



CONTACT:

Jennifer Steffensen,
AAA Media Relations,
703-528-1902 x 3039
jsteffensen@aaanet.org

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**'Pulse of the Planet' Series Sets Agenda for National Debate:
New Op-Ed Column in CounterPunch Magazine**

While America prepares for a new president in 2009, scholars from the American Anthropological Association (AAA) are calling in the experts for a critical assessment on the state of the planet.

In a new media collaboration, anthropologists from the 2008 AAA Annual Meeting double session, "Pulse of the Planet—Human Rights, Environment and Social Justice in the 21st Century" are teaming up with CounterPunch, the online news magazine, to launch an op-ed column that will reshape public debates on some of the biggest issues facing the U.S. and the world today.

From global climate change and the human rights disasters that accompany violent storms and droughts to the increasing assaults on biodiversity and cultural diversity in the name of economic, energy, food, and national "security," the "Pulse of the Planet" op-ed column takes a probing look at the ulcerating conditions that are driving up the planetary pulse and asks the question: Where are we going, and at what price? Collectively, these anthropologists urge our leaders to rethink the meaning of security and the role of government in achieving a sustainable and healthy way of life.

"Pulse of the Planet," the op-ed column, features articles by scholars from the scheduled AAA 2008 annual meeting double session, "Pulse of the Planet – Human Rights, Environment and Social Justice in the 21st Century," a presidential panel organized by Barbara Rose Johnston and Gregory Button and co-sponsored by the Committee for Human Rights and the Anthropology and Environment section.

A presentation and discussion of the articles will take place at the "Pulse of the Planet" conference session during the 2008 AAA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Calif., Nov. 19-23.

"Pulse of the Planet" essays will be published on the CounterPunch website. In the interest of wide dissemination of the series, articles also will be cross-published in relevant journals and other print or online publications.

To read the premier "Pulse of the Planet" op-ed by Barbara Rose Johnson: "Dam Legacies, Damned Futures?" go to <http://www.counterpunch.org/johnston05242008.html>.

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Founded in 1902, the American Anthropological Association is the world's largest professional organization of anthropologists and others interested in anthropology, with an average annual membership of more than 10,000. The Arlington, Va.-based association represents all specialties within anthropology — cultural anthropology, biological (or physical) anthropology, archaeology, linguistics and applied anthropology.

2200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22201-3357
Tel 703-528-1902
Fax 703-528-3546
www.aaanet.org