

ences, such as history or sociology. Nonetheless, universities, the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and the Museum of Gold (Museo del Oro) continue to promote ethnographic and archaeological research.

For more than a century, Colombia has combined public and private education at all levels. This implies that the state leaves much of the management of education to private institutes, in contrast with the situation in other Latin American countries with a stronger tradition of public education. This is similar with regard to research support. Most financial support for anthropological and archaeological academic research comes from the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and the national fund COLCIENCIAS. The emphasis is placed on sociocultural anthropology and, secondly, in archaeology. The older university programs have set research areas, established before the creation of their postgraduate curricula. It can be said that they combine freely all sorts of theoretical and thematic influences from anthropology worldwide. However, a clear social commitment on the part of all practitioners continues to be at the center of Colombian anthropologists' work, whether academic or applied. This amounts to a type of ethos that permeates the practice of anthropology in the whole country. This ideological orientation has resulted in a great diversification of anthropological work, and has brought on a relative success for anthropologists in the job market. Many anthropologists have found jobs as advisers to public policy in different fields. This social ethos, however, also has resulted in a weak accumulation of knowledge. Colombian anthropologists tend not to be interested in academic knowledge, in publishing abroad or taking part in academic debates outside Colombia. These all are seen as secondary to the goal of participating in key debates in the nation. The progressive worsening of internal conflicts in Colombia and the continued impoverishment of the state are only accentuating this trend. Today many Colombian anthropologists often find insuperable the dilemma as to whether to intellectualize or to become part of national debates.

Please send short articles and photos for this column to: Gabriela Vargas-Cetina, universidad autónoma de Yucatán, facultad de ciencias antropológicas, tel and fax [52]999/925-4523; gvargas@webtelmex.net.mx or gabriela_vargas_cetina@hotmail.com.

Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists

BARB WEST, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

It's the month of the 2002 AAA Annual Meeting, and many of us are getting ready to present papers, schmooze with colleagues and potential colleagues, interview for that perfect job, or just talk with friends we haven't seen for a year. Make sure to check the AAA Meeting Program for SOLGA-sponsored panels and events, including the Business Meeting (open to all members) and cash

bar (cosponsored by SOLGA), and put them on your calendar!

Going to the AAA Annual Meeting always reminds me of fieldwork, perhaps because working outside of an anthropology department, it is the only other time that I "feel" like an anthropologist. Both fieldwork and going to meetings give me a sense of legitimacy as an anthropologist that teaching interdisciplinary international studies classes doesn't really do, no matter how rewarding that is. Being at the AAA Annual Meeting also gives me a chance to talk to other people who believe that participant-observation not only is a valid research methodology, but really the best way to go. They also know that it is the most important step in becoming a professional anthropologist.

I want to use our column this year to have different people talk about their experiences in the field, because it is so central to our discipline and presents some special difficulties to many SOLGA members. This year I feel particularly in touch with the anxieties, stress and exhilaration of doing fieldwork because I currently am in the midst of it. Therefore, I am going to start the series on field stories and then hand over the reins to anyone who wants to volunteer to put down some of their most touching, important, difficult or wonderful field experiences in a 700-word essay.

My Story

I expected this second extended field project to be very different from the first one I did almost 10 years ago, and I have not been disappointed. The first time around I was very young; unaffiliated with any sponsoring agency; relatively poor; unsure of how long I could stay in the field; unconnected with friends, family and professors back home; and basically completely clueless about what I was supposed to be doing. This time, I am being sponsored by one of the most prestigious universities in the country in which I'm working; receiving half my US paycheck per month; know that I must be back in California by mid-Aug; have access to television, email, Internet and reliable phone service; and have at least some sense of what it means to gather information, turn it into data and use it to support academic arguments. The first time, I was definitely a student of anthropology and was treated as such by everyone I met, whereas now I am a professional anthropologist who actually has her emails to various government agencies answered within a day or two.

Nonetheless, there is one important area in which my first and second field experiences are shaping up to be very similar, and that has to do with the difficulties posed by being a sexual minority in a culture or subculture that is very homophobic. Just as I was 10 years ago, I am currently torn in two directions. On the one hand, I feel guilty hiding my partner and important parts of myself from people who are being extremely generous with their time, their stories and in some cases even their resources. On the other, I have heard the racist, anti-Semitic and homo-

phobic opinions that some of my informants hold and do not feel able to risk my research by coming out to them.



