Yard to the “sick rooms” of HIV/AIDS patients in Zimbabwe, from the contested sitings of lesbian community in Manawatu, New Zealand to LGBTQ community centers in San Francisco, from "the street" of male sex workers in Toronto to mats laid out under trees for sex between men in urban centers of Nigerian Hausaland, to the multiplying politics of race, class and sex in both historic and post-Duvalier urban Haiti. In examining the production of distinguishable social spaces, the papers in this session explore what is being produced, what is being reproduced, and what is at stake as sexualized spaces engage with and are engaged by multiplying processes and practices of difference. Finally, this session aims to create its own space for a wide ranging discussion among scholars, activists and community members across cultural sites, with the goal of contributing to a revitalized human geography of the concatenations, dependencies, and transformations between and among race, class, gender and sexuality.


Please send any news, abstracts or column-length articles to Stass at estassino@unnamaria.edu. Our Co-Chair is Sandy Faiman-Silva at SFAMANSLVA@bridge.edu. Todd White (USC) is our treasurer and is coordinating our website; contact Todd at cw@usc.edu.

Society for Linguistic Anthropology

CYNDI DUNN AND RICHARD J. SENGHAS, CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Looking Forward to the Annual Meeting

Our previous column highlighted a number of SLA sessions at the upcoming Annual Meeting including our three Invited Sessions. This month we present information about several more SLA sessions as well as panels organized by other sec-

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Ideologies of family and gender will be explored in the panel “Ideologies of the Family in Legal, Workplace and Home Discourse.”

Gender, ethnic and other identities are examined in a panel on “Performance and Evaluation of Social Categories among Youth in Post-Industrial Societies.” These papers discuss how local ideologies of personhood are enacted and evaluated in verbal performance. Considering groups such as second-generation Dominicans, Maori youth, adolescents in France from a variety of national backgrounds, Japanese women, North Americans and Brazilians, the panelists examine how participants both construct and resist the fluid boundaries of social categories such as “age,” “gender,” “ethnicity” and “class.”

Issues of gender identity are also central to a paper presented by the Society for Cultural Anthropology which may be of interest to linguistic anthropologists: “Repositioning Masculinity as Public Display: Anthropological Perspectives.” The papers examine links between the construction of masculinities and social structures such as kinship, work, class and sexuality, while also analyzing how masculinity is “done” in interaction, from the level of everyday encounters between two individuals to the consumption of mass media by general audiences. Utilizing theoretical perspectives from ethnopolitics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, cultural studies and political economy, the panelists explore how masculinities are displayed and consumed in Japan, Italy, Guyana, the United States, Australia and Germany.

Language ideology change forms the theme of the panel “Linguistic Modernity and its Discontents: Mixed Evidence, Hybrid Models.” Examining changes in languages, speech practices, speech communities and language ideologies, these papers interrogate whether such changes are best explained by a unitary model of “modernization.” In addition to showing that linguistic modernity is always shaped by local as well as global forces (a theme of the 1999 session on Language and Local Modernities), the papers attempt to create new, empirically-based models of the relationships among diverse trends previously labeled as modernizing.

Similar issues of how global or international language ideologies play out in specific contexts are also addressed in the panel “Global Discourses and Local Knowledge: Language Politics in Deaf and Hearing Communities.” The papers in this panel explore how border-crossing linguistic ideologies and technologies have affected everything from education and political debates (in Appalachia, France and Silesia) to ideas about what it means to be Deaf (in Ireland, Japan, Nicaragua and elsewhere).

A session on “Multimodal Action” investigates how language, participation frameworks, gesture, graphic representations, visible phenomena and the body are used to build meaning and action within a range of different settings and practices including classroom interaction, narrative and shamanism. The papers attempt to develop an approach to the study of discourse that integrates into the analysis of language structure the diverse kinds of embodied, graphic and textual phenomena that participants orient to as they build relevant sequences of action together.

In addition to the session on Language Ideologies (above), the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas will present a number of other papers as part of the Conference on American Indian Languages which meets concurrently with the AAA. On Wednesday there will be papers on “Semantics, Metaphor and Sociolinguistics,” “Typological and Comparative Issues,” and “Phonology, Sound Symbolism and Reduplication.” Other SSILA sessions include panels on “Grammar and Discourse,” “Linguistic Basices of the Ancient Mayan Script” and two sessions on “Applicatives in the Languages of the Americas.”

The SLA business meeting will be held at 6:15 pm on Friday. All SLA members are encouraged to attend to hear about the recent activities of the SLA and the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology; provide input and ideas, meet the SLA officers and socialize with colleagues.

New Contributing Editor Sought

The SLA is soliciting nominations for a new contributing editor to replace Cyndi Dunn who will be completing her two year term at the end of December. The new editor will share the position with co-editor Richard J Senghas and will be responsible for producing 4-5 columns during the academic year.

The purpose of the SLA column is to provide news and information relevant to both SLA activities and linguistic anthropology as a discipline. Editors are responsible for soliciting reports from the SLA president, the JLA editor and other board members, as well as reporting on the annual business meeting and SLA panels at the Annual Meeting. The column also provides a forum for announcements of meetings and new journals, listservs, databases, PhD programs or other events of interest to linguistic anthropologists. The editors have the option of providing or soliciting commentaries and opinion pieces on issues of interest to the profession. If you would be interested in serving as editor, would like to suggest someone who would be well qualified for the position, or simply have more questions about what exactly is involved, please contact one of the current editors at one of the addresses given below.

Useful Addresses

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