

same who now negotiate to perform monkey hunting and animal parties with foreign TV crews. They are trying to gain control to build up the bases for an economy of their culture, the exchange of goods, technology and knowledge with outsiders. But that is not new for them, as they have always been participating in global networks of trade meanwhile hunting, farming, gathering.

In 2009, I conducted eleven months of fieldwork in Matis Indian land located at the border of Brasil, Peru and Colombia for PhD work on the Matis economy with animals, *tsussin* (desincorporated vital forces) and *gringos* from the other side of the globe. To be blunt: they came from the creek heads to be stars in the showbiz of global portrayal of Amazonia in BBC, National Geographic films and others. During fieldwork, I could participate in key moments of the economic relations of the Matis with TV crews and tourists. In July, journalists from MBC South Korea, the biggest communication network in that country, shot a documentary. In August, three North Americans filmed a pilot for US Animal Planet/Discovery in a Tikuna indigenous community located in Colombia. Then in October, we went camping with four German tourists and three guides at the border with Peru.

At the same time that many anthropologists started to doubt of everything that smells like the essentialization of culture, both indigenous and many other peoples were reifying culture for themselves and to claim it for many reasons and in different ways. As Oakdale (2004: 60) noted: "The awareness and manipulation of the idea of culture that is taking place throughout lowland South America mirrors a similar self-conscious display of culture currently going on among indigenous peoples elsewhere in the world, such as in Australia (Myers 1991, 1994), New Zealand (Hanson 1989; Linnekin 1991), Melanesia (Foster 1995; Thomas 1992), and Polynesia (Sahlins 2000), among other places." Anthropologists could not tame the creativity of culture (Wagner 1975), we could just try to stabilize it, even if it last a brief fraction, an ethnographic moment. In Brazil, researchers are studying indigenous transformations where culture participates in exchange relationships that become more commercial and intermediated by money (Gordon 2006; Coelho de Souza 2008; Carneiro da Cunha 2009; Coffacci de Lima 2011; among others). I am engaging in this effort with the aim of understanding how the Matis create an economy of their culture, how they are created by their own material, cosmopolitical, and creative culture, and how they trade their (im)material culture with outsiders.

The first documentarists appeared in the lives of the Matis just after the contact in 1978. The Matis also entered, timidly, into the universe of information and communication technologies, using mobiles, digital cameras, emails, social networks. Their images and films made by outsiders have been in the internet for much longer. My research follows the associations that form this assemblage that I call the exotic culture market in the Amazon. We anthropologists, like tourists and documentarists, are important actors in the economy of those people. We all consume and produce culture from and with them. It is expected in 2012 that the Matis will enter as players in a new kind of economy as their land could be one of the indigenous territories to develop projects to "capture carbon

credits." They might move from the economy of culture towards one of "commoditization of air." I keep on trying to keep pace with their fast transformations.

*Please send any comments, suggestions and ideas, including photos for future columns, to Annelou Ypeij at j.lypeij@cedla.nl or to CEDLA (Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation), Keizersgracht 395-397, 1016 EK Amsterdam, Netherlands.*

## Society for Linguistic Anthropology

JAMES STANLAW AND MARK PETERSON,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

### Meet the New Editors

*By James Stanlaw*

This month we have an interview with the new editors of the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*—Editor in Chief Alexandra (Misty) Jaffe and Associate Editor Paul Garrett. They graciously took time out to answer our questions in spite of their busy schedules as the journal now makes a transition to a three-issues-a-year format.

### SLA: What do you see in the future for the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*?

**Alexandra Jaffe/Paul Garrett:** First and foremost, JLA will maintain its place as the premier publication venue for linguistic anthropology. Peer-reviewed research articles will continue to have center stage. But articles needn't be confined to text and still images anymore. We're very excited about the addition of a 130-page online issue. This is a third issue, above and beyond the two print issues per year that subscribers are used to receiving. Articles in the online issue can incorporate digital content: clickable maps and annotated images, audio and video excerpts, websites, and more, all of them instantly accessible through "hot links" in the text. This isn't possible with conventional print articles, even when they're accessed online.

We also hope to broaden JLA's international scope by making new connections with scholars who are currently publishing in other countries and in other languages. This presents interesting and sometimes difficult questions relating to language of publication, translation, and differences in discursive and academic traditions. But these are matters that linguistic anthropologists are uniquely well placed to reflect on, and to act on.

**SLA: Might you consider some format changes—for example, publishing commentaries on articles, as *Current Anthropology* does?**

**AJ/PG:** We're interested in exploring a variety of formats. But this always has to be balanced against our commitment to publishing research-based articles, which will remain the mainstay of the journal; and we have only so many pages with which to work.

