



## **Council for Museum Anthropology Secretary's Report to the Board & to the Business Meeting 2014**

*NOTE: This report includes notes on events following the 2013 CMA Annual Meeting and descriptions of awards given out by CMA at the 2014 Annual Meeting.*

### ***2013-2014 CMA Officers:***

President: Howard Morphy (2012-14)  
President-elect: Patricia Capone (2012-14)  
Treasurer: Karl Hoerig (2011-14) (re-elected in 2014 for another 2 year term)  
Secretary: Margaret Bruchac (2012-14) (re-elected in 2014 for another 2 year term)  
Board Members: Joshua A. Bell (2012-14), Corinne A Kratz (2013-15), Cara Krmpotich (2012-14), John Lukavic (2013-15), Helen A Robbins (2013-15)  
Past President: Alec Barker (2012-14)

### ***New Officers, after the 2014 CMA Election:***

Board Position #1: Joshua Bell (3 year term)  
Board Position #2: Jennifer Shannon (3 year term)  
Student Board Member: Erica Lehrer (3 year term)

### ***Retiring Officers, after the 2013 CMA Election:***

President: Howard Morphy  
Board Position #2: Cara Krmpotich  
Past President: Alec Barker (2012-14)

### ***2013-2014 CMA Editors:***

Retiring Editors of *Museum Anthropology* (as of July 2014)

Jennifer A. Shannon, Assistant Professor & Curator of Cultural Anthropology, U Colorado at Boulder  
Cynthia Chavez Lamar, Director, Indian Arts Research Center, School for Advanced Research  
Christine Weeber, Editorial Assistant

New Editors of *Museum Anthropology* (as of July 2014)

Tony Chavarria, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Maxinne McBrinn, Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe, New Mexico

*Museum Anthropology* Blog: see: <http://museumanthropology.blogspot.com/>

CMA Section Editor for *Anthropology News*: Margaret Bruchac

CMA Facebook Editor. Corinne Katz; see: CMA Facebook page.

CMA Twitter Editor. Cara Krmpotich; see: <https://twitter.com/MuseumAnth> Follow: @MuseumAnth

## ***CMA 2014 Reporting to AAA***

### **Council for Museum Anthropology Annual Report**

See document submitted to the American Anthropological Association on January 30, 2014.

### **Museum Anthropology Five-Year Plan**

See document submitted to Oona Schmid, AAA Director of Publishing, July 30, 2014.

## ***Highlights from the 2013 Annual Report to AAA***

*Excerpts from the report submitted by CMA President Howard Morphy*

### ***Membership:***

The CMA section currently has 343 registered members. Membership has remained fairly consistent. It is down nearly 10% from our recent high of 375 in November 2011, but only 1% from a year previous. A decrease in dues for student members (only \$5 per year) was enacted in 2013, but was not fully advertised (the AAA website recently corrected this), so we expect to attract more student members in coming years.

### ***Mentorship:***

CMA plays a significant role in linking the museum anthropology community together, nationally and internationally. We actively encourage student members and have agreed to have an elected student board member. We have maintained close links with the Smithsonian Institute for Museum Anthropology, a National Science Foundation sponsored summer program for graduate students interested in researching museum collections. In planning our annual reception, we make sure that we link in with the local museum community and wherever possible co-sponsor the event. We encourage our members to develop sessions that cover important topics for the museum profession in general. The internship programs that museums offer are a particularly good way of engaging young scholars in the discipline and open up career possibilities. We have a relatively young board and actively encourage the participation of early career scholars in our programs. Museum anthropology also attracts independent scholars who follow up personal interests through becoming involved in museums as volunteers which often allows them to pursue their scholarly interests. This may be an area in which CMA could become more engaged.

### ***Outreach:***

We have close links with the Society for Visual Anthropology and a history of cooperating with other sections. Museums are an important portal for community engagement and perhaps should be used more in communicating anthropological knowledge broadly defined to different audiences and interest groups. We work closely with the Smithsonian and other museums in developing programs and in many ways CMA provides a fulcrum for museum anthropology on a global basis, which means that it links in with the wider museum community. CMA has significant minority representation on its board and through its membership, but equally importantly engages with minorities through its programs. Our Journal fulfils a major role internationally. There are no equivalents.

### ***Communications:***

CMA has recently dramatically improved our communication strategies and web presence for more effective outreach to members and the general public. We have re-designed and updated the CMA website. We have also adopted the use of social media connections Facebook and Twitter.

