

NOVEMBER 2019

# NAPA Notes



NAPA  
National Association  
for the Practice of Anthropology

Welcome to the November 2019 edition of NAPA Notes. I hope that you are enjoying the Fall season and that the cooler temperatures are invigorating. Meanwhile, back here in Florida, October was the warmest month on record and the temperatures are still hovering in the mid-to-high 80s now. Just wondering if Climate Change has anything to do with this?

There has been much NAPA activity since my last column, some of which I would like to highlight. First, a big welcome to our newest Governing Council (GC) officers and committee members: Erik Kjeldgaard (Member-at-Large), Lauren Penney (Member-at-Large), Toni Copland (Secretary), Betselot Wondimu (Student Representative), Chad Morris (Treasurer), and Jackie Cortez (Editor, NAPA Notes). All of them will be starting their terms at the beginning of 2020.

Second, a colossal thank you to our colleagues that will be ending their terms this year: Rachal Hall-Clifford (Secretary), Jason Lind (Member-at-Large-Seat), Kevin Preister (Treasurer), Taapsi Ramchandani (Student Seat), Natalie Morrissey (NAPA Notes), and Ann Tezak (Member-at-Large). They have all served admirably, and I look forward to their future contributions to NAPA including serving in other positions.

Third, during the summer, the GC and committee members worked on several things including: 1) the NAPA funded American Anthropology Master's Career Survey being conducted by a faculty member and students at the University of North Texas; 2) developing a plan for increase submissions to the *Annals of Anthropological Practice*; 3) planning the Careers Expo; 4) NAPA membership and the AAA survey of members; 5) the NAPA Spotlight event that will next take place in 2021 at the SFAA meetings, and more. Thank you to John Brett, Cathleen Crain, Lisa Henry, Fritz Lampe, Joshua Liggett, Ellen Puccia, Niel Tashima, Ann Tezak, Kerry Fosher for their contributions during the Summer.

Finally, there have been other behind the scenes work going on during the last several months that include: 1) the Student Paper Award review; 2) Volunteer of the Year Award review; 3) NAPA Workshop schedule for the AAA; 4) Ethics Committee meetings; and 5) NAPA student recruitment event at the University of South Florida. Thank you to Wendy Hathaway, Elgin Klugh, Jason Lind, Ellen Puccia, Lauren Penney, and Taapsi Ramchandani. My apologies if I left something or someone out of this overview of activities.



David Himmelgreen, Ph.D.  
NAPA President

## In this Issue:

1. Letter from the President
2. Student Awards
3. VOY 2019
4. Continuing Conversations
5. AAA At a Glance

Continued on page 2





## President's Letter, continued

The joint meeting of the AAA and Canadian Anthropology Society (CAS) is just around the corner. In addition to year-end reports, we plan to discuss new project ideas and to recommence the NAPA webinar series at the GC meeting. The Student Paper and Volunteer of the Year awards will be given out at the Business Meeting and Networking Event. Please attend this special event as well as others hosted by NAPA. What follows is a list of NAPA meetings and special events that will take place from November 20-24.

- NAPA GC Meeting, Thursday (11/21), 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
- AAA Presidential Session: Breaking Down Silos in Anthropology, Thursday (11/21), 10:15 AM to 12:00 PM
- Logic Models, Theory of Change and Impact Evaluation: A Practical Introduction Workshop, Thursday (11/21), 3:30 PM- 5:30 PM
- NAPA Business Meeting and Networking Event, Friday (11/22), 8:00 PM- 10 PM\*
- NAPA Careers Expo, Friday (11/22), 11:00 AM- 4:00 PM\*\*
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Modern Slavery and Trafficking in Persons Workshop, Friday (11/22), 10:30 AM- 12:30 PM

\*Don Francisco Ristorante, 909 Cordova St. W., Vancouver, B.C.

\*\*Vancouver Convention Centre West, Ballroom D

Please see the AAA/CASCA Program Guide for more information on NAPA sessions, workshops, and special events.

