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**CASCA 2021 President's Report**  
**Mary-Lee Mulholland**  
**May 13, 2021**  
**Guelph University**

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**Welcome**

On behalf of the CASCA executive, it is our absolute pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2021 CASCA AGM. CASCA members recognize that the campuses of the University of Guelph reside on the treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit and on the lands that the Anishinnabe, Hodinohso:ni (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Loo-naa-pee-wak) and Wendat peoples have inhabited for centuries. We understand that these lands are connected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum and continue to be home to diverse communities of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. Acknowledging the land reminds us of our commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and lands. Given that this conference is held virtually, we invite you to reflect on the place where you currently reside, the land-based relationships in which you are engaged, and on how best to contribute to honouring and respecting all our relations, past, present, and future. I am sitting in the traditional territories of the Blackfoot (Niitsitapi) and the people of the Treaty 7, which include the Siksika, the Piikuni (pee-kah-nee), the Kainai (g-ai-nah), the Tsuu T'ina and the Yah-wey Stoney Nakoda including the Chiniki, Bearpaw and Wesley first nations. Calgary is also home to Metis Region #3.

We would also like to extend a special Eid Mubarak to all our colleagues celebrating Eid al Fitr today and taking the time away from their family and friends to join us here.

To say this has been a difficult year is a massive understatement. It is for this reason, I am particularly grateful to have the opportunity to meet with our community of Canadian anthropologists this week. This is only possible because of the willingness of the Local Organizing Committee at Guelph who took on the work and risk of hosting CASCA's first virtual conference. On behalf of the entire CASCA executive and membership, I would like to extend our most genuine gratitude to the team of students, staff, and faculty at Guelph, with a particular note of thanks to Beth Finnis and Tad McIlwraith.

## **Executive Committee**

This year the CASCA executive has been hard at work on a number of projects and we are excited to update the membership today. It has been a true honour to work with the members of this executive who have worked so hard this year. First a special thanks to our three outgoing members, past-president Sabrina Doyon, secretary Millie Creighton, and Francophone member at large Marie Michèle Grenon. During her tenure as president, Sabrina Doyon had to navigate uncharted waters with three consecutive unorthodox annual meetings including our joint meeting with the AAA in Vancouver, the online AGM after the cancellation of our 2020 meetings at Western, and this year's first fully virtually AGM. This has required a great deal of calm, vision, and adaptability. Thank you Sabrina. This also marks the last meeting of Millie Creighton as secretary who showed great care and insight into our many executive discussions and decisions. Finally, a special thanks to Marie Michèle Grenon, who along with Marieka Sax, founded the Sexual Harassment Working group and was an important voice for graduate students and post-docs on the executive. Thanks so much to Sabrina, Millie, and Marie. I would also like to thank the ongoing executive members including president-elect soon to president Éric Gagnon Poulin, treasurer Tad McIlwraith (Guelph University) – whose tenure will end in November, communications Officer Alex Oheler (University of Regina), and Anglophone Member-at-Large Maggie Cummings (University of Toronto, Scarborough). It also brings me great pleasure to announce our incoming executive members including president-elect Emma Varley (Brandon) - Emma has been a long member of CASCA and active member of the Med Anth network, Deirdre Rose from Guelph University and an active member of the Precarious Anthropology Network, Olivia Roy-Malo a PhD student from Laval as Francophone Member at Large, and in November, the executive will welcome Daniel Tubbs (UNB) as treasurer. Of course, all the work of the executive and the association is supported by the incomparable Karli Whitmore. Thank you, Karli!

