

**Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists (SOLGA)
2005 Annual Report**

Submitted by Co-Chairs Rudolf Gaudio and Mary L. Gray
February 2006

In 2005 SOLGA and its members continued to take an active part in, and made significant contributions to, the work of the AAA and the field of anthropology. In quantitative terms our membership fluctuated but remained at roughly the same level as in previous years; prior to the annual meeting in December, the membership stood at 221—down slightly from 238 in late 2005. Meanwhile, the balance of funds in our account increased from \$9,112.59 to \$11,258.26. One factor that may have contributed to the decline in membership and expenses is the disruption caused by the relocation and rescheduling of the 2004 annual meeting.

Elections and Officers

SOLGA is co-chaired by two persons of differing gender identities. Having been appointed as Co-Chair in October 2004, Christa Craven (George Mason U) completed her term in December 2005, and Mary L. Gray (Indiana U) was elected by the membership to succeed her. Rudolf Gaudio (Purchase College, SUNY) completed the first year of his two-year term as the other Co-Chair.

2005 Board Members

Co-Chair: Christa Craven (ccraven@gmu.edu)
Co-Chair: Rudolf Gaudio (rudolf.gaudio@purchase.edu)
Treasurer/SOLGAN Editor: Todd White (ctgrant@pacbell.net)
Secretary: Thamora Fishel (tfishel@csulb.edu)
Anthropology News Editor/Website Manager: David Houston (dlrh@uvm.edu)
Benedict Prize Chair: Frank Proschan (proschanf@si.org)
Payne Prize Chair: Ellen Lewin (ellen-lewin@uiowa.edu)
Previous Co-Chair: Tom Boellstorf (tboellst@uci.edu)
Program Co-Editor: Jeff Maskovsky (jeff_maskovsky@qc.cuny.edu)
Program Co-Editor: Sarah Hill (sarah.hill@wmich.edu)
Student Board Member: Diana Pash (dpash@ucla.edu)

2006 Board Members

Co-Chair: Rudolf Gaudio (rudolf.gaudio@purchase.edu)
Co-Chair: Mary L. Gray (mlg@indiana.edu)
Interim Treasurer: Karen Kelsky (kelsky@uiuc.edu)
Interim Secretary: Marcia Ochoa (marcia8a@ucsc.edu)
SOLGAN Editor: William Leap (wlm@american.edu)
Anthropology News Editor/Website Manager: David Houston (dlrh@uvm.edu)
Benedict Prize Chair: Megan Sinnott (megan.sinnott@yale.edu)
Payne Prize Chair: Tom Boellstorf (tboellst@uci.edu)
Previous Co-Chair: Christa Craven (ccraven@gmu.edu)
Program Co-Editor: Sarah Hill (sarah.hill@wmich.edu)
Program Co-Editor: Gabriella Modan (modan.1@osu.edu)
Student Board Member: Diana Pash (dpash@ucla.edu)

Annual Meeting Program

The SOLGA Program Committee—Co-Editors Jeff Maskovsky (Queens College/CUNY) and Sarah Hill (Western Michigan U) along with Gabriella Modan (Ohio State U), Naisargi N. Dave (U Michigan) and Margot Weiss (Duke U)—put together the program for the 2005 Annual Meetings in Washington, D.C. SOLGA sponsored seven panels, a roundtable discussion, and a Presidential Session on same-sex marriage that had originally been scheduled for the 2004 Annual Meetings in San Francisco.

Session titles were: *Queer Subjects: Boundaries in Question* (chair: Madalaine Adelman); *Bringing the Past (Back) into the Present: Exploring the Present Tense of History in Queer Lives – Part I, Part II and Roundtable Discussion* (Invited Session; organizers: Mary L. Gray & William L. Leap); *Histories of Sexual Citizenship* (chair: Robert Lorway); *Marry, Marry Quite Contrary: Pasts, Presents, Futures of Alliance, Here and There* (organizers: Lucinda Ramberg & Christopher Roebuck); *Queering Social Movements Research: Ethnographic Views of LGBTQ Activism* (organizers: Megan Davidson & Brian Riedel); *The Echo of Queer Voices* (organizer: Michelle Carnes); *What's All the Fuss About Same-Sex Marriage?: Myths, Realities, and Controversies About Family and Marriage in America* (Presidential Session; organizers: Christa Craven & Jeff Maskovsky).

Prize Competitions

SOLGA sponsors two annual prize competitions. The **Ruth Benedict Prize** is awarded annually for an outstanding anthropological monograph on a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered topic. (The Benedict prize for an outstanding anthology is awarded every two or three years.) This year's prize committee consisted of Frank Proschan (Chair, Smithsonian Inst), Megan Sinnott (Yale U) and Gracia Clark (Indiana U). The 2005 Benedict Prize was awarded to Tom Boellstorff (UC-Irvine) for *The Gay Archipelago: Sexuality and Nation in Indonesia* (Princeton U Press, 2005).