### ***New Initiatives:***

We have an excellent and active board and our strategy over the next year is to increase our engagement with our constituency. In order to achieve this we have improved our communications and our Facebook page is beginning to attract an enthusiastic response. We need to attract more students and volunteers as members. We also need to engage more with anthropology in Europe, where a much more positive relationship has developed between anthropology and museums than is the case in the USA. The President of CMA is convening a session of the decennial conference of the ASA in Edinburgh this June as a step in that direction.

Museums are one of the most important portals for anthropological engagement with the public. We need to use our position to better advantage, and to get our colleagues to understand the importance of such engagements. We have, for example, formed strong collaborations with SVA, which is another section that presents great opportunities for outreach. We are considering creating a joint session on materiality at the next AAA conference, led by CMA and SVA, to emphasize the role that material culture continues to play in anthropological research. We need to engage more with the discourse on materiality from the perspective of museums, scholars, and communities who engage with the issues in tangible ways through various collections and initiatives.

We also need to have a stronger engagement with source communities. Museum anthropologists are playing a crucial role in the reengagement of peoples with their material heritage, and are beginning to develop a more nuanced understanding of the motivations of those who helped to create the major ethnographic collections. Experiences in Australia, Europe, Canada and increasingly the USA are beginning to show a very different kind of engagement between museum anthropology and indigenous communities, in which collections and archives are seen to be a major resource in the present. CMA needs to be part of that movement as a portal for the positive engagement of indigenous communities with the resources from anthropology's past. That should be one of our greatest strengths.

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### ***Council for Museum Anthropology Michael M. Ames Award***

The Michael M. Ames Prize for Innovative Museum Anthropology is awarded annually to individuals for innovative work in museum anthropology, which is understood to entail outstanding single or multi-authored books, published catalogues, temporary and permanent exhibits, repatriation projects, collaborations with descendant communities, educational or outreach projects, multimedia works, and other endeavors. Individuals can be nominated by any member of CMA. A letter of nomination and any supporting material should accompany a copy of the evidence of the work under consideration. The CMA prize committee reviews the works and prize-winners are notified in advance of the annual AAA meetings so that they can consider attending. The prize winner (or winners) are announced at the AAA Annual Meeting and presented with a certificate of the award.

### ***2014 CMA Michael M. Ames Award Winners***

**Leslie Witz** (History Department, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa) and **Noëleen Murray** (Geography and Environmental Studies, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa).

Witz and Murray received the award for their book *Hostels, Homes, Museum: Memorialising Migrant Labour Pasts in Lwandle, South Africa* (2014), and for their intellectual and practical work with the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum, and the exhibit "Hostel 33." The Museum is the first township-based museum in the Western Cape province of South Africa and was founded in 1998 to serve as a reminder of the migrant labor system that undergirded the apartheid system. In a 1990s post-apartheid development scheme to refurbish hostels into family homes, a committee decided to preserve one dormitory, block 6, hostel 33, as the foundation for the new museum. Witz and Murray have worked with LMLM board members, museum staff, residents and appointed professionals since 2000 on the development of the museum and the exhibition based on its key artifact--the migrant labor hostel. They have also helped create a walking tour of the area, build collections, and design a public space around the museum. This long-term engagement and their research on and documentation of the LMLM's exhibitions over the years became the basis for their book.

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### ***Council for Museum Anthropology Student Travel Awards***

Two "CMA Student Travel Awards" of \$500 each are awarded annually to graduate students and recent PhD recipients to support travel to the annual AAA meeting to present papers and/or posters.

### *Nomination Process:*

Applications (self-nominations are encouraged) are due on APRIL 15 of the given year. A brief letter of application (two –three pages) must indicate the applicant’s status as a student or recent PhD holder, and explain how this paper/poster relates to their ongoing work and aspirations in the field of museum anthropology. Applicants must include a copy of the abstract for the paper or poster, and, if available, the name and abstract for the AAA session in which they will be presenting. All applicants must also submit a letter of endorsement from a present or former academic advisor at their most recent institution of study.

Awards are contingent upon acceptance of the abstract for presentation at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting. Applicants are encouraged to ask that their abstract be reviewed by CMA for possible inclusion in a CMA organized session. Prize winners will be selected by SEPTEMBER 1, and will be mailed a check to be used towards travel expenses. Prize winners will be announced and presented with a certificate of the award at the CMA Business Meeting during the AAA Annual Meeting.

