

Science, Technology, and Medicine (STM) Business Meeting

AAA 2016 – Minneapolis

Date: Saturday, November 19th, 2016

Location: Minneapolis Convention Center, Room: 200J

Chair: Nayantara Sheoran, The Graduate Institute-Geneva

Secretary: Danya Glabau, Brooklyn Institute for Social Research

- **Organizational Update and Officer Elections**

- We are pleased to announce a new Chair and Secretary. The membership present at the meeting agreed to create a new leadership position, Membership Coordinator.
- Danya Glabau, PhD, elected Chair
- Tanja Ahlin, 2016 paper award winner, elected Secretary
- Jenny Epstein elected Membership Coordinator (new position)

- **Updates from 2016 4S and AAA conferences**

- 4S Barcelona 2016 STM-organized panel titled, “Pharmaceuticals Out of Bounds.”
 - Organized by Christy Spackman with assistance from Danya Glabau
 - Presenters: Jia-shin Chen (National Yang-Ming University), Nina Janasik-Honkela (University of Helsinki), Christy Spackman (Harvey Mudd College)
 - Discussants: Alexa Dietrich (Wagner College) and Marianne DeLaet (Harvey Mudd College)
 - Well attended – at least 60 attendees, including Sergio Sismondo, editor of the top STS journal, Social Studies of Science. He was pleased to see STM active in 4S and enjoyed the papers and discussion
- AAA Minneapolis 2016 SMA Meeting Updates
 - Put out call for papers for a panel titled “Sex, Drugs, and Anthropology” – not enough interest to organize for AAA 2016
 - SMA multi-SIG panel titled “Refugees, Prisoners, Exiles, and Violence Exclusionary Politics” on Saturday morning
 - Next year’s SMA multi-SIG panel tentatively titled “Health, Care, and Wellbeing in Trump’s America” being organized by STM
 - Volunteers to sit on roundtable, assist with organization welcomed!

- **STM Grad Student Paper Award**

- Process – 8 papers. 3 blinded peer reviewers. 4 papers shortlisted. 1 award.
 - Reviewers: previous year’s paper winner and 1+ more reviewers with field expertise based on number of papers submitted
 - \$100 prize for 1 winner, \$75 prize each if 2 winners selected and consensus around one paper unable to be reached.
- Thank our reviewers: Samuel Taylor-Alexander, Bharat Venkat, and Christy Spackman
- This year’s winner is Tanja Ahlin, who’s paper was titled, “Only near is dear? Doing elderly care with everyday ICTs in Indian transnational families”
- Reviewer comments:

- “This is a beautifully written paper on the role of Information and Communication Technologies in “care” practices among Indian transnational families. It is both informative and a delight to read. The author uses ethnographic material to build on previous anthropological studies of aging and elderly care in India.”
 - “This is a well written, interesting, and well situated paper (especially from a methodological perspective).”
- **Funding update**
 - \$250.00 remaining after 2016 paper award
- **Membership news from SMA**
 - SMA wants prizes to go to SMA members to support enrollment, funding, and invited session allocation to SMA from AAA
 - Membership funds go to SIG prizes and SMA awards including 5 SMA grad student travel awards
 - Prize winners in future years **must be** or **sign up** for SMA membership to receive award
 - Awards can be provided by check or wire transfer
 - All AAA attendees are welcome at STM meeting and should consider SMA/STM membership
 - Listserv includes current and former STM members
 - Please consider signing up for SMA membership if it has lapsed, and select membership in the STM SIG as well
 - EVERYONE can follow our Facebook page and Twitter account (@ScienceTechMed)
 - Includes prize announcements, CFPs, call for volunteers, other selected updates
 - STM welcomes Jenny Epstein to help organize and confirm current membership list
 - Does high cost of SMA compared to many other AAA divisions impact membership? Input from STM members welcomed.
- **SMA Take-A-Stand (TAS) Initiatives**
 - TAS provides a framework for SMA members to collect and publicize scholarship-informed policy interventions of varying levels of formality
 - 2 formats
 - Policy-relevant Review (PRR): more informal, offers a chance for SIG members to review literature, write a white paper, organize a panel, start a blog, etc on a topic of relevance to public policy
 - Policy Statement: 1250-word statement informed by scholarship that makes specific policy recommendations. Vetted by SMA and voted on by SMA board. MAQ has right of first refusal for publication. Significant communications support from SMA provided.
 - Continuing with Take-A-Stand initiative on “Sex, Drugs, and Anthropology”
 - Nayantara Sheoran, Emily Wentzell, Christine Labuski leading

