



NORTHEASTERN
ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEAA NEWSLETTER

**Mark Your Calendar:
NEAA Meetings at
SUNY at Buffalo on March 5-7, 2010**

Looking up and out during the Downturn

By Angela M. Labrador, UMass Amherst

The proliferation of doomsday proclamations about the future of academe and its job market challenges even the most optimistic graduate student's resolve. Browsing *The Chronicle of Higher Education* risks cold sweats and second guesses about why I'm even working on a doctorate in the first place. Seeking some guiding words of wisdom and perhaps even hopeful encouragement, I surveyed recent literature and asked faculty members about how anthropology graduate students can best position themselves to weather both the economic downturn and the increasing privatization of higher education. Overall, advice was not hard to come by nor disheartening, and although conditions have changed, the main challenge and exciting promise of being a graduate student remains the potential for adapting to and shaping the future of the discipline.

The decrease in tenure-track jobs, the increase in internal competition over scarcer resources, the rising cost of tuition and associated fees,

and a growing emphasis on revenue-generation by academic departments are hallmarks of the neoliberal university. Some may argue that over the past three decades the university has morphed into a corporation with classrooms. Understanding this "new" order and how the university is affected by and reproduces neoliberal values and subjects is helpful to deciphering the current dilemmas of the academy and its troubled job market. Furthermore, neoliberalism is pervasive, affecting every "job market" that an anthropologist may consider. Dr. Robert Paynter (UMass Amherst) suggests that anthropologists have a valuable perspective from which to critique current conditions and perhaps contribute to their transformation. Indeed, a politically engaged anthropology has grown in relevance and acceptance – perhaps even in moral imperative.

Overall, faculty members stress the importance of a broad-ranging skill set to maximize job opportunities within and beyond academia. Dr. Elizabeth Chilton (UMass Amherst) recommends adopting a "flexible generalist" approach, which doesn't preclude specialization, but does balance breadth and

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Message from the Editor

Hello All-

Welcome to 2010!

I feel like a student again: busily trying to meet deadlines for what feels like ten million things all due at once, worrying about how I will be graded. Well, maybe not graded, but grants or course releases won or lost, courses successfully organized and taught, research started, and the Newsletter completed. I sometimes wish I could just put all the balls I am juggling into slow motion. However, when thinking about what I was going to say this time for my editor's note, while I am once again sitting comfortably in my office, I remember back to my editor's message from the Winter of 2005 when I was reflecting on the Tsunami, the devastation it left in its wake and the loss of human life. I now am feeling the same way about the earthquake in Haiti: once again awed by Mother Nature. For someone who loves being outdoors, playing outdoors and the beauty of nature I am reminded about what we cannot control. The devastation and loss of life in Haiti is unbelievable. At the same time I am also impressed with my fellow human beings who are already on the ground helping and I am glad there are people who have the talent, expertise and ability to do that. I realize we will all choose our own course of action for the people and organizations we wish to support. We all have skills, talents, abilities and tolerance for different things. I hope that each of us can do a little more, however we think we could be most helpful. Add one more ball to the balls we are juggling—a ball for someone else. Maybe that will help us put our other balls into perspective, slow motion.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the NEAA meetings March 5-7, 2010 at SUNY at Buffalo. The organizers are planning a great conference. In fact, they have even “enabled” all of us procrastinators by **extending the deadline for submission of papers/abstracts to March 1**. Also, this is the first Winter Newsletter when we do not have any forms for the conference. The NEAA is going green and you can find EVERYTHING you need to know about submitting an abstract, luncheons, roundtable, workshops, student prize rules, application for student scholarships, the NEAA business meeting and dinner on the conference website <http://www.neaa.org/ocs/index.php/annual/index>.

One last note: please, when you see Barrett Brenton, thank him for his terrific leadership as President. His term will end at the March meetings and he will move into the past-president board position for two years. In March we welcome in our new President Pierre Morenon and our new NEAA secretary Anne Galvin. And finally, Amy Gazin-Schwartz will end her tenure on the executive board. Thanks to Amy for her service with the newsletter and duties as president-elect, president, and past-president.