### *Evaluation Criteria:*

- 1) Creativity: Is the paper or poster a unique and novel contribution to museum anthropology?
- 2) Commitment: Does the student demonstrate a commitment to the field of museum anthropology?
- 3) Impact: Does the paper or poster have the potential to develop into a work that could more broadly impact the field of museum anthropology?

## ***2014 CMA Student Travel Award Winners***

***Joseph Feldman*** (U Florida).

**“Not South Africa’: Making Transitional Justice Peruvian at a National Museum Project”**

Session: "Transitional Justice in Space and Time"

This paper analyzes the transnational dimensions of Peru’s Place of Memory, Tolerance and Social Inclusion (*Lugar de la Memoria, la Tolerancia y la Inclusión Social*), a national museum project carried out in the aftermath of the country’s truth commission (2001-2003). I focus specifically on how Peru’s recent experience of violence and post-conflict transition becomes narrated as incommensurate with those of other nations in Latin America and elsewhere. Taking Benedict Anderson’s claims about the modular nature of national narrative as a point of departure, I examine this practice of recognizing and rejecting equivalence as it appeared in three ethnographic arenas: meetings with foreign delegations, conversations with the museum’s long-time director—an elite *Limeño* (Lima resident) who lived in France during the violence—and the rhetoric of stakeholders who framed their concerns using global idioms of memorialization and transitional justice. The paper places particular emphasis on how “memory” and “never again” operate within the time-space of a Peru that is growing economically but characterized by ongoing forms of violence. I conclude by discussing the implications of these Peruvian logics of nationhood (summarized here as “not South Africa”) for social repair, and the extent to which scientific research on transitional justice mechanisms can benefit from a nuanced anthropology of the state.

***Hannah Turner*** (U Toronto).

**“The Infrastructure of Ethnographic Data”**

Session: "Producing Anthropology through Museum Collections: Conversations in Critical Cataloguing"

Museum catalogues were created to house the information, or the “raw data” concerning collections. Early museum workers saw the information about the objects as, in many cases, more important than the objects themselves. Through continual data migration events, this “legacy data” is written into the modern catalogue. This paper questions how the recording of museum information within digital cataloguing systems has made certain knowledges possible, and suggests it is an infrastructure which is implicitly valued. It specifically examines how Indigenous knowledge has been documented in the museum catalogue at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), and questions how this system has discursively constructed Indigenous identities through time. Through the seemingly mundane activities of recording information about objects into a database, the museum cataloguing system stabilizes representation of peoples, and this has ethical implications. It asks: Are there technological capabilities of the digital database that shape how information can be remembered and retold? Or do we

need alternative infrastructures to complete this task? Lastly, how will we manage and record new born-digital objects within preexisting systems? Through a critical analysis of cataloguing and digitization at the NMNH, and using the theoretical framework of infrastructure, this paper interrogates the how the data of the “ethnographic object” is managed. It suggests that fields like “provenance” and “collector” may not be useful to understand how objects are used and understood today, and searches for a decolonized solution for managing the information concerning collections.

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### ***Council for Museum Anthropology Events at the 2014 AAA Meeting***

The Council for Museum Anthropology sponsored or co-sponsored the following sessions at the American Anthropological Association Meetings in Washington DC, December 3-7, 2014

#### **Wednesday, December 3, 2014**

2:00 PM-3:45 PM, Session 2-0375

“Museum Anthropology Current Themes”

Larissa Margareth, [Mark Forster](#)

4:00 PM-5:45 PM, Session 2-0540

“Producing Anthropology Through Museum Collections: Conversations in Critical Cataloguing”

Candace Greene, Hannah Turner

#### **Thursday, December 4, 2014**

11:00 AM-12:45 PM, Session 3-0435

“Repatriation Relations”

Jennifer Kramer, Cara Krmpotich

2:30 PM-4:15 PM, Session 3-0970

“Museums, Power and Globalization: Shifting Institutional Identities in the Age of Plurality”

Diana Elizabeth Marsh, Diana Elizabeth Marsh, Gwyneira L Isaac, Anthony Alan Shelton

#### **Friday, December 5, 2014**

2:30 PM-4:15 PM, Session 4-0815

Antecedents of ‘Mid-Century Modern’: Towards the Production of the History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Relationship Between Art and Anthropology”

Nancy C Lutkehaus, Maureen Anne Molloy, Howard Morphy, Marc Manganaro

2:30 PM-4:15 PM, Session 4-0835

“Negotiating Identities---A Role or a Challenge for the Museum?”

