

Anthropology and Environment Section

Candidates 2005

PRESIDENT ELECT Vote for one.

JANIS BRISTOL ALCORN (PhD, University of Texas at Austin, 1982)

Positions Held: Community Conservation Manager and Research Associate (2002-present), The Field Museum of Chicago; Advisor (2002 - present), The Garfield Foundation; Director for Asia (1991-2001), Biodiversity Support Program of World Wildlife Fund; AAAS Fellow (1988-1990) US Agency for International Development; Instructor (1985-1988), Tulane University. **Interests and/or Activities:** political and institutional aspects of biodiversity conservation and environmental management, cross-scale governance (local to global), human ecology, past member of the board of IASCP. **Significant Publications:** Dances around the fire: Conservation organizations and community-based resource management, In Representing Communities: Histories and Politics of Community Based Resource Management, Altamira Press, 2004; Keeping ecological resilience afloat in cross-scale turbulence: An indigenous social movement navigates change in Indonesia, (with J.Bamba, S.Masiun, I.Natalia, A.Royo), In Navigating Nature's Dynamics, Cambridge University Press, 2002; Huastec Mayan Ethnobotany, University of Texas Press, 1984.

Platform Statement

The Anthropology and Environment Section offers a venue whereby academic and practicing anthropologists can bring diverse perspectives to bear on one of the major issues of our time – environmental sustainability. Environmental sustainability occurs at specific local locations but depends on the social assets of, and linkages to, other scales-- municipal, regional, national, and international. Anthropologists are well positioned to facilitate and analyze information flow across these scales, and collaborative to weave environmental justice goals into institutional agendas. If elected, I pledge to work with the Section membership and other sections of AAA to link anthropologists with environmentalists and policymakers to enhance our joint understanding of the issues and options, and influence practice and theory. I bring experience and contacts from working with US government, international agencies, foundations, conservation organizations, local communities, local governments and indigenous organizations - most recently in the Bolivian Amazon and the trinational Gran Chaco area. I bring optimism that anthropologists' analyses and support to grassroots groups offers something more than additional tools to do business as usual. I believe we offer an alternative vision and a new, more democratic

discourse that environmentalists and government agencies will welcome because it helps them to address longstanding problems.

ANNE FERGUSON (PhD, Michigan State University, 1987) **Positions Held:** Associate Professor Anthropology (1997-present) Michigan State University; Assistant Professor Anthropology (1993-96) Michigan State University; Director Women and International Development Program (1997-present) Michigan State University; **Interests:** environmental anthropology, gender and health, Southern Africa; **Significant Publications:** "Water Reform, Gender, and HIV/AIDS: Perspectives from Malawi," in *Globalization, Water and Health: Resource Management in Times of Scarcity*, edited by Linda Whiteford and Scott Whiteford, Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research, 2005; *The Value of Water: Political Ecology and Water Reform in Southern Africa* (with Bill Derman) Human Organization, 2003.

Platform statement

A&E must strive to promote a policy-relevant environmental anthropology that speaks with a unified voice on some occasions and promotes multivocality and diversity on others. It must reach out to include those engaged in the practice of anthropology, as well as promoting the interests of academy-based members. For the section and the association to grow, we must work in multidisciplinary contexts and demonstrate the relevance of our knowledge and methods in a wide range of settings. I have been active in the AAA as a member of the Executive Committee (1999-2001), Environmental Section Board Member (1996-99), and President of the Culture and Agriculture Association (1992-94). My experience linking theory and practice, and working in multidisciplinary and policy-oriented contexts related to environmental change in Southern Africa, position me well to make a significant contribution to the section and the discipline.

SENIOR MEMBER AT-LARGE (Term: Two years) Vote for one.

