Career Transitions Series

aCRN anthropology
CAREER READINESS NETWORK

Communal Care:
A Listening Session

Facilitated by

Jose Lenardo Santos &

Robert H. Winthrop

May 2, 2025

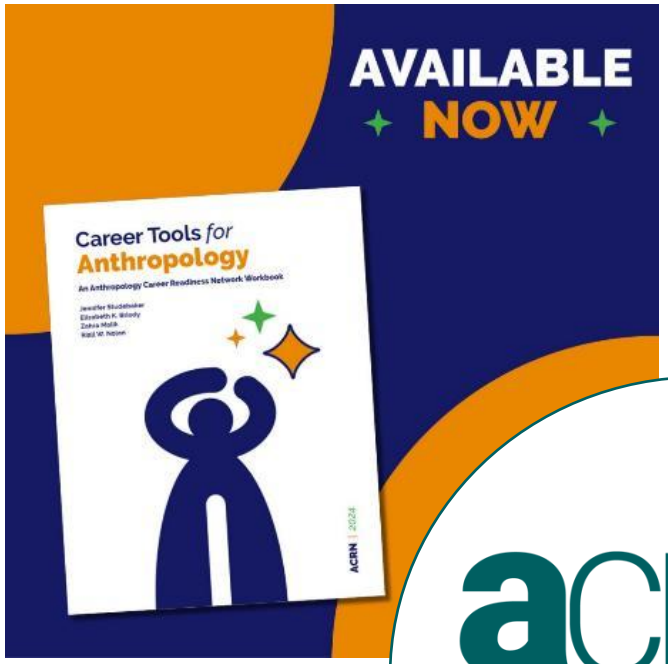
Anthropology Career Readiness Network (ACRN)

Our Mission

Helping to prepare the next generation of anthropologists to meet tomorrow's challenges and opportunities.

Our Resources

- "How-to" Tools for Job Seekers and Instructors including our 2024 Workbook: ***Career Tools for Anthropology***
- Speaker's Bureau
- World of Work Blog
- Client-based Class Projects
- Departmental Advisory Initiative and more!



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anthrocareerready.net

How this Career Transitions Webinar Series came to be

- Established a working group in early April
- Formulated two goals:
  1. Figure out ways to help support anthropologists and archaeologists whose federal jobs who had been terminated
  2. Carry out the plan
- Reached agreement that free career coaching was already available
- Started compiling an Open Google Doc of Career Transition Resources
- Decided to offer three types of webinars
  1. Listening sessions
  2. Networking events
  3. Topical webinars related to careers and career pivoting

Working Group:
Jennifer Studebaker
Kristin Hedges
Jose Santos
Gigi Taylor
Emily Brunson
Elizabeth Briody

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Career Transitions Webinar Series
Fridays, 2:00-3:00 Eastern

- **May 2:** Communal Care: A Listening Session
- **May 9:** Expanding Your Professional Network into a New Area of Work
- **May 16:** Speed Networking
- **May 23:** *(Memorial Day Weekend)*

- Plan to offer a variety of career-related webinars interspersed with networking sessions, pending positive evaluations from first three webinars
- Will seek participant input on webinar topics and networking session formats

Facilitators and Presenters:
Jose Santos
Rob Winthrop
Elizabeth Briody
Nazia Hussain
Riall Nolan
Melissa Vogel
Suanna Selby Crowley
Jennifer Studebaker
Gigi Taylor
Susan Squires
Beth Holland

