7th annual public anthropology conference

Revolutions!
building emancipatory politics and action
October 16 - 17, 2010
Revolutions!
building emancipatory politics + action

Saturday October 16

9:00-9:30  Registration + Breakfast  MGC 200

9:30-9:45  Welcome + Introduction  MGC 200
Dr. William Leap, Chair, Department of Anthropology
Graduate Students, Department of Anthropology

10:00-11:45  Panel Session 1  MGC 200

“This Land Is Your Land, This Land Is Whose Land?”
How Public Anthropologists Can Become More Deeply
Involved in Current Debates over Birthright Citizenship

Adrienne Pine, American University, Department of Anthropology
William Leap, American University, Department of Anthropology

Efforts to redefine how rights to citizenship are acquired in the U.S. setting grow out of broader efforts to restrict entry, mobility and access to social services to those whose physical labor is valued but whose physical presence is broadly demonized. Anthropologists can read these efforts as issues of bio-politics or of sovereignty. We can inflect them through the lens of critical race theory or through queer theory. And we can draw parallels with neo-apartheid structures in Southern Africa or neo-colonial formations in Central America. But we need to say something. We need to think through forms of intervention that will destabilize emerging efforts to restrict “citizenship” to statuses of whiteness, elite-ness and hetero-normative privilege. This roundtable discussion invites participants to share experiences combating the excesses of the birthright citizenship debates, and to assess options for intervention that are accessible to anthropologists working for social change.
Revolutionizing Ourselves through Self-Care: Making the Connection between Minds, Bodies, and Research

Karen Lindsey, American University, Department of Anthropology
Mahri Irvine, American University, Department of Anthropology

Graduate school and research endeavors are stressful experiences. Many students, faculty, and activists focus on very serious, often depressing topics, all while attempting to balance the demands of careers, families, friendships, and personal needs. It is easy for many of us to focus so exclusively on our careers and research that we neglect other aspects of our lives. This Self-Care Workshop is a first step in revolutionizing the ways in which we view our work environments, honestly assess how the demands of graduate school and activist research negatively impact our lives, and discuss how to address these challenges. In this workshop, we will learn about stress and burnout in graduate school and various work environments. We will discuss how depressing research topics can lead to vicarious trauma in researchers, and consider the importance of taking care of ourselves physically, psychologically, and spiritually. We will identify the warning signs of stress and learn about different self-care strategies for reducing anxieties. Participants will engage in several private assessments about the self-care that they currently engage in, and will develop an individually tailored self-care action that they can employ in the future.

Interfaith Collaborations for Social Justice

Georgeta Pourchot, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
Elisha Oliver, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church [MVUC] has a proud tradition of working for social justice. From championing civil rights in the sixties and seventies, to advocating for the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell in the 21st century, MVUC’s social justice program covers a broad area of issues, and works collaboratively with a number of inter-faith institutions. This session addresses the role of the inter-faith community in bringing about social change. Educating our congregations about social inequalities in our own backyard, bearing witness to those inequalities, serving the community in need and advocating for change by our elected representatives are the four pillars of inter-faith work. This panel include representatives of AIM [Action in Montgomery], VOICE [Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement], and the Virginia Interfaith Center, three organizations that work in MD and VA and advocate for the rights of the disenfranchised and the poor. Also included are representatives of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, describing their work to repeal Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, and a representative of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church program, to highlight international efforts to support social justice initiatives.

Films

10:00  Lekay, Brian Lee
10:30  Revival: Activism and Asian American Studies, Jacquelyn Chi
10:50  Videos on Guam and DocuActivism in DC, Hermon Farahi
11:40  50 Faggots, Randall Jenson

11:45-1:00  Lunch on your own (please see brochure)
Mindfulness and Other Mind-Body-Spirit Tools for Creating Social Justice

Debbie Norris, The Mindfulness Center

Mindfulness brings us to awareness of our core values, core values that transcend socio-cultural layers. Social justice and community activism can best be achieved through a mindful perspective of who we are, how we interact with each other, and our relationship with the environment. Mindfulness can be used to discover unity among different social elements of our world. Mindfulness strips down the layers of socio-cultural wrappings, and awakens us to know the core of who we are; if you will, the soul. We learn first to work better within ourselves; then we discover that we are all made of the same substance. We are not only alike, we are one.

