

What's New

Issue 2

November 8, 2021

Next Commission-wide Meeting

Thurs., Dec. 9 at 4:00 EST

New Website

Thanks to Matt Artz, our new website will launch soon; it contains something for everyone: students, teaching faculty/instructors, and practitioners.

We are especially proud of the “World of Work Blog” which will be a resource pertaining to workplace problems.

The Blog’s style will be set up as a Q&A. One practitioner poses a question about a thorny issue on the job while another practitioner responds. Think “Ask Ann Landers” or “Dear Abby.” If you are too young to recognize those names, then google them!



CAREER READINESS COMMISSION

Early Results Are Coming In

The six groups have been working fast and furiously, using rapid collection techniques, to accomplish their goals. All have super volunteers. Here are some of the highlights.

Group 1: Practitioner Delphi Survey

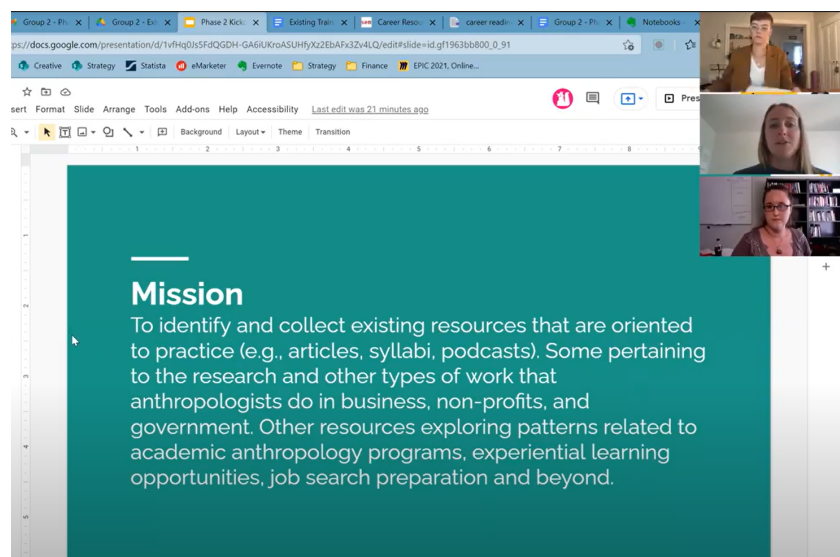
This group, headed by Riall Nolan, gathered responses from practitioners about what they felt was missing in their academic programs which would have been helpful during the job search. Practitioners: 1) Help and guidance in developing professional networks, and 2) Making the case for anthropology as they “pitch” to potential employers.

The survey’s second question asked what was missing in their academic programs which would have been useful in doing their current job. Practitioners: 1) More + different kinds of methods, and 2) Project planning and management skills.

Group 1 is planning a second round of the Delphi survey to explore the kinds of methods that would be most useful to today’s practitioners.

Group 2: Compiled Resources

Group 2, co-led by Gina Nuñez-Mchiri and Kira Ballin, describes its focus in the compilation of practice resources (see photo). The resources will be categorized into content domains (e.g., environmental, organizational culture, CRM) as well as process domains (e.g., methods, collaboration,



Selected members of Group 2 discussing its “mission”

New Group 7

Group 7 will form in December 2021 with Nazia Hussain at the helm. It will focus on ways of articulating the value of anthropology to key audiences (e.g., employers, students' parents, science reporters).

New Presentations

Riall Nolan has presented twice on the initial findings from Group 1:

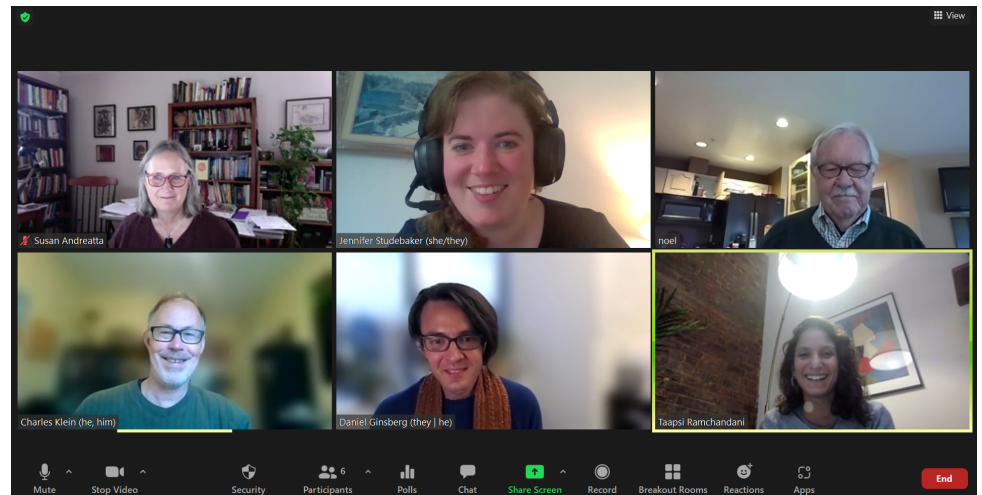
- WWNA 2021: Why the World Needs Anthropologists, September 10-12, 2021, in Prague, Czech Republic
- Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), November 5, 2021, in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Global audiences are keenly interested in the Commission's work.

managerial skills). Group 2 plans to organize all materials in an on-line repository so that they will be most useful to teaching faculty/instructors and to students. Kira Ballin and Claire Sigworth posted recently on LinkedIn seeking helpful materials. Contact them with recommendations: kiraballin94@gmail.com or claire.sigworth@gmail.com.

