



Society for Psychological Anthropology Newsletter

Fall 2024



Edited by AJ Jones and Angela Leocata

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2025 Biennial Meeting

A Message from Janis H. Jenkins, President of the SPA



As President of the SPA, I extend a warm invitation to attend the SPA Biennial Meeting April 3rd-6th, 2025. Submissions and registration are open October 1st and close November 1st, 2024.

The SPA Biennial brings together scholars from all levels—students, postdocs, junior and senior faculty—who are exploring diverse issues in psychological anthropology. The conference is an opportunity to immerse yourself in current debates, controversies, and state-of-the-art thinking across a range of approaches within the field. This is also an opportunity to meet new colleagues and old friends alike. We are planning many informal events and spaces in which we can think out loud, together. For those new to the SPA, we warmly welcome you as part of this community!

We recognize that a post-pandemic and Zoom world can induce people to stay at home and online. That sort of *habitus* misses out on the lived experience and collective energy of shared space. We are confident that the ambiance of the Santa Ana Pueblo's Tamaya conference center makes this meeting worth showing up for. The program offers innovative forums for interaction, including plenaries, pre-conference methods and writing workshops, mentoring for students and junior scholars, and more.

Two Presidential Plenary Sessions will engage contemporary social issues in Psychological Anthropology:

Subjectivity and Security

This session examines political subjectivity and atmosphere across a variety of issues, including empathy, ethics, care, addiction, violence, climate disaster, migration, and adolescence.

Session participants: Angela Garcia, Byron Good, Bridget Haas, Janis H Jenkins, Chikako Ozawa-de Silva, & Jason Throop

Eruptions of Liveliness:

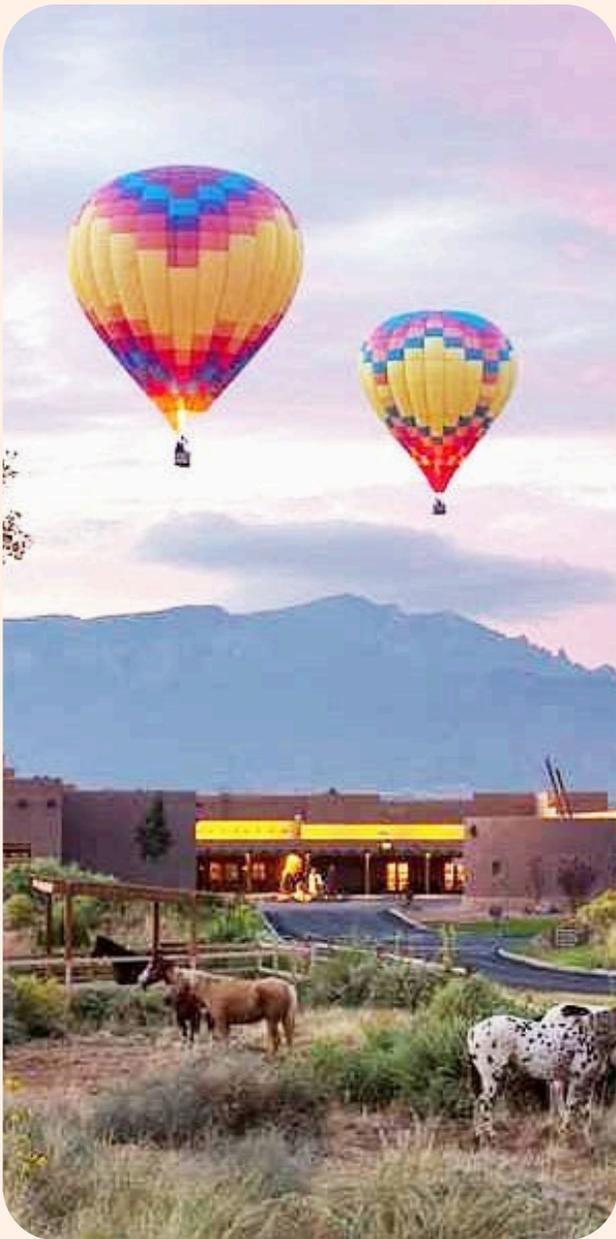
Native American Health in the 21st Century

This session examines revitalizing traditional knowledge, collaboration of traditional practitioners and allopathic health care providers, and issues of indigenous identity in contemporary North America.

Session participants:
Thomas Csordas, Joseph Gone, Jennie Joe,
Melissa Lewis, & Audra Simpson

Warm wishes,
Janis H. Jenkins
President, Society for Psychological Anthropology

SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY



**BIENNIAL MEETING
APRIL 3-6, 2025**

HYATT TAMAYA RESORT

**SANTA ANA PUEBLO NEW
MEXICO**

You must register prior to submission. Upon registration you will receive a link to the submission portal.

