

Headlines

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session “A Comparison of Genetic and Musical Affiliations in Sub-Saharan Africa.” According to the article, the study—led by Floyd Reed, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Maryland in College Park—found that cultures in sub-Saharan Africa with similar genetic markers also shared similar musical styles. This

link was stronger than geographic ties between the cultures studied.

“Maryland Morning with Sheilah Kast” on WYPR 88.1 FM interviewed Seth Messinger, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, regarding his research on time and its significance in memories of trauma and rehabilitation for wounded combat veterans. Messinger presented his research at the session “The Body In/And Time.”

Executive Producer of Lifted Veils Productions and former NPR Senior Editor Phillip Martin

attended several sessions on race and racism, color, genetics, immigration and hierarchy for “The Color Initiative,” a Boston-based journalism project that broadcasts on *The World*—a joint radio program of WGBH Radio, Public Radio International and the BBC. The first report of the yearlong series on color aired on *The World* in early Nov.

This is just a portion of the 2007 Annual Meeting media coverage. Stay tuned to the AAA website for regular updates on anthropologists in the news. [E](#)

Anthropology and the Military

A Summary of Related 2007 Annual Meeting Events

DINAH WINNICK
ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

Discussion on the relationship between anthropology and the military took center stage at the 2007 AAA Annual Meeting. Shortly before the meeting, news coverage of the US military Human Terrain System (HTS) project—by the BBC, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Toronto Star*, *Christian Science Monitor* and NPR—brought public attention to this issue. In response to concerns voiced by members, on Oct 31, 2007, the AAA Executive Board passed a resolution addressing “troubling and urgent ethical issues” suggested by HTS, a US military program embedding anthropologists within research teams in Iraq and Afghanistan to collect cultural and social data for use by the US military. Within a short period visitors to a AAA blog (created to facilitate discussion on the issue) left over 150 comments, developing a public conversation on HTS and related topics. Four weeks later, on Nov 28, the executive board released the final report of the Commission on the Engagement of Anthropology with the US Security and Intelligence Communities (CEAUSSIC), made available through the AAA website (www.aaanet.org/PM_112807.htm). On Nov 29, the first full day of the 2007 AAA Annual Meeting, commission members hosted an explanatory session to provide a summary of their findings and to field questions regarding the statement following its release.

In the following three days, related sessions, panels and meetings were held to address the general theme of anthropology’s relationship with security and intelligence communities from diverse perspectives. Key related events included: the CEAUSSIC session; “The Empire Speaks Back: US Military and Intelligence Organization’s Perspectives on Engagement with Anthropology”; “Against the Weaponization of Anthropology: Critical Perspectives on the Military, War and US Foreign Policy”; “Anthropologists and War: Non-Participation in Counterinsurgency”; and the AAA Business

Meeting. Here, I provide a brief overview of the first three events, which each took place in rooms filled to capacity. Roberto González (San Jose State U) examines a resolution urging the US government against future war with Iran—authored by González and William Beeman (U Minnesota) and introduced at the AAA Business Meeting—elsewhere in this issue. A summary of “Anthropologists and War” appears in *American Ethnological Society (AES) Section News*, as that panel was cohosted by AES and the Network of Concerned Anthropologists.

One central point of confusion throughout these events remained the popular expectation that they would focus on HTS and the ethical questions prompted by the AAA Executive Board statement on HTS. In reality, as panelist Brian Selmeski (US Air U) has pointed out, related sessions were for the most part organized significantly prior to the HTS public media debate and thus featured a variety of speakers focused on other issues. This point was particularly salient at the CEAUSSIC presentation, as the commission was not tasked to examine HTS when authorized by the AAA Executive Board in Nov 2005. Throughout the presentation, CEAUSSIC members took care to explain their findings, to distinguish between anthropology *of* the military and anthropology *for* the military, to emphasize the diversity of anthropologists’ working relationships with or within security and intelligence communities, and to describe the AAA Code of Ethics as a “living document.” CEAUSSIC member

Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban (Rhode Island C) noted the necessity to further examine the notion of “harm” that appears in the ethics code.

The “Empire Speaks Back,” sponsored by the AAA Committee for Human Rights, with CEAUSSIC Chair Jim Peacock and Richard Reese as discussants, featured a panel of four educators: Dan Henk (US Air U), Kerry Fosher (Marine Corps Intelligence Activity and Syracuse U), Brian Selmeski and Robert Rubinstein (Syracuse U). These presenters provided a closer look at military education, a perspective less visible in other panels. Dan Henk, for example, described how the Air Force is using its educational institutions to increase the ability of Airmen to communicate, build relations and negotiate in culturally complex environments.

“Against the Weaponization of Anthropology” featured presenters William Beeman, Katherine McCaffrey (Montclair State U), David Vine (American U), Ilisa Lam (City U New York Graduate Center) and Andrew Bickford (George Mason U), with discussant Roberto González. This group examined a wide range of topics centered on anthropological critiques of military projects and ethical challenges faced by anthropologists working with the military. Presenters discussed HTS, military discourse and policy, academic freedom, informed consent, and the AAA Code of Ethics alongside analyses of fieldwork and archival research. Andrew Bickford united these themes in examining the role of military doctors, suggesting that anthropologists can learn from discussions of ethics that have already taken place within the medical field. Multiple participants in this panel—which included members of the Network of Concerned Anthropologists—also noted their concern that an audience member was reportedly seen copying the names of petition signatories, regarded as an intimidation tactic.

