

1 July 2018

Dear anthropology colleagues

Welcome to the second ASnA President's Newsletter. It's been an incredibly jam packed quarter for our organisation. The next journal volume 41(1&2) should be hitting your mail box very soon. A big thank you to our editors for another exciting line up of articles. Congratulations to Dr Andile Mayekiso who has been appointed as a lecturer in Anthropology and Development Studies at the University of Johannesburg. In addition, I was sent fabulous news that Valerie Kondo, a Masters student also from University of Johannesburg, published a collaborative commentary in *The Lancet*.

McBride B, Mitra S, Kondo V, Kamal M. 2018. Unpaid Labour, #MeToo, and young women in global health. *The Lancet* 391, 2192-2193: [Online](#)

Africa in the World: Shifting Boundaries and Knowledge Production

ASnA hosted a panel at the joint conference of the American Anthropological Association and African Studies Association held at the Crowne Plaza Rosebank, Johannesburg from May 25-28, 2018. Our panel Negotiating anthropology in southern Africa during a 'negative moment' took Achille Mbembe's quote from *Decolonizing Knowledge and the Question of the Archive* (2015) as a departing point to engage in discussions on the 'academic endeavour' within this 'negative moment':

"Twenty one years after freedom, we have now fully entered what looks like a negative moment... A negative moment is a moment when new antagonisms emerge while old ones remain unresolved."

I was joined by Rosa Persendt (University of Namibia), Treasa Galvin (University of Botswana), Shannon Morreira (ASnA journal editor) and Hemali Joshi (University of Johannesburg) in what turned into a lively discussion. The panel was



extremely well attended, with delegates sitting on the floor until more chairs could be found. I extend my gratitude to the panel and a special thanks to Hemali Joshi for acting as ASnA's nomination to the organising committee and for delivering an excellent welcome address to delegates.

Meeting colleagues from Gauteng and the University of Zululand

While I was attending the *Africa in the World* conference I took the time to meet with colleagues from Wits, UP, UJ and UNISA to discuss several issues. Several weeks later I was in Durban and able to meet



with colleagues (Mandla, Clasper and Simphiwe) from the University of Zululand. Discussions centred around:

- A sense of how each institution is doing with resources, seminars, ethics, students, staff, curriculum, strengths and challenges etc.
- Wenner Gren's reconfiguration of their institutional support grant, which has

historically supported the development of PhD programmes linking a strong institute with a weaker one. ASnA has asked for input.

- The ASnA ethics guidelines and asking each institutional to suggest suitable sub-committee members who have expertise in this area.

Ethics Review

I'd like to thank the following colleagues for making themselves available for the ASnA Ethics Subcommittee to review the ethics guidelines: Owen Sichone (Chair) (Zambia), Treasa Galvin (Botswana), Nosipho Mngomezulu (Wits), Jonathan Stadler (UJ), Fraser McNeill (UP), Manasa Sibanda (Zimbabwe), and Praveer Patel as a student rep from (UJ). Their mandate is to review the existing ethical guidelines and make recommendations for changes at the AGM in Botswana. Please send your recommendations or respond to any queries to Owen Sichone - owen.sichone@cbu.ac.zm

Meet our new treasurer

It was with reluctance that I accepted the resignation of Andre Goodrich from the ASnA council due to his heavy workload since taking over as Director of the Social Sciences at North West University. In accordance with the constitution the council has appointed a new treasurer to serve until the end of the existing term. Filling the treasury position is always difficult, so I'm thrilled that Clasper Monyela has stepped forward. Clasper is a lecturer in anthropology at the University of Zululand. Any financial queries or invoice requests can be sent to asnatreasurer1@gmail.com

Botswana Buzz

The travel grant winners will be announced soon. Student delegates should submit a paper for the Monica Wilson (for Masters and PhD students) and Elaine Salo (for Honours students) essay prizes. Anthropology Southern Africa is thrilled to offer our third Cecil Manona workshop. For this conference the Cecil Manona workshop is designed to stimulate, solicit, and further develop high quality journal submissions from emerging scholars from Southern Africa under the mentorship of senior Southern African Anthropologists.

The National University of Lesotho Profile

The origins of the National University of Lesotho go back to April 8, 1945, when a Catholic University College was founded at Roma by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy of Southern Africa. After independence in 1966, it became the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland (UBLS). The decision to establish the National University of Lesotho on the Lesotho (Roma) campus site of the former UBLS was taken on October 20, 1975. The 80 hectare University site is situated at Roma (pop. 8,000) some 34kms south-east of Maseru, and is surrounded by a barrier of rugged mountains which provides magnificent scenery.

Grace Molale, one the anthropologist who teaches Introduction to Anthropology I & II, is shouting out to ASnA members to assist her in her endeavours to re-establish anthropology.

"It used to be offered as a major until 2013 when there were three staff members, who left NUL. In 2016, the department of History finally secured anthropology as their course and engaged me in October that year, to continue to offer two introductory



courses, while we continue to review the programme. We worked on core courses of anthropology, cultural heritage and archaeology, to be offered as a combined major with the hope that once it's standing, each can branch off easily to be a major as we are getting more personnel. At the moment, we are at a stage where we have written a report but we are struggling to find external voluntary review. I must also highlight that in Lesotho students do want to enrol in anthropology and the main tuition sponsor is willing to sponsor. Even the library material we have on anthropology is limited and most of the books are very very old. I must highlight that in Lesotho students do want to enrol in anthropology and the main tuition sponsor is willing to sponsor.

If you can assist Grace in anyway, then please contact her on gracemolale@gmail.com

“Anthropology...how can you get a job doing that?”

During the rounds of meeting with universities I was met with a consistent request to provide prospective students a broad idea of career prospects. I have committed myself to building a database of graduates who are using their anthropology which can be downloaded or linked for departmental use.



Meet Gosiam 'Amy' Goitsemodimo from the National Museum in Bloemfontein

“I have always been fascinated by culture and nature. So, at University I was introduced to Anthropology, which became one of my majors along with Geography. What I liked and continue to like about Anthropology is its respect for humans and the ability to provide a more holistic account through empirical research. Anthropology is definitely the glue that binds the human and natural sciences as it has origins in both fields. Alfred Kroeber (1876-1960) said “Anthropology is the most humanistic of the sciences and the most

scientific of the humanities”. In a museum context, the work we do is mostly collection-based (i.e. research, exhibitions and conservation), because museums are the custodians of natural and cultural heritage. Through our exhibitions we teach people about the past and how culture evolves. Local communities often develop a sense of pride in the way they are portrayed and enjoy learning about other cultures.”

Until next time...

Helen

Helen Macdonald

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