Register by November 1st to receive the early discounted registration rate. Rates will increase when the submission portal closes on November 1st at 11:59PST.

For more information, visit:

<https://spa.americananthro.org/meetings/>

REGISTRATION & SUBMISSION PORTALS
OPEN OCTOBER 1, 2024
CLOSE NOVEMBER 1, 2024



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

2025 Biennial, cont.

We have been busy curating **special programming** for the Biennial, including **SPA Presidential Plenaries, pre-conference methods and writing workshops**, and a **mentoring event for students and junior scholars**. We are eager to learn about your work and we will be welcoming submissions across a range of formats, including:

- **Individual Papers**
- **Organized Group Paper Panels**
- **Individual Posters**
- **Roundtable/Interactive sessions**



Traditional paper presentations—whether individually volunteered or organized around a central panel theme—may be used to delve deeply into **recent research**, lay out **work-in-progress**, or reflect on **ethnographic or pedagogical practice**.

Poster presentations offer an opportunity to present your work visually and in a **highly interactive format** as participants mingle in a **relaxed environment**.

Roundtable/interactive sessions provide a space for a range of scholarly **conversations, creative engagement**, and **innovative/experimental practice**.

MORE INFORMATION AT: <https://spa.americananthro.org/meetings/>.

2025 Biennial Member Pricing

Renew Your Membership Today!

<input type="checkbox"/> In-Person: 2025 SPA Student Registration Fee More ▼	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Person: 2025 SPA Professional Registration Fee More ▼	\$275.00
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Person: 2025 SPA Retired, Adjunct, Part-time Fee More ▼	\$175.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Methods in Psychological Anthropology More ▼	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Crafting a Manuscript for Publication in Psychological Anthropology More ▼	\$20.00

SPA at the AAA Meetings

We hope to see you at these **SPA co-sponsored panels** at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting: Praxis in **Tampa, Florida** on **November 20th-23rd, 2024**.

Unbearably There: An Anthropology of Affect and Response

Wednesday, November 20th, 10:15-11:45am
Oral Presentation, in person
Co-sponsored with the Society for Humanistic Anthropology

Reading and Writing as Praxis in Ethnography: Reimagining Knowledge Production and Power Submission

Wednesday, November 20th, 12:45-2:15pm
Roundtable/Town Hall, virtual (live)
Co-sponsored with the Society for Humanistic Anthropology

Psychotic Praxis: For an Anthropology of Neurodivergence, Cognitive Shifts, and Diverse Minds

Thursday, November 21st, 12:45-2:15pm
Roundtable/Town Hall, in person
Co-sponsored with the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA)

Exploring Experiences and Practices of Freedom through Ethnography

Friday, November 22nd, 2:30-4:00pm
Roundtable/Town Hall, in person
Co-sponsored with the American Ethnological Society (AES)



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2024 ANNUAL MEETING • November 20 - 23, Tampa, FL

AAA Meetings, cont.

Other SPA Panels at
the 2024 AAAs:

**Narrative Repetition as
Political Praxis?
Uncertainty and Emerging
Configurations of Care**

Wednesday, November 20th

4:15pm-5:45pm

Oral Presentation, in person

**Suggestibility in Theory
and Praxis**

Thursday, November 21st

10:15-11:45am

Oral Presentation, in person

**Cultural (Dis)Content and
Form in the Experience of
Mental Health and Illness**

Saturday, November 23rd

8:30am-10:00am

Oral Presentation, in person

**Hyperdiversity and
Shattering Culture: A
Critical Return**

Saturday, November 23rd

10:15-11:45am

Roundtable/Town Hall, in person

**Please save the date
for the 2024 Society
for Psychological
Anthropology
business meeting!**

**Thursday, November 21st
7:30pm-8:30pm EST
During the AAA Meetings**

Please note that this event
will be a **virtual meeting
held via Zoom**. The Zoom
link can be found in the
AAA program and will be
circulated to members as
the date approaches.

All are invited to attend.

Call for Applications

The SPA/Robert Lemelson Foundation Program Fellowship

Due: Friday, November 1, 2024

Contact: Bridget M. Haas, bmh7@case.edu



**NOW
OPEN**

The SPA/Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowships are designed to provide **graduate students** working in the field of psychological anthropology with funding to pursue **exploratory research** for planning their doctoral dissertation research and/or methods training to prepare for their doctoral dissertation research. Research projects supported by the funding should have the potential of **advancing the field of psychological anthropology.**

Normally, fellows receive their awards after their first or second year of graduate training as they begin to develop their dissertation research projects. Proposed exploratory projects are evaluated for viability and the potential of resulting in future dissertation research that will advance the field of psychological anthropology. Preference is given to applicants conducting exploratory **research abroad**. We expect to award **six or more fellowships** (depending upon funding levels) in 2025 with each fellow expected to receive between **\$3,000 and \$6,000** depending upon need.

