

## **SUNTA Presidents' Report 2005**

**Susan Greenbaum**

This has been an unusual year. The cancellation of the 2004 meetings in San Francisco and the rather inept effort to move them to Atlanta resulted in a large reduction in our sessions and deferral of prizes for 2004 until this year. We held a board meeting in Atlanta that was attended by enough of the board members to make critical decisions, but there was no business meeting until March in Santa Fe (with the SfAA meetings), when I was unable to attend. Actually, only three board members made it to that meeting, and we have no official minutes for this past year. The interlocutor session (Translocal Links and Power in Place: Dialogue with Michael Peter Smith; organized by Alan Smart) was held in Santa Fe, as were a few other sessions we had organized. The Leeds Prize was delayed, and will be awarded this year at the business meeting. There will be a further delay in this year's award. The committee for last year was taken over by Catherine Lutz, who won the prize in 2003. Bob Rotenberg agreed to chair the committee for this year, but the award will not be ready by the meetings, because the books were not received until quite recently. I hope we will be back on track in all respects next year.

*Elections.* We have three new officers this year, and the by-laws amendment permitting email voting passed. Elzbieta Gozdzia (Georgetown) was elected Secretary for a second term; Russell Sharman (Brooklyn College) was elected Councilor; and Julie Adkins (Southern Methodist University) was elected Student Councilor. We welcome their arrival, and thank outgoing Councilors, Don Nonini and Peter Lawson. This year, we will need to quickly assemble a nominating committee to search for candidates for President-elect and a Councilor to replace Hillarie Kelly.

Emily Schultz, Editor of *C&S*, will complete her term this spring. We are searching for a new editor; Emily, Jack Kugelmass, and David Haines comprise the committee. Emily also suggested that we might consider changing our by-laws to address editorial succession.

*Membership.* SUNTA's membership has declined by nearly 10% since this time last year; 774 in October '04 and 687 in October '05. These are only two points, and there has been fluctuation over the year to a high of 779 in April, and the current number which is the lowest of the year.

Some of this decline may be a more general response to the problems AAA experienced last year with the meetings fiasco. However, it bears watching and we should consider how to boost our membership for the coming year.

Elzbieta Gozdzia, our Secretary, has suggested we take steps to raise the visibility of SUNTA in the pages of AN. I agree that this is something we should try to do. It could aid in recruiting more members as well.

*Leeds Award.* The winner of the 2004 Leeds Prize is Nancy Abelmann for *The Melodrama of Mobility: Women, Talk, and Class in Contemporary South Korea*

(University of Hawai'i Press, 2003). Honorable mention goes to Aihwa Ong for her book *Buddha in Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, and the New America* (University of California Press, 2003). The committee consisted of Catherine Lutz (chair), Ted Bestor, and Kim Hopper.

*Invited sessions for 2005.*

**Interlocutor session:** "Washington, D.C. and the Landscape of Fear," with Richard Longstreth, an architectural historian, with comments by Cindi Katz, a geographer, and three SUNTA members (James Holston, Setha Low, and Geoffrey White). This was organized by Mary Hancock.

"Immigrants and the Practice of Citizenship." A comparative U.S. / Europe session organized by Deborah Reed-Danahay and Caroline Brettell. This is co-sponsored by the Society for the Anthropology of Europe.

"Global Childhood." A panel on child fostering among transnational migrants organized by Cati Coe and Rachel Reynolds.

#### **SUNTA Treasurer Report (DRAFT for Board)**

Compiled for the 2005 AAA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC

Treasurer: Anne Lewinson

In this report, I will provide a summary of SUNTA's total revenue and expenditures for 2005, and then summarize our projected expenses for 2006. The AAA only has provided figures up through September, however I also will include projected expenses up to the end of 2005. As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, SUNTA's revenues were **\$15,430**, and non-journal-related expenditures were \$1,797. In October, we requested checks totaling \$1,000 for the 2004 and 2005 Student Paper prizes and the 2004 Leeds prize. In addition, the journal had expenses totaling \$7,965.35 as of the end of September 2005, so SUNTA's total expenditures as of the end of October 2005 were **\$10,762.35**. I believe there will be another \$7,965.35 expenses for this year's second issue of the journal (we need to confirm this prediction with Emily), as well as expenditures for the annual meeting such as paying up to \$1,000 for the student Councilor's expenses, so I anticipate SUNTA's total expenditures for 2005 to be **19,727.70**.

