

Preview of Invited Sessions

By Laura Miller (Loyola U of Chicago)

Although the SLA was given time for three invited sessions for the 2000 meeting, I was able to increase our representation to four invited sessions through some creative co-sponsorship. Perhaps inspired by this year's theme of "The Public Face of Anthropology," we received many more proposals for invited session status than we were able to sponsor. I'd like to thank everyone who organized sessions for their eagerness and effort.

One of our invited sessions is "Language Movements and the Question of Scholarly Engagement" organized by Anthony Berkley. It brings together scholars who have done research on language movements which engage both the public face and the personal passions of linguistic anthropologists. Papers include "Impure Thoughts: the critical reception of language planning among Yucatec Maya speakers" by Anthony Berkley; "Linguistic Foundations of Racial Strife in American Schools and Society" by John Baugh; "Sociolinguistics and Standardization in Francophone Canada" by Monica Heller; and "The Question of Scholarly Engagement in Deaf Ireland" by Barbara LeMaster. James Collins is the discussant.

Another session is "Morality in Children's Language Socialization," organized by Lourdes de Leon and Marjorie Goodwin. The papers in this panel provide important challenges to traditional ways of investigating moral development by examining the language practices through which children, both within adult/child interaction and in their peer groups, come to learn and negotiate notions of responsibility and accountability. Papers will be given by Lourdes de Leon, (She Said: 'Wash Your Hands': the early use of evidentials, responsibility, and voice by Tzotzil (Mayan) children); Jennifer Reynolds (Popeye and the Pirates Versus Jesus and the Moorish King: children's negotiation of (im)moral acts and actors through imaginative play); Patricia Baquedano-Lopez (Narrating Self and Community: socializing orality in children's religious education classes); Ayala Fader (Moral Differences: language socialization among Hasidic Jews in Brooklyn); Nancy Budwig and Lisa Comparini (Hypothetical vs. Personal Transgression Reports: does method make a difference?); and Marjorie Goodwin (Constituting the Moral Order in Girls' Social Organization: language practices in the construction of social exclusion). The discussant will be Elinor Ochs.

One of our SLA sessions will be cosponsored with the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology. I thank Annelise Riles for her assistance. The session is "Language, Democracy, and the Localities of Power" organized by Bernard Bate. Papers in this session will examine public discourses found in ideologies and practices of power associated with democracy. Papers will be given by Alaina Lemon (Reading the Democracy: actorly aesthetics in Russian represented discourse); Bernard Bate (Shifting Subjects: elocu-

tionary revolution and democracy in 18th century America and 20th century India); Patrick Eisenlohr (Voicing Democracy in Mauritian Narratives of Independence); Mikael Karlstrom (Democracy Disarticulated: the staging of hierarchical accountability and the incoherence of electoral representation in Buganda/Uganda). The discussants are John Kelly and Webb Keane.

We also cosponsored a session with the American Ethnological Society, for which we thank Kathleen Stewart. The session is "Metaculture and its Implications for Public Processes" organized by Hilary Dick and Greg Urban. Panel participants will investigate the role of metaculture in public sphere processes. Papers will be given by Greg Urban (Metacultural Types and Cultural Motion); Matt Tomlinson (Light and Darkness, Power and Loss: the metaculture of modernity in rural Fiji); Asif Agha (The Social Life of Cultural Values); Kristina Wirtz (Metaculture and Memory: heeding the orichas in Cuban Santeria); and Hilary Dick (Sealing the Mexico-US Border with Words: the metaculture of nation-building in a land of emigrants). The discussants are Michael Silverstein and Benjamin Lee.

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Society for Medical Anthropology

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SMA Invited Sessions

By Andrea Wiley (SMA Program committee co-chair, with Ruthbeth Finerman)

Four invited sessions are sponsored by the SMA at this year's AAA meeting, each engaging a health-related aspect of the AAA theme, "The Public Face of Anthropology." Linda Hogle (Stanford) has organized a session entitled "Jurisdictions of Authority and Expertise in Science and Medicine" which explores disputes over "jurisdictions" of scientific authority and expertise in the therapeutic use of human bodily, and other, materials. The papers address issues concerning knowledge of, and contested governance over, the body, its parts, and the information it produces and products it consumes. Kenyon Stebbins's (West Virginia) session, "Facing Environmental Health Issues," takes on environmental health issues in diverse cultural and geographic settings. From a critical medical anthropology perspective, the papers situate local health issues within broader social and political changes that often negatively influence environmental conditions and impair quality of life.

Child health is the topic of Elisa Sobo's (Children's Hospital San Diego) session, "Children's Health." This session addresses the question of how public policies can and should be informed by anthropological research to promote children's health. The papers underscore the need for child-centered programs and policies that take into account the bio-cultural distinctions between "minors" and adults. On a different theme, Eric Silverman's (DePauw) session is entitled "Male Circumcision, HIV/AIDS, and the Body in Africa and the West." This session assesses current research on the relationship between male circumcision and HIV/AIDS and explores issues such as public health and "tradition" in developing nations and the West, gender and religion, sexual and sexual pleasure, and the body as a contested domain in (post) modernity. We urge all members to attend.

Changing Risky Sexual Behavior in Zambia

By Douglas A Feldman (U Miami School of Medicine)

Cultures change. Environmental, technological, demographic and other factors influence the direction and forms of cultural change. Behaviors are shaped by cultural beliefs, norms and attitudes, which are influenced by shifts in sometimes-conflicting cultural values. Applied anthropologists can use this insight to intentionally change cultural behaviors when they are unsafe or risky. By developing a conflict within a culture between its salient values and those beliefs, norms, and attitudes which lead to risky behaviors, it may be possible to change those beliefs, resulting in less risky or safer behaviors. In using an approach, which I have termed the value utilization/norm change (VUNC) model, anthropological knowledge about a specific population's values, beliefs, norms and attitudes are manipulated through a peer-led workshop intervention to change dangerous or unhealthy behaviors.

Currently, I am conducting a National Science Foundation-funded study to learn how to change the attitudes which lead to unsafe sexual behaviors among mostly sexually active older adolescents in Zambian high schools. An estimated one million persons in Zambia are HIV-infected. Twenty-seven percent of the adults living in the capital city are HIV seropositive. The average life expectancy has plummeted to only 37 years. Yet, most of the sexually active high school students in Zambia do not routinely use condoms when they have sex.

We began our study with social network interviews, focus groups and ethnography/participant observation to learn about the social behavior and family/friendship patterns of male and female students and understand their basic values, beliefs, norms and attitudes, especially as they relate to sexual and health domains. Surveys were conducted to learn more about their beliefs and norms and to select a sample of more sexually active voluntary participants from among 1,156 10th and 11th grade students. The primary outcome measure was increased routine condom