- Our members note that it is inspiring for younger scholars to see senior anthropologists engaging with policy
 - Please contact STM Chair Danya Glabau at danya.glabau@gmail.com if you are interested in initiating a new TAS project
- **2017 4S and AAA panels**
- SMA multi-SIG roundtable at AAA 2017: Healthcare and Well-being in Trump's America
 - STM will lead organization
 - Please contact STM if you are interested in participating
 - AAA 2017 panel idea 1: Value and Valuation in Biomedicine
 - AAA 2017 panel idea 2: The Multispecies Moment in Global Health
 - 4S 2017 panel idea: Ethical Encounters with Medical Technologies
 - Interest in co-organizing with any groups/SIGs? Science and Medicine in South Asia (SMSA), CASTAC, others?
 - Seeking mid- to senior-level scholars interested in participating as presenters or discussants on these topics
 - Panel organizing process: One STM officer "in charge" of organizing, co-organizers from STM or other SIGs encouraged to volunteer to assist
- **STM organizational infrastructure & institutional memory**
- Generate an "official" membership list with assistance from Jenny Epstein
 - Generate Institutional Memory
 - Get this information online
 - Meeting Agendas and Minutes available online
 - Continue improving social media use
 - We have a twitter account, and encourage people to 'tag' us in tweets
 - Facebook page has over 2,000 followers and growing rapidly!
- **Open floor for any pending issues/discussions**
- Submitted 2015 4S panel to Social Text for publication as a special issue, but did not work out
 - Danya: How can we harness American anthropology's interest in public intervention following the US election?
 - A call to STM members to consider writing in public fora will go out in December
 - Venues include:
 - Somatosphere – essays, book reviews, field reports, group blog post series, and more in a scholarly tone (but not as high a bar to submit as many people think!!)
 - Sapiens, a Wenner-Gren blog – publicly accessible essays about human societies
 - Savage Minds – research reports to reflections on the field of anthropology for mainly scholarly audiences

- Allegra Lab – STS, medical anthropology, legal anthropology, and more for a mixed public/academic audience
 - Peeps – narrative ethnographic essays for public audiences
 - Medicine Anthropology Theory (MAT) – several sections of their open-access journal have quicker peer review process include book reviews, Dissertating section, and other short essay formats
 - Many others – please recommend!
 - STM announcements of AAA 2016 papers of interest to community
 - We did a call for papers to announce at the AAA, followed by announcements via listserv, Facebook, Twitter. Some kinks/timing to work out for 2017.
 - Did members appreciate news about panels of possible interest?
 - Colin Cahill: Interest in incorporating more scholarship on non-human health into STM and building mentorship & scholarship network around this topic
 - Plant studies, animal studies, animal health in human/global health conversations, etc
 - Seeking recommendations of experts in these areas to involve in future STM meetings and panels
 - Welcome to 2 participant observers who attended our meeting from the local community college!!
- **Activity Summary for Upcoming Year (2016-2017)**
- Ongoing: Organize and implement SMA TAS (Take A Stand) PRR on “Sex, Drugs, and Anthropology”
 - Christine Labuski and Nayantara Sheoran (Emily Wentzell in advisory role)
 - Sex, Drugs, and Anthropology Blog, followed by panel next year, further followed by TAS and Policy Statement
 - December: call for STM writers for public anthropology websites/blogs/journals
 - January-March: CFPs for AAA 2017 and 4S 2017 circulated, find panelists for SMA SIG roundtable
 - February: 4S 2017 panel submitted
 - March: Circulate CFP for Graduate Paper Prize
 - April: AAA 2017 panel(s) and SMA SIG roundtable submitted
 - July 1: Deadline for 2017 STM Graduate Paper Prize
 - October 1: Decision reached for 2017 STM Graduate Paper Prize
 - November: AAA 2017 in Washington, DC!