See you in Buffalo,
Jess Skolnikoff
Roger Williams University
JSkolnikoff@rwu.edu

Message from the Conference Host

SUNY at Buffalo is looking forward to hosting the 50th annual NEAA conference on March 5-6, 2010. **The deadline for submission of papers/abstracts is March 1**, but we encourage everyone to get their submissions in earlier, to avoid possible disappointment. Our theme for this conference is “Borders, Margins and Passages”, which reflects not only our position on an international border, but also increasing anthropological interest in borderlands studies, multi-sited ethnography, transience, and globalization. We look forward to a great set of papers, posters and presentations.

I'm also pleased to be able to invite all conference participants to visit the UB Department of Anthropology while here, and we have arranged a reception in the department for Friday evening, March 5th, with shuttles available between the nearby conference hotel and the department. We have an exceptional museum, extensive facilities, and a group of friendly students, staff and faculty.

You will enjoy yourself!
Donald Pollock, Chair
Department of Anthropology
SUNY/Buffalo

Conference Accommodations

The main conference venue and hotel will be the Marriott /Buffalo-Niagara Hotel, which is conveniently located adjacent to the main campus of SUNY at Buffalo, the host of the conference, at 1340 Millersport Highway, Amherst, NY 14221. Their phone number is 716-689-6900 or toll-free 800-334-4040. You can also contact them on-line at www.buffaloniagaramarriott.com. We have arranged for a block of rooms for NEAA participants, at \$119 per night for a single or double room. Mention the NEAA when making reservations.

In addition, half a dozen other hotels are either next-door to, or within short walking distance of, the Marriott. Several of these, such as the Red Roof Inn and Motel 6, and very inexpensive, and are within 100 yards of the [Marriott: The Comfort Inn, Motel 6, Red Roof Inn, Homewood Suites, Hotel Indigo, Candlewood Suites](#).

For any additional information or questions, contact neaa@buffalo.edu, and watch the NEAA website for conference registration and submission information. We will also post helpful links on the website of UB's Department of Anthropology at <http://anthropology.buffalo.edu/>.

Northeastern Anthropological Association Student Travel Fund

Given the impact of the current economic crisis on our members - particularly students - the Executive Board of the NEAA has approved the creation of the NEAA Student Travel Fund. This fund will provide up to \$500 for individual students or student groups who demonstrate financial need to offset the costs of attending the 2010 meetings at the University of Buffalo. These funds can be used toward any conference-related expense (travel, conference registration, rooms, meals, etc.). Recipients of travel funding can be graduate or undergraduate students or groups. Students need not be presenting a paper or poster and they are not required to stay at the conference hotel. Students who receive travel funding will, though, be required to attend the conference banquet.

Individuals or groups are asked to submit electronically to Dr. Alan Hersker, NEAA Treasurer, (herskeal@potdam.edu) a letter requesting funds. This letter should include: the applicant's name, school affiliation, mail and email addresses; how many individuals will be traveling to the conference; the amount of money they are requesting; the costs being reimbursed by the NEAA funding; other sources of funding that they are requesting; an explanation of their financial hardship; how they will be participating in the conference (e.g., attending, delivering a paper, presenting a poster, assisting in conference functions). All applicants must also include a recommendation letter from a sponsor or faculty member that confirms their eligibility. Application material must be received by Dr Hersker by 1 March 2010.

Funding decisions will be made on a rolling basis by a committee of NEAA Executive Board and University of Buffalo Host Committee members. Student Travel Fund recipients must submit original receipts for funds along with a letter explaining each receipt within two weeks of the conclusion of the conference. Funds will be distributed by the NEAA Treasurer by check after the required documentation is received. Recipients will be able to receive their travel funds at the conference itself.