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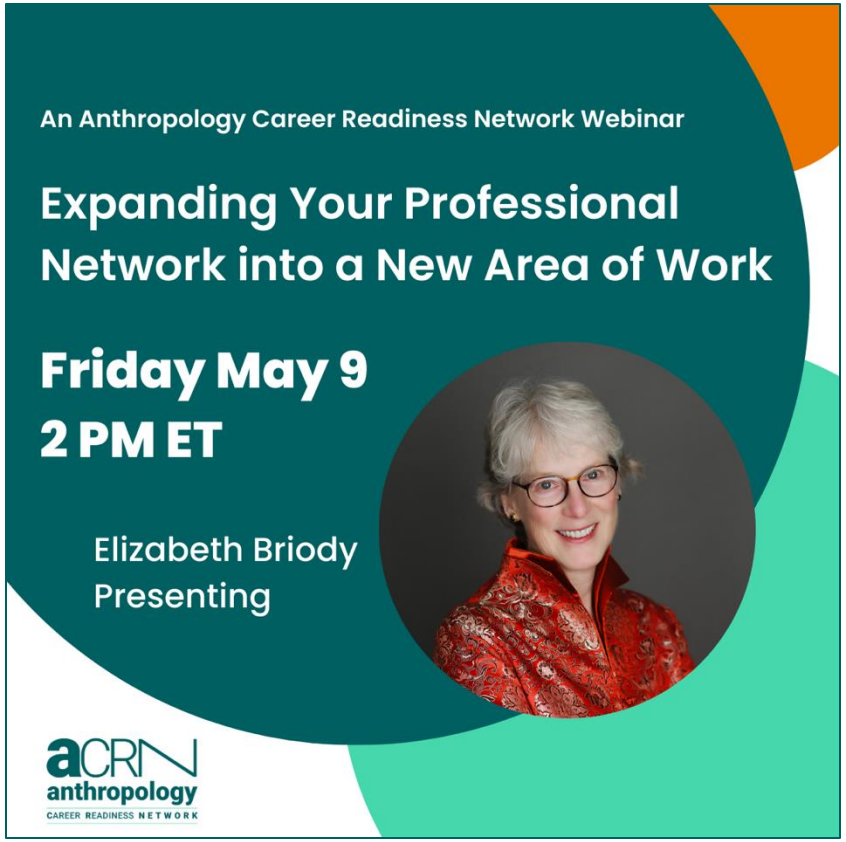
Upcoming ACRN Webinars



ANTHROPOLOGY CAREER READINESS NETWORK

“Communal Care”: A Listening Session

Jose Leonardo Santos and Robert H. Winthrop

Friday, May 2, 2025 2pm Eastern/ 1pm Central

- Federal policy targets practicing social scientists with job loss, public humiliation, intimidation, and ominous uncertainty. This listening session is intended for those who have been affected by layoffs, cuts and closures, and political marginalization. It invites participants to recount and compare stories, and share their hardships. Strategically, this sharing allows us to identify communal needs, formulate strategies to assist one another, and address collective trauma.

ANTHROPOLOGY CAREER READINESS NETWORK

ACRN Career Transition Series

ACRN is working to support anthropologists confronting career pivots at any stage of their career. We particularly wish to support those affected by recent federal cuts and reorganization. Linked resources are available through this google doc.

These upcoming events are listed there as well.

Speed Networking with Nazia Hussain

- **Friday, May 16, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**
- Meeting new people is taken to the next level with ACRN's first Speed Networking event. After a brief introduction by the moderator, you will be placed in small breakout groups to have some initial conversations about career pivots, whether chosen or forced, and the current job market for practitioners across sectors. Networking involves a give and a take. What advice do these anthropologists have for you and what suggestions do you have for them? You will be spontaneous and concise as you work together to understand each other's key needs and then move forward. You will leave this event with new connections and new pathways for your career.
  - **Register here**

Expanding Your Professional Network into a New Area of Work with Elizabeth K. Briody

- **Friday, May 9, 2:00-3:00 Eastern**
- You are exploring job opportunities that require a career pivot. The question becomes, how can you translate your anthropological training into a new work area? This webinar highlights the value in expanding your professional network into this new domain of work. We will discuss what networking is and how it works, why networking is useful, the importance of having networking goals, and preparation for any networking you do. An exercise will follow where you can try your hand at starting a conversation to get the help you need.
  - **Register here**

Background

- 2021
  - Anthropology Career Readiness Network (ACRN) Founded
- 2024
  - "Eliminate Anthropology" and "Ethnographies of a Dying Discipline" Vital Topics Forum invited by *American Anthropologist* following Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) conference
- 2025
  - Trump administration eliminates more than 24,000 federal workers
  - "Communal Care" session at SfAA conference focuses on academic departments
  - Robert Winthrop and Shirley Fisk organize "Forum on Federal Employment and Contracting" at SfAA conference
  - Following the conference, ACRN organizes resources and events for anthropologists in career transition

Communal Care: Goals

- Kin Work
  - Sharing stories (*testimonio*), advice, resources
  - Addressing practical, emotional, and social needs
  - Accumulating information to inform individual and collective strategies
  - Forming and strengthening ties of support
- Hosts will moderate
- Participants will speak
- Hosts will summarize and project next steps at conclusion