



Seminario virtual: an international collaborative pilot project

La langue et le savoir anthropologique/language and anthropological knowledge/língua e conhecimento antropológico

EASA: European Association of Social Anthropologists/Association européenne des anthropologues sociaux

ABA: Associação Brasileira de Antropologia

AAA: American Anthropological Association

CASCA: Canadian Anthropology Society/Société canadienne d'anthropologie

Theme

This virtual seminar aims to explore the centrality of language in the production of anthropological knowledge and its political aspects, in two different albeit connected ways:

- 1) Language is central to the ethnographic encounter and sets the grounds for a potentially unequal interaction in the long term. Anthropologists have choices to make about how to represent the knowledge they produce (in what language, what communicative variety, what genre, what medium) and in what communicative spaces to engage. This raises issues of power, expropriation and potential misrepresentation with possibilities for important consequences in policy and practice. What are the political and epistemological consequences?
- 2) The global circulation of anthropological knowledge, and the shifting relations of power that it entails, has become more and more salient to anthropologists. The growth of international organizations such as the World Council of Anthropological Associations expresses the commitment to greater inclusiveness and to resistance to centralization and hegemony. In connection to these efforts, anthropologists are addressing the role of digitalization, new media, and innovative research methods in the distribution of knowledge. However, we need to pay greater attention to one of the central ways in which knowledge is constructed, circulated and evaluated: language in its different expressions and traditions, including the role of English as lingua franca versus global dominator.

Format

The format of the seminar is as follows: four scholars representing each association (Bruna Franchetto, Penelope Harvey, Alexandra Jaffe and Christine Jourdan) will make available their papers (in French, English and Portuguese) on a platform to which anyone will have access from October 1-25, 2013. There will be a **live event on October 15**, 2013, where four discussants (Omar Ribeiro Thomaz, Benoît de l'Estoile, Salikoko Mufwene, and Petra Rethmann) will comment on the papers, and on line participants can send in comments and questions. For the next ten days, the chair (Miguel Vale de Almeida) and moderator (Deirdre Meintel) will monitor an on-line written discussion. The seminar will be closed formally on October 25th, 2013. Participants can use French, English, Portuguese and Spanish; part of the experiment is to attempt to construct a multilingual environment, which minimizes the need for formal translation and interpretation.

Please take note of these dates. Your online participation in this pioneering and experimental event will be most welcome! Join us!

Additional information will be soon available at: EASA <http://www.easaonline.org/>;
ABA <http://www.abant.org.br/>; AAA <http://www.aaanet.org/> and CASCA <http://www.cas-sca.ca/>

Susana Narotzky (EASA)
Bela Feldman-Bianco (ABA)
Monica Heller (AAA)
Marie Nathalie LeBlanc (CASCA)