Our current fund balance is \$69,357.54, thanks to a large surplus from prior years. This balance will cover the shortfall in SUNTA's 2006 budget, which has projected expenses of **\$21,460** with only estimated revenues of **\$18,085** from dues. There will continue to be substantial expenses for the journal, so SUNTA can anticipate needing to draw on that balance for the next few years. As well, we still do not know what revenues will be obtained from AnthroSource and whether those revenues will ultimately equal the expenses of printing the journal through UCal Press. We therefore should wait another year or two before expending substantial amounts of our reserve. However, we could consider canceling one of the scheduled increases in dues, especially since SUNTA had a

noticeable drop in the number of student members in the past month. By keeping our dues lower, we can perhaps attract students to choose SUNTA as the one AAA section to which they belong.

### **EDITOR'S REPORT, 2005** Emily Schultz; Editor, *City & Society*

**1. The transition to AnthroSource.** During 2005, UCPress has provided printing, fulfillment, marketing, copyright assignment and permissions for the journal. Additional services will be added in 2006 to permit full deep-searching functionality. Our relationship with the Journals Division at UC Press continues to be excellent.

**2. New Editor.** My term as Editor of *City & Society* ends this winter. I have enjoyed my years as editor, and I am pleased with what we have been able to achieve. During my tenure, the journal's publication schedule became regularized, and we successfully made the transition to UC Press. Associate Editor, Petra Kuppinger helped things to go smoothly and Production Editor Robert Lavenda made each issue look beautiful. I thank them both warmly for their helping to produce a journal of which SUNTA can be proud.

The new editor will no longer be responsible for electronically typesetting each issue of the journal, a task which will be assumed by UC Press. However, the choice Jack Kugelmass made to go electronic several years ago was a sound one, saving SUNTA the heavy in-house editorial expenses that other AAA sections were forced to absorb prior to the journal's move to UC Press.

SUNTA President Susan Greenbaum asked me to form a search committee to choose the next editor. It consists of Jack Kugelmass, David Haines, and myself. We advertised the position on the URBANTH listserv and received four complete applications. After discussing the applications at length, the committee has decided to interview the four applicants at the annual meeting. We agreed that taking a bit longer to make our decision made sense. Since I have already agreed to stay involved with the production of Volume 18.1 (summer 2006), this delay should not interfere with journal production and a smooth transition to the new editor.

This experience suggests to me that it would be a good idea for the SUNTA board to consider amendments to the by-laws that would institutionalize editorial successions, basing our policies on the best practices of other established AAA journals.

### **SUNTA 2005 Program Committee Report; David Haines, Chair**

**Interlocutor session:** Based on a call to the membership and an email discussion among the officers, SUNTA decided on an interlocutor session organized by Mary Hancock and focusing on the work of Richard Longstreth, an architectural historian. "Washington, D.C. and the Landscape of Fear" includes as discussants Cindi Katz, Mark Leone, Setha Low, James Holston, and Geoffrey White.

There was also some sympathy among board members and from a few interested general members for interlocutor sessions that would focus on refugees/immigrants or on more governmental Washington resources. The consensus, however, was that Mary Hancock's session was both interesting and especially appropriate to this year's meeting in Washington.

***Invited sessions:*** SUNTA established a March 1 date for submission of panels for invited status. This was meant to establish a common framework with other sections in case of potential co-sponsorship. This was discussed at the program committee meeting in Atlanta but unfortunately never communicated to the many section program chairs who were not at the meeting.

There were six formal submissions for SUNTA invited status. These were reviewed by the program committee (Haines, Kelly, Nonini) and, based on rather consistent scoring, the two chosen were "Global Childhood" (organized by Rachel Reynolds and Cati Coe) and "Immigrants and the Practice of Citizenship" (organized by Deborah Reed-Danahay and Caroline Brettell). The latter is a double session co-sponsored by the Society for the Anthropology of Europe. I would note parenthetically that this co-sponsorship was based on a productive collegial interaction with the SAE program chair, Mark Ingram.

These two sessions, combined with the interlocutor session, yielded a rather well-balanced set of invited panels in terms of the various SUNTA constituencies.

***Individually volunteered papers and posters:*** There were 43 individually volunteered papers and 5 posters submitted for review by SUNTA. This total included 9 papers which were double-submitted (or perhaps double-processed) as a panel. So, in effect, there were only 34 papers and 5 posters. These were reviewed by two members of the program committee (one member had competing commitments), resulting in acceptance of all of the papers and posters. 20 were classified as "A" status, 15 as "B" status, and 4 as "C" status.

The accepted papers and posters were then organized into 6 paper sessions and 1 poster session. The organization into sessions was based on a combination of topic and relative scoring.

