

toward a publishing partnership agreement. The NAPA board wants to serve its membership and the profession, and although publication is not the only service NAPA provides, we have heard loudly and clearly that it is an important channel for timely information exchange.

NAPA Bulletin #25

The Globalization of Anthropology, edited by Carole E Hill and Marietta L Baba, (NAPA Bulletin #25) is now available online at www.anthrosource.net. In this timely volume, contributors from 10 nations (Canada, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Great Britain, India, Israel, Portugal, Russia and the US) discuss their perspectives as practitioners and applied anthropologists in their respective countries and in historic perspective.

EPIC 2006 Proceedings

The proceedings of the second annual meeting of the Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference (EPIC) are now available at www.epic2006.com and will be migrated to www.anthrosource.net.

The conference was held on September 24–26, 2006, at the Intel Corporation Conference Center, Portland, Oregon.

EPIC brings together people from around the world who are thinking about the theoretical and methodological development of ethnography in industry practice. Participants include those who are working in or with industry. EPIC is designed to nurture collaboration among those using ethnography in corporate settings who by the nature of their work may not otherwise find a community in which to share experiences and lessons learned.

This year's theme is "transitions." The papers are grouped into three sections: Everyday Life, Social Transitions and Cultural Transitions. Fifteen workshops provided training in areas from ethics in industry to managing managers.

News, issues or photos of interest to NAPA members can be sent to Inga E Treitler ingat@knology.net.

National Association of Student Anthropologists

MELINDA BERNARDO, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Below is a response to Rachel Irwin's March 2006 article about the differences between US and British anthropology.

Anthropology and The North



Kathryn Harriman

By Kathryn Harriman (U Aberdeen)

It's a state of mind, a set of hierarchies, a national image reified in traffic signs. Drive up from England, and your only guides to one third of the nation won't point you towards Glasgow or Edinburgh, but to "The North."

It doesn't stop there: Hierarchies nest. Within Scotland there's the Central Belt, a mass of people tangled between Edinburgh and Glasgow. Within the decidedly Doric (not Celtic) North East there's Aberdeen... and within Aberdeen? Well, I suppose that depends on whether or not you look to the twinkling oil platforms for your paycheck.

Center-and-margin, center-and-margin, center-and-margin...

Void.

That's where the weight of history creeps in. In Scotland that's where the Clearances are, where the rations and death and cold damp houses of the Second World War are. The poverty of modern tattie and 'neep (Scots for potatoes and turnips) pickers snuggles in there too, right alongside university reading lists.

It's true. In Britain the founding fathers grace those lists; the founding mothers do not. The *haute couture* of French anthropology rolls off people's tongues and blows down the corridors like tumble weed, gathering cachet and tripping up undergrads as it goes. Racist literature sneaks in without a word, put there on those reading lists to be *understood*, tacitly.

But what are we to understand? Academic ideas about society and culture are not the only things that go unmentioned. Sometimes, the silence of collective understanding and assumed agreement feels like a thick, Victorian, pea-soup fog.

Befuddled and confused in your own language? That's the time to celebrate! It's the step beyond utter indignation at archaic reading lists and platitude-laden seminars. Befuddlement and confusion come from the creeping realization that the silence of British history looms large.

Many of the great British transgressions play out here. Our lecturers are English, our secretaries are Scottish, our postgraduates... Well, we troll a library that smells of undergrad BO. At least we have offices; the undergraduates sit and study in that pungent din.

Everyone calls everyone by their first names. Barry, Jim, Kim or Terri. Without titles you slip into complacency with a sigh because, finally, the hint of informal equality reminds you of home. It's easy to miss the agreement that, unlike an American office, British secretaries have enviable status. If inclined, she wields this power like English colonial administrators once did, clearing postgrads from their offices and resettling them across the university's cultured, cobblestone landscape.

Down the corridor from the school secretaries you can take refuge in F61. In that room, behind that door, sits a passive conference table holding silent witness to another great bastion of collective understanding. No one flaunts the rules to this custom either. Instead, the relationships underpinning British driving habits and road signs roll over into the ritual seminar making both incredibly risky to the North American without a native guide. Mastering right-hand drive and quirky accents isn't enough to successfully navigate either roads or seminars.

It all starts fine enough. The conference room is calm. The presenter sits at the head of the table. And then the fog descends.

PowerPoint slides flicker by, theories run 'round chasing their own tails or leap off cliffs into the blind faith of an audience. We pass an hour. The fog lifts and we munch McVities (the brand name of the ubiquitous teatime cookies). It descends again as question time opens with one of the many variations of the ritual refrain, "Thank you so much for your talk, that was very good..."

Then the statements disguised as questions disguised as statements drop one by one. You think you're going mad... and then it all ends with a pilgrimage to the pub.

There no one counts your semicolons and run on sentences. It's a haven for indirect conversations and queries that flow with the beer. And you sit on a wooden bench older than your country peering through dense cigarette smoke to grab a snatch of the presenter's face and read between the lines of the exceedingly polite debate.

Soon they will drive back down out of The Really Real North, on to somewhere like Glasgow or Edinburgh.

Something to say? Please send your comments, questions, suggestions and contributions to Melinda Bernardo at melinda.bernardo@gmail.com.

Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges

LLOYD MILLER, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Website Facelift a Team Effort

By Ann Kaupp (Smithsonian Institution)

At our annual meeting in Merida, Mexico, SACC President Chuck Ellenbaum appointed a task force to consider a new design and content for the SACC website. The task force members are Diane Chidester, Deborah Shepherd, Rob Edwards, Lloyd Miller, Bob Muckle, Ann Popplestone, Phil Stein, Rebecca Stein, Mark Tromans, Chuck Ellenbaum and Ann Kaupp (chair). The task force members met and, realizing the amount of effort required to provide web content and keep it up-to-date, decided that they would share this responsibility and become the website team. Deborah Shepherd has agreed to be our web designer for at least the first year. We intend to start modestly and add new sections as we are able.

In addition to the usual information that goes on an organization's website, we will include a history of SACC (provided by Chuck Ellenbaum), a list of network officers, past issues of *Teaching Anthropology: SACC Notes* and research updates (Bob Muckle will cover archaeology and Phil Stein, physical anthropology). We also want to include profiles of SACC members or links to their web pages and member publications and activities, including field schools and educational tours. We will be sending out requests to SACC members via the listserv to help us provide content for these web sections.