

**AAA/CoPAPIA 2009 MA Career Survey  
Preliminary Data Sheet 1**

Between May and September 2009, the AAA Committee on Practicing, Applied, and Public Interest Anthropology (CoPAPIA) conducted a survey to discover career and educational information on Masters level anthropologists. The tables displayed here should be considered preliminary data releases, and are focused primarily on respondent demographics.

Potential respondents to the AAA/CoPAPIA MA 2009 Career Survey were asked to meet certain criteria that were stipulated in distribution messages, on the AAA website, and on the survey introduction: they should have received their MAs in anthropology, prior to 2008, from a North American institution. The first two tables show how respondents were categorized by the date and place of their MA degree, and how the final numbers for analysis were derived. (Note: For reader convenience, the abbreviation "MA" will be used here for all Masters level degrees, including MAA and MS degrees.)

Table 1 shows the first criteria, date of graduation and degree specialty. Of the total of 883 survey respondents, 798 met the criteria by the date and type of their degrees. The remaining 85 either graduated too late, did not have an MA degree in anthropology, or it could not be determined when they graduated.

| <b>Table 1<br/>Breakdown of All Survey Respondents by Graduation Year</b> |            |
|---|------------|
| Total Number of Survey Respondents  | 883        |
| <b>Respondents obtaining degree before 2008</b>                           | <b>798</b> |
| Respondents obtaining degree in 2008                                      | 78         |
| Unable to ascertain MA graduation date, non MA, or MA not in anthropology | 7          |

Table 2 shows a second criterion, institution of MA degree. The data entered for each of the 798 respondents who received their MAs in anthropology before 2008 were examined, and 758 were determined to have graduated from a North American institution. There were 40 others who graduated from a non-North American institution, or their institutions could not be determined. The final number of respondents who qualify to be used in the primary analysis is 758. (Note: Two respondents graduated from the American University of Cairo. After university curriculum review the committee determined AU Cairo could be qualified as a North American institution.)

| <b>Table 2<br/>Breakdown of Survey Respondents by Location</b>  |            |
|---|------------|
| Those who met date/type criteria of MA degree<br>(from Table 1)   | 798        |
| US institutions   | 725        |
| Canadian institutions   | 29         |
| Mexican institutions  | 2          |
| American University Cairo   | 2          |
| <b>Total respondents who met criteria, to be used in main survey analysis</b>   | <b>758</b> |
| Graduating institution countries for other respondents: China (1), India (3), South Africa (1), Turkey, (1), UK (8), Unknown (26) | 40         |

From this point forward, the information presented here will be based only on the 758 respondents who met the announced criteria to take the survey. It should be noted that not all respondents answered all questions; therefore, the frequencies for many questions will fall below 758.

### Decade of Graduation

Table 3 shows the breakdown of respondents by decade, by both frequency and as a percentage of total respondents.

**Table 3**  
**Decade of Graduation for Respondents (n=758)**

| Decade | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------|-----------|------------|
| 2000s  | 379       | 50%        |
| 1990s  | 203       | 27%        |
| 1980s  | 108       | 14%        |
| 1970s  | 54        | 7%         |
| 1960s  | 14        | 2%         |

### University Issuing MA Degree

Respondents graduating with MAs from 142 different North American universities completed the survey. Top universities represented are shown in Table 4 by frequencies and as a percentage of all respondents (n=758). Each of the universities in the Table 4 had over 20 respondents in the survey. It is important to note that together, these six make up one third of the entire respondent pool. Following this, Table 5 shows institutions outside the US, followed by the top 30 US institutions.

**Table 4**  
**Top Six Degree-Granting Universities of Survey Respondents**

| University                  | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| University of Memphis       | 61        | 8%         |
| Northern Arizona University | 53        | 6.99%      |
| University of Maryland      | 45        | 5.94%      |
| University of South Florida | 32        | 4.22%      |
| University of Arizona       | 30        | 3.96%      |
| American University         | 22        | 2.9%       |

**Table 5**  
**Canadian, Mexican, and US Institutions Represented by Survey Respondents**

| <b>Institution Issuing Degree</b>                   | Number of respondents from that university |
|---|--|
| <b>Part 1<br/>Canadian and Mexican Institutions</b> | <b>Frequency</b>                           |
| Memorial University of Newfoundland                 | 8  |
| Trent University                                    | 4  |
| University of Alberta                               | 3  |
| University of British Columbia                      | 2  |
| University of Manitoba                              | 2  |
| University of Northern British Columbia             | 2  |
| University of Victoria                              | 2  |
| Carleton University                                 | 1  |
| McMaster University                                 | 1  |
| Universite de Montreal                              | 1  |
| Université Laval, Quebec                            | 1  |
| University of Western Ontario                       | 1  |
| Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan                     | 1  |
| University of the Americas                          | 1  |

