



CSW Newsletter, No. 3, 2010

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Conferences

We will be participating in the **Society for Applied Anthropology 71st Annual Meeting**
March 29th – April 2nd 2011, Seattle, Washington www.sfaa.net

Generations of Knowledge and Research Traditions:

60 Years of Applied Anthropology in the Callejón de Huaylas and wider Peru

Although longitudinal studies are often carried out that focus on a particular region, society or culture, few lenses examine the continuity and changes in research practices by investigators in the same setting over decades. This round table takes its point of departure from the famed Vicos Project, an experiment in Applied Anthropology that drew academics to the field with research agendas influenced by North American notions of the value of modernity. Whether directly or indirectly, analyses and reports produced motivated subsequent applied investigations in the same valley and throughout Peru. Part I of this discussion will present perspectives from the initial actors and those influenced by their work, while Part II invites recent field inquiries from current students introduced to the field via the **Center for Social Well Being's** Action Research Methods program.

Session co-chairs:

HAMMER, Patricia J. (Center for Social Well Being) www.socialwellbeing.org

HICKS, Maria (Ronald McDonald House Charities – Portland)

Part 1: Round Table Discussion Thursday, March 31 - 1:30-3:20

1. William Stein
2. Barbara Bode
3. Anthony Oliver-Smith
4. Florence Babb
5. Paul Doughty
6. Kathy Oths

Discussant: Ralph Bolton

Part 2: Round Table Discussion Thursday, March 31 - 3:30-5:20

Students of the Center for Social Well Being Field School

1. Benjamin Blakely Brooks, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa
2. Valerie Mocker, University of Oxford
3. Melissa Beske, Tulane University
4. Alicia Hamann, Humboldt State University
5. Danielle Rosen, Columbia University
6. Corbin Powell, Edmonds Community College

Collaborations

- * **United Nations University**, Bonn, Germany.
In May 2010 we supported a research effort by the UNU team headed by University of Florida anthropologist **Anthony Oliver-Smith**, contracted by Oxfam, to explore issues of ***Climate Change and Migration*** as experienced and understood by rural community authorities throughout the Callejón de Huaylas. Participatory discussions in Quechua were held at our center, as well with youth and agricultural leaders in their highland communities to invite opinions and proposals on local responses to environmental change. Anthropologist, **Teófilo Altamirano**, of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (PUCP) accompanied the international team to examine issues of migration related to climate change.

- * **Florence Babb**, Professor, University of Florida
In June 2010 we welcomed **Florence Babb** with two of her doctoral students for an informal discussion with our field methodology seminar. After several decades of research elsewhere, Dr. Babb has returned to the Callejón de Huaylas to follow up on her longterm interest in changes in ***agricultural women's lives in Ancash***.

- * **Cynthia Ingar Huaman**, Anthropology Doctoral Candidate, PUCP.
We were fortunate to again collaborate with **Cynthia Ingar** in June 2010, who provided an orientation lecture on her research interests in the ***politics of women's health***, and subsequently facilitated a participatory discussion with the women's organization of the Community of Tuyu on issues of Quechua women's perceptions and practices related to menstruation.

- * **Christian Noriega**, Environmental Coordinator of Nuna Ayni, civic association.
Christian joined us in June to share his professional experiences with the growing problems of garbage in Peru, in both rural and urban contexts. He guided our student research team to the local dump for onsite examination of reception, recycling and management of solid waste. Christian planned and implemented several activities at primary schools in the communities of Cajamarquilla and Tuyu with local children to teach, raise awareness and motivate conscientious actions with regard to caring for the ***community environment***.

- * **Gabriela Valenzuela**, Visual Anthropologist and Photographer, Grad. Student, PUCP.
Gabriela guides an essential component of our program that consists of an initial workshop she designs and implements to sensitize arriving students to their own preconceptions of the role of ***photography in fieldwork***. Both in the field and via internet she provides support in the collective endeavor of research teams to create visual expressions of their cultural experiences and interpretations of social phenomena.

- * **Rowenn Kalman**, Anthropology Doctoral Candidate, Michigan State University, Lansing.
We are pleased to continually collaborate with **Rowenn Kalman**, now in Peru on a Fulbright grant for dissertation field research on ***Political Ecology***, who provided updates on her investigation progress with our June, July and August field methods seminars. She accompanied our agrobiodiversity team to the high puna of the Quebrada Honda for a native potato harvest, with specialist Fausta Colonia of Vicos.