<https://spa.americananthro.org/funding-and-prizes/the-spa-robert-lemelson-foundation-fellowship-program/>.

Upcoming Awards

International Early Career Scholar Grant

Call for applications expected in **early 2025**.

The Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) is pleased to offer the International Early Career Scholar Travel Grant program funded by a generous donation from an anonymous benefactor. The purpose of the program is to provide **funding for international scholars** who are **early in their careers** to travel to the United States to **participate in conferences** affiliated with the SPA.

The grants will provide funding to pay for all transportation costs, room and board, and conference registration fees for the scholar to present his or her paper or poster at SPA Biennial meetings. The SPA anticipates making **two grants of approximately \$2,000**, although it will consider both smaller and slightly larger grants.

The Beatrice and John Whiting SPA Biennial Travel Grants

Call for applications expected in **early 2025**.

The Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) announces The Beatrice and John Whiting SPA Biennial Travel Grants to **facilitate participation in the SPA Biennial Meetings**. The SPA Biennial Meetings represent one of the most important ways in which the SPA promotes and supports the continued growth of the field of psychological anthropology, and these travel grants provide financial assistance to individuals who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Featured Book



Learning Without Lessons

PEDAGOGY IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

David F. Lancy

Featured Book, cont.

Learning Without Lessons: Pedagogy in Indigenous Communities

David F. Lancy
Emeritus Professor of Anthropology
Utah State University

This work is designed to fill a rather large lacuna in the field of child development and education. A growing scholarly consensus challenges the universality of Western-dominated research in psychology. All or most markers of the child's growth and development are now subject to reexamination through a cross-cultural lens. By the same token, the study of education has been similarly restricted as norms and theory are constructed almost exclusively from research in Euroamerican schools. This work aims to fill a substantial portion of this gap, in particular to document and analyze the myriad processes that come to play as indigenous children learn their culture—without

schools or lessons. It will characterize the conglomeration of learning-rich events as instances of “pedagogy in culture.” The construct has several connotations, but paramount is the idea that opportunities for learning occur naturally in the course of activities such as work, play, nighttime campfire stories, and so on, that are not primarily intended to educate. Two significant sources of data will be drawn on: focused, empirical studies in cultural psychology and accounts of childhood in the ethnographic and archaeological records. These latter sources have been underutilized in speculations on the nature of child development and learning.

Featured Book, cont.

The overall conclusion from this study is that the pedagogy found in communities before the advent of schooling differs in very significant ways from that practiced in schools and in the homes of schooled parents. These differences help to account for the early failure of many introduced schools to educate their naïve subjects successfully.

Since the founding of AERA in 1916, the field of education—schooling, curricula, teaching and learning—have been supported by a well-funded and scientifically-based effort to document and analyze practice and theory. These ideas were exported around the globe via the replication of western-style schools using pedagogy from the same source (Institutionalized Public Basic Schooling IPBS). The success or failure of that effort to transform indigenous communities is not our prime concern. Rather it is to argue for the belated study and

analysis of the indigenous pedagogy practiced in communities before the western model became the norm.

This study is buttressed by the very catholic nature of my data corpus ranging from classic fiction (Dickens in this case) to highly focused quantitative studies of the physical skills required of a successful bow hunter. I draw primarily on work in anthropology, archaeology, history and cultural psychology and thereby open lines of communication among sub-disciplines that are not as integrated as they might be. This multi-disciplinary approach yields insights not accessible to more narrowly focused scholars nor interested lay-persons. My primary aim will be to weave these strands of evidence into a model or models of pedagogy that is distinctly different than the model or models found today in WEIRD (Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic) society.

Announcements

New Ethos, Newsletter, and Electronic Publications Leadership

We are pleased to announce incoming Co-Editors for *Ethos*: **Jacob Hickman** (Brigham Young University) and **Julia Cassiniti** (University of Virginia). The SPA heartily thanks outgoing editor **Ted Lowe** for his stewardship of the journal.

The SPA Board also welcomes **AJ Jones** (Washington University in St. Louis) and **Angela Leocata** (Stanford University) as the Electronic Publications team. AJ also serves as the Newsletter Editor, with Angela as Student Representative.