Collaborative Community Development

John Parker

Drawing upon 18 years of intentional work, I will share strategies and principles for collaborative community development. By reviewing my experiences from international and domestic ethnographic research, history research, internships, foundation work, nonprofit management, community organizing, political activism, entrepreneurship, and community development, I have synthesized what I know into content that is appropriate for workshops and coaching. I aim to be helpful to other community organizers, activist anthropologists, and community development practitioners.

History, Memory, and Social Movements

Human Rights Advocacy in Egypt and Liberia
  Ally Krupar, American University

Learning from History: Revolutions, Communitas, and Nonviolence
  Edith Turner, University of Virginia, Department of Anthropology

Food Justice
  Kristina Sweet, Columbia University, Department of Anthropology

Activism & Political Protest in the Nation’s Capitol
  Niv Elis

Remembering the Lattimer Massacre
  Kristin M. Sullivan + Michael Roller, Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland

Where's the Resistance?: Radical Research and Everyday Struggle in the Crisis
  Craig Hughes, Anarchist, Activist, Co-Editor-Uses of a Whirlwind
Films

1:00  Contradicting Facebook, Charlene Shovic
1:20  Regarding Madhumitha: Analyzing the Interview of a Transgender Beauty Queen, Ted Samuel
1:50  Negotiated Identities: Diaspora Politics of Yiddish, Jenny Grubbs
2:15  The Business of Gold in Guatemala: Tale of a Conflict Foretold, Grahame Russell

2:30-3:45  Panel Session 3

Rehearsing for Revolution: A Workshop of Social Engagement and Action!

MGC 200

Laura Honeywood
Micael Bogar
Matt Schultz

As activists, we must not only understand our place and role in an allied movement for social justices but also be people of action and not merely speech. The Theatre of the Oppressed methodology, developed by Augusto Boal, has been used worldwide for this very purpose. Our session will begin with exercises and develop into brainstorming role plays. This interactive format for the session will then be a model that participants will be able to take to their own communities to rehearse for their own revolutions. Our workshop helps revolutionaries to be thoroughly prepared for social action including anticipating setbacks, formulating strategies, and rehearsing minor and major actions to create sustainable and meaningful change.

Body Politics

MGC 203/205

The Black Sexualized Politics of PETA
    Jenny Grubbs, American University, Department of Anthropology
Power, Agency, and “Choice” Ideology
    Abigail Adams, Indiana University of Penn., Department of Anthropology
Assessing Women’s Reproductive Health Needs in Arizona:
    Katie Gillespie, University of Arizona
Mental Health Consumers Rights Movement
    Charity Goodman, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, HHS
    Dianne McSwain, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, HHS
Revolutionizing Sex Education
    Meredith Zoltick, HIPS
    Jenna Mellor, HIPS
2:30-3:45 Panel Session 3 (cont)

The AAA and Emerging Technologies: Using New Media to Highlight our Discipline
MGC 245

Damon Dozier, Director of Public Affairs, American Anthropological Association
Adrienne Pine, American University, Department of Anthropology

Public anthropologists engage with a broad public through popular media, but within a much more technologically diverse milieu. In this interactive roundtable, presenters will briefly outline some of the new media initiatives being undertaken by individual anthropologists and discuss the American Anthropological Association’s digital media presence. We will then engage in a discussion with the audience about how to better take advantage of emerging technologies to bring anthropological understandings into the realm of public debate.

Films
MGC 247

3:30 Sweet Crude, Sandy Cioffi

4:00-5:15 Panel Session 4

Building a Climate Movement: Anthropology and Activism in an Era of Climate Weirding
MGC 200

Julie Maldonado, American University, Department of Anthropology
Carole Mandryk, George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication
Phil Aroneanu, Co-founder, 350.org
Liz Butler, Campaign Director, 1Sky
Kari Fulton, The Environmental and Climate Change Initiative

This panel will bring together activists and academics to discuss climate change and public communication, outreach, advocacy, capacity building and adaptation. The overall focus will be on climate activism and research and how we can reach out across sectors and disciplines to build a cohesive climate movement.

Building a Revolution, One Holla Back at a Time!
MGC 203/205

Chai Shenoy, Holla Back DC!
Shannon Lynberg, Holla Back DC!