**SLA: Will the JLA editorial board remain the same?**

This is a matter that we're currently addressing. Editorial boards serve different roles for different journals. Our intent is to call on each editorial board member for several reviews per year; we want board members to be actively involved in shaping each issue. Editorial boards also represent a larger community of scholars—in our case, the SLA. We think that it's important to rotate the membership of JLA's editorial board periodically, so that both the work and the representation are distributed among SLA members who can offer a variety of different perspectives and areas of expertise.

**SLA: Tell us a little about the new ScholarOne online editorial system. Does it change the submission and peer-review process in any significant way?**

**AJ/PG:** Many authors and reviewers are already familiar with ScholarOne, which is used by various other journals. Even those who are new to the system won't find it daunting. Basically, instead of sending a document as an email attachment, authors will now upload their documents into our ScholarOne site; and peer reviewers will log in to the system in order to view and download submissions, and to submit their reviews.

The new system is an enormous improvement in terms of coordination and efficiency. For us editors, it shows the real-time status of all submissions and facilitates various editorial tasks, such as inviting peer reviewers. It tracks timelines and deadlines and automatically sends reminder emails to authors, reviewers, even to us editors. The only downside to these auto-generated messages is that they're impersonal, but we can still be reached personally, of course, whenever the need arises.

**SLA: If you had a magic wand, what would you change about JLA?**

**AJ/PG:** It would be great to have more pages—that would allow us to expand the content as well as experiment with different formats. Considering the amount of high-quality work that's being submitted, we could definitely publish beyond our current page limits without compromising JLA's high standards. It would also enable us to publish more special themed issues. Because of space constraints, we'll have to be very selective about special issues beginning in 2012—which is when we'll produce the first volume of the journal that reflects a complete transition to the new editorial team.

**SLA: Anything else that SLA members should know?**

**AJ/PG:** We appreciate everyone's patience during the transition between editorial teams. Inevitably, there have been delays as we've worked to set up the ScholarOne system while also working on a backlog of manuscripts, reviews, and other materials that had already been submitted and couldn't be incorporated into the new system. We've really been impressed with how responsive, conscientious, and constructive JLA's authors and peer-reviewers have been.

*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

KATHLEEN RAGSDALE, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

### Conference Report: The Cascadia Seminar in Medical Anthropology

By Janelle S Taylor (U Washington)



Janelle S Taylor

For the more than 60 faculty and graduate students who took part, the first “Cascadia Seminar” Medical Anthropology Conference, held at the University of Washington March 4–6, 2011, provided a bright spot of intellectual engagement and collegiality in the midst of a rainy Seattle winter. The Cascadia Seminar was an experiment in creating a model for a different kind of intellectual space for medical anthropology: a small, intimate, high-interest, low-cost weekend conference organized collaboratively by medical anthropologists on faculty at a number of different universities and colleges in the US Pacific Northwest and British Columbia (the Cascadia region).

The conference emerged out of informal conversations among medical anthropologist colleagues at several universities in the region. I offered to organize and host the first Cascadia Seminar, with the idea that it could become an annual or biannual event, rotating among various institutions in the region. A review committee was formed, composed of one medical anthropologist from each of five universities: U Washington (James Pfeiffer), Simon Fraser U (Susan Erikson), U Victoria (Lisa Mitchell), U British Columbia (Vinay Kamat), and Seattle U (Harriet Phinney). Medical anthropologists from within and outside the region submitted twenty abstracts in fall 2010, from which the review committee selected seven for presentation.

In my role as host and organizer, I arranged for the conference space and the keynote speaker, Jeannette Pols. I also created a conference website, managed registrations, and took responsibility for communicating conference information to participants. The Philosophy Department’s Program on Values in Society supported the cost of bringing our keynote speaker and hosted a small reception. The Simpson Humanities Center at the University of Washington offered its conference space free of charge, and supported the cost of coffee breaks and snacks. As a result, the entire cost for the conference was under \$3,000.

The conference itself featured seven papers (five on Saturday and two on Sunday morning). Each presenter was allotted 45 minutes in which to give his or her talk, with a half hour for discussion following. There were no concurrent sessions, and all conference participants attended all events. Presenters included scholars at all stages of their careers, from graduate student to full professor, and addressed a remarkable range of topics and contexts relevant to medical anthropology.

