

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## Welcome to Fall at NSF Anthropology

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It is September, and the NSF anthropology programs have closed the books on Fiscal Year 2007. In July and August, we received proposals for the fall review cycle, the first cycle of Fiscal Year 2008. Now we are all busily engaged in checking the proposals for compliance with NSF requirements and then sending the proposals out to appropriate specialist reviewers, as well as to members of our advisory panels, which will meet in late fall.

This will be the first round of proposal review, incidentally, where we do not actually have to take a ruler to each proposal and measure characters and lines per inch. Happily, NSF's brand new Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) now specifies particular fonts, a program officer-friendly development! (The new GPG came out in June. You can access it by putting GPG into the search box on the home page of [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov). The GPG tells you most of what you need to know about submitting an NSF proposal.)

### New Program Officers

And speaking of program officers, the NSF anthropology programs have two new ones. Joanna E Lambert, a primatologist from the University of Wisconsin, will be the new program director

for the Physical Anthropology Program, replacing Richard Kay, who returns to his family and Duke University. (As of this writing, we expect Lambert's email address to be [jlambert@nsf.gov](mailto:jlambert@nsf.gov).) In addition, because John Yellen is on sabbatical until January 2008 (to continue his long-term research in Kenya), zooarchaeologist Donald K Grayson (U Washington), is directing the NSF Archaeology Program for the fall ([dgrayson@nsf.gov](mailto:dgrayson@nsf.gov)).

### Upcoming Target Dates and Deadlines

In early November (check website for date), the Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems Program will have its first competition as a standing program (Thomas Baerwald, [tbaerwald@nsf.gov](mailto:tbaerwald@nsf.gov), or check CNH website at [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov) for more information). The Ecology of Infectious Disease's annual deadline is December 12, 2007 (Deborah Winslow, or the EID website at [nsf.gov](http://nsf.gov) for more information).

Upcoming target dates for the anthropology and related programs: Archaeometry—Oct 31; Archaeology—Dec 1 for senior proposals and dissertation proposals accepted at any time; Cultural Anthropology—Jan 15 for senior and dissertation proposals; Linguistics—Jan 15 for senior and dissertation proposals; Physical Anthropology—Dec 3 for senior proposals and Feb 9 for dissertation proposals.

### Looking Back on Fiscal Year 2007

The good news is that the Cultural Anthropology Program budget went up again: \$3.6 million for FY 2007, a 9% increase over FY 06. Overall, we reviewed 87 senior proposals, 43 in the fall and 44 in the spring, and, as of this writing, we expect to fund 23 (26%). These recommended senior proposals address a wide range of topical areas: peace and conflict (3 proposals), human behavioral ecology (3), medical anthropology (3), economic anthropology (2), cognitive anthropology (3), migration, religion and tourism. We also reviewed 272 Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant proposals, 89 in the fall and

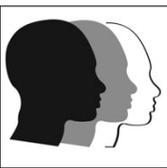
### GATEWAY TO NSF

183 in the spring (the most ever!), and we expect to fund 73 (27 percent). Ecology, medical anthropology, gender and sexuality, and political anthropology (including both political economy and post-conflict studies) were particularly strong areas for graduate students this year.

We received and funded other proposals as well, including four Small Grants for Exploratory Research proposals as well as supplements to current awards, including 12 awards to support mentored research experiences for graduate and undergraduate students. Overall, even though the number of proposals is increasing, the success rate has not declined.

The DDIG numbers are now quite healthy, but I still would like to see substantial increases in the number of senior proposals, which, at NSF, are regarded by many as a barometer of program health. In future columns, I will discuss at greater length what seems to make a proposal successful.