What is street harassment? Shouldn’t you just ignore it? What’s the big deal? These are frequently asked questions about gender-based public sexual harassment posed to the Holla Back DC! online community. Holla Back DC! is an organization fighting street harassment in America’s capital by empowering Washingtonians to speak out against gender-based public sexual harassment. We believe that everyone has a right to use public space, including sidewalks, Metro, and cabs without being harassed. And we showcase people’s experiences through our blog, Twitter, and Facebook.
Archaeology of Monocacy

Megan Berry, Hood College, Department of Anthropology
Megan Bailey, University of Maryland, Department of Anthropology
Alex Brueggeman, Howard University, Department of Anthropology
Shayla Monroe, Howard University, Department of Anthropology
Kelly Johnson, American University, Department of Anthropology
Jordan Riccio (Discussant), American University, Department of Anthropology
Joy Beasley (Discussant), National Park Archaeologist
Kate Birmingham (Discussant), National Park Archaeologist

During summer 2010, Monocacy Battlefield National Park in Frederick, MD, hired six undergraduate and graduate students to assist in the archaeological excavation of slave quarters located on park land. These quarters were associated with L'Hermitage, a plantation owned by the Vincendières family from 1794 until 1827. The L'Hermitage estate included 90 enslaved individuals at one time, making the Vincendières one of the largest slaveholders in Frederick County. Students investigated the test area for information about the little-documented but substantial enslaved population that once occupied the site. By the end of the field season, promising evidence had been uncovered that indicates potential for future study.

Emancipatory Archaeology Ten Years Later

Dean Saitta, University of Denver

In 1998 I wrote, with my good friend and colleague Philip Duke, “An Emancipatory Archaeology for the Working Class.” This manifesto urged archaeologists to (1) embrace a pragmatist epistemology aimed at using the discipline to better serve human need; (2) more closely collaborate with working people to tell their stories and explain why those stories matter, and (3) explore alternative forms of writing and outreach as a way to more widely disseminate this knowledge. This talk does some stock-taking of Emancipatory Archaeology ten years later. The news is generally good. The discipline’s theoretical trendsetters are celebrating the virtues of a “New Pragmatism” in archaeological inquiry. America has a brand new National Historical Landmark that recognizes the contributions made by working class immigrants to winning the basic workplace rights that most Americans today take for granted. Academic archaeology’s commitment to public outreach has never been stronger. However, there are many other opportunities for, and challenges to, an applied archaeology. The latter include reforming several aspects of academic life that can frustrate the development of publicly engaged scholars and citizens.

Networking Reception

Enjoy an hour of conversation and networking with conference attendees. Light refreshments will be served. Several restaurants are located near the Tenleytown Metro station for those who want to continue their conversations over food after the reception is finished.
Addressing the Foreclosure Crisis in D.C. Using Rapid Ethnographic Assessment and Geographic Information Systems

Anthony Gualtieri, American University, Department of Anthropology
Julia Zhu, American University, Department of Anthropology

This presentation will focus on how we used REA and GIS to analyze the impact of the foreclosure crisis on Washington D.C. We will discuss how we used these methodologies to identify areas in D.C. that are at high risk for foreclosures and that have been impacted the most by the foreclosure crisis. We will also discuss the benefits and shortcomings of both approaches and how our data can help local communities and organizations to identify strategies for addressing foreclosures in D.C. neighborhoods.

A Taste of Appreciative Inquiry: Positive Planning for Social Justice Efforts

Judy Tso, MAA, ACC

Many social justice efforts are often “against” something. Against poverty, racism, discrimination, unfair practices. In this skills workshop, participants will experience Appreciative Inquiry, an approach that focuses us on what we want: A fair, equitable world where people can contribute their greatest gifts. AI is grounded in positive psychology and seeks to free the human spirit to make the changes necessary to reach a better world. Come to this interactive workshop and learn more about AI and its ability to inspire significant change.

Storytelling for Social Change: Media, Arts, and Ethnography

Charlene Shovic, American University, Department of Anthropology
Nina Shapiro-Perl, American University, Department of Anthropology
David Vine, American University, Department of Anthropology
Hermon Farahi, George Washington University

Storytelling in a variety of forms has been used by public anthropologists, writers, and artists to educate, engage, and spur action for social change. Panelists from a variety of backgrounds, both within and outside academia, will discuss the theory, practice and origins of their work in illuminating the humanity of those who have been “othered” and attempting to effect change. We will reflect on ways to transform the conversation and the audience, as well as lessons learned through involvement in such work.