| <b>Part 2<br/>US Institutions</b>         |    |
|---|----|
| University of Memphis                     | 61 |
| Northern Arizona University               | 53 |
| University of Maryland                    | 45 |
| University of South Florida               | 32 |
| University of Arizona                     | 30 |
| American University                       | 22 |
| Unknown US Institution                    | 21 |
| Western Washington University             | 14 |
| University of Wisconsin Milwaukee         | 12 |
| Arizona State University                  | 11 |
| Georgia State University                  | 11 |
| San Diego State University                | 11 |
| University of Arkansas                    | 11 |
| Ball State University                     | 10 |
| University of New Mexico                  | 10 |
| University of Nebraska                    | 9  |
| George Washington University              | 8  |
| State University of New York, Binghamton  | 8  |
| University of Florida                     | 8  |
| University of Tennessee Knoxville         | 8  |
| Catholic University of America            | 7  |
| California State University, Long Beach   | 7  |
| Florida State University                  | 7  |
| Louisiana State University                | 7  |
| University of California, Los Angeles     | 7  |
| University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill | 7  |
| University of Alaska Fairbanks            | 7  |
| University of Kentucky                    | 7  |
| University of North Texas                 | 7  |
| University of South Carolina              | 7  |

## Respondent Demographics

A number of demographic questions were asked of respondents. The next several tables (following pages) quantify the results by respondent frequencies and as a percentage of the responses to the individual question. Note that not all respondents answered all questions.

**Table 6**  
**Age Range of Respondents**

| Age range       | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| 20 – 29         | 79        | 10%     |
| 30 – 39         | 288       | 38%     |
| 40 – 49         | 145       | 19%     |
| 50 – 59         | 155       | 21%     |
| 60 – 69         | 81        | 11%     |
| 70 – 79         | 7         | 1%      |
| Total responses | 755       |         |
| Did not answer  | 3         |         |

**Table 7**  
**Gender of Respondents**

| Gender          | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| Female          | 496       | 66.4%   |
| Male            | 247       | 33.2%   |
| Other           | 3         | 0.4%    |
| Total Responses | 746       |         |
| Did not answer  | 12        |         |

**Table 8**  
**Family Status of Respondents**

| Family Status            | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Married/domestic partner | 508       | 68%        |
| Single                   | 149       | 20%        |
| Divorced/separated       | 77        | 10%        |
| Widow/widower            | 6         | 1%         |
| Other                    | 4         | 1%         |
| Total Responses          | 744       |            |
| Did not answer           | 14        |            |

**Table 9**  
**Current Annual Salary Range of Respondents**

| Salary range    | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| <\$20,000       | 99        | 14%        |
| \$20 – 34,999   | 84        | 12%        |
| \$35 – 49,999   | 176       | 24%        |
| \$50 – 74,999   | 214       | 29%        |
| \$75 – 99,999   | 98        | 13%        |
| \$100 – 149,999 | 43        | 6%         |
| \$150,000+      | 15        | 2%         |
| Total           | 729       |            |
| Did not answer  | 29        |            |

## Places of Current Residence of Respondents

The current residence locations of respondents were spread geographically across 48 US states and the District of Columbia, seven Canadian provinces, and three states in Mexico. Another 19 claimed primary residence outside of North America, in 14 countries around the globe. The breakdowns are shown in the next two tables.

Table 10 contains respondent frequencies for those North American states/provinces that had at least one respondent. There were 737 responses. Not surprisingly, except for the state of California at the top position, these correspond somewhat to the universities most frequently listed by respondents and their graduate institutions.

**Table 10**  
**North American States and Provinces of Residence of Respondents**

| State/Province       | Frequency |
|----------------------|-----------|
| California           | 70        |
| Tennessee            | 49        |
| Arizona              | 47        |
| Maryland             | 44        |
| Florida              | 43        |
| New York             | 40        |
| Washington           | 35        |
| North Carolina       | 32        |
| District of Columbia | 25        |
| Texas                | 22        |
| New Mexico           | 21        |
| Virginia             | 21        |
| Georgia              | 19        |
| Alaska               | 17        |
| Massachusetts        | 17        |
| Indiana              | 15        |
| Ohio                 | 15        |
| Colorado             | 13        |
| Illinois             | 12        |
| Oregon               | 12        |
| Arkansas             | 10        |
| Michigan             | 10        |
| Hawaii               | 9         |
| Kentucky             | 9         |
| Ontario              | 9         |
| Pennsylvania         | 9         |
| Mississippi          | 8         |
| Wisconsin            | 8         |
| British Columbia     | 6         |
| North Dakota         | 6         |
| South Carolina       | 6         |
| Alberta              | 5         |
| Connecticut          | 5         |
| Iowa                 | 5         |
| Kansas               | 5         |
| Missouri             | 5         |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| New Jersey    | 5 |
| Louisiana     | 4 |
| Maine         | 4 |
| Minnesota     | 4 |
| Nevada        | 4 |
| Rhode Island  | 4 |
| Alabama       | 3 |
| Idaho         | 3 |
| Montana       | 3 |
| Manitoba      | 2 |
| Nebraska      | 2 |
| Oklahoma      | 2 |
| Utah          | 2 |
| West Virginia | 2 |
| Delaware      | 1 |
| Durango       | 1 |
| Guerrero      | 1 |
| Michoacán     | 1 |
| New Brunswick | 1 |
| Nova Scotia   | 1 |
| Quebec        | 1 |
| South Dakota  | 1 |
| Wyoming       | 1 |

