

Appendix III: Format for Interviewing Individuals
AAA Advisory Practicing Anthropology Working Group
18 May 2005 Interview Format
Format for Individuals

Introduction:

I really appreciate your taking the time to talk with me today. This conversation will probably take about half an hour. The information you provide will be kept confidential with regard to your individual identity.

A goal of the American Anthropological Association is to support practicing anthropologists such as you who are employed outside of traditional academic departments. Our Working Group is made up of six anthropologists who are employed either as non-academically based practicing anthropologists or as academic anthropologists. Some of us have held both kinds of positions. All of us are making calls such as this one.

[Ask if they would like to know who is in the Working Group.]

These members include **Tony Paredes** who holds the Practitioner/Professional Seat on the Executive Board and who works for the government; **Susan Squires**, who is Past President of NAPA and who is working for a large corporation; **Judy Tso**, who is an Executive Board member and who has a small company; **Mari Lin Salvador**, who is President of the AAA Council on Museums and who works for a museum; **Dennis Wiedman**, who held the Practitioner/Professional Seat on the Executive Board until this year, who is president-elect of NAPA and who has worked in academic administration and now holds a faculty position in a university; and **Linda Bennett** who is an Executive Board member and past president of NAPA and who works in academic administration and is chair of the committee.

As members of the AAA Practicing Advisory Working Group, we are calling selected practitioner anthropologists in order to learn about the ways that if the AAA could better provide programs and benefits to support your professional work, and if so, how. As you probably realize, anthropologists who work outside of academic settings are often called practicing anthropologists, practitioner anthropologists, or professional anthropologists. We have opted to refer to them as practitioner anthropologists in our discussion. In these conversations, we will also be addressing ways in which the AAA might be able to help enhance your

employer's recognition of your work as a practicing anthropologist. These conversations also will help us develop a questionnaire for surveying practicing anthropologists as a group. Thus, this information will be used for several purposes.

Questions:

[First, a few quick questions about your work and your organization:]

1. How long have you been employed by [organization]?
2. What is your job title and position in this organization?
3. In your position, do you supervise other anthropologists?
4. Do you get involved in hiring decisions? If so, how?
5. About how many people work in this organization?
6. How many of these are anthropologists?
7. Of these anthropologists, do you know how many are working full time/part time?
8. Are the anthropologists working there scattered among various units or clustered in a single or couple sections?
9. How would you describe your area/s of specialty within anthropology?

[Now, I have some questions about your experience with the American Anthropological Association:]

10. How well does the American Anthropological Association or any of its sections [such as....taking into account the interviewee's specialty areas within anthropology] serve anthropologists such as yourself who are employed in non-academic positions?
11. How familiar are you with the Section Assembly and the various sections within the AAA?
12. [for AAA members] Which sections do you belong to and what advantages do you see that you get from your membership in each of those sections?
13. How could the AAA better serve practitioner anthropologists such as yourself?
14. What specific benefits and services would you like to see the AAA office and its sections provide practitioner anthropologists?
 - Probes: In finding clients?
 - In promoting your services?
 - Finding a job?
 - Insurance plans?

15. What particular things might the AAA and its sections do to make their publications more useful to practitioner anthropologists such as yourself?
- Is there a new type of publication that the AAA [or a section] might develop and publish that would be useful in your work?
 - Are you aware of the fact that all AAA publications will soon be available on line through AnthroSource and that many are currently on line to members already? [Be ready to talk about this.]
16. Have you ever attended an AAA meeting? If yes, when was the last time?
17. Does your employer provide financial support and/or release time to attend AAA or other professional meetings? [Follow up]
18. Based on your attendance or knowledge about the AAA meetings, how do you think the AAA could make its annual meeting more useful to practitioner anthropologists:
19. [For those who have attended in the last five years]:
What draws you to attend the annual meetings? What would make you want to continue in the future?
20. [For those who have not attended in the last five years]:
What would it take to persuade you to attend another AAA annual meeting in the future?

[Next I have a couple questions about your involvement in professional organizations generally:]

21. What other professional organizations do you belong to?
- Do any of these serve your needs better than the AAA?
 - If so, what is it that they do well for you?
 - How much do you pay for your annual membership(s)?
 - What do they provide for that membership fee?

[Finally, a couple wrap-up questions]

22. Whom might we talk with in your organization/company or elsewhere (e.g., HR people, CEOs, line managers, etc.) who could help us better understand how the AAA could become more responsive to the needs of anthropologists who work outside academia and outside of research institutions that typically hire anthropologists? Those individuals who would be responsible for:

- Making hiring decisions generally
- Would be in a position to hire anthropologists in your organization/company

- Be responsible for explaining the value of anthropology/anthropologists in your organization/company
- Be responsible for justifying the investment in anthropologists in your organization/company
- Be interested in utilizing anthropologists effectively in your organization/company
- Be interested in what the AAA might offer the organization/company through a corporate membership

23. Can you think of anything that I haven't asked you about today that is important as we consider ways in which the AAA could better meet the needs and interests of anthropologists who work outside of academia and for the organizations that employ them?

Thanks so much for taking so much time to talk with me today.