Films

9:00   Seed Swap, Zachariah McCannon
10:20  The Natural State of America, Brian Campbell
11:00-12:15 Panel Session 6

Blogging a Cause

Niv Elis

This workshop is a beginner's intro to starting a blog, including information on creating a new website, targeted marketing/outreach, and using social networking to build an activist base.

Exploring the Realized and Potential Emancipatory Gravity of Public Archaeology and Buried Pasts (Part 1)

Michael Blakey, William and Mary, Department of Anthropology
Stephen Brighton, University of Maryland, Department of Anthropology
Dean Saitta, University of Denver, Department of Anthropology
Lance Green, American University, Department of Anthropology
Daniel Sayers, American University, Department of Anthropology
Jordan Riccio, American University, Department of Anthropology

Most publicly engaged archaeologists look to the past to inspire transformations in present politics, ideologies, social relations, and alienating racial and political-economic conditions. Such practitioners view contemporary social inequalities as being unacceptable and use archaeology as a tool for fostering social justice. How archaeologists interact with descendent communities and the greater public is of significant concern and is often debated and discussed in the field and in various publics. Nonetheless, the goal of developing emancipatory practices, methods, and project agendas is of utmost importance to many in the field. This informal, discussion-focused panel brings together practitioners of archaeology to discuss their views on how to strengthen the emancipatory position and power of archaeology and related disciplines.

Teaching Anthropological Methods Through Community Involvement

Susan R. Dauria, Bloomsburg University, Department of Anthropology

This presentation will describe the successes and challenges faced in the creation of a large interdisciplinary migrant education program at a medium-sized state university in Northeastern Pennsylvania. An examination of the Bloomsburg University Migrant Community Project gives an opportunity to critique and reconsider the success of teaching anthropological perspectives through active student participation in the community. The presentation will include an assessment of the annual events that take place during the academic year at Bloomsburg University - including the migrant summer school program, the fall leadership workshops, and the annual spring visitations for migrant children. The presenter will assess the extent to which the project was successful in teaching anthropological concepts, providing students with practical experience, and creating meaningful connections between the institution and the underserved members of its community.

Films

11:30 Why Invest in Girls’ Education in Developing Countries? Elodie Domenge
11:40 Imperial Outposts: The Secret History of the US Military Presence in Turkey, Amy K Holmes
1:00 Quien Dijo Miedo, Katia Lara
Sunday October 17

12:15-1:15  Lunch Service  Butler Board Room

12:30-1:15  Lunchtime Activities

Karagattam! Dance Performance  Butler Board Room

Ted Samuel, American University, Department of Anthropology

Workshop: Student Grassroots Campaigning  MGC 200

Nolan Fan

The aim of this workshop is to present a conceptual model of understanding important areas of community
development for university students and to help participants use that model to create practical and sustainable
grassroots student campaigns. In this workshop I will propose five areas of development: (1) education, (2) com-
nunity service, (3) direct action, (4) legislation, and (5) community building. I will then introduce SMART goals (originally
a project management criteria) as a criteria by which to organize along these five areas. The workshop will end by
asking participants to engage the information presented by creating their own campaign. Participants are expected
to leave the workshop with a cohesive and practical understanding of student grassroots organizing and with the
tools needed to build a winnable student campaign.

1:30-2:30  Keynote Address  Butler Board Room

Off of the Campus and Into the Community: Teaching for Social Justice

Susan Hyatt, IUPUI

Among the current buzzwords popular on many campuses are terms like “collaboration” and “partnership.” But,
toward what end are we partnering and collaborating and with whom? I discuss two collaborations specifically
directed toward college students in social justice work. My first example describes a class project, in which the
students published and distributed a neighborhood newspaper that sought to disrupt the commonplace assumptions
about what was presented as an inexorable spiral of decline in the community; rather, our work showed that actions
taken by the university, itself, had produced many of the very symptoms of decline that the new economic
development projects purported to remedy. The second example draws on my participation in the “Inside-Out Prison
Exchange,” a program that brings college students into correctional facilities to take courses alongside incarcerated
students as peers in the classroom. I use both experiences to discuss how involving students in such ventures
beyond the classroom can have transformative effects for faculty and students as well as for the communities where
we work.
HIV/AIDS and the Struggle Against Racism
Linda Green, Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association Disparities Committee