## **New Position – Manager of Membership, Conferences, and Publishing**

On that note, let me start with some exciting news. Every member of CASCA agrees that the heart and soul of this association is Karli Whitmore. Karli has worked for the society since 2007 and her duties and responsibilities have increased dramatically over the years transforming her role within the organization. Over the years, past executives have sought to ensure job security and job satisfaction for Karli but there have been some obstacles due to various CRA regulations and limits to our finances. This year, a perfect storm of opportunity occurred that allowed us to reimagine Karli's role and employment in CASCA. First, with the very successful shift to Open Access, *Anthropologica* created an ongoing part-time position of editorial assistant (formerly funded by SFU and later UVic) with the intent to hire Karli in this position. That, in combination with CASCA's healthy finances (more on this later), created an opportunity to establish an employee position with the combined duties of the editorial assistant and member and registration manager. We are still working on a title, but the position officially begins June 1<sup>st</sup>. In this position, Karli will have employee status, not contract, which translates into an expanded role with increased stability and security. Also, Karli will have more autonomy regarding the management of membership and conference registration processes. We are very excited that Karli will be able to take on both roles. This new position will also allow growth in the role if needed and support to

Anthropologica, which has been a long-standing need. We are so grateful to the work Karli does and thrilled that she will continue in this role for the foreseeable future!

## **Anthropologica**

Over this past year, Editor-in-Chief and French-language Editor Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier and English-Language editor Sue Frohlick have continued to produce issues of the highest calibre and with the new Open Access format it has given the editorial team far more autonomy in the look and feel of the journal. This includes the sneak peaks that we enjoyed with the timely issue on COVID. I will let Alexandrine update the members on the journal latter in the AGM, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire team at Anthropologica and the Open Access Working Group for all their hard work making our flagship journal successful and accessible! We at the executive are often in astonishment on how much Alexandrine does for Anthropologica and for CASCA. A lot of her work is behind the scenes, but we are deeply grateful for the work that she does. Thanks so much Alexandrine.

## **Conferences**

As we know, the tremendous labor of organizing a conference comes from a commitment to both our discipline and our organization. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our colleagues at University of Western Ontario who stepped up to host the conference in 2020 on the heels of the joint CASCA-AAA conference in Vancouver and in conjunction with Congress. Despite the challenges these two joint conferences created, the local organizing committee assembled an amazing program under the theme *Doing/Undoing* with leading scholars and incredible plenaries. On behalf of the CASCA executive and all our members, I would like to extend our gratitude to the local organizing committee Kim Clark, Andrew Walsh, Greg Beckett, Pamela Block, and Karli Whitmore for so tirelessly organizing and, later, cancelling the conference with care and attention.

### a) Guelph 2021

This year's conference has been a huge success and an important experiment into how virtual and hybrid conferences might become a permanent fixture in the future of our meetings. There has been much discussion throughout academia regarding the importance of taking this opportunity to ensure future conferences are sustainable, accessible, and, still offer the benefits of in person meetings. There have also been some missteps at other meetings along the way including safety and security issues with zoom bombing and participants behaving badly. The Guelph LOC put a great deal of care and attention into these issues and were able to assemble an amazing program in this format. In addition to Hopin, by using Microsoft Live, the Guelph LOC introduced the possibility of simultaneous translation that will further our commitment to bilingualism and accessibility. As we do more and more on these online platforms, we will learn what works best for our society and members. In addition to that, the LOC pulled together an exemplary program including three amazing keynotes – our two Weaver-Tremblay recipients and Dr. Kamari Clarke. In the end, we had more than 320 registrants, which is an excellent turnout.

### b) Open Spaces/Close Encounter - University of Regina May 11-15 2022

It is with great excitement and pleasure that I can announce that the 2022 will be returning to the prairies for the first time in ten years thanks to the members of the department of anthropology at the University of Regina. Under the theme Open Spaces/Close Encounters this conference will have a hybrid format with a commitment to incorporate the benefits of a virtual conference, including accessibility and sustainability, and the benefits of an in-person conference. Thanks so much to Alex Oehler (lead), Tobias Sperlich, Susanne Kuehling cooling, Gediminas Lankauskas, Carlos David Londoño Sulkin, and Charisma Thomson.

c) 2023 CASCA-AAA Joint Meeting.