AVECITA CHICCHON (PhD, University of Florida, 1992). **Positions held:** Director for the Latin America and Caribbean Program (2003-to present), Wildlife Conservation Society. Program Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean (1999-2003), The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Country Program Director (1992-1998), Conservation International – Peru Program. **Interests and/or Activities:** Anthropological research on management of natural resources by indigenous and local people. Applied environmental research on institutional analysis, community conservation and gender issues. Management of conservation and sustainable development programs. **Significant publications:** Intra-household diversity of natural resource management in Peru and Brazil. C. Campbell, A. Chicchón, M. Schmink and R. Piland. In: Carol J. Pierce Colfer (ed). *The Equitable Forest: Diversity, Community and Resource Management*. Jakarta: CIFOR. 2004. Los pueblos nativos y la conservación de

la naturaleza. (*Indigenous peoples and conservation of nature*). In: *Los pueblos amazónicos y las reservas indígenas*. Serie Santuarios Naturales del Perú # 7 (Edited by Walter Wust). La República/Editorial Peisa. Primera Edición. Lima, Perú, 2003. La perspectiva de género en proyectos de conservación en Tambopata, Perú. (*Gender perspective in conservation projects in Tambopata, Peru*). Co-authored with Rosario Lanao. In: *Recursos Naturales* Vol. 1: 1 (57-72). INRENA. Lima, Peru, 2002.

Platform Statement

As a discipline, anthropology is critical to understand social and cultural processes where environmental conservation takes place; where spheres of culture and wilderness are intertwined. For over two decades, I have worked in conservation programs in Latin America, with an anthropological approach, to bridge the gap between the agendas of conservation and local livelihoods. Human equity and biodiversity conservation need not be in conflict with each other, in reality, it is important today to document and analyze the conditions under which conservation and human equity can be or cannot be reconciled, avoiding facile generalizations that trivializes this important issue. Environmental action needs to be informed by sound natural and social sciences, and anthropologists provide a research perspective and a fundamental analytical framework to understand change and make policy recommendations. Moreover, anthropologists have been key to facilitate participatory processes, so that those affected by conservation programs could be informed, accept or reject conservation initiatives, provide recommendations that include their interests and develop actions that they ultimately implement. As a member of the Anthropology and Environment section Executive Board, I would work to promote applied anthropological research, analysis and debate on pressing environmental issues that affect local peoples and fragile ecosystems.

NORA HAENN (Ph.D., Indiana University, 1998) **Positions Held:** Asst. Professor (1999-present): Arizona State University; **Interests and/or Activities:** conservation policies, identity and environmental justice, sustainable development; **Significant Publications:** *Fields of Power, Forests of Discontent: Culture, Conservation and the State*, University of Arizona Press, 2005; *The Changing and Enduring Ejido: A State and Regional Examination of Mexico's Land Tenure Counter-Reforms, Land Use Policy*, 2005; *Risking Environmental Justice: Culture, Conservation, and Governance at Calakmul, Mexico, in Struggles for Social Rights in Latin America*, Routledge, 2002.

Platform Statement

As a member of the board of Anthropology and Environment, I would be most interested in encouraging a breadth and variety of environmental and ecological research as well as the section's growing interest in policy issues. My own

research on the complications of conservation settings has led me to explore issues of ethnoecology, land tenure, environmental justice, environmental history, demography, and postcolonialism, while reaching across disciplines to further expand my understandings. In these travels, I have come to embrace a comprehensive anthropological approach to ecology and environment, while acknowledging that no single individual is likely to master all aspects of today's research settings. Instead, I see the section's role as one of promoting simultaneously the diversity of anthropological approaches to environment and anthropology's unique perspective. The contradictory connotation of this last sentence indicates the challenge in communicating anthropological work in both policy settings and the multi-disciplinary research that characterizes many ecological projects. And yet, this is the challenge anthropologists must meet if we are to retain our traditional skills, strengthen new areas of research, and bring our excellence to bear on environmental problems.

JUNIOR MEMBER AT-LARGE (Term: Two years) Vote for one.