These funds are competitive and will be awarded to those who demonstrate the greatest need. If you have any questions on the NEAA Student Travel Fund please contact Dr. Alan Hersker (SUNY Potsdam) at 315-267-2720 or herskeal@potdam.edu.

NEAA Conference March 5-7, 2010 Buffalo, NY
Paper and poster abstracts, and proposals for organized sessions should be
submitted by **March 1, 2010.**

**2010 NEAA Student Paper Competitions:
M. Estellie Smith Graduate Paper Prize
John Omohundro Undergraduate Paper Prize
NEAA Poster Paper Prize**

Each year the NEAA awards prizes of \$200 each to the best graduate and undergraduate papers presented at the annual meeting. Separate awards of \$200 each are also given for the best undergraduate and graduate student poster papers. All awards are announced at the conference. Guidelines for submissions are as follows:

1. Separate graduate and undergraduate prizes are awarded for both podium and poster papers. Prize-winning papers are published in a special issue of the NEAA newsletter and publication in professional journals may be facilitated.
2. To be eligible, the podium and poster papers must be presented in a conference session by the author at the 2010 NEAA meetings in Buffalo, New York. Please make sure to complete registration and abstract forms.
3. The papers may be in any sub-field of anthropology and can be given in French, Spanish or English.
4. For the Smith and Omohundro prizes, only the “conference version” of the paper (i.e. the podium version that is actually read) is eligible; this is a paper of 8-12 pages, double spaced, exclusive of bibliography. The bibliography should be included with the paper.
5. For the NEAA poster paper prizes a 2-page, double-spaced, summary of the poster must be provided to express the entrant’s interest in having their poster judged at the meetings.
6. Conference version podium papers and poster paper summaries must be received one week before the conference, or by February 26, 2010. Papers can be sent via email (preferred) or snail-mail to:

Pierre Morenon
Anthropology Department
Rhode Island College
Providence, RI 02908 U.S.A.
pmorenon@ric.edu

7. A cover page must be attached with the author’s name, address, phone number, email address, institution, department and program. Entrants must also specify the competition (graduate or undergraduate, podium or poster) that they are entering.
8. Shared student authorship papers are eligible provided that the category in which they are entered (i.e. undergraduate or graduate) is appropriate for the most senior author. Papers co-authored with professionals are not eligible for the competition.
9. All papers submitted by undergraduates must be accompanied by a note from the student’s advisor or a professor from their department, indicating that the work is an original piece and that the professor believes it to be appropriate for presentation at the conference. (Such a note is required for all undergraduate papers at the conference)
10. The submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges under the direction of the President-Elect of the NEAA. This panel convenes during the annual conference.

In case you missed this the first time we are running it again for your planning purposes

**Bored? Looking for scholarly adventure and entertainment in a rich historic landscape?
Then join us for the 50th Annual Meetings of the
Northeastern Anthropological Association in Buffalo, New York!**

Did you know that Buffalo has a little bit of everything for everyone? From stunning art and architecture to great food and drink, Western New York is home to one of the natural wonders of world, Niagara Falls. Here is just a short list of some awesome reasons to visit Buffalo next spring.

