



Gavin Newsom to speak at the annual meeting.

several sessions for this year's conference that speak to the questions raised by the same-sex marriage issue in a variety of ways. There will be a AAA Presidential Invited Session on Friday: "What's All the Fuss About Same-Sex Marriage? Myths, Realities, and Controversies About Family and Marriage in America," organized by Christa Craven and Jeffrey Maskovsky. This will be an important opportunity for discussion. On Saturday there is an invited session organized by Lucinda Ramberg and Christopher Roebuck titled "Mary, Marry, Quite Contrary: Pasts, Presents and Futures of Alliance, Here and There." Finally, there is a special event: "Politics and Same-Sex Marriage: A Conversation with San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom" on Saturday as well.

Old Angel, Young Angel Feel All Right . . .

The dialogue on LGBTQ issues is not confined to marriage alone, of course. SOLGA is pleased to sponsor a number of sessions that seek to open discussion on a variety of topics. "Sex, Science and Scripture: Exploring the Discourses Framing LGBTQ Issues in American Christianity" opens on Saturday morning, organized by Constance Sullivan-Blum. "Queering Asia," organized by Kok Kee Tan and John Cho is presented on Wednesday morning. "Sex, Street, Screen: Mediating Sex in the National Metropolis," organized by Rachel Joo, is offered on Saturday afternoon. There is a poster session "Queering Performance and Practice" to round things out.

When Will They Ever Learn?

Education is a crucial part of effecting change, and SOLGA is sponsoring a special session at noon on Thursday: "Teaching Sex and Sexuality in the Classroom," organized by Michael Hernandez and Connie Hoffman. There are several vibrant sessions that honor the efforts of others in the field. "Where are the Native American Two Spirit People, Pre- and Post-AIDS? A Tribute to Bea Medicine," organized by Sandra Faiman-Silva and Randy Burns on Thursday; "Researching Native American Two Spirit People: A Tribute to Sue-Ellen Jacobs," organized by Wesley Thomas and Sandra Faiman-Silva also on Thursday; and finally a very special event "Honoring Sue-Ellen Jacobs and Bea Medicine: Dance, Poetry, Music" on Thursday evening. SOLGA, Gay American Indians of San Francisco and the Native American Cultural Center of San Francisco all are co-sponsors for this event, which takes place at the GLBT Center in San Francisco from 7-9 pm.

There's No Place Left to go

SOLGA will also host its business meeting and cash bar on Saturday night. Overall, it looks like an impressive and interesting array of sessions and special events. All are encouraged to attend. What makes the crucial difference is a diverse and interested audience. Please join us.

Please send any comments, suggestions, ideas for new columns or other material to David Houston at dlrh+an@uvm.edu.

Society for Linguistic Anthropology

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Technology, nonsense and racism are the topics of the three invited sessions sponsored this month by the SLA.

The first invited session, "Talk, Technology, and Social Transformation," (Thursday, 4-5:45 pm) focuses on the relations between such new communicative technologies as television, cellular phones, email and text-messaging and the communities in which they are embedded and which they make possible. The aim of this panel is to approach technologically-mediated "talk" as something that cannot be analyzed purely as text independent of its means of production, but which also insists that technological mediation of talk means conceiving communication technologies as more than "channels." The panel includes papers on "Interkom" slang in Indonesia, mediated futures in East Germany, electronic mediation of devotional singing in Mauritius, virtual American Sign Language, Pentecostal radio in Guatemala, adaptation of VHF radio in Bequia, Grenadines, and the metapragmatics of radio talk in Mali.

The second session, "Meaningful Nonsense in Ritual Language," (Friday, 8-9:45 am, and 10:15-noon) examines the meaning of nonsense in ritual speech. Limited intelligibility is a widespread characteristic of ritual language, whether in magical, religious or scientific rituals. However, anthropologists have too often taken esoteric, archaic, xenoglossic, occult or glossolalic codes as self-evident categories, or considered them in isolation from other modalities of semiosis in ritual performance. This session will examine the production, meanings and functions of unintelligible ritual speech in such wide-ranging contexts as medical discourse in US hospitals, public reprimands in Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, divine communication in Cuban Santería, healing encounters in Senegal, Indonesian ritual speech, Middle Eastern ululation, African prophetic glosolia, American contemplative dance, Mesoamerican ritual language and Indonesian healing magic.

The third session, "Language, Discourse and Racism" (Saturday, 8-9:45 am) addresses aspects of the relationship between language(s), dis-

course(s), and racism in multiple contexts. Racism as a lived reality has been analyzed as linguistically and semiotically construed, constructed and contested through discourse. Everyday speech is often organized into discourses that are voiced, called upon, contested or silenced; multiple discourses can themselves be interconnected and form part of speakers' meta-discursive practices. Ideologies of language and society surface in this interplay of micro and meta-discourses. Panel participants will consider discursivity and identity stigmatization, linguistic stereotyping and how power and agency operate, as well as racializing discourses and reactions to institutional discourses. Topics include iconicity in everyday interaction, ideological multiplicity in Mexican discourse, the racialization of language in Brazil, linguistic profiling, discourses of diversity in higher education, and the Whitey voice.

Other SLA sponsored panels include:

Wed: "The Gendering of Contracting Languages and Their Uses" (2-3:45 pm); "Reframing Framing: New Approaches to Interaction across Cultures" (4-5:45 pm); "New Writing Systems" (6-7:45 pm); "Studies in Indigenous American Languages" (8-9:45 pm).

Thurs: "Narrative and Identity in Changing Cultural Contexts" (8-9:45 am); "Deaf Studies' Critical Challenge to Social Theory" (8-11:45 am); "The Leaky Boundaries of Language Ideologies: Code-Switching among Speakers of East Asian Languages" (10:15 am-noon); "Establishing Social Distinction through Linguistic Innovation" (4-5:45 pm).

Fri: "Ethnographies of Communication in Multilingual Spaces" (1:45-3:30 pm); "Discourse, War and Terrorism" (1:45-5:30 pm); Poster Session (4-5:45 pm).

Sat: "Placing Linguistics: Linguistics as Area Studies" (10:15-noon); "Conventionalization and Creativity in Discourse Genres" (1:45-5:30 pm); "Embodied Language, Participation and Learning in the Inhabited Lifeworld" (8-9:45 am); "French Language Ideology and the Notion of La Francophonie" (10:15 am-noon).

Members of SLA may also wish to attend the Committee for Human Rights' open forum on language and social justice, Thursday, 12-2 pm, which will explore the proposition that language rights constitute a basic human right. The forum will consider debates over language rights that are hotly contested both in the US and internationally: "Ebonics" and "English-Only" legislation; minority language rights; questions of refugees' linguistic rights; and the broader question of linguistic diversity as a basic human right.

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