Group 3: Work Sectors

Jennifer Studebaker is leading this group focused on practicing in different sectors (e.g., non-profits, design, military, private sector). This group is conducting practitioner interviews through mid-November with the goal of identifying the skills, knowledge, and connections necessary to join and succeed in a particular sector. Outcomes expected include sector-specific tip sheets for students, teaching faculty/instructors, and those making a career transition, as well as curriculum and ongoing professional development recommendations.



Some members of Group 3 collaborating (and smiling for the camera!)

Group 4: Departmental Narratives

Group 4, led by Angela Ramer and Susan Squires, is interviewing members of Anthropology programs which have implemented some form of practice (e.g., applied courses, internship requirement). This group is intent on identifying both successful and failed attempts so that a set of lessons can be crafted for academic programs seeking to introduce practice.

Initial findings from Group 4 include: 1) Practice gets high support when introduced, but departmental support for practice wanes over time, 2) Institutionalizing practice necessitates integration in the curriculum, 3) Faculty must serve as the standard bearers of practice, not untenured instructors, and 4) Finding ways to incorporate practice while recognizing faculty incentives will help improve implementation.

A second, parallel effort involves Susan Squires' graduate anthropology class at the University of North Texas. Insights from this research include:

New Connections

The Applied Anthropology Network (AAN) in Europe partnered with the Career Readiness Commission, NAPA, and WAPA on October 16, 2021 to host:

“Who Gets a Job? Anthropologists!”

Speakers included Matt Artz, Emily Pace, Ken Banks, and Joana Breidenbach.

This event, along with Riall Nolan’s recent global presentations, have begun paving the way for the Commission’s expansion outside the U.S. after May 2022.

New Submissions

Four events have been prepared for the SfAA Meetings in Salt Lake City, March 22-26, 2022. They include a double session and two workshops. The Commission will share a booth with COPAA in the exhibit hall during the conference.

1) When practice is part of the curriculum, it attracts students outside of anthropology, including those who decide to shift their master’s studies to anthropology, 2) Departmental champions of practice get frustrated with the “old guard” who are unwilling to recognize the value that practice brings to theory, scholarship, problem solving, and change.

Group 5: Supporting Organizations

April Steele’s group is in resource-gathering mode, researching extracurricular resources that support practitioner training. To date their searches have revealed a disconnect between academic institutions and the wider pool of opportunities available to practitioners.

Anthropology departments and employers/funders struggle to connect the dots between anthropology and its application beyond academia. For instance, when Anthropology Departments list internship opportunities, they emphasize well-known opportunities such as museums or the American Anthropological Association (which hires two summer interns each year). April’s group is working on identifying opportunities to connect current and future practitioners to internships, professional organizations, funding opportunities, and other resources.

They are also exploring the ways that Anthropology Clubs could facilitate these connections. Anthropology Departments need the Commission’s help in framing anthropology as part of the 21st century skill set. More direct connections are necessary between 1) departments and employers, and 2) departments and potential funders of practice-oriented research.

Group 6: Future of Practice

Group 6, under the leadership of Astrid Countee, is tasked with how practice will change over time—for example, in response to the grand challenges. To ensure and strengthen an inclusive group of future practitioners, the focus of Group 6 is targeting peer learning networks.

They are investigating platforms that can help in building and maintaining network connections among practitioners. They have in mind promoting and using such a platform for casual conversations—meet-ups and beyond. In addition, they will investigate how to connect existing networks together so that practitioners can find out about upcoming events and activities sponsored by organizations that already reach out to the practitioner community.

The hope is to engage across groups and organizations to enable stronger skill development and expanding networks. Group 6 hope to tap into practitioners’ interest in helping others identify and improve their skills and understanding of the changing job market.

Contact Us

If you are interested in contributing or simply in knowing more, reach out to us via email:

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Promoting the Commission's Work

Elizabeth Briody has been requesting time on association/society Board meetings. She wants to raise awareness of the Commission's efforts and to gather initial reactions and advice.

To date, she and Riall Nolan have introduced five different Boards to the Commission's work, with eight more planned before the end of 2021. Here are the logos of the anthropology associations/societies with whom the Commission has been in touch—whether through conversations, presentations, or direct engagement in Commission activities.



AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Advancing Knowledge, Solving Human Problems



SAA
SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

AABA American Association of Biological Anthropologists



The High Plains Society
for Applied Anthropology



FSAAP Federation of Small
Anthropology Programs

National Association of Student Anthropologists

AAA Task Force on Anthropology in Practice Settings



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF POLICY
A Section of the American Anthropological Association



SOCIETY FOR APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY
A Worldwide Organization for the Applied Social Sciences



National Association of Student Anthropologists



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS



Advancing the Value of Ethnography in Industry



Business Anthropology

Seeking Your Help!

If you know an anthropologist and/or anthropologist-in-training who might like to play a role in

- Improving the career readiness of BA, MA, and PhD anthropology students
- Learning from anthropology faculty and instructors about practice resources that would be useful to them
- Developing frameworks, materials, problem-solving exercises, and modular trainings

we would welcome their participation in the Career Readiness Commission. Please email their names/contact info to: elizabeth.briody@gmail.com.

Next Issue

Look for our next issue in January 2022.