***Sessions (including constructed sessions):*** There were 22 volunteered sessions submitted for SUNTA review. In addition there were the 6 constructed paper sessions and the 1 poster session noted above. All of these were reviewed by the program committee (Haines, Kelly, Nonini) with the following results. One session was rejected as incomplete (and this was discussed directly with the session organizer). The remaining 28 sessions were accepted. Twelve of the sessions were rated as "A" status; 15 as "B" status, and 1 as "C" status. The SUNTA percentage of "A" panels was 41 percent, fairly close to the AAA recommended level of 40 percent.

Of the six constructed paper sessions: 3 were rated as “A”; and 3 as “B.” The net effect of the rating system used this year thus seemed to roughly equalize the ratings for individually volunteered papers and those in organized sessions.

Note that these figures do not include the invited sessions. Including the invited sessions, the total of “A” panels would be 15, or 47 percent of the total.

The list of sessions, below, was posted to the SUNTA web site.

***Society for Urban, National and Transnational/Global Anthropology: Llist of sessions for 2005 AAA annual meeting***

***Wednesday, November 30***

- Locating Cultural Sites in the Transnational Circulation of Music Recordings--2:00 PM
- Space Moves--2:00 PM
- Comparative Perspectives on International Migration--4:00 PM
- Everyday Imaginary: Memory and the Narratives of Place--4:00 PM
- Urban Violence and Remembering: Reconsiderations in a Global Perspective--6:00 PM
- Cities in Transition: Past in Present and Present in Past--8:00 PM

***Thursday, December 1***

- New Diasporas; Problematic Identities--8:00 AM
- Center, Symbol, Site: Reexamining Downtown--8:00 AM
- Trumping the Nation-State: The Impact of Globalization on the State and Its Peoples--1:45 PM
- Mediterranean Cities: Space, Sociality, Nationalism and Cultural Encounters--1:45 PM
- Contemporary Migration: Inclusions and Exclusions-- 4:00 PM
- Reinscribing the State: Governmentalities of Globalization--4:00 PM
- Global Perspectives on Spatial Governmentality--7:45 PM

***Friday, December 2***

- Immigrants and the Practice of "Citizenship": Perspectives from Europe and the U.S.--8:00 AM
- Towards a "New Urban Activism": Transforming Civic Spaces, Negotiating Class in a Global Economy--10:15 AM
- ***SUNTA Business Meeting--12:15 PM***
- Global Childhood: The Use of Child Fostering among Transnational Migrants --1:45 PM
- Homelessness and Squatting: International Perspectives--1:45 PM

- Movements of Empire: Becoming Global and Other Worlds--1:45 PM
- Washington and the Landscape of Fear--4:00 PM
- *Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (CORI) Business Meeting--6:15 PM*

***Saturday, December 3***

- Coffee, Music, and Islam: New Transnational Currents--8:00 AM
- Transitions and Transformations: Economy, Culture, and Family--8:00 AM
- Ethnographies of the Proliferating Rationalities of Capital--9:45 AM
- Performing the City: Spatial Configurations of Identity and Belongingness--10:15 AM
- Urban Contestations: Space, Identity, Power and Motion--10:15 AM
- Unbound Identities, Imagined Possibilities and the Global Realities of Hip Hop--1:45 PM
- Reimagining the "Urban": The Making of Place in a Global Era--1:45 PM
- Locating Racial Formation: Urban, Regional and National Spaces in Portugal, Spain, and Cuba--4:00 PM

***Sunday, December 4***

- People in Cities: Time and Space, Structures and Movement--8:00 AM
- 'Studying Up' Revisited: Ethnography at the Nexus of Mass-Mediated Cultural Production--10:15 PM
- Contested Spaces of Youth: Remaking Public and Private Space in Late Capitalism--10:15 AM
- Time and Time Again: Destabilizing Temporal Concepts--10:15 AM

***AAA review and ratings:*** With the subsequent review by the AAA, the result was that all of the SUNTA panels were accepted, including the one “C” panel.

***Scheduling:*** This year, the AAA process also included the submission of a draft schedule of sessions. This was a trial effort reflecting, in part, the difficulties SUNTA had the previous year. The actual AAA web-based system was only organized toward A.M./P.M. distinctions, but I also submitted separately a detailed time-slot by time-slot schedule—essentially a “track A” and “track B” listing.

AAA did not follow the recommendations entirely, but the net result was still a relatively balanced spread of the 31 sessions across the length of the meeting: 6 panels on Wednesday, 7 on Thursday, 6 on Friday, 8 on Saturday, and 4 on Sunday.