MICHAEL K. DORSEY (PhD, University of Michigan, expected 2005); **Positions Held:** Asst. Professor, Dartmouth College (starting July 2005); Lecturer, Dartmouth College (2002 - 2005); Visiting Lecturer, University of Witwatersrand (2002); **Interests and/or Activities:** Latin America; political ecology; Participated in UM-SNRE Environmental Justice and Climate Change Conference, 2004; **Significant Publications:** Political Ecology of Bioprospecting in Amazonian Ecuador: History, Political Economy and Knowledge, in *Contested Nature: Power, Protected Areas and the Dispossessed*, SUNY Press, 2003; *World Summit to Amplify Unsustainability: A Report*, University KwaZulu-Natal, Centre for Civil Society (with Patrick Bond), 2002; Guest Commentary: Toward an idea of international environmental justice, in *World Resources, 1998-99: A Guide to the Global Environment*, Oxford University Press, 1998. For more information: <http://www.stwr.net/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=206>

Platform Statement

The A&E Section of the AAA stands at a critical junction in the history of humanity. There is an urgent need to better understand the intersection of the multifaceted ways in which human activity across myriad scales affects environmental processes and systems. To date many analyses of environmental problems exclude the interplay of human beings all together (e.g., ecological approaches) or fail to consider institutional matters (e.g., demographic approaches). I believe the A&E Section is ideally positioned to provide new and valuable ethnographically informed insights to expand thinking and possibly contribute to the resolution of a wide range of environmental problems. Thus, I want to initiate and help shape increased dialogues and processes within the A&E Section around ways our members can promote the utility and appropriateness of ethnographically informed inquiry for crafting environmental

public policies at local to global levels. I strongly feel the A&E Sections Executive Board can facilitate critical discussions about how and why the deployment of more interdisciplinary, ethnographically informed scholarship can help discern the contours of environmental phenomena. If you concur with the aforementioned concerns, please support my candidacy to the A&E Section Executive Board.

LUIS VIVANCO (Ph.D., Princeton University, 1999) **Positions held:** Assistant Professor (1999-present) University of Vermont; Fulbright Teaching and Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor (2004) University of Costa Rica. **Interests and/or Activities:** Advisory Council Member, Indigenous Tourism Rights International (2001-present); anthropology of environmentalism; activist anthropology. **Significant Publications:** Green Encounters: Shaping and Contesting Environmentalism in Rural Costa Rica (book manuscript under review); "Seeing Green: Knowing and Saving the Environment on Film." *American Anthropologist* 104(4): 1195-1204, December 2002; "Spectacular Quetzals, Ecotourism, and Environmental Futures in Monte Verde, Costa Rica." *Ethnology: An International Journal of Cultural and Social Anthropology* vol. 40 no. 2, Spring 2001, pp. 79-92. <http://www.uvm.edu/~lvivanco>

Platform Statement

The Anthropology and Environment Section provides a valuable space in which the diverse strains of environmental inquiry in our discipline can cross-fertilize, especially as they relate to real world problems. As a member of the board, I will support this function and push for an even greater focus on the relevance of environmental anthropology for energizing and informing public policy and activism. Based on my personal involvement in international indigenous tourism activism, I find that a problem-centered orientation provides important opportunities to expand our notions of disciplinary practice while advocating for conservation initiatives based on criteria of social justice and collective self-determination. Some particular initiatives on which I would like to work are: stimulating discussions on transnational-grassroots activist linkages, including addressing how anthropologists can constructively understand and mediate growing conflicts between elite transnational environmental institutions and local communities; creating greater opportunities for encounter and dialogue with full-time activists and policy-makers; fostering greater critical appreciation within environmental anthropology about how mass media frame common knowledge of environmental problems and solutions, and developing strategies (through workshops, websites, etc.) to expand anthropological perspectives in the mainstream and environmental media; and encouraging stronger anthropological attention to and voice in debates over environmental auditing and certifications (ecotourism, forestry, etc.).

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (Term: Two years) Vote for one.