Hope to see you in Vancouver

Warm Regards,

David Himmelgreen

NAPA President

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## NAPA Student Achievement Awards Announced

NAPA is pleased to announce the results of yet another successful Student Achievement Award competition. The reviewers thoroughly enjoyed reading the fantastic submissions by undergraduate and graduate students alike. In fact, 35% of papers submitted this year came from undergraduate students alone. This is impressive and encouraging as we envision this competition to also be a source of encouragement for undergrads considering higher studies in anthropology. Without further ado, the winners of the competition are -

- Aberdeen McEvers (1st place). Paper title: "Building Our Shelter with the Master's Tools: The Good Mother Model at a Homeless Shelter for Women-Led Families"
- Wyatt Bland (1st runner-up). Paper title: "My Spirit is What Keeps Me Going: Navigating the Body/Self Relation among Patients with Multiple Sclerosis"
- Ryan Logan (2nd runner-up). Paper title: "A Burgeoning Workforce: Assessing Issues of Incorporation and Professionalization among Community Health Workers in the Midwest"

If you will be at the NAPA Business Meeting in November, be sure to congratulate them in person! The awards are much deserved.

Taapsi Ramchandani  
NAPA Student Representative





# Volunteer of the Year: Brandon Meyer

## **Meet Brandon Meyer, Technical Coordinator for NAPA.**

Graduating Summa Cum Laude and with Honors from North Carolina State University, Brandon shares his journey and wisdom with future design anthropologists.

**How did you get your start in anthropology?** I started out as a multimedia design major, and I only really learned about anthropology while researching for my personal blog, [projectdesignportfolio.com](http://projectdesignportfolio.com). I read the book *Design Anthropology: Theory and Practice* when I had my revelatory moment. That book validated things I was thinking about in isolation. I realized what I really wanted to do was practice-based design research, and it ultimately resulted in my decision to change my major to anthropology.



**How have you seen your career moving along?** I continue to advocate for experimental design research practices and alternative epistemologies of design(ing). As part of that effort I manage the design anthropology groups on the [Open Anthropology Cooperative](#) and on [LinkedIn](#), as well as participate in the [Speculative Futures Initiative](#) community and [Design Research Society](#) SIGs. That has really allowed me to grow my network and have some level of influence. I have contributed materials and commentary to the design anthropology entry written by Christine Miller and Elizabeth Briody in the upcoming Oxford Research Encyclopedia and the new [Anthropology+Design graduate course](#) taught by Shannon Mattern at the New School for Social Research. Maintaining my role as a web designer has allowed me to stay close to what had originally inspired me: to move into design research to stick with the cutting-edge of experimenting and theorizing within design.

**Who inspires you and how does it influence your research and professional inquiry?** I have most recently been inspired by Arturo Escobar's contributions to design that have resulted in Pluriversal Design as an emerging field of design research and practice. I also argue that a critical mass of design researchers is taking on anthropological lines of inquiry within these emerging design movements such as Tony Fry, Cameron Tonkinwise, Tristan Schultz, Alex Wilkie, Ahmed Ansari, and many others. Great papers are consistently published in design journals that I consider required reading for any aspiring design anthropologist, like the [Journal of CoDesign](#), [Diseña](#), [the Strategic Design Research Journal](#), [Design Issues](#), and the [Journal of Design & Culture](#) (see my [design anthropology recommended reading list](#)). Many design research conferences are a must for design anthropologists as well, like the Papanek Symposium, the Design Research for Change Symposium, the New Experimental Research in Design Conference, the Research Through Design (RTD) Conference, the Participatory Design Conference, and the Nordic Design Research Conference (Nordes).

**What advice would you give to a student starting their career in design anthropology?** While there are very few books and programs on design anthropology, a lot of work is being done that falls within its purview at the cutting edge of design research today. Going back to the trajectory of my own shifting aspirations within anthropology "as a" designer, then in design "as an" anthropologist, and finally as a "design anthropologist," there are different ways to orient yourself between the two fields of design and anthropology.





# Continuing Conversations

## Applied Anthropologists Engage #MeToo

I was heartened to see messaging go out ahead of the 2019 AAA Annual Meetings about sexual [harassment policies](#) that felt like more than an obligatory reminder, including an opportunity for members to engage in a webinar. This a deeper commitment to understanding our norms of professional interaction and building actionable steps when those norms have been breached. In fact, the AAA sexual harassment policies are unique among professional organizations in pointing out that our work can take place both at home institutions and in the “field.” In particular, for applied anthropologists who live and work in a wide variety of contexts, this is an important acknowledgment. Women and people of all marginalized gender identities face distinct challenges during fieldwork.