In 2023 we will be meeting again with the AAA, this time in Toronto. This means we will have an online AGM in May of 2023 to meet the requirements of our bylaws and an in person general meeting in Toronto. The 2019 joint meeting was a great financial success for CASCA and it offered unique opportunities for us to publicize CASCA and the work of our members. We had over 860 registrants through CASCA that bumped our membership rate up over 1100 (for that year alone). That said, there were also drawbacks to meeting in a joint session. Perhaps the two biggest drawbacks for us was the loss of our intimate annual get together and the enormous amount of labour that went into organizing that meeting. The AAA is a huge association with many paid employees and CASCA, with the exception of Karli, is run by the work of volunteers. This was particularly taxing on our executive committee – a special thanks to Pamela Downe and Martha Radice for the tremendous amount of work they did, Karli, and the many members of the local organizing committee. All of whom went beyond the call of duty. We have agreed to meet with the AAA in 2023 but there are no current plans for another joint meeting.

In order to mitigate the amount of labour in 2023 we have plans for the following:

- A revised MOU. In the past few months members of the executive struck a small working group to negotiate the terms so a revised MOU for 2023 including myself, Karli, Tad, Eric and Caura Wood who has treasurer helped negotiate the 2019 MOU. We are close to an agreement that would protect CASCA's finances but also allow for a more streamlined registration process. Specifically, AAA would handle all registrations recognizing both AAA and CASCA members. In lieu of registration, the AAA will transfer us a lump sum payment. This will protect our revenues but also lessen the workload.
- LOC – Currently, we do not have a LOC in place but incoming president Emma Varley, Eric, and I are committed to having one in place this year. We do have some volunteers and are reaching out for more. If you are interested, please contact me.

Finally, a note about possible future joint meetings. It is clear in both the 2019 MOU and 2023 MOU, that the AAA must negotiate with us before meeting here again. This is a principle agreed on by both associations. The AAA, like many academic associations, is reconsidering the annual big meeting and may dramatically change the manner in which they meet in the future. At this time, they have no plans to come to Canada after Toronto (their conferences are planned until 2025). Based on other conversations we have had with the AAA I think now is the time for the members of CASCA to assess whether or not they want to continue with this arrangement or request that the AAA does not meet in Canada in the future. I would recommend that before we agree to another joint conference we seek input from members regarding possible future joint ventures.

#### d) 2024 – The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CASCA

Since 2024 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CASCA and it will be occurring on the heels of the 2023 joint meeting it might be strategic to do something different in 2024. Hearing from our colleagues who organized the Western conference the turnaround between the joint meeting and 2020 was very tight and there was some fatigue about attending a conference so soon. Informally, the Archives Working Group discussed the possibility of doing something a bit different from a traditional conference. Perhaps we could have a meeting that included both a retrospective and a looking forward of what CASCA wants to be in the future. This could be a series of roundtables and workshops rather than traditional research panels. If you are interested in exploring such a proposal, I encourage you to get in contact with Ian Puppe, Rob Hancock or myself. At this stage, this is just an idea and we still need a LOC. So, if there are any departments considering hosting CASCA's annual meetings or are interested in this idea please contact Eric or myself.

#### **Ongoing Special Projects and Working-Groups**

CASCA has been busy this year and here are some of the ongoing projects.