**Table 11**  
**Survey Respondents Currently Living Outside of North America**

From the 758 qualified survey respondents, there were 29 responses to the question about residence outside of North America; however, seven said “USA,” two said “Canada” and one said “Mexico.” Table 11 shows the frequency (n=19) of those countries remaining, in alphabetical order.

| <b>Country</b> |   |
|----------------|---|
| Afghanistan    | 1 |
| Australia      | 2 |
| Chile          | 1 |
| China          | 2 |
| Egypt          | 2 |
| Germany        | 1 |
| Honduras       | 1 |
| India          | 1 |
| Japan          | 2 |
| Kuwait         | 1 |
| New Zealand    | 1 |
| Norway         | 1 |
| Thailand       | 1 |
| United Kingdom | 2 |

## Race/Ethnicity

Respondents were asked two questions, one about their ethnic or cultural identity, another about their race (based on 2010 US Census proposed categories). There were 717 respondents coded, based on their answer to one or both questions. Of those, 687 selected a single ethnic identity, shown in Table 12. Another 30 provided multiple ethnic categories, which were usually unique for each individual, and which comprised 4 percent of the total overall respondents for the question. Percentages are comparable to other known anthropological surveys.

**Table 12**  
**Survey Respondent Ethnic Composition**

| <b>Ethnicity</b>       | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| White                  | 599              | 84%            |
| Hispanic/Latino        | 24               | 3%             |
| Other                  | 22               | 3%             |
| Black/African American | 20               | 3%             |
| Asian                  | 13               | 2%             |
| Native American        | 9                | 1%             |
| Multiple Categories    | 30               | 4%             |
| Total Responses        | 717              |                |
| Did Not Respond        | 41               |                |

## Respondent Educational Demographics

### If you earned a PhD, how long was it after your MA?

A total of 703 respondents answered this question. These results and answers to other questions indicate that about one-third of the respondents have either completed or are working on a post-Master's degree (PhD, JD, MD, etc.). These frequencies do not include additional Masters degrees (e.g., MPH).

**Table 13**  
**Respondents Working on Post-MA Degree**

|                            | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Currently working on a PhD | 103              | 14.7%          |
| < 5 years                  | 32               | 4.6%           |
| 5-10 years                 | 66               | 9.4%           |
| 11-15 years                | 10               | 1.4%           |
| 16-20 years                | 5                | 0.7%           |
| 20+ years                  | 4                | 0.6%           |
| N/A                        | 483              | 68.7%          |
| Total                      | 703              | 100.0%         |

## Degree, Year Completed, and Specialization(s)

Early in the survey, respondents were asked to indicate the primary focus of their Masters degree. The survey also provided a matrix where respondents could provide all their university degrees, years they were completed, and specializations of study. They could enter up to seven degrees. Using these two questions, all 758 respondents who met the survey criteria have been coded for their focus and highest degree. There are three primary categories: those who obtained MAs (70 percent of total), those who are currently pursuing a PhD (about 14 percent), and those who have obtained a PhD or other post-MA degree (16 percent). The groupings and frequencies are shown in Table 14.

Respondents with an archaeological focus made up the largest single specified group of MAs in the survey (n=144), and for comparison purposes they received a separate MA code breakout for analysis. The remaining focuses (cultural, applied, physical, medical, urban, etc.; n=328 as a whole) did not *individually* constitute a large or clearly defined enough group to be separated, and were left together as a single group for various comparisons.

For example, MA respondents selected “cultural” and “applied” focuses frequently, but often combined these with multiple other focuses, such as medical, physical, urban, and museum specialties, and determining a single focus was not possible. Thus, this group as a whole constitutes a larger combined group than those with only an archaeological focus, as seen in the table.

A third group of MAs identified themselves as four-field MAs, or did not specify a focus of their MA degree.

**Table 14**  
**Current Educational Status of Survey Respondents (n=758)**

| Highest Degree Obtained   | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|-----------|------------|
| MA, archaeological focus  | 144       | 19%        |
| MA, cultural, applied, physical, and other specified focuses          | 328       | 43%        |
| MA, not able to determine or four fields                              | 50        | 7%         |
| PhD student, cultural, applied, physical, and other specified focuses | 26        | 3%         |
| PhD student, archaeological focus                                     | 11        | 1%         |
| PhD student, non-anthropology focus                                   | 17        | 2%         |
| PhD student, subject not specified                                    | 62        | 8%         |
| PhD, cultural, applied, physical, and other specified focuses         | 70        | 9%         |
| PhD, archaeological focus   | 27        | 4%         |
| PhD, MD, JD, etc., non-anthropology focus                             | 20        | 3%         |
| PhD, not specified  | 3         | 0%         |

End of data sheet 1.

See the AAA CoPAPIA survey web page for a list of other available documents.