I know that 10 years ago I could have decided to work with a community that is open to homosexuality, but I did not, and in retrospect, I would not change my original fieldwork project. At the same time, I know that my heart is not always 100% engaged in my work because of this. I resent having to hide and lie, but at the same time I love working with this population who otherwise is giving, open, friendly and kind.

I have benefited enormously from the choices I've made, both professionally and personally, but I also know that I've had to make compromises. I hope that in the next year people who have made other choices about their professional and personal lives put their experiences in writing for other SOLGANS to share.

Please submit your field stories to me at bwest@uop.edu.

Society for Linguistic Anthropology

JAMES STANLAW AND MARK PETERSON,
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Linguistic Aspects of American Politics

This month we are pleased to present excerpts from an interview with Alessandro Duranti. More of this interview is found in this month's Academic Affairs section (where we discuss his winning of the Mayfield Teaching Award in 2001). Here I asked him about some of his current research projects:

Jim Stanlaw (JS): You are also doing some work on the linguistic aspects of American politics?

Alessandro Duranti (AD): Yes, that's right. It is a project I did following a man around, who was from California—Walter Capps, a professor of religious studies at UC-Santa Barbara—who was running for Congress. And he was very open to this idea of doing a study of this experience. He was a very unusual man. I followed him around over a 12-month period.

JS: On the campaign trail.

AD: Exactly. From the day before he did the announcement, to the very last day of the election. I was out on the campaign trail. It was fascinating. So whenever I would drive up to Santa Barbara, I would follow him around with my video camera for the day. Sometimes we'd be in the house, talking to his collaborators and his managers or his family. Sometimes we'd be in his car. Sometimes we'd be in these little small gatherings . . . this is what politics is really made of. Sometimes we go to somebody's house with just 25 people, and we'd have coffee and cake, and he'd give a very short speech, and then we'd be off to some other place. But at some other place there might be like 25,000 people who have come to see Clinton. Or some other big guy would be there, or Hillary Clinton, or George

Stephanopolous, whoever. So there was a wide range of different kinds of situations. And all of this was videotaped. It is probably the biggest corpus of this kind.

JS: I was going to say, there must be nothing like it.

AD: Yes, because usually people don't have this kind of access. And, you know, the thing is, I am not a political scientist. I don't think I am going to have things to say that people who work in politics might care about. But there are other kinds of things, that for people like us, are very interesting. But it could be interesting to people in other fields as well. Many linguistic anthropologists are doing that. Susan Gal after the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, for example . . .

JS: Yes, that's right. But what happened during the election?

AD: Actually, he won. [But] there is a tragic aspect of this, because actually, after nine months in office, he died. And I had become very close to him. So this has been difficult. At the same time, there is something about this story that I think is really compelling. This is very, very interesting, both at a human level—you know, my experiences and his experiences—but also talking about the kind of issues that he had in running, and how he articulated these issues. And also, I think, us talking about things theologically and theoretically that I am interested in—intentionality, how to hold an audience, extracting a message—that is what this data is ideal for.

JS: Is this the way you typically like to work?

AD: Yes, this is really the way I work. I like to follow people around. Be with people. With the camera. Make them feel comfortable. And then look and see what happens. Yes, that is what I like to do.

More of this interview can be found in the Knowledge Exchange section of this issue, and the complete interview text can be found under *Anthropology News* at <http://lilt.ilstu.edu/soa> at Illinois State U. For more on this project, you can see Duranti's proposal "Politics is Born in Conversation: Walter Capps Campaign for the US Congress" at his website www.sscnet.ucla.edu/anthro/faculty/duranti. Included on this site are some sample transcripts of conversations Walter Capps had with Hillary Clinton and others, as well as some video clips.

Please send your comments, contributions, news and announcements to Jim Stanlaw (stanlaw@ilstu.edu) or Mark Peterson (peterson@aucegypt.edu).

Society for Medical Anthropology

NANCY VUCKOVIC, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

This month marks the start of my tenure as contributing editor of the SMA column for *AN*. I want to thank my predecessor Ann Miles for setting a high standard for the column and for her kind help as I transitioned into the role. I'm happy to have Janelle Taylor as assistant corresponding editor for the column. We'll be working

together in the coming months to create columns that are a forum for exchanging ideas and promoting collaborations. We will also look to you—the column's readers—for suggestions about what you'd like to see in the column, and for contributions that will make it speak to and for medical anthropologists. We welcome articles, position papers, editorials and photos for the column, as well as announcements of events, research opportunities and awards.

