

Executive Session - Oral Presentation

Sponsored by: AAA Executive Program Committee

(5-0455) Biological Anthropology and the Public

 Saturday, December 2  10:15 AM - 12:00 PM  Location: Marriott, Marriott Ballroom Salon 2



Of interest to: Practicing and Applied Anthropologists, Teachers of Anthropology in Community Colleges, Students, Those Involved in Mentoring Activities

Organizer(s)

Caroline VanSickle

Visiting Assistant Professor
Bryn Mawr College

Natalia Reagan

BOAS Network

Chair(s)

Caroline VanSickle

Visiting Assistant Professor
Bryn Mawr College

Presenter(s)

Susan Sheridan

Associate Professor
University of Notre Dame

Kathryn Clancy

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Julie Lesnik

Assistant Professor
Wayne State University

Becca Peixotto

Archaeologist In Residence
American University

Natalia Reagan

BOAS Network

Briana Pobiner

Research Scientist and Museum Educator
Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History

Discussant(s)

Agustin Fuentes

Professor
University of Notre Dame

Interacting with a biological anthropologist can influence a person's ideas about evolution, biology, and human nature. Anthropologists are uniquely well positioned to engage the public in dialogues about the science of being human, as we are trained to understand cultural perspectives that differ from our own. Blurring the boundaries between the academy and the larger world, many biological anthropologists have found ways to actively converse with non-academic audiences. Popular media—such as online videos, podcasts, or blogs—introduce and explain scientific research to non-academic audiences. Social media spread biological anthropology news beyond the classroom and the conference, allowing non-experts to engage experts in discussions about that news. Workshops and public speaking events popularize anthropological messages through education. The speakers in this session will share their experiences with public outreach and why they find this work pivotal to their practice of anthropology, illustrating how biological anthropology research matters in to the public.

Presentations:

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM

BioAnthropology News: Using Facebook to Show How Anthropology Matters

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Talking out biological anthropology: Why I started a podcast about periods

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Using edible insects to inspire conversations about human evolution and food sustainability

11:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Digging up connections: How social media brought the Homo naledi excavation into the mainstream

11:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Lights, Camera, Anthropology!

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Informal interactions with visitors in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Discussion