As public debate regarding HTS continues, many anthropologists remain concerned with the question of how AAA and other organizations and institutions can best offer guidance to colleagues facing ethical questions that arise in work with security and intelligence communities, and in a broader range of contexts (including applied/practicing contexts). Of note is an ongoing discussion of how AAA might revise



David Price and Laura McNamara, of CEAUSSIC.
Photo courtesy Gretchen Bakke

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This is Not Your Father's Anthropology

Student Participation in the 2007 Annual Meeting

MARCY HESSLING
MICHIGAN STATE U

AAA Annual Meetings have taken place since 1902, when 40 anthropologists were invited to meet in Washington DC to formalize the creation of an organization "to promote the science of anthropology, to stimulate and coordinate the efforts of American anthropologists, and to serve as a bond of union" (*American Anthropologist* 5[1], Jan-Mar 1903). Although the role of students in the early meetings is unclear, students have in recent years become integral to the AAA Annual Meetings. Still, it is not uncommon for students to attend their first meeting only when they are preparing to enter the job market. Although cost is often cited as a factor, students are also often intimidated by the image of standing in front of a crowd of professors and peers, speed reading a paper for 15 minutes before breathlessly looking up and waiting for a barrage of pointed questions. Once they attend sessions, however, students often realize that although this scene does occasionally play out, other meeting presentation formats are increasingly gaining popularity, including round tables, poster sessions and workshops.

The National Association of Student Anthropologists (NASA) is a section devoted to promoting the interests of students as an important segment of AAA membership. In 2007, NASA sponsored four sessions—on topics including transnational activism networks, graduate student socialization, popular culture and ethnoarchaeology—and hosted the

Seventh Annual NASA/AAA Mentor Workshop. The workshop brought together 40 students and 10 mentors to interact in an informal, relaxed environment, and to have instructive one-on-one conversations regarding students' education and career-related concerns. One student, commenting on the difficulties of being a senior without an undergraduate advisor, and "feeling unprepared and 'behind schedule'" noted that the workshop was particularly helpful in providing information on how to make the transition from undergraduate to graduate education as well as on the diverse trajectories that an anthropology career can take.

Apart from the mentor workshop, the 2007 meeting featured over 40 workshops on topics ranging from software and data analysis to DVD production in ethnography to enhancing PowerPoint and presentation skills. Poster sessions were once again popular forums for displaying student research, and this year the AAA Executive Program Committee sponsored five invited and three additional sessions. Student work was also recognized in several section business meetings through over 20 awards given to undergraduate and graduate students.

To showcase the work being done by anthropologists through film, video and interactive media, the Society for Visual Anthropology hosted screenings for four days, displaying sev-

eral student projects. Students have evidenced a leadership role in taking advantage of technological innovations in new media to further the discipline. The annual meetings give students, academics and professional/applied anthropologists an opportunity to collaborate on new media projects to examine methods for using new media to reach a broader audience.

Collaborative research is quickly becoming increasingly popular, and the program reflected this through five panels devoted entirely to the topic. Students have learned the benefits of networking, and that organizing a session as a student is a great way to work with other anthropologists who are doing similar research. The NASA Program Committee works with students, many of whom have never organized a session, to find the best ways to present their research and to learn how participating in the meetings early in one's career can be instructive for both students and other AAA members. Supporting the participation of a diverse student population—full-time and part-time students, four-year and community college students, returning and older students—ultimately supports the mission of the AAA to "promote the entire field of anthropology in all its diversity." ■

Marcy Hessling is a doctoral student at Michigan State University studying urban migration in West Africa. She, along with other NASA members, will be participating in an upcoming fall 2008 student themed issue of AN. To propose an article topic for this thematic issue, contact AN Associate Managing Editor Dinah Winnick (dwinnick@aaanet.org).

Military

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its ethics code to address secrecy/transparency without losing its emphasis on the contextual consideration of ethical questions, prompted by the CEAUSSIC report and a AAA Business Meeting resolution introduced by Terence Turner (U Chicago). Participants in the aforementioned sessions have also emphasized the need to incorporate the diverse voices of academic, applied/practicing and advocacy anthropologists in this ongoing conversation. CEAUSSIC member Kerry Fosher suggests that in 2008, "Rather than having panels that run the risk of talking past one another, it might be fruitful to have panelists with different positions tackle a common set of questions or themes." Indeed, this discussion will likely proceed well through the 2008 Annual Meeting, aptly themed "Inclusion, Collaboration and Engagement." ■

Anthropology for Young People

AEC at the Annual Meeting

GUVEN WITTEVEEN
AEC MEMBER

In 2007, the AAA Anthropology Education Committee (AEC) again coordinated an annual meeting invitation to teachers from school districts local to the meeting. A capsule description of the AEC sessions, including audio recordings and short films of the "Anthropology Goes to High School" poster session (pictured above), are available on <http://anthroview.googlepages.com/2007k12aaa>. Developments related to precollege anthropology education include plans for drafting instructional materials for initiating an anthropology course, and consideration of a special interest group for anthropology within the National Council for the Social Studies. Additionally, collaborative discussions were held with the education committee of the Royal Anthropological Institute, which hosted the fall "Pathways to Anthropology" workshop. Ongoing projects of AEC include creating a digital outreach center to support anthropology education in all settings of secondary education and exploring a potential anthropologist in residence program. Another major focus of AEC is to support expansion of anthropology education in community colleges. The AEC invited session, "Teaching Anthropology in Community Colleges: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion," framed the issues involved. AEC is working with the AAA Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges to advance the visibility of anthropology in this socially and culturally diverse segment of our higher educational system. Photo courtesy Guven Witteveen