The fight against AIDS is a fight for the lives of our working class brothers and sisters and compels us to confront the intense racism unleashed on minority workers. Segregation, unemployment, prisons, substance use and homelessness drive the epidemic in the African American population in the US today. Blaming individuals is capitalist propaganda. There are so many reform demands to confront this epidemic that it soon becomes clear that only the destruction of capitalism can end it. Our struggle has taken us from condoms and education to the fight for housing and a focus on the true social determinants of health - a class system built on racism and profit. For the past five years students, faculty, other activists and community advocates have strategized and organized about how to confront the HIV epidemic in the region. The Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association Disparities Committee has played an important role in this struggle through classroom activity at GW, regular community outreach and activism. We have polled community members about strategy, testified in the DC council and protested at the White House, HUD offices and the Wilson Building. Our allies have included Housing Works and DC Fights Back. We have advanced the struggle within the public health community and beyond. We are continuing this work with an increased focus on the housing issues facing people living with HIV/AIDS while continuing to analyze the best ways to build a revolutionary movement against racism and for equality.

Exploring the Realized and Potential Emancipatory Gravity of Public Archaeology and Buried Pasts (Part 2)
MGC 203/205

See Panel Session 6 for Participants and Abstract

Advancing Social Justice through Collaborations, Partnerships, and Relationships
McKinley 101

Revolutionary Activism within Higher Education
Michael English, ICAR

Building University-Community Partnerships for Social Justice: Accomplishments, Challenges, and Lessons Learned from an Initiative with the Latino Community in North Carolina
Ricardo Contreras

Ethnographic Intervention and The Anthropologist as Mediator
Jeremy Trombley, University of Maryland

Films
MGC 247
3:10 Detras Del Golpe (Behind the Coup), Kaelyn Forde Eclenrode
4:15-5:45 Roundtable Event Battelle Atrium

Anthropology at War?: A Network of Concerned Anthropologists Roundtable

Andrew Bickford, George Mason University, Department of Anthropology
Hugh Gusterson, George Mason University, Department of Anthropology
Deborah Murphy, American University, Department of Anthropology
Adrienne Pine, American University, Department of Anthropology
David Vine, American University, Department of Anthropology
Joanne Rappaport, Georgetown University, Department of Anthropology

For almost half a decade, anthropologists have increasingly been the object of recruitment efforts by the U.S. Department of Defense, the CIA, and other public and private military and intelligence agencies to assist in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and in other counterinsurgency operations in the “war on terror.” Since 2007, the Network of Concerned Anthropologists (NCA) has helped to organize anthropologists opposing such efforts. Among other activities, the NCA, in 2007 and 2008, gathered the signatures of more than 1,000 anthropologists who pledged not to participate in counterinsurgency operations. In early 2010, more than 700 anthropologists signed the NCA’s statement of opposition to the Army’s Human Terrain System (HTS), a program which has been the most prominent effort to recruit anthropologists for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Shortly after the NCA submitted the statement to members of Congress, a House of Representatives committee froze funding for HTS. The NCA must now decide how it should focus its future efforts in opposing the wartime recruitment of anthropologists and attempts to militarize the discipline. This roundtable session will offer an opportunity to discuss that future, as well as anthropologists’ broader work on issues of war and militarization. The roundtable will consist of five minute-long presentations by each panelist followed by an open discussion and brainstorming session about the NCA’s future, the role of anthropologists in opposing war and militarization, and efforts to counter the militarization of the discipline. The panel will include three of the founding members of the NCA as well as anthropologists who have been members of the Network and worked extensively around issues of war and militarization.

Films MGC 247

4:30 Herstory, Sally Nuamah

5:45-6:00 Closing Remarks Battelle Atrium

Graduate Students, Department of Anthropology

In order to keep this a more sustainable conference, we have chosen reusable name badges. As you leave the conference, please return your name badges to the designated boxes which will be prominently featured in the main conference rooms. Thank you for recycling!