Blaire O Gagnon, Francoise Dussart, Sachiko Kubota, Chris Anderson

#### **Saturday, December 6, 2014**

11:00 AM-12:45 PM, Session 5-0420

“What Role Can Museums Play in the Revitalization of Endangered Languages and Knowledges? A Roundtable Discussion”

Gwyneira L Isaac, Cordelia A. Frewen, Mark Turin, Jennifer Kramer, Kate Hennessy, Evelyn Windsor, Clyde Tallio, Heidi Bohaker, Alan Corbiere, Gerry Lawson

#### **Sunday, December 7, 2014**

8:00 AM-9:45 AM, Session 6-0095

“Collecting Things, Connecting People: Revisiting the Meaning and Significance of Collections for Contemporary Anthropology”

Changkyu Lee, Jennifer E. McDowell, Robert Pontsioen

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## ***Council for Museum Anthropology Communications***

In January 2014, CMA formed a new Communications Committee (composed of Margaret Bruchac, Corinne Kratz, and Cara Krmpotich) to manage and expand CMA communications. The Committee immediately set to work to expand CMA's visibility through multiple forms of on-line presence and social media. At present, CMA's digital profile includes:

- The *Museum Anthropology Blog*, which features current issues, breaking news, job postings, and commentary on current events in the field.
- The CMA website, which provides a reference point and archive for CMA business and events.
- The column in *Anthropology News* in-print and on-line, which offers annual formal announcements of awards, events, and commentary on broader issues from the board perspective.
- The new CMA *Facebook* page, which offers timely announcements, photo galleries, and discussion.
- The new CMA *Twitter* feed (and other forms of social media as they emerge).

### ***CMA Website***

The CMA Website has finally been updated, and it now includes updated addresses for CMA board members and officers. Pages have been added to highlight Annual Meeting Reports (full pdf files are available), a selection of photos from Museum Receptions, Awards, and By-Laws. The site was designed and administered (until 2014) by former CMA Board member Daniel C. Swan, Curator of Ethnology and Professor of Anthropology. Swan has graciously renewed the subscription to the site for another two years, but this is an expense that CMA should take over in the future. CMA Secretary Bruchac is now the administrator of the site. New pages will be added this year, including a page that lists all past CMA award winners, with links to their award-winning projects (where available). Another new page will provide links to educational resources for museum anthropology (e.g., field schools, seminars).

### ***CMA Anthropology News Column, now On-line***

The Council for Museum Anthropology publishes a regular column in *Anthropology News*, the bi-monthly newsletter of the American Anthropological Association. CMA's column offers news on programs in museum anthropology, announcements of CMA awards, and periodic editorials concerning museum engagements with anthropological topics.

All of CMA's past print columns are archived at AnthroSource, which is accessible only to AAA members. However, open source access is now being provided by the new *Anthropology News* website, which was redesigned to call attention to cutting-edge research and interesting engagements with anthropological issues across all sections of AAA. As a result of this redesign, select CMA columns are now available to the general public as well. Links to those columns are provided on the CMA website.

### ***CMA Facebook Page***

The new CMA Facebook page, managed and edited by Corinne Katz, has been very successful, and we now have 500 fans! This page has solved many of our problems with communication, since we can now reach out to members and to the general public immediately about current events, exhibits, award notices, and other matters. Corinne has been posting current exhibitions, job notices, awards, conferences, and a wide variety of relevant and fascinating news in the field of museum anthropology.

### ***CMA Twitter Feed***

The new CMA Twitter Feed, ably administered by Cara Krmpotich, has also been successful, with Cara regularly posting live tweets from museum exhibition openings, conferences, and other events. Like the Facebook page, the Twitter feed is helping to increase CMA's visibility and presence in ongoing events and conversations in museums and in the field.

### ***CMA Communication Protocols***

The rapid expansion in the use of social media inspired the members of the Communications Committee to devise new guidelines and protocols for CMA Communications, as follows:

## *CMA Communication Protocols*

### **CMA Communications Committee Responsibilities**

- The CMA Secretary is formally responsible for CMA Board and CMA Section communications.
- The CMA Secretary maintains the CMA website and CMA links to the AAA website.
- The CMA Secretary edits and publishes the CMA column in *Anthropology News* (in print and on-line).
- The CMA Communications Committee (chaired by the Secretary and composed of at least one other CMA Board member) helps to facilitate communications between CMA Section members, and communications to the general public.
- The Editors of the CMA journal *Museum Anthropology* (who need not be members of the CMA Communications Committee) maintain and edit all content posted to the *Museum Anthropology* blog.
- Members of the CMA Communications Committee may be delegated to assume responsibility for other media for CMA communications---including additional postings to the *Museum Anthropology* blog, Facebook page, Twitter account, and other media yet to be determined.
- Communications Committee members will maintain regular email contact with one another to reduce any possible confusion in the messages generated for CMA members and other audiences.
- Members of the CMA Communications Committee are expected to be (or become) fluent in the use of social media, and are encouraged to collaborate to devise ways to maintain and improve CMA's overall visibility, through web presence and digital communications.

