

Society for Medical Anthropology
Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony
 Thursday, November 19, 2015, 6:15-8:30 PM, Denver

1. **Welcome**

- President Linda Garro welcomed new members of the SMA Board: Alexander Rödlach (incoming Treasurer), and three new at-large members: Mary Anglin, Erin Finley, and Eileen Moyer.
- She thanked the four Board members rotating off this year: Doug Henry (outgoing Treasurer), Roberta Baer (who served on many committees), Sarah Willen (who worked to develop the potential of the Communications Committee), and Alex Edmonds (who served two stints as co-chair of the Program Committee, among other tasks).
- President Garro also thanked Carolyn Merritt, who took over the role of SMA Administrative Assistant over the past year, and two volunteers: Adrienne Remmert who worked diligently with the program committee, and Lily Shapiro (U Washington graduate student) who became SMA's volunteer listserv coordinator.

2. **Treasurer's Report** (Doug Henry)

An overview of the SMA budget showed what the Society's money is spent on. Items listed include partial travel subsidies for Board members who do business, development and promotion for the SMA, all activities that support and build our society (student travel award, etc). The "miscellaneous" category allows us to be nimble, and respond to events as they arise. The journal *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* is a big item; costs for the journal have fallen since the office moved to Florida. The partial travel subsidy has also fallen. Member dues, and membership categories are rising again.

3. **Medical Anthropology Quarterly** (Clarence ['Lance'] Gravlee)

Highlights of the past year included the publication of 28 article, and 55 book reviews, with 21 more articles published online ahead of print, as well as 20 book reviews. In a sign that the reach and impact of journal are increasing, the 5-year Impact Factor increased from 1.1 to 1.4. Publishing articles online ahead of print makes a difference, especially in the immediacy index (which measures how quickly work is being cited). Big changes are afoot about AAA publishing. The last issue of this year will be the last print issue for MAQ, in 2016 it will move to digital-primacy. The journal welcomes submissions in a new article category: research reports. These are intended to be shorter, 3500 words including references, presenting new and important findings

4. **Communications Committee** (Sarah Willen)

The H-medanthro listserv was no longer serving its purpose, so the committee created new listserve for all SMA members. The "Second Opinion" newsletter is now also fully digital, with clickable links. Elizabeth Lewis is the digital media person. The committee is thinking about how we can best serve as a window onto what medical anthropologists do, as well as a portal that links us to each other.

5. **Membership Committee** (Roberta Baer)

SMA is piloting a new mentor/mentee program this year. Mentors and mentees will be asked to fill out short qualitative instrument to judge whether we should continue the program.

6. **SMA Webmaster** (Sean Bruna)

The SMA website has been slow, but will soon move to new server, and should be quicker. The Global Directory has also been relaunched. This committee is working with CDC, NIH, and other organizations to bring in professionals from outside anthropology. The program directory needs to be updated and revamped. Suggestions for how to improve the website are welcome.

7. **Special Interest Groups** (Catie Willging)

SMA's special interest groups are active, thriving and fabulous. SIG members organize panels on topics like austerity, Black Bodies Matter, and SIGs have been involved in publishing articles (such as the example of 'case' essays on Somatosphere). CAR is collaborating with AFA/COSWA on a parental leave policy statement. Plans are afoot to initiate a SIG chair website. Attendees were invited to an open business meeting for all SIGs:

<u>Special Interest Group</u>	<u>Chairs/Coordinators</u>
• AIDS and Anthropology Research Group	Charlotte Noble
• Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Study Group	Tazim Karim Daniels
• Anthropology and Mental Health Interest Group	Michael R. Duke
• Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) and Integrative Medicine (IM) Group	Emery Eaves
• Council on Anthropology and Reproduction	Sallie Han
• Critical Anthropology of Global Health	Rachel Chapman
• Disability Research Interest Group	Cassandra Hartblay, Liz Lewis, Heather Thomas, Molly Bloom
• Dying and Bereavement Special Interest Group	Margaret Souza
• Medical Anthropology Student Association	Jonathan Stillo
• Science, Technology and Medicine Interest Group	Tara Sheoran

8. **Policy Committee** (James Pfeiffer)

There has been confusion around the SMA's "Takes a Stand" initiative. A basic decision made by the Board today was that SMA will recognize two tracks: 1) a "Policy Relevant Review," in which SIG-based groups can work together to assemble bibliographies, organize panels, etc. to create a roadmap of issues and information relevant to a topic; and 2) a "Policy Statement" grounded in anthropological research that will be drafted and endorsed by the SMA. The website will be updated to reflect these changes.

9. **President's Report**

The work of all the people who make SMA run, through its various committees, was recognized and President Garro thanked them. She highlighted the work of one committee, the Future of Publishing Committee, which she has chaired. This committee has been trying to explore feasibility of

establishing relationship with a university press. Discussions have been taking place among the SMA, the AAA, and Duke U Press. The preliminary business proposal from DUP promises a sustainable publishing future for MAQ while remaining part of Anthrosource. At the same time the SMA has not closed the door to being part of AAA's larger publishing RFP. We would like to be in a position to make a decision based on a comparison of the packages offered by going with DUP or staying with the AAA's RFP. Even if we move MAQ to DUP, the SMA would need to gain approval for this from the AAA Board.

10. Discussion / Other Business

The SMA awards were publicly announced and given out. For details, see <http://www.medanthro.net/about/sma-awards/award-recipients/>

11. Presidential Address

President Garro gave a public presentation about her recent research.

12. Serenade to the Board

Bryan Page performed a song in honor of the SMA and its Board members.

13. Transfer of the gavel

Linda Garro transferred the gavel to Elisa J Sobo.

The meeting was adjourned, and members invited to stay for the reception and cash bar.