Applied medical anthropologists have recently led discussions of #MeToo Global Health and the many unspoken challenges faced by women in global health fieldwork, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other forms of gender-based violence. A recent issue of *Health and Human Rights Journal* features a [joint statement](#) by global health leaders highlighting points for action to address gender-based violence, and an [individual commentary](#) shares my own experiences as a woman on fieldwork as an applied medical anthropologist. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly's* Critical Care blog also featured [a further set of commentaries](#) by applied medical anthropologists addressing gender-based violence in fieldwork. The movement of our society and our professional association to meaningfully address sexual harassment and assault is hugely encouraging—if incomplete—work, and I urge NAPA members to contribute to the conversation.

Rachel Hall-Clifford, PhD, MPH, MSc, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Public Health at Agnes Scott College, Director of the NAPA-OT Field School Guatemala, and Secretary of NAPA.

## Check out other NAPA outlets:

- The **Annals of Anthropological Practice** welcomes manuscripts on a variety of practicing/applied topics; see [here](#) for more information
- NAPA's **Anthropology News** Section Column has released three posts since the last issue of *NAPA Notes*. Don't miss the [latest post](#) by Carylanna Taylor.
- Announcement for the upcoming **Presidential Session** on November 21, 2019 at AAAs. See more details [here](#).
- **NAPA Notes** is eagerly awaiting your submissions, contact Jackie Cortez ([Jacqueline.n.cortez@gmail.com](mailto:Jacqueline.n.cortez@gmail.com)) with your ideas!



The theme of Society for Applied Anthropology 2020 cultural citizenship and diversity in complex societies, allowing participants to discuss the history of migration and how population movements have helped shape national economies, political cultures, and cultural identities. Examining cultural diversity, history, and contested citizenship, the [2020 program](#) will explore this theme.





# AAA At a Glance

## NAPA/AAA/CASCA Careers Expo

COME OUT AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT CAREERS IN ANTHROPOLOGY!

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 11-4

VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE WEST, BALLROOM D

For the 14<sup>th</sup> year, NAPA, the American Anthropological Association (AAA), and this year, the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA), will host the Careers Expo. NAPA created the Expo to provide a highly interactive forum for new/young anthropologists to broaden their understanding of the important and creative opportunities for using their skills and shaping their careers. The Expo features anthropologists from public, private, and non-profit sectors working both domestically and internationally. Last year, over 60 professional anthropologists met with more than 500 new/young anthropologists and their mentors during the 5-hour Expo.

Professional, practicing, and applied (PPA) anthropologists have taken the tools of anthropology and employed them in wide-ranging realms. Uses of anthropology in the world have included such topics as: health; human services; environment; law; community development; international development; and myriad others. The opportunities for PPA anthropologists continue to grow as the importance of anthropological tools and perspectives are recognized and valued. An important challenge is exposing new and young anthropologists to the array of opportunities as well as showing their teachers and mentors the widening paths for PPA anthropologists. Come to the Expo – explore the future!

To volunteer to support the Careers Expo,  
please contact Wendy Hathaway ([wendy.Hathaway@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.Hathaway@gmail.com))

Cathleen Crain

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## EPIC Updates

The Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Community (EPIC) will be hosting a table at AAA Vancouver Career Expo! EPIC is committed to advancing the value of ethnographic principles in organizational and business practices. It is fueled by volunteer efforts of community members. If you want to find out how ethnographers apply their thinking, influence outcomes in the marketplace, and impact futures, please stop by the table and meet Ken Anderson and Anne McClard!

[EPIC2019](#), EPIC's annual conference, took place in Providence, RI Nov 9-12. This year's theme is AGENCY – and explores the implication of intelligent technologies on our understanding of human-machine agency and what it means for ethnographic practice, design and innovation. While the conference is sold out, all sessions, keynotes and panels in the [program](#) were live-streamed and are available to all [EPIC members](#). [Year-round [Talks](#), [courses](#) and online video library is also available to EPIC members]

Not an EPIC member? Everyone is welcome to peruse [epicpeople.org](http://epicpeople.org)! The EPIC blog *Perspectives* highlights current thoughts from the community, past conference papers and cases in the open-source *Proceedings* showcase thinking and application, and the job board is available to all. Join us!

Rita Denny