### **Protocols for All CMA Communications**

- CMA strives to respect and acknowledge authors' rights to their work. To this end, whenever possible, reproduced images and text will include information on the author, year, location, and original place of publication.
- The CMA does not tolerate hate speech or discrimination. The CMA Communications Committee reserves the right to refuse to publish, or to remove published on-line comments, that are discriminatory or hateful.
- All CMA communications are for the benefit of CMA members and the museum anthropology community. The CMA Communications Committee reserves the right to refuse to publish, or to remove published on-line comments, that do not relate to CMA or are not relevant to museum anthropology and associated disciplines and professions.
- Official announcements from CMA regarding CMA awards and business matters require approval from the CMA Executive and Board before publication in print or on-line, and before circulation to the membership via email. The Secretary is responsible for identifying these topics and facilitating approvals.
- Other CMA communications concerning other museum anthropology topics (see examples listed under social media) may be vetted through the Communications Committee.

### **Protocols for Social Media**

Social media presents opportunities to increase CMA's communication with current members, future members, museums and educational institutions, and the public more broadly.

Social media (i.e. Facebook and Twitter) may be used by the Council to:

- 1) provide information about matters involving CMA and AAA business and news;
- 2) draw attention to CMA-related opportunities, deadlines, and updates to the CMA website;
- 3) acknowledge and promote members' news, achievements, events, press appearances, columns, etc.;
- 4) draw attention to current issues and scholarly-professional resources and opportunities related to museum anthropology, heritage, cultural property, and related fields;
- 5) promote articles in the *Museum Anthropology* journal;
- 6) add a social dimension to communications.

*Adopted by CMA Communications Committee January 20, 2014*

### ***Upcoming Topics for the CMA Column in Anthropology News, in Print***

In 2013, AAA editors decided to reduce the print version of *Anthropology News* to six issues (down from 11 issues). This move also limited Section News to only 4 issues per year, making it difficult to provide timely notice of awards and events in print.

Thinking ahead, we can match our news to the schedule of *AN* publication to maintain better visibility. The only available slots for *AN* Section News in-print are: March/April (deadline January 1); May/June (deadline March 1); July/August (deadline May 1); and November/December (deadline September 1).

It is, therefore, proposed that we adopt the following publication format for *AN* by alternating the publication of on-line and in-print CMA columns. The schedule would be as follows:

#### SEPTEMBER ON-LINE:

- President-Elect's Position Statement
- Statements from New Officers elected in 2014

#### OCTOBER ON-LINE:

- Statement from New Museum Anthropology Editors
- Statement regarding publishing plan for Museum Anthropology

#### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER (deadline September 1) IN PRINT:

- Description of upcoming Sessions at the AAA Conference
- Call for Nominations for Future Elections

#### JANUARY OR FEBRUARY ON-LINE:

- Announcements of 2015 CMA Award Deadlines

#### MARCH/APRIL (deadline January 1) IN PRINT:

- Announcements of 2014 CMA Student Travel Award Recipients
- Announcements of 2014 CMA Ames and Lifetime Award Recipients
- Repeat Announcements of 2015 CMA Award Deadlines

#### MAY/JUNE (deadline March 1):

- Report on Behind-the-Scenes Museum Tour at 2014 AAA Meeting

#### JULY/AUGUST (deadline May 1):

- Column from a CMA Board Member on an International Museum Topic

It would be very helpful for future planning if the relevant CMA board members (especially newly elected officers) could prepare statements in advance of the publication deadlines noted above.

The Secretary also invites CMA members to consider contributing columns and information on topics of interest to the CMA membership. All *Anthropology News* Section columns are limited to 1000 words each. Photographs are especially encouraged. Please send your column ideas to the CMA Secretary at: [mbruchac@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:mbruchac@sas.upenn.edu).

Annual report submitted by Margaret M. Bruchac  
Secretary, Council for Museum Anthropology  
American Anthropological Association Meeting  
Washington, DC, December 2014