I. CARLOS G. GARCÍA-QUIJANO (M.S., University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, 2000; currently Ph.D. Candidate, The University of Georgia) **Positions Held:** George Washington Henderson Visiting Dissertation Scholar (August 2004-July 2005), University of Vermont; Associate Researcher (May 2003-August 2004) University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program. University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez; Social Sciences Intern (June-September 2002) Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Washington, D.C. **Interests and/or activities:** Environmental Anthropology, Ethnoecology, Cultural and Ecological Memory, Social Justice aspects of Natural Resource Management, Caribbean and Central America; **Significant Publications:** “Exploring the Adaptive Value of Experience-Based Ecological Knowledge in Puerto Rican Small-scale Fisheries”. In preparation, Article solicited and accepted to be included in forthcoming special edition of *Human Organization*: “Human Interaction and Resource Management Issues in North American Fisheries”; “Entangled Communities: Socio-Economic Profiles of Fishers, their Communities, and their Responses to Marine Protective Measures in Western Puerto Rico” (with Griffith, David C., Manuel Valdés-Pizzini, Walter Díaz, Gisela Zapata, Carlos García Quijano, Marielba Rivera-Velázquez, and Roger Rasnake), (in preparation).

Platform Statement:

The anthropological study of environmental issues is arguably the most complex and urgent endeavor facing anthropologists today. In fact, as environmental problems and the social justice issues related to them become more pressing for the world, it is becoming more and more difficult to find a modern, important human problem and/or anthropological debate that is not environmental to at least a moderate degree. As a social science organization, the perennial challenge and duty for the A&E should be to always be on the lookout for the social justice aspects of environmental issues. Besides that, what we can contribute to environmental scholarship is also pressing for the more general goal of keeping the ecological functions of the Earth in working conditions, because, considering the great impact that human activities can have in the environment, the *social* is often the main determinant of what happens to the *physical/environmental*. I feel that the A & E section should be a more and more visible, engaged, and vocal group of environmental anthropologists, and should continue its path towards promoting inclusive scholarship, and interdisciplinary, complex-systems thinking.

ALISON LEE

ALISON ELIZABETH LEE (MA Anthropology, University of California, Riverside, 2002; BA Biology, Brown University, 1995) **Positions Held:** PhD Candidate, (2002-present) University of California, Riverside; Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Grant Recipient (2003-04); Instructor, Dept. of Anthropology (2002) University of California, Riverside; Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Anthropology (2000-02) University of California, Riverside; **Interests and/or Activities:** Environment and Development in Southern Mexico, Anthropology of Environmentalism and Protected Areas, selected as a finalist for the 2004 Rappaport Graduate Student Panel, Anthropology and Environment Section; **Significant publications:** *Vivimos de las Piedras! (We lived from the rocks!)* The onyx industry and international migration in Zapotitlán Salinas, Puebla, 1960-2000. In *The Political Economy of Accelerated Migration in Puebla and Veracruz: Seven Case Studies*. Leigh Binford, ed. Puebla, Mexico: Autonomous University of Puebla, 2004 (in Spanish).

Platform Statement (200 words)

As the student representative to the Anthropology and Environment Executive Board I would focus my energies on building upon the success of the 1st annual Graduate Student Rappaport Panel in 2004. The panel offered participants excellent feedback on rough and final drafts of papers submitted for thorough review to three accomplished junior and advanced environmental anthropologists. The comments helped participants learn to polish their paper into a journal article or book chapter, and also assisted in participants' larger dissertation projects by providing a forum for informal conversations with other panelists and A & E board members. Longer-term formal mentoring relations are being established with advisors knowledgeable about panelists' research. As student representative, I would organize these activities for future panelists, and encourage the participation of past panelists and mentors in the effort to build a stronger community of intellectual and moral support among up-and-coming and established environmental anthropologists. In addition, I would like to explore with students and board members the possibilities of providing support to international and minority students to increase their participation in A & E panels and events.