Jeannette Pols (U Amsterdam) presented “Knowing

Patients: Turning Practical Knowledge into Science,” while Denielle Elliott (U Chicago) discussed “Atlanta: Spatiality, Mobile Practices, and Experimental Medicine in East Africa.” Barbara Herr Harthorn (UC Santa Barbara) addressed “Health Enhancement and the Hazard Posed by New [Nano]Technologies,” and Matthew Wolf-Meyer (UC Santa Cruz) presented “The Artificial Institution of Society, or Autism as a Perpetual Neuroscientific Crisis.” Hanna Kienzler’s (McGill U) talk was on “Psychiatry as Agent of Globalization: Psychiatric Responses to Trauma-Related Health Problems in Post-War Kosova,” while Brenda Roche (Wellesley Institute) presented “Resilience in Post-War Resettlement.” Junjie Chen (U Illinois Urbana-Champaign) discussed “Reproduction against the State: The ‘Humane’ Family Planning Project, Structural Violence, and Women’s Reproductive Experiences in Postsocialist Rural China,” and Sarah Krier (U Pittsburgh) addressed “Ethnographic Explorations of an Indigenous Medicine Industry: Jamu, Women’s Health and Islam in Contemporary Indonesia.”

The lively discussions that followed each presentation gave Cascadia Seminar attendees opportunities for in-depth discussions that are often not possible at larger conferences, where several thousand people are attending multiple events over a number of days. The more intimate and condensed nature of the Cascadia Seminar allowed attendees to easily extend discussion begun earlier in the day into conversations that continued through dinner, as new friendships were formed and existing collaborative partnerships were renewed and extended. For attendees who live and work in the US Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, the Cascadia Seminar provided an opportunity to build stronger regional networks and reinforce our sense of intellectual community. All things considered, we judged the Cascadia Seminar’s experimental model—ie, a small, intimate, high-interest, low-cost weekend conference—a great success. We are already actively planning the next Cascadia Seminar. Please look out for the CFP, and we hope to see you there!

To submit a contribution, contact SMA Contributing Editor Kathleen Ragsdale (kathleen.ragsdale@ssrc.msstate.edu).

## Society for Psychological Anthropology

JACK R. FRIEDMAN, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

### Call for Editor of *Ethos*

The Society for Psychological Anthropology seeks a new editor or editorial team for *Ethos*, the flagship journal of the section. The new editor(s) would begin work in Spring 2012 with initial issues appearing in 2013 and will be appointed for a three-year term.

*Ethos* publishes articles at the interface of anthropological and psychological perspectives that address the relations between individuals and their milieux—social, cultural, political and economic. In a combination of print and online venues, *Ethos* currently publishes research articles, essays, dialogues, special issues, and reviews of books and films. Production is handled by Wiley

Publishers.

We seek an experienced scholar or scholars working in psychological anthropology to take on the leadership of the journal. Applicants should submit a CV and letter of interest indicating their vision for the journal, editorial experience, and the likelihood of institutional support or editorial efforts by October 15, 2011 to SPA President-Elect Claudia Strauss (claudia\_strauss@pitzer.edu). Letters nominating promising candidates would be welcome as well. Finalists will be invited to respond to a series of directed questions on these topics. Final selection will follow an interview, preferably at the November 2011 AAA meeting in Montréal.

Applicants are welcome to contact the current editor, Janet Dixon Keller (jdkeller@illinois.edu) to discuss the current editorial processes. There is an electronic submissions and processing system that facilitates the editorial work and is transferable to a new editor or editorial team.

Send contributions to this column to Jack R Friedman, jrfriedman8@gmail.com

## Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology

JAYNE HOWELL, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

### Call for SUNTA Undergraduate Paper Prize Nominations: Deadline November 1, 2011

SUNTA is pleased to announce its undergraduate paper prize competition. We are seeking nominations—by faculty—of student papers that address SUNTA interests, including refugees and immigrants, space and place, and poverty and homelessness. International submissions are encouraged. Papers should be no more than 30 double-spaced pages, 12-point font, including bibliography, notes, images and figures. The paper’s formatting (eg, citations, bibliographies) should be consistent throughout. Undergraduate students who are currently enrolled or who graduated within the 2011 calendar year are eligible for the competition, provided the submission was composed while the student was an undergraduate. Although nominations will be accepted from faculty only (students may not submit papers on their own), faculty members need not write in support. Moreover, although letters of recommendation or justification are welcome, they are not required. Authors are not required to be SUNTA members, and international entries are encouraged.

The prize includes a \$150 award. The winner will be announced at the 2011 AAA meeting in Montréal, Canada. Please address queries, nominations and submissions to Faedah M Totah at ftotah@vcu.edu. The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2011.

### SUNTA Invited Sessions in Montréal

SUNTA is proud to sponsor or co-sponsor four invited sessions in Montréal. The session “Craft and Consciousness: Improving life Chances in Twenty-First Century Cities” (organized by Carl A Maida