

Please send any comments, suggestion or ideas, including photos for future columns to Hortensia Caballero-Arias at hcaballe@ivic.ve or at Centro de Antropología, IVIC, Carretera Panamericana Km 11, Caracas 1020-A, Apartado Postal 21827, Venezuela.

Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists

DAVID L R HOUSTON, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Conference Season: Do You Know the Way to San José?

As many of us head to the annual meeting, there is much to consider. Sessions as well as vital business matters need our collective input. Whether you read this column before the meeting or find it in your mail on your return, *your voice is important*. Please take a moment to contact someone in SOLGA with your views, particularly on the matter of the *SOLGAN*.

Meeting Highlights: With a Dream in Your Heart You're Never Alone!

SOLGA participation in the annual meeting continues to thrive. You are all encouraged to attend the many offerings this year. We have: "Intimate Surveillances, Consenting Hegemonies: Nation-Sex Dangers Post-9/11" and "Critical Gay Asia: New Screens, New Scenes" on Fri, Nov 17; "Queer Positions: Space, Subjectivity, Politics" and "Sexing Anthropology" on Sat, November 18. There is a SOLGA Board Meeting, on Weds, November 15, a SOLGA-sponsored roundtable, "Rethinking the *SOLGAN*," on Thurs, November 16, and the SOLGA Business Meeting on Sat, November 18.

SOLGAN Possibilities

By Rebecca Etz (Rutgers U)

In the May issue of *AN*, Bill Leap used this column to propose a "rethinking" of the *SOLGAN*, inviting an open discussion. Ironically, I found out about his interest here, and not in the *SOLGAN*, because I turn to this column each month to learn about possible issues of interest for our section. Why is that? Where do you turn for your news? What is it that you expect to find there?

Every six months or so I decide there is something that I am doing that I need to do better. Last month, journal reading was my issue. Unrelated to any questions surrounding the *SOLGAN*, I wrote to 20 colleagues whom I think do it well and asked them what they read. Though I expected a simple list, the commentary about the choices was often more enlightening than the choices themselves. Among the highlights: readability, public engagement, dialogue, review essays, publication highlights and section news. What do you look for?

If now is a moment of possibilities for the *SOLGAN*, perhaps we should take the time to

consider what needs our newsletter might be expected to meet. Leap suggested two avenues for a "strong intellectual future": book or article reviews and critical essays. I would add much to this. We could offer published conversations (an essay by an invited contributor, followed by shorter discussant-style comments) as well as interviews focusing on a current research project, related research in another discipline, a recent publication, or a notable contributor to the field. We can highlight issues of methodology (such as working with an IRB, working across disciplines or identifying useful technological aids) as well as resource listings such as newly released publications, recent PhDs or new websites.

While it is true that the interests of SOLGA's membership can now be met in a number of places, the proliferation of LGBTQ work itself might well make the *SOLGAN*, as a resource, all the more important. The *SOLGAN* has the potential to be both an intellectually stimulating forum and a gateway to a larger body of knowledge. I have no doubt that it could easily navigate the dual responsibilities of providing information and intrigue.

If a "rethinking" of the *SOLGAN* is to be successful, it requires only that we all agree to imagine the possibilities. If it is difficult for anyone to keep up with the latest research, how could our publication be helpful? If time is limited and each reader can only turn to a select few publications, what needs are being met and is there, perhaps, a way to fulfill some of those unmet needs and to appropriately incorporate them into a new *SOLGAN*? There are certainly other, more mundane matters to consider here: electronic or print, quarterly or bimonthly, but I hope we all come to the AAA 2006 roundtable ready to ask and to answer these larger, more vital questions.

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 PETERSON AND JAMES STANLAW,
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

SLA in San José

Welcome to the 2006 AAA meeting in San José. It's a new year, and a new venue for the AAA. Meetings will be spread across three different buildings—the McEnery Convention Center, the Hilton San José and Towers, and the Marriott San José.

Early birds hoping to attend the noon–1:45 session on Wednesday, will have to choose between four different language panels: "Critiques of 'Truth,'" organized by Adam Hodges; "Discourse and the Politics of Identity," chaired by Ryan Blanton; "Intersections of Identity: Explorations of

Language Ideology around the World," organized by Christopher Engelke and Anja Vogel; and "Narrating Catastrophe: The Discourse of Dangerous Experiences," organized by Akiyo Cantrell.



