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## Society for East Asian Anthropology

JENNIFER HUBBERT AND GORDON MATHEWS,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

### SEAA Convenes in Philadelphia: AAA 2009

By Junko Teruyama

The Society for East Asian Anthropology sponsored a total of 18 panels at the 2009 AAA meeting in Philadelphia, covering a wide range of topics including resource management, grassroots movements, globalization, gender and family, popular culture, ethnicity, citizenship, youth and labor. Many panels were organized across national and regional boundaries, establishing an interesting dialogue by engaging with a pan-Asian scope in its inquiry.

At the business meeting, we introduced our newly elected officers: Jennifer Robertson (president), Aihwa Ong (president-elect), Julia Huang (councilor), Elise Edwards (councilor), Beth Notar (treasurer) and Susan McArver (student councilor). Anru Lee and Julia Huang reported on the tremendous success of the 2009 SEAA Conference in Taipei, "East by Southeast: Multiple Perspectives on Asia," held in conjunction with the Taiwan Society for Anthropology and Ethnology. The conference drew 450 registered participants from 17 different countries. This was the third SEAA conference held outside the annual AAA meeting. The first was in 2004, when the annual meeting was cancelled due to hotel labor disputes. Through the energetic and enterprising efforts of then-president Laura Miller, the East Asian panels convened at UC Berkeley, setting a precedent for subsequent "independent" meetings (see *AN* February 2005). The second independent meeting was held in Hong Kong in 2006 (see *AN* October 2006). In addition, we toasted the official launch of the SEAA Online English-Chinese Dictionary of Keywords in Anthropology (<http://seaaterm.wjh.harvard.edu/wiki/doku.php>), which has been one of the ongoing projects of SEAA for the past several years. SEAA has plans to allocate further funds in support of this project, with the hope that it will grow to be a beneficial resource for anthropologists of East Asia.

The student councilors made an updated report on the online student writing groups. This project provides a forum through which students receive feedback and constructive criticism on their work through the exchange of research proposals and dissertation chapter drafts with others at similar stages of dissertation writing. The student councilors hope to recruit more participants as well as to receive feedback from current participants on how the logistics may be improved to promote an active forum. Please contact Susan McArver ([susan\\_mcarver@uail.ucsb.edu](mailto:susan_mcarver@uail.ucsb.edu)) and Junko Teruyama ([teruyama@umich.edu](mailto:teruyama@umich.edu)) for more information on this project.

The annual student dinner hosted by the student councilors took place again this year, in a nearby restaurant in Chinatown. Despite the snowy weather, eight student members attended, and the lively exchange extended well into the evening as they moved to a nearby hotel to continue the conversation. Students constitute roughly a third of the SEAA membership, and the student councilors hope that the annual dinner will continue to be an opportunity to serve the vibrant and growing community of young scholars.

### 2009 SEAA Prize Recipients

We had several other achievements to celebrate at the meetings. This year, the Francis LK Hsu Book Prize went to Nicole Dejong Newendorp (Harvard U) for her book *Uneasy Reunions: Immigration, Citizenship, and Family Life in Post-1997 Hong Kong* (Stanford U Press, 2008). The judges praised it as "An elegant ethnography of... Chinese mainland wives who join their Hong Kong husbands after [waiting years] cross China's internal border ... *Uneasy Reunions* achieves what all ethnography aspires to: rich and textured portraiture of a corner of the human experience that speaks to the largest issues and experiences of our times." C Sarah Soh (San Francisco State U) received an honorable mention for her book *The Comfort Women: Sexual Violence and Postcolonial Memory in Korea and Japan* (U Chicago Press, 2009), "A courageous example of engaged anthropology on a sharply contested issue." The Theodore C Bestor Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper was awarded to Junjie Chen (U Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) for his work "Performing the Family Planning Project in Post-Socialist China: An Interpretive Approach to (Re)producing Class." An abridged version of the Bestor Prize paper will be published in *Anthropological News* in April.

Please send contributions to this column to Jennifer Hubbert ([hubbert@lclark.edu](mailto:hubbert@lclark.edu)) or Gordon Mathews ([cmgordon@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:cmgordon@cuhk.edu.hk)).

## Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology

ANNELOU YPEIJ, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

### President's Message 2009

By Ramona Perez (San Diego State U)

We have had a very prosperous year with improvements to our finances and additions to our board; unfortunately we also lost one of our past-presidents and significant contributors to our discipline, Michael Kearney. We hope to find a way to appropriately honor him in the near future. I would like to summarize the many changes and important messages that we covered at our last annual board meeting in Philadelphia.

Beginning with our board, I would like to thank Elayne Zorn for her fantastic work as our treasurer. Elayne is an organizational genius who created long-term solutions to the many issues that have plagued us concerning our finances. Many thanks to Susan Paulson who in her capacity as councilor contributed significantly across the board, chairing our Roseberry Nash student paper contests and working alongside other chairs on nominations and meeting session organization. Carla Guerron-Montoya has been a wonderful secretary; she contributed to many committees during her term and participated in many of our key decisions throughout the year. We also said goodbye to Maria Eugenia Brockman, our student councilor who has managed our listserv over the last few years. We welcome Travis Dubry into the full role as treasurer, Martha Rees as secretary, Jane Henrici as councilor, and Nick Welcome as our new student representative. Jane Henrici will chair our nominations committee. Though the deadline for 2010 nominations has passed, I encourage you to participate through volunteerism. If you are interested in participating on a committee please contact Jane Henrici at [henrici@iwpr.org](mailto:henrici@iwpr.org). This is a great way to "feel out" serving on the board while gaining service credit through SLACA.

Our finances are in great shape and our financial report is available on the website. Nick Welcome will work on updating our website, making it more user-friendly while adding new information sources such as a tab for syllabi on Latin America, updated minutes from our meetings, current financial information, and important announcements. He will also work with our other student councilor, Jonathan DeVore to create a Facebook page for SLACA. I encourage you to keep sending job announcements and other important messages through the listserv, which is now being moderated by Walter Little.

The society is focusing on how we can serve our members more effectively. The implementation of a spring meeting with the SfAA in March 2009 opened up more opportunities for our members to present their work under the rubric of SLACA as well as SfAA; we hope this has helped new scholars who struggle to justify their applied work to their universities in that their paper or session is refereed by SLACA. Submitting papers under SLACA for the SfAA Annual Meeting also allows our members to only pay the conference registration fee. Our reception last year in Santa Fe was a smashing success and we packed the room. We were thrilled with the turnout and the opportunity to have Michael and Scott Whiteford present the first Whiteford Prizes to Mauricio Magaña (US) and Cynthia X Ingar (LA). We encourage you to have your graduate students submit papers for the Whiteford Prize in Applied Research. We will initiate a new speaker series for our spring meeting that will honor an established scholar who has contributed to the discipline while also contributing to the communities with whom s/he works and to the future of anthropology through mentoring future scholars.

In addition to the spring meeting and improving our website, we are also considering other outreach programs; one suggestion has been to solicit our



Nicole Dejong  
Newendorp