***Comments on review process***

There were a variety of glitches in the processing which may merit future attention. For example:

1. Scheduling continued to be a problem. The AAA insisted that the sections schedule “A” sessions across the full range of the meeting (including Wednesday and Sunday) which exactly undermines the purpose of designating “A” sessions.
2. Oddly, the AAA does not filter into materials available to section chairs whether those with individually volunteered papers have volunteered to be session chairs. This is a handy piece of information and there is no reason it couldn’t be passed on. I thus had to make some guesses about who would be good and willing chairs for the constructed panels.
3. There were some missing abstracts for some fully registered participants. AAA corrected this but never explained how it happened.
4. There were a few double submissions. Again, these were fixed but no explanation of why this happened was provided.
5. There is no standard ordering of papers within panels, thus order of presentation does not match order of abstracts. This is more than minor, since some sessions are calibrated in the order of presentation. Reading the abstracts out of order thus undermines the review.

AAA requested us to submit written procedures. The following were reviewed by all three members of this year’s program committee, and by the last two program committee chairs as well.

*SUNTA procedures for paper and panel reviews (2005 – David Haines, Program Committee Chair)*

1. **Program committee.** SUNTA paper and panel reviews are committee based. As specified in the SUNTA bylaws, the chair of the program committee is the SUNTA president-elect. The two other committee members are one of the councilors (usually the councilor in the second year of a three-year term) and one other member of the executive board on a volunteer basis. This year, that second person was also one of the councilors.
2. **Invited sessions.** Review of proposals for invited sessions occurred before the regular AAA submission date. The date was set for March 1 and announced to the membership in January. That date reflected a consensus among section program chairs who met at the AAA meeting in Atlanta. SUNTA also organizes an annual interlocutor session (AAA roundtable format). That session is counted as one of the invited sessions but is more actively approved (and sometimes developed) by the full executive board.
3. **Preliminary review.** The committee chair (SUNTA president-elect) conducted the preliminary review of submitted sessions and papers, particularly to ensure that all had been appropriately submitted to SUNTA. There was also some informal discussion with session organizers, including prior non-binding review of draft materials.
4. **Volunteered papers.** The full set of individually volunteered papers and posters was circulated to the program committee for independent review. In 2005, SUNTA used a

quantitative dual scoring system (1-low to 10-high for technical merit and 1-low to 10-high for relevance to SUNTA concerns and to the AAA theme). Individual scores were compiled by the committee chair, rank-ordered, and divided into A, B, C, and D ratings.

5. **Organization of panels.** Based on committee review ratings and the topics of the papers, the committee chair then organized the accepted individually volunteered papers into panels, with five or six papers each. In 2005, the result was an addition of six paper sessions and one poster session.

6. **Panel review.** The complete set of panel proposals, including the SUNTA organized sessions, was then circulated to all members of the program committee for review. In 2005, this also involved a dual set of quantitative score (i.e., 1-low to 10-high for technical merit and 1-low to 10-high for relevance to SUNTA concerns and to the AAA theme). These were returned to the committee chair who compiled them, rank ordered the combined scores, and set a preliminary division into A, B, C, and D scores. Those were then reviewed against individual scorings of A, B, C, and D scores to detect any anomalies or sessions that otherwise required additional review.

7. **Scheduling.** The committee chair then developed a recommended schedule for all the SUNTA sessions. This entailed a dual track using the equivalent of two rooms from the beginning of the meeting on Wednesday afternoon to its conclusion at noon on Sunday (i.e., two time slots each on Wednesday and Sunday, and four each on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday). This left only three accepted panels and these were triple-scheduled for Saturday.

## **SUNTA Secretary's Report, 2005**

Submitted by Elzbieta M. Gozdzik  
November 15, 2005

During calendar year 2005, Binet Castelanos, CORI correspondent and I have submitted eight columns to *Anthropology News*. In addition, I have facilitated contributions from SUNTA members to an AN-wide discussion on intelligent design, natural disasters, and recent riots in France.

As noted in last year's secretary's report, AN's focus has shifted away from news and announcements to opinion pieces and short essays. AN editors see look to section editors to facilitate submission of thought pieces from their members for the printed version of AN. News should be saved for the electronic edition. Shifting gears remains a struggle as both SUNTA and CORI membership is used to seeing the AN column as a venue for publishing announcements and news. Announcements about new publications by SUNTA members dominated the column in recent months, followed by news about new research projects. Soliciting short thought pieces remains a challenge. However, despite these challenges, Binet Castelanos and I managed to publish a good combination of news and short essays, including pieces on human trafficking in Central Asia, citrus workers in Florida, and traditional healers in New York City.