- Compared to the Eastern Coast, Buffalo was settled by Europeans relatively late. Western New York is the traditional homeland of the *Haudenosaunee* or the "People of the Longhouse" (the Iroquois Nation). Frenchman Samuel de Champlain is thought to have been the first European to visit the land of the Iroquois around 1604, however it wasn't until 1789 that a small trading community was established on the banks of the Buffalo Creek. This land was eventually sold for development through the Holland Land Company, led by Joseph Ellicott and over time developed into Buffalo.
- The year 1826 saw the opening of the Erie Canal and the City of Buffalo (officially incorporated in 1832) became the Gateway to the West and the leader of the American shipping industry. By the mid-1830s, grain from the Midwest was processed in Buffalo and shipped east via the Erie Canal. Enormous grain elevators, designed to handle industrial-level shipping were first invented in Buffalo and are still visible today across Buffalo's harbors.
- Nineteenth century advancements in transportation also brought a flood of immigrants to Buffalo from across the world as individuals sought to reach America's homeland. Today Buffalo is known for its excellent restaurants, breweries and food festivals. Famous Buffaloian foods include Beef on Weck, Wardynski's kielbasa, Sahlen's hot dogs, sponge candy, pierogi, haddock fish fries, chicken wings, and loganberry-flavored soda. Finally, annual food festivals include the Taste of Buffalo, the National Buffalo Wing Festival, and the Micro-beer Festival.
- As Buffalo grew in importance throughout the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth century it attracted the attention of many renowned architects including individuals such as H. H. Richardson, Adler and Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Fellheimer and Wagner, and the Saarinsens to name a few. Many signature houses, churches, and gardens, such as the Darwin D. Martin House, Our Lady of Victory Basilica, and the Botanical Gardens are open to visitors throughout the year.
- Buffaloian's are proud of their long, distinguished heritage, this is reflected in the numerous museums spread throughout the area, for example the Buffalo Museum of Science, the Albright-Knox Museum, the Theodore Roosevelt National Museum, Lackawanna History and Steel Plant Museum, and the Seneca Iroquois National Museum.

Why else should you visit Buffalo this year? The State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo hosted the first ever meeting for the Northeastern Anthropological Association. The NEAA was founded in 1961 and in March 2010 will celebrate its 50th annual meeting, again convening at the renowned University of Buffalo. The State University of New York at Buffalo is the crown jewel of the New York system of higher education. The University of Buffalo was founded in 1846, originally specializing in

medical studies. Today the University offers 83 undergraduate programs and 211 graduate programs and has provided more than 7,000 degrees. University facilities are spread over more than 1300 acres and provide the latest, up-to-date technology, programs and facilities for students. Dr. Marian E. White was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in archaeology through the University of Michigan and founded the University of Buffalo's Archaeological Survey in 1969. Dr. White was an early proponent of archaeological site preservation and Cultural Resource Management (CRM). Today, as part of the Anthropology Department at UB, the mission of the Archaeological Survey remains to "provide the highest quality CRM services to a diverse range of clients and to train CRM professionals in all aspects of field work, lab work, analysis, report writing and project management in order to provide practical, applied experience in a growing industry for graduate and undergraduate students" (<http://www.archaeologicalsurvey.buffalo.edu/>).

So, when you're in town for the conference, between bites of Buffalo wings, be sure to stop by the Anthropology Department's Marian White Museum and Archaeological Survey, a proud sponsor of the 50th annual meeting of the NEAA.

For More Great Information about Buffalo See:

<http://www.archaeologicalsurvey.buffalo.edu/>

<http://www.darwinmartinhouse.org/>

<http://www.buffaloah.com/>

<http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/visitors/history/>

<http://www.buffalonian.com/>

http://www.wcities.com/en/guide/fun_facts/300/guide.html

<http://www.buffalo.edu/aboutub/alumni.html>

Ammie M. Mitchell, M.A.
University at Buffalo
NEAA Graduate Student Representative

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Looking up and out during the Downturn

depth so that one can teach across the anthropology curriculum. Developing a teaching portfolio that includes introductory courses and extends beyond a single subfield can help communicate this breadth to prospective employers. Some universities may offer professional development resources to assist with portfolio and syllabus development, and education departments often offer classes that teach these skills. If such resources aren't available, organizing a portfolio workshop among colleagues might be beneficial. Looking beyond single subfields may even be passé in this age of inter-, multi-, and trans-disciplinary initiatives such as heritage studies, cultural ecology, environmental justice, and development studies. Attesting to Dr. James Peacock's (UNC-Chapel Hill) declaration that anthropology is both nowhere and everywhere, anthropologists hold appointments in a variety of departments and anthropological methods are increasingly employed by a variety of disciplines (1997). While its holistic perspective and potential for diverse applications may present challenges for anthropology to maintain its traditional institutional boundaries, the profusion of possibilities for anthropology post-graduates to partake in and shape new

scholarly communities is invigorating. Taking and teaching courses within other departments such as history, legal studies, gender studies, geography, communication, public policy or even landscape architecture challenges us to think more broadly and engage with other academics and epistemologies. As Dr. Jane Desmond (UI-Urbana-Champaign) recently suggested in *Anthropology News*, such actions encourage cross-fertilization and enhances the relevance of anthropology to every aspect of contemporary humanity (2009). Expanding disciplinary boundaries also opens up more diverse funding and publishing opportunities.