In the meantime, you can look at the abstracts of recently funded awards on the cultural anthropology web page at [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov), or call (703/292-7315), write ([dwinslow@nsf.gov](mailto:dwinslow@nsf.gov)), or visit! I am eager to discuss your research plans. ☐



### PROFILES IN PRACTICE

*On the recommendation of the Practicing Anthropology Work Group, in March 2007 AN launched a series of Practitioner Profiles to illustrate the work that practicing anthropologists currently do. This is the first of several "Institutional Profiles," descriptions of organizations where a critical mass of anthropologists work outside academia. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a branch of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, is the first to be profiled.*

## Anthropologists and the Public Health Agenda

SHIRLEY FISKE  
PROFILES IN PRACTICE CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

With the help of the Practicing Anthropology Work Group, I identified Jim Carey as a contact point and central node in the anthropology networks at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Last June I interviewed Jim in Atlanta, Georgia, by phone, for this first Institutional Profile.

Jim is a "dual degree anthropologist" with a PhD in anthropology and a masters in public health (MPH) with a specialty in epidemiology. He has been with CDC since 1992—almost 15 years—

primarily in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention (DHAP). He currently supervises 12 staff on the Operational Research Team, which is one of four teams in the DHAP Prevention Research Branch. Overall, Jim's multidisciplinary branch conducts behavioral and operational research to develop, test, synthesize and package sustainable interventions to prevent HIV transmission.

### What is the mission of CDC?

Simply put, Jim sees the primary mission of the CDC, which became a separate federal agency in 1946, as being "to promote the health of the

populace of the US." The CDC's focus grew from insect-borne diseases, such as malaria, during World War II to include other infectious diseases, and later to address chronic, non-infectious conditions. Most recently, CDC has taken on environmental health issues, as well as injuries, violence, developmental and adult disabilities.

### How many anthropologists work at CDC, and what do they do?

About 45–55 anthropologists work for CDC, in-

*See Profiles in Practice on page 52*

## Profiles in Practice

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cluding contractors, student interns, post-docs and others who are not full time equivalent (FTE) federal employees. About half to two-thirds are FTEs. These anthropologists do basic research, implement public health education or intervention programs, conduct methods work or laboratory activities.

Historically, the bulk of CDC anthropologists have worked in DHAP, although there are anthropologists in other research divisions; among them: Reproductive Health, Tuberculosis Elimination, Diabetes Translation, Parasitic Diseases, Adolescent and School Health, Health Interview Statistics, Immunization Services, Health Communications, Nutrition and Physical Activity, Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases, and Environmental Hazards and Health Effects. There are also anthropologists in administrative offices.

CDC emphasizes working in partnerships with state and local health departments, community-based nonprofit organizations or contracting entities. Approximately 75% of CDC's budget goes outside the agency to help support work being done in partnership. CDC scientists help support or implement "front-line public health programs," a relatively unique role at CDC compared with the National Institutes of Health, which focuses solely on research.

### Do anthropologists collect field data from people-at-risk?

It depends on the level of seniority and specific roles in any given project. For example, if "the projects are multi-site endeavors, the role of the CDC person might be to coordinate work across

multiple sites." CDC staff sometimes have more hands-on roles in data collection.

Jim reports, "In my particular case, I commonly serve as the 'CDC project officer.' Being a project officer means that I coordinate or help design large scale multi-site projects administer the projects, and work with my counterparts outside of CDC, such as the PIs in different locations around the US. Local site PIs coordinate their frontline data collection staff. I typically am more involved in the overall research design aspects, the instrumentation, data analysis, data cleaning and other activities that are involved in running a large-scale multi-site project."

### Common training backgrounds

Approximately 25%–35% of CDC anthropologists have dual training in public health, such as a masters in public health. Others have training in anthropology-nursing combinations. Among the FTE employees, most are in the behavioral scientist category.

### Trends

The number of anthropologists employed by CDC is steadily increasing, starting with 12–15 in the early 1990s and now at 45–55. Anthropologists' roles are also expanding beyond their historical roots within HIV/AIDS, other STDs, and reproductive health into a broader array of disease areas.

