



**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Steffensen,  
AAA Media Relations,  
703-528-1902 x 3039  
[jsteffensen@aaanet.org](mailto:jsteffensen@aaanet.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Women in Anthropology Continue to Face Barriers: New Report Released by Committee on Status of Women in Anthropology

Gender equality has not been achieved in academia, according to an academic climate report released this week by the American Anthropological Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Anthropology (COSWA).

The report, which involved an online survey and year-long analysis by four faculty members and seven research assistants, found that overall, men experienced their work environment more positively than women. Men found their departments to be more supportive in the areas of grant applications, course design and advising, and were more likely to have a positive experience with mentoring and collegiality.

Qualitative findings also indicated that women were sometimes faced by an implicit "women's role" which saddled women with additional duties, especially administrative tasks and student advising. Women commented on the continued strength of an "old boy's network" and noted that their contributions were sometimes not recognized as easily as those of their male colleagues.

Women respondents were less often married than men and had fewer children, although they reported having greater childcare responsibilities than male respondents. In addition, women were more likely to have interrupted their careers or anticipated a career interruption due to familial obligations.

Despite significant gender inequalities, women were found to have several advantages. These included: easier rapport during fieldwork, participation in informal women's support networks, easier access to feminist theory, and better rapport with students.

The COSWA report presents findings from an online survey to AAA faculty members conducted between 2005-2006. Analysis of the survey took place between 2006-2007 and the report was written in early 2008. The report covers gender and race differences in appointment status, work environment, work-family issues, advantages of being a woman, job satisfaction, and recommendations for further research. The full report is available online at <http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/coswa/COSWASurveys.cfm>.

COSWA is a special committee of the American Anthropological Association created to monitor gender discrimination within the discipline. Over the past twenty-five years, it has produced surveys, introduced resolutions at American Anthropological Association business meetings and kept the discipline informed about progress in gender parity within academic employment.

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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.*

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2200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600  
Arlington, VA 22201-3357  
Tel 703-528-1902  
Fax 703-528-3546  
[www.aaanet.org](http://www.aaanet.org)