Of course, the tendency to spread oneself too thin can be hard to resist, so Dr. Elizabeth Krause (UMass Amherst) advocates developing a special skill set to keep you focused and distinguish you from others within your research sphere. Applying this skill set in work experience outside of the academy can bolster your c.v. and enrich your research methodology. Moreover, she cautions against taking too long to progress in your graduate program and urges students to maintain momentum and actively seek grants and peer-reviewed publications. Finally, noting that “academic life is not for the faint of heart,” she recommends having a Plan B – sound advice that can also help take pressure off of the graduate school experience and any perfectionist tendencies we may harbor.

This combination of politically engaged anthropology, flexible generalism, inter- and trans-disciplinary collaborations, non-academic work experience, and independent momentum resounds with the steadily growing interest in applied anthropology and projects that seek practicable applications beyond the academy and participatory models of engagement with research communities. Professional ethics are foregrounded as a fundamental component to anthropology curricula and practice to be continually discussed, critiqued, and reassessed as research models, power relations, and field sites transform over time. Participating in and promoting such ongoing conversations in one’s department as the graduate students at Binghamton University did in 2009 when they hosted a regional conference on ethics can offer productive dialogue and professional experience in conference organization. New graduate programs that embody these new synergies are being developed, such as Goucher College’s anthropologically-based Master of Arts in Cultural Sustainability, which the *New York Times* recently featured as one of ten innovative masters degrees of the 21st century (Navarro 2010).

In my informal survey I was encouraged to learn that while the opportunities in the traditional, tenure-track job market appear to have shrunk (confirmed by numerous statistics), the horizons for non-traditional jobs within and beyond the academy have vastly expanded for anthropologists. Perhaps this explains the ambivalent mixture of uncertainty and anticipation I feel as a doctoral student at a large public research university – the professional trail is always easily traced backwards, but projecting the future tracks and blazing them is a heady and scary process for each generation of post-graduates.

Works Cited

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Navarro, Mireya. 2010. A Step Beyond Anthropology. *The New York Times*, January 3, sec. Education / Education Life. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/03/education/edlife/03sustain.html?ref=edlife>.

Peacock, James L. 1997. The Future of Anthropology. *American Anthropologist* 99, no. 1 (March): 9-17.

2010 Iroquois Conference in Cornwall, Ontario

The members of the organizing committee of the Iroquois Conference would like extend an invitation to all interested persons to the 2010 Iroquois Conference to be held in Cornwall, Ontario, on October 1 – 3. The Iroquois Conference is a unique "academic retreat" where native and non-native historians, linguists, anthropologists and archaeologists share their thoughts, ideas and discoveries that help foster a deeper understanding of the *Haudenosaunee*. The setting, one stage - one podium - one session, provides a holistic environment for researchers to embrace other fields of study.

The call for Papers and Posters begins on February 1, 2010 and runs until June 1, 2010. A preliminary program will be available after July 1, 2010. The deadline for registration is August 1, 2010. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Francis Scardera at francis.scardera@sympatico.ca or visit the conference website at : www.iroquoia.org

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YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN THE NEAA!!

TO JOIN THE NEAA, visit <http://www.neaa.org> and click on “membership” or you can SEND this form and your membership dues to:

Alan Hersker, Treasurer, NEAA
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Potsdam, NY 13676-2294

Dues: \$25.00 for full-time professionals; \$15.00 for students, adjuncts or sessionals.

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