- Digitizing Culture: Martha Radice continues to work with Érudit to digitize Culture. Currently, all older issues have been converted into PDF and they are currently working on the metadata. Once this project is complete, these issues will be linked to the Anthropologica page.
- Website: In the past year, the executive also committed to a new website, I will defer to the Communications Officer, who will give members more details.
- Archival Working Group: This working group includes Ian Puppe, the CASCA archivist, Robert Hancock (past archivist), Tad McIlwraith, and myself. Still missing some issues of Culture, conference programs, and some other missing pieces. There were also conversations to consider a location for personal archives.
- The Sexual Harassment Working Group: Continued to meet through the year and in addition to the finalization of the policy, they also organized a two-part panel to discuss various scenarios harassment in anthropology.
- EDI Working Group: In my welcoming letter in Culture, I indicated that there were plans to create an EDI Working Group. Considering many of the issues, we have seen at conferences lately, including Congress, the AAA, and the Society for American Archeology, CASCA will need to create a clear policy and vision for this as well. The work of the committee will build on the work already accomplished by the Sexual Harassment Working Group and the BIPOC Scholars in Anthropology Network. Currently, we have a few interested volunteers.
- Open Access Working Group. This group is on standby for Anthropologica to consult as they continue their transition.
- Financial Vision: As you will see in the Treasurer's Report CASCA is in excellent financial shape. This executive has made some investments with this including expanding Karli's role and supporting Anthropologica, digitizing Culture, and updating the website.

While ensuring that CASCA has enough of cushion in case of unforeseen circumstances, we still have enough money to invest in something new. For example, at current interest rates, the Salisbury fund is no longer sustainable and I think it would be wise to transfer some of our savings into that fund. In addition to the Salisbury, I do think we have enough funds to invest in something new that is within the vision and mandate of our society. Pulling together a few past treasurers, we are creating a working group to plan some scenarios and will return to membership for input.

## **Policies**

There is a new tab on our website (that will move over to the new one) that houses our bylaws, policies and guidelines. In addition to our Bylaws, these include the Sexual Harassment Policy, Network Guidelines, Communications Policies (Twitter, Facebook, Website, and Listserve), and Hiring Best Practices that was produced by the Labour Committee.

## **Statements and Resolutions**

This year the CASCA executive issues several statements of solidarity. At last year's AGM we passed that resolution on Treaty Rights that was the basis for letters to various politicians regarding the several high profile incidents of the continued violation the Indigenous territorial and political sovereignty the Wet'suwet'en, Haudenosaunee, and Mi'kmaw territories. We also issued statements on Black Lives Matter, Anti-Asian Hate, and Gender and Covid-19. We wrote letters for scholars at risk, including Cihan Erdal (a sociology graduate student from Carleton) and for David Scheffel, both of whom are still held in detention. We also have two motions from the members that will go to the Resolutions Committee, which we will strike after the annual meeting.

Of course, as anthropologists and as an organization our commitment to social justice must go beyond statements of solidarity. This commitment is reflected in the everyday work of our members and the Weaver-Tremblay recipients are an embodiment of that. The whole of CASCA is great than the sum of its parts. At the same time, we recognize that CASCA must also look inward as well as outward. This will be, in part, the role of the EDI working group.

## **Awards**

### **Weaver-Tremblay**

Last night, we finally had the opportunity to celebrate the 2020 recipient of the Weaver-Tremblay Award, Dr. Bruce Grenville Miller. This evening (or afternoon, depending where you are) we will be celebrating the 2021 recipient Dr. Francine Saillant.

### **Salisbury**

The Salisbury Award, given in memory of Dr. Richard Frank Salisbury, recognizes an exceptional anthropology PhD candidate at a Canadian university. CASCA is delighted to announce that the winner of the 2021 Salisbury Award is Madelyn Prevost from Simon Fraser University. Madelyn is studying memory, nostalgia, and museums in Ontario, addressing settler colonial studies.

Congratulations !

## **Fellows**

We are happy to announce the CASCA 2020 and 2021 Fellows. 2021: Julia Harrison (Trent University), Noel Dyck (Simon Fraser University), Vered Amit (Concordia University) and Sylvie Poirier (Université Laval). 2020: Christine Jourdan (Concordia University), James Waldram (University of Saskatchewan), Marie France Labrecque (Université Laval) and Dan Jorgensen (Western University).

Congratulations!