The afternoon is wide open for you to explore some of the other three fields of anthropology because there are no further SLA sessions until "New Regimes of Language and Subjectivity," organized by Sabina Perrino, from 8:00–9:45 pm.

On Thursday at 8:00 am there's a choice between an invited session on "Language and Neoliberal Governmentality," organized by Miyako Inoue and Bonnie McElhinny, and a double session entitled "Language Matters in the Media: Representations of Identity, Diversity and Expertise," organized by Misty Jaffe and Colleen Cotter. Those who choose the former can mosey on over to "Posters in Linguistic Anthropology" which runs from 10:15–noon.

After lunch, you can choose either "Identities and Language in Interaction," organized by Barbara LeMaster, or "Recontextualizing Linguistic Anthropology: Uptakes, Hybridizations, Experiences," organized by Lucas Tsitsipis, both scheduled 1:45–3:30 pm.

There's only one SLA panel in the 4:00–5:00 pm slot, "Engendering Textual Authority" organized by Tzu-Kai Liu, but it is scheduled against the AAA High Table Discussion "Language in Dangerous Places" organized by Don Brenneis. These panels are closely followed by the Society for Linguistic Anthropology Executive Board Meeting from 6:00–8:00 pm.

Friday morning finds overlapping sessions "The Dynamics of Stance in Joking Interaction" organized by Minerva Oropeza (8:00–9:45 am) and "Undisciplined Language: New Dialogues between Sociolinguistics and Linguistic Anthropology" by Kira Hall and Mary Bucholtz (8:00–11:45 am)

There are no SLA sessions in the later morning, noon or early afternoon slots, but an invited CEA session looks interesting: "The Necessary Intersection of Documentation and Revitalization of Endangered Languages" organized by Ofelia Zepeda from 12:15–1:30 pm. From 1:45–5:45 pm there's "Critical Dialogues at the Interface of Psychological and Linguistic Anthropology" organized by Karen Sirota with an all-star cast of participants and discussants including Niko Besnier, Elinor Ochs and Jim Wilce.

From 4:00–5:45 pm two SLA panels are offered: "An Anthropological Linguistic Approach to the Study of Language Socialization, Kids' and Youth's Voices, and Childhoods," organized by Jennifer Reynolds, or "Confession, Intentionality and the Opacity of Other Minds: Linguistic Anthropology and the Challenge of Pacific Language Ideologies" organized by Alan Rumsey and Joel Robbins, and again with an all-star cast including Bambi Schieffelin, Webb Keane and Alessandro Duranti. SLA members who attended different panels can hook up again at the business meeting, held from 6:15–7:30 pm.

Saturday morning at 8:00 am we find "Instituting Persons" organized by Betsy Rymes and Asif Agha, and an invited session, "Language,

Situated Learning and Transnational Populations" organized by Doris Warriner and James Collins.

From 10:15–noon there's "Telling Stories In The Face Of Danger: Narratives, Ideological Reproduction and Language Endangerment in Native American Communities" organized by Paul Kroskity and Margaret Field. And from 1:45–3:30 pm you can either attend "Bad Words" organized by Jillian Cavanaugh and Daniel Suslak or "Critical Intersections: Social Change, Language Change" organized by Nicholas Hopkins.

Sunday morning begins with "Children's Talk in Context: Developmental Models and Beyond..." organized by Jack Sidnell and Heather Loyd or "Singing Social Worlds: Examining the Intersection of Language and Music in Song" organized by Wendi Haugh and Paja Faudree. The last session slot of the conference offers a choice between "Normativity and Identity: Discursive Constructions of Queerness and Normalcy" organized by Joshua Raclaw, and "Youth Language at the Intersection: Globalization, Transnationalism, Identity" organized by Elena Skapoulli and Mary Bucholtz.

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

Society for Medical Anthropology

JANELLE S TAYLOR, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

AAA Panel and Task Group: "Should Anthropologists Intervene in the New War on the Poor? Health, Neoliberalism and Human Rights"

By Charles L Briggs (UC Berkeley)

Unjust health policies are seldom considered a central component of human rights agendas, and most medical anthropologists have looked on human rights as somebody else's concern. Nevertheless, denying people "biomedical citizenship" helps create the hierarchies of race, class, gender, sexuality and nation that rationalize structural violence, disenfranchisement and even genocide.