The **Kenneth Payne Student Paper Prize** is a cash grant awarded for a student paper of exceptional merit. This year's Payne Prize Committee was Ellen Lewin (Chair, U Iowa), Martin Manalansan (U Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) and Cymene Howe (SF State U). The 2005 Payne Prize was awarded to Tomi Castle (U Iowa) for the paper, "Sexualizing Citizenship: Identity Politics and Notions of the 'Ideal Citizen' in a Brazilian Lesbian Rights Organization."

The SOLGAN

Under Todd White's editorship, one issue of the *SOLGAN*, our newsletter, was published and distributed in 2005. At the annual business meeting, William Leap (American U) was elected to head a work group charged with transitioning the *SOLGAN* from its current format to a more dynamic forum for scholarly and intellectual exchange among and beyond the member base. The work group will discuss the future directions of the publication, including its possible transformation into a joint publishing effort with other allied sections of the AAA. During this reformulation stage, the *SOLGAN* will no longer be issued as a paper-

based newsletter. Leap will report back with updates and action items for discussion at the 2006 SOLGA business meeting.

SOLG@online

Maintenance of SOLGA's website (www.solga.org) passed from C. Todd White (U Southern California) to David Houston (U Vermont). Currently, SOLG@online hosts the SOLGA Mentoring File (see below) and provides information on SOLGA's history, its bylaws, current officers, the minutes of past business meetings, prize announcements and winners, links to websites of interest, and other information and resources useful to SOLGA's current and prospective members.

Mentor File

SOLGA maintains a Mentoring File that aims to provide a LGBTQ scholarly mentoring network for undergraduate and graduate students. In 2005 Diana Pash (UCLA) managed the Mentoring File, which is available on our website at <http://homepage.mac.com/ctgrant/solga/Mentors/mentormain.html>.

Listserv

Our section listserv (SOLGA-L@american.edu) is maintained by Michelle Carnes (American U). Members and other allies may subscribe by going to <http://homepage.mac.com/ctgrant/solga/listserv.html>.

AN column

Thanks to the unflagging energies of David Houston (U Vermont) as Contributing Editor, in 2005 SOLGA's monthly AN column not only conveyed important information relevant to SOLGA's activities within the AAA; it also drew insightful and provocative connections between a number of national controversies and the work we do as anthropologists of sexuality. Some of these issues, such as the antigay legislation in Virginia, were clearly LGBT-related, while others, such as the horrifying aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, spoke more broadly to questions of cultural difference and the connection between epistemological and political authority.

Leadership within the AAA

SOLGA and its members continued to address issues of professional concern to LGBTQ anthropologists as members of the AAA, with several SOLGA members serving the Association in AAA-wide offices: William Beeman (Brown U), on the Operations Committee; Christa Craven (George Mason U), on the Commission on Governance; Jeff Maskovsky (Queens College/CUNY), on the Nominations Committee; Karen Nakamura (Macalester C), on the Committee on Minority Issues in Anthropology and on the Committee on Ethics; and David Valentine (U Minnesota), on the Committee for Human Rights.

In addition, SOLGA officers and members were active on the executive boards of numerous other AAA Sections: Florence Babb (U Iowa), President-elect of the Association for Feminist Anthropology; William Beeman (Brown U), board member of the Middle East Section; Evelyn Blackwood (Purdue U), board member of the

Association for Feminist Anthropology; Matti Bunzl (U Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), board member of the American Ethnological Society; Lawrence Cohen (UC Berkeley), board member of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology; Doug Feldman (SUNY-Brockport), board member of the Society for Medical Anthropology; Gracia Clark (Indiana U), President-elect of the Association for Africanist Anthropology; Jeff Maskovsky (Queens College/CUNY), President-elect of the Society for the Anthropology of North America; Bill Maurer (UC Irvine), President-elect of the Association of Political and Legal Anthropology and board member of the Society for Cultural Anthropology; and Anne Zeller (U Waterloo), President-elect of the Society for Visual Anthropology.

Future Plans and Activities

In 2006 SOLGA will continue to organize sessions for the AAA Annual Meetings, conduct its annual student paper and book prize competitions, maintain its website and listserv, encourage use of the SOLGA Mentor File, and publish columns in the *Anthropology News*. SOLGA will also be working with AnthroSource to be certain that it has a complete run of back issues of the *SOLGAN* and its predecessor, the *Newsletter of the Anthropology Research Group on Homosexuality*, for digital conversion and on-line access. (AnthroSource currently provides access to four issues, from 1998 and 2003.) As SOLGA enters its eighth year as an official AAA section, a work group headed by William Leap will explore the various contributions that the *SOLGAN* might be able to make to the work its members do as teachers and scholars, and to the ongoing development of the anthropology of sexuality in relation to the broader field.