## **Book Award**

Normally, if we were meeting in person, the AGM would also be the place to award the recipients of the Labrecque-Lee Award. In 2020 we had co-winners - Wendy Wickwire for *At the Bridge: James Teit and the Anthropology of Belonging* and Greg Beckett for *There is no more Haiti: Between Life and Death in Port-au-Prince*. I would also like to thank the Labrecque-Lee adjudicating committee for their work on this. A reminder that the deadline for the 2021 recipient is May 15.

## **Teaching Awards (CATE)**

CASCA is delighted to announce the inaugural recipients of the CASCA Awards for Teaching Excellence. This initiative spearheaded by former president Pamela Downe, the committee including Eric as incoming president Eric, Pam as a member, and myself, met to adjudicate a this committee. The first recipient of the Instructor Awards is Dr. Amirpouyan Shiva from UBC. Dr. Shiva uses creative assignments drawing on contemporary issues and popular culture to inspire his students. The Faculty recipient is Dr. Louise de la Gorgendière from Carleton University. Louise draws upon her wealth of knowledge and applied experiences and uses problem-based and participatory pedagogical approaches in her teaching.

## **Outstanding Student Achievement Awards**

As some universities were having difficulty meeting the May 1 deadline, we changed the deadline for May 15. You still have time to forward the name for the name of the most outstanding graduating student at the undergraduate, MA, and PHD level. Please go to the website and fill out the form. Each department can put for one name per category.

## **Networks**

In addition to the ongoing work of the Women's Network we also have witnessed an increase in the activity of other networks. The activity of all of these Networks intersect with each other and there is great opportunity for collaborations.

- First, it gives me great pleasure to welcome the BIPOC Scholars in Anthropology Network chaired by Dr. Tania Granadillo de Espanol. Created to facilitate solidarity and communication, and opportunities to work through the common (and uncommon) issues faced by BIPOC scholars in anthropology. This Network is hosting its inaugural panel after the AGM. I hope that you are able to attend. If you are interested in joining this network, please contact Tania Granadillo de Espanol (western).
- The Network of Precarious Anthropologists continues to have an active presence on Facebook. This year they created two new Facebook pages - one for Precarious and Unwaged Anthropologists only and a parallel page for allies called The Bridge: CASCA

Solidarity Movement. The current chair of this Network is David Thorsen-Cavers. Other contacts include Ian Puppe, Deirdre Rose, and Lori Barkley.

- The Professional, Applied and Practicing Network, chaired by Craig Candler  
The Professional, Practicing and Applied Network is building a community of anthropologists and allied practitioners working on the ground and in the field in Canada and (mostly) beyond the university. With new energy from Laura Sikstrom, Sandalia Genus, Tad McIlwraith, Daniela Kraemer, Rhiannon Mosher, Craig Candler and others, the network is reinvigorating its web presence on the CASCA site, working to confirm general standards of professional practice, creating an online repository for professional reports and related 'grey' literature, and reaching out on social media to increase connections with students and others. In 2021, the network is building a list of key contacts representing professional and practicing anthropologists in medicine, public service, new media, environmental assessment, Indigenous rights, NGOs, and other areas. Expect to hear more from us in the coming year as we build up steam.
- The Critical Pedagogy in Canadian Anthropology, chaired by Maggie Cummings and myself, continued with a listserv and Facebook page. Maggie had an article in the fall issue of Culture and we are facilitating a roundtable on Saturday that includes both of the inaugural recipients of CASCA's teaching awards.
- Linguistic Anthropology is coordinated by Christine Jourdan. This network usually has at least one panel at the CASCA meetings and this year they had the double panel on Wednesday
- The Environmental Anthropology network continues to be coordinated by Lorne Holyoak who runs the listserv.
- Medical Anthropology is chaired by Gerald McKinley.

### **In memoriam**

Before we move into the rest of the agenda, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge that this year we lost too many treasured colleagues. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the friends and family of Jill St. Clair, Michael Kew, David Counts, David Lumsden, and Serge Bouchard. Their collective legacies to Canadian Anthropology are great and they will be deeply missed.