Is to deny access to health care in the face of an epidemic a human rights violation? If "free markets," neoliberalism and privatization are jeopardizing the health of most people on the planet, should they be included in human rights agendas? How might we illuminate anthropological analyses of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, the denial of ARV to millions in Africa and Asia, and the Darfur debacle through the lens of health and human rights, yet without adopting a liberal and individualistic frame of reference?

This AAA session will foster debate between medical anthropologists, researchers interested in human rights issues and practitioners in

other areas who are concerned with theorizing injustices and inequalities, exploring how anthropologists can confront them. In doing so, it will help set the agenda and recruit a constituency for the newly formed Task Group on Health and Human Rights of the AAA Committee for Human Rights. The participants are Charles Briggs, Arachu Castro, Paul Farmer, James Pfeiffer and Vilma Santiago-Irizarry.

New SMA Interest Group: Science, Technology and Medicine

By João Biehl (Princeton U)

The Science, Technology and Medicine Interest Group is intended as a forum for medical anthropologists who share concerns over 1) how scientific research, technological transformation and professional medicine inform public health policy, popular culture and affect the intimate realms of bodily experience; 2) the ways laboratory and experimental medicine are influenced by economic and political institutions and patient mobilization; 3) how local experiences of illness and health are refracted through established modes of discrimination (such as class, race and gender) and unequal access to new medical technologies; and 4) the extent to which these pragmatic and embodied responses to medical science and technology shape concepts of personhood and degrees of political membership.

These are not straightforward developments with predetermined outcomes. Medical science and technology are matters of intense negotiation; their local realizations are shaped by contingency, imagination and uncertainty. Such realizations encode diverse economic and political interests as well as group and individual anxieties and desires; they also involve shifts from one form of bodily and medical knowledge to another.

As scientific and medical technologies materialize, so do new ethical questions and analytical questions: What kind of scientific literacy is required of us, as a general public, to participate responsibly in emergent therapeutic cultures? What is the perceived value of health and what price do people pay to extend life? Which forms of governance and ideas of the social good and public health are at stake in the global flows of medical technologies? How do we as anthropologists situate ourselves to study these experimental health regimes?

We intend our interest group to be a platform for medical anthropologists (both professionals and students) to discuss the emergent infrastructures and lived experiences of biomedical science. As a forum we want to identify the diverse and entangled dynamics of science, technology and medicine in both affluent and resource-poor settings. We want to do this through the examination of concrete ethnographic instances.

We also want to think comparatively about the diversity and flux of medical experience in order to assess global constraints and pos-

sibilities as well as unexpected turn of events and institutional transformations. Of utmost importance is the construction of tools for the thorough investigation of shifting public and private technological involvements which are at once local and translocal. What novel methods can be employed to study such mutable multi-sited and multi-discursive processes? We would like to bring our empirical and analytical insights to bear on anthropological theories of political economy, normalcy and pathology, and human agency, for example.

Moreover, as medical and public anthropologists, we want to build awareness of the competing values, interests and stakeholders in health decision-making and thus enlarge conceptions of ethical and political choice. We hope to work together with other interest groups in the Society for Medical Anthropology and with CASTAC. We would like to promote sessions at the AAA and 4S meetings together with other concerned partners. Finally, we want to encourage sustained conversation and sharing of information among interest group members via the Internet.

Please send column contributions to the SMA Contributing Editor Janelle Taylor (jstaylor@u.washington.edu).

Society for Psychological Anthropology

KATHLEEN BARLOW, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Save the Dates: SPA Biennial Meeting, March 8–11, 2007, Manhattan Beach, CA

By Tom Weisner (SPA President) and the SPA Board

The SPA biennial meeting will begin Thursday evening March 8, 2007, and conclude Sunday at noon on March 11. The meetings will be held at the Manhattan Beach Marriott Hotel (<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/LAXMN>), which is three miles south of the LA International Airport, and about two miles from the ocean.

We have established a program committee for reviewing paper and symposium submissions, and registration information will be sent to all members shortly. We have several special events in the planning stages this year in addition to submitted papers and panels, including a special dinner event off-site for all registered members, invited speakers and interdisciplinary panels, and a Saturday evening banquet at the hotel.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Los Angeles March 8–11 next spring for a terrific biennial meeting!

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