

High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology

Call for Papers:

High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology (HPSfAA) Spring Conference 2020
Conference Theme: “The Role of Theory in Applied Anthropology”

Deadline for Abstracts: Saturday, February 15th
Conference Dates: Friday, April 3rd - Sunday, April 5th
Conference Location: Auraria Campus, Denver, Colorado

“The Role of Theory in Applied Anthropology”

Our 2020 Spring Conference asks for attention to an often overlooked dimension of applied anthropology— the role of theory in applied work. As researchers, behind the questions we ask and the epistemologies we embrace, there is an exploration of theory. What you ask, how you ask it, and what you make of the answers will inform and be informed by how you place your research within a theoretical framework. Theory can be particularly important in communicating epistemologies across the social sciences, and in acknowledging how particular facets of your inquiry fit into the discourse within your discipline.

Yet despite the importance of rigorous exploration of the role of theory within research and applied work, these discussions often receive only superficial attention in comparison to conversations about methods and ethnographic findings. In this conference, we aim to acknowledge and question the ways in which our engagement with theory shapes these other aspects of our work, and to consider how methods, analysis, outputs, and outcomes are all formulated within a theoretical context. Do our theoretical perspectives inform a fundamental positionality of our inquiry, does the context of our inquiry flow naturally to theory selection, or do we utilize some iterative middle way?

This Spring, we invite presentations that reflect on the role of theory in your research, including how theory informs the design, implementation, and analysis of your work. We also invite presentations that consider the relationship between research, theory, and praxis. Additionally, we are interested in presentations that explore research and applied projects as a means for producing theory, or address questions of theoretical application and knowledge production in various settings, including non-academic spaces. Papers can be centered around your work or research, or centered entirely upon the role of theory within applied anthropology.

Additionally, we welcome students, researchers, and professionals to attend the conference, participate in our activities, and share their work with our community even if it does not fit the theme of the conference. We are enthusiastic about including presenters from all sub-disciplines of anthropology and from related disciplines, as we feel that interdisciplinary communication and collaboration is deeply valuable and promotes scholarly growth.

Conference Schedule:

Friday, April 3rd, 2020: Full day of presentations and evening social hour
Saturday, April 4th, 2020: Full day of presentations and evening social hour
Sunday, April 5th, 2020: Half day of presentations

TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL:

Contact:

Please send proposals via email to Josef Garrett at garret@msudenver.edu

Your proposal must include the following:

Personal Information:

Please include your name, contact information, and any relevant academic or professional affiliations.

Title and Abstract:

Please provide your paper or presentation title and 100-200 word abstract.

Presentation Type:

Our standard presentation time slots are 45 minutes, including time for questions and discussion following your presentation. Please indicate if you are interested in a longer (or shorter) time slot, and if you will need any particular equipment for your presentation.

Additionally, we will be happy to work with you on alternative approaches to presenting your material. For example, you may propose a panel, roundtable discussion, a debate, a workshop, an activity of some sort, a session featuring film or music, or a performance.

Student Travel Scholarship Award

HPSfAA offers an annual \$200 Student Travel Award which can assist students in covering the cost of travel to the Spring Conference. This award is open both to students who are presenting at the conference, and to students who would like to attend the conference without presenting. Please see the attached application form, and email completed applications to mema0984@colorado.edu by **February 15th**.

Thank you,

High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology Planning Committee
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