Evolution, Medicine, and Public Health Special Issue: Call for Papers

Evolution, Medicine, and Public Health is calling for papers on **mental health in non-industrialized populations** for a special issue. There are many evolutionary hypotheses about mental health or psychiatric conditions that evoke life in more traditional, pre-industrial settings. Moreover, many people living traditional subsistence lifestyles are being exposed to new stressors and risk factors for poor mental health as they transition into the global market economy. Nevertheless, **very few empirical studies on mental health have been conducted in such populations from an explicitly evolutionary perspective**. This special issue seeks to fill this gap.

If you're interested please contact any of the guest editors:

- Elspeth Ready (elspeth_ready@eva.mpg.de)
- Adam Hunt (adam.hunt@iem.uzh.ch)
- Adrian Jaeggi (adrian.jaeggi@iem.uzh.ch)



The **deadline is flexible**. Papers will be published on a rolling basis.

Testimonials

We asked our members: What most **excites you** about your research? Why does **psychological anthropology matter**? How has the SPA been a **meaningful space** for you and your work?



RACHEL HEALY
PhD Candidate in Anthropology
Stanford University

My research focuses on post-conflict teenage life and emerging discourses of intergenerational trauma in Belfast since the end of the Troubles. My work engages psychological anthropology in exploring how cultural narratives and ongoing experiences of violence and poverty in a Catholic neighbourhood shape the experiences and narratives of a growing range of mental health issues among youth today.

I am passionate about Psychological Anthropology because it theorizes not just the “what” but also the “how” and “why” of culture. This, to me, is the crux of the anthropological enterprise. We cannot understand anything about culture if we don’t understand how people understand and make sense of the world. Psychological anthropology engages such questions from a range of perspectives, from the neurological to the philosophical. It offers a unique set of perspectives that take seriously the richness, variability, and complexity of human experience as a legitimate domain of ethnographic inquiry.



REBECCA LESTER
Chair and Professor of
Anthropology
Washington University
in St. Louis

Testimonials, cont.



PARAS ARORA
PhD Candidate in
Anthropology
Stanford University

Ethnographically tracing how neurodiversity punctuates family life in urban India, I am currently embedded in a thick network of relationships that increasingly stake a claim upon me as an intimate friend, sibling, and ally. In the midst of showing up for these claims made by my interlocutors, I am gradually learning to reimagine not only what it means to be related to another being, but also what it means to be social. That is, by sustaining relationships across sensorial, cognitive, and communicative differences, I am encountering unmet desires, chronic exhaustions, and ephemeral rehabilitations that signal novel ways of knitting up the social in the face of neurological alterity.

I am currently working on the globalization of Japanese anime and manga with the focus on comradeship (nakama) and solidarity, empathy (especially of and towards marginalized individuals and groups), courage and agency. They depend upon and constitute various forms of empathy, both between fans and the fictional characters, and among fans themselves. Also nakama and empathy are antidotes to loneliness, so I am curious about the benefits fans experiences. For me the SPA has been a place of nakama where you really feel at home and support. Ethnographic work demands exploring the subjective experiences of interlocutors and this is what psychological anthropology excels at with its empathetic attention!



CHIKAKO OZAWA-DE
SILVA
Professor of Japanese
Studies and Anthropology
Emory University

Testimonials, cont.



CAROL WORTHMAN
Samuel Candler Dobbs
Professor Emerita of
Anthropology
Emory University

SPA has been a lodestar throughout my career, a space of respect, dialogue, and intellectual effervescence. As a young biological anthropologist focused on biocultural dynamics in well-being, I appreciated the openness of psychological anthropology colleagues who invited me into SPA spaces where I discovered a vibrant, fearlessly diverse community in which disparate approaches could flourish and interact. I also found opportunities to participate in conversations shaping disciplinary directions, and roles to play in cultivating community. It's a special space small enough to feel the hug of belonging but expansive enough for endless inspiration. Being part of it has been vital.

My research interests center on identity formation and identity crisis as continuous psychosocial processes. I am currently investigating identity and crisis alongside people who practice and perform Chinese Dance in the American South, exploring their ambivalent identifications with changing concepts of Chineseness and Southernness in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated spike in Sinophobia. SPA's network, award and funding opportunities, and newsletter have been great sources of wisdom, connection, and motivation as I draft my dissertation, write syllabi, and apply for postdoc and professor positions.



KRISTIN BUHROW
PhD Candidate in
Anthropology
Emory University

Want to share your research and reflections on psychological anthropology? Email your **100-word blurb** and **image** to jaudrey@wustl.edu.

ETHOS

Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology



Ethos Issue: September 2024

WILEY

SPA Newsletter - Fall 2024

American Anthropological Association



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