In terms of the level of positions filled by anthropologists, there is a commensurate increase in seniority.

In the early 1990s, CDC anthropologists typically occupied fairly low, entry-level positions—GS-11 or GS-12, or perhaps junior level GS-13. Over the last two decades, more anthropologists have reached supervisory or administrative positions higher in the organization, including branch chief, division administrative offices and sometimes in center level positions above the divisions.

### Confidentiality and human subjects

CDC takes human subjects issues extremely seriously. "We have a very rigorous human subjects research review process; IRB protocols go through multiple review layers, starting with the team level, the branch, the division and the center, even before it gets to the agency IRB. It's pretty thorough.... I would say that our IRB process is a lot more rigorous than that found at many universities. In many of our multi-site projects, the activity is not only reviewed by our CDC IRB, but also by local IRBs. So if we were partnered with local health departments and universities in four or five different cities, we would have IRB coverage in each of those local entities," as well as at the federal level for the specific research project.

"We also take confidentiality of peoples' data extremely seriously. We have a lot of layers of protection to try to make sure that peoples' information and what they tell us remains secure and confidential, in accord with the laws in the jurisdictions where we are working."

### If they are using drugs, are people protected from being turned in?

"The CDC people are not out there snitching on folks. However, there is one caveat: there are laws in some states and local jurisdictions that if we

find out that someone is engaged in child abuse—that's the big one—or other kinds of activity where someone is harmed or is going to be harmed—for example, planning a murder—the local researchers are required to report that." These types of legally-required reporting circumstances are described as part of the informed consent process with potential research-study participants.

### Are there political or other types of oversight constraints on what you can write about in your work?

For a typical research manuscript, the priority is that it should be well-documented, and that it is scientifically sound. For most journal manuscripts, there are typically "three layers of scientific review before that manuscript goes out the door." The general focus in the clearance process is on the scientific quality, clarity of writing and public health value, rather than political agendas. "[W]e want [our writing to be] backed up by rigorous science" and sound public health practice.

### Notable Challenges?

Both the manuscript internal scientific review and the IRB processes can be slow. Other bureaucratic processes sometimes may be frustrating.

### Notable Successes?

Although it is hard to tease out the unique contribution of anthropology from other behavioral or social scientists at CDC, Jim offered, "the initial skepticism towards all of behavioral and social sciences has greatly reduced over the years." Importantly, the behavioral and social sciences generally have had a notable impact on the public health agenda and programs in the US.

For example in HIV prevention, anthropologists and researchers from other disciplines have developed an array of effective behavioral interventions to reduce HIV transmission. Rather than relying exclusively on biological and medical approaches, addition of effective behavioral interventions "is what's helping to keep HIV in check in the US" compared with many other places in the world, although more progress is clearly needed. Many opportunities exist for anthropologists and others to help further contribute to HIV prevention and other areas of public health. **AW**

## The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

### Salary range:

- \$ Students, post-Masters or post-docs not in civil service—approximately \$40,000
- \$ Entry level at the GS-13 Step 1—approximately \$78,000
- \$ Mid-career and senior anthropologists most often are at GS-14 levels—salaries capped at approximately \$119,000



Jim Carey has been working at the CDC for almost 15 years in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND SUPPORT

Information about fellowships and support opportunities for anthropologists should be sent to Sarah Walker, AN Production Editor, AAA, 2200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22201-3357; tel 703/528-1902 ext 3014; swalker@aaanet.org. Send your announcement at least six weeks in advance of the issue in which it should appear. Printed listings about fellowship and support are \$2/word.

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections, a research institute in Washington DC, offers residential fellowships and project grants in three areas of study: Byzantine studies, pre-Columbian studies, and garden and landscape studies. Applications must be postmarked by November 1, 2007, for fellowships commencing the following academic year. Further information may be obtained by consulting the website: [www.doaks.org](http://www.doaks.org).