Announcements

Five SMA Invited Sessions at the 2002 AAA Annual Meeting will cover varied and important topics, including theory and methods, global feminism, diabetes, and culture in biomedicine. Refer to the final meeting program for time and location of these sessions.

Two SMA special events at the AAA Annual Meeting have the needs of junior medical anthropologists in mind. "Career Options for Medical (and Cultural) Anthropologists: Exploring the Range of Possibilities" will target recent doctorates in medical and cultural anthropology, advanced graduate students, and cultural anthropologists who are rethinking their career paths. Six panelists representing a wide range of career paths will offer the audience concrete guidance in negotiating careers, answer audience questions, and outline the range of job opportunities available to those interested in exploring the connection between anthropology and health-related fields. Panelists will include Margie Akin (Molina Health Care), Sue E Estroff (Dept of Social Medicine, UNC-Chapel Hill Medical School), Suzanne Heurtin-Roberts (National Cancer Institute), Kathleen MacQueen (Family Health International), Nancy Vuckovic (Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research) and Stan Yoder (Macro International).

"How to Fund Your Dissertation Research: Crafting a Proposal that Succeeds" will provide instruction and practical advice for graduate students in medical and cultural anthropology who have begun the process of writing a dissertation proposal. Stuart Plattner (National Science Foundation) and Pamela Smith (Wenner-Gren Foundation) will join Beverlee Bruce (Social Science Research Council) and Mark Chavez (National Institutes of Health) to explain exactly what each granting institution looks for in a successful proposal. They will identify research topics and strategies best-suited to each institution, as well as the top 10 mistakes to avoid. Attendees will be able to ask questions about their own projects and speak to grant officers from each organization.

Both panels are scheduled for Thurs, Nov 21, from 6:15-7:30 pm in Esplanade Rooms A and B of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Check the final program to confirm locations. We hope to see you at these special forums.

The SMA Student Membership Committee meeting is open to all graduate and undergraduate students interested in taking an active part in SMA activities. We will discuss a series of new opportunities opening up for junior medical

anthropologists through the SMA, and evaluate the most pressing needs of graduate students working their way through medical anthropology programs. The Student Membership Committee meeting will take place on Sat, Nov 23, from 12:15-1:30 pm at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in the Rampart Room on the fourth floor. Bring your lunch and join us!

The SMA website is an important companion information venue to this column because it offers an immediacy and flexibility of size that a monthly newsletter cannot have. Look to the "Newsletter" feature of the website as a place for longer articles, interactive discussions and fast-breaking news. Betsey Brada, the SMA webmaster, deserves kudos for a website with great "stickiness." Got you curious? Visit the website at www.medanthro.net.

Expect a small increase in membership dues: An additional \$8 for members and \$5 for students. The increase was approved by the board last Jan to help fund development and maintenance of the new SMA website. The increase was delayed until after the Sept launch of the website.

Students with thesis or dissertations on medical anthropology topics are urged to send their citations to the SMA webmaster (webmaster@medanthro.net). Include your email address if you'd like others to contact you to discuss your work.

Questions about what or when to submit to this column? Call or email Nancy Vuckovic at 503/335-6734, nancy.vuckovic@kpchr.org; or Janelle Taylor at 206/543-4793, jstaylor@u.washington.edu.

Society for Psychological Anthropology

REBECCA J LESTER, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The SPA in New Orleans

As the 2002 AAA Annual Meeting draws near, be sure to mark your calendars for these SPA-sponsored sessions and other items of interest (check the final program for locations).

Wed, Nov 20

- "Becoming Human: Anthropology and Human Development," organized by Ryan Brown. Participants will include: Robert Desjarlais, Thomas McDade, Sara Harkness, James Rilling, Catherine Panter-Brick and Alex Hinton; 6-7:45 pm.
- "Self, Emotions, Identity: Current Research in Psychological Anthropology," organized by Michael Nunley. Participants will include: Michael Nunley, Alexander Michel, Renee Rothman, M. Hay, Aarti Pyati, Eric Silverman, William Buse, Jack Friedman, Hidetada Shimizu and Karen Lysaght; 6-9:45 pm.