**I would welcome a discussion of how we can make SUNTA members more visible on the pages of AN, both in and outside the column. Stacy Lathrop is very open to giving us additional space, particularly in the Dialogue section, and we need to take advantage of this opportunity.**

The managers of URBAN-I, Angela and Ben, have been instrumental in facilitating my communication with the wider SUNTA and CORI membership. I want to commend them for their speedy response to my requests.

While I enjoy my role as SUNTA secretary and column editor, many challenges still remain, including receiving contributions from a wider variety of members as well as more thought-provoking pieces that would jump start a discussion on a particular issue or theme. I had issued several encouragements, both electronically and in print, to that effect, but so far very few takers. I would like to explore ways in which other Board members could assist Bianet and I in soliciting contributions to the column. The column is only as good as the material we receive.

### **URBANTH-L Coordinator's Report 2005**

Angela Jancius

#### **Listserv Subscriptions**

URBANTH-L currently has 1,356 subscribers, up from 1,239 subscribers last November. Without a formal poll there is no way to track the background of our subscriber base. However, upon skimming over the subscription list I would estimate that 1 in 8 emails have non-U.S. server hosts. Of these, the largest number are from the U.K and Canada. But subscribers are also based in many other countries. For example, some email hosts are based in: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, and Uruguay. Our electronic communication network appears to be almost as transnational as our subject matter.

For the past year we have been publishing a seasonal URBANTH-L Job Guide. In addition to cross-posting scholarship and conference information we are occasionally sending out scholarly book reviews, journal table of contents, and (less frequently) relevant news articles. Several subscribers have written that they appreciate the book reviews. When *City & Society* is published we may wish to cross-publish the journal book reviews online with links to their Anthrosource urls. This could be good publicity for the journal.

URBANTH-L remains primarily a listserv for announcements. However, we have also had several interesting discussion threads this year. Ben Vergara moderated a lively discussion last May on postmodernism vs. applied research. For my own part, the most interesting experience I've had in the past year came in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina when several subscribers were able to use the listserv to network for academic

and research assistance. After posting a request for assistance in setting up demographic mapping software and other databases for a first response center in Jackson, MS, one subscriber reported that through her URBANTH-L posting she was able to obtain significant assistance.

### **Coordinating Listserv and Web site Activities**

There has been some discussion of coordinating projects that integrate listserv and web site content/functions. Two projects come to mind. The first would be to use the listserv to help build the “member profile” link on our homepage. Lem could solicit membership profiles via the listserv. If member interests were included in the survey, such a directory might, for example, help Elzbieta recruit writers for the AN column. A second project that comes to mind, a collection of Urban Anthropology syllabi, would be fairly easy to coordinate and very useful. It would simply involve sending out a call for syllabi and delivering what we receive to the webmaster.

### **2004 and 2005 SUNTA Graduate Student Prize Winners (Emanuela Guano; chair)**

SUNTA is proud to announce the selection of Susanna Rosenbaum (New York University) as the recipient of the 2005 Graduate Student Prize. Rosenbaum’s paper “Producing Selves and Places in Los Angeles” discusses the different ways immigrant *domesticas* and their native-born employers move around and inhabit Los Angeles, thus engaging and negotiating this city’s regimes of value. Honorary mentions were awarded to Emily Noonan (University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) for her “*Traje*, the Fourth of July, and Other Representations of Ethnicity and Nationalism in Discourses about Transnational Adoption,” and Austin Zeiderman (Stanford University), author of “Nature and the Politics of Space and Place: Geographies of Power and Resistance in the Urban Environment of Baltimore, Maryland.” Noonan’s paper examines how organizations, individuals, and governmental agencies involved in the adoption of Guatemala-born children by U.S. parents categorize and identify adopted children and their new families. Zeiderman’s essay discusses the dialectics between society and the urban environment in relation to urban rehabilitation projects.

Anne M. Rademacher (Yale University) received the 2004 SUNTA Graduate Student Prize for her paper “Fluid City, Solid State: Urban Environmental Territory in a State of Emergency.” Focusing on the remaking of urban environmental spaces during a State of Emergency in Kathmandu, Nepal, Rademacher’s paper describes the conflation of national security and environmental improvement.

### **2004 Leeds Prize (Catherine Lutz, Chair).**

Last year’s winner is Nancy Abelmann for *The Melodrama of Mobility: Women, Talk, and Class in Contemporary South Korea* (University of Hawai’i Press, 2003). Honorable mention goes to Aihwa Ong for her book *Buddha in Hiding: Refugees, Citizenship, and the New America* (University of California Press, 2003). The committee consisted of Catherine Lutz, Ted Bestor, and Kim Hopper.