- * **Mattias Borg Rasmussen**, Anthropology Doctoral Candidate, University of Copenhagen
With a focus on ***Climate Change and water*** use in the Andes, **Mattias Borg**, shared his initial research advances in Recuay with our August seminar. He is part of a larger Danish project known as: www.waterworlds.ku.dk

Ongoing Activities

* Biodiversity

➤ **High mountain agrobiodiversity**

With the communities that many of our students have visited, we are continuing to support, and in some cases reintroduce, high altitude crops. We support a program of *intercambio de las quebradas*, coordinating meetings to share traditional knowledge, practices and experiences among comuneros in the Quebrada Honda (Copa y Vicos), Quebrada Ulta (Catay) and Shonquil (Pariacaca y Hualcan).

➤ **Medicinal plants**

Continuing our work with herbalists, Francisco Chauca, Aurelio Cadillo, Juana Poqoy and others, we are renewing efforts to encourage communities to value and protect native medicinal plants, particularly those in delicate environments and at extreme altitudes. This focus includes the support of *biohuertas* for the domestication ex-situ of plants with therapeutic components.

* Education

➤ **La escuela saludable**

With the one-room schoolhouse of Cajamarquilla and the school of Tuyu, on the outskirts of Marcará, we are coordinating a *students teach students* ecology program. Tuyu's pilot ecology program has successfully oriented students to issues of the proper management of garbage (what *is* and *is not* biodegradable), which has had an impact on the local environment, household practices and community values. We are aiding an expansion of this combined health and education program in nearby Yungay and Mancos at the preschool level. We have developed and are implementing a Community Participatory Sistematization instrument, aimed to build capacity among parents, educators and children to analyze and value their own experiences with regard to building skills and knowledge.

➤ **Training bilingual educators**

All of our Quechua teachers are members of the *Quechua Academy of Ancash* and professors in the *Bilingual Intercultural Education Program*. We provide training and materials for the teaching of Quechua language and culture at primary, secondary and university levels. Currently, we are coordinating with several of the foremost Quechua linguists (of Huaylas and Huamalies Quechua) to aid in designing concentrated workshops for developing teaching skills and regionally appropriate materials.

* Ecology

➤ **Appropriate practices**

We continually receive visits from communities and district committees interested in organic farming and gardening, native tree planting and solar energy for cooking, baking, hot water and electricity. Many community commissions, along with the Ministry of Health and Agriculture are seeking to include alternative options in their district plans.

➤ **Organic sewer system**

Our field coordinator, Pocha Barreto, continues to supervise the planning and implementation of her designed and developed organic sewer system in several communities and schoolhouses throughout the valley. The success of the non-contaminating system in highland villages, such as Copa Grande, has proved the utility of the simple, organic system and inspired youth, women and authorities to visit our center for examples and guidance in developing their own system that contributes to land fertility, rather than creating pollution.

Training seminars for 2011

‡ Field methods

This year we celebrate our 10th Anniversary offering our 3 week training program in ethnographic field methods. Coursework provides in-depth orientation to theory and practice in anthropological investigation that emphasizes methods in **Participatory Action Research** and **Andean Ethnography** centered on themes of **Climate Change** with respect to **Ecology, Health, Education, Community Organization** and related topics.

New Year session: December 26th 2010 through January 14th 2011

June Solstice session: June 5th through June 25th 2011

‡ Quechua

This year we offer both 3 and 6 week Intensive Quechua Language courses; FLAS Foreign Language and Area Studies student grantees are eligible to apply. Beginning, intermediate and advanced courses provide concentrated class hours focused on grammar, vocabulary and the development of speaking skills and listening comprehension. The *Center for Social Well Being* is affiliated with the **Regional Academy of Ancash Quechua**, an association composed of bilingual school teachers, historians, writers, folklorists, musicians, poets and other professionals dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of the Quechua language. All university-trained bilingual teachers, our team of Quechua instructors provide an academically rigorous program, complemented with an orientation to Quechua creative expressions of local myths, legends, songs and poetry, in addition to in-context language practice and skills acquisition in rural communities. A highlight of the program includes the participation of students in Andean rituals in honor of the spirits of the earth and cosmos.

*** Contact us**

For an application contact: phammer@wayna.rcp.net.pe

Or click on: <http://www.socialwellbeing.org/FieldSchool2003-3.htm>

Further information available at www.socialwellbeing.org